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## Meredith's choice

It's a classic dilemma: The good guy or the one who drives you crazy

By JOE PIAZZA

Poor Meredith Grey. The "Grey's Anatomy" heroine does everything wrong when it comes to men.

But by the end of last season, the internally tormented intern (Ellen Pompeo) had somehow managed to land herself a guy - charming, thoughtful veterinarian Finn (Chris O'Donnell) - who just could be the perfect boyfriend.

Now tonight, time for the drama. The bad boy from her past, indecisive brain surgeon Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey), wants her back, and last week she was faced with a classic dilemma: Choose the nice guy or the guy who drives you bananas.

We all know the answer (though we may not find out this week). Just like Pam Anderson, some girls will go for the bad boy every time.

"Our lives are so predictable. We like to be able to predict what will happen next in work and in friendships, and this is the one element of our lives that there is this unpredictable nature," says developmental psychologist Cooper Lawrence. "That makes it exciting ... asking yourself, 'Is he going to call? Is he sleeping with someone else?'"

Is he going to help you find your black panties after a late-night hospital tryst?

### Finn vs. Dr. McDreamy

#### *Finn*

**Job:** Veterinarian

**Romantic history:** Wife died in a car accident.

**Major baggage:** Living in his dead wife's shadow. Also, he put Meredith's dog to sleep.

**Profession of love:** "Me, I'm a good thing, and if there is a ring I'm going to put my hat in it."

**Allure:** Is a super-nice guy. Told Meredith he had started making "plans" for the two



ABC

**Meredith Grey has a choice to make.**



of them. "If you're looking for something long lasting, then choose the nice guy," says Brenda Della Casa, author of the upcoming "Cinderella Was a Liar."

**Why he'll win:** Not married to someone else already.

**Been there, done that:** "He understands my moods like no other man - his patients can't talk so he has to evaluate them with his heart," says Cindy Edwards, who's been married to a vet for 25 years. "How could you not love someone who has given his life to a profession where your biggest thanks from a patient is a slurpy kiss?"

**Will it last?:** No. You can't have a long-lasting relationship with someone you don't have passion with, no matter how nice they are, says marriage and family therapist Dr. Robin DeVal.

**Dr. McDreamy**

**Job:** Neurosurgeon

**Romantic history:** Left his cheating wife for a simpler life in Seattle.

**Major baggage:** His cheating wife moved to town and is Meredith's superior at Seattle Grace Hospital.

**Profession of love:** "I'm in love with you. I know I'm a little late to tell you that. I know I had a choice, and I chose wrong."





**Allure:** Because Meredith thinks she is all "dark and twisty" inside, she is looking for a relationship that will validate those negative feelings, Lawrence says.

**Why he'll win:** Passion trumps stability.

**Been there, done that:** "They are egomaniacs and they treat people like they're disposable," says Alison, who dated and broke up with one. "You put up with behavior you never would put up with, and then you find out he's sleeping with another doctor."

**Will it last?:** No. You can't have a long-lasting relationship with someone who has lied and cheated in the past, says Dr. Robin DeVal.

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