# The Daddy Revolution



In the realm of LGBTQ+ identity exploration, a Reddit user recently shared a personal milestone that has resonated across the online community. On the subreddit 'r/AskGayBrosOver30,' a man in his 50s recounted a significant moment in his life following the end of a 20-year relationship – he was called 'Daddy' during a recent encounter with a younger partner.

The user explained, with a mix of surprise and enthusiasm, how the experience unfolded. “He asked me if it was okay if he called me Daddy, which I appreciated and agreed to,” wrote the Redditor. “I have to say it was hot. I didn’t expect to be so turned on by it.”

This particular narrative touched a nerve, as other older members of the subreddit chimed in with supportive comments and shared experiences. “I’m the same age as you and my experience has been exactly your experience,” wrote one commenter, showing solidarity and understanding.

The term 'Daddy' has deep roots in gay slang, dating back to the late 17th century. According to Auto Straddle, its queer connotations likely began in the 1930s and 1940s, often to indicate a dominant role within a relationship. The Oxford Dictionary elaborates: “Among gay men: a masculine older man; specifically one who is romantically or sexually interested in younger partners, sometimes with the implication that such a man will play a more (sexually) active or dominant role.”

Post-World War II, the label 'Daddy' took on more dominant undertones, especially with the rise of leather culture. Today, it has become a staple in mainstream vocabulary, though it garners mixed reactions within the gay community. Some Redditors expressed discomfort with the term, stating it isn't aligned with their personal tastes. “It’s not my thing. If someone is really into it and wants to call me daddy I’ll play along, but I may mentally roll my eyes a bit,” shared one user. Another added bluntly: “I absolutely hate the term.”

Nonetheless, the trend appears to have a significant following. Author and researcher Tony Silva, in his book "Daddies of a Different Kind: Sex and Romance Between Older and Younger Adult Gay Men," highlights a growing interest among gay men of all ages in relationships with older partners. “For a large segment of the gay community, there is major interest right now in older men and daddies,” Silva remarked in an interview. His research indicates a shift, attributing part of this trend to the proliferation of dating apps, which facilitate connections across different social circles and age groups. “Apps can connect people of many different social networks, who might not otherwise meet in person,” Silva noted. “I also think apps have shifted norms to make certain practices more acceptable, like relationships between older and younger men.”

In contemporary culture, this dynamic is celebrated in various forms. Prominent figures like Pedro Pascal and Russell Tovey are affectionately dubbed 'Daddies.' Their public appearance, such as a date night at a Pet Shop Boys concert at London’s Royal Opera House, captured the essence of this evolution.

The concept of 'Daddy' is also seen to transcend mere age definitions. As one Reddit user put it: “It really is a mindset, an energy, a vibe. Straddling the line between comforting and intense desire. Has nothing to do with looks to be honest.” Others in the thread echoed this sentiment, agreeing that the role encompasses more than just physical attributes.

While artists like Troye Sivan may shift from the ‘twink’ archetype as they age, they haven’t necessarily reached 'Daddy' status yet. The label seems reserved for those who embody its unique combination of confidence, experience, and allure, well beyond mere generational differences.