

Celebrities That Lost Their Fame But Not Their Love



By Jennifer

Harrington

For many celebrities, fame can be short-lived. It's easy to quickly list those one-hit wonder stars who quickly vanished from the spotlight. But, have you ever wondered about celebrities who managed to hold onto their romance after they disappeared from the A-List? Cupid did some investigation to figure out which stars lost their fame, but not their love:

Mike Tyson

During the 1980s and 1990s, Mike Tyson was one of the biggest sports stars, and was frequently the topic of news because of both his numerous successes in the boxing ring, and the controversies that plagued him outside of the ring. Tyson's been legally married three times, fathered eight children and

endured the loss of his child Exodus. He also faced a rape conviction, domestic abuse allegations, a bipolar diagnosis and bankruptcy. Despite Tyson losing the fame and star power he enjoyed in his early career days, he is currently a happily married man. In 2009, he married his longtime girlfriend, Lakina Spicer. Tyson told *The View*, "I have an awesome life...I'm very grateful. I don't deserve to have the wife that I have; I don't deserve the kids that I have, but I do, and I'm very grateful."

Related: [10 New Celebrity Dads](#)

Jennifer Grey

Her role in *Dirty Dancing* solidified Jennifer Grey as a movie star in the 1980s. However, after this iconic role, Grey underwent plastic surgery, which drastically changed her appearance and negatively impacted her career. During the 1990s and 2000s, Grey vanished from the Hollywood spotlight and faced long-term survivor guilt tied to a 1987 car accident she was involved in, which resulted in the death of two other people. In 2001, Grey married actor Clark Gregg and became a mother that year. Her marriage to Gregg remains strong, and in 2010, Grey won *Dancing with the Stars*.

Andrew Shue

Andrew Shue became a major heartthrob when he played Billy Campbell on *Melrose Place* in the 1990s. This was Shue's first and last major acting role. When the popular nighttime soap opera concluded, Shue quit acting and decided to pursue new ventures off-screen. While Shue is no longer acting or in the limelight, he is a happily married man to ABC news anchor Amy Robach.

Lea Thompson

Lea Thompson burst onto the Hollywood scene with several signature parts, including roles in the *Back to the Future*

trilogy and *Caroline in the City*, a popular 1990s sitcom. As the 1990s concluded, Thompson's star power faded. Most recently, she has been seen on the ABC Family series, *Switched at Birth*, but otherwise, Thompson has been absent from the Hollywood scene. Married since 1989 to Howard Deutch, Thompson has acknowledged she took a break from acting in order to raise the couple's two daughters. After a quarter-century of marriage, Thompson and Deutch's romance remains intact!

Ice-T

Ice-T is a rapper and actor who held the most star power during the 1990s when gangster rap was the music of choice for teenagers across the country. He became a household name because of the controversy surrounding his 1992 song "Cop Killer". Today, Ice-T is absent from the radio airwaves, but he still is married to his wife, Coco. Coco is a swimsuit model who Ice-T married in 2001, and the couple's relationship has been featured on the E! television series *Ice Loves Coco*.

Related: [Celebrity Couples in Interracial Relationships](#)

Looking at the life stories of Tyson, Grey, Shue, Thompson and Ice-T, it's apparent that life doesn't always turn out the way we expect. While these celebrities may not currently have the fame or fortune they used to have, they are obviously successful in the love department.

Who else belongs on this list? Which celebrities have disappeared from news, but have gone on to be successful in other ventures or love? Comment below.

Premarital Counseling– The Pros and Cons



By Laura Seldon for

GalTime.com

You likely test-drove several vehicles before buying your last car, read every tech blog possible to see which smartphone was best for you and even texted a few dressing-room pics of yourself to a friend before buying that cute maxi dress. As an educated, modern woman, you know researching your options and getting a few opinions can be a good thing. So, why are we so afraid to get a little help when it comes to our relationships?!

Couples therapy, relationship coaching, premarital counseling – most people would agree these are all great ways to help your relationship grow and thrive. And yet, no one is ever excited about going to see their therapist. Is this reluctance to premarital counseling due to a fear of admitting our lives

aren't "perfect?" Or do we just think it's a waste of time? Read on to get the pros and cons of premarital counseling from therapists, counselors and family-law experts who outta know!

The Pros of Premarital Counseling

1. You Can Talk Out Problems... Before It's Too Late

Premarital counseling is a chance for couples to dig up any potential pitfalls that could hinder their marriage from lasting a lifetime. "It causes people to consider and discuss things that will increase the likelihood of a successful marriage," says Mark Baer, a family-law attorney.

Money issues, anger problems, jealous tendencies; premarital counseling can help you and your partner get any potential issues out in the open now so that you're not shocked by them nine months into your marriage.

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2. You Get an Outside Opinion

So, you're about to get married and you're pretty sure you and your mate have the best possible relationship you've ever come across – minus the passionately heated shouting match you had this morning over who was the last person to take out the trash. Going to premarital counseling can give you an outside perspective on your relationship, and how to make it last.

"Couples considering marriage would benefit from having a licensed marriage and family therapist's wise and trained eye to talk to them honestly," says Becky Whetstone, Ph.D., LMFT. "MFT's know to look into each person's beliefs and values concerning money, child-raising, spirituality, individuality, partnership, marriage in general and more. If we see an emotionally immature or incompatible couple heading for a marital train wreck, we'll tell them."

3. It Can Strengthen Your Bond

New flash: many of us were not born with stellar communication skills. Do you ever get mad at your partner and then refrain from telling them you're angry – let alone explaining why you're angry? Healthy relationships are based on open and honest communication, and premarital counseling can help you learn those skills.

“People are not born with good communication skills and most people never learn such skills,” says Baer. “Since most marriages fail due to communication issues, I would say that this is an excellent reason to participate in premarital counseling.”

The Cons of Premarital Counseling

1. It Can Create Bigger Problems

What if your premarital counseling actually creates more problems between you and your mate than you had before you even stepped into your therapist's office?

“Premarital counseling has the potential of creating problems, in that it causes people to think about and discuss issues they may never have considered,” says Baer. “While this can be viewed as a con, I would propose that it is also a pro because it forces the discussion before marriage, as opposed to after marriage. Why not be preventative and not reactive?”

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2. The Counseling May Not Be That Good

“As with anything, some marriage counselors are better than others,” advises Baer. “If a couple goes to a marriage counselor, who is not particularly skilled at conflict resolution, what happens if the couple argue over an issue

raised in the counseling?”

Just like buying a car requires you to take a few different vehicles for a test drive, you have to do your research when it comes to finding a therapist, or you may wind up working with someone who hinders your relationship more than they help it! A skilled marriage counselor should be well aware of the issues that tend to cause divorce and should also be skilled at properly addressing those issues!

3. You May Wind Up Calling Off Your Wedding

If seeing a therapist brings up major issues for you and your partner, it could turn into an argument that ends with you calling off your engagement. While this is not ideal, it can also save you from marrying someone who is not right for you and it can also save you from the heartbreak of divorce.

While there are a few potential cons to premarital counseling, the positives far outweigh the negatives. Couples therapy is a great way for engaged couples to discuss major issues in their relationship before saying “I do” for a lifetime. Nothing can guarantee a successful marriage, but premarital counseling can help you figure out what it takes to ensure your marriage will thrive!

Should You Date Your Brother/Sister's Best Friend?





By April Littleton

So you've discovered you have a crush on your brother or sister's best friend. Every time that person enters the room, your heart starts to beat just a little faster. What if your crush is reciprocating your feelings? Dating a family member's best friend can turn into a complicated situation. Sure, the two of you could really hit it off, but there's also the possibility of a horrible breakup. In a situation like this, you can't just think of yourself because one way or the other, your sibling will be involved in this romantic rendezvous. Here's some advice:

Consider your sibling's feelings

Before you make the final decision to give romance a try with your brother/sister's best friend, you need to think about how your sibling will react. You could be creating an awkward situation between the two friends by changing the relationship dynamic between the two of you. If your family member isn't supportive of the two of you potentially becoming a couple, he/she might become resentful toward you and your new boo – which could ruin all three relationships.

Related: [Who Gets Custody of the Friends?](#)

Think about the possibility of a breakup

It may be too early to think about the end of a relationship, but in this case, it's a necessity. If you and your new love end up calling it quits, your sibling will be put in the middle. He/she will be torn between staying loyal to his/her best friend and remaining a supportive family member. The friendship between the two buddies might diminish if your ex ends up talking badly about you. Who wants to hear someone talk trash about a relative? If the two of them do manage to remain friends, you'll have to deal with the fact that you'll still have to see your ex on a daily basis.

Three's a crowd

Dating your sibling's best friend won't just complicate things between the two of them, but also the relationship between you and your brother/sister. Think about it. The best friend turned boyfriend can't be there for the both of you at the same time. Sooner or later, you're not going to want to share his time with anyone else. Your [boo](#) might want to spend some time playing video games with his best friend all day or he might want to have a cuddle session with you. Eventually, this tradeoff will grow tiresome and you will find yourself at odds with your sibling.

Related: [Can People Really Fall In Love Too Fast?](#)

There's no right or wrong way to handle a situation like this. Just keep in mind that whatever decision you make, your sibling will always be involved in the equation. If you can find a way to follow your heart and keep all three relationships intact, then you should give the budding romance a shot. Ultimately, it's up to the three of you to find some common ground and see what works best for everyone.

Do you think it's a good idea to date a sibling's best friend? Comment below.

Fend Off The Post-Wedding Blues



By Laura Seldon for

GalTime.com

So, you finally met the love of your life, got engaged in the most romantic way possible and the two of you toasted your love in the biggest party you've ever thrown (which is a now a day you count among the happiest of your entire life). But after all that fun and excitement, you're finding yourself feeling a little down.

"Post-wedding blues are very normal," says Dr. Ramani Durvasula, a licensed clinical psychologist in Los Angeles. "It's as though the circus packed up and left town, and so too has the event that has motivated the bride's every thought for

months, if not years!” If your wedding excitement has turned into wedding-woe-is-me, then here are five great ways to channel your newlywed bliss.

1. Talk About It

If you’re feeling down now that your big day has come and gone, there is a good chance your partner knows something is up, but is unsure of what’s going on.

“With every great change comes discomfort,” says Cherilynn Veland, a licensed clinical social worker in Chicago. “Expect it, talk about it, even toast to it.” Who knows, maybe your mate is feeling the same way. Talk about it honestly and you’ll likely to start to feel better when you open up.

Related: [Premarital Counseling – The Pros and Cons](#)

2. Keep the Party Going

“Extend the fun a little longer,” suggests Dr. Durvasula. “When the pictures come out, have friends over and use all of those new dishes. Or, just have friends over and let your wedding be the event that re-connected you with people you care about.”

Connecting with your closest friends and sharing an evening of laughter can’t help but lift your spirits.

3. Get Back to What You Do Best

Not sure how to spend all that free time now that your wedding-planning days are behind you? Put those organizational skills to good use by volunteering at a local non-profit or simply planning a BBQ or movie night for your neighbors.

“Get involved with your community as newlyweds,” suggests Carolina Caro, a life coach based in Los Angeles. “You’ll have more fun and get to know more people!”

4. Celebrate Your Marriage

We often hear that the wedding and honeymoon are the most exciting times in a relationship. “That is just not true – your marriage is,” say Doug and Leslie Gustafson, a married team of therapists in Denver, Colorado. “You are together, you are free, and you get to have all the romance, sex and excitement that you choose to have whenever you choose to have it! Live it up.”

Related: [10 Relationship Behaviors You Think Are Odd..That Are Totally Normal](#)

Celebrate your love by planning a few date nights, scheduling a romantic getaway or just surprising your mate with breakfast in bed – they’ll thank you for it and will be grateful they married such a catch!

5. Grow Your Marriage

After the hustle and bustle of wedding planning, many couples need to reconnect since they have been so focused on organizing their dream wedding for several months (or even years). Now that you’ve enjoyed that special time together, get focused on the special time you have together as newlyweds.

“Settle in to your new life and get to know each other in and out of the bedroom,” the Gustafsons suggest. “Stay involved with each other and keep the love alive by finding new ways to show your love every day.”

No doubt about it, weddings are exciting. With so much anticipation, emotions and adrenalin going throughout the months leading up to your wedding, it is inevitable you would experience some type of crash after it’s all done. Keep an awareness about the feelings you are having, which are normal and natural responses to such a major life change, and you’ll hopefully find your newlywed bliss in no time!

Celebrity Couples That Reunited



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

There are no set rules in the game of love, and it's easy to question if you're dating Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now. Such doubt often leads to broken hearts, but as many Hollywood pairs have proven, time apart may be just what the doctor ordered during the search for happily ever after. Here are five celebrity couples that reunited after a breakup and found lasting love (for now at least):

Katy Perry and John Mayer: This musically-talented twosome is keeping us all guessing! The couple was first seen together during the summer of 2012; they split briefly in August and then reunited, even spending the holidays together. However,

in March 2013, they broke up again. Addressing the split, Mayer reportedly said, "I'm on the same journey as everyone else. Coupling is a tricky thing." Even so, as recently as June 2013, they were seen together with pals at Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood.

Related: [Celebrity Couples Who Don't Need Marriage to Prove Their Love](#)

Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake: Biel and Timberlake first dated for over four years (a lifetime in Hollywood!) before splitting in March 2011. However, they were together again by fall, and in December, Timberlake proposed in the mountains of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The star-powered duo married in a top-secret ceremony in Italy on October 19, 2012.

Kristin Cavallari and Jay Cutler: This Chicago-based pair first began dating in fall 2010 and confirmed their engagement in April 2011. However, the Chicago Bears quarterback called things off just a few months later. The couple reunited in November 2011 and announced the *Laguna Beach* star's pregnancy in January 2012. They took the next step in their relationship, tying the knot in Nashville on June 7, 2013.

Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber: It's hard to know if these two songbirds are on-again or off-again. The twosome split in November 2012, but always stayed in touch. In April 2013, they confirmed their renewed relationship when the *Spring Breakers* actress flew to Norway to be with her ex-beau. Keeping the romance alive, the couple appears to be going strong at the start of summer.

Related: [Celebrities Who Are Unlucky in Love](#)

Pink and Carey Hart: Pop singer Pink proposed to motocross racer Hart in June 2005, and the couple married soon after in Costa Rica. After two years of marriage, the couple separated in February 2008. However, they remained friends – Hart even appeared in Pink's video for her song "So What!" – and sought

marriage counseling in hopes of reconciling. They reunited two years later, and the tattooed twosome have been happily together ever since.

Tell us: Who is your favorite reunited celebrity couple? Comment below.

How Do You Handle Your Ex's New Partner?



By Jane Greer, Ph.D.

for GalTime.com

Some people are better at romance recovery than others. Recent reports suggest that Elin Nordegren is struggling to accept the new partner of her ex-husband, Tiger Woods. Though it has been rumored that he has been dating Olympic skier Lindsey

Vonn for many months, they only recently went public with their romance, stating they are “happy” together. Elin and Tiger divorced in the summer of 2010. Their marriage ended in scandal when it was revealed he’d had multiple affairs, and was soon after treated for an apparent sex addiction.

Elin has been connected to billionaire Chris Cline, but that reportedly hasn’t seemed to make it easier for her to accept the fact that Tiger’s girlfriend is spending so much time with their children, and comments have been made about restricting his custody access. Though the trio managed to be civil at the kids little league games, it’s not difficult to imagine why there may be some tension behind closed doors. What can people do to ease that tension, leaving those bad feelings behind and trying to finally let them go?

Related: [Dating Advice: How to Introduce Your Kids to Your New Partner](#)

Being betrayed is so traumatic, and then having to face feeling replaced by someone who is now taking the spot you used to occupy with your husband and children can be even harder to take. In some cases, your ex’s new companion may even look like you, perhaps just younger. Adding to that, now you have to share your children with the last person on earth you would want them to be with. Sometimes betrayals are an outgrowth of unaddressed conflicts that were there for a long time and may have created a large enough rift for someone to get in between you. However, regardless of what might have been a catalyst for the infidelity, it doesn’t diminish the intensity of the loss you have to face. Finding the maturity and emotional muscle needed to deal with this difficult experience can be a challenge.

Friends and family might respond by suggesting you just get on with it, and leave the other person in the past where he or she belongs. Even if that is hard to hear, it is the goal you

want to strive for. Continuing to focus on your ex can unwittingly keep you stuck in your anger. Even if you have moved into a new relationship, all that negativity can hold you back and run interference in your life and with your current partner.

Related: [Can You Date Your Friend's Ex And Keep Your Friend](#)

Instead of using your anger and sadness to launch an attack that keeps you mired in the past, use it to disengage. Put boundaries in place: formalize the necessary times to see each other, be it for picking up belongings or dropping things off; begin to build up new support systems rather than looking to your ex when you have a problem in the house, a flat tire or too much laundry; if there are kids, limit communication with your ex to discussing only necessary subjects surrounding the logistics of their caretaking. Wherever you can, fill in and replenish the areas of your life where you feel the most loss. The more you do that, the less resentful and angry you are going to be.

None of this is easy, but if you become aware of how you direct your energy, you might be able to turn things around. Unfortunately for Elin, "hating" Lindsey Vonn, or any future partner or spouse to Tiger, will not heal the wounds inflicted by a devastating divorce. That effort could be better spent investing in herself and her new life.

Please tune in to "Let's Talk Sex" which streams live on HealthyLife.net every last Tuesday of the month at 2 PM EST, 11 AM Pacific. We look forward to listener call-in questions, dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships, at 1.800.555.5453. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer.

How to Celebrate a Fourth of July Themed Wedding in Style



By April Littleton

The Fourth of July is a very special day for most Americans. This holiday gives people the chance to express their patriotic side in fun, creative ways. Many [couples](#) see Independence day as the perfect opportunity to exchange “I dos” and share their [love](#) for each other and their country. Couples who dream of nothing more than to live the “American Dream” love the idea of knowing that while their celebrating their love, the whole country is celebrating right along with them on this day. Here’s Cupid’s guide to having a spectacular Fourth of July themed [wedding](#):

Location: The first thing you should think about is where you want your wedding to take place. More than likely, it will take place outside. Maybe even think about holding the [ceremony](#) at a carnival (funnel cakes, anyone?) Whatever

location you decide on, make sure it has plenty of open space – that way all of your guests will be able to see and hear fireworks going off.

Related: [10 Ways to Keep the Honeymoon Phase Going Strong](#)

The attire: You can't have a Fourth of July themed [wedding](#) without the proper color scheme. Consider having your bridesmaids and groomsmen wear red or blue – you can even let them dabble with both colors. Maybe the ladies can wear red dresses with white flowers, or blue dresses with red accessories to match – like headbands accompanied with studded stars, while the fellas wear navy blue suits with red bow ties.

Centerpieces and decorations: Keep the American flag in mind as you think of decorations for your wedding. Use the pattern for your linens and chair covers. For your centerpieces, you can fill picnic baskets with flowers or you can choose to fill glass bowls with an assortment of red, white and blue candies. The creative possibilities are endless as long as you stay true to the theme of the American holiday.

The food: What better way to celebrate the Fourth of July on your wedding day than with food that fits the theme? Think about serving barbecue during your special day. Include foods such as hamburgers, ribs and corn on the cob. Get creative with your refreshments. Serve coca cola in vintage glass bottles or set up a lemonade stand. Red, white and blue decorated cookies or a popcorn bar would also give your wedding more American flair.

The reception: Hold your reception at night and let the [sparks](#) and sparklers fly! No Fourth of July wedding celebration would be complete without a few fireworks. You could also switch things up by adding a few sparklers to your centerpieces when the party really gets started. Think about letting each of your guest set off a firework in honor of you and your new

[spouse](#). They'll feel even more involved in the wedding and the night sky filled with colors will be a sight to see.

The party favors: Red, candied apples, sparklers and Fourth of July themed magnets would make great favors for your wedding. Give away miniature Liberty bells and American flags as a bonus. If you're more of a foodie, consider making fruit baskets with strawberries, blueberries and blackberries.

Related: [Add a Little "Luck O the Irish" to Your Wedding Day](#)

The music: What good would a Fourth of July wedding be without a little All-American music? Although it would fit the theme, refrain from playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during your reception. Instead, play a little Elvis Presley or Bruce Springsteen. Songs like "Surfin' U.S.A." by The Beach Boys will surely be a hit with your guests.

Do you have any other ideas for a Fourth of July themed wedding? Share them below.

The Good, Bad and Ugly of Dating Advice Guides





By Sarah Showfety

What can be gained from reading twelve dating advice books in a row? Some valuable insights, actionable information and after a while – a headache.

After years of false starts and flame-outs, I decided to give myself a dating education, buying half the self-help section at Barnes & Noble to try and change my luck in love. I thought quick salvation lay in their pages. I thought if I put on my Love Lab Coat and followed instructions, fruitless years of speed, blind and online dating would be swiftly rewarded with a marriage-minded man.

Wrong! The books did work, but not in the way I thought they would.

The Upside of Dating Advice

How did these dating books help? For the first time, I saw clearly the mistakes I kept repeating. These included being overly available, letting things ramp up too quickly and intensely (hence, the aforementioned flame-out), reacting emotionally if a guy pulled a Houdini and then reappeared, and pretending I was content to casually hang out when I craved a committed, exclusive relationship.

They gave me a toolbox of quick, easy tips to increase the quantity of men in my life. I learned where to go, how to use body language, what (not) to say. I learned to flirt better, keep first dates short, go places without a girl posse and decide what time I'd come home before a date started.

The books also flipped my usual story on its head. Through them, I saw that my poor track record wasn't due to the scapegoats I'd grown fond of blaming (men, "the scene," my parents). The responsibility lay with me – my self-perception and my choices. These were two things I could change.

Related: [QuickieChick's Video Dating Tips: Summer Love](#)

Too Much of a Good Thing

Of course, there were drawbacks, too. The more I looked outside myself for answers, the more my self-doubt grew. *Did I say what I was supposed to say? Was giving him shrimp off my plate too girlfriend-y??*

I got overly focused on following a formula and trying to do it "right." But the fear I was doing something wrong—that perhaps I was incapable of long-term romance—was the real issue. The very act of trying to "fix" myself reinforced the false underlying belief that something was wrong.

Related: [4 Steps to a Stronger Long-Term Relationship](#)

The Takeaway

What I really needed was to trust my own value – only then would I stop compromising what I wanted. So after months of following textbook rules, I *stopped* trying so hard. I let go of the pursuit and gave up worrying I'd said too much or texted too soon.

Instead, I took care of me. I meditated, hiked, swam and went to outdoor concerts at Coney Island. Only after I cultivated my own joy was I ready and able to meet the man for whom I'd

been looking. More than all the techniques, I had to love me and my life first. (Which is the primary message of all the books – though it took me a while to listen).

So, do I recommend dating guidebooks? Yes, so long as they're not used as weapons of self-destruction. Skills and knowledge are important, but no amount of dating tricks will get you what you want unless you believe you deserve it.

Sarah Showfety is a New York-based life coach and author. You can read about her experiences taking dating advice in her memoir [Dating by the Books: One Blundering Singleton's Search for Love in the Self-Help Aisle](#). Connect with Sarah at her website www.straightupyou.com.

Celebrity Dads Who Are Doing It Right





By Kelly Rouba for

GalTime.com

TV dads, like Cliff Huxtable and Ward Cleaver, often made fatherhood look easy. They effortlessly juggled their work schedules so they could spend quality time with their children and, of course, they were always around to set their kids straight if they stepped out of line. While we all know parenting isn't always as easy as it seems on TV, there are plenty of celebrity dads who've managed to set the bar pretty high when it comes to balancing fame and fatherhood as least as far as we can tell from the outside!

Sarah McKeever, a mother of three from New Jersey, thinks Will Smith is a great role model for fathers around the globe. "I adore him, and he seems like a great father and husband. I've seen a few interviews with him and his wife and kids. They seem to keep a healthy balance with all the fame," McKeever said. There may be a lot written about the Smith marriage and their parenting style (a la lack of punishment)" but Will is one dad who definitely focuses on his kids.

Dorothy Cascerceri, an on-air news, fashion, and celebrity trend expert for *In Touch Weekly*, agrees. "(Smith) loves his kids Trey, Jaden and Willow and has done everything possible to encourage all of their careers in the family business,

Hollywood.”

Since Smith isn't the only dedicated dad out there, GalTime asked Cascereri to name the *Top 10 Celeb Dads Who Are Doing It Right*, and here's what she said (in no particular order):

1. David Beckham— This ultra-hot soccer star is more than dedicated to his four kids, Romeo, Brooklyn, Cruz and Harper. He even has the boys' names tattooed on his back!

2. Ben Affleck— Not only is this Oscar-winner an all-star dad to daughters Violet and Seraphina and son Samuel, but he's also a dedicated hubby. He even thanked wife Jennifer Garner in his Academy Awards acceptance speech.

3. Brad Pitt— In addition to being one of the sexiest men in the world, Brad is tirelessly dedicated to his clan 6 and works extra hard to make sure the entire crew is taken care of.

4. Liev Schrieber— Forget strollers! Liev is usually seen transporting sons Alexander and Samuel around on his back and shoulders.

5. Tony Hawk— He loves his daughter Kadence so much that he Instagramed a photo of the two of them with his nails painted with pink sparkly polish.

6. Taye Diggs— He shares everything with his son Walker, even ad campaigns! The duo flashed their milk mustache smiles for a Got Milk? campaign.

7. Gavin Rossdale— Gavin always pays close attention to the style of his kids Kingston and Zuma, and he always makes sure they have the same rocker look as their dad.

8. Jerry O'Connell— He's a doting dad to his twin daughters Charlie and Dolly, and oftentimes brings them to the set of his latest projects so they can see their dad at work.

9. Jay-Z— This rap mogul is smitten by his daughter Blue Ivy and even wrote a heartfelt song about her when she was born.

10. J.R. Martinez— Last but certainly not least, GalTime couldn't resist adding new father J.R. Martinez to the list. Even though his daughter Belle just turned one, he's got quite a handle on fatherhood and there's no denying how deeply devoted he is to his precious baby girl.

"I believe I'm a great dad, thus far, because I don't shy away from getting my hands dirty, whether it be by changing her diaper (constantly), making the bottle or setting up for bath time. I believe these are great opportunities to bond with your child," Martinez said.

Martinez also has a piece of advice for all those dads out there who just might be reading this. "I know we're working hard to provide, but don't leave it up to the mom to be hands-on. Show them you're more than capable, because you are."

Celebrity Couples Where Opposites Attracted





By Meghan Fitzgerald

It's true – opposites do attract, but it's odd for outsiders to look in at these partners because it seems so...strange. Although it's unknown for others, the ones involved in these types of relationships are usually the couples who have it all together. Opposite attraction is new, exciting and can result in a strong and healthy relationships. Cupid takes a look at a few cases where opposites attracted in popular celebrity couples:

Related: [Famous Women Dating Non-Celebs](#)

Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green:

Once *Transformers* hit theaters and Megan Fox began to be known as the hot it girl, Brian Austin Green was just that *90210* guy who had a kid with Vanessa Marcil. Even though she became one of the world's biggest sex symbols, they have still managed to keep their relationship going strong. In fact, the couple has been married since 2010 and have a son, Noah Shannon Green, together.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon:

Mariah Carey has had quite the extensive dating record, from her first marriage, to record executive, Mottola, to a Latin

pop singer and briefly to Derek Jeter. The bold and bodacious singer settled down to a small, lanky rapper, Nick Cannon. The duo has been married for five years now. They are also parents to fraternal twins, Monroe Cannon and Moroccan Scott Cannon.

Brody Jenner and Avril Lavigne:

The born Californian *Hills* star, Brody Jenner didn't seem to fit right with punk rocker Avril Lavigne. Although others thought they wouldn't mesh, they dated from February 2010 through 2012.

Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher:

Golden Globe and Emmy nominee Demi Moore found an unlikely match in *That '70s Show* star Ashton Kutcher. Despite the 16-year age difference, the pair began dating in 2003. They married on September 24, 2005, but the happiness didn't last for long. Kutcher filed for divorce in December 2012 after a year of separation and rumors of his infidelity hit the newsstands.

Hayden Panettiere and Wladimir Klitschko:

The 23-year-old petite blonde known for her breakout role in *Heroes* settled down with the 37-year-old, 6'6" heavyweight boxing world-champion Wladimir Klitschko from Ukraine. Despite the 1'4" height difference, the odd duo make it work with their relationship.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes:

The ex tomboy from *Dawson's Creek* was interviewed to be Tom Cruise's real life girlfriend after her engagement with Chris Klein ended. Holmes seems to be the more down-to-earth type while Cruise stars in super thrillers and actions films.

Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson:

The *Mean Girls* actress dated DJ Samantha Ronson in 2008 and

2009. When questioned about her sexuality, Lohan said, “I don’t want to classify myself.” Since the brief romance the couple shared together, Lohan has been recently linked to Avi Snow.

David Cross and Amber Tamblyn:

The 26-year-old actress best known for her parts in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Joan of Arcadia* tied knots with now-hubby David Cross in 2012. The 43-year-old comedian has quite the ego boost with dating a woman 19 years younger than him.

Related: [Finding Your True Destiny](#)

Rachel McAdams and Michael Sheen:

The *Midnight in Paris* co-stars were rumored to be a couple far before they announced their relationship. Sheen has a past relationship with Kate Beckinsale. The two have a daughter, Lily Sheen, together.

Who are some other celebrity couples with opposite personalities? Share your thoughts below.

Date Advice: 5 Conversations Every Couple Should Have Before Getting Married





By Mark B. Baer ESQ.

While it may seem odd receiving marital advice from a family law attorney, remember that people retain us to assist them in dissolving their marriages. Although the people and situations may differ, the reasons marriages fail tend to be rather consistent. We are therefore in an excellent position to give marriage advice. Here are five conversions every couple should consider having before tying the knot:

1. Communication

Poor communication happens to be a major cause of divorce. Since you are planning on marrying, you should already be familiar with each other's communication style. If you believe that your fiancé could use some improvement in that regard, it is advisable that you address that concern before marriage. After all, if the problem exists before marriage, what makes you think that it will improve with marriage?

Related: [How to Communicate to Get What You Need](#)

2. Finances

Before people marry, they have little need to discuss their relationship with money because it is not of particular importance. After all, as long as each person is pulling

their weight financially in whatever manner is acceptable to both, there is no need for any discussion. However, as Harvey A. Silberman, family law judge for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, in California likes to remind people, "Getting married in and of itself creates a pre-marital agreement – the *Family Code*." In other words, the terms of your pre-marital agreement can either be the terms set forth in the *Family Code* or terms that you specifically negotiated as part of the pre-marital agreement. What do pre-marital agreements address? They address financial issues. Therefore, you automatically become financial entangled with each other just by virtue of getting married. The failure to discuss such issues before marriage is a major regret for many. Such conversations should include the nature and extent of your respective pre-marital assets and debts, your values and beliefs with regard to spending and saving, expectations you each have with regard to the source of money to be used to pay for marital expenses, and many other such issues.

Related: [Celebrity Couples Who Let Money Ruin Their Relationship](#)

3. Commitment

Marriage is a wonderful institution that affords couples significant psychological, emotional and financial benefits, in addition to being a commitment of their love to each other. Problems ensue when the couple's level of commitment are not aligned. How will this play out if one spouse is a workaholic? Are you committed to the marriage if you are disrespectful of your spouse? A conversation on the issue of commitment would be wise.

4. Expectations

People's expectations for themselves, their spouse and their marriage change over time. Those with the most successful marriages share these expectations with each other.

5. Human Nature

Rounding off the list is human nature. People don't change and nobody is perfect. The question is not whether you can change someone, but whether you will be happily married to them warts and all. This requires a conversation because one might expect to change the other.

Enjoy a happy and healthy marriage.

Mark is the owner of Mark B. Baer, Inc., a Professional Law Corporation. His is a Family Law Attorney, Mediator, Collaborative Divorce Practitioner, Author, Lecturer, and Keynote Speaker. He has been licensed to practice law in the State of California for over twenty years.

Relationship Advice: Understanding How Assets Get Divided In Divorce





By Jeff Landers for

GalTime.com

Dividing the family's property during a divorce can be quite difficult, especially if there are significant assets such as houses, rental property, retirement and pension plans, stock options, restricted stock, deferred compensation, brokerage accounts, closely-held businesses, professional practices and licenses, etc. Deciding who should get what can be quite a challenge, even under the most amenable of situations. But, if your divorce is contentious, then this can be especially complicated.

Assets should not necessarily be divided simply based on their current dollar value. You need to understand which assets will be best for your short- and long-term financial security. This is not always easy to discern without a thorough understanding of the asset itself – its liquidity, cost basis and any tax implications associated with its sale.

However, before we go any further, we need to discuss the differences between Separate and Marital Property and why that's critically important to you. In my experience, this is an area that is not well understood by most people.

States differ in some of the details, but generally speaking,

Separate Property includes:

- **Any property that was owned by either spouse prior to the marriage;**
- **An inheritance received by the husband or wife (either before or after the marriage);**
- **A gift received by the husband or wife from a third party (your mother gave you her diamond ring);**
- **Payment received for pain and suffering portion in a personal injury judgment**

Warning: Separate property can lose its separate property status if you commingle it with marital property or vice versa. For example, if you re-title your separately owned condo by adding your husband as a co-owner or if you deposit the inheritance from your parents into a joint bank account with him, then that property will most likely now be considered marital property.

All other property that is acquired during the marriage is usually considered marital property regardless of which spouse owns the property or how the property is titled. Most people don't understand this. I've had many clients tell me that they were not entitled to a specific asset, because it was titled in their husband's name – such as his 401K. This is not true! This is worth repeating because it is that important. All property that is acquired during the marriage is usually considered marital property regardless of which spouse owns the property or how that property is titled.

(State laws vary greatly, especially between Community Property & Equitable Distribution States, so please consult with your attorney).

Marital property consists of all income and assets acquired by either spouse during the marriage including, but not limited to: **Pension Plans; 401Ks, IRAs and other Retirement Plans;**

Deferred Compensation; Stock Options; Restricted Stocks and other equity; Bonuses; Commissions; Country Club memberships; Annuities; Life Insurance (especially those with cash values); Brokerage accounts – mutual funds, stocks, bonds, etc; Bank Accounts – Checking, Savings, Christmas Club, CDs, etc; Closely-held businesses; Professional Practices and licenses; Real Estate; Limited Partnerships; Cars, boats, etc; Art, antiques; Tax refunds.

In many states, if your separately owned property increases in value during the marriage, that increase is also considered marital property. However some states will differentiate between active and passive appreciation when deciding if an increase in the value of separate property should be considered marital property.

So what's the difference?

Active appreciation is appreciation that is due, in part, to the direct or indirect contributions or efforts of the other spouse (e.g. your husband helped you grow your business by giving you ideas and advice; he entertained clients with you; he helped raise the kids and did some household chores, which allowed you to work late, entertain clients, travel to conventions; etc.).

Passive appreciation is appreciation that is due to outside forces such as supply and demand and inflation. For example, a parcel of land increases in value even though you and your husband made no improvements to it. However, if you used marital income and/or assets to pay the mortgage and/or taxes on this parcel of land, you might have a very good argument that this property, or at least the increase in value during your marriage, should now be considered marital property. As you can see, this can get quite complicated and convoluted. Hiring a good divorce financial planner can help you sort this out.

It is also very important for you to know if you reside in a Community Property State or an Equitable Distribution State. There are nine Community Property States – Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. Community Property states consider both spouses as equal owners of all marital property (a 50-50 split is the rule).

The remaining 41 states are Equitable Distribution states. Settlements in Equitable Distribution States do not need to be equal, but they should be fair and equitable. In Equitable Distribution, several factors are taken into account, including the financial situation of each spouse when dividing assets.

Some of the factors considered are:

- The length of the marriage
- The income or property brought into the marriage by each spouse
- The standard of living established during the marriage
- The age and physical/emotional health of each spouse
- The income and earning potential of each spouse
- The financial situation of each spouse when the divorce is finalized
- The contribution of a spouse to the education, training or earning power of the other
- The needs of the custodial parent to maintain the lifestyle for the children

In addition to these, a court can consider any other factors that it feels might be relevant. This makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to predict the outcome. The bottom line

here is that you want to stay out of court, if possible. There's a good reason why more than 95% of all divorces are ultimately settled out of court.

Also, please remember that debts usually get divided in divorce as well. However, Community Property states treat debt differently than Equitable Distribution states, so please make sure that you consult with an experienced divorce specialist.

Hopefully this basic description of how assets get divided in divorce will help you as you are going through your divorce. But as you can see, this can be an extremely complicated process filled with unseen potholes. Having a competent divorce financial professional on your team can help you get your fair share of the assets that you've worked so hard to accumulate.

Dating Advice: 10 Tips to Being Successful With Online Dating





By Sarah Ribeiro

Do you constantly find yourself telling your friends “there are no good guys?” You’ve gone on a million dates on every dating site and you just can’t seem to find the one. It’s true, online dating is tricky. It’s a grueling process to deal with searching through thousands of profiles, hoping to find your true love in a mass of duds. Plus, you deal with the awkwardness of sitting with a stranger who’s a complete creep or is nothing like you hoped. However, if you do it the right way, you can skip all the awkward uncertainty and find your perfect match in no time. Here are some tips for being successful with online dating:

- 1. Take everything with a grain of salt:** Recognize that your date may not be entirely truthful on his profile. Before you head out with an expectation of that tall, dark and handsome doctor, consider the possibility that he may be posting an older photo, or that he may work in a hospital – just not as a doctor.
- 2. Be true to yourself:** If you’re not honest on your dating profile, you can’t expect anyone else to be. Be sure to upload a recent photo and keep your information up-to-date so there’s no surprise on your end.

3. Fill up your profile: The best way to avoid awkward silences on your first date is to have a lot to talk about. Upload plenty of photos and include all of your interests to easily initiate conversation.

Related: [Four Dates and a Wedding](#)

4. Don't write a novel: While you want a lot of information about yourself that will reveal your personality, no guy is going to read an 800-word description. Stick to the basic information like your job, hobbies, and interests and limit yourself to five sentences per category.

5. KeepItSimple101: A complicated or inappropriate username may keep the good ones away. Stay away from a confusing and random username or one that is too suggestive and stick with something simple and straightforward, like your name or your favorite sports team.

6. Know your limits: Limit yourself in every aspect. First, don't share too much information. Your date doesn't need to know every detail about your ex-boyfriend. And, of course, don't overindulge. Drinking too much makes you a sloppy date and will likely end the night early.

7. Keep it on the DL: A 5-star restaurant probably isn't the best idea for a first date, never mind a blind date. Skip the luxury and head out to a café or a free concert in the park so you don't have to spend money on someone you'll never see again.

Related: [Online Dating Isn't a Threat to Monogamy – It's a Blessing](#)

8. Utilize multiple sites: The best way to find the perfect guy is to widen your scope. Make multiple profiles, mixing free sites like OKCupid or Zoosk with paid memberships on sites like Match.com and Chemistry.com to give yourself a bigger population to pick from.

9. Don't talk for too long: While you want to get a good idea of a guy before you date him, try to limit your messaging to about five days before you establish a place to meet. Any longer than that, and he may grow bored with the chitchat and move on. Remember – you're both still actively looking for a partner.

10. Relax: The biggest date-killer is your own lack of confidence. Stop worrying about having the perfect night and instead walk into your date with your mind set on having fun. Once you stop focusing on everything that can go wrong, you can start focusing on everything that's going right.

How have you succeeded in online dating? Share your tips with us in the comments.

Plan a Summer Wedding in Eight Weeks or Less





By Kelly Rouba for

GalTime.com

If you recently got engaged and just can't wait to tie the knot, famed party planner Martie Duncan says it's not too late to plan a summer wedding.

A summer wedding can be put together in under two months, assures Duncan, who shares many of her expert tips on her website MartieKnowsParties. Duncan's experience in planning weddings on the fly began when a friend recruited her help not long ago.

"They got engaged on a Saturday and wanted to get married the next Saturday," she recalls. "It wasn't a joke, and we did it! (It turned out to be) a beautiful, simple but sweet and sentimental family wedding with a seated reception dinner for 30. We even ended with fireworks!"

Contrary to what one might expect, the planning process went rather smoothly. "The reason it was so easy is because the couple had seen my work and knew my style. They trusted me," says Duncan, who gained popularity as the runner up on Season 8 of Food Network Star.

After the couple first approached Duncan for guidance, they agreed to meet to go over details. "We sat down for one

planning meeting to discuss what they wanted and what it would cost. Within hours, I had most of it pulled together because I knew what was important to them,” she says.

It also helped that Duncan’s friend had already found a farm to serve as the venue for the ceremony and reception. “That made things easy,” Duncan says, adding that she made sure the wedding theme reflected the couple’s personalities. “The flowers, decor, food and drinks were all very rustic—a perfect fit for both the setting and their laid-back style.”

For all those other couples out there who are ready to march down that aisle, Duncan offers these simple tips for planning a summer wedding in eight weeks or less:

SET A BUDGET

“The first big step is to decide on the budget,” Duncan says. “Often, planning a wedding quickly means you may pay more for things because you do not have time to shop around or delay making purchases.”

Also, keep in mind that the vendors you have to select from at the last minute might be more expensive, and there could be added expenses you never anticipated. In fact, while helping her friend plan her wedding, they realized there wasn’t a kitchen at the farm. “We had to create everything,” Duncan says, noting that it certainly made things more difficult, especially since they only had a modest budget.

In the end, it worked out because “we communicated openly about what was possible and what was not under the circumstances. Since we had to bring everything in, we kept it all very simple,” she said.

HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER

If the couple or their close friends have experience planning events, know vendors they can rely on, and have plenty of time

on their hands, then a wedding planner might not be necessary, Duncan says. Otherwise, “I would always advise finding someone who knows the ropes to make the process easier. The biggest problem is finding trustworthy vendors who might still have the date open. A planner can certainly help, since they typically know all of the vendors in their area.”

Always make sure you have a contract in place with the vendors you select. “Don’t skip over these precautions just because you are trying to pull things together quickly,” Duncan warns.

STICK TO A SCHEDULE

“When planning a wedding in a short amount of time, you have to make decisions quickly and move on,” Duncan says. “There is no time to procrastinate or labor over the choices you have to make.”

BE FLEXIBLE

“Most importantly, the couple has to have some degree of flexibility when making decisions,” Duncan says. “For example, if the peonies you always dreamed of are not available, you might have to settle for something else. You just cannot be rigid when you only have days to plan. Decide on a few basics, like overall style and color. After that, you almost have to see what’s available and go from there.”

Celebrity Couples Who Cannot Wait to Become Parents



By Meghan Fitzgerald

Most couples are ecstatic when they find out they're going to be parents. The thrill of being a mother or father is indescribable. The moment you find out you're going to be a parent is one you'll never forget. The baby showers, clothes, registries and birthing classes – it all can be very exciting for parents-to-be. Numerous celebrity couples can't wait to become parents. Here's a list of some of seven of our favorites who are expecting:

1. Fergie and Josh Duhamel: Fergie announced via Twitter “Josh & Me & BABY makes three!!!.” According to [UsMagazine](#), husband Josh sings to Fergie's pregnant baby bump. The two lovebirds are more than excited to welcome a new member into their family this upcoming year.

Related: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

2. Maya Rudolph and Paul Thomas Anderson: The former *SNL* star is expecting her fourth child this year with partner, Paul Anderson. Although this child is coming “faster” than they

thought, they are more than thrilled to have another baby on the way.

3. Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem: These two are expecting their second child this year. The actress confirmed they are both “tremendously happy and excited.” The couple already has a son, Leo.

4. Alec Baldwin and his wife, Hilaria: The couple is expecting their first child together. The *30 Rock* star stated, “It really is the most amazing thing. I’m lucky.” Baldwin already has a 17-year-old daughter named, Ireland, with ex-wife Kim Basinger.

5. Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell: Two months after denying she was pregnant, the couple’s rep stated they both were “thrilled” over the upcoming birth of their first child together.

6. Kate Middleton and Prince William: With all of the media surrounding the royal couple, most people know how excited these two are for having a baby. Who wouldn’t want to create a baby who will be inducted into the royal family?

Related: [Kelly Bensimon: “I Am A Single Parent & It’s Not Easy”](#)

7. Busy Phillips and Marc Silverstein: Although her pregnancy was unexpected, Phillips and husband Marc Silverstein are excited to take on the challenge of parenting again. The duo are already parents to Birdie Leigh.

Your First Trip Together? 10 Packing Tips



By Laura Seldon for

GalTime.com

Packing for any vacation can be exhausting, but it gets even harder when you're deciding what to take on your first trip with your new flame. But just like in relationships, when it comes to packing for a trip, it's best to leave all extra baggage behind! To help you "pack for success," here are the top 10 things to take with you whether you are hitting the wide-open road together, or jetting away to somewhere exotic!

1. Comfy Walking Shoes

Start your trip off on the right foot with a good pair of walking shoes. While you may want to look good in front of your new love interest, it's important to bring a reliable pair of sneakers "so you can walk and explore together," says

author Carrie Knowles.

2. Picnic Provisions

What's better than a romantic meal for two? A romantic picnic for two! "Bring a small backpack with a corkscrew and knife for an impromptu picnic," suggests Knowles. This way you and your new suitor can enjoy some alone time in the great outdoors!

Related: [10 Relationship Behaviors You Think Are Odd..That Are Totally Normal!](#)

3. Reading Materials

Consider sharing more than just a hotel room on your romantic getaway – how about sharing a book as well? "That way you can read to each other," explains Knowles. "There's nothing more romantic." Not only will reading together give you something to talk about, but reading something sexy (think *Fifty Shades of Grey*) could really heat up your excursion!

4. First-Aid Kit

Allergies, indigestion and bloating will cramp your style on a romantic getaway. "Bring a first-aid kit," says Bonnie Joy Dewkett, a professional organizer and packing pro. "Because nothing is worse than having your time spoiled by a headache, sunburn or upset stomach."

5. GPS & Maps

Navigate your way to romance with the help of your trusty GPS! "Couples notoriously fight over directions," says Dewkett. "The key to a road trip is to have a GPS, maps and a plan!"

6. Denim with Diversity

Be sure to pack a pair of jeans that can be dressed up or down. "Who knows what activities your romantic getaway will

entail,” says Jennifer Kelton, a dating advisor and the founder of DressForTheDate.com. “Pack a pair of jeans that can be dressed down for activities like horseback riding, but can also be dressed up for hitting a trendy pub.”

Related: [Fend Off the Post-Wedding Blues](#)

7. Unisex Toiletries

If you’re already sharing a book (as advised in #3), then why not share a few bathroom products as well, including shampoo, conditioner and lotion? “Sharing is caring,” says PR pro Stephanie Scott. “And it also cuts down on the amount of products that you need to pack. Try travel-sized goodies that couples can share.”

8. A Good Playlist

When there’s a moment of awkward silence, it’s best to fill it with the sound of music! Just make sure your playlist (for the car or bedroom) include songs you both like, advises Dr. Jane Greer, a marriage and family therapist. “It will destroy the whole trip if your car ride isn’t enjoyable.”

9. A Solid Set of Snacks

Don’t rely on a run-down convenience store for your snack supply! Instead, ask your new flame for a list of their favorite snacks (granola bars, chips, apples, etc.) and pack some provisions. “Bring some of your favorite snacks to ease tension on the road,” suggests Aimee Cebulski, author of *The Finding 40 Project*. “It will also ward off the crankies and make each of you happy.”

10. An Open Mind

One of the most important items you can bring with you on any vacation is an open mind. “It sounds cheesy,” says Cebulski. “But this might be the first time you see your sweetheart clean his ears... or he sees that you are an extreme over-

packer. Go easy on each other. It's supposed to be fun!"

The best part about taking an open mind on your trip? It takes up hardly any space in your suitcase!

Who Gets Custody of the Friends?



By Kelly Rouba,

GalTime.com

As the Neil Sedaka song goes, "Breaking up is hard to do." And it gets even harder when friends take sides in the process—something Diana Young recalls all too well.

After splitting up with her longtime boyfriend RJ to pursue another relationship, Young felt abandoned by many of her friends. "RJ got all our friends in our 'divorce'," Young

joked. But since many of their friends weren't entirely aware of all that went on behind the scenes, Young said they were quick to take his side.

Unfortunately, this is all too common, says Stacie Ikka, a relationship expert and founder of the dating consultancy Sitting In A Tree. "There are always casualties of war, so to speak, and the loss of friendships during a breakup is no exception."

In Young's case, she did manage to maintain relationships with some of the friends she had met before dating RJ. After a breakup, "(one) factor that determines the extent of the 'fall-out' is whether these friends were acquired by the couple together or whether the two people in the couple came into the relationship with their own friends, who then became friends with the partner," Ikka says.

Related: [Plan a Summer Wedding in Eight Weeks or Less](#)

CHOOSING SIDES

"When a couple with shared friends breaks up, it's natural for friends to take sides. The more tumultuous or less amicable the breakup, the more divisive the 'siding' becomes," Ikka explains. Typically, "it's when breakups or divorces are contentious and one or both parties carry residual anger, resentment, hurt or disappointment that friends feel they need to pick a side. When emotions are involved, it's very difficult for people to remain objective and fair. What happens... depends on the nature of the breakup, the two individuals involved, and how integrated their friends were in their relationship."

If you have a friend who is going through a rough relationship ender, try not to get too involved. "Friends who take sides can add fuel to an already heated fire," Ikka warns.

REMAINING NEUTRAL

Carlee C., of New Jersey, said she felt torn and a bit frustrated after two of her friends broke up last fall. "Amanda* asked me to stop talking to Tom* after they split up," Carlee said. "I felt like I shouldn't have to stop talking to him because he was my friend before they started dating. Plus, they had only dated for a few months and since he was my boyfriend's friend, it was illogical to think I wouldn't see him again anyway. Amanda was not too happy with that decision."

As difficult as it was for Carlee to try to remain neutral, Ikka says she made the right decision.

"When friends take sides, it can further exacerbate an already emotionally trying time for the people going through the separation—especially if those friends take on any unproductive or destructive behaviors displayed by the couple. A good friend is one who offers support, an ear to listen, and a shoulder to cry on," Ikka says.

Depending on how the couple handles the split, it is possible for friends to remain neutral, Ikka adds. "There is such a thing as an amicable breakup and, although rare, in these instances friends feel less pressure...to 'pick a side.' If the separated couple is able to be amicable, or at least civil, there is less reason for the friends to feel caught up in the middle of the drama.'

Related: [11 Good Reasons to Keep Your Relationship Status Secret](#)

And if that isn't possible, Carolyn Kingman Javick, a married mother of two from New Jersey, says, "They should do what they learned in kindergarten—and that is to share! Otherwise, it puts friends in a very uncomfortable situation having to choose. It will pan out over time who they become closer to."

Ikka agrees. “My philosophy is that when a friendship is authentic, it stands the test of time, including breakups. And it is possible for an individual or a couple to remain friends with both parties who have gone their separate ways. It takes honest communication, a commitment by all parties and some organization and planning, but it’s certainly possible.”

MAKING BREAK-UPS EASIER ON FRIENDS

If you’re concerned about losing friends after losing a significant other, Ikka offers a few tips to keep in mind:

Don’t bash your partner in front of friends: Ikka says it is OK to talk to your friends about your experiences, feelings, doubts and fears, especially while the breakup is raw because, after all, what are friends for? However, “it would be unfair to your friends to introduce any character assassination, unnecessary negativity or untruths about your ex-partner that may influence how your friends then behave around your ex.”

Stick to the facts: Although this depends on your own level of self-awareness and emotional maturity, try to “be as forthcoming and transparent as possible when discussing your breakup and/or ex.”

Explain how friends can help: Tell your friends how they can best support you, Ikka says. “Sometimes, friends in this situation just don’t know what to do, what’s expected of them or what the ‘right’ thing might be. Any guidance you can provide will make the situation easier for everyone.”

****Name has been changed.***

10 New Celebrity Dads



By Jennifer

Harrington

Pregnancy, babies and parenting are always some of the hottest topics when it comes to celebrity news. Much of this news revolves around the mom and baby (think of how much time we spend on “bump” watch and anticipating Hollywood baby name choices), and an important part of the equation is often overshadowed: the celebrity dad. There are some great fathers in the celebrity world, and we wanted to shine a spotlight on them to celebrate their dedication to their children and fatherhood. Here is a list of our top 10 celebrity dads:

Brad Pitt

Hollywood heartthrob Brad Pitt is a father of six (Maddox, Zahara, Shiloh, Pax, Knox and Vivienne) with longtime love, Angelina Jolie. Often when Angelina is working, Brad plays the role of stay-at-home dad with the kids, and it seems to be a

duty he relishes in. In a 2012 interview with *People* magazine, Brad revealed that fatherhood has made him a better man and explained that being a dad “takes you right off yourself.”

Related: [Mario Lopez Wants “At Least 4 More” Children](#)

David Beckham

Soccer superstar David Beckham is the dad of four (Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and Harper) with wife Victoria Beckham. David has confessed that he hopes his children will be independent and lead normal lives, despite their parents’ star status. He is open about how challenging it is to spend time away from his family for his soccer commitments. He’s also very proactive when he’s with the little ones (he was recently spotted having some quality one-on-one time with Harper in Paris).

Chris Noth

Sex and the City star Chris Noth is the father of one child (Orion) with his wife, Tara. Despite a long list of acting accomplishments, Noth is emphatic about his favorite role. He said, “I love being a dad... being a dad is by far my favorite role!” It may be difficult for some to imagine Mr. Big as a devoted dad, but Noth is frequently photographed as a hands-on dad (we have even seen him sport matching Halloween costumes with his little one), and has even said the sound of his son crying is “music” to his ears.

Tom Cruise

Major movie star Tom Cruise is a dad of three (Isabella, Connor and Suri). While Isabella and Connor are grown and embarking on their adult lives, Tom is famously undertaking the role of single dad, in light of his recent divorce from Katie Holmes. While Suri calls New York City home with Katie, and Tom is frequently traveling for his movies, Tom remains committed to daddy duty for Suri. The duo has been photographed at Disney World together, and most recently,

celebrating her 7th birthday together. Tom has also remarked that Suri can call him whenever she needs him!

Ben Affleck

Boston-native Ben Affleck has three kids (Violet, Seraphina and Sam). After a whirlwind year of work and accolades for Ben, his current focus now is parenting his children, so his wife, Jennifer Garner, can go back to work. The couple has agreed that while one is working, the other will stay at home with the kids. Of his summer plans, Ben has been quoted as saying, "There's going to be a little Mr. Mom action."

Matt Damon

Ben Affleck's best buddy, Matt Damon, is also a fantastic dad. Matt is a father to three daughters (Isabella, Gia and Stella) and a stepfather to Alexia, from wife Luciana's previous marriage. Matt has a simple rule that guides his life and establishes his commitment to his daughters: the family can't be separated for more than two weeks at a time. Matt is open about the fact that his feelings toward his family are much more than he ever expected, and has remarked that parenthood is "really quite something."

Will Smith

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air star is a father of three (Trey, Jaden and Willow). Will famously rapped about fatherhood in the 1990's song "Just the Two of Us", and he's watched with admiration as Jaden and Willow, his children with wife Jada Pinkett Smith, have launched their own acting/music careers. Will is very involved and supportive of their blossoming careers, and is always available to provide them with counsel as they navigate Hollywood. He has remarked, "I love producing my kids and my wife's TV show and all that. I think that's my most natural space in the business."

Seal

The singer is father to four children (Leni, Henry, Johan and Lou) with ex-wife Heidi Klum. While Seal and Heidi are no longer married, Heidi knew that Seal would be a good dad the first time she met him because of his “kindness and compassion.” She has publically stated that he is a great father and always puts the needs of the children first (even Leni, who is not biologically Seal’s child), noting that he “does everything in his power” to make sure the kids are happy and safe. Time will tell how Seal adjusts to fathering without Heidi by his side, but we have no doubt he will continue to be a fantastic papa.

Matthew McConaughey

Matthew is dad to three kids (Levi, Vida and Livingston) with wife Camila. His recent acting schedule has been packed, but when he’s not on set, Matthew’s favorite activity is story-time with his tots! Matthew shared with *People* magazine, “My favorite thing is reading a five-minute story that turns into a never-ending story. When it’s story time and I get to the end, there’s no the end. The kids hate the end!” Matthew also loves long phone chats with Levi, when he’s away shooting movies!

Related: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

Barack Obama

President Barack Obama has two daughters (Sasha and Malia) with wife Michelle. Despite his schedule loaded with meetings with world leaders and policy negotiation, Obama makes spending quality time with his teenage daughters a priority. Sasha and Malia absolutely know where they stand with their father; Obama told *Essence* magazine, “I want my girls to know that no matter what else is going on, they’re my first priority.”

What qualities make a terrific celebrity dad? Any other celebrity dads we should include on this list of Hollywood’s

finest?

Wait To Marry Until You Are At Least Old Enough To Legally Drink!



By Susan Trombetti,

CEO of Exclusive Matchmaking

Before you take the loooong walk down the aisle, make sure you are mature enough to make that commitment for better or for worse! Miley and Liam have been getting cold feet for years. Now, and before you warm up to the idea of getting hitched, hear matchmaker and relationship expert, Susan Trombetti's reasons why you may want to say "I don't" until you are older.

Top 5 Reasons Why Not to Get Married So Young:

1. Money Matrimony Mess

Unless you have a decent savings account, think twice before you book that chapel. Money is the number one reason couples divorce, so take some time to allow yourself and your hedge fund to mature. It is sad to say, but financial stability usually leads to marriage stability. No money, no fun.

Related: [Can People Really Fall In Love Too Fast?](#)

2. Room For Growth

Don't go straight from living in a room in your parent's house to sharing a space with your spouse. Learn to live alone! Learn to live independently first before you wind up dependent on someone else.

3. Love Yourself Before You Love Someone Else

Get to know yourself. You may not reach your full potential as a person if you have obligations to a spouse and a family. Live *your* life. You need to get out there, let your hair down, have fun and experience the world. There is a greater chance you will change as a person and your priorities will change if you and your partner don't change together... this spells a relationship disaster!

4. 'Till Death Do You Part With Your Problems

Remember, marriage is supposed to be a lifelong commitment. Yes, there are the good times, but with those times do come some bad patches. If you marry someone too young you may not have the maturity to handle such a serious commitment and navigate the pitfalls.

Related: [What To Know Before You Say 'I Do'](#)

5. Stop In The Name Of Love Before You Become A Statistic

Unless you want to end up like Kim & Kris in a 72 day divorce debacle... think twice and then a third time before you say "I DO". Bottom line, divorce rates are higher among younger couples... and no one wants to end up on the receiving end of a Taylor Swift song.

Susan Trombetti is an expert matchmaker and relationship expert. She is CEO and founder of Exclusive Matchmaking and a certified executive member of the matchmaking institute. She has helped many upscale, discerning singles discover long-term relationships and partnerships that are both rewarding and fulfilling through her business, Exclusive Matchmaking. She has also been featured several times in Cosmopolitan, Shape, MSN and many more. You can find Susan sponsoring local charity events or scouting for matches for clients at A- list parties and events.

Amanda Bynes: When Help Is Needed But Not Wanted





By Jane Greer, PhD

for GalTime.com

Amanda Bynes has been in the news recently after a flurry of erratic behavior both in the real world and on Twitter. Drama peaked this week when she was allegedly caught in possession of drug paraphernalia and arrested. Two mug shots were circulated, one of Bynes wearing a flamboyant, platinum wig and the second with the wig removed revealing a new super-cropped haircut. Since the incident, she's lashed out at Rihanna on Twitter saying she had been beaten by Chris Brown for being "not pretty enough."

The child star has been having trouble for a while, including an arrest in 2012 for a DUI. Last month, she announced that she had an eating disorder and posted a photo of herself wearing only a bra. Since then, she's been sharing increasingly inappropriate photos of herself on Twitter. For those of us on the outside, it is like watching a train wreck: we can see it happening but there really isn't anything we can do. But what about those close to her? Is there anything they can do? And what can you do if you have a friend or family member spinning out of control?

Related: [Relationship Advice: Are Your BF and Best Friend Too Close for Comfort?](#)

In Bynes' case, it is hard to know if she is dealing with a drug problem, a mental health condition or something else, but one thing is for sure, she needs help. The reality is, though, she doesn't seem to be taking it. This is something many of us can relate to, the desperate pull to want to help someone in trouble who is flat out refusing to accept it. Your instinct is to throw them a rope, but they just swim in the other direction and cut themselves off from those who love them.

Sometimes friends and family coming together as a united front and doing an intervention can cut through the refusal to help. If that doesn't work, you might consider getting out of their way; on occasion a person has to hit rock bottom before they really take their problem seriously and are willing to accept help. So often people deny the severity of their situation and continue to think they can handle themselves and that they are OK. Realize that unless and until they experience the full impact of their behavior, they may remain unwilling to do anything about it to change.

Related: [Relationship Advice: Mending a Split Like Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green](#)

It isn't until they reach their lowest point that they can fully appreciate the seriousness of what they are dealing with, and grasp the importance of getting assistance. It is only then that they will want help and reach out to get it, or accept what is being offered. Of course, stepping aside isn't an easy thing to do. You might feel helpless because they are at risk – if they are dealing with a drug problem the fear is an overdose, if they are mentally ill then you might be worried that they will be self-destructive. The truth is, though, that the more you attempt to help them, the more likely it is that they pull away and isolate themselves further. If you can curb your desire to help so you stop battling with them, then the only person they are fighting is themselves and they might finally be able to reach out and/or accept help.

Know also that if their out-of-control behavior continues to escalate, at some point either the legal system or the mental health system is likely to get involved so that seeking help will no longer be a matter of choice, but rather a necessity.

As difficult as it can be, sometimes the only option when someone is refusing help is to stop offering. Hopefully this will be the case for Amanda and those who know and love her, and she'll be ready to accept true support on her own soon.

5 Ways Your Relationship Can Overcome His Loss of Ambition



By Ashley DelBello

All relationships struggle at some point and in many cases more than once, but it puts even more of a strain on it when

your significant other loses his focus or sense of purpose. It's 2013, but most men still have that "provider of the family" mentality and feel it's necessary to be the one – for lack of a better term – "bringing home the bacon." So, what happens when your boyfriend or husband loses their job and doesn't have it in him to move on?

First, figure out if you're in it for the long haul.

Typically, new relationships won't succeed in this type of environment, but whether it does happen with the new guy you're dating or your husband of five years, you will need to decide if this is something you're able to help guide him through while he figures things out. You also need to examine what you're looking for in a relationship if this has been an issue between the two of you for some time. His laid-back attitude may compliment your more assertive, goal-oriented personality and you may enjoy taking the lead in the relationship. However, if you're looking to be a part of a power couple, then this will be an ongoing source of disappointment and frustration for you.

Related: [7 Things NOT to Do in a Relationship](#)

Support, support, support.

There has to be that balance between support and pushing too much. You can want the best for someone, you also have to understand that they will also need to want it for themselves. You need to keep that in mind as you both navigate through this situation.

Suggest starting over professionally with an internship.

Maybe his lack of ambition is stemming from a lack of passion for what he's doing. If he or as a couple you can afford it, see if he would be interested in looking into internships to explore where he wants to go next in his career. We've seen it

happen in Hollywood and while it may seem unrealistic, the storyline is coming from somewhere real so if nothing else works, then why not try something that could help lead him to finding something he gets excited about.

Guy time. As well as girl time.

Any activity that gives you both some time away from each other on a regular basis will be beneficial to the both of you so the focus isn't always on your relationship. It also allows the both of you to talk candidly with your friends – as with everything, venting is healthy in moderation.

Professional counseling.

It's OK to seek outside help – they provide an objective third-party perspective and are also trained to help you both figure this out.

Related: [The Key to a Lasting Relationship](#)

Last of all – know that it might not be possible to move forward with your relationship. When you feel like you have given it everything you have and don't think you can continue with the way things are, recognize that it's OK to walk away. It's not a decision to be made lightly or quickly, but sometimes approaches to life are just too different for relationships to work well on a long-term basis.

Have you been in a similar situation where your partner lost his ambition? If so, what did you do to overcome this and keep your relationship on track?

5 Cue Cards for New Couples



By Christina

Steinorth MA MFT

Here's a piece of folk wisdom nearly every newlywed has heard: "If you can survive the wedding, surviving the marriage will be a piece of cake!" Weddings are indeed stressful because they involve a massive amount of planning, cooperating/compromising with your spouse-to-be, the convergence of diverse family and friends, decisions about religion and family traditions, and of course, lots of money.

After the wedding, many newly married couples experience what social scientists call "the honeymoon phase"—a period of several months in the beginning of marriage, characterized by passionate love and intense happiness. But in my experience working with couples, I've found that new marriage also comes with new stressors.

To sail through the first few months of marriage with minimal problems, here are 5 Cue Cards, or quick behavioral prompts,

to help you navigate around the most common obstacles to newlyweds' happiness.

Cue Card #1: Managing your own family is your job.

Even in well-adjusted and accommodating families, social slipups will occur. You or your spouse will inevitably get your feelings hurt by someone in your extended family or your partner's family. If your relative acts in a hurtful manner, it's your responsibility to address the issue with the offending family member and, if warranted, to ask that person to apologize to your spouse. When you manage your family, you show respect for your love partner.

Related: [What To Know Before You Say 'I Do'](#)

Cue Card #2: Keep disagreements between you.

When you have a disagreement with your spouse, one of the best things you can do for your marriage is to not talk about it with your family of origin. Families can be a wonderful source of support, but in new relationships it's essential for a couple to establish an identity that's separate from their respective families. This engenders trust in one another, strengthens your bond and helps you make decisions that are right for the two of you, free of outside meddling and the resentment that can create.

Cue Card #3: Establish your own family traditions.

When holidays come around, it's normal for new couples to grapple with whose family they'll visit, which traditions to adopt and how to juggle in-law demands. A good solution is to choose one holiday a year to establish your own tradition, and then alternate other holidays between families. This way, everyone gets to spend equal time with you. You can avoid the stress of having to travel to multiple holiday events. And it gives you an opportunity to create a holiday that's all your

own—with the food, friends, fun and rituals you get to choose together.

Cue Card #4: Don't take it personally.

One of the best ways to get your marriage off to a good start is to practice this one behavior over and over, and master it: Pause before you take what he or she said personally—it's usually not about you. When your partner is angry, sullen, or rude, stop and ask yourself, "Did she/he do or say this to be mean or to hurt me?" It's not easy to do, but if you can get good at controlling your knee-jerk reaction, it gives both of you the opportunity to find out what's really going on, and to talk about it calmly and with genuine concern.

Related: [Why 'Bachelor'-Inspired Values Matter In Relationships and Marriage](#)

Cue Card #5: Let unimportant things go.

Before you engage in an argument, try to stop for a moment and ask yourself, "How important is this?" It's inevitable that you'll get on each other's nerves. And it's common to want to control your partner's behavior. But try to put the issue into the context of your entire relationship and then pick your battles wisely. This single piece of advice will help you minimize the number of arguments you have, and you'll learn how to love each other for who you are and the way you are.

*Christina Steinorth MA MFT is a psychotherapist and a popular relationship expert on radio and in print. Her advice has been featured in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Woman's Day, Cosmopolitan, and The Chicago Tribune, among many others. Her new book is **Cue Cards for Life: Thoughtful Tips for Better Relationships** (Hunter House, 2013). Learn more at www.christinasteinorth.com.*

Can People Really Fall In Love Too Fast?



By SMF Marcus

Osborne for GalTime.com

All of our lives, we're advised against allowing ourselves to fall in love too fast. They (whoever "they" are) tell us love should happen deliberately, gradually, over a moderate amount of time to have truly legitimate long-term potential. That certainly sounds like sound advice. A cautious approach to new love is never in any way inappropriate. Better safe than sorry.

The problem is that even though this sounds like the right thing to do – *feels* like the right thing to do – it seems to me that there's very little control over our emotions. Yet

there are those who truly believe we have some kind of real power and control over our feelings. Whenever I've heard someone proclaim they wouldn't "let themselves fall in love" with someone, I can only laugh. Certainly, as human beings we have the ability to make choices. As people, we can acknowledge feeling a certain way without acting upon whatever powerful emotions may be brewing.

Don't get me wrong, it's not easy.

Related: [Why So Many Women Couldn't Care Less About Getting Married](#)

The experience of falling in love with someone is extraordinarily powerful – almost impossible to resist. We have no ability to just turn it off. If we could do that, there wouldn't be nearly so many shallow husks of decayed relationships strewn across the ages. But this notion that we can fall in love too quickly – that we somehow will fall in love too soon if we don't exercise some sort of discretionary power over that emotion, I theorize that has been all wrong for years.

I posted a question on my Facebook fan page asking the question, "On average, how soon after you begin seeing a new suitor do you realize that you're falling for them?"

The overall response was generally in the range of 3 to 7 dates. Now this was a small sample size so it's hardly scientific, but I think it's indicative of something nonetheless. It may indicate that most people fall in love far sooner than we would care to admit and definitely sooner than we would like.

Think of your current or past relationships. How many of them took you more than a few dates before you felt the opening pangs of what you would eventually come to realize was you falling in love?

Related: [6 Clues To Look For in a Keeper](#)

When you really fell for someone, how long did it take? Probably much sooner than you think. How many times have you heard people in successful relationships tell the story of how they “just knew right away?” I use myself as an example of this. My ex-wife and I moved in together two weeks after we met. We were together for the next ten years. Have you ever started to fall someone after more than ten dates? I’m guessing no. I theorize most of us know fairly quickly, in spite of how we’re all told we *should* feel.

There’s always that awkward period where you’re each waiting to see who says “I love you first.” You want to say. You want to tell that person what you’re feeling, but you can’t, right? Why is it awkward? Because we’re told not to. Too soon. May scare him off. May not feel the same way. Which may possibly be true in any given situation. But life is filled with risks. By the way, research shows that generally guys are the first to drop the L-bomb.

I guess my point in all this is that sometimes trying to adhere to conventional wisdom may not be the best route for you to take in a fledgling relationship. You should be cautious, but you can be cautious and still embrace the fact that you’re falling for someone without concern over some artificial timetable. All these rules take the fun out of new love!

But I ask you again: How soon do you know you’re falling in love?

Short Term Celebrity Marriages (Learn From Their Mistakes)



By Andrea Surujnauth

Celebrities seem to always be in and out of marriage faster than the rest of us. Take Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries, for example. The couple dated for a mere six months before deciding they were ready to tie the knot. Then lo and behold, 72 days later, the story of their split hit newsstands everywhere. A 72-day marriage is not something you hear about everyday, but in Hollywood, short-term marriages happen all the time. Kim and Kris may be getting a lot of heat for their marriage, but believe it or not, they are not the shortest-lived marriage to ever hit Hollywood. Let's take a look at some celebrities who jumped the broom then called it quits shortly after:

Britney Spears and Jason Alexander:

This couple tied and untied the knot faster than Kim and Kris! This pop princess had a little too much fun in Sin City with a childhood friend, and it ended with a drunken wedding ceremony. Spears and Alexander were married for a total of 55 hours. The couple got their marriage annulled. We doubt they will be partying that hard ever again!

Dennis Rodman and Carmen Electra:

These lovebirds seemed to have fallen under Las Vegas' spell as well. At 7a.m., these two decided to jump the broom. The two denied intoxication and said their holy union was legit. However, actions speak louder than words because 9 days later, the couple got their marriage annulled.

Related: [4 Hollywood Breakups That Offer a Lesson In How Not To Behave During Divorce](#)

Mario Lopez and Ali Landry:

This *Saved By The Bell* heartthrob married actress Ali Landry in April 2004. Sadly, their marriage didn't even last long enough to make it to the honeymoon. The couple had their marriage annulled 18 days later. After dating for 6 years, Landry found out that Lopez had been unfaithful to her throughout their time together. Too bad she didn't find out 19 days earlier.

Renee Zellweger and Kenny Chesney:

This couple got hitched in the Caribbean after dating for only 4 months. They met at a tsunami-relief event and thought it was love at first sight. After 225 days, they annulled their marriage. Zelleger cited "fraud" as the reason for the split.

Pamela Anderson and Kid Rock:

This bizarre pair had an on-and-off relationship from 2001 to

2003. In 2006, they opted for a drunken wedding on a yacht, Anderson wearing a string bikini and Kid Rock wearing a t-shirt and baseball cap. 122 days later, the two raced to the court to file for a divorce. Kid Rock beat Anderson by 53 minutes.

So the moral of the story is lying, cheating and alcohol is definitely not the basis of marriage. These celebs made the mistakes, so lets all learn from them!

What mistakes do you think celebrities make when choosing their spouses? Comment below and let us know!