

# Dating Advice: The Key to a Lasting Relationship



By Alan Strathman for GalTime.com

What makes a relationship last? Many people would say love keeps a relationship going. But if your love doesn't translate into compromise, it might be extremely difficult for both partners to stay committed.

On some level, we all hate compromise – when we compromise, we may not get what we want. In fact, we may not get anything *close* to what we want. But that's the nature of compromise, and it's necessary if you want to see your relationship go the distance.

## Creating “We-ness”

Compromise creates what psychologists call “we-ness,” the sense that both partners feel they’re “in this together.” Partners who have this sense of we-ness tend to use couple-oriented words like we, us, and ours, rather than individual-oriented words like I, me, and mine.

We-ness is self-perpetuating; as we hear the words more often, we *think* the words more often, and when we notice that our thinking has changed, we feel more engaged in “couplehood.” As we become more entrenched in this way of thinking, we are more likely to search for solutions that serve both partners and continue this positive trend.

### Obstacles to Compromise

Our willingness to compromise is deeply impacted by our perception of fairness. If we think we’re getting the short end of the stick, we become more stubborn. But it’s important to understand that the amount of compromise may balance out only in the long run. If you zero in on a single negotiation, one person may seem to come out ahead. Fortunately, what often matters more than the outcome of a discussion is that both partners have a say in the negotiating process. This can make even an unfair outcome feel fair.

In addition, comparison can throw off your perceptions of your relationship. It’s common to compare your contribution to the relationship to your partner’s contribution. It’s also typical to contrast your relationship with other relationships. This is a dangerous game. There are many aspects of other relationships that you *don’t* see, so focus on your own relationship and don’t make assumptions. We are all individuals, and our relationships are reflections of this very fact.

## **Tips for Developing We-ness**

A deep connection doesn't typically develop on its own – it's far too easy for us to take our partners for granted, or expect our partners to compromise on our behalf. There are ways, however, to consciously create a sense of we-ness.

### *Put the Relationship First*

We often get so focused on getting what we want that we sometimes lose sight of what would be best for the health of the relationship. Recognize that what is best for “us” as a couple can be different than what's best for us as individuals. In other words, don't be selfish.

### *Don't Keep Track*

Keeping track of who got more, or who won a particular negotiation, is characteristic of the type of short-term exchange relationships you have with car dealers, not the lasting, communal ones you have with people you love.

### *Have a Win-Win Mindset*

Give-and-take involves negotiating, but not the kind of negotiating you do when buying a car. Negotiating with your partner in a lasting relationship should involve finding outcomes that are mutually satisfying. Resentment shouldn't secretly build over any of the decisions you make together.

### *Consider Your Partner's Perspective*

Research has found that both parties end up with better outcomes when each is considering his or her partner's interests – and the possible reasons behind them. Be careful to avoid making decisions based on assumptions about what your partner wants. Instead, listen carefully and consider what he's telling you.

### *Focus on Feelings over Words*

Accept that, sometimes, we cannot clearly express why we want what we want. We often get focused on explanations, but behavior is often driven by feelings, which are hard to put into words.

Compromise can be hard, but if you're focused on the greater purpose of establishing a lasting relationship, you can find the strength to resist taking what you want all the time – and instead focus on giving to the one you love.

---

## **Celebrities That Actually Get Their Hands Dirty When Giving Back**





By Samantha Menjor

Picture this: You are helping rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy down on the Jersey Shore. You ask a fellow volunteer to give you a handful of nails, and when you turn around you're staring into the eyes of Brad Pitt himself! While the chances of that scenario actually happening are slim, it is no surprise that most, if not all, celebrities attach their name to some sort of charity work. Whether they are boosting their image, expanding their brand, or truly helping out those in need, you can always count on seeing a celeb promote a foundation or organization at some point throughout their career. However, many times it is hard to differentiate between those who volunteer for good publicity and those who are really adamant about helping the less fortunate.

## Most Charitable Celebs

**Angelina Jolie:** We've watched Angelina Jolie grow from a wild child to a doting mother and philanthropist for a plethora of causes. A majority of her work surrounds her children, three

of whom were adopted from different countries around the world. Her want to help others seems to have rubbed off on her celebrity love Pitt, who has joined her on many humanitarian efforts. The parents of six started the Jolie-Pitt Foundation in Cambodia, the native country of their eldest son. The organization focuses on eliminating rural poverty and protecting natural resources and wildlife. Since its beginnings in 2003, the foundation has expanded to provide aid in over 60 countries. Jolie is also a special envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a role in which she will contribute to finding solutions for people displaced by conflict. Are you wondering how she does it all? So are we!

**Related Link:** [Jay-Z and Beyonce Raise \\$1 Million at Fundraiser](#)

**Oprah Winfrey:** Even if you haven't watched her number one daytime television talk show, you know that the celebrity news surrounding Oprah has shown she has always been a strong advocate for education. The Oprah Winfrey Foundation awarded grants to organizations that support the education and empowerment of women, children, and families everywhere. During a visit with Nelson Mandela in 2000, she pledged to build a school, which created the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation. Winfrey herself contributed 40 million dollars towards the creation of her self-named leadership academy for young girls in South Africa. Because she has such a large following, she encouraged her audience to get involved with her public charity Oprah's Angel Network, which has raised over 80 million dollars to fund projects all over the world. Winfrey is one of the few celebs whose altruistic credibility you cannot deny.

**Related:** [Charlize Theron's 'Scary' Blind Date for Charity](#)

**Elton John:** This British pop singer has lost many close friends to HIV/AIDS over the years. As a coping mechanism, he decided to dedicate a large part of his time and money to fighting the auto immune disease. In 1992, he started the

Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), which works to cushion the blow of destruction the disease causes worldwide. EJAF has raised over 125 million dollars to support efforts in 55 countries since its commencement. The singer has also given a staggering amount of his own money to charity. In 2004, he gave 43 million dollars to different foundations, making him the most generous person in music that year. We cannot forget about his song "Candle in the Wind," which he wrote following the death of Princess Diana. Proceeds from the hit single totaled 40 million dollars, all of which was donated to charity.

These three celebs have made it their life's mission to use their fame to make a difference in the world. Their selflessness has made an insurmountable difference in the lives of so many of the less fortunate throughout the world. There are plenty of stars who could probably take notes from these influential characters.

**What other celebs do you think deserve to be on this list? Let us know in a comments below!**

---

## **Dating Advice: 3 Ways to Use the Psychic Edge to Find Mr. Right**





By Louise Helene

Celebrities face the same challenges in love as everyone else, only their mistakes and heartbreaks are made public. Many of them seem to be repeating the same mistakes. If they would just listen to their inner intuition, or their “psychic edge,” their love lives would be much happier. Here are a few exercises that can help them *and* you:

**Related:** [Is That You, Mr. Right?](#)

### **1. Visualize Your Dream Man**

Visualization is a powerful tool not only to draw to us what we want, but to exercise our psychic muscles. When we focus on something, we help the universe send it to us. I psychically feel Kim Kardashian longs for her soulmate. Because of her numerous failed relationships, many people wonder if it will last with Kanye West. Kim should lie down in a quiet place and get comfortable, closing her eyes and taking a few deep breaths. When she is totally relaxed, she should visualize the man of her dreams, being as detailed as



possible. Once she has a clear image, she needs to say out loud, "Darling, I will know you when I meet you," repeating this five times. Kim's main problem is not recognizing her dream man when he comes along; this exercise will help her – and you – to do just that.

**Related:** [Fishing for Mr. Right – Types of Guys to Throw Back](#)

## **2. Command Him into Your Life**

Never underestimate the power of sound, especially your own voice. Sound vibrations are very powerful in the universe and help us focus intuitively, helping us make the right decisions. Taylor Swift is one celebrity who's famous for singing about her Mr. Wrongs. She could use a psychic nudge to attract Mr. Right.

Every morning when Taylor wakes up, she should look in the mirror, close her eyes and take three deep, relaxing breaths before saying out loud, "Love of my life, come to me." She should say this three times, with confidence and belief, and repeat this mantra before she goes to bed. Done regularly, she might be planning a wedding in the coming year.

## **3. Write Down the Possibilities**

There are many potential conclusions to any romance. Writing down these possibilities gives us a powerful psychic edge. What does your gut say? Just imagine the heartbreak that could have been avoided if Katy Perry, Selena Gomez, or Demi Moore had tried this simple exercise.

Whenever you have a question about a man in your life, write several statements about him down on slips of paper and fold them in half. For example: "he is a cheater," "he loves his ex," or "he is my soulmate." Put all the slips of paper in a bowl. Close your eyes and meditate for a moment before randomly choosing one of the slips of paper. What is your immediate reaction to the statement? Many times our conscious

mind suppresses our natural insight. This is a wonderful way to feel the subtle sensations of your own intuition.

Romance is very challenging for all women, famous or not; that's one thing we all have in common. We need to start using our psychic edge to find the happiness we deserve.

*Louise Helene is a second-generation psychic, Tarot reader, and crystal ball gazer who has conducted thousands of readings during her thirty-year career as a spiritual advisor. She is the co-author of I Saw Your Future and He's Not It: A Psychic's Guide to True Love. [www.louisehelenethepsychic.com](http://www.louisehelenethepsychic.com)*

---

## **Dating Advice: Words That Wound Men**





By Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

For most guys, the very idea of being caught in an emotionally vulnerable moment is...oh, what's a good word?

*Nauseating*. Literally.

Yes, I absolutely mean that if offered a choice between throwing up and admitting that he cried at the end of "The Notebook", most guys would choose to bury their faces in a barf bag. It doesn't matter how enlightened or evolved the guy happens to be, when it comes to exposing of real, raw, hurt, guys will fight it. And they will fight it like Luke Skywalker fought the dark side of The Force.

It's not that men *want* to be that way; it's just something that simply can't be helped. Guys are genetically predisposed to hide feelings because showing feelings of hurt is showing weakness. And as much as ladies say that they admire a guy who's unafraid to bare his soul and shed a tear, that guy may get a pass at first. But if he bares that bleeding heart too often, the lady eventually thinks, "too soft" and she's out of

there! An inconvenient truth...women get the lifetime emotional hall pass, *guys...don't*.

And though women tend to believe otherwise, when couples argue, guys are often hurt by many of women's mid-fight retorts and declarations. And just as guys know that there are certain buzzwords and statements guaranteed to be a roadblock to reaching any resolution, women should know that there is a female equivalent. Guys have feelings too!

So I'm going to give you an assist. The following list is comprised of a few particular words and phrases that are guaranteed to wound a guy no matter how he may react outwardly. So here we go...

**1. "I'll just talk to someone who understands me."** – So you're saying that I'm such an awful partner that I've spent all this time with you without paying attention to your particular emotional needs? Wow. That hurts.

**2. "You never..."** – This is a particularly hurtful statement. Why? Because by saying, "you never...", you've essentially made it clear that something he most likely *has* done at least periodically, was a waste of time and effort because you didn't notice it anyway. And you can't save the situation by saying, "**Well, you know what I mean.**" Nope. We don't know what you *mean*. We don't read minds. We know what you've *said*, though.

**3. "You always..."** – See above.

**4. "I just can't talk to you."** – This stings. All we ever want to do is make you happy. It may not always seem like it, but generally that's where most guys' heart lies. Say that and the guy immediately thinks, "You can't talk to me? All I do is try to talk to you and hear what's on your mind...but when I ask you 'what's wrong?' You say, 'nothing.' I can't win."

**5. "\_\_\_\_\_ used to do \_\_\_\_\_ for me/with me!"** – Ouch. If \_\_\_\_\_ was so great, why the hell didn't you stay with him?

**6. "You're boring."** – Come on. Seriously? I mean even if that's kind of true, there's got to be a better way to relay

the message that you'd like to go out more often. Being told you're boring is a stab right in the heart...NO guy wants his partner to think he's bland. That comment is also a kick to a guys' confidence. Now he's worried that his lady is seeking excitement somewhere other than him.

There are more, but the greater point here is that you may want to think twice before blurting out something in anger or out of blatant insensitivity. Guys may not always share the hurt, but they feel it – and far too often that point is forgotten simply because a man is....*a man.*

---

## **Dating Advice: When Do Opposites Not Attract?**





By Courtney Allen

'Opposites attract'... a saying you've heard from your supporting best friend as you desperately try to put the puzzle pieces together in order to explain why you find interest in the 5'9" college freshman, instead of the tall, stacked senior track star that runs alongside you. Well, don't waste your time trying to figure it out; it happens to the best of us! The truth is: dating someone who is opposite from you is quite the learning experience if you have the right combination of differences. Sometimes opposites are not so hot, and can backfire at first sight or first discussion. If you meet someone whose opposite from you in the following three ways, your red flag will most likely go up:

**1. Religion:** Religion can be a killer when it comes to attraction. It's the one thing that many people are not willing to compromise on. If you and a potential love interest are on two completely different pages when it comes to religious beliefs, the attraction between you will suffer.

**Related:** [Five Reasons Why Opposites Attract](#)

**2. Physical attractiveness:** Physical attraction is the first and usually most important rules of attraction. It's very rare that you spot a picture-perfect model with someone who is short and seems to be out of shape. We are typically attracted to those we consider just as attractive as ourselves.

**Related:** [What Attracts Us to Bad Boys?](#)

**3. Needs:** Having different needs can ruin attraction right off the bat. People that are independent and needy, in search of a relationship and in search of a good time, the desire for kids and the desire to not have kids... all of these needs most likely need to be aligned.

**What qualities that are opposite from your own do you find unattractive? Share your ideas with us!**

---

## Relationship Advice: Is He In It for the Long Haul?





By Abraham Morgentaler, M.D.

One of my goals in writing my new book was to help women understand men better. Over the last 25 years of talking with thousands of men with their pants down – literally and figuratively – I’ve learned what makes a man tick when it comes to love and romance. Although there’s no foolproof way to tell if he’s really in it for the long haul, a number of clues can help a woman tell if her man is smitten. Hopefully those clues are easier than figuring out if he’s faking orgasms during sex, like the young man in love in my book.

### **Men and commitment**

Contrary to popular “wisdom,” men have a tremendous capacity for commitment and loyalty. However, men will not happily commit to any woman unless he feels manly with her. I say “happily commit” because some men do wind up with women who don’t make them feel good about themselves. Those marriages are doomed before the wedding vows are over. Trust me, you don’t want that. No, you want a man who commits to you because he adores you.



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

A happy romantic commitment by a man requires two key elements. First, he feels like a good provider, inside and outside the bedroom. If a man can find a woman with whom he feels gallant, big and capable, then he's more than halfway home to his own vision of romantic love. Second, he has to make his own decision to commit.

### **Promising signs**

Here are some promising signs that he thinks of you as more than just a casual girlfriend:

- He introduces you to his family and friends
- He invites you to join him for his reunion scheduled a month or more away
- He is attentive to your sexual pleasure
- He opens the car door for you or insists on buying the popcorn at a movie long after the second date

**Related Link:** [Guys Edition: How To Behave Like A Gentleman](#)

### **What if he doesn't seem ready to step up?**

Many couples stay together for a while because things seem fine and easy. However, a more serious commitment requires more serious feelings. Sometimes it's just not there for the man. And sometimes the man does want more but isn't sure whether the woman feels the same. If your guy seems really into you, but the relationship isn't progressing, take a moment to consider whether you've stepped up for him.

- Have you introduced him to your parents or other family members?
- Do you invite him to work events as your boyfriend?

If you don't seem proud to be identified with him among the important people in your life (not just your roommates or best friend), he may well believe you don't see him as "the one."

Finally, show some self-respect. If you're not already monogamous, tell him he'll now need to be or you'll be unable to see him any longer. If you don't believe you're worth it, he won't either.

*Dr. Abraham Morgentaler is the author of Why Men Fake It: The Totally Unexpected Truth About Men and Sex, and you can follow him on Twitter @DrMorgentaler.*

---

## Dating Advice: When Can You Trust Him?



By Jane Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime.com

Sports celebrity couple Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn announced recently that they are officially an item after much speculation. Adding to the intrigue, of course, is Tiger's history, which speaks for itself. It makes one wonder, how do you know if you can trust your new partner?

Take a typical dating scenario any single person might find themselves in: everything seemed great at first, then he canceled one date, and then another. The first time he said he had a cold, the second an old friend was in town. Last night he couldn't make dinner because he said he had to work late unexpectedly. The thing is, you really like him and he keeps making future plans. But with his recent track record, can you trust that he's going to come through on Thursday as promised? And what can you do so you're not just stuck in a holiday pattern?

The first step to take is to have a back-up option – something scheduled in case he once again cancels the next date. That way if you're already halfway through getting ready you will still have someplace to go. Most important, you won't be alone and stranded with nothing to do. Next, if you do see each other again, check out his M.O. with a causal question, "Do you often change plans at the last minute?" If he says yes he does, then let him know you would rather leave things more open and flexible. Instead of making a date to go out on Friday night, ask him to call you at whatever point he knows he is going to be free. If you are still available, you'll go out, and if not, you'll try for another time. This will eliminate your waiting and wondering all week if he's going to come through.

The bottom line is, if you're not feeling that your time is being considered and that you're important to this person, you especially want to make sure you look out for and take care of yourself. While it's possible that three things came up in a row that he couldn't help, and it has nothing to do with his

feelings for you, you want to make sure you don't feel like a puppet on a string. Avoid waiting around in limbo and stay active and involved in your own life. When you think about yourself and have something else to do just in case, you won't get derailed by his thoughtless behavior.

---

## Dating Advice: Fun Dates That are Virtually Free



By Meghan Fitzgerald

Money is not always available in times of need. Queue dating. Dating is difficult as it is...the anxiety of the date, the

stress of where to go, what to do. Double that difficulty if your financial situation is not at "its' best." Plus, perhaps your mate's financial situation is also in the dumps. There are always ways to bend the rules of physics and plan the perfect date for little or no cost. Fun dates are a possibility, even if you are flat-out-broke. A relationship can loom from Ramen noodles! Here are some tips:

**-Make a time capsule.** Gather you and your partner's favorite memories. Take apart these memories and put something into the capsule that reminds you of it. Put in the shirt you wore your first date. A picture of you two together. Items you both will cherish.

**-Picnic.** Pack a basket full of your favorite Chardonnay, gourmet cheeses from Trader Joe's, and a music player filled with a mix tape of your favorite songs. Enjoy the day outside with one another.

**-Roller skating.** As corny as it may seem, roller skating not only takes you back years. However, it is cheap and a fun night out. Enjoy some drinks, disco balls, and cheesy love songs.

**Related:** [How to Avoid Arguing Over Money](#)

**-Play grown-ups.** Dress up in your finest, most adolescent clothes and visit open houses. Joke about where you would put your beige Northern Hemisphere Marc Blackwell love seat. What you would do with the kids in the house. Have fun with it.

**-Nature.** It is given to us people to enjoy. Go hike up Diamonds Head. Pack a bag of trail mix, water, electrolytes, and a camera. Sweat and laugh. Joke and embrace one another.

**-Local farm.** Spend the day with your beau picking fruits at the nearest farm. Take back all of your goodies to the kitchen and spark up some spice in the kitchen. Think of what you can

use it for, make up your own recipe!

**Related:** [Who Do We Really Think Should Pay for The First Date?](#)

**-Wine tour.** All you have to do here usually is buy a ticket for the venue and drink away. Enjoy the scenery, culture, and your partner.

**-Movie date:** Take your mate out to a matinee. It is immensely cheaper to go to the movie theater during the day. Sneak in candy and drinks. Buy a large popcorn and share under the dark lights.

**-Art gallery:** Walk or cab it towards your local art gallery. Have pretentious conversations of the paintings lighting, hues, and purpose. Enjoy cappuccinos at the nearest coffee shop afterwards.

**Have you ever gone on a fun date which was virtually free? Explain below.**

---

## **Dating Advice: 5 Signs It's Time to De-Clutter Your Love Life**





By Rachel Sussman

Spring is the season of renewal and fresh starts; as the days start to get longer, you may begin to see your relationship in a new light. So how do you know when it's time to do some "spring cleaning" in your love life?

Online dating sites ChristianMingle and JDate recently surveyed more than 2,700 singles for their inaugural State of Dating in America report, revealing what they really think about dating, sex, marriage and more. The stats in the report can help you see how your relationship stacks up in comparison to other U.S. singles.

To help determine if it's time to do a clean sweep of your love life, I've compiled a list of five tell-tale signs based on the report's findings:

**1. If he won't commit:** More than one-third of singles surveyed think that one to two years is the minimum amount of time to date before getting engaged, and only two percent said that more than five years is the appropriate amount of time. So if you want to take that next step and after five years of dating

he still shows no signs of proposing, it may be time to move on.

**Related:** [Falling In Love: When to Say the L-Word for the First Time](#)

**2. If he doesn't get along with your friends:** As the saying goes, chicks come first, so it's no surprise that women say their friends have the most influence on who they date. It's important to make sure your friends and your guy get along, for the happiness of all.

**3. If he's unfaithful:** This one might seem like a no-brainer, but in fact data shows that men and women have different views on cheating. Women are more likely to believe that having an emotional relationship, texting or online flirting is cheating; make sure you discuss these issues to prevent future conflict or misunderstandings.

**Related:** [You've Cheated, So Now What?](#)

**4. If he doesn't like your pet:** One quarter of singles would break up with someone if their pet didn't like that person. Fido or Fluffy is going to be in your life for a long time, so it's important that they mesh well with any humans you bring into the family.

**5. If you have different world views:** Nearly three-quarters of singles are looking for a partner who shares their religious faith. If you and your mate have vastly different views on religion or other important issues, it's not an issue that will easily go away, and could cause conflict down the road.

*Rachel Sussman is a licensed psychotherapist, relationship expert, author and lecturer. She is the founder of Sussman Counseling, a psychotherapy practice specializing in treating couples and individuals with relationship dilemmas. She is the author of THE BREAKUP BIBLE: The Smart Woman's Guide to Healing from a Breakup or Divorce.*



---

# Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets



By Laura Seldon for GalTime.com

A new study suggests American singles are taking their search for love into the wild! The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) says there has been a major rise in pet ownership among singles since 2006 as they look to fill a sense of love and family in their lives. It seems these little creatures are serving as creatures of comfort for singles.

**Singles Tap into Their Animal Instincts**

According to a recent AVMA survey, pet ownership among single people has increased by an impressive 16.6 percent – from 46.9 percent pet ownership in 2006 to 54.7 percent in 2011. While it's still more common for a pet to be owned by a family, the increase in pet ownership by singles far exceeds the growth of pet ownership for families, which has only grown by 1.37 percent since 2006 (from 65.5 percent to 66.4 percent). Other interesting findings include:

- Pet ownership among divorced, widowed and separated adults grew by 17.7 percent, from 51.3 to 60.4 percent.
- The number of single men living alone with pets increased by 27.7 percent, from 34.3 to 43.8 percent.
- The number of single women living alone with pets increased by 22 percent, from 46.8 to 57.1 percent.

## **Paws for Thought**

Pet ownership has not only been linked to positive mental and physical health outcomes, but in general has been shown to make people happier.

“Surely the most important role our pets play in our lives is that they love us. No person is too old or ugly or poor or disabled to win the love of a pet – they love us uncritically and without reserve,” writes *Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship* author and animal behavior expert Elizabeth Marshall

Increasingly, singles are becoming aware of just how much a pet can serve as a source of love.

“It's interesting to see that more and more single people are discovering the comfort and satisfaction that owning a pet can offer,” says Dr. Douglas Aspros, president of the AVMA. “Pets are powerful, positive influences on our lives, offering unique emotional, psychological and physical health benefits

to their owners.”

## Animal Magnetism

Pets can serve as important sources of social and emotional support. However, according to research published by the American Psychological Association in 2011, researchers found that pet owners were just as close to key people in their lives as to their animals, indicating no evidence that relationships with pets came at the expense of relationships with other people – or that people relied more on pets when their human social support was poorer. So, while more and more single people may be in the throes of “puppy love,” it doesn’t mean your love life has to go to the dogs!

---

# Celebrity News: Celebrities In Trouble with the IRS





By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Everybody dreads tax season – and celebrities are no different. Sure, it's a huge pain to gather all of your receipts and organize your files, but it's even worse if you owe money to Uncle Sam. Of course, you can always ignore that looming deadline and file late, although some people take this extension for granted. Many folks – famous or not – try to avoid payment for years, resulting in millions of dollars owed. Let's take a look at a few celebrities who have gotten in trouble with the government.

**1. Nicolas Cage:** It's no secret that Cage makes a lot of moola. It's estimated that the movie star brought in over 40 million dollars in 2009 alone. Still, he managed to blow every penny – and then some. By 2010, he owed the IRS around 14 million dollars. At the time, he owned 15 houses, four yachts and a Gulfstream jet. Ultimately, the bank repossessed his home in Bel Air, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) auctioned off a few more. He's now living a modest life in Las Vegas and still paying off his debt. Lesson learned!

**Related Link:** [Top Most Romantic Celebrities](#)

**2. Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne:** In 2011, it was reported that this Tinseltown twosome owed more than 1.7 million dollars in back taxes. Fortunately, the couple acted immediately and paid off their debt only a few days later. Sharon even released a statement saying that she hoped “none of this reflected negatively” on their moral character. Good for them!

**3. Wesley Snipes:** Poor guy ended up in jail for his tax debt! He received a three-year sentence for tax evasion and owed over two million dollars to the IRS. Unlucky for him, he spent his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in a minimum security Pennsylvania prison last August.

**4. Lindsay Lohan:** This girl just can't stay out of the tabloids. In December 2012, it was reported that Lohan's bank accounts were frozen until she paid off her debt of over 230 thousand dollars. Allegedly, she owes taxes from as far back as 2009. Given that she's already facing court cases on both coasts, let's hope she gets this situation taken care of before she ends up in any more trouble.

**Related Link:** [5 Reasons Men Are Attracted to Celebrity Bad Girls](#)

**5. Pamela Anderson:** This beach babe knows what it's like to be on bad terms with the IRS too. With a tax bill of over 450 thousand dollars, she joined the cast of *Dancing with the Stars* during its tenth season, hoping to make some extra money. Unlike other celebrities, she was open about her problems, working hard to pay off her debt.

**What celebrities would you add to our list? Tell us in the comments below!**

---

# Relationship Advice: 7 Secrets to Make a Long-Distance Relationship Smokin' Hot



By Dr. Diana Kirschner

You meet a hottie and it is a glorious, soul mate relationship. You are dreaming about an amazing future with this great match, who definitely feels like the One. The only problem is, he or she lives a long way away from where you are, and you are afraid that this will be the kiss of death

for the whole relationship.

Your fear is well founded—long-distance relationships have lots of built-in obstacles. Consider what recently happened to Michelle Williams and Jason Segel. Jason couldn't let go of his successful LA life to come and be with Michelle in Brooklyn. And by most reports, this played a big role in Michelle breaking up with him because she felt that in this kind of a distant situation she simply could not commit to him.

You wonder: *Just how do you keep a long-distance relationship smokin' hot so you can have the happiest-ever-after you are dreaming about?* Here are seven secrets:

**1. Bookend your days with connection.** Each morning and every night make sure you talk with your Beloved on the phone. This will cement you in as a regular part of their day.

**2. Utilize technology.** Use Skype or the phone strategically to bond with your partner and keep the spark alive.

**Related:** [How to Find Love Online With Non-Traditional Dating Sites](#)

**3. Text or call throughout the day...** so that you are in contact and talking about what is happening for each of you.

**4. Take turns coming to stay with each other.** During this time make sure you have a lot of fun and intimacy, which releases oxytocin, the bonding hormone. Over time make these visits longer so that you can see how you do as a couple when you are living together.

**Related:** [Tips for Making a Long Distance Relationship Work](#)

**5. Be supportive.** If your Beloved has a crisis, drop everything and be as supportive as possible. Show him or her that they come first in your life.

**6. Consider making a sacrifice.** If the relationship is growing for a year or more in a way that feels more intimate, committed and nourishing, consider making the sacrifice of giving up the life you have in order to move in with your long-distance partner. If you do this, take time to work out a contract about what your partner will do so that he or she is supporting you and making his or her own sacrifices to establish your new life together with the least stress possible for you.

**7. Make it possible for your partner to move.** If you do feel that the relationship has been developing well for a year or more, but moving in with your partner is not feasible: discuss with him or her what you would be willing to provide in terms of financial, emotional, networking, job search or other support if your partner would consider moving in with you or into housing together in your area.

When you use some of these tips, a long-distance relationship can work out to be your happiest-ever-after! So give it a try and see if you and your Beloved can grow together despite the obstacles involved. True lasting love is well worth it.

*Dr. Diana Kirschner starred in a PBS TV Special on love. She is the best-selling author of **Love in 90 Days** and **Find Your Soulmate Online in Six Simple Steps**. Through her unique phone/Skype free coaching program Dr. Diana has helped thousands all over the world find and keep a passionate lasting love relationship! Her free Dating Tips & Relationship Advice newsletter is available at [www.lovein90days.com](http://www.lovein90days.com).*

---



# Relationship Advice: Why We Are Insecure About Relationships



By Sheila Blagg for GalTime.com

Insecurities. We've all got 'em. The million dollar question is, is it possible to get rid of them? Although most of us will probably never be completely insecurity-free, I believe that it is possible to work toward a goal of reducing our insecurities. First, we have to pinpoint where they stem from.

Your insecurities may be the cause of one simple comment made by a schoolmate. Or, maybe a "loved one" voiced a critique that has stayed with you no matter how hard you've tried to

shake it. For me, many of my insecurities are a result of my relationship with my father.

I grew up with a father who assured me that I'd never be good enough. He also cemented into my head that I was a mistake and that I ruined his life. After my father was through with me, my first husband continued feeding my insecurities with comments that told me that I should have been better than I was. Whether he was comparing me to my friends, the wives of men that he worked with, or any other woman, I always fell short of the person he felt I should be.

### **Whose Problem is it Anyway?**

I now know that the people who went out of their way to bring me down are the ones who have the insecurities, not me. My father and my first husband made themselves feel better by making me feel "less than."

Take a look at your life, your insecurities, and ask yourself "Did I get here on my own?" Is each self-criticism something that you truly do not like about yourself, or are your insecurities the result of the unkind words or actions of someone else? The majority of my insecurities were rooted in me by someone else. They are not mine to own, nor do I allow them power in my life any longer.

Make a list for yourself. Write down all of the positives that you like about yourself. Make a list of the negatives, too. Then, as you are reading the good and the bad, ask yourself, "Is this truly how I feel, or has someone made me feel this way?"

Keep the positives on your list; they work for your better good. But, if you come across a negative that started from someone else's actions or words, then it's not yours to own. Get rid of it.

Analyzing and owning (or not owning) your positives and

negatives is not an easy process, but it's also not as hard as you may think. Every day, take steps to rid yourself of any and all negativity by reinforcing the belief that you are strong, beautiful, loved, and important. Anything other than positive thoughts have no place in your life, so I want you to reject all negatives as soon as you possibly can.

Fill yourself with your chosen positive thoughts every single day. Plant your seed, water it, and watch it grow. The more you believe in yourself, the less power others have over you and your future. You control your thought process. You control what you allow to take root in your life. Do the work, get rid of the bad, and start your life as *you* want it.

Take the first step. The results will be more than worth it!

---

## Celebrity Couples Who Don't Need Marriage to Prove Their Love





By Andrea Surujnauth

Some celebrities tend to run off and get married at the drop of a hat, while others seem to be doing their best to avoid walking down the aisle. After years of dating and one paparazzi shot after another, none of these celebrities have been spotted with a rock on their finger. We took a look at some celebrity couples that seem content to just be dating their sweethearts rather than getting hitched. Will they eventually tie the knot? Who knows, but until then, they belong on our Celebrity Couples Who Don't Need Marriage to Prove Their Love list:

### **Kourtney Kardashian and Scott Disick:**

Here is a couple that has been through it all...except marriage. They have been dating for years and display their relationship on the Kardashian's shows *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, *Kourtney and Kim take New York*, and *Kourtney and Kim Take Miami*. The couple has two children, Mason and Penelope. After all these years of dating and two children later, Kourtney still has not been spotted sporting a diamond of any kind.

### **Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell:**

The sweet *Overboard* couple have been together since 1983. They have a son, Wyatt Russell. Hawn has two children from a previous marriage and Russell has a son from a previous marriage. Their children has since made them grandparents. After decades of tying the knot on screen in their multiple movies together, they have yet to take the big step in real life.

**Related:** [Long-Term Relationships: 5 Ways to Keep the Spark Alive](#)

### **Oprah Winfrey and Stedman Graham:**

This couple has been exclusive since 1986 but after all the years of being in love, they have not officially jumped the broom. In November 1992, the couple made a step towards marriage when they got engaged, however, the wedding ceremony did not take place and we have not heard of anything since.

### **Michael Jordan and Yvette Prieto:**

This long-time love story seems to have one hitch: no plans on getting hitched! They got engaged on Christmas Eve of 2011, but since then, there has been no talk of marriage from either party. Will the plans stop at an engagement? We'll find out!

**Related:** [Stars Who Go Public With Love and Affection](#)

### **Lebron James and Savannah Brinson:**

Maybe it's a trend with the basketball players these days, but it seems like James is following Jordan's game plan. After proposing to his high school sweetheart in 2011, James has not made any moves since. Now they have two kids and only engagement under their belt. Is the marriage in the works? No word about that for the past two years!

### **Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard:**

This couple decided to take a stand against California by not getting married. They got engaged in 2010 and have a daughter together, however, they refuse to get married until California passes a law allowing gay marriage.

**What are your reasons for not getting hitched? Comment below and let us know!**

---

## **Relationship Advice: 5 Must-Knows When Dealing with an Addicted Partner**



By Dixie Somers

Dealing with an addicted partner can be one of the hardest things that you may ever have to go through. Day in and day out, it's the same thing over and over again. As soon as you walk in the door, you notice that they're either drunk or high on some sort of drug. Whether they're drinking hard liquor, using drugs, or addicted to sports exercising, putting up with their antics is something that you shouldn't have to deal with. If you've tried to reason with them in the past, but haven't gotten anywhere with possible recovery options, these five must-knows can help you in dealing with your addicted partner and putting them on the right path to sobriety:

### **Put Yourself First**

You are not able to help your partner if you can't even help yourself. If you are also struggling with addiction, it's time to break the habit and get clean. By putting yourself and your health first, your partner may notice a change and want to get clean as well. Even if you do not have an addiction, simply dealing with someone who does can put a major toll on your health and well-being. Take the wife of Guns N' Roses rocker Slash. She helped him seek help and get sober after he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure from continued drug use. Make sure you take time out of the day to spend to yourself, healing yourself emotionally and psychologically to be in the best place possible.

**Related:** [10 Reasons Women Stay in Bad Relationships](#)

### **They Are Who They Are**

Before you can help your addicted partner, you must realize that they are who they are and that you are not able to change them if they are not willing to receive the help. They must want to put in the time and effort that it takes in recovering before they will reach true sobriety. Catherine Zeta Jones was

a smoker until she was caught by the media smoking while pregnant. She realized the danger she might be posing to her children, and this encouraged her to quit for good.

## **Educational Material**

To deal with these sorts of addictions, you will want to educate yourself on the types of substances that they are using and why they may be turning to drugs and alcohol as a crutch. You must know what you're dealing with in order to effectively help them. Books and 12-step meeting programs will provide you with a little more insight into the current addictions that they are facing and how you can be there for them.

**Related:** [Is Tiger Woods Capable of Being Monogamous with Lindsey Vonn?](#)

## **Do Not Enable Their Habits**

Enabling your partners habits will never help them to recover. You must put your foot down and say enough is enough. Do not provide them with money to purchase drugs or go out to get them alcohol. According to experts at DelrayRecoveryCenter.com, Enabling will only further their disease and addiction.

## **Going to Meet With Them**

Attending meetings with your loved one will show them that you support them on their road to recovery. You can participate in these meetings by simply being there, hearing the stories of others and sharing your stories which can be a very helpful recovery method. If your like Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane's wife, encouraging them to get help is a great way to get them started. Attending meetings can also be encouraging for lasting sobriety.

*This article was written by Dixie Somers and coauthored by*



*Stanley Martinson. Dixie is freelance writer and blogger who loves writing about entertainment, family, and health and topics.*

---

# Relationship Advice: Online Dating Isn't a Threat to Monogamy—It's a Blessing



By Terri Trespicio for [GalTime.com](http://GalTime.com)

Online dating is revolutionizing all relationships – whether you're dating or not.

For most of recorded history women did not have romantic options. You married the dude who your family deemed appropriate, and he likely lived within a quarter mile, and you stayed with him for life, like or not.

When I interviewed Dan Slater, author of *Love in the Time of Algorithms* (excerpted in *The Atlantic*, in a piece called “A Million First Dates”) on my show on Sirius XM, he agreed that it’s changing the way we view commitment. He also said that those who are happy don’t have that much to worry about.

But for those of you in less-than-ideal situations, or relationships that have gone south, online dating—even if you don’t actually use it – creates this sense of options. That this doesn’t have to be it for you.

This is the best news ever. Because if the only way you think you can “keep” a man or woman is by eliminating his or her other options, that means you want an inmate, not a life mate.

The internet didn’t invent options—it just brought them a little closer—made it a little easier, yes. But if you were under the impression that disconnecting someone’s internet is all you need to do to keep someone from having options? Yeah, that’s not gonna work.

Look, I’ve struggled with this myself – I worried that the more options someone had, the less likely he was to choose me. That’s not a technology problem. That’s a self-esteem problem.

Could someone decide to be with someone else instead of me? Of course! Always. That’s something you can’t ever protect yourself against – not you, not me, not anyone. But what I’m realizing is that what I’d rather have is someone who chooses me and continues to choose me, regardless of the other options.

Lest you think I’m not a romantic, I’ll remind you that there’s nothing romantic about being stuck in something going

nowhere fast. You don't get points for martyrdom. Just a sucky life.

While everyone's freaking out about online dating killing love, rarely do we realize those options can work in reverse. Competition – even the idea of it – works in everyone's favor. The idea of options not only makes your partner hop to, but makes you bring it as well. Because throwing your relationship into park once you've "landed" him is a sure way to end the forward momentum. The whole "oh yeah where are you going to go" argument just doesn't hold water anymore.

People will always gravitate toward coupling – and long-term coupling. Monogamy itself isn't dying – but commitment for its own sake is. The idea that you'll only ever want one person is not true for most people (and that's being generous). So if having other options means you're able to leave something that isn't working anymore, then that alone is worth the price of posting a profile.

---

## Relationship Advice: 10 Ways to Keep the Honeymoon Phase Going Strong





By Jennifer Harrington

Love takes time and hard work to nurture. And, for newlyweds, this is especially true, following the intensity and attention that accompany a wedding and honeymoon. What are some practical ways for newlyweds to keep the honeymoon phase going strong, and the spark alive as the marriage progresses? Here are ten ideas to keep your love sizzling:

### **Don't stop celebrating**

While the wedding and honeymoon have passed, it doesn't mean you have to stop the celebrations. Take opportunities to pause from daily life and acknowledge special milestones in your relationship. Have a special night together when your wedding pictures come back from the photographer. Plan a trip back to your reception venue to mark your six-month wedding anniversary. Planning these types of activities will give you a reason to look back at how far you've come together, as well as an opportunity to make new memories together.

**Related:** [Long-Term Relationships: 5 Ways to Keep the Spark](#)

## Alive

### **Pencil in a regular date-night**

As some couples settle into their relationships, regular date nights can become less frequent. Don't make that mistake. Make it a priority to schedule dates with your sweetie. Dates are important because they allow you to spend time and share experiences with your partner. You can take turns planning your outings to ensure date night is always something new to anticipate!

### **Plan thoughtful surprises**

Everyone loves a spontaneous, thoughtful gesture. Surprises can range from extravagant to simple, but it ensures your chosen one feels special and loved. They can be especially important when you know your partner is going through a rough or busy time.

### **Embrace a new hobby**

While you and your partner have hobbies you already pursue individually and together as a couple, it's also a great idea to adopt a new hobby together! Choosing a hobby together and pursuing the hobby can be a very gratifying way to learn together, and can also be an interesting way to learn more about your honey. From dancing to cooking lessons, the options for hobbies you can do as a pair is limitless!

### **Get away**

Plan a long weekend or vacation. Not only is it a great way to check out different places and experience a new destination with your better half, it's an opportunity for you to spend time together uninterrupted by the people and tasks you face every day. One great idea is to make a list of places you'd like to visit someday with your partner. Consult this list as you plan future getaways and cross things off your travel

“bucket list” together! Need inspiration? Check out this list of the 50 most romantic places on Earth!

### **Book club for two**

Reading the same book and discussing it can be a fun, easy, and thought-provoking way to bond. Aim to read a book together each month and you can take turns selecting the book. Not only will you end up reading some books different than your usual selections, but you will have guaranteed fodder for conversation as you both make your way through the novel.

### **Branch out**

While quality one-on-one time together is crucial, it's also important for you and your partner to have a close knit group of friends and family. Taking the time to nurture and build your social network together can be a great way to establish and deepen your relationships with others as you nurture your social life together as a couple. Spending time with others is fun, and will also give you the support you need as you navigate life together. An easy way to incorporate this idea is establishing a regular date night with another couple!

### **Spice up your routine**

Newlywed actress Anne Hathaway recently said, “Mellow doesn't always make for a good story but it makes for a good life.” This quote means that everyday life can be routine, mellow and sometimes boring. Cherish the fact that you've found your life partner, but always be on the ready to find ways to mix up your routine so things always feel fresh. Instead of the usual Monday nights you hit the gym together, make plans to go rock climbing instead. If you always order in pizza on Fridays after a long week at the office, mix it up and take an Italian cooking class instead one week! These are small and easy changes, but will help you escape the rut that people can sometimes feel when they are in an established routine.

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

### **Keep talking**

When relationships are new, it's easy to soak up every word and story your new love interest says. Keep this in mind, and look at each day as a new opportunity to learn more about your life partner. Listen to the stories and jokes, and be sure to ask questions when you want to know more about a particular experience or point-of-view. The more you communicate, the deeper your relationship will be, and the better foundation you will have to avoid future conflicts.

### **Don't sweat the small stuff**

When you spend every day with a person, it's easy to become frustrated and annoyed by some of their habits. So your partner sings really loud in the shower, or forgets to tell you when they used the last of the toothpaste. Is it worth it to pick a fight? Probably not, because little fights (over nothing) over time can cause problems in your relationship. Pick your battles! Remember, this is your soul mate – try to overlook a few little things and focus on the wonderful person you are spending your life with.

**What are some other ideas to help keep the romance alive after the honeymoon is over? Tell Cupid your suggestions!**

---

## **Dating Advice: 5 Red Flags in Online Dating Profiles**



By Kelly Rouba for Galttime.com

If you're looking for love and feel like you just aren't meeting the right type of people, online dating *can* be a great alternative to the typical dating scene.

"Dating sites do increase the number of people, at least in principle, (who are) interested in meeting you," says Dan Saper, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist who runs a private practice in Long Island, NY.

But navigating these vast online dating pools can be tricky.

"Dating sites sell the most powerful thing of all—the promise of love and/or sex. The responsibility for making it work or making it a disaster rests both with the seller and the customer. But, as we've all heard, let the buyer beware," Saper cautions.



According to Sapen, if you are a woman who is looking for a mate online, you can “assume Mr. X is trying to impress you enough to get you to go out with him with as little delay as possible. Assume he is not interested in giving you a complete listing of accurate, relevant facts.”

Sapen says some dating profiles remind him of sales pitches used by traveling salesman back in the good old days.

“Fancy talkers would roll into towns full of hard-working miners and poor folk with little education or money and convince them that the mystery liquid in the bottle would solve their problems.”

The same goes for guys looking to reel in vulnerable women, so it’s best to bypass profiles that sound too good to be true.

“With dating sites, a candidate’s sales pitch, based on the information he wants you to believe, mostly comes long before there is any chance the two of you will be in the same room. So, what is he going to tell you about his status, his success, or his financial security that will get you into the same room with him?”

Stacie Ikka, a relationship expert and founder of the dating consultancy Sitting In A Tree, shared this example of an online dating profile to avoid:

*“I consider myself an honest and stand-up guy. I enjoy skiing, soccer, and cycling. Although, I don’t box, I am a avid fan of boxing. I think I am a pretty darn good cook. I love trying out new recipes. I like to travel and at least take one big trip a year. Guilty Pleasure: I still watch South Park.*

When I do go out on dates, they are with very attractive females so after a few minutes you better win me over with your personality or else I move on. I am looking to date and have it turn into something long term but want to find that special girl to do it with. I am not looking for someone to

hang out with, if you are emailing me to do so, it means there is something wrong with you and you don't have any friends and aren't good enough to be around me.

Please have a picture when you email, if you don't i'll just assume you are fat or very ugly or both and I don't have time for that. You might be very nice and have a great personality but there are fit girls who have that too so why would I settle for less?

I have a nice job downtown around the financial district. *Please at least be able to pay for half on the date. I won't be paying for you (at least not at first) so you better be able to pay your own way. Sorry I have to admit that was out of line. What I should have said is, don't expect to be going to upscale restaurants and have me pay for everything. (I don't mind picking up the coffee tab on the first date!!) I want an equal, not a freeloader!! If you are a picky eater, than you are not the girl for me.*

*Quick Question: Why is the "average" female body 20 pounds overweight? They should really refer to the BMI when choosing a body type. I think it's a conspiracy of some sorts. I know my comments may seem rude but I am being brutally honest. Thanks for your time and best of luck!"*

Unlike the sample profile above, some may be worded in such a way that women think they've found a catch, though the person is actually someone to avoid. To help online daters discern fact from fiction and guard their hearts, Ikka says there are at least five red flags to look for when perusing profiles (while keeping in mind that her remarks are generalizations and that there are exceptions as well as alternate perspectives, intentions, and interpretations).

## **1. Me, me, me**

Some profiles overuse the word "I," and the person focuses too

much on himself/herself. It is about what he/she wants, needs, or is looking for with little to no mention of what the lucky suitor will get in return.

“A well-balanced person and, therefore, a well-written online dating profile that accurately depicts one’s personality, preferences, and relationship goals will ensure that the profile covers what they’re looking for in addition to what they are willing to contribute to a relationship. You should be able to glean some observations around whether the person is a giver, a taker, or both by the way the individual packages their profile,” Ikka says.

## **2. Attractive picture but few words**

“In these cases, [typically] this is a person who is accustomed to getting by on their looks and, perhaps, their looks alone,” Ikka says. She adds that this type of profile also suggests superficiality, lack of substance, and/or laziness.

## **3. Negative positioning**

These profiles often use words like “can’t, won’t, don’t, shouldn’t, or wouldn’t. ” They contain statements, such as “I won’t date someone who doesn’t have a job.” or “You shouldn’t be too opinionated or you’re not for me.”

“These profiles indicate a variety of potential difficulties with their authors, including control issues, a negative perspective on life (or at least on dating), a sense of entitlement, or a victim’s mentality—basically nothing that one should find attractive right off the bat,” she says.

A former client of Ikka’s had a profile that fit this description when she started working with him, she shares. In it, he wrote, “If you’re not fit and into exercise, don’t bother contacting me.” After reading that, Ikka quickly worked

with him to change the wording in order to make him sound more approachable.

“I helped him understand that his value of wanting to lead a healthy lifestyle and wanting to find a partner who was like-minded was understandable (but that) he could communicate the exact same thing in a more positive manner. Ultimately, we changed the text to read, ‘Because I value my health and enjoy staying active...I am looking to meet someone who shares the same or similar interests and fitness goals.’”

## **4. Window shoppers**

“These are people who are active on a website but who have not paid for a membership,” Ikka explains. In some instances, “this is a huge red flag because they have no skin in the game and are one foot in, one foot out. You can identify these people only when you go to contact them and realize that you’re not able to or your message goes unanswered; this is because they are not able to access messages, flirts, or e-cards because they are not paying for those services. In that case, do you really want to date someone who can’t even commit to their own online dating profile?”

## **5. Monologues**

“Although people who write long-winded profiles typically have the best of intentions, it is often an indication of what’s in store when you meet them in person,” Ikka says, adding, “It can be innocent and chalked up to a lack of dating experience, an attempt to be everything to everyone, an autobiography, or, in its worst form, it can be a preview to the ‘it’s-all-about-me’ show.’”

Ikka believes online dating profiles should be like movie trailers.

“The purpose is to whet the audience’s appetite, create

interest and perhaps some intrigue and mystique, and then let those wanting more opt to buy a ticket to see the full movie. In this case, by reaching out through some form of communication.”

Having to watch for red flags, like these, can make online dating seem daunting. “Some of the problem lies with the fact that the two of you are starting out backward. In the real world, there will be eye contact, body language, scent, and the ability to witness social behavior,” Sopen says.

“The good and hopeful news here is that a woman who is honest with herself, is willing to separate reality from imaginary romance, and who understands that real communication (in a real room, where eyes and hands can be seen, words considered, aroma savored, body language studied, and social behavior observed) stands the best chance of finding a lover for now or for forever, who is really a match based on the realities of sexual chemistry and interpersonal harmony.”

---

## **Celebrity News: 5 Best Celebrity Pranks**





By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Everybody loves a good prank – and celebrities are no different. Of course, their pranks usually get more attention than those executed by everyday folks. They have endless means at their disposal (including a fan base to share the funny news) and often take pranking to a whole new level. In honor of April Fools' Day, we pulled together this list of our five favorite celebrity pranks (in no particular order):

**1. George Clooney versus Brad Pitt:** These two leading men are involved in an ongoing war of pranks both on and off film sets. It started when Clooney put a bumper sticker on Pitt's car that read, "I'm gay and I vote." In response, Pitt bought a few ads in the Hollywood trade papers about Clooney being twice named *People* magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive." Wonder what these actors have up their sleeves next!

**2. Ashton Kutcher versus Justin Timberlake:** Who can forget MTV's show *Punk'd*, which was created, hosted and produced by Kutcher? One of the best pranks was played on Timberlake. One of Kutcher's friends posed as someone from the Internal

Revenue Service and told Timberlake that he owed over a million dollars in taxes and that they were going to take all of his possessions – even his dogs. The “Suit & Tie” singer was nearly brought to tears before Kutcher revealed the truth.

**Related Link:** [April Fools' Pranks to Play on Your Significant Other](#)

**3. Sarah Silverman and Matt Damon versus Jimmy Kimmel and Ben Affleck:** Silverman paired up with Damon to prank then-boyfriend Jimmy Kimmel. Their hilarious video has had almost four million views on YouTube! To retaliate, Kimmel teamed up with Affleck, Damon's BFF, and created another video that featured Cameron Diaz, Brad Pitt, Don Cheadle and more.

**4. Taylor Swift versus Keith Urban:** To ensure that her tour with Urban ended on high note, Swift decided that pranking was a must. The country starlet, along with a few of her band members, dressed up in full KISS makeup and outfits and rushed the stage while Urban performed “Kiss a Girl.” Certainly made for a memorable photo op!

**5. Khloe Kardashian and Nicole Richie versus Kim Kardashian:** In 2010, Khloe and Nicole teamed up to prank Khloe's big sister, Kim. They hacked into her Twitter account and posted hilarious updates until the reality star figured it out. Luckily, she was a good sport about the joke and later tweeted, “That was hands down the funniest April Fools'!!”

**Which celebrity prank do you love most? Tell us in the comments below!**

---

# Relationship Advice: 5 Lessons to Learn from Celebrity Divorce



By Dixie Somers

The pain of divorce is a well-known one in our society today. Lending to this general awareness is the constant influx of celebrity break-up news that seems to flow endlessly. Although viewed negatively by some, such news can provide high-profile educational experiences. Take a lesson from these celebrities. Here are five lessons we can learn from celebrity divorces:

## Watch the Signs

Sometimes it can be conveniently blissful to ignore certain



signs. Ignoring the signs can lead to even greater heartache and woes in the future. Take it from Elin Nordegren, ex-wife of golf legend Tiger Woods. According to various reports, Elin had ignored many troubling signs of the dozens of affairs. Today, Lindsey Vonn is dating Woods. Apparently she isn't one for signs either.

**Related:** [Is Divorce the Best Option?](#)

### **Don't Rush**

Time and time again, we see the perils of marrying too quickly. Britney Spears became infamous for rushing to the altar in such a fashion. After a very quick, whirlwind romance excursion, Spears and Jason Alexander got married in a Las Vegas chapel. Sure, they had known each other for a long time before. But the topic of marriage had been fairly instantaneous and unplanned; so too was the decision to end it merely days later.

### **Get a "Prenup"**

Prenuptial agreements protect the marrying parties and their individually owned assets and worth. For chivalry, for love, or maybe just for sheer lack of knowing, some go without any such protective measures. The results seen can be devastating: Mel Gibson paid \$425-million, Michael Jordan paid \$168-million, Madonna paid approximately \$80-million – the list goes on. Talk with a Lexis Nexis lawyer to make sure you've done your prenuptial agreement right.

**Related:** [Demi Moore Proves There's Hope After Divorce](#)

### **Don't Cheat**

In case you didn't know it, cheating is bad, destructive, and a quick end to an otherwise successful marriage. Take Jesse James for example. He had it all – wealth, a name, reputation, career, and last but certainly not least, Sandra Bullock,

America's sweetheart as his wife. So what does the genius do? Cheat. We have seen the sad results for James as Bullock has moved on.

## **Be Sure**

It's always important to understand your potential partner in marriage on a deep level. You need to really "know" them. Kris Humphries found this out with his brief and now alleged "fake, staged" marriage to socialite celebrity, Kim Kardashian. We still can't figure out if we should pity Kris and his situation, or simply point to it all as one big public service announcement.

There you have it; five more reasons to be take a second look before saying your vows. If your getting married, do it right. Take a few tips from these celebrity divorce stories.

---

# **Relationship Advice: Can Love Conquer All?**





By Jane Greer, PhD for GalTime.com

Actors Michelle Williams and Jason Segal recently announced their official break-up after spending much of the last year trying to make their bi-coastal romance work. She lives in New York City with her seven-year-old daughter, Matilda, and he lives in Los Angeles. The couple cited busy schedules and irreconcilable distance as the reason for the end of their partnership. It raises the question, when is love not enough?

Many people would like to think that finding love is the answer to most problems, and, in the name of it, one or both people in a relationship should be willing to uproot their lives or let go of important aspects of their individual routines. Jason made numerous cross-country trips over the course of their connection. Michelle's waterfront loft in Brooklyn became his home away from home, and he could often be seen playing at a local playground with Matilda. But despite all of that, his life remained rooted in California, where his professional commitments run deep. If the reports are true, then in the end, the pull for each of them to hold onto their own lives won out over the desire to maintain their

relationship. This may have surprised fans, and forces us to wonder, when is it time to make that hard call – to call things off?

Two people can be drawn to each other and still have strong personal or professional ties that don't suit the other person. What if you're committed to a neighborhood and everything that goes along with that, wanting to give your children stability? Or what if one person's job can be found in only one part of the country and he or she must live there, no questions asked? Or you are dealing with two different religions that initially didn't cause a problem, but as you begin to make a life together, you are looking to your partner to convert to your religion and they don't want to?

When it becomes a matter of feeling that you are being asked to literally give up your identity, core values, and beliefs, so that the necessary change is equivalent to losing yourself, then that is the point when compromise can instead become too much of a sacrifice. And if one does give up their sense of self, then what is relinquished for love can really take a toll with the relationship crumbling under the pressure and resentment.

By Michelle and Jason taking responsibility for their respective individual needs, they prevented this from happening. For them, dropping everything for love was not a viable option. And in the end it seems that Michelle didn't expect, or even want, Jason to leave his career to further immerse himself into her family. For them, sadly, love did not conquer the obstacles they faced.

**Has distance ever ended a relationship for you?**

---

# Celebrity Couples Who Are Unlucky in Love



By Andrea Surujnauth

Celebrities' love lives are made public for the whole world to see and to judge. But even though some celebrities are all over the place with their love interests, that doesn't mean that there is no hope for them. A big celebrity that we all had our doubts about was Jennifer Aniston. From a broken engagement with Tate Donovan to a relationship with Paul Rudd to a failed marriage with Brad Pitt to a brief fling with Paul Sculfor to short relationships with both Vince Vaughn and John Mayer, Aniston has a long list of past unions that simply didn't work out. Now Aniston has finally found her leading man, Justin Theroux. The two started dating in 2011 and got engaged a year later. So although we thought Jennifer

Aniston couldn't find love, after all these years she has finally found "the one."

The question is, are celebrities really that much different than us? Or do their love lives just look dysfunctional because they are always in the public eye? Let's take a look at a few more celebrities who have had trouble finding love and you can decide for yourselves:

### **Britney Spears:**

Britney Spears became a pop idol sensation during the early 1990's. She began a relationship with Reg Jones from 1995 but ended it in 1997. She had a brief fling with Jason Geddart in 1997. By 1998 Spears moved on to begin her infamous relationship with Justin Timberlake. Their relationship lasted four years, and then Spears then moved on to her producer and dance choreographer, Wade Robson. They were together from 2001-2002. By 2003, Spears was rumored to be dating Tom Brady, Fred Durst, Nick Carter, Jared Leto, and Columbus Short. 2004 was Spears' wildest year yet. She got married...twice! First up at the altar was Jason Alexander, who was Spears' childhood friend. They were hitched during a drunken night in Vegas and annulled the marriage a few days later. Husband number two was Kevin Federline, one of Spears' background dancers. The two were together for three years and had two kids together. Spears then dated J.R Rotem, Issac Cohen, Howie Day, Criss Angel, and Adnan Ghalib. Spears then found love with Jason Trawik. The two were engaged for three years, but decided to call the wedding off. Lately, Spears has been seen with a new boyfriend named David Lucado, an employee at a law firm.

**Related:** [Celebrities That Remained Friends After Dating](#)

### **Taylor Swift:**

Taylor Swift may be young, but she already has quite a reputation with the fellas. Swift first began a romantic

relationship with Joe Jonas of the Jonas Brothers in 2008. This relationship didn't last very long because Swift moved onto her "You Belong With Me" co-star, Lucas Till. By the summer of 2009, Swift switched over to new boy toy, Taylor Lautner. The relationship was over by December of 2009. In 2010, Swift fired up a relationship with John Mayer, which only lasted a few months. Jake Gyllenhaal was Swift's next victim. They broke up in 2011. Conor Kennedy was the next heartthrob to date Swift. This relationship lasted a few months as well. She went on to One Direction's Harry Styles and the two broke up after a while.

### **John Mayer:**

John Mayer has quite a long list of love interests. Here is only a handful of the women on Mayer's list...just to name a few. In 2002 John Mayer was reportedly dating actress Jennifer Love Hewitt. The relationship was short-lived. He then moved on to dating Jessica Simpson in 2006. However, by the next year, Mayer began dating Minka Kelly. That only lasted a few months as well because by the year after that, 2008, Mayer began an on-again off-again relationship with Jennifer Aniston. He was apparently serious about her since he reportedly told Rolling Stones that the breakup "was one of the worst times of my life." He bounced back pretty quickly since by a little while after the breakup, he began dating Taylor Swift which lasted from 2009-2010. He then moved on to Katy Perry. The two seem to have an on-again off-again relationship going on. Lets see how long this one lasts!

**Related:** [Single Traits to Lose so You Can Move Forward in a Relationship](#)

### **Demi Moore:**

In 1980, Moore was married to Freddy Moore. Their marriage lasted 5 years. In 1985, she became engaged to Emilio Estevez. The two had plans to wed in 1986 but called it off. By 1987,

Moore was married to husband number two, Bruce Willis. The two were married for 13 years and had 3 daughters together. They were divorced in 2000. She then began a relationship with Ashton Kutcher who is 16 years younger than her. After dating for two years, Kutcher and Moore were married in September 2005. The marriage lasted a while but the two announced their divorce in 2011. Infidelity was rumored to be the cause of the divorce.

**Who are some other celebrities who have had trouble finding love? Share your thoughts below.**

---

## **Relationship Advice: What To Know Before You Say 'I Do'**







By Nicole Noonan

Asking the right questions and identifying what issues are deal breakers for you before getting married is important for everyone, whether or not you live a life in the spotlight. Addressing possible issues enables you to work through potential differences or, in the worst-case scenario, have the ability to walk away should you reach an impasse. If there are serious warning signs before you head down the aisle, marriage is not going to fix them! Here are some important tips:

**Related:** [5 Celebrity Couples Who Said 'I Do' in Vegas](#)

### **Know the Financial History**

Marriage is a huge step in anyone's life, and it is important you prepare yourself not only emotionally, but financially as well. Love doesn't pay the rent or mortgage. When you marry someone, their credit history soon become yours too. Ask your significant other, "what is our ultimate financial goal regarding annual income? By what means and through what efforts can we achieve this?"

## **Know the Family**

When you marry someone, you also marry that person's family. Kris Humphries married not just Kim Kardashian, but the whole Karadashian/Jenner clan. Your future spouse comes as a family package, so it's important for each of you to know what you are getting into. Ask yourself, "what place does your partner's family play in our family life? How often do we visit or socialize together?"

## **Know the Friends**

The phrase "you are whom you hang out with," is one to consider. Get to know your partner's friends before you head down the aisle. Also, introduce your own friends. Often our friends can see things about our relationships that we cannot. Socialite Sale Johnson Rashad did not like Ahmad Rashad becoming friendly with Tiger Woods. Now they are divorcing.

## **Know Plans for Religion and Children**

According to reports, SNL's Fred Armisen broke up with Mad Men's Elizabeth Moss because her religion was more important to her than their marriage. Elizabeth is a devoted Scientologist. Others, such as Jennifer Lopez & Marc Anthony, and Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Katie Holmes also were rumored to have parted ways because of religion. It is important to discuss what religion, if any, you will embrace as a family. One or both partners might suddenly feel strongly about raising their children a certain way.

## **Know Each Other's Goals**

Are you both comfortable with the other's level of ambition? It is important that partners considering marriage understand what each believes is a success. You should be comfortable and supportive of your spouse's success as much as your own. A marriage may start with both partners at the same "level," but one partner then has greater success than another. This

could lead to envy and resentment. In the case of Chris Judd and JLo, he was a choreographer when they married and she a dancer. What a difference a year makes it cost JLo \$14 million.

### **Identify Roles**

Talk about the roles you envision for your marriage. Will one stay at home with the children or will both parties work? Do you see yourself in an "I Love Lucy"  $50\%$  role where wife stays home and father is the breadwinner? Perhaps there is a balance, like in Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's relationship, where they take turns doing movies so one is always with the children. You and your significant other need to be on the same page.

### **Most Importantly Know WHO you are Marrying**

Take the time to really learn about your significant other. Regardless of what your friends and family may be pressuring you to do, or what your biological clock says, you do not need to be rushed into a marriage. It should be seen as the biggest commitment of your life. Though not everyone has the same view of marriage, Renee Zellweger and Kenny Chesney met in January 2005, married in May 2005 and had the marriage annulled that September, citing "fraud." Other examples of rushing to the alter include Dennis Rodman and his bride Carmen Electra, and the lengthy marriage of Britney Spears and her childhood friend, Jason Alexander, married for just 55 hours.

Nicole Noonan is the Executive Director of BBL Churchill Group, a Divorce Finance company that provides essential funding to people involved in divorce proceedings, enabling them to pay legal fees, expert costs and living expenses when they are due. Noonan is dedicated to bettering the lives of her clients, utilizing her legal background and business education to provide solutions for those in need.

---

# Celebrity Couples: More Like Us Than We Want To Admit?



By Marcus Osborne for Galttime.com

[Celebrity couples](#) have been the target of admonition and admiration for years. The Jekyll and Hyde reaction to whatever the latest or hottest pop culture pairing happens to be is as over the top as ever. I've always theorized that these couples' break-up rates aren't as dramatically different from the general population.

# Why Do We Love Celebrity Break-ups?

Most of these famous relationships end. But most relationships generally come to an end at some point, don't they? We pay so much attention to couples that split that we pay no attention to the ones that stick it out. And there seems to be a certain glee, an almost joyous countdown to celebrity break-ups. And each and every statement and action made by our Hollywood couples is parsed...just looking for a crack in the armor.

**Related Link:** [The Simplest Tip to Save Your Relationship](#)

The recent "controversy" is over actor/director Ben Affleck's comments about his marriage to celebrity love Jennifer Garner upon accepting this year's Academy Award for Best Picture. His quote: *"I want to thank you for working on our marriage for 10 Christmases. It's good; it is work, but it's the best kind of work, and there's no one I'd rather work with."*

In the minds of merry cynics and professional antagonists around the nation, this one statement was read as a subliminal confession of matrimonial strife. And that reaction is just silly.

What Affleck said was about as honest and realistic a statement as you'll ever hear any celebrity offer on a public stage. Marriage is work. Relationships and love in general are work. Once we get past the honeymoon stage in any coupling, we start the work. The hard work. So what message can we really take from Affleck's statements? I see the glass as half full. You've got a husband and wife who acknowledge that sustaining a long-term relationship requires dedication and diligence. It's not a fairy tale. There's a clear-eyed, beer-goggle free vision of relationships by this pair, which in all likelihood, has been the reason they've managed to stay together for ten years and two kids.

**Related Link:** [5 Things Men Want Women to Know](#)

# What Celebrity Couples Can Teach Us

So can we learn anything from celebrity couples? From my perspective, there's no more to be learned from them than from any other couple. The spotlight shines on their mistakes and break-ups so much brighter than on their successes that it would be easy to conclude that there's not a positive example among the bunch. Even in the face of overwhelming evidence, couples that have shown strength and staying power, we cast a jaundiced eye at them because they don't fit our established narrative; celebrity marriages don't last.

But in truth, if we're objective, we can use married celebrity couples' successes *and* failures as reminders and templates of what good relationship choices and a grounded perspective about what it takes to create a sustainable partnership can offer us. In other words, if you're basing your lifestyle on Taylor Swift and her boyfriend-of-the-week-club instead of Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner's brick-by-brick, love-is-work edict, you're pretty likely to be unfulfilled if your goal is something lasting and meaningful.

There are many, many examples of Hollywood couples that continue to roll on: Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, and Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith; even Danny Devito and Rhea Pearlman in spite of their rocky times, have managed to hang on. Because they realize that Affleck was right: It's *work*..but it's the best kind of work.