

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.

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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!

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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 Asthon 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.

Celebrity Couples Keeping the

Faith Alive



By Jennifer Harrington

Hollywood is a glamorous place that can most certainly be a challenging place to raise well-adjusted, grounded children. Over time, we have seen celebrity couples try unique parenting tactics to bring up their children right, while in the spotlight. In fact, some celebrities turn to faith and religion as they navigate parenthood. Here is a look at a few stars who have relied on spirituality during their parenting journeys.

Tom Cruise

Tom is undoubtedly the most famous Scientologist, and his controversial religion was rumored to be a primary cause of

his recent divorce from Katie Holmes. While their young daughter Suri spends the majority of her time with her mom, Tom is still committed to being a strong influence in his child's life (in fact, Suri frequently calls her father when he is on-location filming). It's likely he will try to pass along his core religious beliefs to his daughter. Tom also raised his two oldest children (with ex-wife Nicole Kidman) in the Scientology faith.

Related: [Sources Say Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are 'Incredibly Happy' Post-Divorce](#)

Mel Gibson

Before recent scandals tarnished Mel's reputation, he was most well-known for being an established Hollywood actor and devout Catholic. In fact, he directed and produced *The Passion of the Christ* in 2004. Mel is the father of eight children, and is very outspoken about his religious convictions. Despite the rumors that persist that some of his offspring are wild and fun-loving, there's no doubt Mel attempted to raise the kids with a Catholic-based foundation.

Related: [Three Ways to Background Check Your Next Date](#)

Kirk Cameron

Kirk, who was a major star in the 1980s on the hit television show *Growing Pains*, abandoned his teen heartthrob status after became a born-again Christian at age 17. In fact, after he developed a relationship with Jesus, he began to insist that storylines be edited to remove anything he thought too adult or inappropriate for the show. He is now a husband and father of six children, as well as a full-fledged evangelist. He currently co-hosts a religious-themed television show.

Like everybody else, celebrities have different beliefs, but it's not often you see celebrities outspoken about their dedication to a given religion, and even less frequently you

can cite a parent in Hollywood guiding their offspring with faith.

Tell Cupid: what are the biggest benefits for celebrities keeping the faith alive, and raising their children in a religious home?

Relationship Advice: The Most Powerful Tool to Help You Find Your Soul Mate



By Sue Frederick

Intuition can navigate you successfully toward finding true love as effortlessly as a dream in the night. It works better than dating sites, speed dating, or singles' events. Love is the gateway to your intuition. You'll never be as intuitive as when you fall in love because your energy centers are most open and receptive, and your monkey-mind quiets down. You look into a stranger's eyes and remember him from another time. You know when he'll call. You feel his embrace long before it actually happens. And you sense what he's feeling even when the two of you are apart.

We're all a little more comfortable with intuitive loving than we are with intuitive living—using intuition for our everyday life and career choices. Yet we can tap into this portal of sacred guidance whenever we open our hearts. When you fall in love, nurture this sacred gateway to the unknown. When you're not in love, love anyway. It will open the door to your divine intuition.

What to Do Before Going On a First Date

Before going on a first date (especially a blind date) write down your date's name and place your hand over it. Close your eyes and do a short meditation with mantra or sacred sound to quiet your mind. Now ask to see what the person looks like and feel their energy. If the energy you feel and the person you see makes you smile and giggle, that's a "yes" from your intuition. Your higher self is telling you that this person will be a loving presence in your life.

Related: [Five Conversations to Avoid on the First Date](#)

If the energy feels bad in your stomach and makes you feel anxious, cancel the date. If the energy you feel revs up your sexual chakra, that's telling you what the focus of this relationship will be. If you don't feel a loving warm energy in your heart while picturing and feeling this person's energy, this probably won't be a long-lasting or fulfilling

relationship.

Related: [6 Great First Date Questions \(and 4 to Skip\)](#)

Also, if you have the person's date of birth, decipher their birth path by adding up all the numbers in their day, month and year of birth. Write his name and birth path on a sheet of paper. Put your hand on this information and meditate to quiet your mind. Ask to feel the person's energy and understand his journey. Ask if this person is someone you should connect to for your highest good. Pay attention to the feeling you get and note whether it's positive or negative. Write down any thoughts about this person that come to you during your meditation. Trust your gut. If it feels bad, don't pursue this person no matter how beautiful they look or how perfect they seem.

Keep practicing. Use this intuitive technique with potential hires at your workplace or to decide whether to take a new job. The more you use your intuition, the more you'll trust it. Eventually you'll realize how good you are at trusting your intuition.

You are now becoming a master of intuitive living, an approach that will put you right into the juicy flow of your life and bring you love, success, and happiness each day.

Sue Frederick's is the author of "[I See Your Soul Mate: An Intuitive Guide to Finding & Keeping Love](#)," and her work, described as a "breath of fresh air" and "an enlightened new perspective," has been featured in the New York Times, CNN, Real Simple, Complete Woman, Yoga Journal, Natural Health, Fit Yoga, and Nexus Magazines.

Expert Dating Advice: Who Do We Really Think Should Pay for the First Date?



By Jdate for Galtime.com

Every first date comes to that same awkward point: *Is he going to offer to pay? Should she take a stand and put down cash? Does anyone go Dutch anymore?*

According to the State of Dating in America report, findings from a survey of more than 2,700 U.S. singles between the ages of 18 and 60 compiled by [JDate](#) (authors of this post) and ChristianMingle.com, 78% of single men believe the man should pay on the first date, and 55% of single women agree.

“The more things change, the more things stay the same!” says Rachel Sussman, a New York-based marriage and family therapist and licensed clinical social worker. Sussman partnered with JDate and ChristianMingle to analyze the State of Dating in America’s findings and provide her expert insights.

“In this society, maybe men are brought up being told it’s their responsibility to pay their way, at least on the first date,” Sussman says. “In general, men believe they should be the ones paying, and that’s the message that’s reinforced in media and culture.”

So, is it safe for ladies to relax and presume that the man will always pay for a first date?

“Some women are more comfortable paying their own way,” Sussman says. “If a woman prefers to pay for the first date – or at least her half – that’s her prerogative, and her date should respect that.”

Here are a few tips from dating experts on how to avoid that potentially awkward wallet-grab on the first date:

- Be up front. If the findings of the report are right, a majority of women AND men expect that the man will pay for the first date. If you want to buck the trend, just say so.
- Show gratitude, but don’t feel indebted. Of course, it’s always best to thank whoever foots the bill. But since that person chose to pay, and the other party shouldn’t feel like they owe anything!
- Consider going Dutch! Splitting the bill in half might seem outdated but it allows both parties to feel they contributed.
- If you’re going on first dates frequently – for example, meeting several different people you’ve been chatting with online – consider getting coffee instead of going out to a restaurant. You’ll feel less romantic pressure and will save

both parties time and money.

Ready for Love: Three Extraordinary Men



By Sammi-T for TVGrapevine.com

36 WOMEN WILL COMPETE TO FIND TRUE LOVE ON THE NEW NBC RELATIONSHIP SERIES 'READY FOR LOVE,' PREMIERING APRIL 9 AT 9/8c.

NBC announced today that its new relationship show *Ready for Love* has revealed the 36 women who will have the opportunity to compete for true love. The women have a chance to find

romance with three successful and handsome men, hand-selected by executive producer Eva Longoria (*Desperate Housewives*). The series, from Longoria's UnbeliEVAble Entertainment, Renegade 83 and Universal Television, focuses on three extraordinary men – Ben Patton, an international financier from Dallas, Texas; Tim Lopez, a member of the popular music group Plain White T's from Austin, Texas; and Ernesto Arguello, an entrepreneur with a social vision from Miami, Florida – who are committed to finding their soul mate.

Giuliana and Bill Rancic will host the series, where preeminent matchmaker Amber Kelleher-Andrews, relationship author Tracy McMillan and professional dating coach Matthew Hussey will help the men find their perfect matches.

Listed below are the women vying for the men's affections.

BEN'S MATCHES:

ALLIE WAGNER (Age: 26) – Resides in Cincinnati, Ohio – Wagner can brighten up any room with her smile. She is the opposite of shy; she loves the spotlight; and she and her twin sister, Mandy, grew up in Kentucky competing in numerous beauty pageants. She currently works as an event coordinator. Wagner thinks her love of family makes her the perfect match for family-oriented Ben.

ANGELA ZATOPEK (Age: 24) – Resides in Houston, Texas – Zatopek is a sassy, savvy communications executive. Zatopek devotes a lot of her time to philanthropy and even helped build a school in Uganda. She values her faith and therefore has made the decision to save herself for marriage. Zatopek believes her Christian upbringing has shaped her attitudes towards love and marriage and believes it will make her a perfect match for Ben.

BETH RICHMAN (Age: 30) – Resides in Charlotte, North Carolina – Richman studied business management and human resources at

Ohio State and now works for a medical device company in Charlotte. She loves to travel and believes Ben is the perfect mate with whom to tackle new adventures.

JADE DHIR (Age: 24) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Dhir is an independent and outgoing woman who is dedicated to spending a lot of time with her family. She considers herself to be very driven and believes her over-achieving nature will make her a great match for career-oriented Ben.

KARI KRAKOWSKI (Age: 27) – Resides in Dallas, Texas – Krakowski thinks that Patton is the perfect man for her. They met when she first moved to Dallas and soon began dating. Due to their busy schedules, they ended it and decided it would be best to remain friends. She is now ready to take a leap of faith and fight for true love. Krakowski thinks her previous personal connection with Ben will reignite their flame.

KATIE COYLE (Age: 34) – Resides in Pella, Iowa – Coyle is a mother to two wonderful children. She lives by the philosophy that life is too short not to be happy. In 2011, she had a health scare in which she made a full recovery but decided to never again take life for granted. In her spare time, she enjoys running, Pilates, yoga and boxing. Coyle thinks her energetic lifestyle makes her the perfect match for Ben.

KRISTINA ZAPATA (Age: 26) – Resides in Los Angeles – Zapata is dedicated to her family and her education. She studied broadcast journalism at the Universidad Catolica de Colombia to work towards her dream of becoming a Spanish news broadcaster. Zapata is very dedicated to her career but also makes sure she has plenty of time to relax. She thinks her balance of career and free time are a perfect match for Ben's life plans.

LYNSEE GONZALES (Age: 26) – Resides in Portland, Oregon – Gonzales is a small-town girl that turned her dreams of becoming an international model into a reality. She has

traveled around the world to pursue her career, modeling for print publications and working the runway. She recently ended her relationship with her adulterous fiancé and is looking forward to a fresh start. Gonzales thinks it is time to focus on love and be the wife of Ben's dreams.

RACHEL BRIESE (Age: 26) – Resides in Schaumburg, Illinois – Briese is a fun-loving girl with a quirky personality. She is a self-proclaimed video-game junkie who is also obsessed with sci-fi movies and *Star Wars*. Briese loves being different and won't change her seemingly nerdy ways for anyone. She believes that if she stays true to herself, then a genuine, great guy like Ben will love her for who she is.

RENAE VIRATA (Age: 31) – Resides in Houston, Texas – Virata is a go-getter. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt, she worked as a marketing consultant. Virata then took a risk and chose to quit her high-paying job to begin her own Internet start-up company. Virata believes her enthusiastic lifestyle would be the perfect match because she emulates Ben's ambitious work ethic.

SENECA BERNIARD (Age: 34) – Resides in Los Angeles – Bernard is a woman that uses her intellect to be a positive contribution to the world. She studied law at Loyola Law School and obtained her Masters in Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management. She currently works as a public defender. Bernard believes her level of success will make her a great half to a power couple with Ben.

TARYNN FRANCO (Age: 26) – Resides in San Francisco – Franco has a love for traveling, learning about different cultures and trying new things. Her appetite for adventure and exploration has led her to a career in the private aviation industry. Franco appreciates a night on the town with her best friends, but currently longs for a man that gives her a good reason to stay home. She believes her desire for adventure will be a perfect match for Ben's love of travel.

TIM'S MATCHES:

ALEXIS RODRIGUEZ (Age: 23) – Resides in Scottsdale, Arizona – Rodriguez is a recent college graduate. She currently enjoys her time working as a local radio personality in Arizona but can't wait to start her career. Rodriguez believes that her fun nature and closeness with her family is the perfect match for Tim, who shares similar family values.

CHRISTINA RIGAUD (Age: 25) – Resides in New Orleans, Louisiana – Rigaud is a classically trained pianist who graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in English. The avid cook and gardener started a non-profit organization helping others learn how to raise fish and grow vegetables in a sustainable environment. She is looking for a man that is as passionate about life as she is. Rigaud believes she and Tim will bond through their shared music backgrounds.

DANIELLE DUFF (Age: 27) – Resides in Tucson, Arizona – Duff is a committed and loyal woman. After being married for nine-and-a-half years, Duff and her ex-husband realized they were not meant for each other and divorced. She believes that her overall readiness for love and experiencing the same loss as Tim makes their duo a perfect match.

HAILEY CLARK (Age: 31) – Resides in Indialantic, Florida – Clark is an elementary school art teacher by day and an expressionist painter by night. In fact, her paintings have been featured in several local art shows. Clark believes that her compassion for others and quirky sense of humor will be a perfect match for Tim's open personality.

JENNA REEVES (Age: 23) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Reeves is young but wise beyond her years. Unlike most of her peers, Reeves is ready to settle down and find her husband right away. She loves her life and prides herself on her determination in becoming the first in her family to finish college. Reeves believes her open-minded and free-spirited

personality reflects Tim's same attitude towards life.

LANA SEARS (Age: 26) – Resides in Kansas City, Missouri – Sears is the girl next-door that most guys want to take home to introduce to their parents. The self-described tomboy grew up in a small farm town, has never had a problem dating and usually finds herself in a serious relationship. Although fond of committed relationships, Sears is very independent and likes for her partner to be the same. She believes that her independent mindset would be a perfect match with Tim's rock-star lifestyle.

LEAH TROGAN (Age: 27) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Trogan is a close friend of Tim. She is a makeup artist, but her biggest accomplishment is raising her son, Ryder, as a single mother. Trogan has known Tim for seven years and is looking forward to finally sharing her true feelings for him. She thinks that friendship makes for the best relationships.

LISA CONLON (Age: 32) – Resides in Vernon, Connecticut – Conlon has her hands full with her music career and is studying to receive her doctorate in music. She insists that music keeps her balanced in a relationship. When her mother was diagnosed with cancer, Conlon transferred schools to act as her mother's caretaker. Conlon believes that her dedication to both music and her loved ones would make her a perfect match for Tim.

SARA LAVAGNINO (Age: 30) – Resides in Franklin, Tennessee – Lavagnino is characterized as a strong and determined woman. She and her identical twin sister are very close and have a singing group called the Lava Girls, but she also works as a licensed real estate agent. She has faced adversity with the loss of her fiancé to cancer but credits that experience to making her a good partner and continues to search for love. Lavagnino believes both she and Tim are ready to find love again after persevering through painful loss.

SARA MOORE (Age: 28) – Resides in Charlotte, North Carolina – Moore is a self-described “girly girl.” She is currently working on obtaining a Master’s degree in teaching. She is a laid-back Southern belle who loves to laugh, watch sports and believes Sundays should be devoted to God and football. Moore believes her Southern roots will wrangle in the Texas part of Tim’s personality.

SIHAM BENGOUA (Age: 25) – Resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Bengoua is a self-sufficient woman who created her own hair-care business to finance her studies at Temple University, where she studied marketing. A few years ago, she lost her sister, and although she describes it as the worst time of her life, she knows it made her stronger. Bengoua believes that her dedication to loved ones will make her the perfect wife for Tim.

TAONAYA FLEURY (Age: 31) – Resides in Miramar, Florida – Fleury wants to make a difference in this world and is looking to earn a Master’s degree in marriage and family counseling. In addition, Fleury and her cousin are looking to start a charity for sickle cell disease. Fleury believes that her deep-rooted understanding of commitment reflects Tim’s belief that love is eternal.

ERNESTO’S MATCHES:

ALBA REYES (Age: 30) – Resides in Houston, Texas – The perfect combination of beauty and brains, Reyes has it all. She graduated from law school, and currently works in health law while she postpones taking the bar. In addition, Reyes was crowned Miss Puerto Rico in 2004 and the second runner-up for Miss Universe. Reyes believes she is more ready than ever to find true love and felt a spark when she saw Ernesto’s video.

ELIZABETH CAPELA (Age: 30) – Resides in Dallas, Texas – Capela is dependable, honest, and an overall giving person. As a fifth-grade English teacher, Capela thrives on putting her

heart into her lessons and helping her pupils grow. Her role in helping educate the youth will mesh nicely with Ernesto's charitable role in helping the less fortunate.

ERICA LARSON (Age: 25) – Resides in Addison, Texas – Larson is a recent graduate of Texas State University with a degree in fashion merchandising and currently works in the fashion industry. She enjoys dancing, cheerleading, swimming, reading and traveling. After watching her parents happily married for 38 years, she believes in true love and is ready for someone who will love her unconditionally. Larson believes Ernesto's similar upbringing will make for a long-lasting relationship.

KATIE CROSBY (Age: 26) – Resides in Chicago, Illinois – Crosby has lived with a "live life to the fullest" attitude since the tragic passing of her brother. While she misses him dearly, her relationship with her family has remained strong. Crosby has spent the past few years focusing solely on work, but now wants to put her attention on love. Ernesto's giving nature left her inspired and she would love to partner in his philanthropic endeavors.

KRISTEN SIKORSKI (Age: 25) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Sikorski is a no-nonsense Texas woman who was raised on a ranch by her father and mother. Although she is an elementary school teacher, she majored in history and enjoys war movies and military facts. Sikorski was wowed when she saw Ernesto's video and knows she is ready to take on the full-time role as wife for a family man such as Ernesto.

LISA MARIE HALL (Age: 30) – Resides in Covina, California – Hall's friends describe her as funny, sweet and giving. While working as a children's theme park performer in America and Japan for the past 10 years, she prides herself on making others happy. In her free time she likes to stay active by dancing, skating and biking. Hall is looking for a man that can keep up with her on new adventures, and she believes Ernesto is that guy.

MANDY WAGNER (Age: 26) – Resides in Studio City, California – Wagner is the State Director of Pure American Girl Pageants that aims at making its participants humble and genuine, as well as competitive. Wagner's twin sister, Allie, is also a participant on the show and their parents are excited for them to find the right guy. Wagner believes her down-to-earth family and genuine nature makes her and Ernesto the perfect match.

OLIVIA MATTI (Age: 26) – Resides in Sterling Heights, Michigan – Matti is energetic, fearless, and fierce. She claims that her tough love attitude gives her a charm that other women lack. Matti needs someone that can match her energy and give her the passionate relationship that she desires. Matti, like Ernesto, has never been in love and believes they'll bond over waiting to share those special three words with the right person.

SHANDI FINNESSEY (Age: 33) – Resides in Los Angeles – Finnessey is a driven woman, who isn't afraid to break boundaries. In fact, she became the first woman from Missouri to win the Miss USA title in 2004. She's currently a TV host on an entertainment Web series and has modeled in numerous magazines. Finnessey values family and religion and she believes Ernesto's similar upbringing will make them the perfect match.

SONIA LETTIG (Age: 29) – Resides in Los Angeles – Lettig graduated magna cum laude from Villanova and then went to receive her Master's degree from Pepperdine University. She has a background in human resources and professional development. Sonia is currently a business development director for an online fundraising company that raises money for charity, which allows fulfilling her passion of organizing community service events and giving back. Lettig thinks her charitable nature makes her a great match for Ernesto since he's always giving back to his community.

SUMMER BURNS (Age: 31) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Already a loving mother to a three-year-old son, Burns is ready to complete her family portrait with a husband. As a single mother, she has developed the perfect combination of strength and compassion. She would like her son to have a father figure and, based on his video, she believes Ernesto is the right fit for her family.

VICTORIA MORA (Age: 24) – Resides in Chicago, Illinois – Mora has a free-spirit attitude, but is grounded and humbled by her tight-knit Mexican family. She wants to be with a man that is confident and willing to take on anything by her side. According to Mora, love is a two-way street and she will be the most loving and supportive partner as long as she receives the same respect. Mora believes Ernesto's confidence is the perfect match for her challenging nature.

Ready for Love is produced by UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment, Renegade 83, and Universal Television. Longoria (*Desperate Housewives*), Jason Ehrlich (*The Bachelor, The Bachelorette*), Greg Goldman (*Secret Millionaire, Don't Forget the Lyrics!*), David Garfinkle (*Blind Date, The 5th Wheel*) and Jay Renfroe (*Blind Date, The 5th Wheel*) serve as executive producers.

Longoria created UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment, her own production company, which develops films, and television shows, that have been sold to NBC, ABC, CW, ABC Family, and VH1. Additionally, UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment produces The NCLR Alma Awards on NBC.

Expert Dating Advice: When

It's Best to Keep It in the Friend Zone



By Ashley DelBello

We could go on and on about different scenarios where it's best to keep it "just friends" with that particular someone within your social circle – whether it be a coworker, someone in your close group of friends or a person that one of your friends has previously dated. Most of the time we know it's probably not a good idea, but it's only natural to wonder about taking it a step further when you think there may be a stronger connection. So what about those situations where we are curious if there could be something more? Cupid spoke with the relationship experts on how best to navigate.

“The friend zone is a tricky space. We all want to make that Hail Mary pass, but we don’t always prepare for it not working out,” said author of “You Are WHY You Eat” and licensed clinical psychologist Ramani Durvasula, Ph.D. “That doesn’t mean that it won’t work since many great relationships start as friendships, but you need to be prepared.”

Related: [David Arquette Says That He’s Entered the Friend Zone with Courteney Cox](#)

With coworkers. The first step is to make sure they’ve made some sort of indication that they might also want to take the relationship to the next level and then to think about how it could impact your job and reputation at work in the future. “It’s very important that you discuss beforehand what happens if it doesn’t work out. Can you go back to just being friends? Will it become awkward? How will you acknowledge each other at work,” said relationship expert and celebrity life coach Melanie Mar.

“Tread lightly in the workplace and think about the ramifications,” adds Durvasula. “If it’s all that then one of you may need to consider jumping ship from the company.”

For those of you that do decide it’s worth the risk, Mar advises that you need to distinctly separate your professional and social lives. “For example, if you’re dating someone from work, when you go out together on a personal level, work must never be discussed and you need to date as you would any other person – discussing family values, upbringing, future planning, those types of things, but steer away from any shop talk.”

Related: [‘Bachelor’ Sean Lowe Explains Why He Sent Home Leslie](#)

With your friends. We’ve been warned several times that friends and sex don’t mix, but we hardly ever listen. “We all like to think we are so evolved, but don’t think you can have that one night stand and go back to hanging out and hearing

about each other's new flames. Sex changes the chemistry of a friendship. Are you willing to toss it for that night if you have no intention of taking it further," asked Durvasula. It could be potentially damaging to your friendship and you will both need to decide if it's worth the sacrifice so take the time to really think about how it will affect the relationship down the road.

And if you do want to pursue it romantically? "You probably already know a lot about each other since you're in the same friend group, but my advice would be to not discuss your mutual friends as you run the risk of keeping it buddy-buddy when you need to take it to a romantic level. Change your behavior patterns around each other and keep the focus on courting and romancing – even more so than meeting someone in a bar or online because you're making a distinct shift from a platonic relationship into a new romantic relationship," said Mar.

A friend's ex. Just don't do it – that situation is rarely ever a good idea and just ends up being more drama than it's worth. "Karma's a bitch. Before you take up with your girlfriend's ex-boyfriend or ex-husband, think about the implications. She may say she is not hurt, but is it worth it? Men come and go, but honor and girlfriends are forever," said Durvasula.

Going from friends to something more is possible – you just need to think it through and be mindful of what could happen if it doesn't work out before you make the transition.

Tell us: When do you think it's best to keep it in the friend zone? Have there been situations that have totally gone wrong? On the flip side, any tips from those who have made the successful transition from friends to lovers?

Is Tiger Woods Capable of Being Monogamous with Lindsey Vonn?



By Susan Trombetti, CEO of Exclusive Matchmaking and Relationship Expert

The breaking news this week is that pro golfer Tiger Woods and popular skier Lindsey Vonn are officially dating. Many are skeptical of this situation, as Tiger is still getting over his reputation as a cheater stemming from the scandal with his ex-wife, Elin Nordegren. Well, let me just say that Tiger has so many cheating scandals in his history that I doubt he could

be faithful again unless there are some drastic changes involving his inner circle, lack of opportunity to cheat, and possible therapy.

Related: [Kourtney Kardashian and Beau Get Therapy](#)

Why, you ask? For one thing, he is surrounded by “yes” people who’s financial situation is dependent on Tiger. I don’t see them becoming moral against all odds and tying him up when he has the urge to cheat. They are loyal to him and will enable what isn’t good for him just to make him happy. They may rationalize: “It’s just women, and boys will be boys.”

Other celebrity examples of this is Anna Nicole, who was surrounded by enablers like her attorney, and Michael Jackson, who was backed up by his doctor. These are drastic examples, but it’s hard to say “no” when your boss says “jump”. In Tiger Woods’ case, he has his inner circle and his mother enabling his addiction to cheating. Plus, he has a history of it, as his dad cheated in the past. This is all he knows. In my opinion, what he really needs is some therapy or a 12 step program to become fully aware of the reasons behind his bad behavior and poor choice in so many trashy women. Then, Lindsey may have a chance.

Related: [Get Date Therapy and Get in Touch With Your Ideal Mate](#)

Here are some signs that a guy might be a serial cheater and unable to commit:

1. He excludes the word “faithful” in his marriage vows and takes issues with it like South Carolina governor Mark Sanford.
2. He tells you he cannot be faithful to any one woman. Let’s face it, that is what they are saying when he tells you he cheated on all his exes.

3. They have an addiction to cheating like David Duchovny.
4. They have cheated in the past, like Eddie Cibrian or Bill Clinton.
5. They are powerful men who think the rules don't apply, like Silvio Berlusconi and Arnold Schwarzenegger.
6. They are men with big egos, deep pockets, and lots of opportunity, like Kobe Bryant and Tiger Woods.
7. They tend to go for the "bad boy" or "bad girl" like Sandra Bullock did with Jesse James.

Susan Trombetti is an expert matchmaker and member of the Professional Matchmakers Association. She has helped many discerning singles discover long-term relationships and partnerships that are both rewarding and fulfilling through her business, Exclusive Matchmaking.

Celebrity Couples That Remained Friends After Dating





By Jennifer Harrington

Dating in Hollywood's spotlight can be thrilling and challenging for celebrities. While it can be intense for the stars to navigate love with their partner under the microscope of the media and paparazzi, it's even more problematic when couples break-up and part ways. As we know, breaking up is hard to do and many couples do not remain on amicable terms. However, here is a look at several celebrity couples who have managed to stay friends after ending their romance.

Demi Moore and Bruce Willis:

Demi and Bruce were married for over a decade, are parents to three daughters, and also have the "biggest drama-free divorce in Hollywood". During Demi's six-year marriage to Ashton Kutcher, it was widely publicized that Bruce spent time with Demi, Ashton, and the kids (the gang appeared everywhere together from red carpets to exotic vacations!). When Demi and Ashton's marriage dissolved, Bruce was a shoulder for his former wife to cry on. So what's the secret to the harmony between them? Many speculate it is their shared devotion to

their kids, and the fact that their union dissolved without any rumors of infidelity.

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

Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Philippe:

Reese and Ryan married young and split after seven years of marriage. The marriage produced two children, and the grounds of divorce were reported as “irreconcilable differences”. However, in the several years that have passed since they parted ways romantically, it's apparent that this duo has stayed tight and they have a fantastic friendship. In fact, Ryan and Reese are frequently spotted (with Reese's current husband, Jim Toth) watching their son's soccer games together! Hollywood insiders believe the secret to Reese and Ryan's friendship is open lines of communication and talking through any issues that come up.

Related: [Reese Witherspoon Says Married Life Feels Great](#)

Kendra Wilkinson and Hugh Hefner:

Kendra became a star by living in the Playboy mansion as one of Hugh's girlfriends. Kendra ended her romantic relationship with Hugh, but the couple remained so friendly that Kendra and Hank Baskett were married at the Playboy mansion, and it was initially reported that Hugh would give the bride away during her wedding ceremony! Kendra has a young son with Baskett, and she's made it known she wants her son to call Hugh “The Godfather”. Recently, Kendra was quoted saying she wanted to kill Hugh's current wife, Crystal Harris, because she is skeptical of her intentions. This statement is evidence of the deep friendship between Kendra and Hugh; it's obvious these two always have the others best interest in mind, and they aren't afraid to stand up for each other when necessary!

It's certainly not common for celebrity couples to remain friends after the romance fizzles, but it is reassuring to see

how these couples have made it work and stayed close. There are obviously lessons to be learned from Demi and Bruce, Reese and Ryan, and Kendra and Hugh. Tell Cupid: what do you think is the most important advice for two people transitioning from lovers to buddies?

Why 'Bachelor'-Inspired Values Matter in Relationships and Marriage



By Susan Shapiro Barash, Author of *The Nine Phases of Marriage*

What could be more appealing in today's slick, fast paced society than to watch a dashing handsome bachelor who is also pristine make his commitment known to us? It is little wonder that 28-year old Sean Lowe captured the attention and curiosity of so many female viewers.

And while the heat was on to see his final choice and we waited with baited breath, it was refreshing to learn about a young, charismatic man who has a traditional attitude toward marriage and family. On March 11th when Catherine won Sean's heart, it underscored how much values mean in a relationship. Not only were we watching this couple move forward with great anticipation, but this next step also jolted us into thinking about what it takes for a marriage to be successful.

The Pillars of a Love Relationship

According to the media, the lucky couple hopes to start a family right away, and this of course is a big part of the picture. When it comes to commitment in a love relationship, there are other factors as well. The foundation of a solid relationship and marriage include:

1. Honesty and respect: There is no better way to build the relationship and sustain it through the ups and downs of daily life.

Related: [Justin Bieber Proves Honesty is the Best Policy](#)

2. Commitment and Communication. A couple should, ideally, discuss their views in depth on the following (in no particular order) family –including in-laws, friendship, children, work ethics, finances, and religion ahead of time with full disclosure, in order to secure the relationship.

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

3. Flexibility and Understanding. Both parties should know one another well enough to roll with the punches and support one

another in times of need.

Shared Values Protect the Relationship

Many times couples are too caught up in the excitement and the passionate phase of a new relationship and pending marriage to address the important issues stated above. The problem here is that if expectations are implicit and not fully discussed and recognized, this can lead to problems later. If a couple is not prepared as a team for the ups and downs of life (illness, loss of job, problems with children, relocation) and has not discussed the 'what if's, there can be friction ahead and this can drive a wedge into the relationship.

It is wise to remember not only that life throws us curve balls, but that it is our esteem for one another, our shared points of view and methods of coping that will get us through.

Susan Shapiro Barash is the author of 13 books on women's issues and is frequently sought after by national media to comment on gender and relationships issues. Most recently, she appeared on ABC's 20/20 to discuss "The Truth About Lying" in marriages. In her recent Huffington Post piece, "It's Wives Who Want More Sex and They Are Getting It," Barash reveals some surprising statistics she found about wives and their intimate relationships.

Expert Relationship Advice: The Simplest Tip to Save Your

Relationship



By Laurel House for Galttime.com

Sure, he says he loves you even without makeup on, and that's sweet, but that doesn't mean you have permission to now only wear makeup when you get gussied up to go out with the girls!

Remember at the beginning of your relationship as you were shaving your legs and perfectly coiffing your pubs thinking "I can't imagine ever not wanting to take the time to do this..." What happened?

...Because He Isn't Suddenly Blind

Like women, men want to feel wanted, needed and loved. They also want to feel like you are putting effort into the relationship. Just because you've moved in together, or you've

been going out for a year, doesn't mean that suddenly he's blind. You can't just kill off the sexy girl that you once were- the one who seduced him, then wonder why the girl at the office wearing the short skirts and giving him attention is getting his attention back. It's time to put some effort into your relationship!

Make Up Your Mind and Your Attitude Will Follow

But you're just not as attracted to him as you once were? You prefer lounging in sweats at home, keeping your hair in an unkempt ponytail, and wearing your cozy mismatched bra and panties? Mindset is a big part of it. Feel sexy, you will act sexy. Dress up, shave your legs, and adjust your attitude! Flirt with him when you go out. YES, flirt! You may have already gotten him, but that doesn't mean that now you should just talk about that annoying chick at work, the frustrating thing your mom said, how stressed you are that you are gaining weight, and how you found yet another gray hair on your head! Come on now... do you think that's sexy? Do you think that's going to make him want you? Do you think that kind of conversation is going to make you want him? No. The answer is no, it's not.

Like Using Your Fancy Silverware

Similar to using your fancy silverware and china instead of keeping it stuffed in the back of the cabinet (really, what are you saving it for? USE your nice stuff, enjoy it! You only live once...). Wear your sexy lingerie- often! You might think that he doesn't notice it. You might feel like every time you put it on, he is too tired and passes out without getting an eye full of how hot (and uncomfortable) you have secretly been all night! And maybe you're right, maybe he doesn't notice, but he will notice if you're not wearing it...

Happened to Me...

I know because I did it. It happened to me. After one too many

“rumors” and inappropriate glances to other chicks, I couldn’t take it anymore. Why was my guy paying so much attention to every hot chick he saw?! After two years, we ended up ending it. A few months later, when we could both be honest without fear of repercussions, I asked him why the roving eye. He said that I stopped trying. I didn’t make him feel sexy or wanted. I didn’t flirt with him and give him naughty glances and say sexy things under my breath. He became... normal to me- like putting on socks with my running shoes. Just something you do. It wasn’t exciting anymore. This is the same guy who I found breathtakingly sexy and couldn’t keep my eyes, hands, skin, or mouth off of when we first met.

But remember the first time you put those brand new running shoes on and what a total thrill it was? Same thing... kind of. Like getting all of that coveted china for your wedding, then never using it. Like putting your treasured diamond necklace in a safety deposit box for safe keeping. Why have it if you don’t use it. Any night, day, even breakfast can be a special occasion- if you make it one. I know... sexy lingerie isn’t as comfortable as cotton panties. Well having a lackluster relationship is worse. Believe me. It’s time to try...

AND, GUYS.... RECIPROCATE THE EFFORT, PLEASE.

xx

Laurel

Top 5 Hot Hair Tips You

Should Be Taking from Celebrities



By Dixie Somers

Many celebrities are known for having great hair. It's no surprise that people want to recreate their styles for themselves ... and their partners. Here are five hot celebrity hair tips that can easily get you that fresh look for your next hot date:

Blunt Bangs

Have you just gone through a rough break up and you're looking to spice up your look? Go with the blunt bangs. Celebrities like Jessica Biel and Olivia Wilde often wear blunt bangs. It's a simple style to have done at a hair salon (or at home

with the right experience). To get this look, hair will be combed forward, in front of the face. Then it will be cut straight across to the desired length. An easy way to maintain it is to simply use a flat iron on low heat, or use a round brush and blow dryer.

French Braids

Going on a hike or a fishing trip with your man? It's time to try out the French braids. Rihanna and Anne Hathaway have been spotted many times with this look. It takes only minutes to achieve. Simply choose the desired location of the braid(s) and separate dry hair from that area into three equal sections. Then braid those sections and tie the end. Straight hair is easier to braid and looks neater, so a flat iron can be used for curly or frizzy hair.

Related: [Date Idea – Road Trip Your Way to Romance](#)

Soft Wave Curls

Going out for a night on the town with your girls? Hit the club like a celebrity with the soft wave curls. Beyonce and Megan Fox frequently dawn soft wave curls. It's one of the most versatile hairstyles that look great on almost everyone. This look is simple to achieve, all that is needed is hairspray and a curling iron. The first step is to separate dry hair into small sections. The next step is to grab each section, one at a time (holding the hair at the ends), and lightly spray each section. Last, with a medium sized curling iron on low heat, wrap each section around the barrel for about ten seconds.

Related: [Beyonce NYC Sleek Styles](#)

Sleek and Straight

If you've got a fancy dinner date with your boyfriend, the sleek and straight is a classy look you can't go wrong with.

Mila Kunis and Jennifer Aniston love this look and it only takes two products to get the same results. All that is required is a flat iron and a protective heat spray. First, lightly apply the spray (it will protect hair from excessive heat damage and also add shine). Then, flat iron dry hair by grabbing one small piece at a time. Using a flat iron that is one to two inches is recommended.

Slicked Back

Want to go for something a little different, but still classy? Show your boyfriend you've got the guts to do something new with your hair. The slicked back look is fresh and sexy, so it will turn heads. Jennifer Lawrence and Hayden Panettiere regularly wear this style casually and on the red carpet. It can be worn in two ways. One way is the wet look. To get this style, simply apply hair gel and comb hair in a backward direction. Another way is the soft look. It's the same procedure, just replace the hair gel with hairspray. It may seem simple, but it's in style right now.

3 Questions to Ask Yourself Before Dating Again





By Sheila Blagg for GalTime.com

Now that you are divorced or otherwise single, what are you looking for?

You've probably been asked that question, or a variation of it, many times, and it's not always easy to pin down an answer. Most of us can readily identify what we *don't* want, but putting a finger on exactly what we're looking for in a partner and/or a relationship is often a difficult task.

As a relationship expert, I've found that many of our wants come from things that we've experienced in past relationships, or from things we've not experienced but would like to. We hold on to pieces of past relationships that we perceive as "good," and we tend to drag that baggage into new relationships.

But this type of behavior raises a very important question: Is this fair?

The answer is: not really. It is very important to enter into each new relationship with no preconceived ideas. Try to leave

behind your past, and look at the new man in your life with fresh eyes and an open heart. But, that does not mean that you should walk in with heart in your hands, ready to commit.

Below are three questions that you should ask yourself as you're preparing to start dating again.

Question #1- Are you looking for a serious relationship?

If your answer to this question is "yes," then your approach to dating may be a little different from the tactics used by someone looking for a casual set-up. Ask your new love interest important questions *before* going on that first date.

Questions such as, "Are you looking to just date or are you looking for a serious relationship?" will help you narrow down your search to a man who has similar relationship goals. Most men will share their intentions, especially if they have been divorced. But there are a few who won't, so always, always trust your instincts.

Question #2- Are you looking to date many different individuals at the same time?

If your answer to this question is "yes," you've set a solid starting point. Make sure to tell anyone you are thinking of dating, that you're not interested in a monogamous relationship at the moment. Explain that you are simply interested in dating and having a good time.

I have found that many of the women I've worked with, as well as some of my friends, believe that an honest approach works best for them. Honesty is an approach that men I've worked with and know appreciate very much. Single and divorced men don't want to waste their time any more than we do. Honesty is really the way to go!

Question #3- Are you simply interested in friends with benefits?

This is the tricky question. But if you're being honest with yourself, it's really not that hard to answer.

If your answer to this question is "yes," then again, honesty is the best way to go. There are many men who are not interested in this type of relationship at all. They do not like the idea that the woman they are "seeing" may be intimate with other men. In my opinion, it's important to share this type of information up front. You don't want to hurt or offend anyone, but if dating is not something you want, nor does it interest you on any level, then you don't want to be involved with someone who does.

Finally, and most importantly, remember that when you accept an invitation for that first date after a break-up (or extend an invitation!), the event is exactly that...JUST A DATE. Leave your baggage at home.

- Don't spend your time with a new interest talking about all the wrongs of your past relationships.**
- Don't compare him to your past, expecting things to feel normal.** Chances are he won't be the same and things won't feel normal.
- Dating is very different than it used to be,** and you truly may not know what you are looking for at first.
- Take time to figure it all out *before* you get serious with someone new.** You know what you do not like, but your wants and likes may change daily, and that's ok.
- Don't overthink everything. Give yourself a break, take a deep breath, and jump!**

â€‹You truly will be just fine.

10 Bad-Boy Celebrities We'd Love to Date



By Meghan Fitzgerald

Dating bad boys is thrilling. Even if you end up in tears with a gallon of ice cream in front of you, we still tend to choose the “bad ones.” In *Profiling Your Date: A Smart Woman's Guide to Evaluating a Man*, author Caroline Presno says, “Bad boys are like potato chips—after you have one, you want to nibble on more and more until you eat the whole bag and feel sick.” Although dating these certain breed of men is sometimes dangerous and stressful, it is fun. And sometimes ladies, we all need some fun. Here are some bad boy celebrities we'd love

to date:

1. Ryan Gosling: With his powerful movies and stunning facial hair, who wouldn't want to date this hipster bad boy? Even though his charming role in *The Notebook* can allude to the fact that he is a sweet guy, he's not always. His roles in *Drive*, *Blue Valentine*, and *Gangster Squad* show his true self.

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

2. Johnny Depp: This bearded pirate is a bad boy women would love to date! The American actor, film producer, and musician has broken all rules of Hollywood and has been crowned the Years Sexiest Man year after year!

3. Colin Farrell: A large part of Colin Farrell's bad boy-ness comes from the release of his [sex](#) scandal in 2003. The Irish actor has a history of womanizing and excessive partying, a key part to being a bad boy.

Related: [3 Reasons Nice Guys Shouldn't Finish Last](#)

4. Jude Law: Having an affair with Sienna Miller and producing a love child gives this British heartthrob a serious edge. His scandalous ways with have filled the tabloids for years!

5. Matthew McConaughey: Flying solo, Matthew McConaughey is tied with the bad boy image. The constant shirtless lad has been arrested for drug possession and disturbing the peace. This mate is a crazy party boy.

Related: [11 Ways to Meet Your Next Date](#)

6. Christian Bale: How are you not considered a bad boy when you play the role of Batman? Bale lost his cool on *Terminator Salvation's* director of photography Shane Hurlbut, TMZ. Leaving a strong image in the media.

7. Robert Downey Jr: It could be the possibility of being a

super hero however, they all seem to be “bad boys.” Iron Man in particular has a past filled with a strong drug and alcohol addiction. He’s seen years in and out of rehabs.

8. Mark Wahlberg: This muscular Boston boy has spent his time in prison, and with his ballsy attitude who wouldn’t want to date him?

Related: [How to Date Like a Celebrity](#)

9. Alex Pettyfer: The British *I Am Number Four* star has been known referred to as a psycho loose cannon by ex-Dianna Agron.

10. Shia LaBeouf: Hollywood’s bad boy has his ways of vulgarity, violence, and womanizing. His temper shows throughout the entirety of his bad boy image.

Would you date any of these bad boy celebrities? Share your comments below!

Expert Relationship Advice: 5 Ways to Turn “Me” to “We”





By Dr. Beth Gineris

In order to create successful partnerships in our lives, we must learn to shift thinking from an independent state (me) to a mutually interdependent state (we). Our mindset becomes both caring and supportive, rather than self focused. Here are some details of the two different relationship styles:

The Me-style in relationship

This is a style that is dependent, co-dependent, dramatic, and needy. The two people act as halves who come together and make one whole, with weak or non-existent boundaries. In the Me-style both parties feel lonely, unheard and unseen. They are desperate to feel connected.

Related: [How to Master Being in a Relationship](#)

Example: Britney Spears. She needs others' approval, is insecure, and has found herself entangled with men unavailable to her and lacking stability. She has had great difficulty stepping up to her strength without constant reassurance from others.

The I-style in relationship

This is a style that is independent, solitary, and where individual credit and competition are paramount. Connection is via an intricate tally-sheet of each other's actions; two I's walking side-by-side, with rigid, inflexible boundaries, without interdependence, and lacking dependability.

Related: [Katy Perry and Russell Brand: What Went Wrong?](#)

Example: Russell Brand and Katy Perry. Russell Brand's reasoning for their split was that when you see that you may be incompatible, it's best to call an end to it.

These Me-dependent and I-Independent styles lack empathy and negotiation; either due to an inability of the person to get outside of him or herself to see the other's point of view and weak boundaries of self- **Me-style** OR due to a foundational insecurity of autonomy and competence resulting in rigid boundaries of self- **I-style**.

The We-style in relationship

This is a style that values interdependence, mutual give and take, negotiation, dependability, and trust. The two parties work together toward shared and individual goals; Boundaries are osmotic allowing interconnections without loss of self.

Example: Jennifer Garner and the newest Best Picture Oscar winner Ben Affleck. They describe a dependable foundation of trust, collaboration and mutuality toward both individual and collective goals.

Here are five specific ways to bridge the gap between "me" and we":

1. Discover your style of relating. Which descriptors fit? Possessive, needy, manipulated, insecure? **Me-style**; Defensive, competitive, antagonistic, or a fear of being engulfed? **I-style**; Valued, heard, accepted, dependability? **We-style**

2. To turn Me to We begin with yourself first. Determine what is keeping you in a Me or I-style of relating. Is it an issue of security? Is it something you learned from early life-experiences or a misunderstanding of your true strength?

3. Define when, how, under what conditions you feel secure. Create those conditions. Security can take the form of financial, emotional, physical, or spiritual security.

4. If you are in a Me-style you have to create independence before you move to interdependence.

5. Share your insights with your partner. Invite your partner to follow these steps. Trust the process.

Dr. Beth Gineris holds three graduate degrees, in business, counseling, and Oriental medicine. She has spent twenty years as a psychotherapist, over fourteen years as a strategic management consultant, and eight years as an acupuncturist. She is devoted to providing supportive, solution-focused teachings that allow people to live a more harmonious and happy life. She is the author of 'Turning NO to ON: The Art of Parenting with Mindfulness', and 'Turning Me to We: The Art of Partnering with Mindfulness'.

What We Can Learn from “the Work” Celeb Couples Do





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

When Ben Affleck accepted the Oscar for best picture on Sunday night, he thanked wife Jennifer Garner saying marriage is hard work, but it is the best kind of work. One area that takes great effort in a relationship is finding the balance between each person's needs and desires. Say football is your thing. It always has been, ever since you were a little kid watching at home with your dad. So it is impossible for you to understand why your new partner has no interest in it. You want to go to games together, talk about plays, and plan weekends around the tailgate parties. But she says no. What do you do?

There is no question that one of the pleasures of being in a relationship is sharing the things you love with the one you love. If pizza is your thing – well, then by all means, it would be convenient if the person you're dating had similar feelings about it. If that were the case, you could be together and have your favorite food at the same time. But it doesn't always work that way. In reality, two different people often have two different sets of tastes. So how can you

preserve your own pleasures, hobbies and space to do what you love while being in a serious relationship? And is there a way to include your significant other but not force feed them?

This is where a “thank you” portion can be useful. You remember when you were a child and your mother wanted you to eat the peas, right? They looked awful but you had to have a few to appease her, so you took a small “thank you” portion. In other words, you took a taste. Before you suggest this, though, acknowledge to your partner that you understand and accept this is not their cup of tea. But sometimes, when it’s a play-off game or something special is going on, you would really like to have their company. Be clear that you know it is a sacrifice of sorts, but you would really love it if they watched just this one game with you. Not the whole season, just this one game; a “thank you” portion.

In that way you can share your passions and interests to some extent, while respecting your partner’s interests at the same time. The key is to encourage them to be open and try to appreciate what it is that you find so fascinating. Who knows, she might actually become a football fan. Sharing pleasures, and being open to each other, simply helps to turn the wheels for more mutual passion together.

Expert Love Advice: Single Traits to Lose so You Can Move Forward in a

Relationship



By Courtney Allen

Relationships are described as many things, but “easy” most definitely isn’t one of them. Two A.M. bickering, checking messages on phones/social media, and cases of jealousy are just a small part of what makes relationships so complicated. And these relationship problems tend to be a tough transition, especially if you are adjusted to the “single life.” But relationships are partnerships. Both individuals must have their hearts and minds in the same place in order for the relationship to last. If you just can’t seem to progress in your relationship, you should consider leaving these single habits behind:

1. Wanting the next best thing: Keep your eye on the prize

that's already in front of you. We all know what it's like to want what you can't have whether it's *High School Musical's* hottie Zac Efron or your brother's blue-eyed best friend. Once you're in a relationship, other options may seem better. Stick with your honey and you will benefit in the long run.

2. Party animal: Get your priorities in order. There is no need to go to snazzy clubs and bars every weekend with your single friends. Not only are you sending out the wrong message to the single people you run into, but to your love as well.

3. Selfishness: Be considerate of what's important to your significant other. It's not just your feelings you have to worry about now, it's theirs too. Do some of the things you don't want to do and the same will be done for you. Remember, you two are a team.

4. Flirtiness: Boundaries need to be set between you and members of the opposite sex. Don't be too friendly; some may take your kindness for interest in them. Always be aware of body language, the things you say, the way you say them.

5. Late night texting: Avoid texting the opposite sex after 11 o'clock. Indeed, there may be nothing going on but it tends to look suspicious. Anything you have to say can most likely wait until morning. Don't give your sweetie anything to worry about.

What are some single traits to leave behind to better your relationship? Share your thoughts with us!

Relationship Advice: How to Succeed In The Quest To Find Mr. or Mrs. Right



By Michelle Rebecca

Although things like a successful career, possessions and status are a few ways for a person to gauge success, it's important not to overlook the power of strong relationships. The support of family can help someone feel empowered during hard times, but the joy of finding a loyal significant other often makes a person feel truly complete. Knowing when you've found the right person is sometimes as hard as the search itself. Read on for a few tips.

Communication Is Key

It's crucial to talk things over with your partner, whether things are going smoothly or you've hit a rough patch. Earlier this year, a Huffington Post article mentioned that text messages are the most popular form of communication in the United Kingdom. Regardless of how you and your partner stay in touch, make sure to do it regularly. If someone you're with seems hesitant to speak up when something's wrong or prefers to avoid tough conversations altogether, that's a red flag.

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

A Relationship Built Upon Equality

Although you and your partner might not always agree on everything, strive for a sense of equality. When you treat each other with fairness, it's easier to work through disagreements and reach common ground. If your partner frequently likes to discourage you or dominate conversations, put a stop to it. Relationships thrive when each party has the opportunity to speak their views and feel valued.

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

Do You Trust Each Other?

If your relationship doesn't include trust, that's a huge weakness. Sometimes people have trouble trusting their partner, but only because of something that's happened in the past. If you've gone through a previous traumatic event, it's important to bring that up earlier rather than later.

When you start to feel suspicious about something, resist the urge to search through your partner's phone records or inbox, and speak to them directly instead. By hunting for evidence, you'll place a strain on your relationship.

Know When It's Time To Move On

No matter how long you've been with someone, it's essential to recognize when it's time to end the relationship. Things can get more complicated if you have children with your spouse. If you need to know how to get divorced or just get clarity about whether to remain with a person, experts can help. Aim for an outside perspective, if possible.

Often people focus on all the good qualities of their partner and become blind to any faults. No one is perfect, but if the person you're with is degrading, prone to ridiculing you, or simply not willing to invest in the relationship, those are clear signs that it might be time to end things.

Being in love with someone who loves you back is thrilling. Use the characteristics mentioned above to help you determine whether a current relationship is worthwhile and to know what to look for in a potential mate.

Michelle is an aspiring writer with a passion for blogging. She enjoys writing about a vast variety of topics and loves that blogging gives her the opportunity to publicly voice her thoughts and share advice with an unlimited audience.

Relationship Advice on Why Relationship Deal Breakers Hurt You





by Terri Trespicio for GalTime.com

You've got dealbreakers. We all do. But what should be just a few hard-and-fast, values-driven rules about who you will and will not associate with, let alone date, has gotten a little out of hand. Curly hair? Dealbreaker. Have kids? Dealbreaker. Don't have kids? Dealbreaker. Glasses, a few credits shy of a bachelors degree, a previous marriage? Dealbreaker. Seriously?

Dealbreakers masquerade as conviction, but also handily counter your fear of rejection (*I reject you first*). They also make you feel in control in an area where you feel greatly out of control. If you spend a ton of time worrying about what you WON'T do or refuse to meet, well, you're busy putting limits on your learning and your loving.

How do you know your dealbreakers are running amok? Ask yourself this: Does a new one rear its head every time you meet someone you could potentially date, maybe someone who has an interest in you? Do you find yourself bragging about who you would not, could not, will not ever consider? Your white-knuckled grip on your dealbreakers makes you seem smart and

tough, but really, it's you being judgy and scared and anything but open. It's easy to have rules. It's not easy to take risks.

What astonishes me is that the people with 101 dealbreaker clauses are the *same* ones who bemoan the loss of romance and spontaneity in dating. Where do you think that spontaneity comes from? Being open to things that surprise you.

How many times have you heard someone say that, "Well, Hank didn't seem like the kinda guy I'd fall in love with, but here we are 10 years later!" Or, "Sally wasn't really my type, but I was drawn to her and couldn't explain why." I know why: Because neither love nor chemistry keeps a to-do or a to-don't list. But you do.

Keep Dealbreakers in Check

It's worth saying that there ARE such things as real dealbreakers, but for them to matter, they have to stand for something. I'm not saying you should throw all caution to the wind and date willy nilly. I know: You have goals. Maybe you want to be married, have kids, or get out of Delaware. OK, fine. But again, are you a romcom screenwriter or are you a real person in real life? You're not casting a role; you're looking for a person with whom you can connect and share. And if you're ruling everyone out because of what you THINK that person would do, when you have no way of knowing, you're part of the problem.

There are pretty straightforward dealbreakers: Someone who beats, abuses, mistreats you or anyone else in his or her life. Someone who hates gay people or any other race or creed besides his own. Someone who has unaddressed substance abuse problems (note I didn't say who *ever* had substance abuse problems). But anything short of a strong value-centered issue, I think you're crazy to rule out. You just don't know. So don't pretend you do.

Choose a Wild Card

So when I coach people who are looking to start up or ramp up their dating lives, I tell them to consider at least ONE wild card. This means anyone you might not perhaps usually consider. Maybe he's under 6'0 or an artist or divorced. Or maybe she's a curvy blonde lawyer with a kid when you'd only dated tall, rail-thin brunettes.

I didn't say you have to build a life together—but you can meet for a drink.

And despite what you may think about divorced people with kids, you could fall head over heels for one. I did. For years I dated a divorced dad—and wouldn't change that for the world. I learned things that I take with me into relationships with single and divorced men alike. (More on why men with baggage are well worth exploring.) I'm continually challenging my own dealbreakers, and if you were smart, you'd do the same.

For instance, if you'd told me a few years ago I'd be dating a young musician from Bushwick who sleeps on an air mattress and doesn't own a toaster, I might have rolled my eyes and said "yeah no thanks." And for a moment that would make me seem all world-weary and wise. But what I have instead is someone who excites and intrigues me, someone who is bite-your-fist sexy and incredibly fun and fulfilling to spend time with.

Take that, dealbreaker.

The Most Health-Conscious

Celebrity Couples



By [Andrea Surujnauth](#)

[Celebrities](#) are always expected to look great. Some spend hours and hours exercising, while others follow crazy diets like Kourtney Kardashian's ghee gulping every morning or [Jennifer Anniston](#) eating only baby food. However, being health-conscious doesn't necessarily mean drinking weird green mixtures or fitting in two or three workouts each day. It means eating healthy, exercising regularly and staying away from eccentric diets that starve your body of much-needed nutrients. So which celebrity [couples](#) are truly the most health-conscious duos in Hollywood?

1. Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith: Jada, a yoga advocate, has introduced her fitness regime to her family: she often

does yoga with her loving [hubby](#) and even with their children. As she recently told [WomensHealthMag.com](#), “I used to push a lot of iron. I’ve been in the gym for like 15 years now, and I’m just not motivated by it anymore. So I do a lot of outside sports. On my Christmas vacation, I did a lot of cross-country skiing, and I like to hike. I usually do my yoga at home in the evenings for about an hour. Sometimes I go to a class, but with my schedule, it’s really difficult for me – and my kids like to join me. We do a lot of yoga together.” See? It really is possible to keep up with a busy career, stay in shape *and* spend time with your family!

2. Fergie and Josh Duhamel: This cute couple is often photographed getting fit together. They go running or hiking and even do push-ups while out on the trail. According to [Health.com](#), Fergie lost 13 pounds in 2009, proving that working out with your man can really make a difference! Follow in this couple’s footsteps by grabbing your [beau](#) and working up a sweat outdoors.

Related Link: [Celebrity Nutritionist and Trainer Jackie Keller Says, “Those Who Exercise With Support From Their Partners Do Better Overall”](#)

3. Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake: These two hotties do some serious strength training and have no problem showing off their hard work and rock-hard bodies. They were recently photographed running [together](#) near their apartment in New York City.

4. Michelle and Barack Obama: The First Lady has a serious passion for staying healthy and exercising; she even gets up at 4:30 am to fit a workout into her busy schedule. Her husband is also a fan of going to the gym, but he wasn’t always very health-conscious, as he used to be a smoker. Michelle, being the wonderful [wife](#) that she is, made a deal with him: he could only run for president if he quit smoking. Great job, Mrs. Obama!

5. Hilaria and Alec Baldwin: Hilaria, a yoga instructor for Yoga Vida in New York City, has already put her new husband on a diet and encouraged him to get fit. Baldwin has called her a “good influence.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Trainer Gunnar Peterson Discusses Relationships, Health and His 8-Week Gunnar Challenge](#)

6. Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey: It’s no secret that McConaughey is a big fan of the beach. However, this beach hottie doesn’t spend his time relaxing in the sun. He runs up and down the beach, only taking breaks to do some push-ups or hold a few yoga poses. He also accompanies his gorgeous wife to the gym, who told [Star Magazine UK](#), “I need somebody to exercise with me, and I don’t like going to the gym at all.” Alves also mentioned that she sticks to a healthy diet by cooking her [family’s](#) food; that way, she knows exactly what she’s eating.

7. Beyonce and Jay-Z: Can it get any sweeter than this couple? Beyonce went on a partially vegan and plant-based diet while she was [pregnant](#) with daughter, Blue Ivy, and being a considerate husband, Jay-Z decided to go on the diet with her. The two continued to diet together after Bey, who gained 57 pounds during her pregnancy, gave birth.

How do you stay healthy with your significant other? Comment below and let us know!

Returning to the Dating World



By Matthew and Orna Walters

On a recent episode of Bravo's *The Millionaire Matchmaker*, we coached Denise Richards' father Irv as he re-entered the [dating world](#), five years after the passing of his wife. Irv was concerned about whom he might bring into his family and was obviously a little nervous about [dating again](#). We helped him to get clarity on what he was looking for and what to avoid.

Starting to date again after the end of a long relationship can be a daunting task. We have successfully assisted numerous [singles](#) in our relationship coaching practice, and we're here to help you get over the hump and get back into the game while having fun and learning about yourself.

When you're looking to go back into the [dating world](#), it is important to know what you desire. Are you looking for a long-

term relationship? Perhaps, you're hoping to get married. Or are you just looking to get your feet wet again? Maybe you're just curious to see what it's like out there. Maybe you are just looking to have a good time. Once you define what your desired outcome is, you can set a clear intention that will act as a compass to navigate your journey.

Related: [Dating After Divorce: How Soon Is Too Soon?](#)

The most important thing to remember about dating, that most people overlook, is that it is PRACTICE! When you set your mind to this and understand that it is just practice, how does this change your [relationship](#) with you?

We often say that hope is the first thing that comes into a relationship, and is often the last thing to go. To take the pressure off and to utilize dating as a great tool for personal growth we have a process we call: Date To Discoverâ„¢.

Related: [How to Get Back in the Dating Scene After a Divorce](#)

Rather than placing emphasis on the other person, wondering if they are the right fit for you – turn your attention inward. Start paying attention to your inner dialogue – “What am I saying to myself about myself?” Do you have a negative inner dialogue in response to dating? Or are you saying positive things about yourself and your prospects? Your attitude towards dating will largely determine your results.

Being aware of your inner dialogue will give you the opportunity to make adjustments. For example, if you find that you can easily speak your feelings to someone you're not attracted to, but find it difficult to do so when there is an attraction, then this is an opportunity to spend some time practicing being emotionally authentic under all circumstances.

When there is a [desire for love](#), most people look for it

outside of themselves, yet it must be INSIDE of us in order for it to be mirrored back to us. Ultimately, you cannot say or do the “wrong” thing with the “right person.” So, whether you are looking to date casually, or wish to connect with the love of your life, the best approach is to be true to yourself, not twisting into a pretzel to get love. That way when you are in a committed relationship you’ll know that person loves you for who you truly are, inside and out.

[Orna and Matthew Walters](#), today’s relationship Power Couple, are dedicated to busting the myth that love is supposed to happen by accident. In the business of “Creating Love on Purpose,” they have taken their crusade global, empowering singles to be their own advocates to ultimately form true, soul partnerships. Promoting ‘love is an inside job and that it’s never too late to find the love of your life,’ Orna and Matthew have shared their successful program and expertise on: NBC, Fox News, MSN, USA Networks, KPFK Radio, with Les Brown on CBS Radio, and Bravo’s The Millionaire Matchmaker.

Expert Relationship Advice: Are You Expecting Ryan Gosling Perfection?





by [Jane Greer](#), PhD for GalTime.com

From the outside, Ryan Gosling probably seems like a flawless boyfriend – there’s certainly no denying that he’s a handsome star. But [maintaining a relationship](#), as he and Eva Mendes have done for well over a year, requires so much more than that.

We all want the ideal relationship with the best partner, right? In our minds, that person is very clear: always thoughtful, tuned into our needs, knowing what we hope for before we even have to voice it. So when you are dating someone and they don’t act like that, do you immediately assume they aren’t right for you, or might they be worth a little more time and effort? More important, how can you make the distinction?

When it comes to your partner, many people’s notion is: If You Loved Me, You Would. If you loved me, you would be willing to spend Saturday with my parents. If you loved me, you would agree to eat vegetarian. If you loved me, you would shave every day because I ask you to.

The problem is, when your partner doesn't do these things, it seems like they are being selfish and purposefully disappointing you. That is not always the case at all. In fact, often your partner's choices are more about their own preferences and not a measure of their love for you. It is the act of placing your judgment on those actions that puts the negative spin on them.

We all come at things from a varied perspective, and much of that has to do with the families we grew up in. It might seem perfectly natural to spend every Saturday with your parents, but he is used to seeing his own parents twice a year. Or you might want to stop eating meat for one reason or another; but she loves meat, and that has nothing to do with how she feels about you.

Disrespectful behavior that makes you feel devalued or bad requires other considerations. But if it is just a matter of dealing with your differences, despite the few bumps they might generate, it doesn't have to mean the end of the journey. The goal is not to eradicate the disappointments, but to learn how to handle them, work through them, and move on.

No partner is perfect, probably not even Ryan, so you want to be equipped to face the let-downs without letting the whole thing falling apart.

Expert Relationship Advice: 5 Ways to Have a 'Date' From

Miles Away



By Jennifer Harrington

Being apart from your love is never easy, whether the distance is short or long term, but in today's fast-paced and mobile world, separation is a common reality. When the miles separate you from your sweetheart, here are some easy ways to keep your date night on the calendar:

1. Dinner and a movie: Just because you're not physically together doesn't mean you can't engage in this courtship ritual! Decide with your partner what you want for dinner (make it something accessible everywhere, like pizza or Chinese food). Once you both have your dinner ready, hop on the telephone, chat and enjoy dinner together, before starting your movie. Need some ideas for a movie? Check out this list

of the 30 most romantic movies of all-time.

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

2. Cheer on your favorite sports team: Maybe you and your sweetie share a passion for the New York Yankees or the Green Bay Packers. Commit to both watching the game and texting each other your ongoing commentary. It can be fun to hear another person's perspective on the same game you are watching! Plan to follow your text session during the game with a phone call to celebrate your team's victory together.

3. Scavenger hunt: Every place is full of unique and interesting spots. With a little advance planning (and sometimes a bit of research), you can plan scavenger hunts for each other. Plan to do the scavenger hunt at the same time, and enjoy all of the special places in your location that your love hand-picked out for you. Snap pictures of yourself with your phone and send so your partner can see all of your adventures!

Related: [4 Ways to Make Your Long Distance Relationship Work](#)

4. Play the question game: As well as you may think you know each other, there is always more to learn about your special someone! Pick up a copy of the book *The Book of Questions* by Gregory Stock for 265 questions you can ask each other. The questions range from silly to serious so you're sure to uncover stories and opinions on a variety of topics. You can easily swap questions and answers over email or the phone!

5. Plan for the future... virtually: Use a webcam or Skype to talk to your significant other about the future. Commit a hour to an important discussion, such as planning for your upcoming vacation together (here is a list of the most romantic spots on Earth) or how you want to celebrate your anniversary. Being apart can sometimes prompt deep, meaningful conversations and these conversations can give you cause to be excited about your future plans together.

So, the next time you are faced with your love being across the state or on the other side of the world, know that the distance is not a deal-breaker in your relationship. Take the opportunity to get creative and find new ways to get emotionally closer.

Tell Cupid: what are some ways you keep your relationship alive and well when you are apart?