

# 5 Things Women Wish Men Knew



by [Johanna Lyman](#) for [GalTime.com](#)

The biggest challenge with romantic relationships is having excellent communication. It's also the single most powerful thing you can do to maintain a great long term relationship. Sadly, men and women tend to have very different styles of expressing themselves.

We all know men and women are different when it comes to expressing their feelings. But we've come up with the top five things women just wish men would know! Is that too much to ask?

Unfortunately, men get the short end of the stick. Women aren't usually as straightforward as men when it comes to communicating. Many of us grew up believing that if a man

really loved us, they would “just know” how to please us. I know that not only is that untrue, it’s also really unfair to men. But the fact remains that it’s one of the unrealistic expectations little girls are fed in their formative years. If you want to read more about unrealistic expectations, click [here](#) to get a preview of the first chapter of my new book, *The Soulmate Myth*.

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I thought I’d give the men out there a little cheat sheet to help them understand us better.

## 5 Things Women Wish Men Knew

1. **We’re suckers for romance.** You probably know that, right? Never ask, “Do you want flowers?” Just do it. If we have to ask for it, it doesn’t count. If you really want to impress your girlfriend, you’ll get major brownie points for sitting through a chick flick with her. On the other hand, the little things count just as much as the major gestures. Sending a card for no reason is one way to make her melt.

2. **PLEASE listen to us.** I know it can be hard because we talk so much. But when you don’t listen, we take it as a sign of disrespect and it really pisses us off. When you listen, it’s great if you check in by verbally agreeing occasionally or even questioning to get clarity about what we mean. When you get that glazed look in your eyes, we know we’ve lost you.

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3. **If you ask, we’ll tell you exactly what sexually makes us melt.** The trick is to ask in the moment. If you ask over dinner, most women will be too uncomfortable to give you a straight answer. But if you’re doing it almost perfectly and ask what else you should do, she’ll beg you for it. And here’s a big hint: real women don’t respond to sex the way porn stars do. It takes a little time for our motors to warm up.

4. **When you give a compliment, be specific.** I know I have nice legs, but if you tell me you love how my thigh curves “like that,” it’s a real turn on. Also, you should know that you can never give too many compliments, as long as they’re sincere. Really. Even the most confident women I know don’t get sick of being complimented.

5. **NEVER, ever forget a birthday or anniversary.** See #1 for reference. In fact, see #2 as well. Write it down, or double check for the birthday on Facebook. Don’t even joke about forgetting either one; we won’t think it’s funny. There’s just no excuse.

**What do you wish your man knew about you? Let us know in the comments.**

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## **Top Most Romantic Celebrities**





By [Nic Baird](#)

When Hollywood [sex](#) symbol Marilyn Monroe died she had only been married to Joe Dimaggio for nine months. Despite a tragically short romance, the baseball legend put in a standing order for long-stemmed roses to be delivered to Monroe's grave three times a week for the next 20 years. The flame of [romance](#) continues to burn among the celebrity twosomes nowadays. On-screen or off, many stars continue to enthrall us with gestures of love. Over 24 million of us tuned in to watch Will and Kate's first kiss as prince and princess. There's still passion in the hearts of the rich and famous. Sometimes it makes our eyes water, and sometimes it's so cheesy we want to throw up, but we're definitely interested:

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**1. Harry Styles:** Styles sings about his "Last First Kiss" as a member of the boy-band One Direction. But is he as passionate out of the studio? "My mum tells me I'm a romantic because if she has a bad day at work, I run a bath for her when she gets

home and cook dinner, " he said. Besides his mom's testimony, Styles gets credit for dating hopeless romantic and songstress Taylor Swift. This year, for Swift's 23rd birthday, Styles bought 23 custom cupcakes including ones filled with candy floss and a mint liqueur center. A source told [Radar Online](#): "Once he likes a girl, he's all in. He's very romantic, long emails, surprise gifts, meticulously planned [dates](#)." Styles and his (now former) country music starlet will both be touring this year.

**2. Katy Perry:** The singer's romantic side came out during her past [marriage](#) to Russell Brand. The two were known for casual strolls and bike rides together. Katy Perry even bought her comedian husband a lilac-colored Bentley for Valentine's Day. Perry started introducing singer John Mayer as her "boyfriend" recently, and the courtship has been an exciting [romance](#). Cute moments like when they coordinate outfits and Halloween costumes show a playful side to Perry's affections. She puts herself into the dates, like when she took Mayer to visit her hometown of Santa Barbara last month for a romantic tour of The Old Mission. Perry's a fool for love, or maybe just a sucker for romance.

**3. Nicolas Cage:** Before he was known to "kick-ass" portraying various superheroes, this veteran actor was all about the romance in classics like *Moonstruck*, *City of Angels*, and *It Could Happen To You*. He unsuccessfully [proposed](#) to actress Patricia Arquette shortly after meeting her. He was turned down, but was given a chance to prove his [love](#) with a list of impossible tasks, like finding a non-existent black orchid. But when Cage returned with reclusive author J. D. Salinger's autograph, Arquette gave him a second look. Since 2004, Cage has been married to Alice Kim. He did the impossible again when he convinced the tribal council of the Havasupai Indian reservation in the Grand Canyon to allow the actor to shoot scenes for *Next* on the canyon floor, which is the same place where Cage and Kim had their first [date](#). Nostalgia and romance

are two things Cage can't resist.

What romantic gestures have blown you away? Post your favorites below.

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## Is Priscilla Presley Waving The Flag For Older Women With An Age Defying Relationship?



By Eve Pearce

Priscilla Presley's recent stint treading the boards during the UK Pantomime season seems to have proved to be a special

time in more ways than one.

The glamorous 67-year old former wife of the late King of Pop Elvis Presley was undertaking a stint as the Wicked Witch in a production of Snow White at the Wimbledon Theatre, South London, when she met British radio DJ and former children's TV star Toby Anstis. At age 40, Anstis is 27 years Priscilla's junior, but it hasn't stopped the two of them getting on like a house on fire, as they were seen sharing a kiss or two when they left a local restaurant close to where Ms. Presley was performing in pantomime.

### **Mutual Friends**

It's been said that the pair share a number of mutual friends over in America and that one of them suggested they might like to meet up occasionally. Priscilla sent along some tickets so that Toby could go and see her in the show and they met up afterwards, getting on very well and have continued to see each other since.

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According to reports, Toby likes the more mature woman and has always been a big fan of Elvis, so although it's a seemingly unlikely pairing, they're obviously off to a good start!

However, whilst some sources claim the pair are dating, Anstis has taken to his Twitter account to play things down. He's suggested that the pair of them are "just friends", though he is planning on meeting up with her again and thinks she is "wonderful". Some press reports are also saying that the snapped photo of them kissing was just a fond farewell between two good pals.

Presley is rumored to be worth a cool \$70 million at the current time. She married the King in 1967 when she was just

21-years old and they had a daughter, Lisa Marie together before going on to divorce in 1973. Despite the split, the two remained close until Elvis' untimely death in 1977.

## **Mature dating**

Whether Priscilla and Toby are dating or not, it's proof indeed that romance needn't be dead once you hit middle age and the ever glamorous Presley is flying the flag for women of a certain age everywhere, who may be looking for love. If you're an older woman looking to date a younger man, here are a few things to consider.

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**Age vs Maturity:** Just because there's a distinct age gap, it doesn't mean that there will be a disparity in levels of maturity too. There are many young men who have mature and responsible heads on their shoulders and conversely many older women who act and appear much younger than they are. If you have the same levels of stamina and the same outlook on life, the age shouldn't matter.

**That certain spark:** If you're someone who has been part of a long term partnership which has broken up, or you've maybe been widowed, starting to date again and the process of finding love can perhaps feel like a scary prospect. However, it can sometimes come to pass that after the initial nerves, embarking on an age gap relationship will be something that provides both parties with a new lease of life and a sense of excitement and happiness, for many different reasons. A younger man may want to explore new places and ideas before he settles down. This can provide the single, older woman with a vital spark that she finds contagious, which in turn gives her a new sense of purpose and love of life. Similarly, the life experience and maturity that someone who is older has, can be very appealing and sexy to a younger man or woman.

**Expectations:** If you're starting out in such a relationship



don't be afraid to state what you want and make clear what your needs are. If casual without too much commitment is your bag, say so. Likewise if you want companionship and someone to spend lots of time with, be honest and open. Many young men simply don't want to play the field at all and would like to settle down, whilst others do not want the long term hassle. Be frank from the start so you both know where you stand.

**Don't compete:** This is a really important point. Don't ever try to compete with younger women, just because you have a younger man. If your man is with you, he's with you for who you are, not because you're some clone! It's no good pretending to like propping up bars or saying that you like clubbing the night away when you don't really. If that's who you are then that's cool, but don't start to do it just to prove you're youthful. Have fun and show your relaxed side in other ways.

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## Should You Ask Him Out?





by Terri Trespicio for GalTime.com

I'm no stranger to asking out dudes. I've done it – slipped my number into someone's hand, slid a napkin-scribbled note onto a table, approached a man eating alone at a sushi bar, even walked straight up to a very hot guy in some kind of grounds crew and invited him to call me. But I'll be honest, while it can be sexy and fun and a great experiment to honing and exploring your confidence, most of those dates never transpired.

Is it a good idea for a woman to ask a man out? Are men's egos so big that they just CAN'T say yes to a woman asking them out? Find out what our expert has to say:

Women like to be chosen, plain and simple. Even the big loud-mouthed ones like me. And if you do the asking, you aren't letting the guy take that step. You undermine his ability and urge to initiate action. Another thing that could happen is that you set a precedent, that you will be the one to ask for everything you want, thus removing some initiative on his part.

Now, every time I say this, I hear from men who say they would love it if a woman asked them out. And some men may like this, sure. We ALL want to be chosen in some way. It's how you make that choice known that matters.

In my experience, when a man takes the role of asking, he is deciding, not just agreeing to what YOU want or (god forbid) giving in. Maybe you've asked someone out and it worked and you're together and happy. Good for you! It works in some cases, sure. But in my own life, I was finding that when I was too aggressive or felt the need to "produce" the relationship this way, I was getting in my own way and actually hindering him.

Understand this does NOT mean a woman is just a passive piece of produce waiting to be picked up, palpated, and taken home. In fact, you as a woman have a very powerful role to play here because in order to have a man walk through the doorway, you kinda have to open it.

So, rather than wonder if you should come out of nowhere and ask him out like some kind of surprise romantic attack, or sit and wait like a stone, do the opposite – lay the groundwork for attraction. You can't start a fire out of nothing. Think of your efforts at flirting, connecting, etc, as laying the kindling and creating the conditions for fire to spark.

How?

**1. BE interested, *show* interest, give him lots of opportunity to talk to you, be around you, and pick up on all your positive, attractive energies.**

**2. Make it clear that if he WERE to ask you out, you'd say yes (without of course saying that).** No one likes being rejected, and so you want to be sure he gets the sense that he won't be.

**3. Look, dudes don't always pick up on subtleties. So don't be too subtle.** He can't read your mind. If he mentions a sushi

restaurant bar just opened near him, you say, “I live for sushi. I could eat it every damn day.” (Only say this if it’s true, which, in my case, it is.) Or maybe you just tell him what you think: That he’s almost too damn appealing to pass up. That’ll send a message.

**4. When you allow and encourage that attraction to take root and get his attention, you don’t have to worry about whether you should ask him out. Because you won’t have to.**

And if he doesn’t? Maybe he’s not into it. Or not ballsy enough. Two good reasons to move on.

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## **5 Ways Your Friends Can Help Save Your Relationship**





By Ashley DelBello

Bringing your friends in to help with your relationship woes can be tricky, but there are several times when it's essential to have them by your side. Whether it's during a fight with your significant other or when you just need someone to talk to, your friends know you best and can prove helpful.

Before pulling them to into whatever situation it may be though, you need to be prepared to hear things that you may not want to hear as your friends will also provide you with the truth – which may or may not be pleasant.

Read on to find out why [your friends are a necessity in your love life](#):

**1. Friends give you an excuse for much needed alone time.** If you spend too much time with someone, he or she is bound to annoy you at some point – which is normal, but may mean you could use some time apart even if it's only for a few hours. Your friends provide you with a reason to get out of each other's faces and enjoy some time to yourself. Healthy relationships stem from couples who can have fun with and

without their significant other.

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**2. Provide a change of pace.** You love spending time with each other, but sometimes it may get a little boring with just the two of you. Consider hanging out together with one of your mutual friends to help liven up the dynamic. Just make sure to choose a fun person that you both enjoy hanging out with!

**3. Proof your texts.** Or email or whatever conversation you're about to have with your beau. Sometimes we can be so upset with the person we're dating that we want to immediately call them out on it. However, if you're hesitant to push that send button or have that nagging feeling that you may be overreacting, call a friend first. A friend of mine even has a designated person who she calls or sends her text to first when she's feeling it could be a bit overboard. Talking it out with a friend or even just sending them the text may just be all you need before potentially causing unnecessary havoc in your relationship.

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**4. Someone you can candidly vent to.** Sometimes you just need to vent about whatever is annoying you about your partner and a friend can be that healthy outlet. However, for bigger issues your friend shouldn't be the only one that you're communicating with. You can save the small ones or the minor venting for friends, but don't forget that you should also be able to talk openly with your lover.

**5. Make sure it's a trustworthy and rationale friend that has met your partner.** If your friend knows your significant other, it's easier for that friend to provide objective and more useful advice. Your friend will be able to see both sides and hopefully help you to a clear path of resolution.

**Tell us: How have your friends helped you in the past with**

your relationship? Was it helpful or hurtful?

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# Meeting Her Friends: How to Leave a Positive Impression



By Ty Witherspoon

So, you've started dating someone new and are starting to take things to the next level. One thing that you have to look forward to is meeting the new woman in your life's friends, but if you're not careful, your first meeting could end up being a disaster! Remember, most women put a lot of emphasis on what those they care about think of their new mate, so

you'll want to do your very best to leave a positive and lasting impression. Chances are, if her friends like you, then she'll like you even more, getting things off to a great start.

### **Dress the Part**

Consider where you will be meeting these friends and then be sure to dress appropriately. If you're all going out to a nice dinner, for example, you won't win any points by showing up in ratty jeans and a t-shirt. In fact, this type of outfit isn't really appropriate for any first-time meeting, no matter how casual. Whether you're dressing up or dressing down, make sure you look well-groomed and well put together in general. Splash on a little cologne or aftershave (but not too much!) and remember to flash your pearly whites.

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### **Be Genuine**

When you first meet new people, it's natural to feel the urge to impress them or to prove yourself. After all, these people don't know the first thing about you, but you want to make them like you as quickly as possible. Hold back on the bragging, however, as this can make you seem rather full of yourself, which nobody finds attractive. Instead, simply focus on being genuine, polite, and kind. Express interest in the people you are meeting and ask them questions about their own lives. You can certainly answer any questions that come your way, but remember that the night—and the conversation—shouldn't be all about you.

### **Don't Be a Flirt**

If you want to end up in the doghouse so fast it'll make your head spin, then all you have to do is flirt with your new girl's female friends. While most guys wouldn't be so brazen



as to openly flirt, do watch your interactions with her girlfriends. Don't spend an inordinate amount of time talking with any one woman in particular, and keep tight reins on your eyeballs. Getting caught ogling cleavage is never a wise move!

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### **Be One of the Guys**

When guy friends are going to be around, your first instinct is likely to try and determine the relationship these guys have with your new girl. In some cases, you may just have to accept that she's still friends with her ex or that she has guy friends who have taken on protective big brother or fatherly roles. Remember that it's okay to be a guy and to talk about "guy stuff", but make sure you're not running your mouth off about other girls or getting too personal.

*This article was composed by Ty Witherspoon, a freelancer based in the greater metropolitan area of San Francisco; this piece is dedicated to the team from Kanetix.*

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## **No More Excuses: 10 Ways to Ditch Bad Dating Habits**





by Suzanne Casamento for GalTime.com

How many times have you heard your girlfriends (or maybe even yourself) say, “All the good ones are taken,” or “There aren’t any nice guys in this city”?

Those excuses are ridiculous. The truth is, there are good men everywhere. And we women have opportunities to discover those men while going about our everyday lives. **But first we need to shift our attitudes and strategies. Here’s how:**

**1. Stop listening to that negative inner voice.** You know that voice that says, “You’re never going to meet anyone”? It’s lying. But the thing is, if you believe the awful things she says, other people will too. So when you hear that voice start, shut her down. When she realizes you no longer believe her, she’ll go away.

**2. Stop making excuses.** “I’ll start online dating after I lose 10 pounds.” “I’m too busy at work right now.” “After I get my raise, I’ll have more money to go out.” What’s your excuse? Whatever it is, lose it.

**3. Stop doing the same things and expecting different results.** Have you and your wing girls been hitting the same bar every Friday night for the last three years and wondering why you never meet anyone? You have to change your game in order to win.

**4. Stop waiting.** The man of your dreams isn't going to suddenly appear at your front door. You have to invite him over first. In order to do that, you need to stop waiting and start dating.

**5. Stop staring at your phone.** There are good men everywhere. The key is putting down your cell phone long enough to notice. Imagine all the opportunities you may be missing because you're busy scrolling through pictures of other people's kids on Facebook.

**Once you break all those bad habits, you'll be ready to replace them with good habits, like:**

**1. Replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts.** Compliment yourself. When your hair looks covergirl perfect, look at yourself and say, "Damn, your hair looks good!" And when you see your pilates classes are paying off, tell yourself you love your abs! Sounds silly, but the same theory about believing the bad applies to the good things. So tell yourself how awesome you are and others will believe it too.

**2. Be honest with yourself.** If you were making excuses about why you weren't dating before, do some digging and work out the "why." If you discover you're afraid, that's fine. Then be kind and gentle with yourself and take things slowly.

**3. Be proactive.** Love is one of our most basic needs as humans, so feel free to go get it! Use your tools. Whether you choose online dating, match making, speed dating or going on that blind date your Aunt Martha has been wanting set you up on, just do something to move toward your goal of love.

**4. Learn from your experiences.** As you date, recognize what you like and don't like. Do you like to test the waters with a coffee date before launching into a full dinner date? Are you more comfortable giving someone your number than asking for his? Do you like to communicate via text or by phone? As you discover what works for you, maximize those things!

**5. Have fun!** It's flirting, not a funeral. Enjoy it! Make eye contact. Smile at strangers. Say, "Hi." Introduce yourself to the hot guy at the dog park. Ask the hottie buying cauliflower if he thinks it's worth it to go organic. Get caught looking.

Dare to date.

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## Ways to Remain Confident In Your Long-Term Relationship





By Samantha Menjor

It has been a little over a year since the beginning of your official relationship with your significant other. While things are still going strong, you can't help but to feel that your lives together have become more of a routine than the unsolicited passion you once held for each other. Weekly lunch dates and the occasional Saturday night movie have become the staple of your relationship.

While there's nothing wrong with schedule and structure in your life, the lack of excitement and surprise in a long term relationship can cause a lack of confidence in you, your partner, and your future together. It makes one think that if the spark is gone only a year later, will your bond survive another year or even more, the next levels of a union such as moving in together and marriage? This common issue in the realm of love and relationships is one with several solutions that will not only increase the confidence between you and your beau, but bring the both of you closer and more in love than ever:

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**1. Know your “love languages”** – Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, Words of Affirmation, Physical Touch, and Quality Time. According to NY Times Bestselling author and marriage expert Gary Chapman, these are the five different ways in which people communicate and understand love. Understandably we need a little bit of each category; however there is usually one that speaks to each of us individually. While quality time may be most important to you, your partner may express their love best through words. Once you figure out which language you each relate to you can truly strengthen your long term relationship.

**2. Spend Time Apart** – Many times we forego our hobby interests, and friends to make time for each other in a relationship. With our busy schedules spending time together is often hard. However, it is important to still engage in those activities that made you happy before you met your partner. Whether it's a night out with your friends or going to the gym be sure to take moments for yourself. This will make time spent together much more appreciated.

**3. Don't Settle into a Dating Rut**—Dinner and a movie makes a good first or second date. However after several months of being together it may get a little boring. You are way past the point of getting to know each other so get adventurous with your dates. This is a great chance to experience your partner's pastimes and maybe adapt it as your own. If you both enjoy the outdoors, for example, a nature stroll with a picnic at the end is a good way to switch it up. When you get creative with your dates you'll never have to worry about a lack of excitement in your relationship.

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If you think your long term relationship has come to a standstill, take these suggestions into consideration. These are just three out of several ways to revive and better your bond for years to come. It's important to realize that because

you and your partner have been dating long term everyday will not be as thrilling and passionate as the first stages of your relationship. Increasing the confidence in your long term relationship is vital them to success and happiness of you both for the future.

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## Girls: Would You Pass The Bride-To-Be Test?



By Girls Meet Guys

We've all been there before, as a dutiful bridesmaid, friend or even as the bride herself. How well do you know your

partner and what things should you know?

I've been to more than one hen's night before as each of the above – friend, bridesmaid and bride. Invariably, at some point the bride takes part in a game in which she is asked ten to twenty questions about her husband-to-be, just to see how well she really knows him or perhaps, doesn't know him. Whether you've answered the questions yourself or been an onlooker chances are you've uttered the words, 'I wouldn't know that about him'. Of course, you could be forgiven for not knowing the name of his third grade teacher, but some things you really should know.

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### **His Forte**

We all have something we do really well, so do you know what your partner's special skill is? Maybe he has the MacGyver factor and can get out of any situation with a paper clip. Maybe he's so handy he could have his own home improvement show. It doesn't have to be a news-worthy skill though; it could be as simple as his ability to give the best foot massage known to man. Big or small there will be something, so if you don't know what your man's skill is you might want to ask. It could even surprise you and you get the chance to lavish him with praise and score some brownie points along the way.

### **The Secret**

He doesn't have one? Wrong! He has one. It could be funny, tragic, criminal, heart breaking or embarrassing, but he will have one. He may not care that you know but just didn't think to mention it or he may really prefer that you didn't know. You may say, 'Wow! I didn't know that about you.' You may also be completely shocked. How you move forward depends on what exactly he reveals and how strong your relationship is.



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### **Idiosyncrasy, Quirk Or Annoying Habit**

He's a noisy eater. He grinds his teeth in his sleep. He will only use white towels. He taps his foot when he's anxious. Chances are you won't notice these things in the honeymoon stage but as time rolls on you will. None of us are perfect and we all have things we'll find odd, amusing or down right annoying about our partner. Relationships are all about understanding and tolerance, so without a good dose of each, your relationship may feel the strain.

### **Dreamtime**

What were his childhood dreams and aspirations? Whether they were real or fantasies of grandeur they are a window into the heart of your partner. The innocence of youth becomes dulled by the layers of time and to peel these back is to reveal a greater appreciation of who your partner is.

### **Is He A Giver Or A Taker?**

It's easy to be kind to the ones we love, but how would he score if a perfect stranger were involved? Would he give to a beggar on the street, offer an elderly person his seat on the train, or stand up to a bully? We all like to think we would pass if tested and likewise with our significant other. So how would your man stack up?

You may know all these things about your other half and pass the bride-to-be test with flying colours but if you've never considered these things maybe it's time to ask.

*Girls Meet Guys is a free dating site for Australian singles who know how to have fun! Girls Meet Guys provides genuine free dating sites Australia reviews for serious singles.*

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# Are You Making Requests or Demands in Your Relationship?



by Jane Greer, PhD for GalTime.com

Prince William canceled an important appearance to stay home with his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, while she dealt with a second round of severe morning sickness. Many times you want your partner to support you, but work or personal needs take priority. So what was different in this situation, and how can you communicate your needs to your partner? Sometimes, it is all in how you ask.

You know what it's like to have something demanded of you,

right? From the time we were little kids and we were told to wash our hands and look people in the eyes, to our romantic relationships when we're told to get the dry cleaning or to make that dinner reservation, we know it doesn't feel very good. If anything, it puts you on the defensive and makes you not want to do something. So imagine how your partner feels when you tell them to clean the house or take the dog for a walk. Who wants to do something nice for someone when they are forced to do it?

In my book *What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship*, I talk about this as being one of the important rules of engagement.

### **Learn how to make a request rather than a demand.**

To put it simply, ask nicely. This will tell your partner that you respect them, and will give them the opportunity to make a choice. When you make a demand of your partner, they often feel manipulated and controlled by you because they feel they have to do what you are telling them to do. So rather than being cooperative, they'll be resentful. When you make a request, however, it gives your partner the freedom to make their own decision about the task at hand and lead them to, hopefully, decide to follow through because they want to please you. It gives your partner the chance to take ownership of whatever it is you are asking of them.

In the end, it allows you to have a conversation about what you want to get done, and offers the opportunity to have a give and take. It also lets you move away from a parent-child dynamic and into an equal partnership, which is where every healthy and happy relationship should be.

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# How Celebrity Moms Keep an Active Dating Life



By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Dating as a single mom is never easy, especially if you're trying to balance a busy career with raising your children. Even for celebrities, who have luxuries that not all single moms can afford, it's still a tricky thing to manage. The famous faces below have figured out a few ways to find love while still playing the most important role of their lives:

**1. Make It a Family Affair:** Before she got hitched, Reese Witherspoon was often seen with Jim Toth and her kids from her marriage to Ryan Phillippe. Rather than try to make time for romance *and* family, she simply included Ava and Deacon on her

dates. The newlyweds even took her children on their honeymoon to Belize!

Michelle Williams has taken a similar approach in her relationship with Jason Segel. The couple is constantly seen with Matilda, Williams' daughter with Heath Ledger, and they even split their time on both coasts based on the little girl's school schedule.

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**2. Date a Blast From Your Past:** Sometimes, it's easier to date a guy from your past instead of searching for someone new. Denise Richards, mom to three girls, took this route, dating Heather Locklear's ex Richie Sambora. While it may have ruined her friendship with Locklear, she is still in an on-and-off relationship with the rocker.

Perhaps taking a cue from her former friend, Locklear, who has a daughter with Sambora, dated Jack Wagner, her costar from *Melrose Place*, for over four years before ending their engagement.

**3. Meet Your Match on Reality TV:** Emily Maynard, single mom to daughter Ricki Hendrick, has tried not once but *twice* to find love on reality television. First, she won the heart of *Bachelor* Brad Womack, only to end their engagement a few months later.

Rather than give up, Maynard tried again, becoming the most recent *Bachelorette*. She accepted Jef Holm's proposal, but they too broke up less than three months after the show ended. Despite this double dose of heartbreak, she has no regrets because she says she did fall in love with both men.

**Related:** [5 Bachelor and Bachelorette Couples We Can Learn From](#)

**4. Stay In Your Inner Circle:** Dating someone who your kids already know eliminates the need for awkward introductions and

potential tension. Heidi Klum, who split from Seal after almost seven years of marriage, is now in a relationship with her bodyguard, Martin Kirsten. Luckily, her four children are already comfortable with him and are used to him being around.

Similarly, Courteney Cox has been rumored to be dating her *Cougartown* costar, Josh Hopkins. Coco, her daughter with David Arquette, knows Hopkins from her time spent on set, making the transition easier for her mom.

**5. Depend On Your Ex:** Staying on friendly terms with your ex can help your dating life as well. Jennie Garth, who recently split from her husband of 11 years, Peter Facinelli, has already been spotted with three different men. Thanks to her co-parenting routine with Facinelli, she has time to date while her three daughters hang out with their dad.

Likewise, Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz split time with their four-year-old son, Bronx. They both are frequently seen out and about with their significant others and even reunited recently to celebrate their little boy's birthday.

**What's the best dating lesson you learned from celebrity moms? Tell us in the comments below!**

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## **Jessica Alba: My Husband & I Are "Kindred Spirits"**





By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Mom-of-two Jessica Alba, 31, covers the February issue of [InStyle](#) and opens up about life with husband **Cash Warren** and their two daughters **Honor**, 4½, and **Haven**, 16 months.

**On her connection with Cash:** “I just knew when I met him that I was going to know him forever. It was weird; he instantly felt like family. I’d never felt like that with anyone. We got each other. We’re kindred spirits. On a weekend Cash might say, ‘Go get your nails done with a girlfriend. Haven is down for a nap and Honor and I will play. I know you work hard. You deserve some time for yourself.’ That, to me, is romantic. He’s saying, ‘You matter,’ and that I’m more than just the mother of the kids or the wife who goes out to events with him.”

**On celebrating their ancestry:** “When Cash and I moved into our family house, we collected hundreds of pictures of our aunties, great aunties, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, and sisters and brothers. Then we mounted them in the foyer of our home, covering the wall from top to bottom. Our daughters

are continually reminded of where they come from.”

**On multitasking:** “Sometimes I can take multitasking to a level of insanity. Then all of a sudden the bath is too high and I’ve forgotten to give my daughter the thing she needs for school.”

**On being a perfectionist:** “Before I had kids, I was very responsible and serious. I used to be all about controlling my environment; Everything had to be just so. Now my idea of perfection is different. You can label bins and have a place for stuff, but when the kids go into the playroom, you’re not going to say, ‘We can’t paint because how are we going to clean it up?’”

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## Falling Out of Love and Back into Life







By Kimberly James

With the recent announcement of Bethenny Frankel and Jason Hoppy's marriage coming to an end, "soon-to-be divorced" becomes their current relationship status. This transition period of deciding to no longer be together to a finalized divorce can be a lengthy and emotional time period. Similar to the limbo period between heaven and hell, the waiting for closure can create a place of purgatory for even the strongest of people.

It would be very easy to spend this time in mourning for the death of a relationship. Although this is a normal and healthy process to acknowledge the ending, it's also a time to recognize a new beginning. This time can be used for self-improvement and re-evaluation. Although painful and unexpected, Jennie Garth used the transition time before her divorce to Peter Facinelli finalized to focus on her children, new work projects and on improving her health and fitness. Finding healthy outlets to transfer emotions to is not only beneficial to healing, it's a way to reconnect with life.

While falling out of love, there are various ways to start the

process of falling back into life:

**Related:** [Top 5 Reasons Why Women Fall Out of Love](#)

1) **Connect.** Spend time with friends and family members who will support you and the decision that is being made. Being around others who have your best interest at heart can help you draw love and support from them. They can pick you up when you are feeling down.

2) **Involve.** Get involved with other parts of your life that you may have been neglecting. Become more active in your children's activities, do an early spring cleaning on your house or pick up a new hobby. Becoming active in the things that bring you joy will bring more happiness into your life.

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

3) **Exercise.** It can be as simple as a daily 3 mile walk or as challenging as preparing for an upcoming marathon. Exercise is a stress reducer and naturally increases endorphins, the feel good brain chemical associated with happiness. Get your body moving and you will be start feeling better, one step at a time.

4) **Plan.** Envision and begin to design how you want your life to look a year from now. Create a vision board or start a journal. Plot out how you want your life to be and move in the direction of making those new dreams come true.

The end of a relationship is also the start of a new beginning. By embracing the "what could be" with positivity and grace, you are allowing yourself a gentle compassion and kindness needed as you go from one stage of your life to the next.

*Kimberly James is the Founder and a MatchMaster for FindYourPlusOne.com, an online dating and matchmaking service for members in the United States and Canada.*

Visit [www.findyourplusone.com/advice](http://www.findyourplusone.com/advice) for more dating advice and tips. Follow [twitter.com/findyourplusone](https://twitter.com/findyourplusone) for daily updates.

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## Why Are Women Addicted to Twilight?



by Dr. Niloo Dardashti for GalTime.com

NYC Psychologist Deconstructs the Allure of the Twilight Series

About ten years ago, Stephanie Meyer had a dream which inspired her to write one of the most esteemed series ever created. One could say that Meyer tapped into a collective

unconscious of the female psyche, appealing to both adolescent girls and their grandmothers alike. *Twilight* is now over a \$6 billion franchise. But what draws so many women to vampires and werewolves that make them borderline obsessed with it?

Now, The Twilight Saga is nearly a \$6 billion franchise. Sales of the series' books have eclipsed those of Harry Potter, and its newest installment has already grossed nearly \$600 million. But what is the Twilight allure really about? What draws so many women to report being "addicted" to the saga and appear to be borderline obsessed with it?

As a couples therapist and psychologist who is fascinated with pop culture phenomena and the underlying aspects involved in peoples' preoccupations, I created a documentary on this issue. Through a series of interviews with women and experts in the field of sex therapy and consciousness, and using Twilight as a vehicle for exploration, I ask classic questions that come up surrounding male-female dynamics: *What do women want? What do men want? What makes relationships work? How can we keep connection and passion alive in a relationship?*

Here is what I found out.

## **Women want connection and challenge**

Twilight appears to tap into a universal longing for a partner with whom one shares a deep, distinct connection. Through speaking to many women (both in session and for the documentary), it seemed that a major aspect that women yearn for in men is that he be accepting and attuned, while maintaining a sense of unpredictability and gently challenging her.

## **Women long for the first-love feeling**

While reading or watching Twilight, many women reported that they experienced memories of first loves and a longing for the intensity of feelings associated with a first love experience.

## **Foreplay still counts**

There was also a consistent draw to the sexual tension between Edward and Bella and many women expressed their paradoxical feelings of appreciation for women's sexual liberation while still nostalgic about a time when couples did not rush into sex, (thus lengthening the tension if you will). And we all know that by tension, we are also referring to most women's favorite part of sex: foreplay.

## **We see ourselves in others**

At the heart of the appeal of *Twilight*, we find that it triggers a fundamental longing to feel accepted and mirrored by an "other" and, in my opinion, a desire to accept oneself.

While the flourishing of a relationship takes consistent attention, effort, self-awareness, and an open heart, the issues that arise for many couples are timeless and often inevitable. *Into the Twilight Haze* attempts to deconstruct and explore several of these matters to help viewers discover different perspectives, offering concrete suggestions to men and women alike.

**Is any of this true for you? Why are you addicted to the series?**

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# **Celebrity Relationships in Need of a New Year's Resolution**



By Courtney Allen

The New Year is here, and even the biggest celebs in Hollywood know what that means: it's time to pull out the glorious pen and paper. There is no better time like the present than to leave the daunting past behind in the tabloids, whether it is love drama with exes, juicy scandals or shocking infidelity. 2012 may have proved to be rocky for these celebrity couples, but the upcoming year just may be looking up if they write their New Year's Resolution list with these things in mind:

**Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson:** These two *Twilight* stars had us watching in amazement as their seemingly perfect relationship flourished both on-screen and off. It wasn't until this summer that their 'fairytale' took a turn for the worst. Stewart became the center of a cheating scandal between her married *Snow White and the Huntsman* director Rupert Sanders. Stewart caused jaw drops amongst her *Twilight* fans and co-

stars as news of the flaming affair became public. Speculation over whether Stewart and Pattinson would stay together swirled for months. The answer to the question we were all once dying to know? Yes. The couple is together today. But one piece of advice for their partially tainted relationship: keeping Kristen's deceit in the past in order for it to successfully recover in the new year.

**Related:** [Is Your Past Interfering with the Present?](#)

**Rihanna and Chris Brown:** Chris Brown and Rihanna have quite the troubled past. The two world-famous singers started dating back in 2008. Between Rihanna's stunning face and body and Chris Brown's undeniably handsome facial features and lullaby-like voice, they instantly became one of the hottest, power couples in Hollywood. But in February of 2009, tragedy struck for the lovebirds. Brown was arrested for allegedly assaulting the "Disturbia" singer after a pre-Grammy bash. The two obviously went their separate ways as Rihanna filed a restraining order against Brown which was later dropped in 2011. Shortly after, rumors began to fly about the two rekindling their flame with the release of Rihanna's "Birthday Cake Remix" featuring the R&B singer. Looking back, the rumor seemed nothing less than the truth. Brown recently dumped ex-girlfriend Karrueche Tran and now appears to be dating Rihanna based off pictures on her Instagram. Let's just hope these two have a healthier relationship this time around. If they commit to this New Year's Resolution, nothing can stop them.

**Halle Berry and Oliver Martinez:** Halle Berry and fiancé Oliver Martinez seem to be doing just fine besides one small problem: her ex. Model Gabriel Aubry is causing trouble in paradise for the couple. Berry and Aubry are right in the middle of custody battle over their four-year old daughter Nahla after splitting up back in 2010. Things got pretty heated over Thanksgiving when Aubry got into a physical altercation during a custodial hand-off with the bombshell's current boyfriend, French actor Gabriel Martinez. Aubry seems to be creating quite the mess

for Berry and her new relationship. The cause of the fight is unknown, but pleasant words are definitely out of the question. Sounds like the three need to somehow find a way to kiss and make up for the New Year and for the future. With Nahla in the picture, Aubry isn't going anywhere.

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

**Rupert Sanders and Liberty Ross:** The couple on the other side of Kristen Stewart's cheating scandal has been through trying times since the infidelity went public last summer. Turns out *Snow White and the Huntsman* director Rupert Sanders was not only in a relationship, but was married to English model Liberty Ross. The couple was not seen together for several weeks following the scandal, leaving us to wonder if Sanders' position as director in the *Snow White and the Huntsman* sequel was the only thing he had lost. Luckily for Sanders, Ross seems to be giving him another chance after his slip-up with 22-year old Stewart. Sanders will now be walking on thin ice with his wife as he enters into 2013. All the New Year's resolving between them should come mostly from his end: proving that he can be trusted again; and of course for Liberty, giving him the fair chance.

**What are some of your New Year's Resolutions for your relationship? Share your ideas with us!**

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## **How to Fall in Love With Yourself in 2013**





by Marina Sbrochi for GalTime.com

## **10 Love Resolutions to Make to Yourself**

Here we are at the beginning and end of a year, all in one. That means it is time to set some resolutions. Maybe you're thinking, "Oh, no! Not me! I don't do resolutions." Not to worry. We're not talking about anything that has to do with a weight scale or bank account or de-cluttering that junk drawer in the kitchen. This is the year you can really focus on yourself and build great habits to take good care of you every single day.

Here's how to get started:

**1. Love Thyself and Count the Ways** – You rock, you know you do. Take a piece of paper and write down 10 great things about you. Now tape it to your bathroom mirror and every morning when you wake up you read them as you brush your teeth. It

sounds hokey, but it really does feel good way to shower yourself with compliments and acknowledge all the good stuff you've done rather than look in the mirror with criticism.

**2. Bubble Bath Sundays** – Why the heck not? You've got a tub. Get yourself some bubbles and a candle and have a date with some hot water. Wash away the week and get ready for another. When the time is right, you can invite your special someone to join you.

**3. Honor Your Breath** – Take a brief moment each night before you fall asleep and take a long deep breath. Say thank you for the breath you breathe.

**4. Take a Chance** – Make this the year you will take the chances you get to be more YOU. Always wanted to go rock climbing? Go ahead and say hello to that cute guy standing in line in front of you at the coffee shop. Feel ready to look for a new job? Go out on that blind date. Sign up for an online dating site. Try out the hot pink lipstick. See how well you can rock a sheer shirt. Reconnect with a grammar-school friend on Facebook. Write a poem. Say out loud what you'd like to make happen in 2013. You never know what can happen when you take a chance!

**5. Be More Kind** – Look for opportunities to show little acts of kindness here and there. Go ahead and let that car get in front of you. Open the door for someone. Write a love letter or thank-you note. Call your mother. Hold the elevator even though you are in a hurry. Take notice and be kind.

**6. Here's to Your Health** – You want to live to make many more New Years Resolutions, right? You have to be healthy. Make small changes. Cut the soda. Eat more fruits and veggies. Walk instead of drive. Quit smoking. Join a gym. You have to treat your body right to really love it.

**7. Watch "The Notebook"** – It's the loviest love story and Ryan Gosling is smoking hot in it too. Remind yourself of what

type of love you want in your life.

**8. Design Your Love Potion** – Go ahead and love something yummy. Plan your signature love cocktail for 2013. Something special will happen every time you drink it, you will meet someone fabulous. (May I suggest Three Olives brand Bubble Vodka with soda and a splash of pink lemonade?)

**9. Never Say Never** – This is no Debbie Downer year. This is the year of YES. The old you maybe NEVER used to dance. But the new you – dances.

**10. Let it Go** – This year you aren't going to be hyper focused on finding someone. You are just going to be you and do things for yourself. Take ownership of you and do everything you have ever wanted to do. In time, that right person will come to you.

**11. Say "I Love You" More Often** – Life is short. This is a lesson we have learned too many times this year. Say I love you to your family, your friends and anyone that means something to you. Say it often.

**12. Find Your Signature Scent** – Sniff around until you find something that works with you. Something subtle, but noticeable. Something that not every else wears. Buy the body cream too. Wear it every time you go out. People will learn to know you by your scent.

**How will you be good to you this coming year?**

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## **5 Signs He's Not Ready to**

# Commit



By Susan Trombetti, Matchmaker and Relationship Expert

It's the New Year and the emails are flying, with women trying to decide if he's a keeper for 2013, or if they should cut their losses and kick him to the curb and start fresh this year. Many single women were hoping and praying for that all important sparkle on their left finger. What to do if you didn't get it? Heaven forbid, should you wait until Valentine's Day. How long to hang on desperately waiting? I think you know the answer yourself. You don't need to reduce yourself to that point of an awkward conversation and beg, "Will you please finally marry me ALREADY?" Check out these five signs he isn't ready to commit, which tell you all you need to know about the status of your relationship:

**1. There are long periods of unaccounted for time, physically and emotionally:** If it's been a few days since you've heard from him or spent time with him, then throw up the red flags. In a healthy and committed relationship your man won't go off the radar from you, whether it's not answering calls, not making plans or not spending time together in the bedroom.

**2. He's breaking promises(big or small):** From a call he didn't make to your nephew's soccer game that he missed, any sort of promised action he breaks is a sign he's not as committed as you thought.

**3. He lives by himself and you can't drop by when you want:** You should be able to stop by his house at random, when he's home. Don't accept excuses.

**Related:** [How to Kick That Bad Relationship to the Curb](#)

**4. He still puts his mom first in every case:** If you're his girlfriend, his mother shouldn't win every argument that you have. You should be the Number 1 woman in his life, not his mother.

**5. His dad is a marriage-a-holic (married more than twice):** If his Dad, or another strong male influence in his life, has been married more than two times, this could affect your chances of getting married. Many times these son's are often hesitant to get married for the first time because

Get your confidence back this year. Don't spend another minute with the wrong guy if he displays any of these behaviors because he isn't ready to commit. Good luck in 2013. The signs are right in front of you. No need to feel so powerless.

*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. She was also recently*

*featured in a Cosmopolitan Article, about the 5 Text Messages Not to Answer.*

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# Mario Lopez Wants “At Least 4 More” Children



By Jenny Schafer for Celebrity Baby Scoop

Newlyweds Mario Lopez and **Courtney Mazza** teamed up with NIVEA for its “Kiss of the Year” contest on Facebook in search for America’s greatest love story. The winning couple rang in the new year with Mario and Courtney – parents to 2-year-old daughter **Gia** – in New York City’s Times Square.

The *Extra* hunk opens up to Celebrity Baby Scoop about his favorite family recipe at the holidays and his hopes for “at least 4 more” children.

**CBS: Did you practice your kiss for your recent nuptials?**

ML: “No, we’ve had plenty of practice.”

**CBS: Are you hoping to have a big family? How many children are you planning on? Do you want a mix of boys and girls?**

ML: “Yes, at least 4 more. Either boys or girls would be great.”

**CBS: Happy Holidays! Do you have a favorite family recipes you can share with us?**

ML: “My nana’s tamales...they’re a secret family recipe though.”

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## Ring In The New Year With A New Relationship





By Jennifer Ross

The New Year is always that time to let go of the old and stagnate parts of your life to make room for the new and exciting ones. With all the spine-tingling sensations coming your way, now is a good time for you to start a new relationship. This does not mean that you dump your current relationship to find a new one. Rather, view this as making a new start with your current partner. To create a memorable 2013, filled with an invigorating romance to last well beyond the year, here are five steps to lead you to a “new” relationship:

**1. Your mindset:** The number one step to starting a new relationship with your current love is to mentally vow to have a new relationship with your current love. Sound too simple? It actually is that easy. You don't need to know all the answers on January 1. Instead know this. Your relationship is on a new journey, with you and your partner as co-pilots. Once your new relationship takes off, there is no going back! Feel yourselves veering off course? That doesn't matter; just nudge your relationship slowly back on track. And remember, as long



as you and your mate are still heading towards the direction of love, you are always making progress to your final destination.

**Related:** [Shrink Wrap: Has Your Relationship Hit a Speed Bump?](#)

**2. A new language:** With a new relationship comes new vocabulary or rather a new way to speak to each other. Think of this as your relationship's very own language of love, fluently spoken by only you and your partner. Instead of saying "I" or "you," use the word "we." Instead of saying "problem," use the word "challenge." Instead of saying "but," use the word "and." Instead of saying "can't," use the word "can." Finally, instead of saying "why," use the word "how." An example of the old language is, "You have a problem but I can't fix it. Why can't you fix it?" Your new language is, "We have a challenge and we can fix it. How can we fix it?" The difference is to focus on a solution and not the problem. With a little practice, it will come natural.

**3. Remember what year it is:** If you are holding on to issues from 2012, it is time to let go. That doesn't necessarily mean you act as if the issues never happened. Can anyone do that? Instead, have those conversations with your partner, talking about how each of you feel. The best way is to listen to your mate without interrupting. Don't keep a tally, while he/she is speaking, of what you think he/she has done wrong. Honestly try to understand only from their perspective before reacting. Remember, you love each other. No one is deliberately hurting the other. Often the case is, both of you are reacting to preconceptions of intentional pain.

**Related:** [Does Your Past Interfere with Your Present?](#)

**4. Be Open:** In the late 1800's, inventor Thomas Edison, and his team, experimented with thousands of different filaments in order to get the right material to make a long-lasting light bulb. What does this have to do with your relationship?

Throughout 2013, you and your partner will also experiment with thousands of different ways to make a long-lasting relationship. Just like Edison, be open to other interpretations or ideas. More importantly, ask for help or advice when needed. Edison didn't succeed alone and neither will you.

**5. Control only what you can:** Realize that just like last year, there will be situations to create setbacks in 2013, times where you will feel personally hurt or your relationship threatened. That doesn't have to halt all progress. Make the decision to continue forward. Just because someone or something has attempted to hurt you does not mean you are required to react negatively. You cannot control what happens but you can control how you react. Once you master this, you will see that the negative issue is only 10% of the situation and how you react is 90%.

**How do you plan to re-new your relationship in 2013? Share your ideas with us below.**

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## Forever is Overrated





by Terri Trespicio for GalTime.com

### **...unless you're a vampire**

In the final scene of *Breaking Dawn, Part II* (trust me, this is hardly a spoiler), our immortal lovers make out in a field of daisies, promising they will love each other forever. As the scene fades to black, the word "forever" burns across the screen.

After watching *Breaking Dawn* one night, it occurred to me why we love these two wan-looking lovers: They are never ever breaking up. Ever.

And it occurred to me shortly thereafter, in the bathroom at Davio's, staring over my knees at the polished marble floors, that this is why we love these two wan-looking lovers: They are *never ever* breaking up. Ever.

Of course, that's pretty easy for them to do, right? They don't have to work, sleep, eat, or pay bills. All they have to do is raise their daughter for a few weeks until she's full grown, hunt the occasional mountain lion, and have crazy hot

vampire sex in a cottage designed by Thomas Kinkade.

Imagine that: A true love that could last for centuries, untested by pestilence or famine, financial woes or demanding careers, age or exhaustion. For many, that would be ideal. For others, a kind of hell.

## **True Love is Forever, Right?**

The idea, brought to you again courtesy of Hollywood, is that true love is impervious to boredom or strife—and that it never, ever ends. And while the Twilight series is hardly a dictate for modern mortals, it promotes this idea that anything worthwhile lasts, period. And anything that doesn't is a failure, or makes you a failure. Prioritizing the 'forever' over the 'now' is one of the reasons why you stick with and struggle in a relationship that isn't working, for instance. It's choosing a fairy tale future over what's right in front of you and plain as day.

OK. So, let's look at another, and arguably far superior film, sure to sweep the Oscars this year: *The Sessions*, starring Helen Hunt and John Hawkes, which tells the poignant story of real-life poet and writer Mark O'Brien who was confined to an iron lung after contracting polio as a child.

At 38 years old, O'Brien knew what he wanted: to experience physical love—now, before it was too late. And he does. Sex surrogate Cheryl Cohen Greene exposes him to intimacy for the first time, and changes his life. He goes on to have a romance with a woman named Susan that lasts until he dies at 49.

He was not focused on whom he'd be with 30 years from now; it didn't matter. He wanted to love *now*, and he took brave measures to give himself that opportunity. Are you?

## **Get Out of Your Iron Lung**

We're not that different from Mark O'Brien, you and me. We're weak, scared, desperate to love and be loved. We may not need apparatus to survive, but we live in an iron lung of our own making, a machine that runs on conjured ideas about how life and love should be. We hide inside its protective armor, rather than venturing, vulnerable and breathless, into the world like he did. Maybe you're paralyzed, too—by your own fears about love and intimacy, and think if you only “knew” for sure something would last, you might have the strength and fortitude to pursue it.

True strength lies in an awareness and acceptance of our vulnerability, not the lack of it—and that means doing what feels right to us, regardless of what the future holds.

## **Rethink 'Relationship'**

If the *only* successful relationship is one in which they pry you from your dead partner's corpse, you are limiting your potential to love and be loved. Because sometimes things end—and that doesn't mean the relationship didn't serve a rich and vital purpose.

I don't take commitments, especially marriage, lightly. But if you only make decisions based on some image you have of yourself 50 years from now, you're not acting in real time. And it's hurting you. And you know it.

One woman told me her ex-husband was the perfect person for her to marry when she did—and the perfect person to divorce. They have children they adore, and no regrets. Wouldn't it be great if marriages lasted forever and people stayed happy? Sure. Does it always happen? Nope. Does life go on and do people play vitally important roles at different points in our life? You bet.

How many times have you gone out with someone or found

yourself interested and then wrote it off because you're sure it wouldn't last? Or, the opposite: Started every new relationship thinking that THIS would be IT—and it would surely carry you the very end...and when it didn't, thought you made a mistake?

Love makes us feel immortal and so we think we should be impervious to everything. But we're not. And we need to get over this idea that forever is the only thing that matters. All you can do is the give to and nurture the relationships you have as long as you have them. Forget forever. For now.

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## Tips for Making a Long Distance Relationship Work





By TJ Barea

Long distance relationships can be successful. Just because there is distance between you physically does not mean the relationship should suffer. There are a number of things you can do to help bridge the gap from your heart to your partner's:

### **Skype**

Skype is cam-based chat software that can be downloaded. Skype is better than messaging, texting or online chatting. It has a real-time cam that enables the participants of the chat to not only exchange messages, but see each other as if they were face-to-face. Skype can help bridge the gap by enable partners to see each other and talk at the same time. It can be the next best thing to meeting in person.

**Related:** [How Can Social Media Help My Long Distance Relationship?](#)

### **Texts**

Texts are a quick little message that can be sent all hours of the day. The nice thing about texting is if the other person is tied up, they do not have to answer it, like a phone call or Skype call that has to be answered right then. The downsides to texting are it can take a while for the other person to respond if they are busy and the fact that you can't always read emotions in texts.

## **Phone Calls**

A simple phone call can brighten anyone's day. Thanks to cell phones a call can be placed and received anywhere. When you're having a rough day, or just want to share a moment with your partner, a phone call is the perfect way to connect the gap caused by the miles apart. With a phone call, you will not get the misunderstandings and lack of emotions that texts can have. The sound of your partner's voice on the line is sure to bring a smile to your day.

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

## **Letters**

As old fashioned as it may seem with today's technology, letters are a great way to communicate and keep a long distance relation healthy. Remember back to when you were a kid, running to the mailbox just to see if you had mail. Even though we are all grown up, doesn't mean we don't still like receiving letters. In addition to the excitement of finding a letter in the mail, there is a certain freedom that comes from writing. Some people are able to communicate better once they can think about what they want to say and have a chance to put it on paper. Face-to-face or voice-to-voice calls can prove to be limiting for fear of rejection. Writing a letter gives you a chance to say your heart's deepest thoughts and wishes without rejection as it is being written.

## **Deliveries**



Much like the excitement of getting a letter, your partner will enjoy receiving deliveries. The deliveries can be anything from a gift, care package, chocolates or flowers. Some places will even deliver special dinners, too. A delivery, especially surprise ones, is a great way of saying you were thinking of your partner.

### **Alternating Trips**

Make plans to see each other. Since travel can be expensive, try suggesting alternating who travels each time. One month or every few months you travel and the next time, your partner can travel. Depending on distance, you can set up the timeframe and frequency of the trips. You could even meet in the middle someplace romantic to split the cost of traveling.

Long distance relationships can work. They just take a little bit of work to ensure communication lines stay open. Also, your partner needs to know you were thinking of them, since you do not see each other daily.

*This article was composed by TJ Barea for the team at badoo.*

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## **The Art of Making Up**





by Straight Male Friend Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

As a man I can personally attest to men's particular brand of cluelessness. The countless missed signals contributing to ineffectual attempts at communication by the Adam gender has caused many Eve's heads to explode. Sure, a gargantuan chunk of couples' misunderstandings could be avoided with ease if women would...oh, I dunno...maybe be more direct. Instead of expecting guys to "just know", perhaps being a teensy-weensy more literal would be helpful.

Every man would agree with me.

See, guys will happily admit that they do not understand women. Conversely, women tend to believe that they've got men all figured out. Which leads to...*wait for it*...more arguments! Disagreements are bound to occur. If you and your partner don't have the occasional flare up, one of you is being lied to. But that's another argument for another day. I'm more concerned with what occurs *after* the fighting is over.

Once you stop throwing the verbal grenades, how do you get back on track? The art of making up is truly an art and like

anything else, it requires commitment and work to achieve maximum efficacy. Unfortunately, getting into the fight is easier than making up. So here are a few things to consider next time you've exhausted yourself in conflict with your guy.

**Resolution** – It's cliché, but sometimes you accept that the other person IS another person – and you simply agree to disagree. I mean, the greatest thing in the world is the moment where the two of you get it figured out. When the light bulb comes on and you both actually *hear* what message you're each attempting to send to the other. It's vital to do this – *when it can be done*. But sometimes people simply have divergent perspectives on a particular issue, even *after* they've heard one another. But recognize that a *disagreement* with you is not generally a *judgment* of you or an indictment of your relationship. You're simply different. And that's okay.

**Let It Be Over** – Nothing is worse than feeling like your conflict has reached its zenith, only to have it re-ignited by a careless comment or an insensitive assertion. Don't keep trying to "win" because ultimately no one will. By accepting that the disagreement is not a competition, but a desire to be heard, understood, and respected you will ensure that the door to reconciliation is wide open.

**Reconnect** – It's vital to reconnect, I believe, as soon as possible. Some people need "space" after conflict; some need immediate, overt acknowledgement that the fighting is over. That could be in the form of an apology, a hug, or both. But something that clearly says, "I'm done arguing – and I love you." There are those who can simply separate from the heated disagreement and proceed on with ease. Then there are those who need a deeply intimate experience (make up sex) to feel that reconnection. Whatever method works best for you and your partner, figure it out and act on it as soon as appropriate because the more time that passes between the end of the fight, the more difficult this part of making up will be.

How about you? What tips can you share that have made making up easier in your life?

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# Celebrity Couples Who Have Turned Over a New Leaf



By Courtney Allen

Hollywood just may be the one place where the phrase “love is a battlefield” is an understatement. The land of fortune and fame is the forefront for some of the most scandalous relationships and splits we’ve ever witnessed.

But finding love is not the problem for these celebs; it’s

keeping it. For many, passionate romances and 'I do's' end as suddenly and tragically as their last. But luckily, every love story has a different ending... and some endings turn into new beginnings. These four celebrity couples came armed the second time around on the battlefield of love and came out on top:

**1. Kourtney Kardashian and Scott Disick:** Kourt and Scott's relationship has been public since the debut of *Keeping up with the Kardashians* in 2007. Their relationship proved to be the most entertaining in the E! hit reality show thanks to Kourtney's headstrong, sarcastic personality and Scott's wacky, drunken behavior. The couple was known for their rocky relationship, the majority of the blame being placed on Scott's infidelity and immature lifestyle. Kourt pulled the plug on Scott multiple times during their relationship as well as her pregnancy with their first child, Mason. By this point, we all thought Scott had crashed and burned for the last time. Scott finally straightened up his act after Kourtney banned him from seeing Mason. And now seven seasons later, the two are going stronger than ever with the recent birth of their second child, Penelope. If this couple can bounce back, there's hope for us all.

**Related:** [Celebrity Couples Who Made Love Last](#)

**2. Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth:** The relationship between Miley and Liam is nothing but a match made in heaven. The grown-up Hannah Montana star met the blue-eyed Aussie in 2009 while filming *The Last Song*, where they played the roles of young adults who fell in love over summer break. As it so happens, their love story transferred off the big-screen into real life... taking both the good and bad. In the movie, the couple actually breaks up, much like they way they did in 2010. The exact reason may not be known, but the two just couldn't stay away from eachother. Cyrus and Hemsworth gave it another try in 2011. The actor popped the question to the singer earlier this year and have been engaged for nearly six

months. If there was ever a sequel to “The Last Song,” this would be it!

**3. Sammi Giancola and Ronnie Magro:** If you’ve ever seen *Jersey Shore*, you know all about Sweetheart Sammi and Ronnie the Guido. The only thing their relationship was known for was extreme inconsistency and drama. Ronnie’s unfaithfulness led us to believe their relationship was practically doomed. Sammi and Ronnie’s relationship was without doubt unhealthy, opening doors to verbal and what appeared close to physical abuse. After breaking up countless times throughout multiple seasons, we all anticipated when their rocky romance would end for good. We now know the answer to that: apparently never. The couple is still together today. The good news is that they seem to actually be in a functioning relationship these days. Their love has proved strong enough to overcome their seemingly irreparable past.

**Related:** [Celebrity Couples Who Are Better Off Apart](#)

**4. Audrina Patridge and Corey Bohan:** Audrina Patridge is known for her role on *The Hills* but her relationship with BMX biker Corey Bohan was displayed on her VHL reality show *Audrina*. Her Aussie beau was prince charming until the show revealed one of his less favorable qualities: possessiveness. Throughout the season, Audrina struggled with her controlling boyfriend who proved to also have a bit of a temper. By the end of the season, Patridge dumped Bohan with the support of her mom. But little did we know that the couple would rekindle their flame a couple months later. Since the show’s end, we haven’t heard much on their relationship besides the occasional romantic getaway or public event, but everything seems to be in the clear. They have been going steady since the summer of 2011.

**What other celebrity couples have made the biggest comeback in their relationships? Share your thoughts with us!**

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# Single Life: To Play or Not to Play

**Cupid's Pulse**  
★ Celebrities. Love. Opinions. ★



By Celeste Friedman

In recent weeks, there has been a deluge of articles, advice columns, radio and television interviews and panel discussions on infidelity, due to the General Petraeus scandal in the United States. Having invested in 38 years of marriage, Petraeus threw caution to the wind, having an affair with a woman he had employed to write his biography.

You may be asking still how Petraeus, the director of the CIA, kept his affair concealed for so long and if he actually

believed he could be successful in this kind of deception. Inevitably, America and the rest of the world became privy to a plethora of graphic details regarding the relationship with his mistress that we didn't really need to know.

**Related:** [5 Reasons Why Powerful Men Like Arnold Schwarzenegger Cheat](#)

On HealthGuidance.org, Elizabeth Danish began her November article, *"Dating A Married Man"* with stark reality, that a wise woman never dates a married man. She states that if you are searching for a life-long commitment, you are sabotaging your own success by snaring another woman's husband.

### **Are You Simply His Toy?**

Once a boy is tired of playing with a toy, he abandons or throws it away. If you've run a comparison, you've most probably found that the cons out-weigh the pros when it comes to having an intimate relationship with a married man. Danish also brings home the point that a cheating man is the one in control of the relationship. He sees an affair as something that is romantically and sexually thrilling. It makes his life once again exhilarating and full of passion. Some men who cheat often have reinvigorated intimacy with their wives, according to Danish, in an attempt to cover their tracks, thus double dipping, if you will, between wives and mistresses.

### **Advantage- the Cheating Man**

As long as he remains in his marriage, his priorities will be his family, as it should be. However, his mistress and best kept secret will be alone on Thanksgiving, Christmas and if it's that important to her, Valentine's Day. He will attempt to spend time with her before or after the holidays, to make up for not sharing in the celebrations.

Finally, Elizabeth Danish asks, *"What was your goal when you*



*started the relationship with him?"* It is likely that you wanted to have a lasting relationship with someone who is mature and sensitive. If you reconsider the goal, is it really achievable?

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

### **Cheaters who Cheat and the Fools who Fall for Them**

Stephany Alexandre, author of the book *"The Cheat Sheet"*, leads you over to the dark side and into the secret lives of philanderers by giving first-hand accounts of cheating stories. Alexandre says the cheating experts know how to justify their acts, handle guilt, cope with double lives, and juggle the search for commitment with outside gratification. What are some of the signs that say he's cheating on you? Ariana Huffington, Editor of The Huffington Post states, *'texting is the new lipstick on the collar'*.

### **Single 101's take . . .**

Men who pursue extra-marital affairs develop a confidence that they will never get caught, especially when they meet all of their responsibilities as a husband, a father and bread winner. The majority of cheating spouses do get away with cheating on their mates. In one study, 70% of married women and 54% of married men had no idea their spouse was involved in an affair.

No matter how deep you have fallen for a married man, it is best to pull back and wait to see if he is serious about ending his marriage. If it ends in divorce, give yourself plenty of time to see if his love for you, (if that exists) is strong enough for him to emotionally invest in a real relationship with you. The emotional cost of waiting, if he's worth it, cancels out the shock and hurt you would experience if he cuts off the affair, due to the demands of keeping his marriage together and his infidelity unknown. Time will reveal true love. In some cases, does absence makes the heart grow

fonder?

After publishing *Single 101: 101 Reasons to Celebrate Being Single*, I met a woman who had made a personal commitment to living out the rest of her life as a single person. She had finally freed herself of relationships that left her feeling empty and filled with disappointment. After several years, she adapted well to flying solo. If she was introduced to a man, especially someone who was also single, she looked beyond any element that would create attraction or interest. Her goal was to enjoy a life filled with true friendships where she never had to deal with a jealous spouse or boyfriend anymore.

### **That Unexplainable Spark**

Unsuspecting to fall, she was swept off her feet by a married man who initially dropped hints of having an unsatisfactory marriage for many years and stating that it was over. As the single girl and the man grew closer, they began sharing their attraction toward each other.

In her late fifties, she does not consider herself to be desirable and have anything to physically offer a man. Self-esteem is not an issue for her within the protective walls of living independently. She has dealt with a crippling disability for many years and disturbed by the opinion of many men and women that a man will sleep with 'anything'. However, she stepped over the threshold that she was determined never to cross and set herself up for the possibility of being disenchanted, alone and ashamed of being an 'anything'.

She imagines what the future would be like if she were to become the next woman he cheats on, yet she cares for him so much, she cannot bring herself to label him as a cheater. As much as we try to fight or ignore it, there is unrelenting power in attraction for the right or wrong reasons. When your feelings are so strong for someone, you are blind to the realities of deception. The need to be as close as possible to

someone can overpower the risk of deeply hurting others who may become affected.

Statistics show that an extremely low percentage of these affairs develop into actual committed relationships. So, do we protect ourselves and try to prevent emotional pain or do we take a chance, follow our instinct that craves intimacy, hoping that our actions may lead to real love and happiness?

To quote the lyrics from Train's "Drive By"- *"on the up-side to a downward spiral, my love for you went viral and I loved you every mile you drove away."*