

Ask The Guy's Guy: How to Win a First Date After Meeting Online



By Robert Manni

Question from Gillian L., Manhattan, "Hey Guy's Guy, whats the best way of turning an online connection into a real date?"

You have a match on your favorite dating app and the conversations online are taking off. You're up for hours talking to your match but you're nervous about meeting in person. How can you be sure to impress on a first date when you've already gotten to know each other? How do you make a successful transition from online to in person dating? Read [dating advice](#) from our [relationship expert](#) Robert Manni!

Score That First Date!

We live in a wired world so these days connecting with new people often begins online. As a result, in business and dating, we need to develop an authentic, online voice that others like and can relate to. We make our connections online with a goal of meeting in person to close the deal.

When it comes to dating, after making a new connection online, scoring an in-person meeting can be challenging. With all the texting and emails we send each day, online communications are second nature for us. As a result, some online daters become nervous when it comes to leaving their comfort zone behind the keyboard and actually meeting someone new in person. But, it must be done because no matter how much texting or how many Facebook or Instagram posts you share, romantic connections only happen when you meet face-to face.

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So, after you've made a potential online love connection how can you quickly and seamlessly move the process ahead? First, keep the online correspondence brief and always pointed towards the ultimate goal of meeting in person. What's worked for me is after exchanging a few brief texts or emails with someone new, I send my number and suggest a phone call. As a guy, this validates that I am who I say I am and is sharing my real phone number. It's a minor display of truth and vulnerability.

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If the woman is interested she would usually send her number. Then, I make the first call. The process may work a bit differently for women. If you are interested in a guy and he's dragging his feet, if everything else feels right send him

your number or ask for his. The goal remains the same; exchange numbers and have a phone call. Energy is exchanged when you hear a person's voice for the first time and hold a conversation with them. A phone conversation is a qualifying step before you decide on meeting someone new.

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I suggest keeping the call brief. It's easy to get excited and share too many personal details with someone new, but you also can waste a lot of time chatting on the phone with someone that you don't feel the sparks for in person. Keep the call short and keep the process moving. If things feel right, before breaking off the call, casually suggest meeting up and continuing the conversation in person. Drinks, coffee, whatever feels right for a first "date". If the guy shows any hesitation and does not jump at the chance to meet a woman as dynamic as you in person, move on.

Hope this helps. Good luck!

For more dating advice and to find out more about our dating and technology guru, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our relationship experts, please e-mail them to cupid@cupidspulse.com.

Expert Relationship Advice: Dogs Make Everything Better



By [Dr. Amy Osmond Cook](#)

We all know how great dogs are; no one can quite match your dog's unique brand of love. While your fuzzy fur baby will always be the love of your life, did you know that your dog can also make your human relationships better?

According to my research, having a dog is good for you. Not only does having one in your life lower your stress levels and blood pressure, but your furry family member also boosts your immune system and brings added joy to your personal relationships. Here are four reasons being a dog person makes you a better people person.

Expert Relationship Advice On Dogs

In Relationships

On the edge of your seat...click here for more

1. Improve Communication: If it's hard for you to make connections with people, your fur buddy can help. An early study by [Therapy Dogs International](#) discovered that people who were in elder care facilities that used canine therapy treatments were more social with other people in their facility. They were more verbal in general and more alert.

I found that when you play with, pet, and talk to your dog while in the presence of other people, you'll feel relaxed, which may make others see you as approachable. Introverts especially benefit communication-wise by owning a dog. If you're an introvert without a pet, go out and get one. You won't be sorry.

2. Strengthen Relationships: While many believe children are key to strengthening a marriage, research has found a dog will have a similar effect. In an Association for Psychological Science study, researchers found that participants experienced more positive feelings about their partner after viewing a picture of them with cute animals.

[James K. McNulty](#), the psychological scientist over the study, said, "One ultimate source of our feelings about our relationships can be reduced to how we associate our partners with positive affect, and those associations can come from our partners but also from unrelated things, like puppies and bunnies." While there are many ways to make your relationship with your partner stronger, such as by celebrating one another and staying connected, to me, when people bring a dog into their life, they are strengthening their relationship with each by having something special to share.

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3. Develop Patience and Empathy: When it comes to emotional intelligence, canines score high. That intelligence can rub off on their owners, who can become more empathetic and loving toward other humans. A study published in the [National Center for Biotechnology](#) found that when children have the opportunity to care for another living being, they become more empathetic.

Getting better at empathy also helps you read people's nonverbal cues. Improving your ability to read nonverbal cues can be particularly helpful in relationships. The way that your partner is looking, moving, reacting, and listening can tell you whether he or she cares, how well you're being listened to, and if they're being truthful.

As a pet owner, patience is a must. Animals are going to misbehave. Your fuzzy family member will try to steal your steak off the counter or pee on the floor. Dealing with your pet's slip-ups may make it easier for you to handle the ones that your partner makes.

[Related Link: Four Ways to Stay Connected to Your Spouse](#)

4. Renews Focus on Others: In relationships, it can be tough to figure out the point that the other person is trying to make as well as what he or she really wants. Often, the reason behind this is our own [lack of focus](#). If you typically forget a person's name right after being introduced, it's likely because you were paying attention to how the person was perceiving you instead of what they were saying.

When you take a dog to a trainer, your furry friend will learn how to focus to pay attention to your words and actions. The next time you're in a social situation, think about your pet and how he or she focuses—mimic that.

If you aren't a pet owner and find most of your personal relationships challenging, consider becoming one. Along with making life just better in general, owning a dog improves your

personal relationships by making it easier for you to communicate. With a dog in your home, you'll learn [how to be a better human](#) by feeling more positive about your partner, empathizing more and focusing on the people in your life. As [Orhan Pamuk](#) wisely put it, "Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen."

For more information about and articles by our relationship expert Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, click [here](#).

Expert Dating Advice: How To Put Yourself Out There After A Break-Up





By [Megan Weks](#)

After having my heart beaten to a pulp too many times in my life, I've learned a valuable lesson: there's no time like the present to get back into the saddle. But before you get too skeptical, hear me out on this [expert relationship love advice](#). Trust me, I'm a [relationship expert](#).

Expert Relationship Advice to Help You Move On After a Breakup!

Of course it's good to take some time and heal. I'm not advising you to push past your feelings and not acknowledge them. In fact, it's an absolutely necessary part of the healing process. Lay in bed for a weekend. Cry. Watch all 94 episodes of *Sex and The City*. Wallow in enough cute animal videos to comfort you for a lifetime.

But then get back out there! This time do it with patience, an open heart, and with the goal of simply learning. You're out there only to learn and explore, to figure out how to improve

upon what went wrong with the last relationship. Do you need to shift some criteria around to find a better match? Find your clarity through exploration.

Related Link: [Expert Dating Advice: How To Handle Heartbreak](#)

Here's the loophole. You don't necessarily have to date others to start dating. I want you to date yourself. Yes, yourself! Start filling up the time you used to spend on your relationships with creative ways of pampering and bettering yourself or just plain pleasuring yourself in any way you can think of. It's healthy to bring pleasure to yourself.

Maybe you're feeling lesser or you've lost some of your glow because a person you loved is leaving your life. Keep in mind you have the power to ignite your own glow! As soon as you're able to get out of that bed, it's your challenge to cultivate your spark again. If you're finding that your luck in love is not all that great and you seem to be facing a lot of let downs and broken hearts, it's time to look within.

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: How to Move on After Being Ghosted](#)

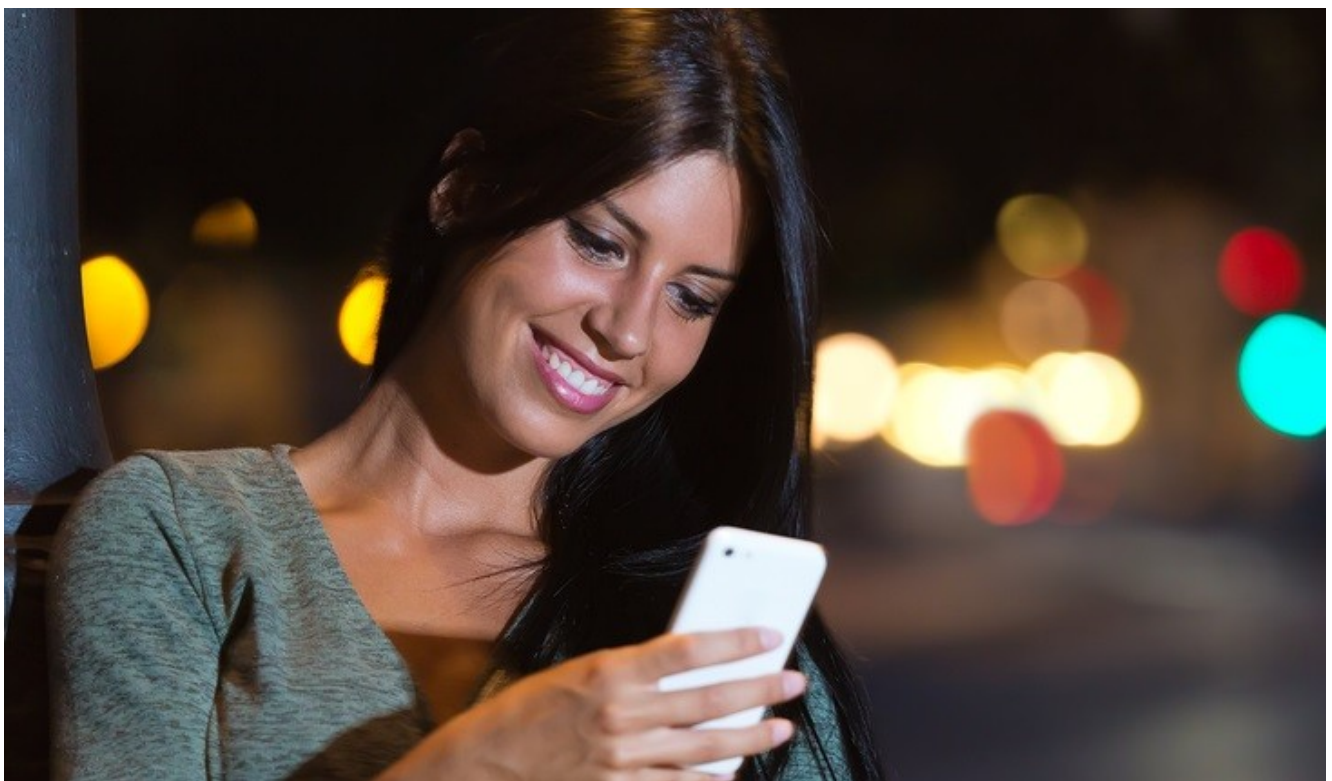
There are a few ways you can increase the quality of your relationships. You can deepen your relationship with yourself through self-nurturing, become a more multifaceted person with more to offer as a partner, and you can increase your relationship skills. There is not a better time to work on these things than when you are grieving and taking a deeper look within.

When you live your life knowing YOU are in control of your joy and happiness, you will be able to cultivate it on your own without a partner. You will begin to have a greater chance of attracting a true and incredible partnership with someone else in the process. When two halves are out there looking to form a whole... that is not when the most idealistic partnerships are formed.

After heartbreak, it may take time to become whole again. Become the greatest whole you can be and you'll be well on your way to attracting an even higher quality relationship than the one you're grieving today.

For more information about dating expert Megan Weks, visit her [website](#). For more relationship advice articles from Megan, click [here](#).

Love & Libations: Celebs Create In The Name of Love



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Everyday it seems like another celebrity is announcing a new wine or spirit. It's hard to keep up, especially when some of them are being quiet about it. There are some famous folks who just put their name on some booze so they can make money. However there are some celebs who do it for love. Below is a list of libations that the stars are putting their heart into.

In The Name of Love Celebrities Libations

Kelsey Grammer was recently in the news due to the possibility of a Frasier reboot. It was exciting news for fans of the show. While Frasier Crane was an avid sherry lover, what you may not know about Grammer is that he's working on opening a brewery in the Delaware Country near the Catskill Mountains called Faith American Ale. He bought the land over 25 years ago because he loved going to area when he was growing up, starting a [celebrity vacation](#) trend. The actor went into rehab in 1996, but has stopped going to AA and enjoys a drink from time to time.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

Somewhere along the way, Sting teamed up with Shaggy, making [celebrity news](#). This has made his music relevant to a whole new set of fans. When not making music, Sting is giving his time to wine. Italy has been one of Sting's favorite places to spend time with his wife. The iconic couple is making the wine on their estate, Villa II Palagio. All of the wines are named after Sting's biggest hits, since he says " a wine is like a song- it has a story to tell". If you want, you can rent the villa for a romantic getaway and sip copious amounts of Italian wine.

Jensen Ackles is known to his fans as one half of the

Winchester boys on Supernatural. When he's not slaying demons, Ackles is all about beer. He started the brewery, Family Brewing Business, with his wife, Daneel Ackles, who you may know from the show One Tree Hill or One Life To Live. Their goal is to bring people together over good beer, food, and music in their Austin-based tap room. Take Ackles [relationship advice](#): the couple that brews beer together stays together.

Nicki Minaj recently caused a stir on Twitter by claiming her album was delayed due to not being able to have a song cleared by the music legend, Tracy Chapman. Normally the drama that surrounds Minaj is centered around her love life. It's hard to keep up with the rapper's controversies. It's easy to miss that she has a line of bubbly moscatos and sangrias called Myx Fusions. According to Minaj, she didn't want to create an ordinary wine, though it's safe to say anything Minaj does wouldn't be considered ordinary. If only her relationships were as sweet as her line of wine.

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Ryan Phillippe will forever be known for his bad boy role in Cruel Intentions. He's gone from heartthrob to DILF. I have to admit I was tardy to the Phillippe party until catching his latest show, Shooter. Lately he's been posting about Phillippe Vineyards. While there has been no formal announcement, it appears as if he is getting into the wine game with his family. Phillippe's love life is always a bit bumpy, but his love for his family or a glass of wine can't be denied. Time will tell what he has cooking.

For more Love & Libations date ideas and [celebrity couple predictions](#) from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

Dating Advice: How to Make Summer Love Last



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

The end of the summer may be closing in, but that doesn't mean we can't still take advantage of the few weeks we have left. This is an optimal time to plan some [date nights](#) that will be remembered long down the road. Summer time is when I met the love of my life online, who I am proud to say is now my beautiful wife. Read the below [dating advice](#) from [relationship expert](#) Joshua Pompey to help spark that summer love.

Dating Advice to Help You Hold Onto

Your Summer Crush!

1. Rooftop drinks: Drinks, city skyline, beautiful weather, and a beautiful woman. There really aren't many better ways to spend a summer evening. This sure beats heading over to a sports bar or a neighborhood hole in the wall. With a scenic background, the night turns a bit more romantic, and ultimately, more memorable. If you don't have a rooftop in your area, an outdoor venue that allows you to enjoy the fresh air will do. Most cities or towns will have at least one spot that is conducive to this type of setting.

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2. A night at the beach: The second date I had with my wife was a night at the beach. We started out with some oceanside drinks and then moved the night to a casual outdoor restaurant. We ended the night sitting on a blanket and staring out to the ocean. Well, that's not entirely true; the night actually ended with our first kiss!

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3. An amusement park: Nothing says summer like a few rides, some cotton candy, and a ferris wheel. We may not have made it to a real amusement park, but we did manage to make it to Coney Island on 4th of July weekend. Between the food, quirky atmosphere, fireworks, and laughing about how ferris wheels make me nervous, it was an all around great night. If you don't have an amusement park in you area, see what types of fairs or carnivals will be in town.

4. Catch a ball game: You know what my wife finds to be the most boring thing in the world? Baseball. Seriously. When I turn on a game she goes comatose within ten seconds. But guess

what? We have a ton of fun at baseball games. The fresh air, the food, and the energy of a stadium is enough to put a smile on most people's faces, regardless of whether or not they are sports fans.

5. Road Trip: This may have to come later in the dating game, but once you are officially on the path to relationship status, nothing seals the bond like a good old fashioned road trip. Ours involved renting several AirBnB's as we crossed through Maryland, Baltimore, Virginia, and Washington. To this day, we have countless memories that we will never forget from this trip.

Joshua Pompey is an online dating and relationship expert. For more free dating advice, click [here](#) now.

Dating & Technology Q&A: How to Win a First Date After Meeting Online





Question from Andrew L: It's easy to look good online. There's photo editing and time to plan what to say. When you finally meet someone in person after connecting online, there's only one chance to impress. How can I make sure a first date is a win?

You have a match on your favorite dating app and the conversations online are taking off. You're up for hours talking to your match and find that you're both interested in each other. But how can you be sure to impress on a first date when you've already gotten to know each other? How do you make a successful transition from online to in person dating? Read [dating advice](#) from our [relationship experts](#) Suzanne Oshima and Robert Manni!

Dating Advice to Help You Successfully Transition from Online Conversations to a Killer First Date!

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): Online dating can seem like a major convenience for people that are too busy to get out there and meet people, but technology can be a setback when it comes to actually meeting someone face to face. In order to win that first date after meeting online, it's important to be

the best version of yourself– both inside and out. When you're able to achieve that level of confidence and self-love, that's when the right man will ask you out.

Having high self-esteem, knowing your self-worth, and understanding exactly what you have to offer a man is key. If you believe it, then he will see it, too. You'll be on your way to that first date in no time! And if he can't see that an amazing woman is right in front of him, then he's probably the wrong man for you!

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Can You Fall in Love Just By Chatting Online?](#)

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): There are so many dating apps and websites that today's singles often overanalyze things after making an online connection, sadly never scoring an actual date. When I was single and dating online frequently, I became comfortable approaching women online and responding to the ladies who contacted me first.

If I felt attracted to how a woman presented herself online, I'd send a short note and ask an open-ended question about her profile. If she responded, I'd send my digits. If the woman was still interested, she'd invariably send me her number and I'd make sure to call her by the next day. I'd keep the conversation short and, if things felt right, I'd suggest meeting. This usually led to a first "date" over a beverage. After that first face-to-face meet up things either moved forward or went nowhere. It was that simple.

So, if you see someone you like online, be cool, but make your move. Don't overanalyze. Trust your gut, but keep an open mind. There are a lot of cool people out there just like you. Remember, dating is a fun sport. Good luck.

For more dating advice and to find out more about our dating and technology gurus, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our relationship experts, please e-mail them to cupid@cupidspulse.com.

Relationship Advice: Is It Too Soon to Get Engaged?



By Dr. Jane Greer

When is it too soon to get engaged? There are so many considerations that go into making this decision, from practical issues such as having enough money to finishing a

degree to living in the same place, to more philosophical ones like is there a proper timeline for true love? Sometimes people have to first deal with other commitments and responsibilities before taking the plunge. But what if you meet someone and know instantly that person is your soulmate, do you still have to wait? Some think the answer to that is no. Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra announced their engagement after dating for only two months.

Quick engagements can be a sign that one or both parties are ready to settle down and feel the security and stability that comes with marriage. However, there are a number of pieces of [relationship advice](#) to consider before taking this next all-important step.

One of the biggest questions that comes up is, does it make sense to wait even if all the pieces are in place so that you can have more time to bring each other into the other's respective world? In other words, does having the inside track on your partner's life before you're all in add to the success of a marriage? Some might worry that the intensity of the high one feels when they first fall in love won't last, and therefore won't be enough to sustain you through life's ups and downs. If you do feel, however, it is enough to get you through, and you are seriously considering a quick engagement, it can be helpful to ask yourself why. Is it because you simply want to get married and crave the security that comes with that? Or were you disappointed by a previous relationship and now eager to move forward with someone who's ready to

truly commit and get married? Or is it all about the person, that you have fallen so hard for one another, that you have become a part of each other's lives so completely, and there is enough compatibility, that you feel you want to and will be able to continue to make things work between you?

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Tales of the Other Woman](#)

Whatever the case, most people do find that the all-consuming, instant attraction eventually, and really inevitably, wanes. That's why a certain amount of time and effort is generally important to allow the relationship to solidify so you have the chance to really learn how to work things out together, and to see how each of you reacts to different situations. With time, you'll move from that googly-eyed stage where your partner can do no wrong, to eventually "sobering up," so to speak, and deal with life – sickness, cars that don't work, endless bills, having to work late – as opposed to the euphoria you might be feeling when you first come together. In fact, the "honeymoon phase" can often last longer than most people think, in some cases even up to a year, but by the time you move away from that and into everyday reality where you need to be able to work together as a couple to deal with the nuts and bolts of each day, it takes more than rose-colored glasses to navigate the raging rapids. If you don't manage to build that strong foundation, it will only be a matter of time before your individual needs, as well as all the daily hits of living that create friction and tension, tear you apart.

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If you are in love, and if marriage is on the table, here are a few things you can ask yourself to determine if you are ready. First, do you think you are able to deal with your differences and compromise around them so you end up at a joint decision that feels good for both of you? Are you able to communicate and listen to each other, and ultimately relate

to each other's feelings, so that you both feel understood? Can you problem solve, as well as work through and clear up your anger and disappointment so those feelings don't linger and cause trouble between you? Do you have empathy for each other? If you have these skills in place, then you are starting your life together with a full toolbox of important skills.

Nick and Priyanka seem to have found in each other what they are looking for, and have faith that they can continue to keep love alive. If you, too, have that trust in your partner then perhaps a short engagement can work for you as well.

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Expert Relationship Advice: Four Ways a Positive Attitude is Good for You



By [Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D.](#)

It seems Hollywood celebrities are famous not only for their creative work, but also for their personal lives. Everybody has a story about their road to success, but amid the sparkle of superstardom and robust social media platforms, there are a handful of celebrities like [Emily Blunt](#), [Jim Carrey](#), [J.K. Rowling](#), and [Shania Twain](#), who persevered despite personal obstacles and adopted a profoundly positive attitude.

Now, studies show that not only is a positive attitude good for your career and relationship, but it is also good for your health. Here are four reasons from [relationship expert](#) Dr. Amy Osmond Cook why looking at the bright side of life is good for you. This [expert relationship advice](#) will help you build a happier life for you and your partner!

Expert Relationship Advice to Cultivate Positivity

1. It controls stress: Nobody would deny that stress is real, but sometimes the way we view various stresses in our life makes a big difference in how we manage it.

As the administrator of Park Manor, a busy rehabilitative care center, Ben Flinders is aware of the stress this work environment presents to his staff. Flinders recognizes his role in creating a supportive environment that fosters positivity in the workplace. “For example, sometimes the best way to navigate the stress of work that robs us of needed energy is to step away and relax,” he said. “Many times, a quiet walk during a work break or a brief meditation session can help relieve pressure.” His management style encourages staff to work smarter not just harder by self-monitoring energy levels, emotions, and attitude and to take necessary measures to refocus.

“Positive thinking doesn’t mean that you keep your head in the sand and ignore life’s less pleasant situations,” says the staff at the [Mayo Clinic](#). “Positive thinking just means that you approach unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. You think the best is going to happen, not the worst.” Having that kind of mental control over any outcome is a powerful tool to control stress.

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: 4 Ways to Build a Healthy Relationship with Your Body](#)

2. Reduces recovery time: Healthcare providers witness the power of a positive attitude daily. “Our therapists are experts at providing care, but they also recognize that a positive attitude enhances those services,” said [Karissa Ly](#), director of rehabilitation at St. Francis Heights Convalescent Hospital. “Attitude makes the body more receptive to recovery,

and it can heighten a patient's belief in themselves to get better." Ly added that the physical work is important in recovery, but it also requires a mental toughness that needs positivity to support it.

3. Improves social connections: As more [studies](#) emerge emphasizing the importance of friendships and social interaction, they also note that a positive attitude is an important vehicle to secure those social connections. "In short, they (optimists) manage their relationships better, and as a result, when faced with adverse health events, they can rely on their social networks to a much greater degree and receive more support, managing the resulting stress more effectively," explains PsychologyToday.com contributor [Utpal Dholakia, Ph.D.](#)

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4. Extends longevity: A [study](#) published by The Journals of Gerontology examined the relationship between an optimistic perception of aging and its impact on reducing markers of stress-related inflammation associated with heart disease and other illnesses. It seems a positive attitude will help you live longer and it will influence healthier lifestyle choices, as well. "Every day brings new challenges," says [Martha Beck](#), author, speaker, and life coach. And how we face those challenges plays an important part in our health. So when life warrants an attitude adjustment—be grateful! It's good for you.

For more information about and articles by our relationship expert Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, click [here](#).

Love & Libations: Celebrity Sips on Tequila Day



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

There's no denying that tequila is one of the hottest spirits around right now; however, not all tequila is created equal. Some of it is cheap and fills you with nothing but regrets the next day. In fact, that may be the reason you're scared to get anywhere near this specific libation ever again. Do yourself a favor and revisit the spirit or take a different approach to it. While there is bad and ugly tequila, there is some really good juice that has hit the market. It's a spirit that men and women enjoy. It's been said that women who drink tequila are mysterious and sexy. On your next [date night](#), maybe pour a little tequila on the rocks to knock off their socks.

Read for More Tequila Tips from Relationship Expert Yolanda Shoshana!

Celebrities have been jumping on the tequila trend. You will find that the celebs who make the best stuff were tequila fans well before they got into the booze game. National Tequila Day is on July 24th, making it the perfect time to sip like the rich and famous.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Date Ideas & Summer Loving with Rosé](#)

Most people know that Sean Combs has been the face for Cîroc Vodka, but some will be surprised that *DeLeón* Tequila is his baby. Combs is far more vested in the tequila company. The luxury spirit comes in a fancy bottle that would make a great addition to a home bar or the perfect gift for your tequila loving boo. There is a bottle of *DeLeón* that runs for around \$850, but there are affordable options to choose from. Think of this as a sip and chill tequila or the kind of libation to get you in the mood for foreplay and boudoir business.

Casamigos is probably the most famous celebrity tequila on the market. When George Clooney and Rande Gerber sold the company for \$1 billion dollars, everyone clutched their drinking glasses. Though they sold the company, Clooney and Gerber are still very much involved with the brand. I bet Clooney sips a little bit more of it since becoming the father to twins. The Casamigos Blanco would be great for whipping up a batch of margaritas for the girls and chatting about love, life, and the pursuit of happiness.

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If you have been a fan of Mario Lopez since his Saved By The Bell Days, know that he has an adult beverage for you called Casa Mexico that he owns with partner Oscar De La Hoya. Lopez is so into the tequila that 120 bottles were served at his wedding. Take that as [relationship advice](#) from Lopez: the couple that shares tequila together just may stay together. Clearly Casa Mexico is good for sharing with loved ones.

Recently Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson announced that he would be starting his own tequila brand. Personally, I wish he would have gone with The Rock Rosé, but tequila it is. While his tequila isn’t out yet, he deserves an honorable mention. Mana will probably hit the shelves any minute; the Rock wastes no time when he brings it. The spirit will be called Mana Tequila. Mana means supernatural in Polynesian. It will be interesting to see how the spirit comes together. Given the name, it sounds like there will be an island flair to it. I imagine it will be good for when you and your partner can’t travel to the Polynesian triangle but want to feel like you’re on a [romantic getaway](#).

For more Love & Libations date ideas and celebrity couple predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

Expert Dating Advice Guys' Edition: 5 Not So Obvious Signs She's Into You





By [Joshua Pompey](#)

Guys, have you ever been on a date that you thought went well, only to never hear from the girl again? This is frustrating and discouraging for anyone. Don't dwell on the dates that didn't work out. The best thing you can do is learn how to assess a date while you're on one so you won't be taken off guard if you do get ghosted. Read the below [expert dating advice](#) by [relationship expert](#) Joshua Pompey to enhance your dating life!

Expert Dating Advice for Guys to Make You Dating Pros!

1. Small touches: Women express love or interest with physical gestures. If she lightly touches your arm, leg, or back, she is showing she's interested. Sometimes this is a purely subconscious act for women, but sometimes it is a direct means of flirting with you. To encourage even more friendly flirting, reciprocate these small touches, but be sure to keep it G-rated and organic.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: The Do's and Don'ts of Online Dating First Dates](#)

2. Make-up Touch-ups: When women go to the bathroom on a date, they often adjust their hair or reapply make-up. Pay attention to this. If you notice a fresh coat of lipstick, it's a sign that she wants to look good for you. Lipstick draws the eye to the lips, and a fresh coat is a strong sign that she hopes for a kiss at the end of the date. If a woman isn't interested, she's not freshening up for you.

3. Personal Questions: Did she ask about your family at some point during the date? Was she curious about your goals and passions? The more personal questions she asks directly correlates to how interested she is in you. It's natural to want to know more about someone you are interested in, but pay attention to her body language as she asks these questions. If she's looking around or checking her phone, then she's bored but trying to be polite. If she's leaning into the conversation, that's a great sign.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: How to Make the First Move \(Women's Edition\)](#)

4. Commonalities: No matter what kind of relationship you are building with someone, whether it be friendly, familial, or romantic, sharing common interests is a great sign for the success of that bond. If you and your date discover commonalities and her demeanor changes to one of excitement, she's probably thinking of ways to engage in these shared interests for future dates.

5. No phone: When are women truly alone? Almost never. Women rely on their girlfriends for guy advice, safety, and a way out of a bad date if needed. If thirty minutes into the date she checks her phone, you can almost be certain it's a girlfriend checking in to see if your date is enjoying herself or needs an escape plan. If she quickly responds, apologizes,

and jumps right back into the conversation, you're in good shape!

For more free dating information from Joshua Pompey, click [here](#).

Dating & Technology Q&A: Should You Delete Pictures of a Long-Term BF?



Question from Mara S.: My ex and I broke up after having a long-term relationship. Should I take pictures of us down from

social media now that I'm seeing someone new or should the new guy in my life understand that my ex and I had a long history together?

Technology makes it so easy to share with the world the things that matter to you. It's normal to post memories that you want to hold onto, but beware of what message your social media is sending. When you are interested in someone, you devour everything online about them in hopes of learning something new. That's true for someone interested in you. What do you want someone to learn about you from your photos online? Read below for [dating advice](#) from [relationship experts](#)!

Technology Dating Advice that Helps You Know When to Delete Pics of Your Ex

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): While you and your ex had a long history together, it's time to take the pictures down and move on with your new guy. There's a great quote by T.D. Jakes that best sums it up, "You can't drive forward looking in the rearview mirror."

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): My answer is a resounding yes. When it's time to move forward, take down all photos from social media of you with your ex. If you want a new beginning, especially with someone new, you need to send him the right signals about your availability. The past has merit. We live, we love, and we learn, but there must be a reason your former boyfriend is now your ex. If you're having a hard time deleting photos of him off social media, perhaps you are not quite ready to move on. If you truly want a new beginning, then start fresh on social media and give your new suitors the opportunity to see who you are right now. If things work out, they could be the luck one in your pictures. Good luck!

For more dating advice and to find out more about our dating and technology gurus, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our

relationship experts, please e-mail them to cupid@cupidpulse.com.

Expert Relationship Advice: 4 Ways Picking Up a Book Can Improve Your Health



By [Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D.](#)

[Oprah Winfrey](#) does it. So does [Reese Witherspoon](#), [Bill Gates](#), [Barack Obama](#), and [Emma Watson](#). Not only are they world leaders

and superstars, but they are also super readers.

Nearly [25 percent of Americans have not read a book](#) in the last year, and adults over age 50 were more likely than their younger counterparts to let their books collect dust. While you may think you don't have the time to read a good book, you might want to make reading a higher priority in your life.

Reading isn't just a fun way to pass the time. It can also improve your health. Read on to learn four ways reading can improve your physical and mental health.

It will help reduce stress

Reading might sound like something you just don't have time for if you live a busy, stressful life. But it could be the key to [helping you relax at the end of a stressful day](#). According to research conducted by the University of Sussex, reading a book is one of the best ways to reduce stress. Their study showed that reading can reduce stress by 68 percent, and it will do the job faster than other tried and true methods like taking a walk or listening to your favorite music. So, pick up a good book and let your stress melt away.

You'll sleep better

Reading can help you [get a better night's sleep](#), if you do it right. A good way to get more sleep is to create a nighttime sleep routine and include relaxing activities in it. Reading has been shown to reduce stress and help you relax, so it is a prime candidate for your bedtime routine. Staring at a screen is counterproductive, however, so stick to a book with real pages, rather than clicking through your favorite book on your

phone or tablet.

It may help prevent dementia

Keeping your brain active at every age can [help fight off symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's](#). Researchers have found that people who challenge their brains when they are young and old have a slower rate of mental decline. Keeping your brain active can help preserve memory and thinking skills into old age. It is beneficial to work your brain from childhood on, but it isn't too late to start a reading hobby if you haven't tried it yet. Studies indicate people can benefit from giving their brain a workout even if they begin later in life.

It can help you feel empathy

If you have a hard time relating to other people, getting hooked on a good book can help you with that. A recent study conducted by [The New School for Social Research](#) showed that people who became deeply involved in a fictional book and its characters were able to better understand their own feelings and beliefs as well as those of the characters. "If anyone has a desire to help others succeed in a non-threatening manner, this is a must read," said Rose Rios, director of marketing at [Legend Oaks Healthcare and Rehab of Northwest Houston](#). Reading literary fiction improved the ability to feel empathy for others.

Reading a book can make a difference to your health in ways that might surprise you. So instead of turning on the television at the end of the day, pick up a good book.

For more information about and articles by our relationship expert Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, click [here](#).

Love & Libations: The Negroni & Anthony Bourdain



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

When I was thinking about what I wanted to do for this column, I was walking through NYC and came upon Les Halles. Unless you have been away from the news recently, you may know that Anthony Bourdain passed away. Les Halles was a French bistro where he got his start as an executive chef. Let's just say many romantic nights were had at the restaurant. Though both locations of the bistro are now closed, people have been leaving tributes to him pasted on the windows. Consider this my cheers to the icon.

The culinary world is still reeling over the death of Bourdain; in fact, it may never be the same. It will be hard

to find anyone who can take his place, though someone will try to fill the void. He undoubtedly changed the way that people eat and drink. Someone said, "He was the Mr. Rogers of the food world." I would have never compared the two, but he did have an edgy Mr. Rogers charm about him. More importantly, both men had a way of making people stop, listen and think in a way that impacted lives. People around the world are coming forward with stories of how Bourdain helped them learn to love food. Since there's such a deep connection between love and food, maybe Bourdain should have added "love doctor" to his resume.

Keep reading for details from our relationship expert Yolanda Shoshana on the late Anthony Bourdain's favorite cocktail!

While most people think of food when they think of Bourdain, he was also a man who loved a good libation. He was often caught with a glass of wine in his hand, but there was a particular cocktail that he was a big fan of as well: The Negroni. Named after Italian Count Camillo Negroni in 1919, the classic aperitif is famous around the world. Bourdain called it the perfect drink, saying, "It's [made from] three liquors that I'm not particularly interested in, but put them together with a slice of orange... it works. That first sip is confusing and not particularly pleasant. But man, it grows on you." I would have to agree. The first time I took a sip of a Negroni, I was intrigued. After about three sips, that intrigue turned to love. It's been one of my favorite libations ever since.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Mint Juleps for a Derby Date Idea](#)

Bourdain shared a story with *Maxim* about how he made Negroni cocktails for his crew and ended up a bit tipsy. It's the kind of drink meant to share with those near and dear. Get your squad together for a Negroni or two. We can all use a little bit more love and light. Plus, you can also use it as an aphrodisiac cocktail if you want to just kick it with your boo on [date night](#). It's the perfect libation to sip during intimate conversations.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Royal Reds for the Royal Celebrity Wedding](#)

The best part about the Negroni is that it's so simple to make. All you need are three ingredients and a slice of orange. If you don't have the orange slice, don't fret. After a few sips, it won't even matter. Cheers to you, Bourdain and those you love.

Negroni

1oz. Gin

1 oz. Campari

1 oz. Sweet Vermouth

Slice of orange

For more Love & Libations date ideas and celebrity couple predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

Expert Relationship Advice: The Exclusivity Trap!



By [Megan Weks](#)

Are you stuck in an exclusive relationship but not really ready for a monogamous one on one? While we all yearn for that special someone to be just ours, jumping into exclusivity too soon can be damaging, especially to women. Read the [expert relationship advice](#) below to help you make healthier dating decisions.

Expert Relationship Advice to Help You Stand Up for Your Best Interests in a Relationship!

What angers me the most about being a relationship coach is the same reason I am a relationship coach: women are breaking their own hearts. Yesterday, three women reached out to me in

desperation. They each have a man but they are feeling frustrated and nervous. Their stomachs are in balls of knots, they are crossing their fingers for luck, and they are extremely anxious. Why? Because their needs are not being met in their new relationships. Interestingly, these women happily agreed to jump into the situations they now find themselves in. Didn't they want a boyfriend? After all, that was their goal. Now, however, they feel trapped in exclusivity with men that may not be right for them.

Related Link: [Expert Dating Advice: How to Handle Heartbreak](#)

The "going steady" dating model, by the way, did not occur until the 1940s. It was born out of the desire for – and the more acceptable view of – casual sex. Before that, people would take their time to really determine if someone was a match, and then get married through a leisurely process called "courting." The "going steady" dating model, or "linear" dating, as I call it, can be extremely disempowering for a woman who has the goal of getting married within the next couple of years.

You meet a man. You date and spend time at his place and at yours. You get close, enjoy his compliments, and share laughs. Things are going great. You feel attached to him. You are excited to finally find someone who sees what you have to offer: how special you are. You feel like a [celebrity couple](#) at first. You feel comfortable and slip into that girlfriend role with ease...heck, you've been waiting a while for this. You're sick and tired of being "out there." Now it's your turn.

Or, is it...?

Suddenly, he starts to get a bit lazy. The communication isn't what you feel it should be from a boyfriend. He said he wasn't dating others, and you aren't supposed to, either. However, you don't know if you're seeing him this weekend or not.

You're playing the waiting game...again. The nervousness, the anxiety-stricken feeling, the knots in the pit of your stomach return. You start thinking that you're running out of time and that you're back in the waiting game. You want this all to be over. It's a familiar feeling, and it's awful.

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: How to Move on After Being Ghosted](#)

"How did I get here again? Why is dating, and men, in particular, so difficult? What can I do to save this relationship?" You don't want to make plans with your friends and then have to cancel on them if he comes around. You think to yourself, if you just see him again you'll get the magic back. So you push to see him again. You will accommodate his busy schedule. You make excuses for him. You accept less than you deserve. You lack integrity for yourself. You worry that if you stand up for yourself or push for more time, it will backfire. It's like your fate is dependent on his next move, which is determined by a stupid little flashing red light on a digital screen. You peek at it all day while at work.

Ladies, if you find yourself in this position, get yourself out of exclusivity. Exclusivity is a trap! You have no business spending your precious mind, sanity, and time waiting for a man to choose you. While it may not be what you want to hear in [relationship advice](#), you must get yourself back out there and explore your options. Allow a man to get to know you, and allow yourself to get to know him and his intentions deeply before you jump into an exclusive relationship.

Rushing over to his place and getting cozy is the lazy dater's way to find relief. You both can't wait to drop the pesky formalities of dating, jump in the bed, and experience what the relationship would be like – now. The problem with this is, the formalities are actually an important part of the courtship process, and a courtship process is exactly what you need to go through in order to avoid getting into "the

exclusivity trap!”

Expert Dating Advice: Date Ideas for Spring Love



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

If you are a New Yorker like me, it often feels like winter will never come to an end. Believe it or not, it was snowing in April this year! While this can be frustrating, it only makes the arrival of Spring all the more sweeter. As an added bonus, spring is an incredible time for dating if you use the [expert dating advice](#) below. Try these spring [date ideas](#)

from [relationship expert](#) Joshua Pompey that will help you and your loved one make the most of this season!

Expert Dating Advice to Ignite a Spring Love!

Spring serves as a symbolic fresh start. With the sun shining and the flowers blooming, all is renewed in the world again. Take advantage of the feel-good vibes and enjoy some outdoor date ideas that tap into these endorphins.

1. Check out a ball game: Nothing says spring more than going to a ballgame. Even if you're not a fan of sports, the atmosphere at a game is infectious. There is a reason baseball is called America's favorite pastime: the cheering, the weather, the nostalgia. It all makes for a terrific date night. Indulge in some good old fashioned American food, have a few drinks, and don't forget the songs, chanting, and seventh-inning stretch.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: How to Make the First Move \(Women's Edition\)](#)

2. Go to the park: There are so many ways to enjoy a day at the park. Bring a basket full of cheeses, fruits, nuts and a bottle of wine for a romantic picnic. Try tossing around a Frisbee like you're kids again. Relax on a blanket and people watch on a beautiful day. And of course, the conversation of a great date will make the time unforgettable. Explore each others' interests, ask about old childhood memories, and discover something new about your love.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: 5 Steps to Securing a Second Date](#)

3. Find a roof top: Roof top bars or restaurants with a nice view tend to make incredible dates. What more can you really ask for when you see the city skyline? If you can't find a

rooftop, a restaurant with a nice patio is a great backup plan.

4. Head to the dog park: This may not apply to all of you out there, but nothing will bond people quicker than an adorable dog. A dog tends to make the ultimate wing man (or woman!), and if your date has a dog, you will be guaranteed a great time outside. Who doesn't feel light-hearted around four-legged creatures that only want to please people? Take turns tossing a ball or playing tug of war. Befriending your date's pet is a win in every dating book.

For more expert dating advice from [Joshua Pompey](#), click [here](#).

Love & Libations: Royal Reds for the Royal Celebrity Wedding





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

All eyes have been on the royal [celebrity wedding](#) between Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. Between the cameras, approvals from the Queen, and invitations, Markle will probably be thrilled to relax with a glass of wine during her wedding reception. While there are many charming things about Markle, what I like about her the most is her love of good Italian red wine. Imagine chilling with Meghan over a glass of red, talking about tiaras and, hopefully, she shares the secret to her roast chicken recipe.

“The Tig” was the name of Markle’s lifestyle blog that was named after Tignanello, a full-bodied red wine from Italy. Long story short, it’s a wine from Tuscany that is a part of what is called the Super Tuscan revolution, which took place in the 1970’s. The red blend is a combo of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc produced in the Chianti Classico region. This would suggest that Markle has a sophisticated palate. She is prepared for all of the fancy meals at the palace, not to mention the food she will share with Prince Harry as they travel the world together.

A bottle of Tignanello can run from \$80 to \$150. However, there are Tuscan wines up to par that are more affordable. The following is a list of five wines that I like to think of as “royal reds” from Tuscany and ones that I think would receive a thumbs up from Markle herself. After all, a bold Italian red is perfect to sip during fairy-tale weddings or for a [date night](#) with your prince or princess.

Check out these red wines worthy of any royal celebrity wedding!

Luce Della Vite Toscana 2014 (\$100)

This unique wine is produced by Frescabaldi Estates in Montalcino. It's the first wine from that area made with 60% Sangiovese and 40% Merlot. Montalcino is a highly regarded wine producing commune known for fabulous red wines. The Luce is an elegant blend that has aromas of cherries, blackberries, leather, and coffee. Doesn't that sound nice? Pair with a cheese plate or an exquisite meal. When you want to feel like a [royal celebrity couple](#), this is the perfect wine.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Date Ideas & Summer Loving with Rosé](#)

Luce della Vite Lucente Toscana 2015 (\$27)

It's the second wine from the Luca Della Vite estate that is also produced in Montalcino. This red is a bit younger than the Luce. A full-bodied blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Sangiovese, and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the bottle is packed with fruity aromas. A glass of this goes great with cured meat and cheese. Think of it as a bold and sexy red. It would pair wonderfully with a romantic night.

Roxanne Rosso Toscana 2016 (\$20)

This Super Tuscan wine is produced on Sting and Trudie

Styler's Chianti estate called II Palagio. Who knew they had wine, right?! Roxanne is a blend of 80% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, 10% Syrah. It's the kind of red that goes great with a steak or pasta dish. A truffle cheese would always be a good pairing. If you can't make it to II Palagio, let romance find you and your boo in this bottle of red.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Heat Up Your Relationship with a Date Night in the Kitchen](#)

La Mannella Brunello di Montalcino 2012 (\$80)

While this wine isn't considered a Super Tuscan wine, it's produced in Tuscany. It is made with 100% Sangiovese grapes. In fact, Brunello is the local nickname for the Sangiovese grape. This bold wine is great with beef, lamb, and hearty red sauce dishes. When you want to feel fancy, this is a where it's at.

Cecchi La Mora Maremma Toscana 2015 (\$14)

A fabulous wine for every occasion, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah suits all palates. Aromas that will hit your nose are cherries, spice, chocolate, and a touch of floral. This one would be perfect for a night of snuggling in with roast chicken and garlic mashed potatoes, just like Meghan and Harry. It would also work for a girl's night in, you just may need extra bottles.

For more Love & Libations date ideas and celebrity couple predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

Dating & Technology Q&A: How to Use Technology to Prevent Your Relationship Going Stale



Question from Kirstie W: When my boyfriend and I first started dating, our texts were fun and exciting. When we saw each other at the end of the day, we still had a lot to talk about even though we had been texting all day. After being together for six years, texting is non-existent and when we do see each other all we talk about is work. Conversation is getting stale; help!

Long-term relationships face unique challenges. Conversations can be much more in depth because you know each other better. At the same time, conversations can run dry because you already know so much about each other. After awhile, talks are

less about discovery and more about supporting each other. This [dating advice](#) from [relationship experts](#) Suzanne Oshima and Robert Manni will help bring excitement back into any relationship!

Dating Advice for When Relationships Go Stale

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): Ironically, the effectiveness of our communication with our partners can be damaged by the technology that we surround ourselves with every day. When you're both busy and working throughout the day, it can be difficult to keep in touch and talk about work over technology. When you get home, try to make it a rule to only talk about work for the first 30 minutes of your conversation, and make sure it's about something you need advice or insight on from your spouse.

After that, focus on your relationship and the fun things about your life together, whether it be date nights, your love, or future plans. This way, you'll be able to foster an environment at home with your relationship as the focus without the noise and distraction of technology between you. Keep things real by engaging in face-to-face conversations, and you'll feel much more connected with your partner as a result.

Related Link: [Dating & Technology Q&A: How Do You Handle Dating Someone with an Internet Persona?](#)

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): The issue here transcends technology. It seems that your day-to-day relationship has become expected and you're counting on technology to solve your problem. Technology can be a helpful tool for keeping the connection strong, but it's a means to an end. I'm sure your partner would welcome fun and sexy text exchanges throughout the day,

but the real issue is finding ways of maintaining true intimacy when you are together.

I suggest making it a priority to live in the moment when in each other's company. That means being present: verbally, physically, and even spiritually to maintain your loving connection. Try discussing more than your work when you meet up, even after a hard day. Make it a priority to share meals, drinks, physical intimacy, and your true selves on a regular basis. Technology provides a way of staying connected during the work day, but the most important way to keep the embers glowing is to make the most of your time when you are face to face. Good luck.

For more dating advice and to find out more about our dating and technology gurus, click [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like answered by our relationship experts, please e-mail them to cupid@cupidspulse.com.

Relationship Advice: Tales of the Other Woman





By Dr. Jane Greer

Everyone feels they were scourged in the aftermath of betrayal, and in an effort to work through that and regain their equilibrium they like to talk about what happened, often to anyone who will listen. Sometimes, though, while that can make someone feel better in the moment, it can cause greater trouble down the line and further delay the journey back to personal peace and happiness. Whether you are in the public eye or not, speaking out about the person who hurt you can be tempting. For example, Evan Felker's ex-wife Staci Nelson reacted recently to claims that he cheated on her with country superstar Miranda Lambert. Doing this can feel like your chance to set the record straight by telling your side of the story, and it can feel like a way to fight back. You've been wronged, so this is your way to make it right.

Sometimes speaking out about the one who wronged you can be helpful,

while other times it can cause more negativity. So how can you balance it? This relationship advice comes down to what you say, and whom you say it to.

The obvious place to go to vent your anger and frustration is to friends and family, since they are the people who know you and support you. They may encourage you by asking you to tell them what happened, or they may be more provoking by launching a missile and speaking badly about your ex-partner, thus throwing logs on the already flaming fire. Try to be careful, however, about what you share with them for a few reasons. While the initial reaction is to look to end the connection, sometimes cheating can actually help people reevaluate and overhaul their relationship to make it stronger and more resilient than it was before. There are enough times that people get back together. If in fact you and your ex do reconcile one day you don't want your friends and family members to have turned so completely against him or her and become so alienated that it makes it difficult for you to reconnect. Also, there is always the matter of the people you shared while you were together. What if, during your relationship, your cousin became good friends with your ex-husband, or your college best friend's wife is now best friends with your ex-wife? These are hard connections to break, and it helps to be aware of the tricky position that putting down your ex, who may still be an important factor in their lives, can put the people you love in. While oftentimes there is a strong pull to rally as many people as possible to your camp, drawing these lines can sometimes be very divisive and you risk creating more losses for you with your existing relationships if people feel they have to choose a side.

Related Link: [Celebrity News: Miranda Lambert Throws Shade at Celebrity Ex Blake Shelton With Key Lyric Change](#)

Being able to vent and say bad things about your ex can be an important initial step, but you want to continue to take subsequent steps and have that not be where you remain. Instead of only demeaning them and looking to do a character assassination, start to shift what you are expressing to focus on the impact their betrayal had on you and how you are dealing with it. To begin the real healing, it is important to be in touch with all of your feelings, not just your anger. This way it can eventually become less about stirring the brew of your rage and more about developing your self-awareness. In my book *How Could You Do This to Me?: Learning to Trust After Betrayal*, I speak about blind trust. Was this going on for you? Were you too trusting, did you see signs and ignore them, or did you miss them completely? It is this reflection and understanding that will enable you to learn how to trust your own judgement so that you feel better equipped to protect yourself in the future and keep this from happening again. By doing this it helps you to stop perpetuating the negative by keeping yourself in the role of victim, and instead shift to moving forward and away from your ex and the fallout of the betrayal.

Related Link: [Celebrity Break-Ups: Evan & Staci Felker Were Trying to Have a Baby Before He Met Miranda Lambert](#)

Being deceived is devastating at best, at worst, if not dealt with, it delivers a blow that can keep you feeling low for a long time and can derail you from living your best life. For that reason, doing all this is your emotional health insurance as you go forward. Hopefully, Staci will be able to get back on track and become stronger as she carries on.

Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](#) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays

are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at askdrjane@drjanegreer.com. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer, and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

Expert Relationship Advice: 4 Ways to Build a Healthy Relationship with Your Body





By [Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D.](#)

If you hope to build healthy relationships with other people, the best [expert relationship advice](#) is to start on your relationship with your body.

Body shaming is a real issue. [Selena Gomez](#) responded to it and so did Tyra Banks. Even celebrity [Emma Stone](#) wasn't immune from an encounter. The repercussions of this are a soaring number of cases of eating disorders and depression. For instance, the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders reports that at least [30 million](#) people of all ages and genders suffer from an eating disorder in the US.

Social and political forums are scrambling to find ways to eliminate body shaming activities. One of the best defenses you can build against forming a negative self-image is to concentrate on building a healthy relationship with your body. "I am not a woman whose self-worth comes from her dress size," says [Kristen Bell](#) when confronted with negative comments about her physical appearance. "Comparison is one long, agonizing death and does not interest me at all."

Working on your relationship with your body will help you build healthy relationships with others. Here are four tips from [relationship expert](#) Dr. Amy Osmond Cook.

Expert Relationship Advice for Loving Your Body

1. What you eat is what you are: The focus of a healthy diet shouldn't rest on deprivation or discouragement. Instead, healthy eating is about providing fresh, nutritious, quality foods that nourish your body. We have the power to choose what fuels our body. One trend that supports a healthy relationship with our body is cooking at home. [Market research](#) shows the meal kit delivery services industry generated almost \$1.5 billion dollars in sales over the past three years and projections estimate a multi-billion dollar growth in the next five years. [Culinary schools](#) that cater to the amateur chef are popping up in cities across the country, offering hands-on instruction from professional chefs. The idea is to embrace healthy eating, which in turn, allows us to celebrate our bodies.

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: Spring Cleaning for a Happier Life](#)

2. Make exercise a routine: The benefits of an exercise routine extends beyond better health. A commitment to daily exercise helps other aspects of our lives, especially our jobs, by developing self-discipline, time management skills, and increased productivity. "Some employers take a healthy workforce for granted, until they aren't," says [Ryan Westwood](#), CEO of Simplus, who encourages exercise in the workplace.

"Employed athletes who pursue passions outside of the workplace bring that self-discipline to their job," says [Cody Ferraro](#), cofounder of InXAthlete, and a former collegiate

Lacrosse player. “What an employer gets is a productive, self-motivated employee who has a strong concept of time-management.”

Along with the physical benefits, exercise enhances mood and staves off depression. “Even moderate physical activity improves muscle strength, maintains healthy joints and bones, and it can help reduce high blood pressure,” said [Tonya Fisher](#), executive director of Bainbridge Island Health and Rehabilitation. The [American Psychological Association](#) says that researchers have also explored exercise as a tool for treating, and perhaps preventing, anxiety. A strong body boosts a strong mind, and that reinforces a healthy relationship between both.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: 5 Things To Do Before You Get Petty](#)

3. Find a purpose: An essential defense against negativity is finding meaningful ways to spend your time. “Living on purpose feels alive, clear, and authentic,” say [Barb Leonard, PhD, RN, PNP, and Mary Jo Kreitzer, RN, PhD](#). The article also points out that purpose influences health, including life extension, reduced risk of heart disease and Alzheimer’s disease, and it allows for better pain management. In a world seemingly brimming with shallow, superficial conversations, finding a deeper meaning that adds value to your life is a solid strategy for being a part of the world but not consumed by it.

4. Surround yourself with great friends: Whether conscious or not, experts say we are defined by the people with whom we spend the most time. “Your best friend could be a key contributor to your success,” said CNBC contributor [Ruth Umoh](#). “[Research](#) shows that having a close friend boosts your resilience and helps you bounce back from hardships.”

One of the reasons why celebrities can bounce back from harsh criticism is their social support system. Although it may seem

the more popular the star, the bigger the entourage, experts say quality outweighs quantity when it comes to friendships. “Although being friendly can get you more friends, you don’t need hundreds to help you through life,” says [Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Phd.](#) “You may have to prune your friendship tree as you get older to be sure that you give enough attention to the ones who will really matter for your well-being.”

By focusing on diet, exercise, personal fulfillment, and great friends, you will develop a healthy relationship with the one person who matters most: you.

For more information about and articles by our relationship expert Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, click [here](#).

Relationship Advice: The Pitfalls of Dating While Divorcing





By Dr. Jane Greer

Dating someone new is exciting but often challenging, and adding the complications of a divorce that's not officially finalized yet, as well as kids from the fractured marriage, into the mix can create a whirlwind of possible pitfalls and new challenges. Waiting for a divorce to become official, though, can take some time, and it is often difficult to put the entire future of one's love life on hold until it is all said and done. Actor [Brad Pitt](#), for example, has been seeing MIT professor Neri Oxman in the midst of ending his marriage to [Angelina Jolie](#). Dating while being separated from your ex-spouse can often feel like a no man's land of uncharted territory with no clear rules. There may be concerns about how quickly to move things along, or a newfound fear of commitment because the most recent union failed.

While you may be eager to move forward and find new love, it can

feel like a slippery slope where you can get in too deep quickly, sometimes without even meaning to. With that in mind, there are certain pieces of relationship advice to consider as you navigate this sometimes lawless territory.

The first obvious question is how soon is too soon? It is a very personal journey in terms of how each person manages the sadness of saying good-bye to someone they loved and shared a life with. Some people have no immediate desire to meet someone new, and instead withdraw and go into emotional hibernation, unwilling to put themselves out there for a while and risk being hurt again or diving into another unsuccessful relationship. Others take the opposite approach and seek out a new romance because that is what they believe they need to survive the turmoil they are facing. Taking your personal inventory of what works for you, figuring out your own rhythm of moving faster or slower, can be helpful in gauging the best way for you to proceed. If you do decide to jump back in to the pond of love, try to consider what didn't work in your marriage and attempt to avoid those behaviors in this new partnership.

Related Link: [Celebrity News: Brad Pitt is Casually Dating as He Adjusts to Single Life as a Dad](#)

Along those same lines, how do you balance the responsibilities and devotion you have to your children, as well as all the things that go along with taking apart your old life, with this new person? Consider how much energy you realistically have to give to your new identity as a single

person and to your new relationship. If you have met someone you really like and want to get involved, that is fine, but keep your kids in mind and pace yourself with how you introduce them, possibly saying your new love interest is simply a friend at first so as not to confuse them. On the flip side, you might find you are not ready to invest a lot of time into a new romance. He or she might want to jump right in, planning dates and weekend brunches, but you are juggling time with your kids and don't want to miss a soccer game or a dance performance which often conflicts with the proposed plans. Think about and prioritize what is most important to you, and be completely honest about what you are willing and able to put into this new situation. Be clear about your time and what you need to keep it balanced. It can be helpful to convey this upfront so that they can keep their expectations of you realistic and not bombard you with demands for getting together. By doing this it will help make the new relationship stay light and be a relief for you, instead of becoming another emotional burden and a new source of guilt.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Can You Cheat Jealousy?](#)

Finally, is it okay to talk about your ex and the details of your divorce with your new dates? There is no question that you have gone through a difficult time as you and your ex-spouse untangle the life you shared together. It has probably been the focal point of everything for you, all that you can think about. It is natural, then, that it is what you are used to talking about, and very likely what you want to talk about. That is understandable, but when it comes to the people you are just meeting and getting to know, the less you say about the nitty-gritty of your ex and your divorce, the better. Try to keep the conversation focused on fun topics such as activities you enjoy doing as well as those you would like to pursue in the future. Instead of making this new person your support system while you go through the divorce, allow your connection to be about what is ahead of you and think about it

as an opportunity to explore who you are now and who you are becoming.

While it is a lot to contend with, it appears Brad is handling these possible roadblocks and choices with aplomb. Neri seems to be taking everything in stride, and perhaps she and Brad can continue on this path to happiness together.

Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on HealthyLife.net every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at askdrjane@drjanegreer.com. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer, and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

Relationship Advice for the Guys: How to Approach a Woman You're Interested In





By [David Wygant](#)

One of the biggest problems for men today is that they suffer from a made-up disease called Approach Anxiety. I keep waiting to see commercials during football games from a major drug manufacturer. It would start like this: a man staring at a woman who is staring at her phone. The man would be thinking about what to say. The woman would still be standing there, checking her Facebook feed or re-reading a text. You can substitute any of the details for this situation because, wherever women go, they're staring at their phones. It's their safety blanket, their virtual crutch. It may be annoying, but it still doesn't give the men a reason not to go and talk them.

Unfortunately, most men will be in this situation and say, "I really wanted to talk to this woman, but she was too busy on her phone." Women will always have their phone. It's the way they protect themselves, which means that men have to learn to conquer their Approach Anxiety.

Relationship Advice on Approaching Women from Relationship Expert David Wygant

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: When's the Right Time to Pop the Question \(Marriage\)?](#)

If you suffer from Approach Anxiety, try this new pill. If you are always trying to think of the right thing to say, then you need to take Approach No More. Now, the side effects may be substantial. You may itch. You may have a chronic stomachache. You may have heart palpitations, but at least you'll be able to go talk to a woman.

Honestly, I find the whole thing super silly. My [relationship advice](#) is to remember that you're just strangers passing each other during the day. It's so easy to start a conversation based on whatever is going on in the moment. I call it the power of observation.

Observe what a woman is doing and make a comment on it so you are jumping into her world. For instance, if she's at Starbucks and ordering a drink you've never had, say something like, "I've never had that here. Is it good? Is it your favorite?"

Men are always looking for opening lines. Opening lines are the biggest con in the world. Speak, talk, say anything, *be human*. Talk to a woman like you would talk to a regular person, and stop treating her like she's ET's sister. That's how you approach a woman you're interested in. Remember that you're not truly interested in her until you get to know her.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice for Guys: Why Is It So Hard to Date?](#)

So how do you get to know her? You must talk to her.

Communicate with her. Speak to her. Talk to her like you would anybody else. In my 20 years of being a [relationship expert](#) and helping men and women understand each other, I basically have told men the same thing over and over again: Stop worrying so much about what you say and just say anything. Realize women are more open than you think. They'll put the phone down if you come and talk to them, if you're confident about what you say, if you speak to them like you would an old friend. But if you go over there and try to say something clever that's really not clever, if you say something stupid that you've seen on the Internet, or if you're just shaking in your pants because you're so afraid to talk to her, she's going to feel that energy and want to run.

The only way you make a woman interested in you is if you treat her as you treat anybody else, and it's something that I do all the time. This [dating advice](#) works. The problem is that men have been marketed to death and made to believe that they need to do something so spectacular. Try talking to her about what's going on in the moment and listen to what she has to say. Just treat her like a human being.

David Wygant is an internationally-renowned dating and relationship expert, author of the book Naked, and speaker. Through his boot camps, personal coaching, and his [website](#), his love advice has transformed the relationships and love of hundreds of thousands of people from every corner of the globe.

For more expert relationship advice from David, click [here](#).

Love & Libations: Mint Juleps for a Derby Date Idea



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Whether you care about the Kentucky Derby or not, you will be hearing about the races' infamous Mint Julep until the Derby is well and done. You can't have a Derby celebration without the classic cocktail! Plenty of celebrities show up at the Derby to be seen, including Kathy Couric, Debra Messing, Tracy Morgan, and Harry Connick Jr., to name a few. Some celebrities even host events. Try hosting your own Derby party for a fun [date idea](#)!

Keep reading for celebrity spins on Mint Juleps for a fun date idea!

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Date Ideas & Summer Loving with Rosé](#)

If you can't make it to the Derby to hang out with your favorite famous people, you can still sip like a celeb. Dust off your big hats and put on your flashy clothes (even if you are just watching at home) to rock the latest [celebrity style](#) for your party or date night. Here are two recipes for the Mint Julep for your date idea – one has a Cognac base, while the other is based in whiskey:

D'USSÉ Julep (recipe courtesy of D'USSÉ)

Recently, [Beyoncé](#) stunned the world with her hot Coachella performance. Her boo, [Jay-Z](#), even joined her onstage. This celebrity couple will, no doubt, partake in the Derby. Jay-Z will probably make Bey a D'USSÉ Julep, the cognac-based version of this famous drink. Doesn't she deserve one or two? The Mint Julep was originally made with Cognac, so if you want a historically proper Mint Julep, this recipe is for you. It's perfect for entertaining, but if you and your partner are having a quiet Derby Day at home, it's still a great fit for your date.

Ingredients:

- 2 1½ parts D'USSÉ VSOP Cognac
- 1½ part simple syrup
- 2-4 sprigs of mint
- Crushed ice

Directions:

Place simple syrup in a julep glass with 5 or 6 mint leaves

and muddle. Fill the glass halfway with ice, add 1 1/2 parts of D'USSÉ VSOP Cognac, and stir. Add more ice and 1 part of D'USSÉ VSOP Cognac. Stir again until the glass is fully frosted. Top with ice.

Related Link: [Love & Libations: Heat Up Your Relationship with a Date Night in the Kitchen](#)

Jimmy Russell's Mint Julep

Matthew McConaughey is in bed with Wild Turkey to have his own signature whiskey called Long Branch. The whiskey is inspired by his Kentucky and Texas roots. The following Mint Julep recipe is one that McConaughey has shared from the master distiller of Wild Turkey, though I recommend using his Long Branch instead of Wild Turkey 101. It has Matt's humor written all over it. This one is a friends-and-family drink. It's worthy of whipping up a batch because it will go fast.

Ingredients:

- 200 mL Wild Turkey 101 or Long Branch
- 2-3 fresh mint sprigs
- Shaved ice
- 1/3 portion simple syrup
- Powdered Sugar

Directions:

Pour the whiskey and set aside. To fully enjoy the experience, make sure you have a proper stainless steel julep cup. Pick the fresh mint sprigs of their leaves and muddle the mint leaves in the bottom of the cup. Don't use crushed ice! Get a block of ice and shave some ice into the cup. This step is very important. Once the cup is cold and sweating, add simple syrup, powdered sugar, and mint sprigs. Finally, take the cup, go to your backdoor, throw the whole thing out, and drink the whiskey straight!

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and celebrity couple predictions from relationship expert Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

Expert Relationship Advice: How to Move On After Being Ghosted



By [Megan Weks](#)

Ghosted? Congratulations! While it may hurt to be left alone without any explanation, this [expert relationship advice](#) will

help you see how ghosting can be a *positive* thing for your dating life.

Reference the expert relationship advice below when you're feeling the dating blues!

Last night, a client told me how a man she had planned a date with seemingly fell off the face of the earth, except for one thing: the haunting green light on his Match account was lit up. He was online. His photos and approach were so entirely normal that I could not deem this man a scammer, a player, or anything in between. Frankly, it made the situation worse. It's easier when you can say, "This looks like a fake account" or "You dodged a bullet."

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: When to Sleep Over](#)

My client was trying to move on and was doing great until that same man sent a message saying, "I have not heard back from you in response to my last few messages." The fishy thing was that my client had been writing to him and had not heard back. She explained that in her next message. Was it a glitch with Match? Could it be some sort of deranged, crossed e-mail lines? She wrote him several times, reassuring him that she had written back. Flatline.

Did this man make the most lame excuse on the planet to dodge the date he had previously seemed so excited to attend? We may never know. As my client told her story, I felt knots in the pit of my stomach. Dating can be extremely discouraging already. This behavior, while unlikely a technical glitch, was completely outside of the realm of integrity that would line up with my client. She is a person who dedicates her life selflessly to others and deserves the utmost quality in her future mate.

When I finished scratching my head, I realized this truth: Some people are completely inept in telling you that they are not interested. One reason may simply be because they don't care. The other reason is that they actually care but cannot bring themselves to express the words.

Related Link: [Expert Dating Advice: How to Handle Heartbreak](#)

I want you to know that, if you're doing a good job putting yourself out there, you will come across some low-grade individuals – people who have little or no aptitude for dating whatsoever. It's going to be par for the course. While your dating life may not be the [latest celebrity news](#), it's still a tumultuous and painful journey.

What might be less obvious to you is that it's a sign you're on the right track. You're on the right track because you are taking the risks to get out there and to take the good with the bad. If you're doing that, you're already winning.

The path toward finding The One can be bumpy. It's those who are willing to face the bumps and persevere who will find their love. Keep going. Rejection is simply redirection. It's the universe's way of sending you one step closer toward your right person. Trust my love advice – it will help you avoid any more unnecessary heartbreak.

You were ghosted? Congratulations. NEXT!

For more information about dating expert Megan Weks, visit her website at www.meganweks.com. For more expert relationship advice articles from Megan, click [here](#).

Relationship Advice: Working Through Your Heartbreak



By Dr. Jane Greer

Getting over a heartbreak is never easy, and there is no simple answer to how to recover from it. What does it mean when relationships don't work out? Is it you choosing a bad partner, or is it something out of your control? Dealing with the loss of love is often a challenge. Some people throw themselves back into the mix immediately, jumping in to a new relationship, while others take themselves out of the dating game for a while. The question is, how do you hold on to hope, and is there a way to try to ensure success on take two so that you don't continue to repeat the same wrong moves in the love game? It's rumored that The Weeknd's new EP is about his exes [Selena Gomez](#) and Bella Hadid. Perhaps his approach to

dealing with his breakups is through his music.

Here is some expert [relationship advice](#) on navigating heartbreak post break-up and when entering a new, rushed relationship:

Many who dive right back into the fire may find that their new love connection isn't going as well as they had hoped and wonder why. There are several reasons this can occur, and it is helpful to understand them. For some, the pain of the split is too immense to handle because of how personally rejected they feel. As a result, their self-esteem may take a big hit, and they may go along in a relationship that they know isn't a good fit simply because having a new person in their life helps buffer the intense pain they are feeling. In that case, their thought might be that at least somebody wants to be with them. Another reason is that sometimes the loss of a significant other in their life and everything that goes along with that – doing things together, planning for two, looking toward the future, and having some security as to how they spend their weekends and evenings – is so hard to take that being with anyone might seem better than being alone. Therefore, they will quickly seek out a new partner regardless of how bad a fit that person might be. When that happens, simply having that person in their life trumps how compatible they are. If either of these reasons are in play, it can be the equivalent of taking an aspirin for a headache. It is a quick antidote to buffer the pain, but it may not deal with the contributing issues that brought about the heartbreak in the first place. Consequently, if you are looking to “lose” yourself in a new relationship, be it a rebound or an escape from the past, while it might ease the heartache in the moment it can sometimes lead to more loss in the future.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Say 'Yes' to Terms of Endearment](#)

In this whole mix one of the questions is, have you gotten over your ex at all? If not, you might find yourself comparing your new person to your old significant other, and if you are still in love with the former, your current companion may pale in comparison. While the relationship itself might make you feel better about yourself temporarily, your new partner may not ever replace your old one. In addition, there may be unresolved problems still lingering from your old relationship that you now find squarely present in your new romance. You may even realize, surprisingly, that you have taken on the role of your old partner with your new one, and are now doing what your ex did to you, anything from calling too often to acting jealous. If you find this happening it can be a red flag that all is not well.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Tips to Inject More Romance to Your Relationship](#)

If you have gone through a heartbreak and are looking to start a new relationship that is successful, it is important to take an honest look at what didn't work in your romantic past. Shine a light on what went wrong. Were you unhappy or did you do something to make your partner unhappy? Were they turned off by some of your behaviors and quirks, or you by theirs? Was it you or them who was not willing to step up to the plate in terms of making necessary compromises? This will help you develop self-awareness and give you some understanding of what might be at play with your new partner. This will also enable you to view the past as a stepping stone to the future, not wasted or lost time, but important information that you can learn from and take with you. It can also give you more realistic expectations going into the next relationship so you can hopefully make a better choice that will lead to a more positive connection. Along the same lines, if you find yourself going from one relationship to the next so you are

not alone, but you keep choosing people who are not right for you or you lose interest in them quickly, then now is a good time to learn how to be on your own so you can develop inner security and grow stronger before doing a cannon ball back in to that pool of love. Once you have given yourself a chance to do that, you might be better able to choose a new partner based not only on how they make you feel about yourself, but also on how you feel about them and what you are able to share together.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Don't Let Distance & Lifestyle End Your Relationship](#)

It seems that The Weeknd is working through his heartache with music. [Taylor Swift](#) has been known to do the same. You don't have to write music to be able to do this. Instead, write a letter of the things you wish to say or wish you said, that you don't have to send. You can also listen to sad songs, but remember to balance that with a few love songs so that you are able to have faith that there will be a new beginning around the corner for you.

Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](#) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at askdrjane@drjanegreer.com. Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer, and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](#) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit www.drjanegreer.com.