

Expert Relationship Advice: When to Sleep Over



By [Megan Weks](#)

When to sleep with someone is a personal decision; it must be considered for each specific situation. However, before you decide, influenced by him as the external factor, an internal overview is always the first consideration.

Consider the expert relationship advice below:

Many great loves that have begun with an immediate naked, giddy romp have turned into serious relationships and lasting love stories. You may even know a couple who started off this

way. Even so, I'm going to offer some [expert relationship advice](#) for you to think about before making the fateful decision to jump into the sack.

Being single can be tiresome. Our bodies ache and yearn for closeness. The discomfort of pulling yourself together after work to be date-ready, skipping workouts, and spending money on clothes and cabs, only to have to face an unknown person who decides whether you're a yes or a no, can be a process of grueling anxiety.

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It's easier to slip into your comfy stretch pants and dive onto your warm, cozy couch for some yummy snuggles with the hot-blooded male specimen standing before you. You crave to feel a warm touch or a tickle on your back and perhaps gentle cheek kisses. Ahhh. The delicious comfort of a relationship! The urgency to advance quickly into this stage has many of us skipping the necessary qualifying steps that, ideally, come before committing to an exclusive relationship.

There are two ways to approach the intimacy process in a new relationship. The first is to dive right in, learn about the guy's intentions and goals, and hope that the relationship falls into place (keeping in mind that his words don't necessarily determine his intentions – only time and consistency will reveal his *true* intentions). If you take this approach, you'll be making relationship decisions after the physical bond has been formed. Even if this man is not right for you on multiple other planes, you'll have to determine that while feeling physically attached to him! Therefore, your body will be yearning for closeness with him, while you're still trying to figure out if he wants what you want, has similar values, and so on.

After having sex, it's proven that your brain makes cloudy (hormone-influenced) decisions about the person to whom you

are attached. This is how we end up in time-consuming “mini-relationships,” often followed by painful “mini-break-ups.”

Do you have relationships that begin hot and heavy and then start to taper off and fade away? Do you have a hard time getting serious interest from men? Have you not had a serious relationship in longer than you would care to admit? If so, I want to stress this second approach to the intimacy process: Take your time to get to know a guy over two to three months before the sleepover. The process where you learn about one another slowly, without exclusivity and without sex, is what I call The Exploratory Phase of the relationship. If you include this phase in your dating process, you will decrease your number of sexual partners and increase the likelihood that your relationship will stand the test of time.

Even naturals at love can still fall prey and find themselves mired in many time-consuming “miniature-serious” relationships. You see, when you dive in head first, you put yourself in a position I call Lay and Pray. This is when the physical part of the relationship occurs before the actual relationship. A woman who gets caught up in Lay and Pray is telling herself that she can handle it and that she’s going to remain cool while things fall into place. Sound familiar? However, in this place of uncertainty, she’s feeling uneasy, seeking for answers or clues to help her define what’s happening with the relationship.

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Even if what she is experiencing with him is not ideal, she’s not exploring other options because she feels attached and is not interested in seeking out other possibilities. Women whom I define as naturals at love might still have a decent ROI (return on investment) with this method of dating because the naturals usually have a better feeling about the men who are coming into their lives. This means that, since they are

making overall healthier choices when it comes to men, they will have a higher ROI in their dating process. Even though a woman may be able to jump into bed and have a chance of that turning into a solid relationship, she still needs to consider her goals, her health, and the time investment she is willing to put into having multiple “mini-serious” relationships.

Keep in mind that if he’s the right man for you, you’ll likely have the rest of your life to enjoy him, both in bed and on the couch. Either way, happy humping!

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: Is a Bad Boy Good for You?





By Dr. Jane Greer

Carmen Electra has revealed her ideal man is a “bad boy with a good heart.” She describes this man as someone who has been through a lot in life, and has had to work on himself. He is a spiritual person with a strong self-awareness, someone who has “worked all the steps” and is ready to settle down after experiencing all of the craziness of life. This is a common desire for women – wanting a man who is thought to be “bad.”

This conundrum of falling for the rebel, the tough guy, and then dealing with the consequences that brings, has been around since people have been looking for love. What is it about that “type” that

attracts so many? Check out the following [relationship advice](#).

It could be the image, or the idea that someone like that might be sexier than someone else, or it might be the thrill of being with a man who often decides not to follow the rules. Whatever the case, it can often lead you down a path of darkness. Very often the outcome is that the “bad boy” makes you feel bad. You see him as having been through a lot, maybe even having suffered, and you might want to try to make things better for him, but it comes with a price. Someone who breaks the rules might do so in your relationship, too, by lying, cheating, and even possibly insulting you. To an outsider, it might look like simply asking for trouble. Why, then, would someone knowingly put themselves through that?

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In my book *How Could You Do This To Me? Learning to Trust After Betrayal*, I talk about the trust sand traps that keep you mired in a relationship like this. The first is, you want to give him the benefit of the doubt. In other words, you want to believe what he says and take it at face value, whether it is that he is sorry, or he didn't mean it, or he didn't realize what he did would hurt you. It is a way to make yourself feel virtuous since you are being understanding and patient, and you keep giving him another chance. You can say to yourself, look what I'm willing to put up with. Another trust sand trap you can get stuck in is the idea that he loves you so much he will change his bad behavior for you. This concept allows you to stay in it and tolerate whatever he does while holding onto the hope that over time he will come to treat you the way you want. You are going to be the one who is more special than all of the other women, and be able to bring out the good in him. And finally, there is the idea that we

are meant to accept the good with the bad. He wants you to feel sorry for him for how hard he's had it, and all the pain he has been through. This can work on your guilt. So by staying with him, it gives you a feeling of being in control since you are choosing to put up with it, which can help to alleviate your feeling guilty about not being accepting enough.

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If any one of these three trust sand traps are at play with you, surprisingly the relationship might be a way of going about trying to make yourself feel good. You raise your self-esteem by making you feel you are a strong, tolerant, and forgiving person in contrast to his being so bad. If you find yourself here, you may want to explore other ways to boost yourself up. Try to begin to trust your own truth by admitting that his lies and the other troubling things he does are not okay, and probably won't change. Protect yourself by putting limits in place and refusing to go along with the bad behavior so you don't have to continue to be mistreated.

Hopefully Carmen's "bad boy" has gotten all that negativity out of his system and is ready now for a smooth, good ride with her by his side.

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Love & Libations: Palate Pleasing Pairings & Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Thanksgiving is a time for spending with the ones who we love. That also means it's a time when wine and cocktails are flowing to celebrate gratitude and the joy of being together. Here are some beverage ideas perfect for pairing with your Thanksgiving meal, whether you're having a special [date night](#)

with your partner or a dinner with your friends and family.

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A great way to butter up your mother-in-law is with a bottle of bubbles. Slip her a bottle of Carlos Santana's Supernatural Brut. The blend of Chardonnay and Pinot grapes is a creative collaboration between Mumm Napa and Santana. The aromas of apple, fig, and vanilla are signatures of the holidays. Mumm Napa is one of the best sparkling wine houses around, so she will probably hide the bottle to save it all for herself.

Celebrity Couple Inspiration for Thanksgiving Day

Bring [celebrity couple](#) Jay-Z and [Beyoncé](#) to your Thanksgiving table by busting out a bottle of D'USSÉ. A lot of people think of Cognac as a drink for men, but women also love the brandy as well. Your relatives will be thrilled to indulge! Plus, if you aren't married yet, maybe it'll get you "marriage material" points. D'USSÉ has notes of caramel, spices, and honey that will excite your nose as well as your palate. Use the brandy to mix up some cocktail classics like a Sidecar or French 75, which go great with turkey, cranberries, and dressing. Above all else, Cognac is an elixir of love, mainly because it makes everybody feel good.

When you know that your partner digs Scotch, you can most certainly pair it with a Turkey Day feast. A good selection is Haig Club Scotch Whisky, a single grain scotch whisky in a striking blue bottle that is as posh as its British creators [David Beckham](#) and Simon Fuller. Think toffee and butterscotch notes with a short finish. Keep it simple by adding a touch of club soda to it to pair with dinner. If you still plan to serve wine with dinner versus the whisky, make a light Scotch-based cocktail as an aperitif to kick off the festivities.

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When your Thanksgiving meal is over, a perfect way to chill with your significant other or family and friends is by having an after-dinner drink such as a Limoncello. The Italian lemon liqueur is mainly produced in Southern Italy. While it's slowly becoming more popular around the world, it's the second most popular liqueur in Italy. Danny Devito's Limoncello is the pick that will do the trick. Devito ended up getting into the Limoncello game after drinking far too many with George Clooney and showing up tipsy for an interview on *The View*. This is what you call turning lemons into Limoncello!

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

Relationship Advice: When Is the Old New Again?





By Dr. Jane Greer

Jelena is back! [Justin Bieber](#) and [Selena Gomez](#) are officially back together. This is an instance when what was once old and finished can become new again. Rekindling a relationship in this way can sometimes mean a couple was never really over the feelings they shared for each other the first time around, or that with the passage of time they are simply ready to give it another try. Sometimes extenuating circumstances such as illness can play a role and help them realize what is truly important. With this in mind, an end is not always really an end, and you might have an opportunity one day to reconnect with an old love if they're single, too. If that happens, it may give you both a chance to deal with unfinished business, and to move forward the way you may have always hoped you would.

**How, then, can you get from Point A
– a breakup – to Point B – a**

revived romance?

So many things can bring a relationship to a grinding halt despite the fact that two people still feel love for each other. Career opportunities that force people to live in different places, or one of you wanting one thing – such as marriage or a family – when the other isn't quite ready. Negative parental pressure can also tear two people apart even if they don't really want to say goodbye. In these cases it isn't the feelings people have for each other that threaten the relationship, it is the life/work balance and other outside forces. This can become especially hard to cope with if one or the other jumps into a new relationship quickly to get over the hurt and disappointment of the loss. Even considering that, there still might be feelings of hope that someday they will find their way back to each other and their connection will resume.

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Sometimes this can occur with simple good luck – two people find themselves living in the same city again. It can also happen more dramatically, such as when someone becomes ill, as Selena has been with lupus which required a kidney transplant earlier this year. That sort of event can change your perspective and make you question your priorities, turning the small issues that once seemed so important in the past into meaningless details in the present. It may make you more willing to compromise over differences that previously you might have stood your ground on. It might also make you realize that you don't want to waste any more time hoping and waiting, and one or the other might reach out. When one does that, if the other person is receptive and welcomes the contact, it can leave room to pick up where you left off, rebuild, or even lay down new tracks.

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If you have been in a relationship that ended, and find yourself suddenly single and thinking about a former love, if they are also single, it might be a chance to call or write to them. If that person is sick, you can reach out in the name of friendship and offer caring support in those hard times. By doing so you open the door which might lead to something bountiful for both of you, and give new life to the connection you once shared and cherished.

Whatever happens going forward, it seems clear that Selena and Justin indeed have a bond together that has endured.

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Dating Expert Reveals Why Online Dating Is Better Than Meeting In Real Life



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

So often online dating is looked upon as a medium that people turn to after running out of options in “real life.” As an online [dating expert](#), I may be a bit on the biased side, but I personally think this is a mindset that officially needs to be put to death. Not only is online dating an incredible opportunity to meet other singles, but dare I say, it’s even better than attempting to meet people out and about. Here are five reasons why:

Online Dating Advice: Why It's Better Than Real Life Dating

1. I don't have to put on pants to meet someone special: Okay, so maybe *eventually* I will. But when I'm home on a weeknight, tired, cold, and worn down from my work week, it sure is nice

to meet other singles without having to get dressed up, brush my hair, and psych myself into feeling energized for [date night](#). Online dating is always there for me. Rain, shine, morning, afternoon, or night, I can always meet someone from the very comfort of my own home.

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2. There's almost no financial investment: Going out to meet women isn't exactly cheap, especially in a big city like mine. Between drinks, transportation, and that inevitable late night snack, one night out can easily turn into a 100-dollar investment. Paying a 30-dollar membership to Match or even signing up for a free website provides me with a lot more opportunities to meet people for pennies on the dollar.

3. Real life makes no guarantees: Whether you are attempting to meet someone during your daily routine, at a social club, or at a bar, there are no guarantees. If you're lucky, maybe you'll stumble upon someone else who is single that you are attracted to. But how often does that happen? When you are on an online dating site, you are guaranteed to come across other people that are also single and actively looking to meet someone.

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4. Online dating can be less pressure: One of the beautiful aspects of online dating is that you already know a fair amount about the other person prior to meeting. Between the profile and the conversations you have via email, you will have a nice insight into that person's likes, dislikes, and personality. That makes the prospect of talking to somebody new a bit more relaxed since you've already had some icebreakers prior to meeting. As an added bonus, you have a nice cheat sheet of topics that you can talk about on a first

date.

5. Online dating is what everyone is doing these days: There's simply no way around it: Meeting people in real life is great, but with the busy lives we all lead, it's just not as realistic. Online dating has become mainstream and is, without a doubt, the most common way singles attempt to meet these days. You can't fight progress!

For more advice from dating expert Joshua Pompey, including how to write [online dating emails](#) with 300 percent higher response rates, visit [this page](#). Or click [here](#) to learn why you aren't getting responses on Match.

Relationship Advice: How to Handle Engagement Envy





By Dr. Jane Greer

Fashion model Gigi Hadid really wants her boyfriend, Zayn Malik, to propose after she found out her ex, Joe Jonas, just got engaged. This is a common response of feeling envious when your ex has moved on from being with you and gets engaged to someone else. It's difficult to feel like you are a step behind when you see a former partner move forward with increased commitment, planning a future life together with someone else. This can be even more challenging if you are either at a standstill in your current relationship or worse if you're not in one at all. Engagement envy can strike and push you ahead when in fact you might not be ready to get engaged, as well as lead to pressure that can create conflict.

How, then, can you handle envy and see the potential good you have right now instead of focusing on

what could have been or forcing what isn't meant to be yet? Here's some relationship advice.

Even though a relationship is over, there can be that urge to look back and wonder what you could have done differently. There might be a lot of bad that led you to the breakup, but somehow people tend to remember that pot of good that brought and kept you together, no matter how small it might be. With that in mind, it is hard not to wonder what you might have been able to do to work things out with your ex. Should you have tried harder, or given the love you once shared a second chance? These feelings can really come to the forefront when your ex becomes engaged to another person. You might even think that could have been, maybe should have been, you.

Related Link: [Celebrity Couple News: Gigi Hadid's Family Calls Zayn Malik a 'Great Guy' and Says 'She's Happy'](#)

Those negative feelings swirl around the sense that you've been cheated. You were the one who put up with so much negativity and worked at getting your partner to change for the better, and now someone else is going to reap the benefits. Or you might feel it's not fair that your ex so easily found another partner while you might still be looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right. Or, as in Gigi's case, you might actually be part of a new couple, but seeing your ex get engaged to someone else stirs up your own desire to do the same. This could be stemming from not wanting to see your former lover be more successful than you, resulting in your forcing your new partner to take the next step before either of you are ready.

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All of these scenarios have the undercurrent of envy, which is never a pleasant place to be. So what can you do? First and foremost, remember what was different about the relationship you used to have and why you chose to end it in the first place. Trust your gut that you were taking care of yourself, and the breakup was in your best interest. If your ex was the one to call things off it might help to realize that the expectations he or she had for you were probably unrealistic, and take comfort in the fact that you are now free from that conflict and disappointment.

If you are currently not involved with somebody, it is really important to keep in mind that the connection you had with your ex served a purpose in helping you grow and discover what you are looking for in someone and what you're not. Even though they are now involved with someone else, try to keep that separate from your life and instead let it shed a light on what you want in your next relationship. Rather than getting caught up in feeling left behind or abandoned, or a failure that you and your ex couldn't make it work, focus on what you took out of it to better judge and choose your next partner.

Finally, if you are in a relationship as Gigi is, and your ex is already engaged to someone else, consider that this new situation for your ex may perhaps be a rebound romance. They might be in a hurry to have a commitment, and it still might be just as fraught with the complex issues you had together. Just because he or she is choosing to get married now does not mean it will necessarily be smooth sailing ahead. If you can, sit back and maybe find some relief in the fact that it is not you on the road to marriage with someone you already know brings discontent and hard times to the table.

Hopefully Gigi and Zayn will get engaged when the time is right for them, not her ex.

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Relationship Advice: Does Being Wronged Give You The Right To Fight?





By Dr. Jane Greer

Superstar Pink has revealed that Christina Aguilera tried to punch her in a club during their feud, rather than talking things out. Sometimes when people do not have the skills or the opportunity to deal with their anger directly, that hostility might build up and result in a situation like this, which isn't healthy for anyone.

So, how can you avoid this a hostile incident, and, more important, how can you guard against feeling so mad that you find yourself wanting to hit someone? Here's some relationship advice:

Very often when somebody does you wrong, you believe you have

the right to feel outrage toward them. If you don't get to talk through those feelings, they can build up into self-righteousness that you carry around with you like a landmine that might explode anytime it is triggered. Understanding this points to how important it is to speak up when you feel offended or hurt by someone's behavior or actions toward you. Doing this is essential to your health and well-being.

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The best thing to do is to talk directly to the person you have the grievance against. Reach out through a letter, email, or a call, and ask if that person is willing to sit down with you or have a conversation over the phone. Explain that you are upset and would like to clear the air, and hopefully they will respond accordingly. If you can do this, it will not only help to dissipate the fury you feel, but might also lead you to a place of understanding as to why you had such a strong reaction about what happened in the first place. There is also the chance that the person in question did not even realize he or she did something to anger you, and this will give you the opportunity to gain some perspective as to what might have been going on for them. In this way, you can discover something that can help to shift things so that what they did doesn't occur again.

Of course there are times it isn't possible to speak directly to the person. If, for example, they refuse to talk to you, or if it is impossible to reach them, are you stuck with all this rage? You don't have to be. If that happens, see if there is someone else you can talk the issue through with who might help you figure out why this pushed your buttons so much. Did you feel devalued? Lied to? Blamed? Were you treated unfairly? Were you made to feel vulnerable? Once you have a good handle on it, it will help you navigate so that you can prevent similar situations in the future. One of the goals is to learn how to stop taking things personally, because this can make you stronger and less sensitive to people's offensive

behavior.

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If there is nobody you are comfortable talking about this with, and the other person is uncooperative, then write it down for yourself. There is a reason we say the pen is mightier than the sword, and there is no better example of that than this scenario. When you are able to express yourself in words, either through talking or writing, it helps to release and decrease your anger, so instead of carrying around one hundred pounds of it, you can reduce that to a lighter load of twenty pounds or so. The sword, or in Pink and Christina's case, a possible punch, does not address the problem or resolve the conflict. It will only lead to more of the same.

Nobody likes to be angry. But if you can use it in a positive way as a catalyst to change through conversation, it can give everyone a chance to move forward and feel better. Thankfully, Pink and Christina never came to blows. Perhaps in the future they will find the words to connect.

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Dating & Technology Q&A: How Do I Get My Girlfriend to Stop Posting Racy Photos?



Question from David T.: I've been with my girlfriend for a long time. We have a great relationship, but she often posts suggestive photos of herself on social media, and it makes me uncomfortable. How can I get her to keep that part of herself between us instead of for all the world to see?

Dating in the era of social media can be difficult. Parts of your relationship that were once private can now easily be shared online. So what do you do if one partner likes sharing

racy photos but it makes the other person uncomfortable? Let our [relationship experts](#) help by offering their best [dating advice](#) for using technology the right way. Learn valuable dating tips from matchmaker Suzanne Oshima and relationship author Robert Manni. Here, they'll answer your question on how to ask your significant other to keep personal parts of your relationship (like racy photos) private. Check out their dating advice below!

Dating Advice About Social Media & Racy Photos

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): I can completely understand why it makes you feel uncomfortable that your girlfriend posts suggestive photos herself on social media, but I'm guessing that this is something she was doing well before you started dating her. While you can't stop her from posting the racy photos, I recommend just being completely honest with her. Share your feelings with her and let her make her own decision about whether she wants to continue posting the photos. If she doesn't want to risk losing you, I'll bet she'll tone it down a bit, but don't expect her to completely stop posting those types of photos, especially on Halloween!

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[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): Millennials have little, if any, filters when it comes to posting to their social media pages. Whether they're on Instagram showing their fitness routines and progress pictures or booty shaking on Snapchat, it's all out there for the world to see. And for that reason, and if you and your lady share a clear understanding about your commitment to each other, I do not see this as a major issue. However, if you're uncomfortable with her sharing too many racy photos, ask her why she does this. Is it driven by self-esteem, competitiveness, or narcissism? Or is she simply

comfortable in her own skin and wants to celebrate her good looks while she's young and beautiful? Tell her how you feel – because if you don't the world will be watching her while you wait. 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.

Love & Libations: Autumn Date Night Ideas Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines





By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

Pumpkin spice isn't the only thing that arrives during Autumn. The season brings in the cold weather, making it the perfect time to snuggle up to your boo and enjoy some red wine to keep you warm. It's been said that red wine is an aphrodisiac for love. According to Euripides, the Greek tragedian who was a wine connoisseur, "where is no wine there is no love."

Here are some celebrity reds and [date night](#) ideas to enjoy during the crisp and cold months:

LVE Cabernet Sauvignon, Raymond Vineyards

Soul singer [John Legend](#) has a collection of wines called LVE produced in Napa Valley. His Cabernet Sauvignon has notes of blackberries, dark chocolate, and black tea. Can't you imagine [Chrissy Teigen](#) making a dish from her cookbook for Legend and pairing it with some of his wine? File that under relationship goals! Put on some of Legend's slow jams, sip some LVE, and

make it a very romantic night.

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Marilyn Merlot, Marilyn Wines

You know you are an icon when you've passed away and you end up with your own wine. Marilyn Merlot is inspired by none other than Marilyn Monroe. If Monroe's sassy attitude could be put in a bottle, this wine would be the answer. It's easy to assume this wine is mainly for fun, but it's actually a high-quality wine produced in Napa Valley that's been going strong since 1981. Vanilla and tart cherries will flirt with your palate. When you are feeling extra frisky, maybe even a bit adventurous with your partner, this wine is the one.

Pinot by Tituss, PBTB Wines

If you have ever watched the Netflix hit, *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, you are probably familiar with the character Titus Andromedon, played by Tituss Burgess. In season one, his character sang a song called "Peeno Noir." The song became a viral hit, which led to Burgess creating a Pinot Noir wine. The actor has said that the wine is meant to be enjoyed by all the fabulous "Kings and Queens." This fun and fruity wine is great for a Netflix and chill night or some hold me, let's Hulu.

The Director's Merlot, Frances Ford Coppola Winery

Coppola has been in the wine game for a while. His wines tend to be inspired by the art of storytelling and filmmaking, so they have unique names to reflect that. The Director's Merlot is a juicy and succulent red that is a good example of a wine from Sonoma. Coppola has probably won more awards for his wine than his films. This Merlot is perfect to enjoy while relaxing by the fire and having a nice conversation with your love.

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Drew's Red Blend Pinot Noir, Barrymore Wine

Drew Barrymore is the perfect celebrity to have a wine. She knows how to have fun and live it up. She created her line of wines with the help of the California-based Carmel Road Winery. Her red blend is meant for every day sipping. Since it has notes of tobacco, spice, and fruit, it would be good paired with meat or something from a slow cooker. Long story short, when you are home for a nice, quiet meal with your partner, this is the perfect wine to choose.

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

Expert Relationship Advice: First Comes Love – Now What? Creating Intimacy Without Intercourse





By [Amy Osmond Cook](#)

The power of love can never be underestimated, but it is also often misunderstood. As one of the leading Google search topics, the matter of love and how it pairs with sex is on most people's minds. It's possible to have sex without love, but can love survive without sex?

Most people say yes. A [study](#) conducted at San Diego State University reported that couples who reported having a satisfying relationship also reported having less sex as the relationship progressed. In an era where sex is used to sell everything from perfume to bathroom cleaner, this study shows that people may be buying it, but they aren't necessarily "doing it."

Relationship Advice on How Sex Relates to Love

"Despite their reputation for hooking up, Millennials and the generation after them (known as iGen or Generation Z) are

actually having sex less often than their parents and grandparents did when they were young,” says Jean M. Twenge, the study’s lead author and professor of psychology at San Diego State University.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: 4 Reasons Going Outside Your Comfort Zone Is A Good Idea](#)

Recognizing that romantic love and intercourse can be mutually exclusive is encouraging news for millions of people who are unable to “seal the deal.” Whether limited by emotional challenges or physical obstacles, these champions of celibacy are coming forward with candid conversations, new desires, and innovative ways to create satisfying relationships beyond the bedroom.

“While these people are unable to have intercourse, they still crave intimacy but are unable to open up about it,” says Laura Brashier, founder of RomanceOnly.com, a site that promotes and supports those seeking intercourse-free relationships for “whatever” reason. “I’ve discovered that people facing difficulties with sexual intercourse still want to show love and be loved in return.”

1. Connection: Successful connection requires recognizing the difference between love and erotic love. “Love proper is to do with the other person,” says [Olivia Fane, relationship author](#) and sex therapist. “It is about the care, respect, and understanding of that human other. Love like this grows; it cannot help it. The more of yourself you invest in another person, the more you receive.” This connection unites two beings into one unit; their pain is your pain, and their joy is yours too.

2. Unconditional Caring: An authentic love says I care how you feel. But loving unconditionally doesn’t mean you have the responsibility to deliver everything the other person wants. “When we love people unconditionally, we accept them as they

are and how they aren't and contribute to their happiness as wisely as we can," says Greg Baer, MD., author of *Real Love: The Truth about Finding Unconditional Love & Fulfilling Relationships*. Connection happens when we genuinely care about the happiness of the person with whom we share our lives.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: Listen With Your Heart](#)

3. Communication: It's one of the most common pieces of [expert relationship advice](#): Honest and open communication is an integral part of a healthy, loving relationship. For people struggling with sexual intercourse, the anxiety that accompanies being honest about their inability is hard to express. "Knowing what each party brings into a relationship and being able to own and acknowledge this can often provide a basis from which a couple can grow and improve together," says psychotherapist [Michael Betts, MSc, MBACP](#). Rather than viewing sexual intercourse as a deficit, people can emphasize other qualities that they can contribute to a relationship.

4. Intimacy: As noted earlier, intercourse does not equate to meaningful intimacy. In fact, in many cases, it is the total opposite. "Our cultural talent for commercialization has separated out sex from intimacy," says [Lori H. Gordon](#). "In fact, intimacy involves both emotional and physical closeness and openness. But we wind up confusing the two and end up feeling betrayed or used when, as often happens, we fail to satisfy our need for closeness in sex." Sharing time and experiences, engaging in meaningful conversation, being responsive to needs, cuddling, and enjoying non-sexual physical contact help a couple feel valued, cared for, and safe. And all of these factors contribute to feelings of intimacy.

To paraphrase lyricist [Jackie DeShannon](#), what the world needs now is not more sex, but love, sweet love. And not just for some but for everyone. For those suffering from sexual challenges—as well as those who don't—physical gratification

outside of intercourse, within a loving relationship, is an intimacy in a league of its own where both sides win.

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

Dating Advice for Dealing with the Break-Up Blues



By [David Wygant](#)

Let me explain how I personally handle a break-up and why it's probably one of the most amazing ways to heal. When I experience a break-up with somebody, I want to process through

it very quickly. Why? Because to me, life is always about moving on.

When I was 19 years old, my mother and I had a long talk. At that time in my life, Kris, my high school girlfriend, had just broken up with me for the third time, and I was extremely upset. I was full of heartache. I was sobbing. I couldn't believe that this was the *third* time we had broken up.

Dating Advice from a Relationship Expert

My mother looked at me and gave me some of the best [dating advice](#) I've ever received. She was actually about to divorce my father, although I didn't find out about that until the next day.

Related Link: [Dating Advice for the Guys: Why Is it So Hard to Date?](#)

She said, "David, this will not be the last woman who loves you. As a matter of fact, there will be many women who love you. You see, you've learned some amazing things. You've grown from this relationship, and because of it, you became a better person. Thanks to all the wonderful experiences you had with Kris, you're going to meet somebody who loves you more."

Those words of wisdom really sunk in, and because of them, I've always been able to process past relationships very quickly. Whether I ended it or they did, I've always known that there's going to be somebody out there who's going to love me so much more.

Recently, I was with somebody, and I got love bombed. I spent three months with her. It was literally a summer romance; it lasted from Memorial Day to Labor Day. She told me that she loved me 15 times a day. Then, we had a conflict, and after

that, we never spoke ever again. She denied all of her feelings and everything that went on between the two of us.

I was heartbroken, but I was also relieved. I truly believe that, when conflict comes up, you get to see someone for who they truly are – not the well-behaved person that they've been pretending to be.

So how did I process through the break-up and end up so much stronger, more powerful, and more open to love than ever before? I talked to my friends. I literally spent two days doing nothing but healing. I went to my coach and therapist a few times. I figured out what I learned from my ex. I embraced how much I grew from the experience. I literally thanked the universe for presenting her to me so that I learned another valuable lesson in love.

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After 72 hours, I realized that I am a far better man because of my relationship with her. I was able to be loving and open again, something I hadn't really done for a couple of years. And my experience with her reminded me of the beautiful [relationship advice](#) that my mother gave me years ago. There's somebody out there who's going to love me even more, and I feel so satisfied knowing that. That's why I've always been able to go through a break-up quickly and come out stronger, more open, and more willing to love.

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

Celebrity News: Put Yourself First Like Lady Gaga



By Dr. Jane Greer

Lady Gaga announced she is postponing the European leg of her Joanne world tour until next year because she is in a great deal of physical pain, and has decided to take this time to try to heal so that she can come back stronger. This is a very difficult thing to do, since as a performer she may feel like she's letting down her fans. She has been open about her battle with fibromyalgia, including the side effects of anxiety and depression, but until now has pushed through it. In order for her to take this drastic and important step, one can only imagine the acute discomfort she is experiencing. She clearly has such a strong work ethic, and over the years we have witnessed the incredible details that go into her work.

It often seems she will do anything for her fans. But the time has come to focus on herself, making her fans number two for the time being. You don't have to be Lady Gaga or a performer to have a strong response to the people in your life, making it tough to take yourself out, even if it is just for a short time, and do what you have to do if you are suffering from a physical or emotional situation that is making it hard to function in your daily life. Sometimes even being able to find the time to get to the doctor for a simple appointment can seem daunting. So many of us feel a need to keep going, in work or taking care of family, and feel too guilty to take any time out for self-care.

The thing is, when you neglect yourself, not only can it compromise your work and caretaking, there is also a chance you will miss something with your health that needs your attention. When you consider the celebrity news behind Lady Gaga, it's very important to take care of yourself.

It seems like the obvious response that if you are not feeling well you will check it out, but so many people simply don't and continue to ignore whatever is bothering them, often trying to forge ahead and doing further harm. It isn't until you have gone over a cliff or hit a wall, simply unable to go on in the same way, that many people stop to consider their own needs. By then, though, recuperating might take even longer and be more complicated.

If you are one of those people who finds it difficult to put your own needs first but might be concerned about a personal health issue, what can you do? This does not include situations that might seem like an emergency – a terrible headache, a pain in your left arm, symptoms of a possible stroke – in those cases it is essential to seek immediate medical help. But for more subtle symptoms that linger, making you feel different from your norm, it is important to pay attention and take inventory. Give yourself a timeline, deciding that if the symptoms don't go away by a certain time you will go to a doctor. Some health issues present themselves in a flurry of symptoms that are hard to pinpoint and too easy to explain away. If these persist, don't ignore them.

Along the same lines, if you're dealing with health concerns and physical pain, it helps to be able to talk about it with people, friends and family. That way they can let you know that they care about you, as well as offer support and be helpful with whatever you're going through. It gives them a chance to be there for you.

Lady Gaga was open in sharing her painful condition, and is a role model for all of us. One thing she will most certainly feel in the coming weeks and months is the tremendous love and caring of all her fans .

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: The Stages of Soulmates



By Lori Zaslow and Jennifer Zucher from [Project Soulmate](#)

We all want to believe in love at first sight and the fairytale ending, but that's not always the case. Relationships and love can grow and change with time. From your first hello to saying "I do," here are four stages you will go through to establish if the person you're dating is your soulmate.

Follow this expert relationship advice to determine if you're dating The One!

Attraction/Connection/Infatuation: The first stage of any relationship occurs when you initially meet someone that you're attracted to and it intrigues you. Whether it was one conversation, a date, or an evening together, after spending time with this person, you want to get to know them better and learn more about them.

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Relationship: The second stage occurs when, after dating and learning more about this person, you want to continue to spend time with them and commit by being in an exclusive relationship. This stage should be bliss! You want to spend as much time as possible with each other, and you begin to introduce each other to your friends and even family.

Open Communication: During this stage, you're able to argue in a healthy way and have open communication during tough times. Reality begins to set in as your relationship faces difficulties. It can make your partnership stronger, and it's a great time to establish your core values and see if they are in line with your partner's values.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: When To Say I Love You](#)

Commitment: Here, you decide to take your relationship to the next level and get engaged. In order to get to this stage, you have to open up to one another, trust each other, and be on the same page when it comes to your values and your future together. At this point, you should know that your partner is, in fact, your soulmate!

For more [expert relationship advice](#) from Project Soulmate, check out their [website](#).

Expert Relationship Advice: How I Used a Manfunnel to Meet My Dream Husband



By [Megan Weks](#)

Once upon a time, a lonely woman centered her heart and her hopes on a certain man, whom she put on a pedestal. She wondered what he saw in her and why a man of his caliber would

be interested in what she had to offer. Long after he let her go, she would obsess and compare other men to him, feel sorry for herself, and wonder why a relationship hadn't yet worked out for her when they had for so many other women. When would it be her turn?

Dating Expert Megan Weks Shares Relationship Advice to Help You Find The One

This heartbreaking story was my ongoing pattern. I had gone through so many let-downs while dating in Manhattan for over a decade. Of course, I had some monumental takeaways. Oftentimes, though, I was already "in" the relationship wholeheartedly by the time I figured out it was not the real deal. This left me with painful and long recovery times when I had to grieve and slowly get back on my feet before being ready to face the dating world again. I finally realized that it was not intelligent of me to give my all to these men before I knew their motives. I learned that their true intentions showed up in the first three or four months of dating.

Related Link: [Expert Relationship Advice: Don't Let Him Be the One Who Got Away](#)

The Manfunnel was born out of simple math and complex self-love. It was built from the same equation that helped me find love quickly and learn how to capture the hearts of much higher-quality men than I had been accustomed to. A Manfunnel is simply a group of men who are looking to pursue you for a relationship; it's a tool used in what I call "The Abundance Model of Dating." It means that you hold off from becoming exclusive until you find a man who truly meets your needs on every level and on your timeline.

To follow this [expert relationship advice](#), remember that a man

is not going to date you exclusively if you aren't meeting his needs. Similarly, you should not allow yourself to be pigeonholed into a relationship that does not serve your needs. You're going to have to be really honest with yourself about what you *truly* want. Additionally, you will have to drop all of the excuses as to why he is not meeting your needs. Ask yourself if you are truly happy. Keep a daily log of how you are feeling and reflect on the relationship. If your relationship is anxiety-ridden, ask yourself why you are accepting this situation.

After you've determined that your needs are not being met and that you are ready to have it all and quickly, you are ready to build your Manfunnel. What this means is that, even though you have found someone who excites you, you will continue to keep your options open until you know for sure he is The One. A good rule of thumb is to wait for three months before you delete your other options. During that time, you are learning about men and about what will truly make you happy in a relationship. I call this waiting time "The Exploratory Phase." This can feel as if you're taking things extremely slowly; however, it actually saves you years of time.

Having a Manfunnel helps you from becoming overinvested too soon. When we believe there is a lack of options, we may start to slip into a place of scarcity. It's cyclical: When we start to believe this idea, men read our energy and also begin to believe that you don't have options. Biologically, this sends a message to men that you are not a high-value mate or a great catch...even if you are!

Related Link: [Dating Advice: Should I Drop All The Other People I'm Interested In?](#)

How Megan Weks Used Her Own Expert

Relationship Advice

My Manfunnel helped me realize my value in the dating marketplace. I started gaining momentum, and the confidence to date the kind of men I've always dreamed of – and, even better, to have these men want to make a commitment with me! When the man who would be my husband showed up, I came across as poised and feminine. You see, I had allowed myself to be filled up by the energies flowing toward me in the dating process, and this energy projected my warm and positive outlook on love. And so, I was able to make a choice with a clear head and an open heart. I set my boundaries on taking things slowly, and he enjoyed every minute of it. When he proposed before our six-month dating anniversary, I knew I had found the right man.

If you are looking to streamline the dating process and avoid having an unnecessary, painful broken heart, it's time to learn how to Master Your Manfunnel. Doing this can open up a whole new world to you.

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

Dating & Technology Q&A: Is It Too Soon For Me To Ask Him To Get Off Dating Sites?



Question from Adrienne P.: I started dating this guy a few weeks ago, and everything is going great, but there's one thing that bothers me- he still uses Tinder. I know it's early in the relationship and I don't want to seem controlling but I'd still like him to stop. It just doesn't seem like that'll help us advance forward in this relationship. Am I being unreasonable?

Dating in the era of social media and cellphones can be difficult. Having many options is something daters expect in case things go wrong. With so many people playing the field it can be hard to find commitment. However do not fret, you can have a successful relationship even if your new partner is still on a dating website. Leave it up to our relationship experts who can offer their best [dating advice](#) on using technology the right way. Learn valuable dating tips from Cupid's very own, matchmaker Suzanne Oshima and relationship expert Robert Manni. Here they'll answer your questions on

whether you should ask your significant other to get off Tinder.

Technology dating advice on whether it's time to give up dating apps.

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): You've only been dating him for a few weeks, so you're still in the early stages of dating where you're only getting to know each other and determining if you want to take things further with each other. So, it's a bit premature to ask him to get off of Tinder. However, I do recommend asking him what he's looking for, as you will then find out if he's looking to just date around or if he's looking for a serious relationship. Then based on what he tells you, you can determine if it's worth it for you to invest your time into seeing how things go with him. And if things continue to progress on the right path, then you can have the conversation about getting off of Tinder at the appropriate time.

Related Link: [Dating & Technology Q&A: How Bad Is It To Send Nudes, Really?](#)

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): These days, daters like keeping their options open, and with all of the options available there's often a disconnect in how two people define a relationship. The only way to find out where things stand is by asking. Cushioning, maintaining side relations and a constant online presence are standard operating procedure. Tinder is generally viewed as a hook-up app, so if your guy is still active there and you want to move your new relationship forward, ask him if he's open to putting his digital dating presence on hold. If he really digs you, he'll agree. If he rejects the idea or skirts the subject, at least you'll have a better idea where he stands. Since you've only been dating a few weeks, for now he may want to continue playing the field.

That's not necessarily a deal breaker. Guys often take more time to "get serious." Regardless, it's better to find out what his intentions are before investing too much of your heart into the relationship. Good luck.

To find out more about our three 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.

Dating Advice: The Do's and Don'ts of Online Dating First Dates





By [Joshua Pompey](#)

Ready for your very first online date? No? Well, don't worry. If you're nervous about meeting someone for the first time or simply need some solid [dating advice](#), today, we are going to go over some fundamental first date information that you should abide by when you meet your next online match.

Online Dating Advice from a Relationship Expert

1. Do take the time to look your best: Whether you are meeting straight from work or have had long busy day with your kids and are trying to squeeze in a date, you can't excuse yourself from looking your best. Men especially are very visual, so you need to put in the effort to reveal your best self if you want to impress him. Approach a date the same way you would approach a job interview: Dress for the occasion and take the process seriously.

2. Don't sexualize the way you look: Looking your best doesn't

mean letting all your best assets hang out in all their glory. It's okay to show sex appeal – in fact, it's even good. But less is more. Do so in a classy way.

3. Do meet in a public space: Safety should be one of your biggest concerns when online dating. Bad incidents are very rare, but they do happen. Always choose a public place that is fairly populated. Bars, restaurants, parks during the day, and coffee shops are just a few of the many domains that will accommodate this concern.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: 5 Reasons You Should Consider Hiring A Professional Profile Writer](#)

4. Don't accept a ride: Remember, safety first! Meet your date at the initial location that you decide upon and don't accept a ride home on the first date, no matter what. Even if your partner is safe, it still might create an awkward situation at the end of the night. If and when you get to a second date, then you can start expanding your boundaries a little.

5. Do prepare some topics of conversation in advance: Nothing is worse than awkward silences on a first date. Even if you're getting along great, it's still common to have lulls in the conversation when you meet someone for the first time. Circumvent this problem by having a few topics ready to go in your emergency conversation bank.

6. Don't try to take over complete control of the date: Making suggestions is great; most people will appreciate this effort. But don't try to take control over every aspect of where you go and what you do, or you may accidentally create the impression of being controlling and high maintenance. Instead, being easygoing and open are always two of the most attractive qualities someone can have.

Related Link: [Dating Advice: 4 Reasons Younger Women In The City Struggle To Forge Meaningful Relationships](#)

7. Do touch your date if you are interested: Yes, you should touch your date. But before you jump on top of him in the middle of dinner, I don't mean in a sexual way! I'm talking about little touches on their arm or the small of their back when making a point. Small touches like that communicate interest and establish a physical bond that will make you feel less like friends and more like potential romantic partners.

8. Don't start pre-planning future dates: Sometimes, people get excited about how well the date is going and start suggesting future ideas about where the two of you should go on a second, third, or fourth date. Don't do this. You may accidentally scare off someone who was otherwise interested in asking you out again.

9. Do text your date after if you had a great time: If you enjoyed yourself during your date, let the other person know with a text and thank them if they treated you to anything. This small gesture will go a long way towards showing them that you're a good person who is appreciative when someone is kind to you.

Have any more questions? [Contact me](#) here at Cupid's Pulse, and I'd be glad to help out!

For more information from [relationship expert](#) Joshua Pompey, including six lessons he learned from the world's greatest online dating profile, please visit [this page](#) now.

Relationship Advice: What We

Can Learn From Trials & Triumphs of Celebrity Relationships



By [Dr. Jane Greer](#)

Selena Gomez was seen cuddling up with The Weeknd while he relaxed with some video games recently. This is a perfect example of a low-key date. Couples sometimes think they must have constant excitement to keep the spark alive in their relationships; however, that is simply not the case. There are so many ways to share quality time, and a well-planned, expensive evening or afternoon is just one of many routes to take to create those special moments.

If you and your sweetheart are having difficulty finding ways to share some quality time, never fear. Check out some [relationship advice](#) to help you move forward!

Whether you are dating or married, finding time to be together and then deciding how you are going to spend it can be challenging. Many believe that if it doesn't require effort and money, it might not be worth it, or that their partner won't be interested. But so often people don't have the energy or extra minutes in a day it would take to choose a restaurant, make a reservation, find the right exhibit at a museum, and therefore the whole thing might simply not happen at all. There is no question that sometimes extravagant nights out are fun, but the pressure to get them just right can be overwhelming. Instead, consider a low-key date which can be a great way to spend quality time with a loved one. It can be as simple as watching a good movie, ordering your favorite take-out, or each doing what you like while being in the same room, which was the case with Selena and The Weeknd. One of you might want to play video games while the other puts together a photo album, or one of you might want to read a book while the other reads the newspaper.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: How to Navigate a Separation](#)

If you and your partner have been passing each other most days as you run around keeping your lives in order, but rarely have time to focus on each other, take the pressure off and plan a low-key date. All you really need is to find a few hours in your schedule when you can be together in the same room. One extra benefit it provides is a break from all your other

social responsibilities with family and friends. You don't have to be a celebrity to appreciate a few hours out of the limelight. You can snuggle and watch your favorite show on Netflix, or play cards, or learn how to play chess, or even take a walk. It's an opportunity to let your hair down and be real with each other, free from having to dress up and put too much attention on what you're wearing and how you look. The goal is to be together sharing time and space. Sidestep the fancy schmancy and make it easy peasy. Instead of thinking big, think small and turn it into great fun. The most important thing is that you are devoting time to each other. It will be more doable if it is simpler to plan, and often can be as enjoyable.

Related Link: [Celebrity Couple News: Bethenny Frankel & Dennis Shields Are Back Together and 'Having Fun'](#)

Selena and The Weeknd have the right idea. Just being together is the only real requirement of a happy date.

To keep up with Dr. Jane Greer, 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 <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

Relationship Advice: How to Navigate a Separation



By [Dr. Jane Greer](#)

Actors and [celebrity couple](#) Anna Faris and Chris Pratt announced that they are separating. This comes after eight years of celebrity marriage, and the birth of one son, Jack. It's always a shock when a seemingly stable couple decides to split. It appears that Anna and Chris are now finding some of their differences in family life difficult to reconcile, given their respective careers and professional demands. Chris needs to travel more for his career which is at a high point, making it necessary for Anna to handle many home responsibilities solo. Additionally, there may be other issues that they are not in agreement about.

Head below to check out some relationship advice regarding similar situations to Anna Faris and Chris Pratt's!

There is no question that once the decision is made to break up, disentangling your life from your partner's is almost always difficult and messy on so many levels. In addition to the obvious hardships, there is often collateral damage. One of the areas in which it can be particularly complicated is with the family and friends you share in common, and deciding how those alliances will shake out once you are no longer a couple. If you are in the same business, as is the case with Anna and Chris, that group probably also includes your colleagues.

There are so many possible scenarios: your brother has become good friends with your ex-husband, your kids go to the same school as your sister's and your ex-wife is used to spending mornings with her after drop-off, or your parents still invite your ex to holiday dinners. You might expect all of that to stop automatically now that you've split, but sometimes it isn't that clear cut and people want to continue relationships even though you might prefer they don't. Your instinct may be that they will be joining you in the separation and parting ways with your ex as well. However, demanding that they stop being involved in your ex's life can lead to conflict. How, then, can you begin to navigate this so that you can become more comfortable as you try to move forward in your new life?

Related Link: [Celebrity Break-Up News: Anna Faris and Chris Pratt Split After 8 Years](#)

The first step is to evaluate what your hopes and expectations are in terms of family and joint friends and colleagues. Do

you want them to unquestionably take your side and never see or speak to your ex again, or are you simply hoping they will let you know when they do interact with your ex or invite him or her to an event? Once you have a sense of that, consider the relationships these important people to you have with your ex. Have they become great friends, or are they just passing acquaintances who see each other a few times a year? Obviously, the request would vary depending on the intensity of what you are asking someone to give up. If they are very invested in their relationship with your ex, are you able to accept and make room for it? You can look to do this by trying to recognize that it is something separate from you, instead of seeing it as a threat.

Rather than trying to control their behavior, telling them what to do and what not to do, explain to them the way it feels for you, that their staying in touch with your ex might even feel like a betrayal, and let them know how that might affect your relationship with them. For example, it might be harder to talk to them about your feelings, or it might have an impact on the amount of time you spend together. Additionally, you can also let them know there are certain things you have already shared with them that you hope they can respect and keep private, and how important that would be to you. And finally, you can ask them to give you a heads up if there is a possibility that you and your ex will be invited to the same event. This will give you the opportunity to decide if you do or don't want to go, rather than being blindsided by your ex's presence when you show up. Keep in mind there can be many extenuating circumstances that can be confusing – a family illness or even a death – so it helps to be as clear with yourself as possible about what you can handle, so you can be equally honest with the people you love as you move forward.

Related Link: [Celebrity Break-Up: Anna Faris Opens Up About Split from Chris Pratt](#)

The goal is to figure out what it will take to give you the most peace in an already difficult situation. As Anna and Chris work their way through the murky waters of separation, hopefully they, too, will be able to minimize the collateral damage.

To keep up with Dr. Jane Greer, 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](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

Dating Advice: When To Say I Love You?





By Lori Zaslow and Jennifer Zucher for [Project Soulmate](#)

One of the biggest and perhaps scariest questions that arise when you begin to date someone new is determining when to say those three big words, “I love you.” But how do you know when it’s the right time to say it? Here are the key pieces of [dating advice](#) to keep in mind before putting your heart on the line.

Dating advice on the right time to say I love you.

Make sure its love. This may seem like an obvious point, but when you first start dating someone, you mistake lust for love. Before you say it, realize there are no take backs. You can’t say it one day and change your mind the next. If you are going to say it, make sure you really feel like you love the person and have the feeling that they love you too. Are you excited to spend time with the person and get to know them on a deeper level? Do you feel completely yourself around this person? These are questions that you should ask yourself

before taking the plunge.

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Can you let your guard down? Often times when you start out dating someone, it is easy because you haven't fully opened up to one another. Make sure that you are prepared to let your guard down and open up to this person. Also make sure you are willing to listen and not judge when your partner opens up to you.

Related Link: [5 Reasons To Play Hooky From Work With Your Honey](#)

How long have you been dating? There is no set number of weeks or months that you need to abide by before saying I love you, but it should be long enough where you have spent enough time together to really get to know each other and fall in love. Also make sure enough time has passed that you aren't going to freak your partner out or cause [relationship problems](#).

For more advice on love and relationships from relationship experts, check out our [website](#).

Relationship Advice: Are Guilty Pleasures Okay?





By Dr. Jane Greer

The pursuit of happiness is an inherent right, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. And yet, everyone grapples with pleasure in one way or another, encountering stumbling blocks along the way. Gina Rodriguez, star of the popular television show *Jane The Virgin*, recently admitted in [celebrity news](#) that she used to feel extremely guilty about masturbating. While masturbating is a natural and healthy activity, many people do experience guilt, especially if their religion indicates it is something to stay away from. They might also feel guilty if they are in a relationship, and worry it might be taking away from their being intimate with their partner.

We all want pleasure, but so often feel we “shouldn’t” have it for one reason or another. Guilt and anxiety can become barriers that make finding it elusive, and that is true whether someone is thinking of masturbating, or indulging in a good meal or a favorite dessert, or even taking time away from work and family to go to the spa. Generally, people have a hard time giving themselves permission to participate in self-

gratification.

The question is, why does feeling good make so many people feel bad? And even more important, how can you handle the negative feelings so that they don't spoil the positive ones? Here is some [relationship advice](#):

Of all the pleasures people feel sheepish about, certainly masturbation is one that carries perceived taboos. By the time people have reached sexual maturity, most have explored and discovered what feels good. If they aren't in a relationship, masturbation will give them the chance to satisfy their sexual desires. If they are, masturbating does not have to take away from the bond they have with their partner but can instead heighten their shared intimacy. But even with this in mind there is often a shameful element to it, as there is with other indulgences. There is this idea of what you should and should not be doing, when in fact, as long as you aren't hurting another person, there is no reason to deny yourself happiness. In fact, it is important to revel in it. We all deal with so many responsibilities and tasks we have to do on a daily basis, from paying the bills to feeding the family to going to work. With that in mind, it is all the more reason to seek out pockets of pleasure that can rejuvenate you and give you the stamina to tolerate all the rest. Here are a few tips for tackling the guilt that may be thwarting your joy.

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First of all, question the source of your guilt. Are you listening to someone else's voice in your head? Whether it be a parent or a religious figure or someone else, take time to figure out who is telling you that you shouldn't do whatever it is you want to do. Stop that voice in mid-sentence and replace it with your own beliefs and convictions. Speak up and out for what you deserve and want, as Gina is doing in challenging the social stigma by talking about masturbation.

Next, give yourself permission to find pleasure. Again, as long as you aren't completely shirking your responsibilities or causing harm to another, you have every right to pursue whatever healthy passion calls to you.

Finally, take responsibility for your well-being with the understanding that if you want to indulge it's helpful to set parameters so that you can feel in charge. Consider what you are hoping to do, and set a middle ground that will make you feel better. Meaning, if you engage in behavior that's triggering your guilt – a delicious dessert or masturbating – know that you will do these things and plan ahead so that you have intention, though you may not know when, you know that they will happen. In this way, rather than doing something impulsively where you feel controlled by it, you are making the decisions.

It isn't easy to tackle guilt, but it is possible. In the end, it is important to remember it is okay to feel good. Just as Gina is speaking out and moving beyond the taboos, you can too. In the end though, keep in mind that treating yourself well will have a positive effect on everything you do, and will give you the energy and grounding you need to keep your life running and give back to others.

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](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy.

Dating Advice: 5 Reasons You Should Consider Hiring A Professional Profile Writer



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

Over the past 10 years as a [relationship expert](#), I've written a whole lot of dating profiles. From teachers, to doctors, to CEOs, and even best selling authors, I've had the pleasure of helping people from all walks of life. And while most of the people I've worked with are intelligent, well-rounded, and perfectly capable people, it wasn't until they outsourced a professional profile writer that they will be able to find true online dating success. If you've been having less than stellar results online, or are even just beginning, I would strongly urge you to consider hiring a professional profile writer of your own. Here are five pieces of [dating advice](#) as to why.

Dating advice that will improve your odds on the field.

1. Online dating is a unique language: Remember when I said I wrote profiles for a couple best selling authors? Well I've also written a whole lot of online dating profiles for English professors, journalists, English teachers, and various other careers that specialize in writing. Most of these people possessed overall writing skills that were far superior than mine, but online dating is a different kind of language that requires a unique skill set. I may not be able to decipher Shakespeare on the same level or create meaningful poetry, but when it comes to online dating profiles, I bring much more to the table. Everything is relative.

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2. Professional profile writers have seen it all: Suppose you wanted to lose weight and are going to the gym for the first time. Or maybe you've been trying to lose weight for six months and your results have been rather mediocre. Who is more equipped to take you to the next level. You, or a professional trainer who has been helping clients to meet their goals for

years? This is what you need to think about before you spend months, or even years with a profile that has not been looked at with a professional set of eyes. By hiring the best of the best, you are allowing yourself to chase your goals with the highest chance of success.

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3. A profile writer can easily spot red flags: One of the biggest reasons men and women fail at online dating is because they unintentionally write statements that scare people away. Something as little as the wrong word choice, accidentally appearing desperate, or sending the wrong signal about yourself can destroy an otherwise perfect profile. A professional profile writer can spot these types of mistakes in a split second, saving you the unfortunate situation of being ignored without knowing why and improve your [date night](#) chances.

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4. A professional online dating profile writer will not be biased: When someone hires me, it's my job to give them a little tough love from time to time. Friends and family often try to be nice, or maybe they just don't know any better so they don't say anything critical. And you yourself might be your own worst enemy, as it's hard to objectively critique ones own work. But with a professional? You are going to get it straight, and you'll receive the tough love you need to achieve your goals. The [dating tips](#) you receive from a professional profile writer will be like none other.

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5. Their reputation depends on your success Every single time I write a profile, I know that my name has its stamp on that

profile. My future success depends on your current success, which creates a tremendous incentive to create the best possible profiles for people who expect top quality work. In the age of the internet where people can write reviews and provide feedback on everything, a professional who wants to stay in business long term will definitely put his or her all into doing right by you.

Joshua Pompey is an online dating expert, helping men and women to find love since 2009. For more information how to have your perfect profile created, men learn more [here](#), women learn more [here](#) .

Relationship Advice: Is Your Job Killing Your Relationship? How To Choose The Right Company To Work For?





By [Dr. Amy Osmond Cook](#)

When Andy Sachs ([Anne Hathaway](#)) took the job as an assistant for the infamous Miranda Priestly, (Meryl Streep) in the 2006 hit, *The Devil Wears Prada*, viewers knew things would get rough in the workplace. But this movie also illustrates the impact a stressful work environment has on a relationship. Studies conducted by [relationship experts](#) show that more than half of women are kept awake at night by job-related stress, according to [Metro.co.UK](#). Fortunately, not all bosses have this negative influence on employees, and many leading companies place employee engagement and job satisfaction as top priorities. Here are three things to look for in a company that values your personal life as well as your work life so you can avoid [relationship problems](#).

Relationship advice that will help you balance work and love!

1. Choose a company that values flexibility. In a global economy supported by cloud technology, the parameters for

innovative work structures are more flexible than ever. For example, companies like Simplus and Clif Bar offer remote and flexible work schedules for full-time employees. “That’s why nine out of ten employees report plans to grow with their companies for a long time,” says Jennifer Parris from WorkFlexibility.org. “And workers, grateful for the flex, report that the overwhelming majority (95 percent) will do extra if it means getting the job done.”

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

2. Choose a company that values culture. Finding a company that values a positive work culture means management respects work boundaries and recognizes the importance of personal time. “We often hire with our work culture in mind,” says Ryan Westwood, CEO of Simplus. “We want our employees to thrive, and we understand that supporting employees’ personal lives is an important of that. We aim for high employee satisfaction, which is one reason we were ranked the #2 top company culture by Entrepreneur Magazine.” Things like yoga classes, healthy lunches, and generous vacation packages ensure companies retain valued staff, and employees can focus on other things when the workday is over.

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3. Choose a company with good benefits. While things like prenatal care or family dental coverage may not matter now, however a solid benefits package will support you when your long-term goals include starting a family, buying a home, or retiring early to kayak around the world. A generous benefits package means a company wants to keep you around for a while and be a part of your personal and professional growth.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: 3 Ways Bad Credit Can Ruin Your Love Life](#)

Contrary to what the movies may show, a qualified employee shouldn't have to sacrifice a valued relationship for work demands. Follow this work-related [relationship advice](#), and you're sure to bypass all that unnecessary stress Andy Sachs had to put up with. If you have the skills that an employer values, you can position yourself for positive professional momentum while nurturing cherished relationships at home.

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

Dating & Technology Q&A: How Bad Is It To Send Nudes, Really?





Question from Tanya M.: In light of all the Blac Chyna and Rob Kardashian drama, I wanted to ask on behalf of regular people: how bad is it to send nudes between consenting adults? It seems like it's so common in the dating scene now. I'm just not sure what to think of about the whole thing.

Dating in the era of social media and cellphones can be difficult. Communication and instant gratification is what many daters expect when they start seeing someone, especially when it comes to exchanging nude photos. With so many people partaking in voyeur, you may wonder if you should do it too. However if you don't want to, do not fret, you can have a successful relationship with or without nudes. Leave it up to our relationship experts who can offer their best [dating advice](#) on using technology the right way. Learn valuable dating tips from Cupid's very own, matchmaker Suzanne Oshima and relationship expert Robert Manni. Here they'll answer your questions on whether you should send nude photos or not.

Technology Dating Advice That Gets

Honest About Sending Nudes

[Suzanne K. Oshima, Matchmaker](#): What happened between Blac Chyna and Rob is something that can happen to anyone. While sending nude pictures is more common amongst today's daters, your body is your personal treasure and you should be discerning in who you send those images to. My recommendation is to only send them to a man who you're in a committed relationship with, and not just some man you went out on a few dates with. Because the reality is, once they leave your phone you have no control over where they may end up and there's no recall button after you stop seeing a man.

Related Link: [Dating & Technology Q&A: My Partner Fishes For Likes, What Do I Do?](#)

[Robert Manni, Guy's Guy](#): In the wake of the current Black Chyna – Rob Kardashian drama being played out in the press, I strongly advise that you carefully weigh the pros and cons of sharing digital nude photos of yourself with anyone. Through the media we are now witnessing the pitfalls of how quickly a modern romance can turn ugly, and the ramifications of sharing nude photos even with someone as close with the father of your child. If you are really into a guy and he keeps hounding you for nude photos, stop and think about it before you hit send. When it comes to love I never say never, but unless you're 100 percent confident that you really know and trust this man, I suggest limiting the show to the bedroom or wherever you two get it on. Otherwise, the risks far outweigh the rewards. Good luck.

To find out more about our three 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.

Dating Advice: How to Make the First Move (Women's Edition)



By [Joshua Pompey](#)

The person sitting across from you is cute, charming, and you just can't seem to stop thinking about going in for that first kiss. But the question many women have is how to you make the first move? Truth be told, the first move shouldn't just happen at the end of the date. It should be the result of many small moves that occur over the course of a first date, eventually building to that first kiss by the end of the

night. So before you make the first move at the end of your date, the following [dating advice](#) will help you to make the transition much easier while avoiding relationship problems.

Dating advice that will help you make the first move like a pro!

1. Playfully touch your date's arm when you laugh. The idea is to slowly build up comfort as the [date night](#) goes on. If you go straight in for a kiss at the end of the night without any prior touching, it will likely feel forced and awkward. With playful and innocent touches to your date's arm when you are making a point, laughing, or just having a fun conversation, he or she will slowly get used to your touch.

2. Slowly progress to more intimate touches. Once your date gets comfortable with casual touches to the arm, it's okay to move towards slightly more intimate touches like a brief hand hold, or even grabbing his leg for a second or two when making a point before letting go. Remember though, keep it casual. These touches shouldn't feel overwhelming or sexual. The last thing you want to do is start sensually rubbing his leg on a first date! Just get the other person used to your touch and keep building those comfort levels.

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3. Keep the date fun, relaxed, and interesting. Your date may start getting used to your touch, but if he or she is not having fun and doesn't feel relaxed, then their will be little desire for a kiss at the end of the night. So my top [dating tip](#) is to make sure you and your date are having a good time. Fun should be prioritized above all else because it will set the tone while you prepare to make that first move.

4. And now it's the end of the night. It's time to make the

first move! So what do you do next? Well, if you had a great date and followed the dating advice above, odds are you won't even have to. Your prior work will lead your date to make the first move for you. But assuming you still have to make the first move, let your date know with your eyes and smile as opposed to with your words. Wait for the visual cues, and if they clearly look like they are thinking about kissing you, go in for an innocent kiss on the lips, and pull about an inch or two away slowly. If your date is into it, he or she will almost certainly lean back in for some more fun.

At the end of the day, it's all about confidence and creating the physical comfort with another person. Establish that comfort along with a fun first date night, and a first kiss will be completely natural when the time comes.

For more online dating advice from Joshua Pompey, including the questions you must ask an [online dating profile writer](#) before hiring them, visit this [link](#) now!