Exclusive Celebrity Interview: Karina Smirnoff and Lindsay Rielly Share Dating Advice In 'We're Just Not That Into You'





Interview by <u>Sarah Batcheller</u>. Written by Jenna Bagcal

We've all been on dates that have flopped miserably. Maybe they've even made us think, "What did I do wrong?" or "Why wasn't he into me?" In this exclusive celebrity interview, Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) professional dancer Karina Smirnoff and her best friend and manager Lindsay Rielly remind readers that these dating disasters happen to the best of us.

In their new book We're Just Not That Into You: Dating Disasters From the Trenches, which came out on Feb. 10, these ladies, along with some of their famous friends, share their perspective about relationships and love and prove that what seems like a bad date now may turn into a hilarious story that you'll learn from later on.

Karina Smirnoff and Lindsay Rielly Share Dating Advice and Disasters

Sure, Smirnoff is well-known for her moves on the dance floor, but even winning the mirror ball trophy doesn't make you immune to heartbreak — which is why she decided to share the good, the bad, and the ugly in her new book. According to Rielly, the title of the book is a tongue-in-cheek reminder to women that "it's not that he's not into us. It's a mutual thing!" Their main goal was to remind people that "dating is ultimately fun, not something that you have to dread because of your previous experiences."

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Embodying this mindset, these two women have not let dating flops get in the way of their positive outlook on relationships and love. Smirnoff's best piece of dating advice is simple: "Open your mind and your heart. Instead of thinking, 'Oh my god, I gotta go on another date,' go with good energy. Great things might come out of it! And the least you're gonna do is enjoy yourself."

The best friends ultimately describe the writing process as "fun" with intense and challenging moments at times. "To be honest, I loved every second of it! It was a lot of work though," Smirnoff says in our exclusive celebrity interview.

"Once we started remembering the dates and the details, we looked like Bruce Almighty. Remember when he was God and he was answering emails to everyone? At the end, I just wanted to say yes to all! But writing a book is very liberating and empowering too — I didn't expect to feel that way."

In addition to dating stories from Smirnoff and Rielly, We're Just Not That Into You includes contributions from their girlfriends and other celebrities, including DWTS contestants Leah Thompson, Maria Menounos, and Ralph Macchio as well as fellow professional dancer Cheryl Burke.

Why Men Will Enjoy This Book About Relationships and Love

While the book is geared towards women, Smirnoff and Rielly share that men may also enjoy reading it. "Our publishers read the book, not expecting to love it, and said that neither of them could put it down. It's the type of book that, if their wives had it, they would steal and read in private," they explain.

Related Link: How to Keep the Spark in Your Relationship After Valentine's Day

No need to worry, guys: You're not to blame for *every* dating disaster. "There are stories where we laugh at our own behavior," Smirnoff says. "There were definite situations where we were the catalyst of our own downfall. But that's the whole point: It's not like all guys are bad and all girls are good. We're all good, and we're all bad...sometimes at the same time."

Of course, the authors have their fingers crossed that some of their exes check out their new book about love. "I'm personally hoping that at least one specific person reads it. I think that he might learn something about his love life by reading his story," says Rielly.

"I just hope someone picks it up and asks, 'Why were you talking about me?'" Smirnoff adds with a laugh.

Professional Dancer Shares What's Next for Her in Exclusive Celebrity Interview

With her new book being released and other secret projects in the works, Smirnoff will not be returning for the next season of *DWTS*. After being on the show for "an incredible decade of her life," the dancer says that she felt it was time to move on and explore new opportunities. "There are a lot of exciting things coming up!" she shares.

Related Link: Dating Advice: How to Date and Get the Best Results

Some of her favorite memories from the show are the relationships that she formed with other professional dancers and her celebrity partners. "I developed real friendships — friendships where you call each other, where you see each other whenever you're in town," she reveals. "I still have that relationship with a lot of my partners, including Ralph Macchio, Jacoby Jones, and J.R. Martinez."

Speaking of Martinez, one of her favorite seasons was season 13 when she was partnered with the former U.S. Army soldier and actor. She explains, "I love the military. Being partnered with J.R. was very powerful for me because I got to experience some of his world firsthand. I got to experience his story — what he went through and how he came out of it. That was a very important season for me personally."

You can keep up with Karina on Twitter @Karina_Smirnoff. Check out We're Just Not That Into You on Amazon!

Celebrity Dads Who Are Doing It Right





By Kelly Rouba for GalTime.com

TV dads, like Cliff Huxtable and Ward Cleaver, often made fatherhood look easy. They effortlessly juggled their work schedules so they could spend quality time with their children and, of course, they were always around to set their kids straight if they stepped out of line. While we all know parenting isn't always as easy as it seems on TV, there are plenty of celebrity dads who've managed to set the bar pretty high when it comes to balancing fame and fatherhood as least as far as we can tell from the outside!

Sarah McKeever, a mother of three from New Jersey, thinks Will Smith is a great role model for fathers around the globe. "I adore him, and he seems like a great father and husband. I've seen a few interviews with him and his wife and kids. They seem to keep a healthy balance with all the fame," McKeever said. There may be a lot written about the Smith marriage and their parenting style (a la lack of punishment)" but Will is one dad who definitely focuses on his kids.

Dorothy Cascerceri, an on-air news, fashion, and celebrity trend expert for *In Touch Weekly*, agrees. "(Smith) loves his kids Trey, Jaden and Willow and has done everything possible to encourage all of their careers in the family business, Hollywood."

Since Smith isn't the only dedicated dad out there, GalTime asked Cascerceri to name the *Top 10 Celeb Dads Who Are Doing It Right*, and here's what she said (in no particular order):

- 1. David Beckham— This ultra-hot soccer star is more than dedicated to his four kids, Romeo, Brooklyn, Cruz and Harper. He even has the boys' names tattooed on his back!
- 2. Ben Affleck— Not only is this Oscar-winner an all-star dad to daughters Violet and Seraphina and son Samuel, but he's also a dedicated hubby. He even thanked wife Jennifer Garner is his Academy Awards acceptance speech.
- 3. Brad Pitt— In addition to being one of the sexiest men in the world, Brad is tirelessly dedicated to his clan 6 and works extra hard to make sure the entire crew is taken care of.
- **4. Liev Schrieber** Forget strollers! Liev is usually seen transporting sons Alexander and Samuel around on his back and shoulders.
- 5. Tony Hawk— He loves his daughter Kadence so much that he Instagramed a photo of the two of them with his nails painted

with pink sparkly polish.

- **6. Taye Diggs** He shares everything with his son Walker, even ad campaigns! The duo flashed their milk mustache smiles for a Got Milk? campaign.
- 7. Gavin Rossdale— Gavin always pays close attention to the style of his kids Kingston and Zuma, and he always makes sure they have the same rocker look as their dad.
- **8. Jerry O'Connell** He"s a doting dad to his twin daughters Charlie and Dolly, and oftentimes brings them to the set of his latest projects so they can see their dad at work.
- **9.** Jay-Z— This rap mogul is smitten by his daughter Blue Ivy and even wrote a heartfelt song about her when she was born.
- 10. J.R. Martinez— Last but certainly not least, GalTime couldn"t resist adding new father J.R. Martinez to the list. Even though his daughter Belle just turned one, he's got quite a handle on fatherhood and there's no denying how deeply devoted he is to his precious baby girl.
- "I believe I'm a great dad, thus far, because I don't shy away from getting my hands dirty, whether it be by changing her diaper (constantly), making the bottle or setting up for bath time. I believe these are great opportunities to bond with your child," Martinez said.

Martinez also has a piece of advice for all those dads out there who just might be reading this. "I know we're working hard to provide, but don't leave it up to the mom to be handson. Show them you're more than capable, because you are."

J.R. Martinez Says His Girlfriend's Chest Is for Function, Not Fun Post-Baby





J.R. Martinez is putting his new baby, Lauryn Anabelle, before himself when it comes to his girlfriend, Diana Gonzalez-Jones. His wants and needs have been turned to a new focus, the baby. According to *People*, the *Dancing with the Stars* champion commented, "It's not even about me. It's about her. Feed her!" Having this new precious baby in his life has also made Martinez question why his father left him as a baby. "How could you leave this? That's so hard." The couple seems happy together and feels blessed to have welcomed a healthy baby into their lives.

What are some ways to support your partner soon after

pregnancy?

Cupid's Advice:

You've struggled through dealing with a pregnant partner for nine months, but that doesn't end once the baby arrives. Here are some ways to support your couple after they have given birth:

- 1. Help out with the baby: Even though there are some things you won't be able to help out with, such as breast feeding, there's still so much you can do. Be hands on and take any opportunity to take care of the baby to give your partner a rest.
- 2. Give your partner little surprises: It doesn't all have to be about the baby. Surprise your partner every now and then with some flowers, take them on a date or even give them the day off to relax at the spa.
- 3. Spend some time together as a family: Having a child can be hectic, so don't forget about the important things. Spending some quality time all together will keep you all sane and happy.

What are some ways you think can help support your partner after pregnancy? Share your thoughts below.

'DWTS' Champ J.R. Martinez Welcomes a Baby Girl





Actor J.R. Martinez was the proud winner of *Dancing With The Stars*, but he has even more to be proud about after his girlfriend, Diana Gonzalez-Jones gave birth to a baby girl. Martinez's daughter, Lauryn Anabelle Martinez, came into the world weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz. and is 21 inches long. "She has a couple of cute little freckles on her cheeks, a full head of hair and the cutest little lips," the proud dad gloated to *People*. "It's just amazing to see her, finally. She's beautiful."

What are some ways to prepare for having a girl verses a boy?

Cupid's Advice:

Preparing for a baby involves a lot of planning, and what gender you're expecting plays into that. Cupid has some tips on preparing for a baby girl:

- 1. Attention: As girls grow up they might require a lot more attention than a boy would. Girls are usually held to stricter terms than boys are, but it's usually better for their protection. However, you still need to loosen the reigns at some point so they can make mistakes and learn about life first hand.
- 2. Relationships: When it comes to your baby girl, all boys are going to appear to be the devil, but you have to be open and compromise with your daughter about having relationships because if you hold on too tight, they're going to rebel or sneak around behind your back.
- **3. Money:** Not all girls are high maintenance, but the majority are. They want new clothes, shoes, accessories, make-up and hair supplies. Don't get them everything they want, because you don't want them to grow up to be a spoiled brat. Make sure they appreciate the things you do get for them.

How does having a daughter compare to having a son? Share your comments below.

J.R. Martinez Prepares His Dog for His Baby





Man's best friend? Meet Daddy's little girl. Season 13 winner of *Dancing With The Stars*, J.R. Martinez, is preparing his black lab for the arrival of his baby girl in May. The actor and former U.S. Army soldier, told *People* that his lab, Romeo, is a loving pup and "totally human". Sounds like J.R. Martinez is going to be a great father.

How do you prepare your pet for the arrival of a new baby?

Cupid's Advice:

For most couples, getting a dog is a great learning experience before having a baby. Therefore, when the time comes to add a new bundle of joy to the family, couples need to prepare their child's future sibling and best friend. Here are some fun ways to get your pet ready for a new baby in the house:

- 1. Less attention is okay: Pets are just like children, because they need a lot of attention. Try to practice minimizing that attention before the baby comes.
- 2. Consider a training class: Take care of your pet's urges of possessiveness and mouthing/scratching.

3. Dress rehearsal: Use a doll or ask friends to bring their babies over so your dog can become comfortable around children.

How have you prepared your dog for the arrival of your new baby? Share your comments below.

J.R. Martinez Prepares to Welcome a Daughter With His Girlfriend





2011 has been an exciting year for Iraq war veteran J.R.

Martinez. Just last month he won the coveted mirror ball trophy on Dancing with the Stars. However, it looks like 2012 will come with excitement as well, as Martinez and his girlfriend Diana Gonzalez-Jones are expecting their first child in May. According to People, Martinez says that the couple is "over the moon" about the pregnancy and consider it the "best gift we could get." The idea of being a father is just hitting Martinez, but there's no doubt he's excited. Though he and Gonzalez-Jones are grateful for the blessings of 2011, they already know how 2012 is "going to top 2011" with a beautiful baby girl.

What are some ways to prepare yourself for fatherhood?

Cupid's Advice:

It's just as important for men to prepare themselves to be a father as it is for women to prepare for motherhood. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Help your partner stay healthy: Adapting your eating habits will help your significant other stay healthy as well. If you also avoid the unhealthy foods that tempt her , she'll find it easier to say "no." Joining an exercise class together or going for walks together are also good options.
- 2. Be prepared: Learn everything you can about what to expect during the upcoming pregnancy and after. It can't hurt to read as much material as possible to help your partner.
- **3. Go shopping:** Not only could shopping be relaxing for the mom-to-be, but it's also good to have everything you can for the baby's arrival. Buy baby clothes, a crib, a stroller and even nursery decorations.

What are some ways your beau prepared for fatherhood? Share your comments below.