

# Match.com's Sixth Annual #SinglesInAmerica Dating Advice: Study Proves a Second Date is More Crucial for Long-Term Love



*This post is sponsored by Match.com.*

By Samantha Vlahos

Calling all singles! Has this past Valentine's Day gotten you down? Are you still determined to find love in 2016? If so, you're in luck! Over the holiday weekend, Match.com hosted a live stream event and shared their sixth annual Singles In America study at [The Rickey at Dream Midtown](#) in New York City. This year's study explored dating during the election year, how to ditch your ex when you return to the dating world and also confirmed that a second date is more important than the first.

## Match.com Reveals Dating Advice For Singles In America

### The First Date Playbook: Recipes for Second-Date Fate

The first date blues. It gets us all. You are constantly going on dates and cannot seem to find a spark with anyone. Don't worry, it's not just you. According to Match.com's study, 59% of singles do not expect to feel chemistry until the second date, and over a third of singles don't expect passion to erupt until the third date or later.

So, instead of putting so much focus on the first date, start thinking about the second one. And, the study shows that the best way to get a second date is with sushi! Yes, going out for sushi on the first date increases your chance of a second date by 200%. There's just something intriguing about sharing a sushi roll and teaching your date how to use chopsticks, that makes them want to ask you out again!

### **The Ex Factor: Letting Go and Moving On**

Who classifies as an ex these days? Over 50% of singles believe you have to date more than three months to count someone as an ex, with 32% of women believing you have to date someone for over a year to consider them in that category.

Post-breakup dating is one of the most challenging aspects of dating these days. With today's technology and our society's infatuation with social media, it's almost impossible to not keep up with your ex after a breakup. No matter what the circumstances, remember that you should never talk about an ex during a date. Talking about or asking about an ex will diminish your chances of furthering the relationship. At the start of a relationship, you should focus on learning about the person versus worrying about their past. Learning about a person's past relationships will come naturally later if you stay together.

### **The Single Vote: Politics in Dating**

According to the study, a good discussion on any political issue can boost your chances of a second date by 91 percent. Of this, 25% of singles say "not being registered to vote" is an instant deal-breaker, while 35% will not consider dating someone who "does not have an opinion on key political issues."

So, is it politically correct to assume that the dating life of a Republican and Democrat are really that different? Yes, it is. Match has noted that in this election year, the study

also reveals the significant, yet subtle similarities and differences between single Republicans and Democrats.

Democrats, are you thinking about marriage? If so, bring it up on the first date! The topic will increase your chances for a second. As for you Republicans, going out for an expensive dinner increases your chances for a second date by 50 percent.

As the Match.com Singles In America survey reveals and Dr. Fisher says, "We're so focused on the first date, but the big deal is to get the second date." Dating today is constantly changing with the help of technology, but remember not to put too much pressure on the first date. Go to a simple dinner, get to know the person and give the second date a real shot!

To watch the full live stream click [here](#).

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## Find Your 'Clutch': Relationship Advice from Author Lisa Becker



 By Samantha Vlahos

Being a single gal gets difficult from time to time. There are only so many failed date ideas one can endure before wanting to give up on the idea of finding the one. Lisa Becker's hit new romance chick lit, titled *clutch: a novel*, follows protagonist Caroline Johnson as she endures many dating misadventures. The single purse designer compares her

unsuccessful relationships and love to different styles of handbags, and with her best friend by her side, she wears her heart on her sleeve and continues to search for her “clutch,” that special someone that she wants to hang onto.

In our exclusive author interview, the dating expert gives us a glimpse behind the evolution of *clutch* and reveals her best [relationship advice](#) about online dating and having the courage to find true love. And the best part? If you’re still searching for the perfect gift this holiday season, the Takashi bag by Harper Avenue is a must-have holiday item. Use the discount code below for 20 percent off!



The Takashi bag by Harper Avenue.

## Relationship Advice to Help You Find Your Clutch

We’re so excited to read your fourth book *clutch: a novel*! What inspired you to write about Caroline and her dating misadventures?

I'm a sucker for a good love story and enjoy creating fun and engaging tales that are filled with lots of heart and humor.

**Why did you decide to compare men to handbags?**

When I was writing the *Click* trilogy, (*Click: An Online Love Story*, *Double Click*, and *Right Click*), I was obsessed with *NCIS* re-runs and would have the show on in the background as I wrote. There was an episode when one of the characters mentioned that men were like purses: something useless to hang on a woman's arm. I started thinking about that, and the idea grew from there. I believe that everyone deserves a happily ever after and would like to think there's a "clutch," or someone worth holding onto, out there for everyone.

**Related Link:** [Clicking to Find Love](#)

**What surprising revelations about love does Caroline learn throughout the novel?**

Throughout her handbag-themed journey to find her "clutch," Caroline learns a few important lessons. Most notably, she realizes that being able to talk honestly with your partner is the cornerstone of a solid relationship. Also, there's never anything wrong with being with someone that makes you happy.

**What is the main message that you hope readers take away from your book?**

Sometimes, the love you want, deserve, and need is right there in front of you all along. You just need to be open to it.

**You've been married for over 10 years. How does that influence or help shape your writing?**

I never thought I would get married, so some days, I still pinch myself that I've got a loving, hilarious, and intelligent husband. Writing these books reminds me of how lucky I am to have met him.

**What suggestions do you have for women who repeatedly find themselves on unsuccessful dates or are searching for the courage to find love?**

In the modern classic film, *The Shawshank Redemption*, Tim Robbins' character, Andy Dufresne, says, "Get busy living or get busy dying." That quote comes to mind when I think about searching for the "clutch." If you feel like it's not going to happen, then my relationship advice is to just give up. You heard me. GIVE UP! Surrender to that notion that you'll end up alone. If that's truly the case, do you want to spend the next 30, 40, or even 50-plus years wallowing in misery? Sitting around and lamenting your singleness? Or are you going to get busy living? Buy your own home. Travel to all of the places you want to visit. Adopt a child. Write that novel. Engage in hobbies and activities that bring you joy.

Chances are, when you start focusing on *what* will make you happy – not *who* will make you happy – you *WILL* be happy. Happiness is evident and infectious. Happiness makes you more interesting and more attractive to someone else. And when that happens, you're more likely to meet the right person who's going to complement the amazing life you've created for yourself.

**Related Link:** [Four Dates and a Wedding](#)

**You met your husband through an online dating site. What is your best tip for our readers who are struggling to get past the creeps and find a genuine guy?**

Connecting with the right person online starts with you. When writing your online profile, be honest. Don't say you're an exercise junkie if you're really a couch potato. Don't post a photo from 10 years earlier. Don't downplay your intelligence or success because you think men will be intimidated by the real you. While you might garner a lot of interest early on, the truth will eventually come out. Nothing stunts a budding

relationship and love more than deception and lies.

Also, my love advice is to let your personality shine through and be specific about the things that make you special, including hobbies and interests. It's your chance to make a positive first impression while being in complete control of the messages you are delivering.

The main character in my novel, *Click: An Online Love Story*, writes in her profile: "I cry at Hallmark commercials, sing (sometimes off key) with the radio while driving, own more pairs of black shoes than should be legal, and my fear of flying is rivaled only by my love for chocolate." My relationship advice is to tell someone who you *really* are, including your sense of humor, interests and confidence level. Be creative!

**You balance working and writing with being a full-time mom – not an easy task! Any advice for other working moms?**

Organization is key! I have a master to-do list that I update weekly to keep track of school projects, sports practices and games, and after-school activities as well as all of my personal deadlines and appointments. I also use a spreadsheet to map out meals for the week along with groceries needed so that I never have to worry about what to make for dinner or spend time making multiple trips per week to the store. Shopping online is also a big time saver. If I'm writing and enduring a bit of writer's block, I can quickly click over to Amazon and order things I need.

**What would we find if we looked in your handbag right now?**

Aside from the standard wallet, keys, sunglasses, and hand sanitizer, you'll always find snacks for the kids. Never (ever!) leave home without snacks for the kids.

**Related Link:** [Looking for Love is Like a Job Search](#)

**If you were given an offer to turn *clutch* into a movie, who would you want to see playing the roles of Caroline and Mike?**

I think Eloise Mumford, who played Kate in *Fifty Shades of Grey*, would make an outstanding Caroline. She has the right mixture of warmth, gumption, vulnerability, and beauty to bring this character to life. I still can't decide on who would play Mike, although I know I'd love to sit in on those casting sessions.

**Do you have any other upcoming projects or anything else you'd like to share with our readers?**

*clutch* actually started out as a screenplay that was under option at a major studio, but it fell out of development. I turned it into a short novel so I could share this charming and hilarious tale. I'm eager to see if there's interest from someone else on bringing this fun and quirky story to the big screen. So if you happen to be a well-to-do movie producer looking to make a new romantic comedy, please get in touch!

*Purchase *clutch*: a novel on Amazon. You can use the discount code **cupidandclutch** for 20% off of your total purchase at Harper Avenue and free shipping through December 24th. For more on Lisa Becker, visit her site and check her out on [Twitter](#) @lisawbecker, [www.facebook.com/ClickAnOnlineLoveStory/?ref=hland](http://www.facebook.com/ClickAnOnlineLoveStory/?ref=hland) and [www.pinterest.com/lisawbecker/](http://www.pinterest.com/lisawbecker/).*


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## **Product Review: Wear Isabelle**



# Grace Jewelry's Stackable Gemstone Bangles on Your Next Date Night



 By Samantha Vlahos

October is the heart of fall. The leaves are finally changing, and so is your nail color. Flirty dresses and sandals are replaced with sweaters, jeans, and boots. Pastels and bright colors are relegated to the back of your closet, while deep plum, navy blue, and military green take center stage. If you're still looking for the perfect fall accessory for your next [date night](#), consider Isabelle Grace Jewelry's stackable gemstone bracelets, which come in five shades to complement any fall look. Check out our product review below!

## Wear Isabelle Grace Jewelry on Your Next Date Night

[Isabelle Grace Jewelry stackable gemstone bangles](#) are 8mm Swarovski chatons, hand set into a silver- or gold-plated bracelet. With a stone size of about 1.5 carats, the bracelets are available in burgundy, metallic blue, khaki, silver night, and white opal. These adjustable bands will add an extra bit of sparkle to your next night out. You can wear one on its own, layer them together, or even stack them with other bracelets. The options are endless!

It's easy to see why ladies adore them: They're unique yet timeless. They're a statement piece, but the simplicity of the design makes them perfect to wear anytime. Isabelle Grace Jewelry carefully crafts their products from the best materials and by people who truly love creating beautiful

things that never go out of style.

If you want to impress your man on your next date night, add these stackable bangles to your outfit for a chic and elegant look. Be prepared for an endless amount of compliments from your sweetheart!

**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** One lucky reader will receive an Isabelle Grace Jewelry stackable gemstone bangle in the color of their choice to spice up their date night look this fall! To enter our giveaway, complete the form on our Contact Page BEFORE 5 p.m. EST on Monday, October 19th. Pick "Giveaways" in the dropdown menu and include your name and address as well as "Isabelle Grace Jewelry" in the message field. You may enter the contest only once. Good luck!

*Open to US residents only.*