

Britney Spears Meets Boyfriend's Parents!



Britney Spears went on a date last weekend – but not just with boyfriend, Jason Trawick. His parents joined them as well! The four were spotted at the Grafton on Sunset Hotel's Olive Kitchen + Bar, munching on meatballs and margarita pizza. "She seemed to fit in very well with his family," a source told [People](#) on Monday. The pop star and beau have been linked together since last summer.

How can you make a good first impression with your partner's parents?

Cupid's Advice:

First impressions are long-lasting. Here are some tips to

make it your best:

- 1. Ask questions:** Try to learn some things about your partner's parents before meeting them. For example, if his mom is allergic to tomatoes, find that out before you serve her pasta.
 - 2. No cussing:** Be polite and respectful. This isn't the time to use obscene language. If you or your partner are in a fight, hold off on any arguments until his or her parents have left. You want them to see you in good light.
 - 3. Dress nice:** Like the old saying goes, "Dress to impress!" Look neat, wearing clean and tidy clothes. And disregard trends – those will come and go, but a first impression is forever.
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Angelina Jolie On Brad Pitt: We Have Each Other's Backs





With six kids at home and the paparazzi waiting outside, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie depend on each other more than ever. The 35-year-old *Salt* actress tells [People](#) in last week's issue, "We have each other's backs." This can come in handy when the kids are fighting.

How can you make co-parenting more effective?

Cupid's Advice:

Parenting is a difficult job, but if you share the responsibilities equally with your partner, it will be a lot less challenging.

- 1. Power struggle:** A major parenting problem is who's going to play the bad guy, but neither of you have to play that role. Establish a balance of power by agreeing to issues before they happen. One rule is to never undermine your spouse in front of your kids.
- 2. Ask for help:** Don't take things out on your partner if you're having a hard time with the children. Instead, tell him or her what you're struggling with, and ask for their help

and input. Your spouse is more likely to be there for you when their opinions are being accounted for.

3. Savor the moments: Keep in mind that your children learn by watching you, so don't let parenting be a burden that makes you irritable and angry towards your partner or others. Set aside some time for R&R each day or week to enjoy each other's company.

Ryan Seacrest & Jake Pavelka: Sexuality Rumors Laid to Rest



Two recent interviews have, for now, laid to rest the rumors

about both Ryan Seacrest and *Bachelor* Jake Pavelka's sexuality. Seacrest's current flame, *Dancing with the Stars*' Julianne Hough, revealed to friends that she initially thought Seacrest was gay, [TMZ](#) reported last week. However, he won her over with his persistence, and the two have been linked together since in April. *Bachelorette* Ali Fedotowsky also spoke up about a past flame, telling George Lopez that despite rumors, Pavelka isn't gay, [US Weekly](#) reported.

What do you do if you're questioning your partner's sexuality?

Cupid's Advice:

Both Hough and Fedotowsky took the right step in addressing the rumors about their respective partners' sexuality head on. Chances are, if you have doubts about your partner's sexuality, then others do, too. However, before making a public announcement, you should take these steps to make sure you're positive:

1. Read the signs: Before making moves, watch your mate in a public setting. You can tell a lot about someone from what they say, but even more from how they act. Observe how your mate interacts with people of both sexes, and note the differences.

2. Look to the past: Ask about past partners and relationships. If they avoid the question, or refuse to assign a sex to their exes, they might be hiding something.

3. Just ask: If you still have doubts – and certainly *before* you talk to other people about it – simply ask your mate outright. Approach the subject with tact and delicacy, but again, if you have serious doubts, you probably aren't the first to have them.

Zac Efron in No Rush to Wed



Looks like slow and steady might just win the race after all! The *Charlie St. Cloud* star, Zac Efron, recently confessed in an interview with [Extra TV](#) that he wants to wait before heading to the alter. The 22-year-old and his girlfriend, Disney star Vanessa Hudgens, 21, have been going strong for almost 5 years since the couple first met while filming the hit movie franchise *High School Musical*. Efron added, "I think I've always said I'm not gonna get married 'til I'm 30. I'm gonna wait. I wouldn't want that kind of commitment or pressure at this point."

How do you know if you're ready to settle down?

Cupid's Advice:

Some decisions are life altering. When comes time to make them, you don't want to make a mistake. Cupid can help make sure you're on the right path.

1. Foundation: Make sure it's love, not lust. If you can stand all of your partner's weirdest quirks, and handle them at their lowest, then it might be worth giving a chance. The marriage doctors, Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz say, "...the simple truth is, most all successful marriages that stand the test of time, begin with love."

2. Values: Don't let your partner dwindle your beliefs. If you can't come to a compromise on how you feel about important issues, like how to raise future children, or opinions about ethical situations, then maybe it's time to take a step back in the relationship.

3. Simple: "A successful marriage is an accumulation of doing the simple things," the Schmitz' add. Does he hold the door open for you, or let it close behind him and slam you in the face? Does she rush home to tell you about her great day at work, but won't pay attention when you talk about your day? Consider these actions – they speak louder than words.

'The Bachelorette' Star Ali Fedotowsky Picks Her Man





Ali Fedotowsky began her stint on ABC's *The Bachelorette* with 20 eligible men vying for her love. Last week, [US Weekly](#) reported that she says she's confident she chose the right man as her future husband during the season finale. Fedotowsky narrowed down her contenders to three in last week's episode, and her final choice will be revealed during the ABC finale on August 2. Though the lucky guy has not been revealed, Fedotowsky told *US* that a 2011 wedding is in the works.

How do you know if you've chosen the right partner?

Cupid's Advice:

Most of us aren't lucky enough to have a slew of suitors at our door, but it's important that we weed out the good partners from the bad when potential lovers do come around.

1. Stranger danger: When you begin dating, you can't possibly know all of your partners' dirty little secrets, but remember that more times than not, the past has a way of presenting itself. Keep your ears and eyes open, and take the time to get to know someone before settling down.

2. Ask for directions: When choosing a long term partner, it's important that both people are heading in a similar direction, or are willing to compromise to make things work. For example, if you want a commitment and he or she doesn't, or you want to live in the suburbs and they won't move out of the city, these differences could be a relationship deal-breaker.

3. Love and trust: The most important traits in a future mate is that they love you and treat you well. If you don't feel love, trust, or respect, then you should move on and wait for someone better.

Lo Bosworth Is Taking It Slow with Boyfriend Scott Hochstadt





Looks like things are moving in the right direction for *The Hills*' Lo Bosworth and Scott Hochstadt. On Tuesday's series finale of the MTV reality show, Bosworth's beau hinted at a proposal in the future, and she agreed to move in with him. Bosworth told [Us Magazine](#), "I think he is The One." She also said that as far as living together, "we are transitioning slowly but surely."

Should you take things slow, even if you think you've found "The One?"

Cupid's Advice:

It's wise to give yourself time before taking the plunge. Here's Cupid's advice to make sure you're headed in the right direction:

- 1. Define slow:** It's hard to nail down "taking it slow" to a specific amount of time. Therefore, talk to your partner, and map out how you both see things progressing. Set goals so neither one of you are disappointed if the relationship isn't moving fast enough.

2. Consider cohabitation: What better way to get to know someone than to live with them. While many people are opposed to living together before marriage, it could be something to consider if you're both confident it will lead to a better future.

3. If it's right, it's right: Sometimes couples will take it slow because they are afraid to jump to the next step. You'll know when the time is right, and that fear will disappear. Don't be afraid to move things along.

Angelina Jolie's New Tattoo is 'For Brad'





Angelina Jolie is well known for both her high-profile romance with Brad Pitt, as well as her array of inspiring tattoos. During a recent interview with [MTV](#), Jolie was questioned on her latest ink, located on her inner thigh. Fans got a glimpse of it in *Vanity Fair*, which featured the actress as August's cover story. When MTV asked about it, Jolie shied away from the topic, and said, "Um, it's for Brad."

How else can I express commitment in my relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Getting a tattoo in honor of your loved one is a permanent and significant way to show you care. Want a less drastic approach? Cupid has some ideas:

1. Try the alternative: If you like the idea of something permanent, try getting a piercing instead. If you don't want it to be seen, you can simply take it out. Beats laser surgery!

2. Commit: If you're jumping the gun by getting a tattoo in your partner's honor, it looks as if you're ready for marriage. Not the case? Try a promise ring. Already married? Take celebrating anniversaries a step further and commemorate your first date or your first kiss with a sentimental tradition, then promise to do it every year.

3. The small things count: You don't always need a physical object to show you care. Just being there for your partner says you're in it for the long haul. Simple gestures, such as surprising your partner with breakfast in bed, or even just saying, "I love you," can go a long way.

Larry King & Shawn Southwick Call Off Divorce





Television legend Larry King and wife Shawn Southwick collectively filed to dismiss their divorce papers, [TMZ](#) reported last Thursday. The couple had mutually filed for divorce on April 14, citing irreconcilable differences. [The Huffington Post](#) reported that in his announcement to step down from his television show, King said he was looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children.

Can you come back from a divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

Filing for divorce is a huge step that should not be taken lightly, especially when both parties feel it is necessary, as in King and Southwick's case. However, Cupid has some advice for couples who wish to give their marriage a second chance in making it work.

1. Put each other first: Though not everyone can leave their job for their family, King made a conscious decision to to announce his desire to make his marriage and family a priority. In order to give love another try, both people need

to put that chance first in their lives.

2. Spice things up: When revitalizing a marriage, take some risk. Try something new on your date night... or revisit an old haunt to relive good memories. Remember what your relationship was like in the beginning, whether you're creating new sparks or reigniting old passions.

3. Don't hold a grudge: Obviously, something drove you to the brink of divorce, and those issues need to be addressed. More importantly, don't hold past actions against each other in the future. Take advantage of the fresh start.

Love Conquers Anger for Barry Williams & Elizabeth Kennedy





Former *Brady Bunch* star, Barry Williams (Greg Brady) has chosen to let go of past drama with Elizabeth Kennedy and give love another chance, [RadarOnline](#) reported Tuesday. Previous reports of a restraining order against Kennedy for her alleged knife-wielding, death threats, and illegal ATM withdrawals totaling \$29K, don't seem to hinder the actor's resolve to reunite with his ex.

What can you do to repair a damaged relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

After a relationship has been through physical violence, emotional trauma, and overwhelming feelings of insecurity, it can be a rough road back to happiness. If a couple truly wants to recover from a rocky past, there are several methods to get started.

- 1. Get counseling:** Find the source of anger, whether it's on your side, your partner's side, or both. Learn how to manage it. Talk with a professional if you can't resolve the

problems on your own.

2. Regain trust: All successful partnerships have a common thread: belief in each other. If you've lost it, you'll need to build it up again. Remember to keep trust as an ideal to continually strive for in your relationship.

3. Recommit to each other: You must be ready to work through your troubles together in order to recreate your happy place. Find common ground for a new starting point, and see where it goes.

Cameron Diaz Says Goodbye to Bad Boys





After years of having her relationships in the public eye, Cameron Diaz plays it coy about her current love life in the August issue of *Harper's Bazaar*. She also remains mum about her relationship with Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees. However, one thing the actress *is* upfront about is that she is done dating bad boys. "Who doesn't like the bad boy, until you grow up and realize bad boys are not the way to go?" Diaz said to the magazine. "I'm done with that."

What's the best way to get over your bad boy crush?

Cupid's Advice:

More often than not, good girls are the ones who end up with bad boys. If you find yourself in this type of relationship, Cupid is here to help break your bad boy habit.

1. Recognize the problem: Try to understand why you keep running back to this type of guy. Psychotherapist Caroline Presno advises on Yahoo! Personals to write a list of the bad things your partner has done to you. Put the list up on the

wall next to a picture of him to associate his face with with his actions.

2. It's not your job to save him: Many women think they can rescue a bad boy. Unfortunately, it most likely won't happen. Furthermore, continuing on this path might only hurt you in the end.

3. Build your self-esteem: Chances are, you continue to run after the wrong type of guy because you aren't happy with yourself. According to relationship writer, Allan Tan, a woman "usually does not like herself and that lack of self-respect causes her to settle for a man that is less than what she deserves."

Matt Bellamy Dishes on Romance with Kate Hudson





Despite attempts to keep their relationship behind closed doors, Matt Bellamy opened up to [The Mirror](#) about his relationship with Kate Hudson at the Nordoff Robbins 02 Silver Clef Awards last Friday. “We just have fun together and are seeing how it goes,” he told the paper. “Kate is great.” The Muse frontman also revealed that he’s meeting Goldie Hawn, Hudson’s mother, this week. He admits he’s nervous, and said, “You don’t want her reading daft stories about you online – it’s embarrassing when you meet someone’s family for the first time.” Cupid wishes him luck!

What are some ways to impress the parents on your first meeting?

Cupid’s Advice:

Meeting a partner’s parents for the first time is always stressful, but being uptight won’t make things easier. Here are some of Cupid’s tips on scoring points with those who may be your future in-laws:

1. Be polite: Please, thank you, and a firm handshake will go a long way. Good manners show that you’ve been raised well,

and that their son or daughter is with someone who shows them respect.

2. Dress up a little: Unless you're going to a five-star restaurant, there's no need for a three-piece suit or ballgown, but stay away from sweats and baggy clothes on your first meeting.

3. Keep it classy: No matter what f-bombs they may throw at you, refrain from using foul language. Parents can do whatever they want – you, however, need to make a good impression. Save your potty mouth for someone else.

Emma Watson Cozies Up To British Rocker





Harry Potter star Emma Watson has confirmed she's dating British indie-rocker George Craig, PopCrunch.com reported this week. Watson told [Just Jared](http://JustJared.com) that she met Craig while shooting the recent Burberry fashion campaign. The actress also co-stars in Craig's music video, "Say You Don't Want It," from his group One Night Only. Watch it above!

Can a relationship survive a rock star lifestyle?

Cupid's Advice:

Though both Watson and Craig have hectic schedules, not all girls would be comfortable having a rock star for a boyfriend. Like Watson, be supportive of your partner's lifestyle, but set some boundaries to keep you both on the same page.

1. Love the music: When it comes to dating a rocker, anyone who doesn't love music, need not apply. If you want to be a part of your partner's life, embrace the fact that music will

be come a large part of your life in more ways than one.

2. Watch the fan club: From afar that is, but still keep an eye out. Don't completely distrust your partner, but even when someone has the best intentions, an obsessed fan might have other ideas.

3. Tit for tat: You'll eventually become very involved in your partner's biggest passion, and he or she should do the same for you. Find something you love and share that with them. With both of you sharing your enthusiasms, you can become more fully engrossed in each other and your relationship.

The Runaway Bride's New Man



Jennifer Wilbanks, nicknamed the Runaway Bride after she made headlines in 2005 by faking a kidnapping to get out of marrying her fiancé, has a new man, the [New York Post](#) reported Monday. Will her new beau, Greg Hutson, have the pleasure taking her her hand in marriage?

How can you be sure of your feelings toward your mate?

Cupid's Advice:

Emotion can be a challenging hurdle when dealing with upcoming nuptials or even moving in together, but if you take the time to sort things out step by step, you'll have a higher chance of success. Take a look at Cupid's advice on ways to assist you with your next big decision:

1. Fear: There's always a moment of absolute terror when you are about to make a life altering leap. If you're unsure of your feelings, take a step back and evaluate the situation before committing to someone else. Tip: If a wedding is looming, don't wait until the big day to postpone!

2. Counseling: If you have nagging doubts or insecurities about a relationship that just won't fade, there's nothing wrong with seeking professional to spot nervous jitters versus an actual problem that needs to be addressed.

3. Turn to your partner: If you're thinking of stepping up your partnership, make sure you discuss any unresolved issues beforehand.

A New Boyfriend for Alexa Ray Joel



Singer Alexa Ray Joel (daughter of Billy Joel), who was hospitalized last December due to anxiety over a breakup, is now dating 24-year-old singer/songwriter Cass Dillon, [People](#) reported earlier this week. The couple met when Dillon was hired to play guitar on Joel's upcoming album. Joel says she's not a fan of the dating scene. "Dating can be awkward," she told *People* in April. "I prefer to meet someone through work or socially."

How can you move on from a broken heart?

Cupid's Advice:

Everyone knows how hard it is to get over a breakup. Props to Joel for moving on! Here are some of Cupid's tips to help you cope:

- 1. Acceptance:** The relationship is over. If you intend on getting back together with your ex, you'll never mend that broken heart.
 - 2. Don't wallow in guilt:** Stop blaming yourself for the failure of the relationship, and realize your partner played a hand as well. Letting go of unnecessary guilt will help you let go of the needless grief that goes along with it.
 - 3. Know that it'll get better:** Just because your previous relationship didn't work out doesn't mean you should give up on love completely. Learn to trust again, learn to love again, and naturally, you will learn to live again!
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Anna Paquin & Stephen Moyer Are Avid Skypers





Newly-engaged “True Blood” stars Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer have found a way to keep their love alive, despite long distances. The couple, who met on the set of the show, are avid users of Skype, and would use it for “three or four hours” when they first began dating, according to [People](#) magazine. Moyer told *Playboy* in a recent interview that it helped them build trust in their relationship early on.

How can you make a long-distance relationship work?

Cupid’s Advice:

Some say absence makes the heart grow fonder, and this was obviously the case for Paquin and Moyer. Long-distance relationships can not only work, but grow, as long as both parties put in the work and the extra effort for their love.

1. Keep in contact: Whether through email, Skype, or even snail mail, you need to keep in touch. Keep each other up-to-date on the little things to tighten your bond.

2. Make the extra effort: If a card or bouquet is sweet when you are living in the same town, think how much it would mean from miles away. Those added touches can make your partner’s

day, and also keep you on their mind.

3. Don't over-expect: No matter how much you wish it wasn't true, you are still in a long-distance relationship. Don't hold unreasonable expectations for yourself or your partner in terms of visits or long catch-up sessions. Not everyone has time for a three-hour Skype every day.

Matthew McConaughey & Camila Alves Enjoy Some Alone Time



According to [OK! Magazine](#), actor Matthew McConaughey shared a rare moment with his Brazilian model and designer girlfriend,

Camila Alves: they walked the streets of New York City's TriBeCa – sans strollers! The couple, known for bringing their children around wherever they go, decided not to bring little Levi and Vida along this time.

How important is time alone with your partner without your children?

Cupid's Advice:

Couple time is vital to all relationships. Seeking a little refuge from the consistency of parenthood never hurt anyone. Cupid says snag some free time!

1. Hire a babysitter: Even if it's for an hour or two, hire some help so you and your mate can escape for a little bit. Go out to dinner; getting out of the kitchen and enjoying a meal that someone else prepares can be relaxing.

2. Make use of your parents: Have family in town? Use 'em! They are the ultimate built-in nannies for your kids. Any grandparent would be happy to watch their little ones, and this is a great way to ensure a tight bond across all generations.

3. The buddy system: Have a friend in the neighborhood with children the same age as yours? Why not team up and take turns watching each others' kids? The little ones have play-dates, and the adults can have a breather – everybody wins!

David Arquette's Marriage is

Just Fine



Even the happiest of couples can't escape the rumor mill. David Arquette told [People](#) that close friends sometimes believe gossip printed about himself and his wife, Courteney Cox Arquette. "There's nothing [wrong]," said Arquette. "We have a really great, beautiful relationship." The couple celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on Saturday.

Arquette admits that great marriages take work. How can you maintain a happy marriage for the long haul?

Cupid's Advice:

Simply realizing that a happy marriage needs work is half the battle. The other half is carrying through by working on it with your partner.

1. Hash it out: Some couples shrink away from problems, but avoiding the issue won't clear the air. Get it out of your system and figure out a solution instead of letting the situation escalate into something bigger.

2. Do stuff together: And we don't mean grocery shopping or the laundry. Take each other out on dates, or simply go for a walk in the park. Kick it up a notch and revisit old haunts from when you first started dating. Staying active keeps the spark alive.

3. Also take time out for yourself: You're still individuals with your own interests and desires. Take time to pursue them, and share your experiences with each other when you're together.

Kim Kardashian & Reggie Bush Reunite





Last week's [OK! Magazine](#) cover story reported that Kim Kardashian of E!'s *Meet the Kardashians*, is back together with former lover, Reggie Bush, NFL star for the New Orleans Saints. According to the article, Kim's mother Kris Jenner's intervention and conversation with Bush was powerful enough to convince him that the duo wasn't done just yet.

What are some of the signs that your breakup is temporary?

Cupid's Advice:

Kardashian and Bush have been on-and-off again for reasons only the two of them know about. However, they seem to make a great match every time they get back together. If you and your mate are in a similar situation, you may wish to look at the following reasons your relationship is on a roller coaster ride:

1. Bickering about every detail: Many couples find themselves acting overly critical of their mate's annoying habits, such as eating in bed, or leaving the empty milk carton in the refrigerator. This is usually a sign that you need to learn

how to communicate more effectively.

2. Too much time together or apart: If you find that you're take separate paths, or conversely, stepping on each others' toes, the lack of a strong connection can lead to anger or frustration. Talk about your feelings to help understand why either being in close contact, or always being away from each other is so bothersome.

3. You can't stand to be apart: Many relationships seem perfect on the outside, yet on the inside they are incomplete. When you break up with someone, it could actually be a cry for help. Before you end your pairing, try talking about the issues and think back to the reasons you fell in love in the first place.