

Single Life: To Play or Not to Play



By Celeste Friedman

In recent weeks, there has been a deluge of articles, advice columns, radio and television interviews and panel discussions on infidelity, due to the General Petraeus scandal in the United States. Having invested in 38 years of marriage, Petraeus threw caution to the wind, having an affair with a woman he had employed to write his biography.

You may be asking still how Petraeus, the director of the CIA, kept his affair concealed for so long and if he actually believed he could be successful in this kind of deception. Inevitably, America and the rest of the world became privy to a plethora of graphic details regarding the relationship with

his mistress that we didn't really need to know.

Related: [5 Reasons Why Powerful Men Like Arnold Schwarzenegger Cheat](#)

On HealthGuidance.org, Elizabeth Danish began her November article, *"Dating A Married Man"* with stark reality, that a wise woman never dates a married man. She states that if you are searching for a life-long commitment, you are sabotaging your own success by snaring another woman's husband.

Are You Simply His Toy?

Once a boy is tired of playing with a toy, he abandons or throws it away. If you've run a comparison, you've most probably found that the cons out-weigh the pros when it comes to having an intimate relationship with a married man. Danish also brings home the point that a cheating man is the one in control of the relationship. He sees an affair as something that is romantically and sexually thrilling. It makes his life once again exhilarating and full of passion. Some men who cheat often have reinvigorated intimacy with their wives, according to Danish, in an attempt to cover their tracks, thus double dipping, if you will, between wives and mistresses.

Advantage- the Cheating Man

As long as he remains in his marriage, his priorities will be his family, as it should be. However, his mistress and best kept secret will be alone on Thanksgiving, Christmas and if it's that important to her, Valentine's Day. He will attempt to spend time with her before or after the holidays, to make up for not sharing in the celebrations.

Finally, Elizabeth Danish asks, *"What was your goal when you started the relationship with him?"* It is likely that you wanted to have a lasting relationship with someone who is mature and sensitive. If you reconsider the goal, is it really

achievable?

Related: [You Cheated, So Now What?](#)

Cheaters who Cheat and the Fools who Fall for Them

Stephany Alexandre, author of the book *"The Cheat Sheet"*, leads you over to the dark side and into the secret lives of philanderers by giving first-hand accounts of cheating stories. Alexandre says the cheating experts know how to justify their acts, handle guilt, cope with double lives, and juggle the search for commitment with outside gratification. What are some of the signs that say he's cheating on you? Ariana Huffington, Editor of The Huffington Post states, *'texting is the new lipstick on the collar'*.

Single 101's take . . .

Men who pursue extra-marital affairs develop a confidence that they will never get caught, especially when they meet all of their responsibilities as a husband, a father and bread winner. The majority of cheating spouses do get away with cheating on their mates. In one study, 70% of married women and 54% of married men had no idea their spouse was involved in an affair.

No matter how deep you have fallen for a married man, it is best to pull back and wait to see if he is serious about ending his marriage. If it ends in divorce, give yourself plenty of time to see if his love for you, (if that exists) is strong enough for him to emotionally invest in a real relationship with you. The emotional cost of waiting, if he's worth it, cancels out the shock and hurt you would experience if he cuts off the affair, due to the demands of keeping his marriage together and his infidelity unknown. Time will reveal true love. In some cases, does absence makes the heart grow fonder?

After publishing *Single 101: 101 Reasons to Celebrate Being*

Single, I met a woman who had made a personal commitment to living out the rest of her life as a single person. She had finally freed herself of relationships that left her feeling empty and filled with disappointment. After several years, she adapted well to flying solo. If she was introduced to a man, especially someone who was also single, she looked beyond any element that would create attraction or interest. Her goal was to enjoy a life filled with true friendships where she never had to deal with a jealous spouse or boyfriend anymore.

That Unexplainable Spark

Unsuspecting to fall, she was swept off her feet by a married man who initially dropped hints of having an unsatisfactory marriage for many years and stating that it was over. As the single girl and the man grew closer, they began sharing their attraction toward each other.

In her late fifties, she does not consider herself to be desirable and have anything to physically offer a man. Self-esteem is not an issue for her within the protective walls of living independently. She has dealt with a crippling disability for many years and disturbed by the opinion of many men and women that a man will sleep with 'anything'. However, she stepped over the threshold that she was determined never to cross and set herself up for the possibility of being disenchanted, alone and ashamed of being an 'anything'.

She imagines what the future would be like if she were to become the next woman he cheats on, yet she cares for him so much, she cannot bring herself to label him as a cheater. As much as we try to fight or ignore it, there is unrelenting power in attraction for the right or wrong reasons. When your feelings are so strong for someone, you are blind to the realities of deception. The need to be as close as possible to someone can overpower the risk of deeply hurting others who may become affected.

Statistics show that an extremely low percentage of these affairs develop into actual committed relationships. So, do we protect ourselves and try to prevent emotional pain or do we take a chance, follow our instinct that craves intimacy, hoping that our actions may lead to real love and happiness?

To quote the lyrics from Train's "Drive By"- *"on the up-side to a downward spiral, my love for you went viral and I loved you every mile you drove away."*

The Perfect Holiday Gift: 5 Celebrities That Need To Go Away Forever





By Joshua Pompey

Some people want a new I-Pad for the holidays. Others want nothing more than a relaxing spa retreat. Me, I'm a little easier than your average receiver of gifts. This holiday season, I just want one present; for the following five celebrities to disappear forever! So please Santa, if you are out there, make this five people go away forever...

1. Justin Beiber.

I know you are a just a kid. I know you have grown up under the spotlight. But I can't for the life of me understand your popularity, nor do I want to. Please fade into the light forever with your fake picture scams and your on again, off again Disney girlfriend like all the other childhood heartthrobs, so that I never have to see a whiny teenage girl screaming your name again. It's been nice to know you, but see ya later kid.

Related Link: [How to Get Over a Broken Heart During the Holidays](#)

2. Kim Kardashian.

Is America finally coming to its senses, or are the Kardashians just between seasons. It seems the world has finally reached a point where the Kardashians are no longer an inexplicable obsession. We've watched you strut how much talent you don't have on television for years, enjoyed your self-released sex tape, and those of us that managed not to blink for a few days, even witnessed your "fairy tale wedding." Even being with Kanye West is no longer making you relevant. Your time is done, so please, fade away as ungracefully as you came in. However, feel free to give Scott Stap his own reality show in Vegas. Now that is television I'd watch (pending he dumps the world's most awful girlfriend).

Related Link: [How to Communicate with Your Ex Over the Holidays](#)

3. Lindsey Lohan.

Lindsey, I know you need help, and I hope you find it. But one thing is for sure, you could ride an ambulance backwards on a highway, while sniffing cocaine off the dashboard, and nobody will be surprised, or care. Your antics are tired, and more importantly, frustrating to a public that actually has to follow laws with consequences. You had your last shot with a Lifetime movie (has it really come to that?), and it debuted with a lackluster 3 million views. Its time to retire into a permanent rehab home with your mother of the year.

4. Madonna.

It amazes me that I can still turn on a news channel and see her irrelevant antics. Your self-righteousness is delusional at best, and you are too old to act the way you act. It's time to check into that nursing home, but on your way, please take Lady Gaga with you.

5. The cast of The Jersey Shore.

Ok, I know this is technically more than one person, but I'm going to cheat a little bit. Now that your show is officially ending, please, no more shows, spin offs, or fake and scripted television. You were all cute and funny when you were unaware of how ridiculous you all looked in season one. Now it's just annoying. Please spend the remainder of your days performing public services to Italian groups, attempting to undo the decades of damage you have done to their reputation, not to mention, the entire state of New Jersey.

Joshua Pompey provides online dating advice for men around the world. Check out GetREALDates Online Dating Advice for plenty of free information. Or check out GetREALDates Online Dating Profiles, for the best online dating profiles.

What to Do On New Year's Eve If You're Single





By Eleanore Wells

By now, every person on earth (or in the U.S) has most likely participated in at least one conversation where New Year's Eve plans were the topic. Some people look forward to it, others dread it. Those who look forward to it usually have something pretty special planned. Those who dread it usually don't. Lots of people harbor anxiety over New Year's Eve, primarily, because of what seems to be the intense pressure to do something – something festive, something big. I think single women feel this even more than most.

But, really, it's not necessary. While I like the idea of celebrating the passing of one year into another and all the hope and optimism that can bring, I do reject the notion that one has to mark this occasion in a big way. It's possible to have an enjoyable New Year's Eve without the forced exultations that seem to mark the holiday... and without a date.

Related Link: [Readying Your Single Self for the Holidays](#)

A few things to think about:

Get Out of Town. Not running away, but taking an opportunity to totally mix it up for a moment: new surroundings, new activities, new people... new you, for a short while. Of course, the New Year's Eve week is one of the most expensive periods to travel, so make sure you really want to do it.

Go Party. If you're invited to a big party and you're up to it, go and have a blast – even if you don't have a date. A few years ago, I went to a friend's big New Year's Eve shindig with mixed emotions. I didn't have a date and knew the party would primarily be made up of couples. But a few of them were people I knew and wanted to see so I got dolled up – making sure I looked extra good...which made me feel extra good – went to the party and had a good time. I deliberately got there late so I wouldn't have to spend so much time there in case I felt a little self-conscious. I ate, drank, and mingled, and then I left. You only have to stay as long (or as short) as you want to. At midnight, I was wishing the cab driver a Happy New Year. But I had a nice time for the 1-1/2 hours I was there.

Have Your Own Party. It doesn't have to be a big deal. In fact, I usually prefer something small. Invite over a few people you like, order take-out (or cook, if you're so inclined), pop some bubbly and enjoy yourself. This is actually one of my favorite ways to spend New Year's Eve. I only want to bring in the New Year with people I know and really like.

Give Your Time. Lots of volunteer organizations can use an extra pair of hands, helping out with parties they throw for their customers or providing other services. Helping others is great way to bring in the New Year.

Go to Church/Temple/Mosque. Bringing in the New Year with fellow worshipers can be fulfilling.

Work Off Holiday Pounds. Lot of gyms and sports organizations

are open for a workout or group run. You may as well get started chipping away at the pounds you put on during the holiday season.

Related Link: [Celebrity Nutritionist and Trainer Jackie Keller Says, "Those Who Workout With Support From Their Partners Do Better Overall"](#)

Do Nothing. You don't have to do anything... but only do nothing if that's what you really want to do, not because you are feeling pouty about your options or lack of.

Really, we should all relax. Ringing in the New Year can be pretty fun, but it's only fun if you're doing it in a way that works for you. So that's what you should do on New Year's Eve: whatever you want to do!

Happy New Year, everybody!

A Present is Worth a Thousand Words: What a Gift Says About Your Relationship





By Rachel Seliger

The holiday season has finally arrived, and with it comes festive parties (hello, candy cane cocktails!), delicious fare (potato latkes, anyone?) and glee-filled gift-giving (who doesn't love a white elephant party?). Yet, while giving gifts can fill your heart with warmth and joy as you watch your loved ones tear open those carefully-wrapped presents, it can also bring anxiety as you try to decipher what to give everyone on your list. And it only gets harder when it comes to giving a gift to a new love interest!

Rachel Seliger, Community Manager for JDate.com, the leading online community for Jewish singles, is here to help with advice on what gifts *really* mean when they're coming from a significant other. Check out the gifting-pedia below for definitions of what certain gift choices may say about your relationship:

Related Link: [What Gifts Say About Your Relationship](#)

A Jacket = "You'd look much better in this cut." While giving

clothing is fun, it may come off as though you're saying, "You'd look much better in this cut/color." If you don't give your new mate clothing that matches their personal style, you're saying you want to see them in something different, which may signal that you're trying to change them. Whether there's any truth to it or not, it's best to stick to nondescript accessories when giving gifts. Perhaps something like...

Mittens = "You warm my heart." Mittens are a sweet and thoughtful way to say, "I like you... a lot!" Unlike jackets, sweaters or boots, mittens typically come in just a few styles (meaning you can't screw up and get your hipster boyfriend a pair that looks like it belongs on an investment banker). And if you are lucky enough to receive a pair, it means the object of your affection wants to warm your fingers like you've warmed their heart.

Related Link: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas for That Special Someone](#)

Candles = "I know nothing about you." I once got a wrought iron candle holder from my college boyfriend. I opened it and wondered "What about me screams candles?" Unless you're some kind of candle-maven, this gift basically screams unoriginal and may mean you don't know each other well enough to pick out something more personal.

Concert Tickets = "You make my heart sing." If your mate surprises you with a pair of concert tickets for a big show they knew you would love, you've found a keeper! Not only did they think about what you would actually like, but they're also making fun plans with you in the future, so you can be sure they're in this for the long-term)!

Gift Cards = "I didn't care enough to actually go out and buy you a present." The gift card is the relationship kiss-off. Giving this gift basically says you are either lazy or just didn't care enough to put any thought into your present. Do

not give this gift! You can do better.

A Box of Chocolates = “You’re the sweetest thing I’ve ever laid eyes on.” Giving sweets to your sweet signals your relationship is so yummy that your mate’s love is about to give you a sugar rush! If your partner is associating you with the deliciousness that can only be found in a box of chocolates, then you have certainly found a satisfying relationship. But just as eating the entire box of candies in one weekend will make you crash, moving too fast in your relationship may leave you with a similar result!

Basketball Season Tickets = “I’ll pretend to like anything you like.” As a huge University of Kansas basketball fan, I would personally love it if someone bought me season tickets. However, if the person you’re dating suddenly becomes obsessed with your hobbies, going as far as to buy you tickets to a sporting event they previously didn’t even know existed, then you may be dating a people-pleaser with no hobbies of their own. Take it as a compliment, but suggest your partner join a book club, karate class or writing program to get a handle on who they really are!

A Homemade Gift Certificate = “I’m broke, but you mean the world to me.” Let’s be real, homemade gifts have become a lot more popular since the recession hit. Drafting a “Free Home-cooked Meal” certificate is a sweet and inexpensive way to show you care. If you’re going to give this gift, make sure you follow through with your promise or your partner may think you are unreliable.

Expensive Jewelry = “I want to impress you.” Ah, every girl’s dream! While we usually love anything that sparkles, this gift can also say, “I want to impress you,” or worse, “I messed up – please forgive me!” Give this gift with caution – once you’ve given something expensive, you can’t go back! After receiving a Tiffany’s bracelet, no one wants to follow up with an 80s-throwback snap bracelet.

An Engagement Ring = “I’m madly in love with you.” So you wake up on a magnificent Saturday morning to find Mr. Right has made you breakfast in bed, and at the bottom of your mimosa is the most brilliant diamond ring you’ve ever seen! If you’re madly in love and have been waiting for this moment, then a mazel tov is in order! Congratulations – you’ve just discovered the gift of true love.

Rachel is JDate’s Community Manager. She’s here to break down the rules of dating, share first date tips and offer words of encouragement when dating gets tough. Hit up her Tumblr page at www.Jdating.tumblr.com for more insightful advice. Or, learn what makes Rachel tick by visiting her JDate profile!

Is Being Center Stage Ruining Your Relationship?





By Michelle Rebecca

When you and your partner have a fight, do you blog, Tweet, change your status on Facebook and call all of your friends to let them know about it? If so, you might be endangering your relationship by sharing too much information with others.

As many celebrities (e.g., Kim Kardashian, Tom Cruise, Madonna) have discovered, it's hard to nurture the tender bud of a healthy romance in the harsh glare of the public eye.

Related Link: [Kim Kardashian 'Doesn't Want Battle' with Kris Humphries](#)

The Anatomy of a Fight

All couples argue, and everyone who has ever been in a relationship would probably admit to saying or doing something he or she later regretted. Normally, couples work through these less than ideal moments. Only the two of them, give or take a couple of very close friends, ever know that the unpleasantness took place at all.

Contrast that with the experience of an A-List celebrity who gets into it with her partner and exchanges some angry words with him in public. Those words won't be forgotten as tempers cool. Instead, they will be repeated on every entertainment show and analyzed between the covers of every magazine.

If the fight was shocking enough, marriage counselors may even come out of the woodwork to speculate on the future of the relationship.

Related Link: [Sherry Amatenstein Dishes on 'The Complete Counselor'](#)

Long after the celebrity herself has made up with her partner and is ready to move on, her fans will still be talking about those few ill-advised words hurled in what should have been a private moment.

Limiting Public Access

Whether you're a movie star or a contractor estimating software sales agent, there's a lot to be said for keeping your personal relationships...well, personal.

Take a moment to think about celebrity couples who have flung open the doors on their private lives. How many of them are still together?

Now, think about celebrities who have consistently declined to turn their personal lives into public fodder. I'm thinking of names like Rowan Atkinson (married since 1990), Julia Roberts, who learned the hard way about the cost of conducting relationships under media scrutiny (now happily married since 2002), and Meryl Streep (married since 1978).

Are you beginning to see a trend?

How Does All This Apply to Me?

Okay, so maybe you're not a celebrity, but you can still make

choices about whether you invite others to take an intimate look at your relationship. You can decide whether to make your latest dust-up with your partner the most talked about event of the week among your social circle or whether to resolve matters quietly between the two of you.

Most people find that the rift between you and your loved one heals far more quickly when your spat stays private.

Maybe the next time somebody says, "Talk to me, girlfriend," your response should be, "No, thanks!"

Michelle is an aspiring writer and blogger with a passion for the Internet, specifically social media and blogging. She loves how social media connects people across the globe, and appreciates that blogging gives her the opportunity to voice her thoughts and share advice with an unlimited audience.

Readying Your Single Self for the Holidays





By Eleanore Wells

Every year this time we have to think about what to do for the big holiday season. Holidays can be challenging to just about everybody. There are decisions to be made, plans put in place, and money to be spent. And while this is true for everyone, many single people feel an extra layer of stress.

In fact, I heard from a single friend who is feeling particularly lonely and is dreading the coming holiday season. She isn't close to her family and the holidays are a time that kinda puts a spotlight on it. I, teasingly, reminded her of Cameron Diaz and Kerry Washington, two sexy ladies who have described themselves as "happily single." I said, "Do you think Cameron and Kerry are worried about the holidays? I'll bet they're looking forward to the festivities...and you should be, too."

I reminded her that she should put her friends to good use. Having a variety of friends can help a lot this time of year. Even though she has kids, I know Gayle King will be taking in some of the festivities with Oprah and Steadman. It

helps to have people you like to hang out with. And isn't that what the holiday season should be about: spending time with special people? I know that's not what it's always about, but that's what it *should* be about. I'm a proponent of avoiding people who don't make me happy. If I can't avoid them completely, Plan B is to spend as little time with them as possible.

Related Link: [How to Communicate with Your Ex Over the Holidays](#)

I'm fortunate to have a loving network of people around me. I make it work. I host Thanksgiving for what I call my "straggler" friends: it includes single people, those who can't or don't want to get with their family, people whose plans changed at the last minute, and couples without children. (I have to draw the line somewhere).

Christmas I spend it with my family and I'm not really expected to do much except show up. But there's always what to do about New Year's Eve. I never want to spend it alone, but I don't always want a big party either. When I have a beau, I spend it with him. When I don't, it's with cool friends whose company I really enjoy. I won't spend New Year's Eve with people who aren't special to me. That's not how I want to bring in the New Year.

Related Link: [Miranda Lambert Says Blake Shelton Loves to Decorate for Christmas](#)

The holidays get a bad rap, though, because they're often quite good: there's the feeling of festivity in the air, the parties, the gifts, the music, and catching up with people you like but haven't seen in awhile. And some things about being single are actually better during the holidays because we have more flexibility and fewer rules about what one is supposed to do. Here are a few:

- You don't *have* to get a tree. Trees are festive, but the

needles, the watering, and the space it takes up –especially in a small apartment—...well, they're a lot of work. If you have kids and/or a husband, you might not be able to get away with not having a tree. It would be way too bah humbug. But when you're single, you can be more creative. Put up a wreath, buy a few poinsettias...and done!

– You don't have to spend a whole lot of time in one place. As a single person, it's very believable that you have additional plans, and that's why you can't spend the entire day at Aunt Mary's. Take advantage of that. Stop by for a while, hug everyone, have a glass of something...and then be on your way.

– No baking or cooking. And if you do, people make a very big deal about it. "Wow, look at what the single lady pulled off?"

– And just as good, no one really expects you to send holiday cards. These days, holiday photos of well-dressed children and/or children placed in really cool, interesting spots (at the family beach house, Macchu Picchu, etc.) are the norm. If you don't have children, no need to send a card. No postage, no paper waste, and no idea-generation on cute outfits or cool spots for the pictures. If you're married and don't send cards, you could be stricken from every card list, no matter how old or dear the friendship. But as a single person, no one seems to mind.

– You don't have to accompany the husband or kids to parties you don't really want to go to.

– No in-laws to fight with or about. This is always an issue with my married friends and they tell me this fight can get old really quickly...and yet it must be had every year.

The holidays should be fun. I think it's important to *manage* situations that you don't enjoy.

As a single person, I think it's particularly important to nurture your relationships because I really don't think we're necessarily supposed to go through life completely alone and that's where good friends come in...during the holidays, and all the other days.

Don't lose your mojo by dreading the holidays. Celebrate in a way that works for you! Happy Holidays!

Read more about the joys and realities of being single in Eleanore's book "The Spinsterlicious Life: 20 Life Lessons for Living Happily Single and Childfree", her very popular blog, The Spinsterlicious Life at www.EleanoreWells.com/blog, and her Spinsterlicious Facebook Fan Page.

Extravagant Hollywood Couples' Gifts Within Reach of Your Budget





By Shelly Cone

Ah, to be in love around the holidays! The peace, the goodwill ... and the gifts. Of course, any holiday gift from your loved one is special, but if you happen to be in [celebrity relationship](#), you can bet that special comes with a high price tag. As the holiday season draws near, we can only guess at what some of the most celebrated Hollywood couples are buying for each other. But based on what some celebrity couples have already given each other this year, it's likely there will be some luxury under their trees.

Hollywood Couples' Over-the-Top Gifts

There's no word yet on what gifts newlyweds Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel will exchange for their first Christmas as a married celebrity couple, but with thoughtful Timberlake, it must be something good. When they wed earlier this year, he gave his new bride four stackable wedding rings that matched her 18-karat celebrity engagement ring.

Jennifer Lopez's celebrity love Casper Smart will likely be waiting with anticipation at what lays under the tree for him this Christmas, considering Lopez gifted him with a white Dodge Ram truck for his 25th birthday this year. And when [Kim Kardashian](#) went birthday shopping for beau Kanye West (maybe she's hoping for a ring this Christmas?), she selected a \$750,000 Lamborghini as a gift. Wonder how she'll top that!

Then, of course, there's the queen of gift-giving [Angelina Jolie](#), who reportedly has bestowed on her husband a \$1.6 million helicopter with flying lessons and a \$12,000 olive tree, among other things. Last Christmas, she gave Brad Pitt his own waterfall in California so that he can build his dream home.

Related Link: [Angelina Jolie Buys Brad Pitt a Waterfall](#)

Shop Like You're In a Celebrity Relationship

So if you're not a member of the elite or in a Hollywood couple, how do you express your million dollar love without spending that much? Maybe you can't buy your loved one a waterfall or a helicopter, but you can buy a gift that can help satisfy a passion for travel. Gifts for travelers can be extravagant or fit into any budget. If you are in California, a simple hike to the Nojoqui Falls in the Santa Ynez Valley or water rafting on the Kern River can easily fit into any budget and may be a fun substitute for giving your love a waterfall this Christmas. Just remember to gear up with some gifts for hikers before your trip!

For an even more budget-friendly gift, print out photos of him in his various travels and frame them in variety of sizes in a montage to his international experiences. Make sure the photos capture him looking his most worldly and he'll be ecstatic about showing off your gift.

Related Link: [What Your Gifts Say About Your Relationship](#)

Maybe your honey isn't so much into travel, and instead, the waterfall is the thing that calms the senses of your practicing yogi sweetie. Help your gentle one find their peace without having to book a trip away from home. Some yoga DVDs can help them find their center. Add some yoga accessories, and you'll be their hero – the kind, sensitive hero with the great abs.

Who wouldn't want a luxury car? Unless you're a socialite or a member of Hollywood royalty, keep dreaming. We'd all like that spectacular sports car as a gift, but the average person will be overjoyed over any gifted vehicle. Show your love you care for them as well as the environment with an eco-friendly (and budget-friendly) Honda fit. For less than \$20,000, you can give your better half the nimble and fun to drive car that U.S. News and World Report ranks the number one affordable small car. With 28/35 miles per gallon, the Fit will prove to be a great fit for your bank account and your environmentally responsible sensibility.

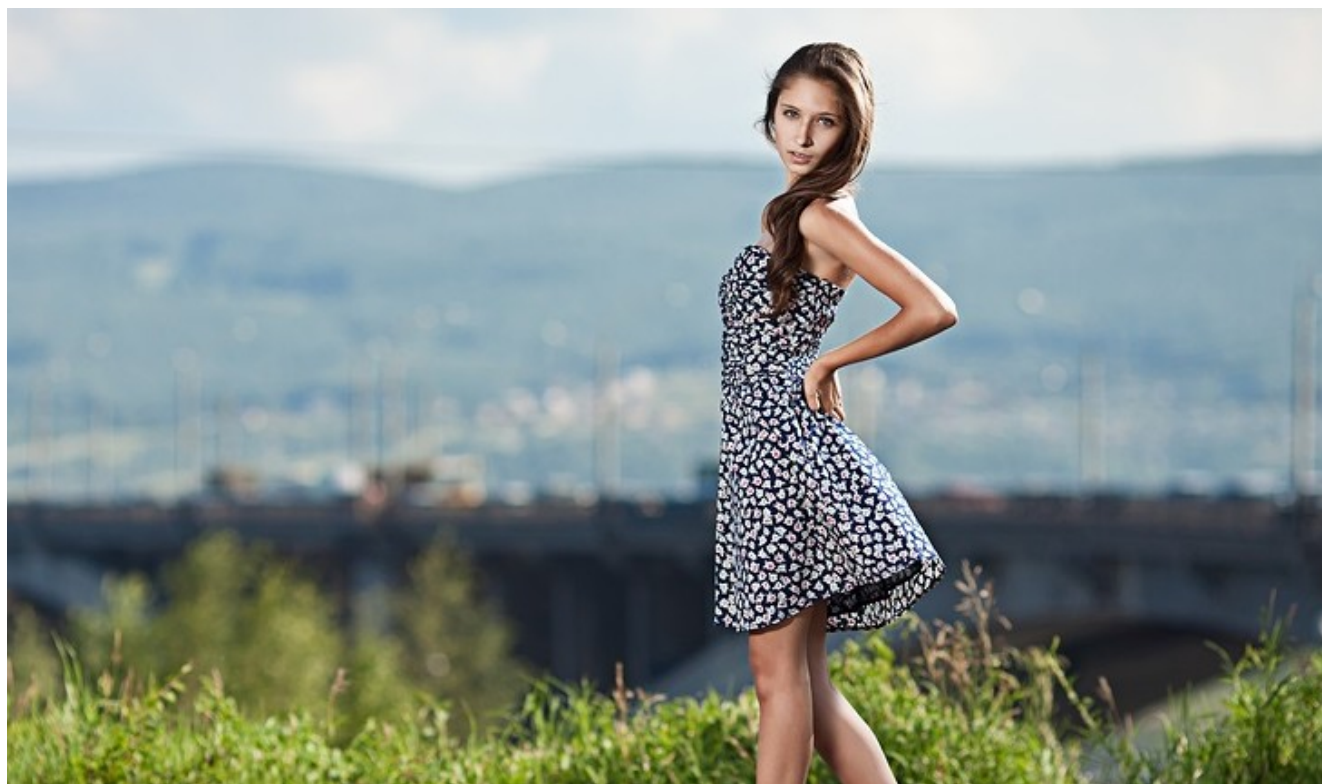
But perhaps you want to put a sparkle in her eyes. While I'm sure the new Mrs. Timberlake is thrilled with her bling, it may not be in your best interest to buy the girl in your life a ring, unless she is The One. If you want the bling but want to keep things on the lighter side or maybe you've already given her that sparkler and want to buy her something fashionable, check out DuePunti Diamond Rings. The ultra affordable rings come in a variety of fashionable colors perfect for stacking along with a .02 ct. diamond ring in the center of each one. Your lady can mix and match or wear them all. And with the price, you can afford to buy several!

Your wallet may not be loaded, but there's no doubting the love in your heart. Take a cue from those extravagant gift-giving celebs and buy something fantastically thoughtful but totally within reason. You don't have to spend Kardashian

money to give someone a happy holiday!

Shelly Cone is an award-winning journalist, copywriter, humor columnist and the owner of Beach Betty Creative. She writes for the love of it, laughs because she can't help it and knows how to pick the perfect gift every time.

Get Back In the Dating Game This New Year



By Shelly Blagg

Now that it's almost a New Year, it's time for the new you to jump back into the dating pool! We all know dating can be

exciting and nerve racking at the same time, made much worse by over thinking things. However, if you know you're ready to date, the best advice I can give is, JUMP IN! To ease into dating, go out with a group of people or another couple until you find your "dating feet". This can help with the pressure of those first date jitters. I can say I've gone out on many dates with best friends as the "buffer" and all proved to be successful. If you're with your best friends, you'll always have a great time, whether or not you find yourself being attracted to your date.

Most people getting back into the dating pool also have the problem of over sharing, which tends to do more harm than good. Here are some quick tips:

Related Link: [Is Divorce the Best Option?](#)

Keep the conversation light.

You're not making a lifelong commitment. Leaving things to the imagination is healthy, can be exciting, and keeps the other person interested to learn more about you.

Be yourself.

Make sure to be yourself because chances are, if they don't like you now, they're a waste of your time. Figure out what you want because if you sacrifice who are you right away, you're only cheating yourself.

Related Link: [Dating After Divorce: How Soon Is Too Soon?](#)

Make the best of it.

Lastly, remember, this is your time and it's up to you to make the best of it. There are going to be bad dates, but you will have some amazing ones as well. Each one is a new experience, that at some point, will catapult you into a lifelong relationship, or a shipwreck story to tell your friends.

Either way, it's your ride so take it and go off into the dating world when you're ready.

Divorce2Dating is a networking tool to assist recently separated or divorced individuals find new relationships. Sheila Blagg and her team at Divorce2Dating.com are committed to providing support for those interested in counseling, legal services, and guidance for rebuilding their future. The goal at Divorce2Dating.com is to offer assistance, whether needed for saving a marriage or supporting an individual through their divorce, bringing to light the emotions involved in every aspect of divorce.

How To Have An Extraordinary Date At The Bookstore





By Alex Karpman

I hate to be Debbie Downer, but at the rate brick and mortar book stores are closing, I don't know how much longer this awesome date venue will be available. Doesn't it feel like just yesterday that there was all the uproar about how the mega-book stores were killing off the mom and pop book shops?

Remember the movie *You've Got Mail* and how disgusted you were when Joe Fox's (Tom Hanks) Fox Books forced Kathleen Kelly's (Meg Ryan) *Little Shop Around the Corner* out of business? And now Amazon and e-commerce is killing off the mega-book stores. My point is ... make sure to head over to your local book store ASAP while you still can to enjoy this awesome date. Check out the video below to see how Olga and I had a blast exploring the travel, architecture, joke and sexuality sections of the bookstore:

What's your take on this date idea? Share your thoughts below.

Datevitation.com is happy to offer free shipping on our books only to CupidsPulse.com readers. Just enter the code – cupid – at the checkout page, and you'll be discounted the \$3.50

that we normally charge for shipping. The free shipping code expires on Dec 15.

This is a guest post Alex Karpman, founder of Datevitation.com, the web's first custom love coupon platform where you can create a one-of-a-kind gift book full of fun things to do with your sweetie, or send electronic love coupons via email or facebook. Alex and his wife Olga also offer free step-by-step video guides to romantic tips and date ideas (similar to the video below) on the Datevitation Blog.

5 Bachelor and Bachelorette Couples We Can Learn From





By Sara Dawkins

It has been announced that the most recent couple from *The Bachelor* series has split. Shocking. You mean to tell us that finding love in three weeks in front of cameras, a herd of people and being thrown into extravagant romantic dates didn't really build the solid foundation that a couple needs to work out? You could have fooled me. Now that Emily Maynard and Jef 'with one F' Helms are over, we can take a minute to look and learn from other *Bachelor* couples:

Trista and Ryan Sutter: That's right they have the same name ... because they actually got married! And two kids later, they boast of a happy and healthy relationship together. This is rare in Bachelor history. They proved that you can find love, but only if you work hard on it and get past all the fame that comes with reality TV. Congrats to them and we look forward to them being the only successful couple for many more years!
Lesson learned: Barrel through the muck.

Related Link: ['Hope Springs' Is This Summer's Guide to a Healthy Relationship](#)

Jake Pavelka and Vienna Girardi: Who doesn't love a good train wreck? This couple was doomed from the start. Way-too-sweet-for-his-own-good Jake chose bad girl Vienna to be his [bride](#). It didn't take long before there were rumors that Vienna cheated on him, and the next thing you know, both were destined to hang on to their 15 minutes of fame by going to the media. It was very messy, much like Byron Velvick and Mary Delgado's breakup. Police were involved, so enough said. **Lesson: Don't go for the bad guy/gal and be mature in a break up or you will end up looking like a train wreck.**

Related Link: [Five Reasons Men Are Attracted to Celebrity Bad Girls](#)

Jason Mesnick and Melissa...errr...Molly Malaney: Another successful *Bachelor* couple, but this marriage happened in the round about away. Jason was originally smitten with the bubbly and beautiful Melissa Rycroft only to dump her on national television for doe-eyed runner up Molly. Despite the outrage from fans and the media, this couple managed to make it through and get married. They just recently announced they are expecting their first child together! **Lesson: Go with your gut and make the right decision first.**

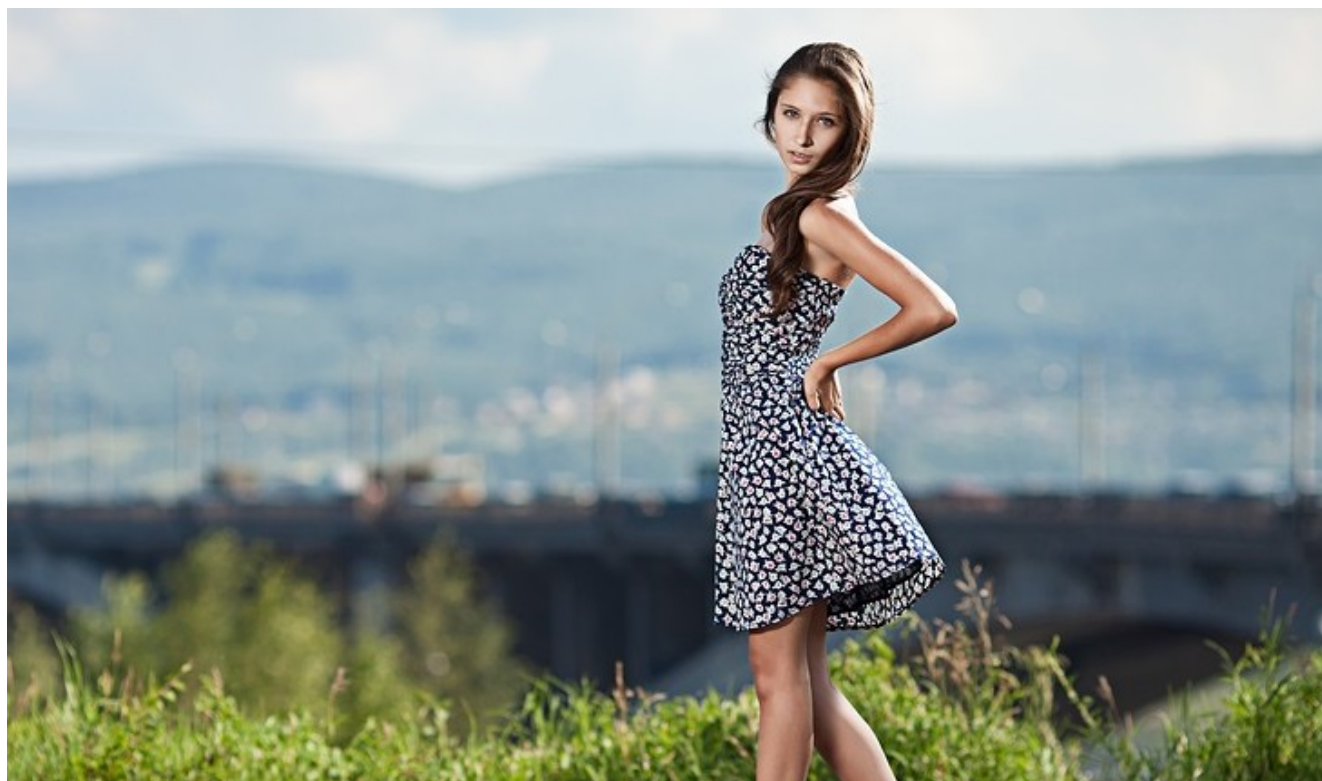
Ali Fedotowsky and Roberto Martinez: Ugh. This one was a tough one to get over. Not only were Ali and Roberto cute together, but they actually seemed to be happy in front of cameras. After 18 months they decided to call off the engagement and end their relationship. **Lesson: Pretty people break up, too. Also as much as you want it to work out, sometimes it just doesn't.**

Charlie O'Connell and Sarah Brice: This is an oldie, but a goodie. And yes, Charlie is bro's with actor Jerry. Charlie chose blonde bombshell Sarah way back in 2006 and they broke up in 2007. They got back together in 2008 and then after 5 years, called it off again. It was a mutual break up, as they were both citing they fought over the same things the first

and second time around. Who knows, maybe the third time's the charm? **Lesson: You break up the first time for a reason, don't forget why.**

Sara is an active nanny as well as an active freelance writer. She is a frequent contributor of <http://www.nannypro.com/>. Learn more about her <http://www.nannypro.com/blog/sara-dawkins/>.

5 Reasons Why Men Are Attracted to Celeb Bad Girls



By Joshua Pompey

There is just something about a bad girl that men can't seem to resist. We know they are bad for us, but that sure doesn't stop us from feeling the way that we do, especially when it comes to the celebs who we crush on. Look no further than the overwhelming attention paid to stars like Megan Fox, [Angelina Jolie](#), and Lindsay Lohan during the heights of their popularity. Don't forget: It wasn't that long ago when Jolie's [celebrity news](#) was focused on her carrying a vile of blood around her tattoo-laced body and lip locking with her brother on national television!

Why Celeb Bad Girls

Take a trip a little further down memory lane, and you may recall a time when bad girl [Britney Spears](#) dressed up as a schoolgirl and crushed the competition (like good girls Mandy Moore and Jessica Simpson). When it comes down to it, the allure of a bad girl makes a lot of sense. Here are a few reasons why men can't resist these types of women:

Related Link: [What Attracts Us to Bad Boys?](#)

1. The promise of sexuality: When men see a bad girl, the look and the attitude conjures images of a woman who is free with her sexuality. Women such as Fox ooze sexuality, making us believe that a night with her will be different from any experiences we've ever had. This is enough to make any man weak at the knees when contemplating the sexual revolution that could enter his life.

2. The excitement a bad girl brings to the table: Life can be boring sometimes. Many of us fall into the same day-to-day routines, week after week, month after month. But not with a bad girl. With a bad girl like celeb Lohan, we know we will be in for one heck of a ride, full of exotic trips, random adventures, and potential trouble. This trouble may not be good for relationships and love, but it sure is exciting.

3. The promise of a chase: Men will always want what they can't have. When men chase after bad girls, they know they may be setting themselves up for mistreatment, frustration, and neglect, but the allure of that chase is enough to outweigh the negatives. Deep down, we all want to be the ones to conquer the Jennifer Lopez's of the world and get them to settle down.

Related Link: [3 Reasons Nice Guys Shouldn't Finish Last](#)

4. The look: Pull up pictures of some of the most notorious bad girl, and you will find one common thread: All of them look and dress incredibly sexy. Men are extremely visual creatures. We become excited by the over-sexualized visuals a bad girl presents. When choosing between the pretty girl in the turtleneck and the bad girl who shows off what she has, our primal sides want the bad girl that stimulates us visually.

5. The attitude: The way a female carries herself can work wonders for her appeal. An average looking woman can become extremely attractive by walking, talking, and acting as if she has it going on. Bad girls such as Jolie give off a vibe of living in their own world, and everyone else is just in their orbit. This attitude of complete confidence can be liberating to men who feel constrained by society. There is something very sexy about a woman that marches to the beat of her own drum.

Joshua Pompey is an online dating expert and author of The REAL Online Game series. For plenty of free advice, visit <http://getrealdates.com>.

Living Your Best [Single] Life



By Eleanore Wells

I am a heterosexual woman, I live in New York City and I love dating. I have an awesome life: a successful career as the owner of a marketing consultancy –Golden Door Consulting– with a great income that allows me to afford a second home in the Hamptons, an active social life and vacations around the world. I have great relationships with my family and a fabulous circle of good friends. I support charitable organizations with my money and time, and adore my 13-year-old Yorkie, Danny. Despite all this goodness, though, there are many who look at my life and feel sorry for me...because I'm single. And I don't get it.

Marriage is not for everyone, and the high divorce rate corroborates this. And the U.S. Census says that while only 28% of U.S. adults were unmarried in 1970, that percentage rose to 47% in 2010. Plus, a 2011 study by the Pew Research Institute found that the number of U.S. adults who are unmarried is now 49%, a record high. So, there's a lot of single people out there, and I'm a little baffled why people act like being single is such a bad thing. It's not.

Related Link: [Five Lives Your Single Friends Like to Tell](#)

I've been single all my life. In fact, I like the word spinster, though a lot of people don't. I want them to get over it, because being single –a spinster–is just fine, and I've learned a few life lessons for making it work. So, for those who still aren't quite sure that “living single” can be really good, here's a few things to think about:

1. Revel in Your Freedom. Being single, I'm not encumbered with many of the restrictions that come with having a husband and children. My time and my money are my own and I can spend them however I want. I love to travel and so I do. I've traveled the U.S. and the world, and plan to continue doing so. I can sleep in on the weekends. I can dash out of the house at a moment's notice –without looking for a babysitter or discussing it with my husband– if someone rings me up and says “join me”.

Related Link: [Single Celebrities We Want to See Hitched](#)

2. Have Adventure. Pushing the “freedom” thing a bit, I recommend adventure...pushing the envelope...stepping out of your comfort zone from time to time. I want to make sure that I can look back at my life when I'm 90 and say “well done, girlie.” Being single means it's okay to indulge in a few unconventional behaviors on occasion. I quit my corporate job and started my own company before I had a client, I found myself in the hotel room of an A-List actor, and I took off

for a two-week trip to Europe alone after thinking about it for just a week. Had I not been single, these actions could have seemed a bit irresponsible. Instead, they were just fun.

3. Use Birth Control. This is an important one and nothing to be casual about. If you're not deliberately trying to change your spinster status by having a child, then be very careful. Otherwise, your new nickname could be "Mom". And all those freedoms you used to have will disappear.

4. Don't Re-Date the Jackass Ex-. Sometimes being single can get a little lonely. Then, we look around to see who's available and the ex- starts to look a little better. Don't do it though. It's important to remember that this loneliness usually doesn't last, and is often about something else going on in your life. Figure out what that is and deal with it, because if he was a jackass the first time around, he's still one. I know this for a fact, so I'm saving you the trouble. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

My hope is to remind every unmarried woman out there that her life should be celebrated. There is something empowering and rather brave about not marrying or having children if you're not 100% sure. Admittedly, some single women wish they were married, but since they're not at the moment, I'd like them to focus on what's good in their lives. A spinster may or may not eventually marry but, in the meantime, she certainly owes herself a great life.

Read more about the joys and realities of being single in Eleanore's book "The Spinsterlicious Life: 20 Life Lessons for Living Happily Single and Childfree", her very popular blog, The Spinsterlicious Life at www.EleanoreWells.com/blog, and her Spinsterlicious Facebook Fan Page.

5 Things That Drive Men Away



By Christopher Brya

So you're in a relationship. Congratulations! Now how do you keep that relationship? That's one of the questions we got from 1,000 women, who wanted to know why men think the way they do, and what drives them away.

So we took those questions and got answers from 250,000 men about what turns them off of a relationship. The results, collected in our book *WTF Are Men Thinking*, bring you closer to understanding why he behaves in certain ways, and what could spell disaster for a relationship:

Related Link: [How to Master Being In a Relationship](#)

Nagging

Most men told us that women that nag them drive them crazy. Now let's be honest: Sometimes men deserve a little nagging, but the difference between the helpful kind and the hurtful kind is all in the approach. Men said that if women would approach the situation at the right time (in the early evening is preferred) and with the right attitudes (to-the-point and light-hearted) that they would respond in a much more positive way. This is good news: Women really can get what they want and better results. Most men don't respond well to nagging now because they worry it will continue being the method that women will use. And nobody likes that outcome.

Keep your past exploits to yourself

It might be tempting to talk about past flings with a new guy – how else are you supposed to get the dirt on him? But men really don't want to hear about your ex, let alone what you did with that ex of yours. They especially don't want to play the comparison game. As one man said to us, "This is don't ask don't tell. If I don't ask, don't tell me. But if I do, tread carefully." This is especially true of any physical conquests you may have had. Men just don't want to know and it's in your best interest to keep it that way.

Related Link: [5 Ways to Stop Sabotaging Your Relationship](#)

Being too clingy

Men told us that they adore women that are affectionate and really engage with them. However, there is a fine line between being "into" the man you're with and suddenly being *everywhere* with him. The clingy factor is another major reason men cite for exiting a relationship. Men want an independent and confident woman. They like when you call and text, but sending 10 text messages a day or multiple e-mails or phone calls is a big signal to men that you aren't comfortable being yourself. As one man put it, "Don't try to make a man love you but let him love you. If he wants to, he

will. There is no way to make a person fall for you.”

Bringing your baggage into the relationship

Another element that drive men away also relates to exes: what baggage you bring to the relationship, and what you do with it. Men know that you have a past and it doesn't end with your previous relationship. But the key is learning from previous significant others, and not assuming that every man is going to behave like your ex.

Controlling your man

Men were very clear in that they liked aggressive, confident women – women that were not afraid to ask men out or for their number. But one thing that was mentioned over and over was that men did not appreciate in any way the feeling that you were trying to change them. Men said to us that you need to accept them for who they are rather than who you WANT them to be. They don't want to be your project. As one man told us, “Women are always looking to change you. It's like they're saying, ‘We like you just the way you're going to be when we're done with you.’”

Christopher Brya is the co-author (with Miguel Almaraz) of WTF Are Men Thinking: 250,000 Reveal What Women REALLY Want to Know. He is founder of Solavista Research and has worked for 20 years in marketing research and user experience research for brands like Revlon and Motorola. He lives in Phoenix with his wife and two toddlers, and is one of those guys who buy wine based solely on the design of the label.

Top 3 Pre-Date Primping Rituals



By Dana B. Myers

Ten years ago, I met my husband on Match.com. I was on my *Husband Safari*, ready to meet *him* whether it took three months or three years. I was simply committed to the *process*. If you've ever done it, you know that the dot-com-dating experience can be exciting, daunting, thrilling, annoying and exasperating. It can boost your ego or leave you totally deflated.

As I made my way through the online dating numbers game, I felt all of that and more. But one thing I hadn't expected was how much time and effort the whole Husband Safari would take – specifically, the time it took to get ready for all of those

first dates that went nowhere. Fergie and J.Lo may have teams of stylists to craft their every look, but as a mere mortal, it was just me and my make-up brushes left with the task.

Of course, beautifying oneself to attract positive attention from others is a basic human behavior. It wasn't as if I was going to show up with a bare face and a bad attitude. So, instead of begrudging the effort it took to prep for dates, I chose to create seductive beauty and body rituals.

Related Link: [What to Wear on a First Date](#)

These sexy, simple pre-date rituals became one of the most powerful tools I had for shining up my inner sexy self-confidence. And you know what they say, right? Confidence in a woman is sexy.

Related Link: [Why Amazing Confident Women Remain Single](#)

Below are three of my best pre-date, primping rituals. They'll give you a chance to [flirt](#) with yourself, meditate on what you truly want from a mate, and also have some fun. Check it out:

1. Compliment Your Curves: Choose a flirty chemise to wear while you do your make-up and hair. A chemise is a much more curve-flattering option than a bulky towel for the in-between time after your shower, before you dress for the evening. (Leighton Meester wore Stella McCartney's sumptuous blue Clara Whispering Chemise on a recent *Gossip Girl* episode.) You'll instantly feel flirtatious and more feminine. Admire your gorgeous self in the mirror – you're irresistible!

2. Get Bedroom Eyes: With your brushes and shadows ready, prepare to create a soft and smoky look. Use pictures of Emma Stone and Keira Knightly as your eye-inspiration. As you apply the make-up, gaze into the mirror and imagine you're looking into the eyes of a future partner. Lower your lids a bit, and tilt your head slightly up and down; raise a brow seductively,

never breaking eye contact.

3. Say “Eau Yes!”: Choose an eau de parfum that matches your mood for the night – fresh, sultry, playful or mysterious. Then dab it on a few spots, like below your belly button, on your ankles, or on the inside of your elbows. Those less traditional spots will be your secret. The sense of smell can be very powerful when it comes to physical attraction, so use it to your best advantage. Take a page from Jennifer Love Hewitt, and choose a perfume infused with pheromones to elicit an intense reaction that your date will forever associate with you.

Bonus Ritual: Affirmations

When your sexy beauty rituals are complete, say a self-loving affirmation out loud to help make a solid connection to loving your beautiful self. It's the ultimate self-confidence booster as you're preparing for your date.

Dana B. Myers is the author of The Mojo Makeover, which provides tips and tricks on beauty, love, sex and dating. She's also a sexy lifestyle expert and the founder of Booty Parlor.

Predict the Future of Your Relationship And Love with Celebrity Astrology





By Teresa Lopez

There are two things that every girl loves: horoscopes and checking out [celebrity couples](#). We've put the two together, as we are going to be looking at some of the hottest Hollywood couples and what their star signs have to say about their relationship and love. From polar opposites to people born on the same day, we've got it all! So, here's a taste of celebrity astrology that may help you predict the future of your relationships:

Related Link: [Top 5 Celebrity Couple Predictions](#)

What The Stars Say About Relationships And Love

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson: Although they've experienced a few rough patches in the past, this famous couple has amazing compatibility when it comes to their charts. Both have an ascendant sign that is almost close to identical. Although this is questionable because of how uncommon it is, if it is the case, it means that this couple

will have very similar world views. Not only are their ascending signs in conjunction, but they also have conjunct Mercuries, which means that they think alike as well! Similarly there are positive signs of strong sexual attraction and romance: Stewart's Uranus is conjunct to his seventh house, which means that they are both very romantic and inclined to please. Although they may have been rocky before, these two have all of the makings for a long lasting relationship and love.

Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas: Because these two share the same birthday, their charts are almost identical. The only differing aspects are caused by location and time of birth. Almost everything is compatible here, except for Zeta Jones's Mars being conjunct to Douglas's moon. This can be extremely stressful on a relationship, despite the fun energy that it can provide for a short period of time. Because of this, we believe that this relationship may last for several years but will subsequently end in a celebrity break-up due to stress and potential hardship.

Related Link: [Five Reasons Why Opposites Attract](#)

[Brad Pitt](#) and [Angelina Jolie](#): Oh, Brad and Angie! So many of us were curious how they were going to work out when their celebrity relationship first started – they seemed so opposite! Turns out that it's not just their personalities that are juxtaposed but also their horoscopes. Many of Pitt's planets fall into Jolie's sixth house, the one that indicates work relationships and services, such as charity. Obviously, this speaks worlds to Pitt's commitment to adoption and community service that coincided perfectly with the beginning of this relationship. Although it can be difficult to say what drives the very private pair, this Hollywood couple's major aspects are usually opposite each other: They have sun opposite sun, and Venus and sun opposite ascendants. Many of these opposite aspects can cause stress and negativity in a relationship, although keeping things fresh and unique. It is

important that as much excitement as they may find that they realize that they need to be cautious around such harsh juxtaposing aspects. We may see, in the future, this fiery relationship and love fizzle out and die.

This post was written on behalf of Hollywood Psychics. If you want to learn if you and your partner are as compatible as Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, start a live psychic chat today!

Are We In Danger of Dating Like Celebrities?



By Joshua Pompey

We see it year after year. Celebrities enter relationships, only to see them quickly dissolve in record times.

For every one Brad Pitt who finally settles down to commit, there are a hundred Derek Jeters. Russell Brands and Kristen Stewarts. In fact, Bill Maer once said, "Men are only as faithful as their options." The fact is, when it comes to celebrities, options are unlimited for both males and females. When the going gets tough in the celebrity world, the tough can get going and be just fine! The bottom line is that there's no true incentive to make things last *forever* once the initial rush fades.

Unfortunately, this is translating outside of the celebrity world these days. The modern era of dating has completely flipped the world upside down. Attention spans are shorter than ever, and online dating has created the same unlimited options for everyone that at one time were only available to celebrities. People are always on the look out for the next big thing, entertaining way too many options, and having way too many superficial relationships.

Related Link: [3 Benefits of Meeting People Online](#)

So, what are some ways to avoid the shallow world of celebrity dating? Here are three ways:

1. Focus on the person:

Many people who date online play the numbers game. They go on multiple dates per week, thinking they will find "the one" much quicker. This is a bad idea, because it will just result in more superficial conversations and never truly getting to know someone on a deep emotional level. Falling for someone takes time and effort.

Related Link: [Five Conversations to Avoid on that First Date](#)

2. Realize that life is not a movie:

We tend to always see celebrities living “happily ever after” and want the same for ourselves. We think if we look hard enough, we’ll find that “perfect” person the way people in the movies do, who sweeps us completely off our feet. The problem is, the “perfect” person in our imaginations may not exist. Life is not a movie. Just look at what usually happens to real life “fairy tale” celebrity marriages when they meet their “romantic fates.” Serial dating in the hopes of finding the perfect person is a lost cause unless you are realistic with your expectations.

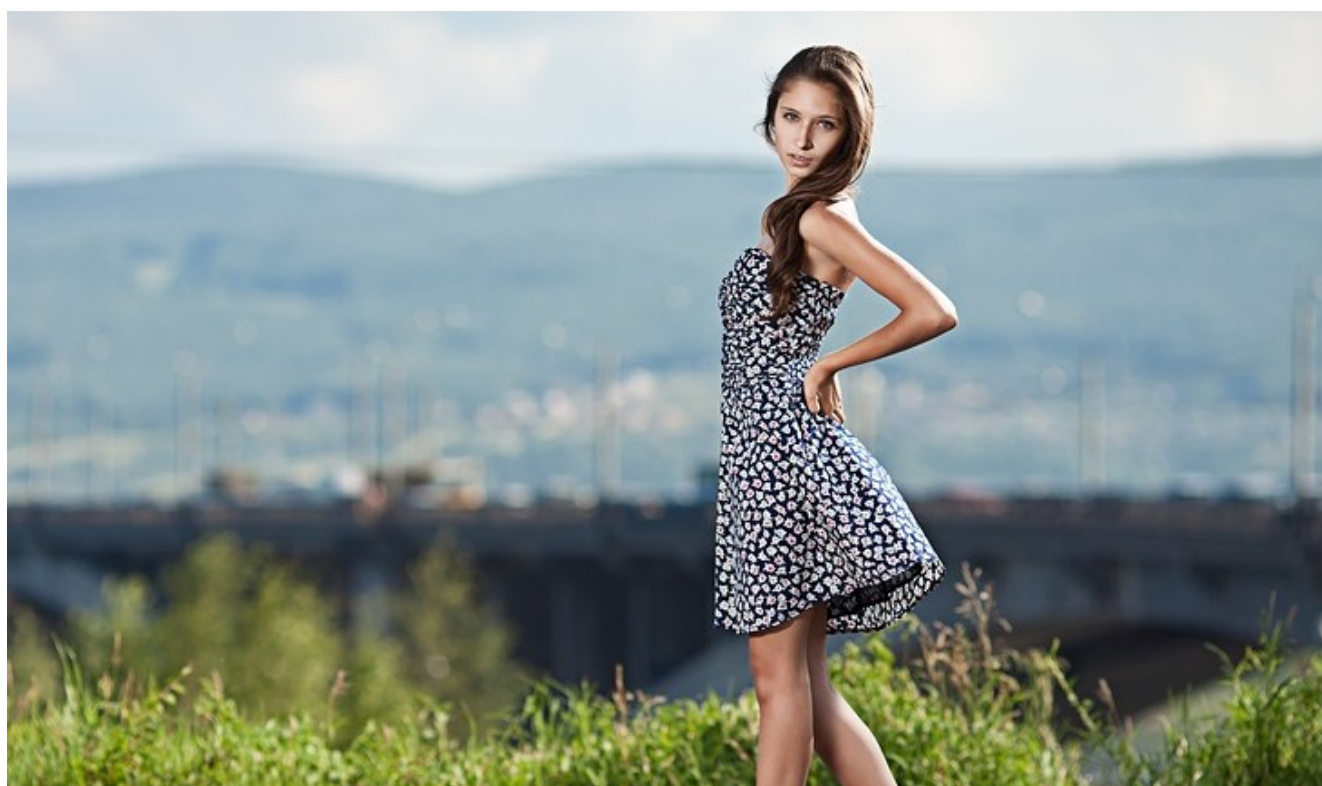
3. Allow logic to enter the equation:

Celebrities tend to rely more on emotion than logic because there are very few consequences. They will still have their millions, movie deals and mansions when the relationship ends. Us “real people” may not be so lucky. Acting purely on emotion may leave our lives seriously damaged if the relationship doesn’t work out. Allow logic to enter the equation and think long term before forming a relationship that is based on infatuation and sexual attraction.

Don’t become just another celebrity-like statistic. Remember, the dating troubles of us normal folk won’t be featured on any magazines. We don’t have as many chances as those in the celebrity world, and we have the chance of ending up cold and lonely if we make too many love mistakes along the way.

Joshua Pompey is the author of four online dating guides for men. You can find plenty of free information at his website, so check out www.GetRealDates.com for plenty of free articles, including the “Seven Habits of Highly Successful Online Daters.”

What's Love Got to Do With It?



By Paul N. Weinberg

Here's the myth: Cupid's arrow strikes you in the heart, you fall in love and you live happily ever after.

But we all know that real life doesn't quite work that way. A more familiar story goes like this: You meet someone. The two of you have great chemistry, and you really hit it off. You jump into a relationship and you fall in love. This seems like "the one" ... except that six months or a year later, you're no longer together and you are once again single. Now repeat

until emotionally exhausted.

Does this pattern of falling in and out of love sound familiar? I've observed it in singles for years so I'm no longer surprised each time I hear that a friend who was in love the last time I saw them is no longer with their partner. And very often, he or she is already in love with someone new.

Related Link: [Why Celebrities Fall In and Out of Love So Quickly](#)

So if love often condemns us to a series of relatively short-term relationships – and with all due respect to Tina Turner – the obvious question is: “What’s love got to do with it?” In other words, why isn’t falling in love enough to establish an enduring, long-term relationship. And what does it take to keep us together after the emotional thrill is gone and the sexual excitement has faded?

Related Link: [4 Steps to a Stronger Long-Term Relationship](#)

The simple answer is that for most people, the long term glue that binds together our personal relationships is emotional intimacy.

What is Emotional Intimacy?

Although intimacy and love often go together, love is not intimacy, and love in a relationship does not guarantee intimacy. And although a sexual relationship may lead to an emotionally intimate one, you can have sex without intimacy and intimacy without sex. So sex is not intimacy either.

Put simply, emotional intimacy is about connecting and being connected on an emotional level to your partner. It’s the sharing of your innermost thoughts and feelings, coupled with all the ways of being together – a glance, a touch, a silent moment, a laugh, or just being present and attentive – that provide the foundation for an emotional connection in a

personal relationship.

Intimacy is the complement to love that requires trust, openness, vulnerability, safety, empathy and honesty and involves deeper levels of communication that are conveyed through the sharing of feelings and emotional needs. Intimacy exists at the deepest level where each of you is able to not only feel and understand the other but also be felt and understood by the other.

So love is just one part of the larger landscape of connection in personal relationships. And it is intimacy rather than love that brings emotional depth to the connection, permits a deeper knowing of yourself and your partner, and adds longevity to your relationships.

*Paul N. Weinberg is the coauthor of **The I Factor**, a new book about intimacy and connection in personal relationships. Available in print and ebook versions through Amazon and the Apple iTunes Bookstore. www.theifactor.com*

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How To Find Love Online With Non-Traditional Dating Sites





By Karla Stephens-Tolstoy

The emerging alternative to dating sites has become social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Each of these sites are free to join and let you chose as many “friends” as you like, with little or no limitations on communication. If you have a particular Romeo in mind, social media can provide some great avenues for making a connection:

Related Link: [Five Ways Social Media Can Help Your Relationship](#)

Facebook

Facebook’s benefit certainly comes in the numbers. With everyone and their aunt as an active member, this service can connect you with virtually anyone. A good option with FB is freely being able to browse the friends of friends. This can even allow you to spot potential catches, and have the mutual friend set up a blind date. The How To’s of Facebook are pretty simple, especially if you have a target in mind:

1. Locate their page.

2. Do some intelligence gathering: Find out his online m.o. to best target when and how to reach him.
3. Consider commenting on posts and topics that they follow as a way of introducing yourself.
4. Determine ahead of time what you will and will not share.
5. Set casual goals for each contact: sharing more, getting personal, moving to the next step (a phone call), meeting in person, etc...
6. Have a line of conversation ready to go before initiating contact.
7. Plan your attack and execute your approach.

Related Link: [Q&A: How Can Social Media Help My Long Distance Relationship?](#)

Twitter

Twitter is an odd beast, as some barely touch it while others live and breathe by the tweets. It can offer a nice window into the thought process of a prospect. The trick with Twitter is to make your characters count and your creativity shine.

1. Research the topics and people they follow for a shared interest.
2. Plan your approach, whether through direct or shared contact.
3. Be pithy, it's part of the appeal: The limit of 140 characters requires tight, single statements. Back and forth attempts here seem forced and out of place.
4. Steer the communication to a fuller venue like email, Facebook.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn serves as the largest professional town square online. A lot of informed daters look to this as the go-to fact sheet on a subject. It can say a lot about a person beyond their education and work history. This is great for cold calling, or looking for love without a lead.

1. Determine the type of professional and location for whom you are looking.
2. Find the LinkedIn groups that meet that criteria.
3. Comb the member lists for those groups.
4. Research any potential prospects through social media before contact.
5. Send him a connection request.
6. Consider sending an InMail (internal message) introducing yourself.

The one certainty of social media is that it doesn't appear to be going anywhere. Platforms rise and fall in popularity, but this would appear to be the new phone book/nightclub of our times. For good or bad, it's having a direct effect on how people meet up, and your presence there can make all the difference.

Karla Stephens-Tolstoy is CEO & Founder of Tokii – an online relationship management platform designed to help busy couples stay connected. Karla is a business and brand maverick, skilled in building start-ups and building brand management teams in North America, Asia and Europe.

Top 5 Celebrity Couple Predictions





By Yolanda Shoshana

It can be hard keeping up with the love life of celebrities. If you blink, you just might miss a breakup or a week long relationship between two costars. I pulled out my crystal skull to do predictions on some of the celebrities everyone wants to know more about:

1. Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds: This was the surprise wedding of the summer. Some media outlets have called Lively a trophy wife, because they believe she nothing but arm candy. I say, take a good look at Reynolds, because last time I checked, he was quite easy on the eyes. If anyone won a trophy it is Lively. Their age difference actually evens out since women tend to mature faster than men; they meet right in the middle. I predict that Lively and Reynolds will have a fabulous marriage and stay pretty quiet when it comes to Hollywood drama. Let's root for these two, as their future is bright. By February, there will baby news from this sexy couple.

Related Link: [Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds Are Married!](#)

2. Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson: Can you say hot mess? The rumors continue to fly that they are on again, spending time apart or can't live without each other. The list goes on. Who knows what we should believe at this point. Stewart and Patterson are attempting to figure out what is going on between them, because they do care for each other. Once the *Twilight* hype is over, it will be the end of their relationship. The movie is the glue that holds them together, and Patterson will end up finding love with another actress which will prompt his ending the relationship with Stewart for good.

Related Link: [Sources Say Rob Pattinson and Kristen Stewart Are a Couple Again](#)

3. George Clooney and Stacy Keibler: Despite breakup rumors, these two are still a couple. But tick tock! Can't you hear the clock ticking on this relationship? The main reason people are saying the pair is close to splitsville is because it's about that time when Clooney calls off the relationship. Keibler can take a deep breathe; she will make it to the Oscars with Clooney. However, her days are numbered. She will love again, and you know Clooney will. In a few years, I see that Clooney will pull a "Warren Beatty type move" and find someone younger than him with whom to settle down. They will never marry, but she will be around for the long haul.

4. Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher: This pairing is interesting indeed. Did you know that Kutcher was Kunis' first kiss? From what we have seen, we know that Kutcher has it in him to be in a long term relationship, but it is said that Kunis wants to take it at a slow nice pace. This is not to mention the fact that Kutcher is still married to Demi Moore. Kunis and Kutcher will have a nice run, but eventually she will want someone a little more grown up, which will break Kutcher's heart. What goes around comes around, dear Ashton.

5. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West: Who else is surprised that they are still together? This couple has lasted longer than Kardashian's last marriage. That deserves a round of applause. Then again, according to the media, Kanye has always had a thing for Kim. They are a good match since they both love the

spotlight, expensive things and causing a commotion. Kardashian and West may taunt the public with an engagement, which they may actually mean (at the time); the wedding will, however, not take place. Media and money aside, Kardashian wants love just like anybody, but has to get her self love in check before that happens. Kardashian really loved Reggie Bush and continues to seek that type of love. Also telling the media that she thinks she will marry West was a bad move. It's like giving a guy an ultimatum in front of a live audience. The stars are coming into play for these celebrities, so stay tuned into their love stories because now only time will tell.

Yolanda Shoshana is a lifestyle provocateur, seduction alchemist, and clairvoyant courtesan who helps women tap into their senses to obtain more love and pleasure in life.

Tips to Keep Things Exciting with a Date Night at Home





By Karlee Wiggins

Whatever stage you're at in your relationship, keeping things exciting and fresh is important for a healthy relationship. You don't have to spend a lot of money on a date night either, and for many people who are busy, going out seems like just another chore. Instead, try one of these unique ideas to have a fun, romantic evening with your partner in the comfort of your home. If you have time, you can even do more than one in a single night.

Make Dinner with Your Partner

Instead of going out to an expensive, fancy restaurant, try making dinner with your partner. Cooking together is a surprisingly romantic experience for many people, and you don't have to be a master chef to make an enjoyable meal. Grab a cookbook from your shelf and prepare something simple, or look up a recipe from a trusted web reference to gather some ideas. If your partner isn't into cooking, you can surprise them with a homemade dinner that you prepared. After all, even if he or she isn't into cooking, they probably still like good

food.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Have a Dinner Date at Three Different Venues](#)

Watch a Classic, Romantic Film

Revival theaters are wildly popular these days, often showing 35mm prints of classic films like "Citizen Kane." Instead of going out, try turning your living room or family room into a home theater for the night and show a DVD of a romantic classic like "Casablanca." You'll save money over going out, and instead of stale movie-theater popcorn, serve some chocolate-covered strawberries, raspberries or unique treats with a romantic twist.

Related Link: [Top 10 Most Romantic Movie Locations](#)

Simply Spontaneous

Instead of doing something traditional like watching a movie or having dinner, try doing something unique. Go outside and fly a kite on a windy night, take a walk around the neighborhood or set up a blanket on your porch or patio and have an evening picnic when the weather permits. Not only are these ideas unique and cost-effective, they'll also let your partner know you spent some time thinking about interesting ways to keep their attention. That's important, especially for couples that have been together or married for a long period of time.

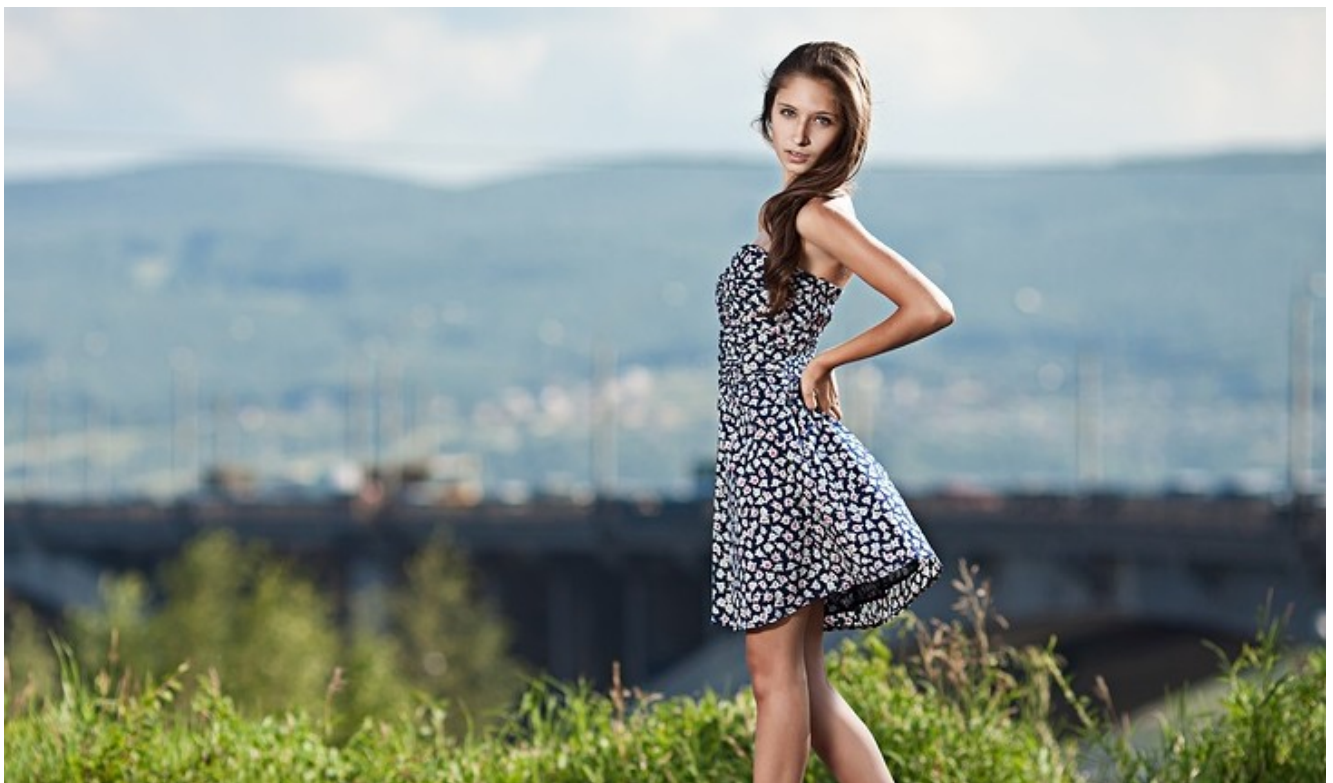
Get Creative

Try doing something creative with your partner. Even if you and your partner aren't particularly artistically-inclined, working on a small painting, drawing a picture or making a collage can be romantic and fun. Try working on the same piece whatever you decide to do, as that way you'll be close to each other. After all, that's really a lot more important than

whatever it is you create.

Karlee Wiggins enjoys blogging about dating and relationships. In her spare time she also enjoys finding dates online and helps with Dating Website Reviews.

Why Time Away Is Important in a Relationship



By Liam Ohm

Spending time away from each other is often important to the long term health of a relationship. As well as helping to keep things fresh, spending time apart can remind both partners

about why they're together. At the same time, being apart on a regular basis can help to maintain healthy relationships with friends, and can enable you to get over an argument, while leading to a position where one person is not dependent, or co-dependent on each other. More on these strengths can be found below:

Keeping Things Fresh

Sometimes it's a good idea to keep things fresh by not spending whole days together. In this context, it can become hard to say something new, and you end up running out of conversation topics. This can be a particular problem at the start of a relationship, where it can be difficult to find new subjects to talk about. Taking the time to be apart from each other can mean that you can see friends, enjoy different experiences, and then come back to share them with each other.

Reminding Yourself of Why You're Together

Time apart can make you realise why you miss the other person, and can also enable you to value the time that you do have together. In this way, you may realize that you took things for granted, and that the time apart makes you re-appreciate individual qualities in the other person. This time apart might be as the result of making a business trip, going away to visit friends or simply having to make a few important trips alone, and can be anything from a few days up to a longer period of time depending on work commitments.

Healthy Relationships with Friends

Relationships with old friends can suffer if you're in a very close relationship that doesn't see you spend a lot of time apart from each other. It's important to give time to friends, especially if you haven't seen them for a while due to your romantic relationship taking up a lot of your time. Making the time to go away with friends, or even just meet up for an

evening away from your partner, can help you to meet new people and have some independence outside of a relationship.

Related Link: [‘Hope Springs’ Is This Summer’s Guide to a Healthy Relationship](#)

Getting Over an Argument

Arguments can develop simply as a result of spending too much time together, whereby small issues get blown up into more serious problems. In this context, it’s important to take the time to be away from another person. Doing so can mean that you can calm down, and start to see things from a different perspective. This might mean visiting family and friends on your own, or just taking a trip to clear your head, and allow both you and a partner to come back together in a calmer mood.

Related Link: [10 Signs You’re Dating a Jerk](#)

Not Becoming Too Dependent

One of the problems of not spending time away from each other in a relationship is that you can become dependent on the other person for constant emotional support, and can end up over investing. This can be a particular problem at the start of a relationship, and can lead to unhealthy emotional attachments. Having regular amounts of time away from another person can mean that you remain independent, and that you appreciate what each person brings to a relationship.

Liam Ohm is a regular writer for a range of relationship websites. He highly recommends Boutique Hotels Mallorca for a great way to celebrate being together in luxury.

Dating Terminators: Dating Habits to Avoid



By Matt Fuller

Sometimes, and your date may not even realize it, their bad habits could be unknowingly ruining your time together. If you know you have some undesirable habits, make sure you keep these in check on a first date. Fancy dating a girl whose eyes looked like a raccoon? Well, it's called makeup over-kill. It might suit Avril Lavigne, but to the ordinary person, over-doing the makeup smells of insecurity and desperation. Here are a few more dating terminators that you may want to take into consideration before you make a fool of yourself on your next date:

1. Being late. It seems like this wouldn't need to be mentioned, but you'd be surprised. Turning up late *especially* on the first date is just uncool. If you get off on the wrong foot at the beginning, chances are you'll be fighting an uphill battle the entire date. Show a little respect!

Related Link: [Male Perspective: Don't Strike Out on That First Date](#)

2. Remember to close your mouth. There's something quite repulsive about someone who can't close their mouth. All they do is talk about themselves and their trail of life's mishaps. It might be a sign of first date jitters, or they might just have an ego the size of Times Square. So please, let there be some balance in the chit-chat.

Related Link: [Five Conversations to Avoid on the First Date](#)

3. Your wondering eye. The thing is, if you're on a date, your eyes need to be on the other person. If you get caught perving on the waitress, your date will make a run for it before you even have time to say, "Wait!"

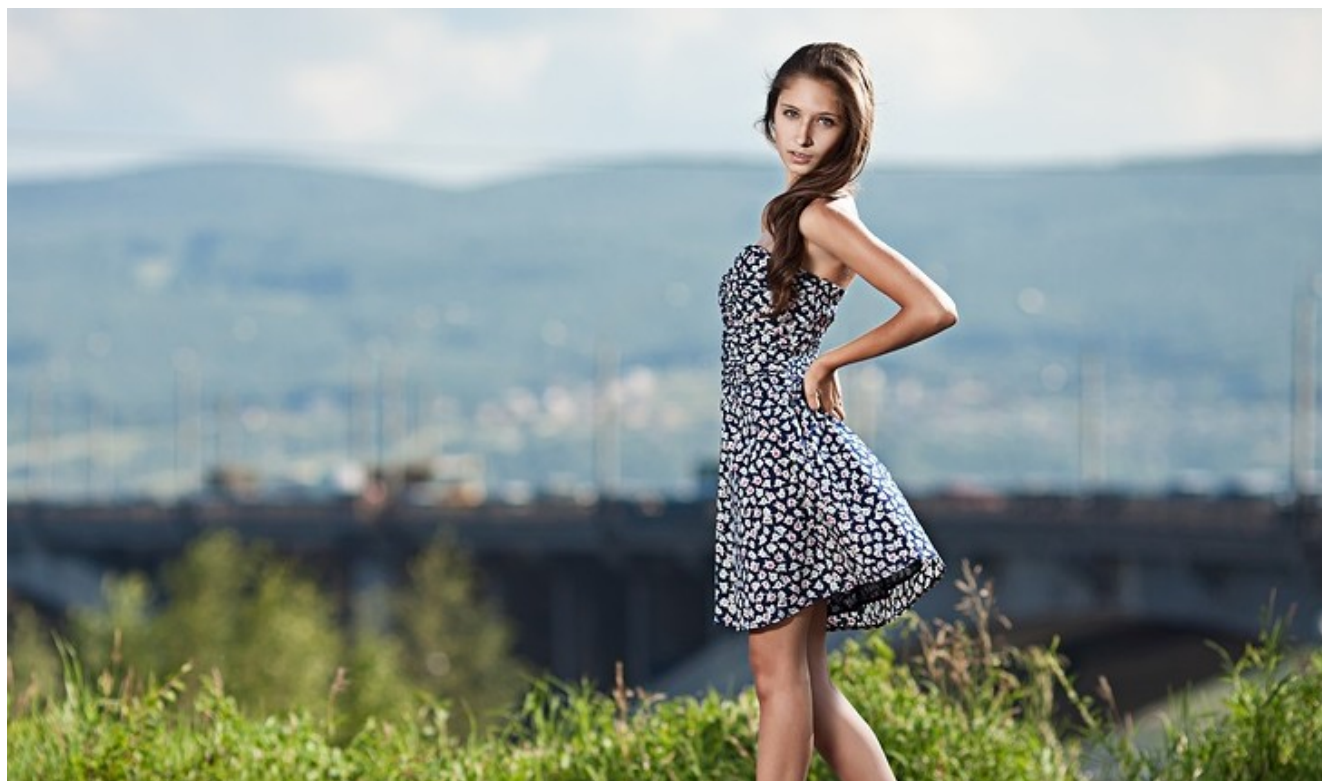
4. Don't be a kiss and tell. This is one of the most common dating terminators. Whatever you do after your date, restrain the urge to go posting your laundry all over Facebook or Twitter. And your friends do not need status updates every five minutes throughout the date. Remember, social media is more powerful than many people realize. And besides that, who really cares what you had for dinner, or what clothes your date wore?

5. Being a Yes man. Having no opinions of your own tells your date you're a bit wimpy and soft. If your date offers their thoughts about something they're passionate about, have the balls to offer your own input, but respect their boundaries at the same time. One golden rule: avoid talking about religion and politics at all times on the first date, as it's the biggest dating terminator of all.

6. Too serious. You're not at a funeral, so have fun! A recent survey revealed that on average, laughter and good conversation rated far higher in the chemistry department than that of physical traits.

Matt Fuller is the owner of Girls Meet Guys, an online dating site for singles to Meet Singles Online and get dating advice from a variety of girls and guys.

Think You Need a Man at Your Side? Think Again!



By Michelle Rebecca

Have you stayed in a bad relationship way too long because you were afraid of being alone? Have you rebounded from a breakup too quickly because you missed having a partner? If so, your view of single life may be unrealistically negative. You don't need a boyfriend to make you complete. In fact, being on your own can give you the chance to attend to your own needs and find your own strengths.

Related Link: [How to Kick That Bad Relationship to the Curb](#)

Self-Discovery

When you're in a relationship, it's easy to put your personal preferences on hold. For instance, you may have fallen into the habit of watching Sunday football as a way to spend time with your mate, even if you weren't particularly fond of the sport itself. Or perhaps you let your ex choose the décor in the apartment you shared, or the music that you listened to at home. You may even have lost touch with friends who used to be important to you.

Now is a good time to take stock of your life and decide what *you* want out of it. If you have trouble reconnecting with your own dreams and desires, a few sessions of therapy or e-therapy may help you figure things out and set your life on the track that is best for you.

Related Link: [Miss Independent: The Joys of Single Life](#)

Examine Your Priorities

Relationships can be all-consuming. Ending a relationship that isn't working can free up your time to focus on other priorities such as parenting, learning a new skill or advancing your career.

If you're looking for life advice, New York celebrity Kristin Davis, former star of *Sex and the City*, is a good role model. Although she has recently teamed up with screenwriter Aaron

Sorkin, she spent many years flying solo. In 2009, the actress told *StarPulse* that she had found fulfillment without a partner, and in 2011, she adopted a baby girl on her own.

Sandra Bullock is another actress who has prioritized her role as a mother. Single since a messy public divorce from Jesse James in 2010, Bullock has told the press that the most important man in her life is her adopted son.

Play the Field

Single doesn't have to mean lonely. Just ask actress Octavia Spencer, who achieved much-deserved recognition – and an Oscar – for her role in *The Help*. Although not involved in a romantic relationship, Spencer rarely appears alone on the red carpet. She enjoys friendships and casual dating relationships with several men, each seemingly more handsome than the last, without feeling pressured to enter a long-term romance.

You, too, can use single time to befriend and/or date a variety of men. It might help to go out with someone who is nothing like your ex or with someone you might not have considered “dating material” before.

Being single doesn't have to be a tragedy. In fact, it can be a huge opportunity to renew your relationship with the one person you can always count on – yourself.

Michelle is an aspiring writer with a passion for blogging. She enjoys writing about a vast variety of topics and loves that blogging gives her the opportunity to publically voice her thoughts and share advice with an unlimited audience.

How to Tell If He's 'The One' After One Date



By Carley Forrester

Have you ever found yourself on a date, wishing that people came with an instruction manual that contained all the information you ever needed to know about them? You don't need an instruction manual to tell if your date is 'the one' – all you need to do is learn how to get them to tell you *exactly* what they are looking for, without them even knowing.

This can be especially difficult when it comes to finding love on an online dating site. Members will often wrongly advertise themselves, leaving it very difficult to work out whether or not they are the one for you. So how can you work out if your date is 'the one' on the first date?

Related Link: [Five Conversation to Avoid on the First Date](#)

Decide what *you* are looking for

What is it that you are *really* looking for? Working this out is the first step to working out whether or not your date is the one for you. Do you want marriage? Are you looking to start a family? Or are you just looking for a little fun? Decide on your own romantic goals and don't apologize for them! Look at Jennifer Aniston: it's always been more than obvious that she's an advocate of marriage.

Related Link: [Five Top Tips on How to Find 'The One'](#)

Question time

Inexperienced daters will steer clear of asking loaded questions on a first date as they think it'll put their date off. In reality, the first date is perhaps the only time you can get away with it! Ask your date what they believe in when it comes to love/relationships/life. If you want to dress the question up a little more ask them if they believe in 'the dream' – if they ask what that is, then give them your answer, without telling them it's yours. Now all you need to do is smile and listen.

By asking your date what they 'believe' in rather than demanding to know what they are 'looking for' you will receive a truthful answer, rather than the answer they *think* you are looking for. According to experts, this method encourages men to openly discuss their opinions of marriage, divulge information about past relationships and even their own finances.

Don't ask about 'the ex'

But listen very carefully if they do give you a little insight to their previous relationships. If your date makes a statement about their past relationships 'all ending the same

way' be aware of why they ended. Relationship patterns are usually repeated and negative statements about past relationships could be a sneak preview of what he'll be saying about you after you break up.

Ahem... John Mayer, we're talking about you!

Rather than interrogating your date (which is easy done) your subtle method of questioning will leave them feeling relaxed. At this point, don't reveal too much about your own relationship mishaps; this isn't a therapy session, it's a date.

Use this simple dating method as your relationship sieve, sifting through the bad, to get to the good.