

5 Tips for Creating a Perfect Online Dating Profile



By Kristin Mattern

It's time. You've decided to enter the world of online dating. Perhaps you've already been online for a while, but aren't getting the desired results. Either way, you're ready for love and looking to put yourself in the best light possible while searching for that special someone. Here are five expert tips for creating the perfect online dating profile:

1. Keep your screen name classy: This is the first thing people see when they're searching for a sweetie. Think of this as your first impression, so choose wisely. There's a big difference between HuggieBear73 and CALLMEBIGPAPA. eFlirt

founder, and dating expert Laurie Davis notes, “Some traits resonate better face-to-face than wire-to-wire. Humor tends to be one of these. Unless the written word is your thing, something funny you say IRL might come off differently on screen.” This doesn’t mean you have to be boring; choose something catchy and clever. You have to stand out after all! Pick a name that speaks to you, and is attention getting without being overly outrageous.

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2. Pick your pics: Place flattering pictures of yourself on your page. Just like your screen name, this is the first thing a potential partner will see. You want a pretty pic to grab attention. Choose pictures of yourself that you not only look great in, but also catch you doing activities you enjoy. “In profile photos, makeup is a must, but photo editing is a don’t,” says Davis, “Let’s face it; ultimately you’re looking for someone who loves every pixel off screen.” Davis also recommends only putting up four to seven images, to ensure your profile isn’t overly time consuming to look through. Also, be sure to use current pictures. Sure, you looked amazing on that cruise six years ago, but you might look different today. Your pictures should be good looking, but also a current reflection of how your appearance is now.

3. Go for the highlights: Pretend your profile is your personal highlight reel. “Everyone should aim to emit a friendly vibe,” suggests Davis, “Check your baggage at the door. It’s TMI up front. Instead, keep the focus on you. After all, that’s why matches are clicking on your avatar—they want to know more!” Use your profile as your time to shine. Do you have any awesome accomplishments, or neat talents? Think about whom you are trying to connect with. Do you LOVE to horseback ride? Highlight your passions to attract a honey with similar interests.

4. Save some for later: Keep a little mystery going. Don’t

write your whole life story on your profile. Love is about intrigue; give just enough information to get someone interested. Make some flirty allusions and sassy hints. You aren't trying to write a novella. Two or three paragraphs for the "About Me" and a couple of sentences under categories is a good rule of thumb says *HuffingtonPost*. Davis also notes that you should "Nix ultimatums. This is a first impression and negativity could turn off even the most awesome match for you."

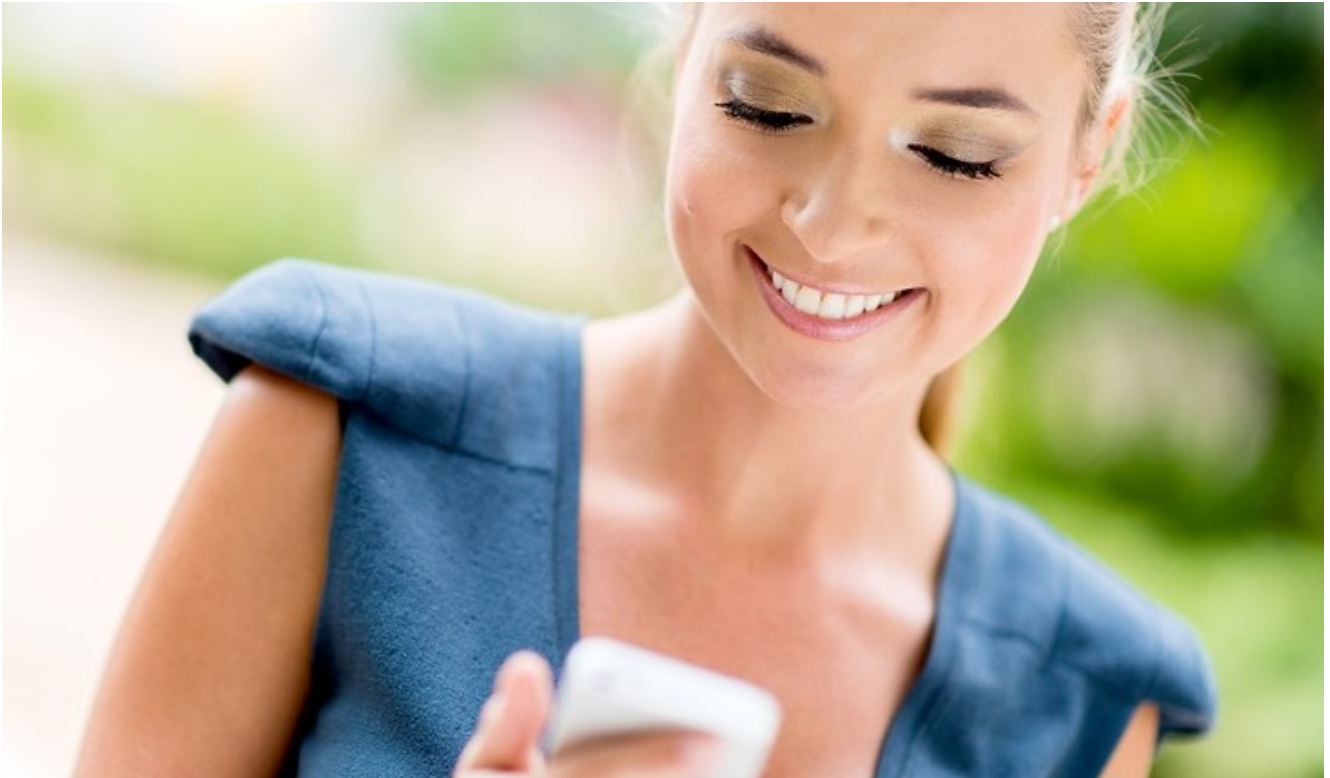
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5. Be an original: You're the only you there is! When creating your own profile, don't copy other people, use clichés or regurgitate generic lines like, "I am a great listener." Instead, be specific and explain who you are. Tell a short story about yourself and your perfect mate. As Davis reminds us, "Online dating isn't about being the hippest hottie on the digital block, it's about meeting your One. So while you're writing, remember to consider what might raise an eyebrow from that ideal keyboard cutie." Be yourself, after all you're looking for a special someone to love you not some made-up version of you.

For more information on eFlirt expert Laurie Davis, you can check out her book or website www.eflirtexpert.com/

The New Dating Game





By M. Hill

Have I been out of the dating field so long that they've completely altered the whole arena without me even knowing? I'm talking about *STYLE* dates. Are you familiar with these things, you know, dates with a theme?

Here's one type: **Prankster Date**. Example: Pretend to be a couple looking to buy a new car, maybe. Doesn't that sound like fun – totally yanking the chain of someone trying to earn a living? Or why stop there? Why not pretend to be a married couple looking to put an aging parent in a home? Together you can tour assisted living facilities and giggle behind the backs of those showing you around. Oh, what fun! They say prankster dates *do* bring out your playful side.

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Another is the '**Best Of**' Date. Examples may include trying to find the best ice cream parlor in town or, say, the best microbrewery. In these instances, while getting to know each other, couples can eat themselves into oblivion or drink

themselves into oblivion – the *best of both worlds* – either way, chances are good each will end up vomiting – and, really, what better way to get to know someone than when they're at their worst?

Or how about this: **Scavenger Hunt Date**. This is apparently the adult version of that childhood classic *I Spy with my Little Eye*. Example: "Would you like to go to the boardwalk and see how many people we can spot wearing hats?" I don't think I need to add any additional commentary on this one, do you? Seriously, could you imagine being asked out on a date like this? I mean if you're already in a relationship and happen to be out taking a walk and decide to throw in something like... like... nope, not even then, forget it. Unless you're looking to date a seven-year-old, I'd say this indicates your search for Mr. Right (or Mrs.) is far from over.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the **Errand Date**. Pretty much self-explanatory, and again, picture you're not in a relationship with this person, you're being asked out on a date. "Say, if you're not doing anything this weekend, the hull of my boat needs refinishing..." It's not a euphemism. The theory behind this one is that tedious chores become fun dates. Could you imagine? Think about it, yard work, grocery shopping, house cleaning, ooh, laundry – you know, with this line of thinking the fun is nearly limitless – and why not get to know someone by sorting through their dirty laundry? This is what seems to interest people nowadays, anyway.

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I don't know. It's probably just me (it usually is), but does anyone ever just do dinner and a movie anymore? Maybe this sort of date could regain its popularity if it had a trendy name? What do you think about **The Retro Date**? Call me old-fashioned, but I kind of like the sound of that.

M. Hill is a 40-something year old Northeast transplant living

in Scottsdale, AZ who authored the book The Ones That Got Away – A Dating Memoir which is really just an elaborate answer to the question, “Why are you still single?”

Why So Many Women Couldn't Care Less About Getting Married



By Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

I don't know how or why or when it happened, but somewhere along the line I realized that I have an inordinate amount of

female friends. It's been a blessing and a curse really. The majority of my closest friends are female. I'm living proof that men and women really can be "just friends."

One of the stellar benefits of having close platonic relationships with women (I'll save the negatives for another column – because believe me, particularly in the dating game, there are many!) is you get some compelling, honest insight on what makes women tick. After all these years, I think I've got a pretty decent understanding of the ladies. I'll never completely figure you all out – I won't even attempt that Herculean task – but I think I know enough to stay out of the doghouse!

Your SMF's receive a fair amount of e-mails. As one of the founders of StraightMaleFriend.com, I thank you. Lord only knows where we'd be without you and your correspondence. From those e-mails and the regular correspondence with you and many of my friends, I've noticed a surprising trend.

Women who couldn't care less about getting married. Seriously.

This is not to infer that the general female populace has suddenly become anti-marriage. Not only do I not harbor that belief, but the preponderance of evidence clearly indicates that matrimony is still the preferred path of life's journey. But what I have seen is an ever-expanding legion of women who are quite content with their lives sans a husband. Women who are cool to the idea or just flat out not interested in being a wife.

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What's really been fascinating is how many of these ladies still aren't comfortable sharing that perspective with other people because of the way the information is/would be perceived. And it really gets touchy when they announce that

they're not interested in having kids. Just the other day, I was told, "Marcus, you know how some people's biological clock is ticking? Mine's not broken – it's just not even there."

Now understand, as a guy, this is fairly unbelievable news. What woman doesn't dream about getting married? What woman doesn't have her entire wedding mapped out by the time she sees her first Julia Roberts movie? Are you kidding? Of course you want to get hitched ... you're a woman!

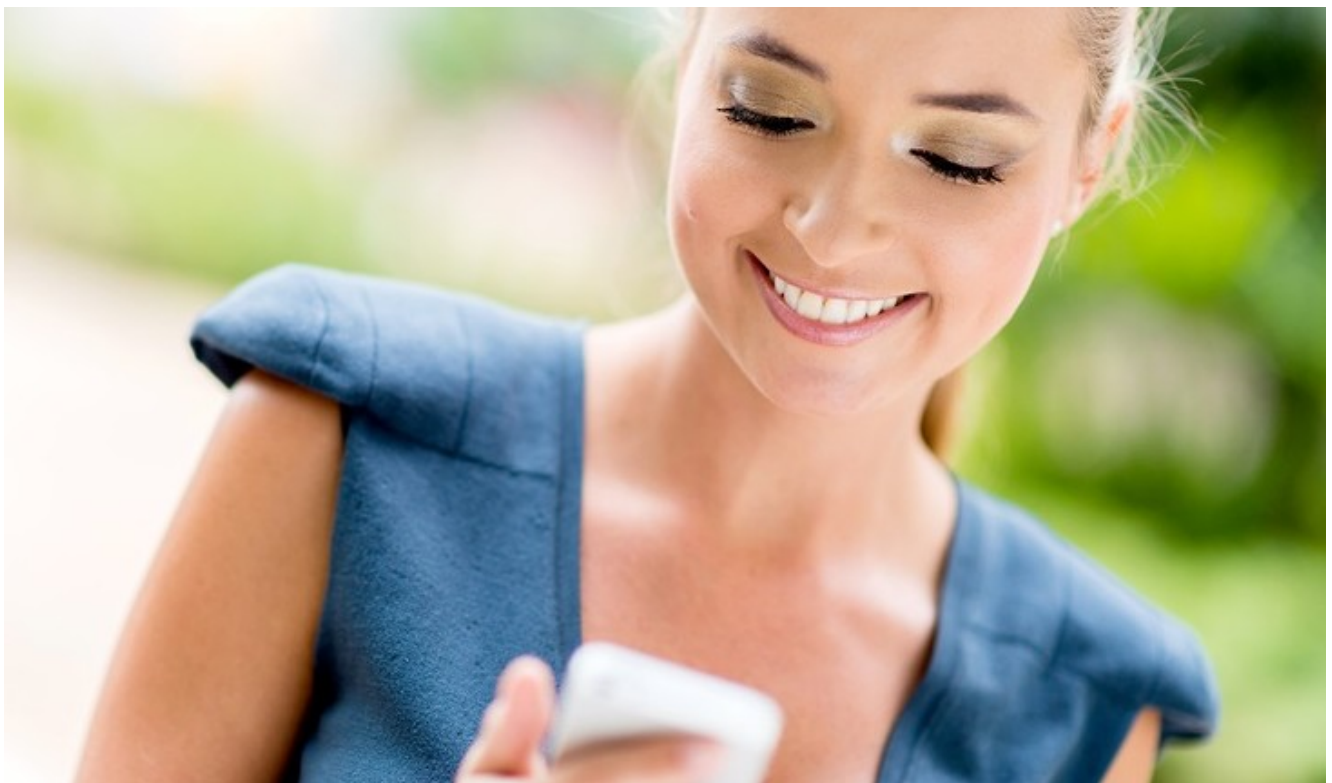
Well, that's simply not the case.

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Apparently there are a lot of women who could give a rat's a** about having a relationship, in general, not to mention marriage in particular. And I find it fascinating, brave and a spectacular display of self-honesty to admit it. As open-minded as we all like to think we are, those women get the collective stink-eye. We're a unique society that way. We promote women's strength and independence, but we're perplexed when they exercise that independence by NOT wanting to get married, by NOT wanting to have kids, by being ... a real life Samantha Jones if she chooses.

I'd love for you to share your thoughts here ... whether you are or aren't married, how do you feel about it? If you aren't and have no intention or couldn't care less about doing so – why? Furthermore, how do you feel about the women who choose to forgo the institution altogether? Let's hear your thoughts...

'Siberia' & New 'RHOBH' Star Joyce Giraud Says Her Husband Is "Exactly the Type of Man I Dreamed Of As a Little Girl – My Prince!"



By Gabriela Robles

NBC's new scripted supernatural drama series *Siberia* is a show where 16 reality show contestants must survive the Siberian winter in hopes of winning 500,000 dollars. When things start to go wrong and they realize that they didn't sign up for this sort of danger, the contestants must join together in an attempt to survive what lurks in their settlement. One of the

stars of the series, Joyce Giraud, explains, "It's a mix of *Lost* and *Survivor* but entirely different than both of them. It feels like reality television, but you get really invested in the drama because it's a scripted show."

Related Link: ["We Have Each Other": Celebrity Couple Joy Enriquez and Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins On Their Show 'House of Joy'](#)

The former model plays a bartender from Columbia named Carolina and gives us a peek into her character's psyche, saying, "Her family was brutally murdered, and the only person she has left is her uncle who's done everything for her. He's in desperate need of an operation, and she's willing to do whatever it takes to win the money."

Luckily, Giraud's family life is more picturesque than that of Carolina. She's been happily married to Michael Ohoven, the executive producer of *Siberia*, for over a decade. Surprisingly, working together is something new for the couple. "I always wanted to do my own thing because I'm a very independent woman, but *Siberia* was the perfect role."

This celebrity couple were made for each other. They have an adorable love story to thank for their strong marriage: a mutual friend had given Giraud's number to Ohoven against her wishes. The actress avoided seeing him for three months until he tricked her into a date. "I thought he was in Germany, so I told him I was going to order in and stay home. I still remember what he said: 'Perfect, then I'll pick you up at 8.'" Giraud thought she'd turn him off by dressing in baggy clothing and wearing no makeup but was soon surprised with how she felt when he picked her up. "When I saw him, I felt like I had known him forever. He was exactly the type of man I dreamed of as a little girl – my prince!"

In addition to their romantic meeting, the success of this married pair, who have two sons, is based off of the bond that

they share. “My husband is my best friend, and I’d rather spend my time with him than with anybody else,” the Puerto Rican native shares. “It’s important to respect each other, to always think of how to make each other happy and to allow your partner to live the life they want. You need to support each other’s dreams and go through life knowing you can always count on each other.”

Related Link: [What Does Unconditional Love Look Like?](#)

Siberia isn’t the only thing that this actress has on her plate right now. A world-renowned beauty pageant queen, Giraud created the Queen of the Universe pageant in 2012. The competition is open to anyone – married or single – and holds a charitable alliance with United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization. It’s no surprise, then, that this former pageant star has many beauty tricks up her sleeve, one of which she shared with us: “One of my favorite at-home remedies is an avocado mask that my grandma taught me how to make – it makes my hair very shiny!”

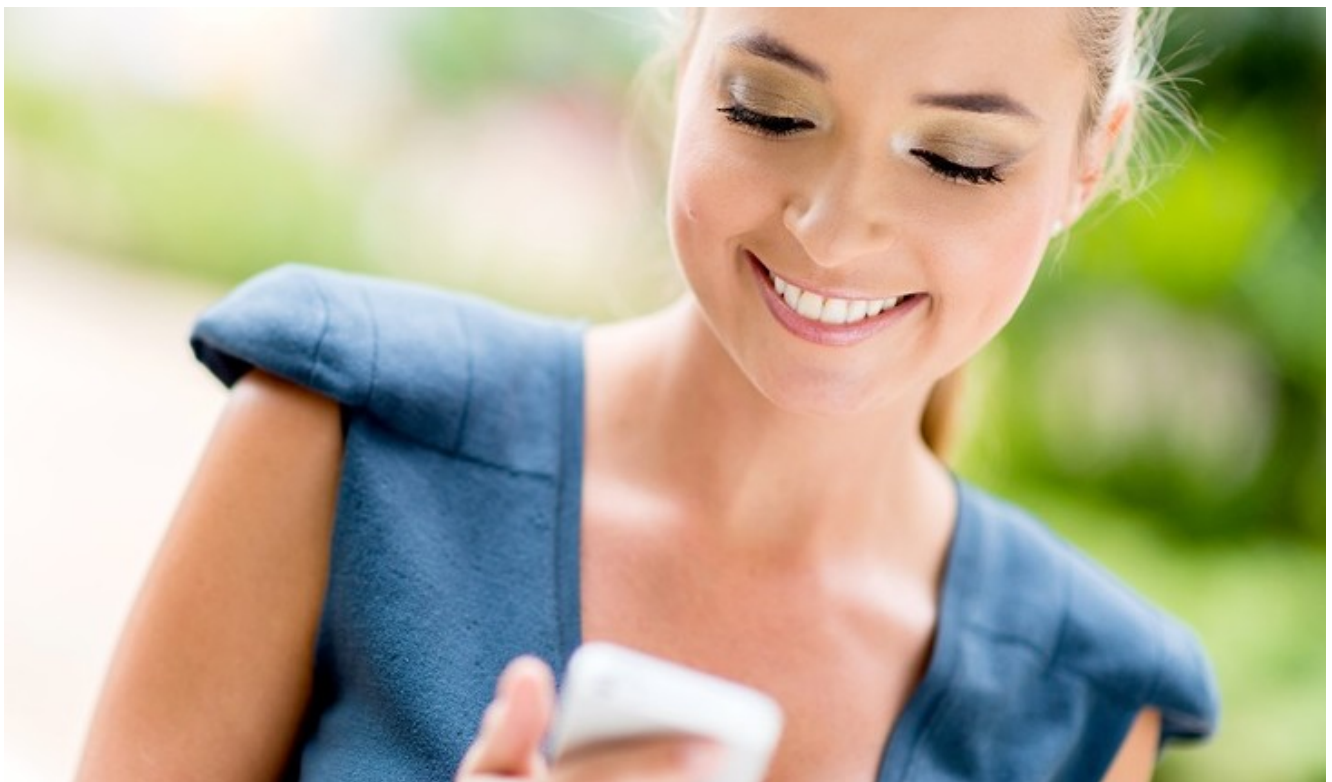
Giraud’s already-busy career is continuing to bloom. She is currently in preproduction of a film that is to shoot later this year. Plus, after many months of rumors, it was recently confirmed that she’s going to be the newest cast member for Bravo’s hit reality show *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*. The brunette beauty was caught at LAX with the other *RHOBH* ladies waiting to board a flight to Puerto Rico. Moreover, a source close to the starlet told *E! Online* that she’s already sided with Kyle Richards in the ongoing drama between Richards and Lisa Vanderpump.

We can’t wait to see how Giraud shakes up the set of *RHOBH* and what else she has in store for her fans!

To connect more with Joyce Giraud, follow her on www.facebook.com/therealjoycegiraud/ and Twitter @joycegiraud, and check out her character Carolina’s bio on

NBC. Be sure to catch Siberia this Monday at 10/9c on NBC!

Top 7 Tips to Win the Love of Someone Rich or Famous – When You Are Not!



By Aimee Elizabeth, author of “Relationships & Dating Sucks!”

Everyone wants the Cinderella (or Cinderfella) story to happen to them – but how do you keep the interest of your new fancy romance and get your happily every after? Here are the secrets you need to know.

1. Treat them like anyone else. Celebrities are used to being catered to, as if they are “better than” everyone. Show that you consider yourself an equal, and you will not only surprise them, you will intrigue them.

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2. Don't rearrange your life to suit them. By keeping your own schedule and “having a life,” you will sometimes be unavailable – unlike everyone else they have dated before you. They will wonder what could possibly be more interesting than themselves, making you much more attractive to them.

3. Don't act like a crazed fan. Blubbering about how you've seen every movie they ever made will only make you look like a lunatic and turn them off. No one wants a stalker.

4. Be who you are. Don't be intimidated by fame or fortune. People are turned off when you show insecurity. Don't brag, but be proud of whatever path you have chosen in life.

5. Never ask them to buy you anything. Nothing is a bigger turnoff than a gold digger who is too lazy to even hide it. If they offer to buy you an expensive gift, tell them that their company is the best gift they can give you. How often do you think they hear that?

6. Reciprocate. Be sure to plan and pay for dates you can afford, and treat your celebrity. Cook dinner, bake brownies, think of something fun that you know they will like. Your thoughtfulness, and willingness not to treat them like an ATM machine, will be noticed.

7. Do not post about your dates on any social media. Celebrities are constantly avoiding the paparazzi and crave privacy. If you turn your relationship into a media frenzy, they will drop you like a hot rock.

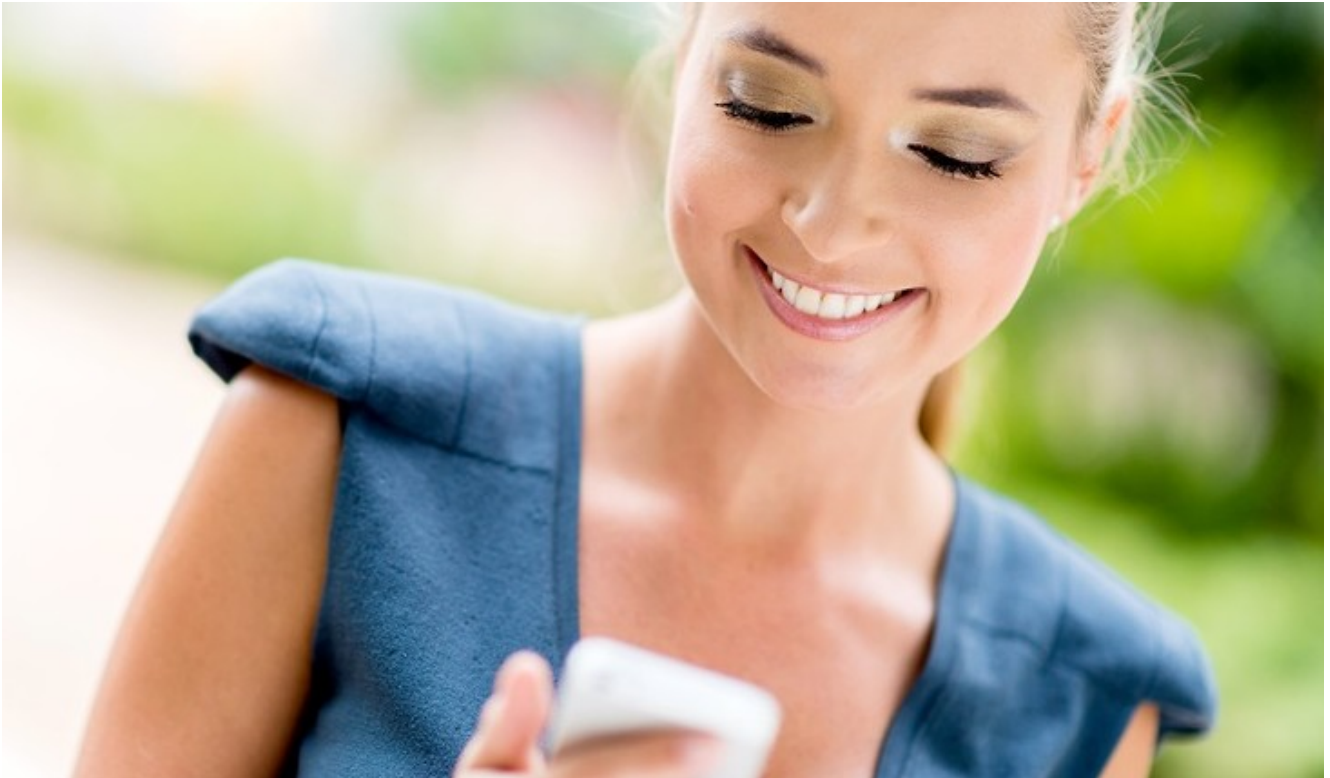
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Everyone wants someone who loves them for them – not for what they have. Follow these tips and you can end up like Matt Damon, who married a former bartender, Luciana Barros, in 2005 – and they just renewed their vows. Or like Julia Roberts, who married cameraman Danny Moder, in 2002 and they have 3 kids together. Always remember, the best way to stand out from the crowd is by behaving normally.

Aimee Elizabeth is the author of 3 best selling books, including Relationships & Dating Sucks! Internet Dating Horror Stories, Dieting Sucks! Eat Anything & Lose Weight and Poverty Sucks! How to Become a Self-Made Millionaire. Aimee is also a multi-millionaire, successful real estate investor, guest speaker and consultant. You can find her books on <http://www.AimeeElizabeth.net> or on Amazon.com.

Absence Shouldn't Make the Heart Grow Fonder





By Matty Staudt for GalTime.com

Recently I took a job that will require me to be gone 5 days a week and I will only see my wife on the weekends. Luckily it's only for a few weeks because I'm on day 3 and I can tell you it already sucks. I truly enjoy being with my wife and being apart is really tough on both of us.

I bring this up because I was thinking about that expression, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." I've realized that that's not the way it should be. I appreciate all my time with my wife and all absence is doing is making us both sad. Heck, even our dogs are bummed I am gone. (At least that's what she tells me.)

I think too many couples take for granted the time they spend together, and to be honest, most guys I know can't wait to do stuff without their wives. It's not that they don't love their wives, they just like to have that individual time away. I think society, in general, has kind of ingrained in people that it's an acceptable thought for men. I don't think it is.

Related: [Why You Should Hold 'Marriage Meetings'](#)

Now don't get me wrong, I think some time apart is healthy and I know my wife and I are that annoying couple that likes to do everything together. We do it for a few reasons that I'm going to share with you.

She's my best friend.

I know it's cliché that your wife should be your best friend, but I see a lot of couples that don't feel this way or have forgotten with time. Remind yourself that your mate is and should be the person you enjoy having fun with. Whether we are simply sitting together, watching TV, talking or out on the town, she is the person I want to do all of those activities with.

I am a better person with her around.

I know I am a better person with my wife by my side. If ever I don't think so, my friends are quick to remind me. Especially when I put on my jerk hat when I'm out by myself. If you are not a better person with your mate, think about why you aren't and whether or not it's something you can improve on.

Related: [Does It Matter If You Have A Lot In Common?](#)

We make each other laugh.

Laughing together is KEY. If you meet a couple that doesn't make each other laugh, then I will guarantee you it's not a healthy relationship. Whether it's doing my underwear dance for her or sharing an inside joke, we laugh a lot. Are you laughing a lot with your partner?

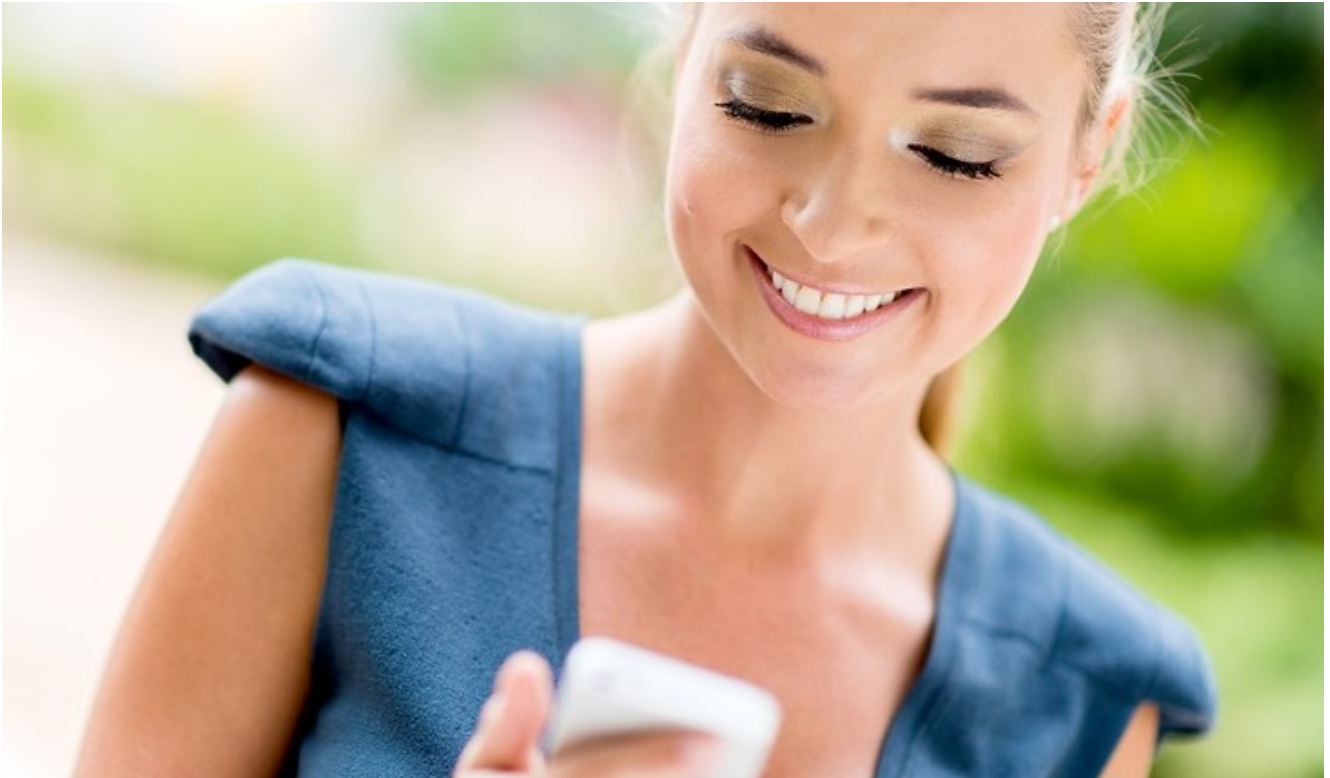
So absence may make the heart grow fonder, but it shouldn't.

You should enjoy every day and minute with the one you love. If this is not the case, then maybe you are not with the right person. Treat every day as if it were the last day you will see your mate for a very long time. Make each other laugh, be best friends and strive to bring out the best in one another.

What do you think? Do you travel or does your spouse? How do you keep the closeness?

EXCLUSIVE: Designer Christy Biebrich from 'Brother vs. Brother' Says, "Laughter Is The Secret to a Healthy Everything!"





By Sarah Ribeiro

HGTV's hottest new show *Brother vs. Brother* takes John and Drew Scott, stars of the hit series *Property Brothers*, and pins them against each other in a sibling rivalry of design and ingenuity. Interior designer Christy Biebrich, an organizing specialist, joined Drew's team for the ultimate renovation showdown – a task she was more than ready to face and knew how to overcome. “The biggest challenges were the time constraints,” she reveals. “We were doing massive renovations in timeframes as low as 48 hours. There were value-increasing choices that could not be completed simply due to time, so it definitely required strategic thinking.” Despite her prowess in design, she was unfortunately sent home on Sunday night's episode.

Related Link: [‘Design Star’ Champion Leslie Ezelle Offers Relationship Advice for a Happy Home](#)

As the owner of Christy B. Designs, she has years of experience in interior design, which helped her make quick and efficient decisions on the show. As a self-proclaimed addict

to improvement, the skills she offered her team come second nature to her. In fact, the designer has been renovating since she was a child. “From the time I was little, I was always looking around me and visualizing how I would improve spaces – from my room to my treehouse. I even had a renovation laid out in my head for the barn on our family farm!”

Though it is sad that she was ousted on *Brother vs. Brother*, the talented designer now has more time to focus on her personal life. Biebrich is tapping even further into her love for design with her upcoming wedding – and it hasn’t been as easy as one would expect. “People think that, because of my line of work, I would be like a fish in water with wedding planning – not so!” she says with a laugh. “I’ve been happy to have others helping me through this process because it’s very overwhelming. It’s how I imagine people must feel when they come to me with a renovation or redesign project – they’re out of their element, and they need me to walk them through the process, to make it easy, make it fun and make their vision come to life.”

And, of course, the West Hollywood native is implementing her design aesthetic into her big day. “I love Art Deco, and we have several subtle hints to that style in our décor,” says Biebrich. “Our centerpieces are very sculptural and architectural, and I like that they feel more like modern art than a bouquet of flowers. My wedding dress and my bridesmaids’ dresses are very simple, elegant and contemporary. There’s not a lot of frills, and I like it that way.”

Most importantly, Biebrich’s fiancé has been helping her throughout the planning process. She even admits that he has the stronger opinions and vision on the ceremony – a real role reversal. Then again, they’ve always had an interesting relationship. “We met on Match.com, but it wasn’t your typical online dating story,” she shares. “I wrote him a critique of his profile because I thought he had the worst headline I had

ever seen. Remarkably, his ego was not bruised, and he didn't care what I wrote. He thought I was cute and asked me out! He caught me off guard; I said yes; and we started seeing each other."

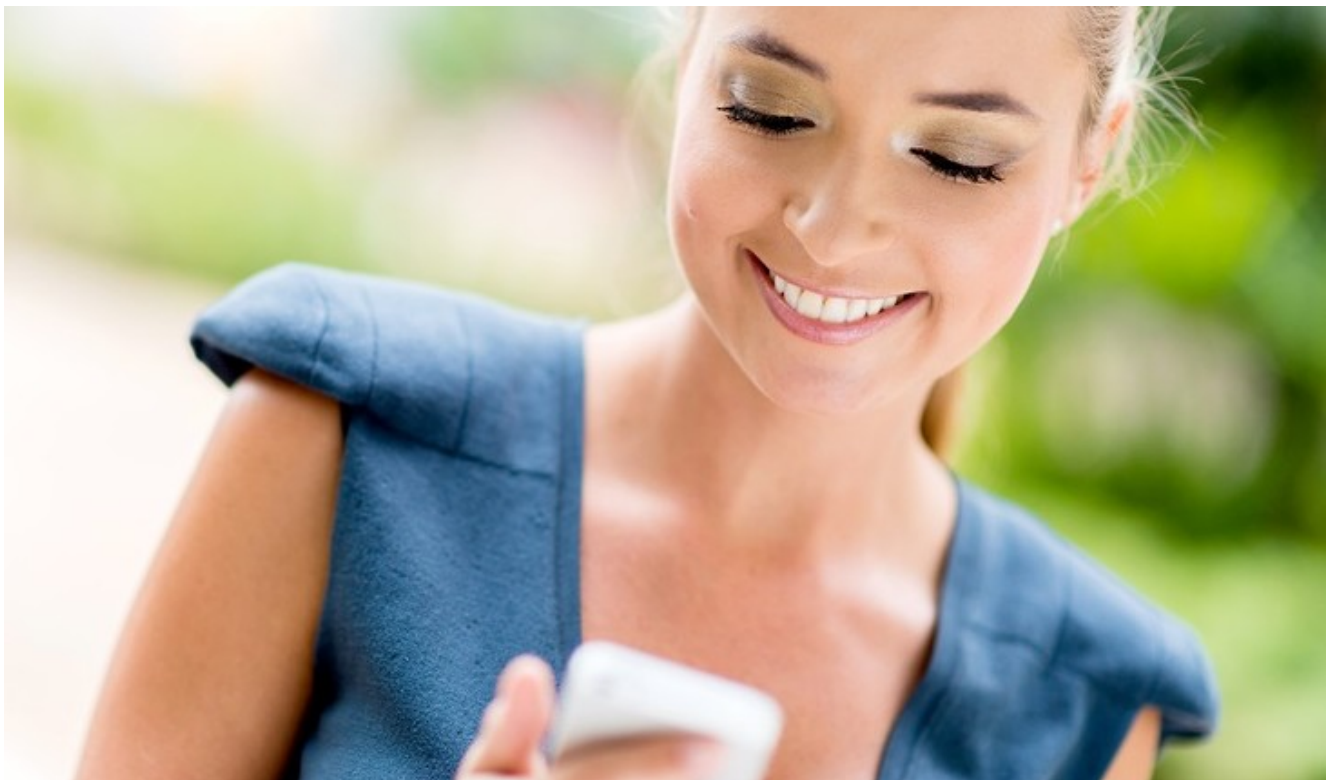
Biebrich credits her fiancé's dependability, kindness and good heart for their successful relationship. "We get along so well because we are very silly," she says. "Laughter is the secret to a healthy everything! Neither of us take ourselves very seriously, so there's no butting heads or arguing. And the biggest thing is that we don't bring our work problems home with us or take our frustrations out on each other. We remain grateful, appreciative and respectful of each other and try not to take each other for granted."

Related Link: [Do-It-Yourself Date Night Advice from HGTV Host Monica Pedersen](#)

Once the wedding is over, the designer will face yet another challenge: moving in with her new husband. She believes that all couples should take each others' design styles into account once they share a home. "I'd be completely unrealistic if I thought that I wouldn't have to consider my fiancé's likes and dislikes when it comes to design in our home. I like to think of it as an opportunity to expose myself to style possibilities I might not have considered before, and to become more well-rounded. Luckily, he's already said he will defer to me when it comes to our house, but of course, I will want to know his input because I love him!"

For more information on Biebrich check out her website, www.christyb.com/.

'The Bridesmaid's Manual': A Guide to Wedding Planning And Friendship



By Sarah Ribeiro

Sarah Stein and Lucy Talbot are seasoned bridesmaids, so they know a thing or two about surviving your friend's big day. Now, they're trying to help all women overcome the biggest test of friendship a girl can face: being a bridesmaid. *The Bridesmaid's Manual: Make It To and Through The Wedding with Your Sanity (and Friendship) Intact* covers everything from dress shopping and planning the bachelorette party to bridesmaid etiquette and time (and budget) management. But, most importantly, the book focuses on the best part about

being a bridesmaid: the relationships you create (or strengthen) while helping your friend with her special day. We spoke to co-author Sarah Stein about her inspiration for the book and her experience being a bridesmaid.

First, we'd love to know about your inspiration for the book!

Lucy and I used to live together, and during that time, we were both bridesmaids plenty of times. One night, I came home from an awful experience, just feeling soured and complaining. I was having a problem with the last of the bridesmaid duties and thought, "Why isn't there a book for bridesmaids?" We did a ton of research on it, and there was absolutely nothing out there. That inspired us to write our first book, *The Bridesmaid's Guerilla Handbook*. The old book is dated now, so we needed a book for the new generation. Weddings have changed, and the expectations for bridesmaids have changed; the Internet has a lot to do with that.

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What is the toughest thing to manage as a bridesmaid? And what's the best part?

The toughest thing is, without question, the different personalities of the wedding party. You are all so vested in this one event, and you're trying hard to not step on people's toes.

The best part is being able to see your friend, sister, cousin, someone who is so dear to you, travel through this process from singlehood to marriage. It really can stir you to your core; it's a beautiful thing to be a part of if it all goes well.

What has been your favorite experience? Your worst one?

There have been so many good moments and so many bad moments. My best friend from college took me dress shopping with her –

it's not something that bridesmaids always get to do, but getting to help pick out my best friend's wedding dress was my favorite. It was such an intimate, beautiful and fun experience. I know there are shows like *Say Yes to the Dress* that make it look like hell, but it's really not like that.

My worst experience was the one that convinced me to write this book. A "friend" from college asked me to be in her wedding. Months went by, and I didn't even know if I was still in the wedding party anymore. As the wedding approached, I heard from other people that she'd picked out the dresses. She just dropped me from the party without saying anything! I e-mailed her and asked if I needed a dress, and she replied, "I didn't think you wanted to be a part of my wedding."

What are some ways to help the bride and fellow bridesmaids during the wedding-planning process?

First, know that all creative decisions go to the maid of honor and the bride. It's really important for people to understand that there's a hierarchy. Everyone has an idea of what they want, but it's not their day. It's the bride's day. Problems occur when very strong-willed members of the family or party decide that their idea is the one that will happen.

Second, be verbal about being able to help. Check-in with members of the party and ask what you can do. Being proactive is infinitely more helpful than waiting to be asked to do something.

Related Link: [Add a Little "Luck O the Irish" to Your Wedding Day](#)

What are some clear-cut ways for bridesmaids and brides alike to set boundaries with one another so they don't drive each other crazy?

There are some brides who actually do wedding contracts to set clear expectations. I think it's insane. That is one way for a

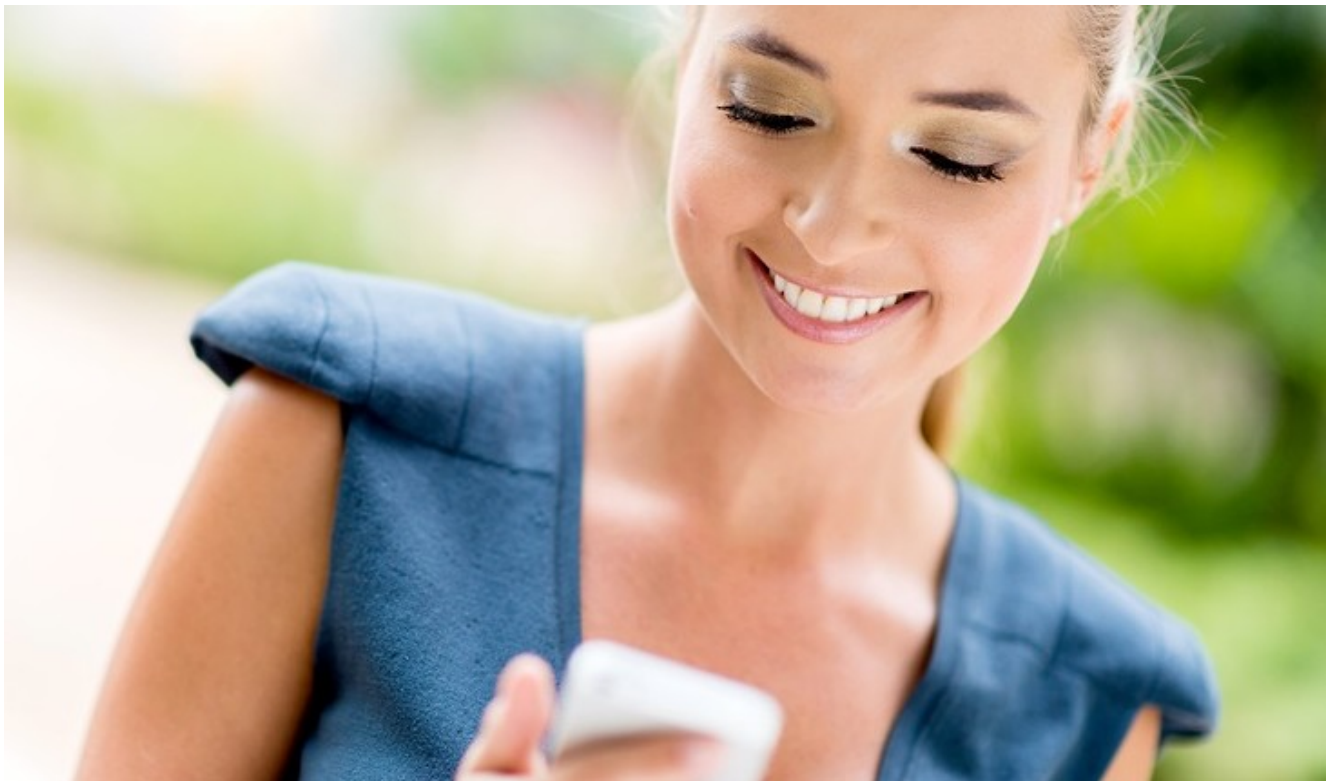
bride to lay out expectations, but the only agreement that leads to success is one to be open with each other. If there's a problem, you should agree to listen to each other. If there's dissent in the bridal party, you need to work it out. The one thing that festers is when people harbor anger. That's when problems happen. You have to be willing to say what's on your mind; just be sure to do so in a way that isn't going to impose your point of view on the bride or hurt anyone's feelings.

You talk a lot about the strain planning a wedding can have on a friendship. How can you avoid this stress affecting relationships in your life?

You have to agree not to talk about the wedding. Come home and say to yourself, "I'm not going to think about it tonight." You have the right to take a moment to check in with yourself and unplug from all the wedding stuff. Do things that are not wedding-related, that are purely you. If you don't, all that stress can build up and lead to a tremendous amount of resentment. You're a bridesmaid! You're not an indentured servant.

The Bridesmaid's Manual can be found on Amazon. You can also find Sarah and Lucy's first bridesmaid guide, The Bridesmaid's Guerilla Handbook, on Amazon.

**Celebrity Couples With
Similar Wardrobes**



By Kristin Mattern

Talk about seeing double! Celebrity couples take coordination to the next level by donning matching outfits that could beat out the Bobbsey Twins. These starlet couples don't just love each other, they love their well-matched wardrobes as well! Stars are expected to have harmonious attire when they're strutting down the red carpet, not only does this emphasize their relationship status, but it also makes for stunning photographs. However, celebs don't just try to compliment each other's looks just for events, they also end up in look-a-like ensembles on their off days when they're going out for a walk, or just hanging out.

Why do celebrity, and everyday, couples like to rock the "twins" look? In an article for [YouBeauty](#), Psychology Advisor and Professor of Psychology Art Markman, Ph.D., explains that when people spend a lot of time together, they start to think

similarly. For example, couples often finish each other's sentences. "This also happens with appearance," Dr. Markman notes, "Couples mimic each other's taste and will also influence each other directly. That is, if you know your partner likes a particular style or color, you will start to wear that more often. If your partner likes that style or color, then he'll wear that as well." Check out these celebrity couples with their copycat clothes:

Related: [Celebrity Couples: More Like Us Than We Want To Admit?](#)

1. Prince William and Kate Middleton: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge keep it classy and sophisticated when they match their outfits. A *Yahoo Shine* article shows the two sporting similar white ten-gallon cowboy hats for a rodeo in 2011.

2. David and Victoria Beckham: [US Weekly](#) shows this posh pair posing in expertly matched attire, with David's tailored pant suits color coordinating with Victoria's beautiful dresses. This power couple always looks their best, but they are especially stunning in their similar ensembles.

3. Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher: These two know how to show their team spirit with matching Cubs Tees. Back in 2012 [The Huffington Post](#) reports that the two were seen wearing identical outfits of blue Cubs Tees, jeans, sneakers and baseball caps while rooting for their favorite team in a NYC sports bar.

4. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West: Well known for their duplicate outfits, these two are a knock out duo when dressed alike. Kardashian has undergone what [The Huffington Post](#) calls "Westification," and the starlet commented she "dresses more for my man than for myself!" to *US Weekly*. No matter how these outfits came together, [ET News](#) pictures the star couple looking sensual in all cream.

5. Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux: Since this couple

already has a similar taste in clothing, it isn't surprising they often end up wearing the same outfit. Wearing matching fedoras and black leather jackets in a picture on [Cosmopolitan](#) the two look adorable, like a matched set!

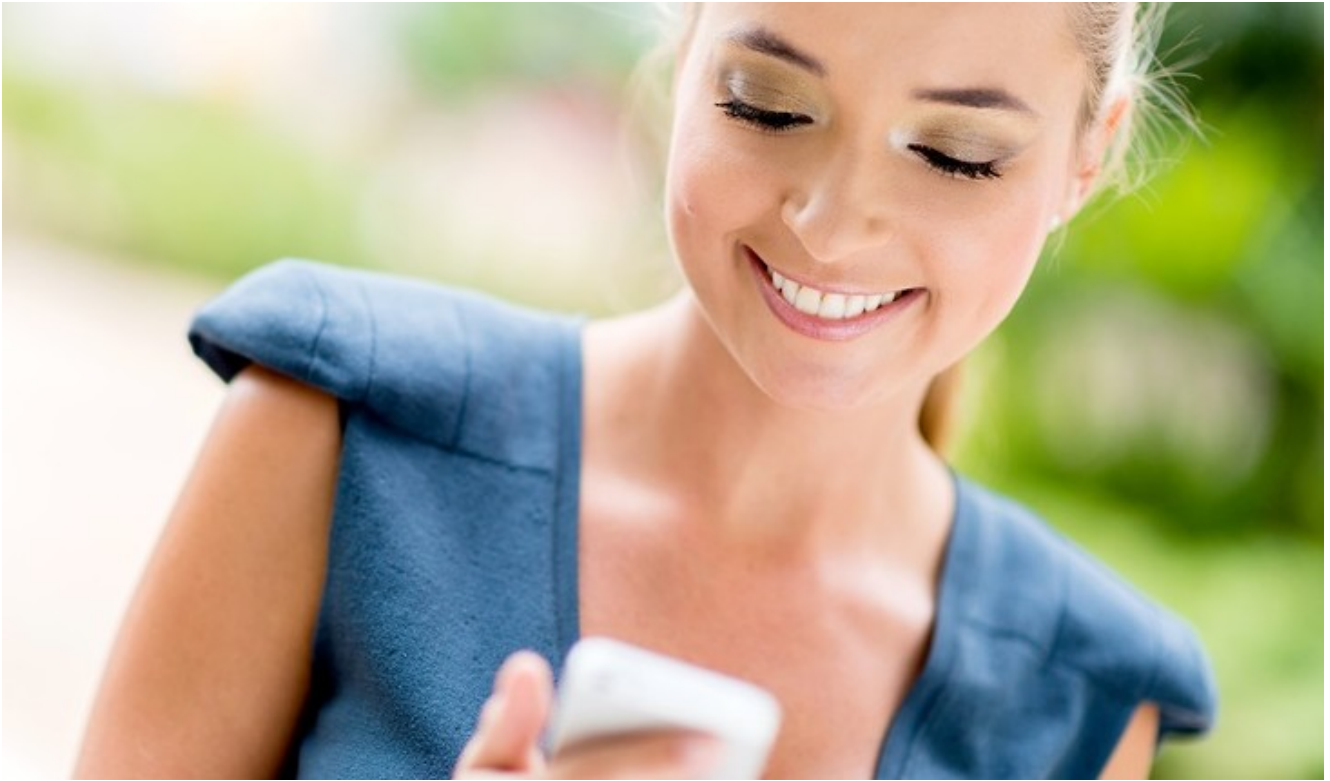
Related: [Top 7 Best-Dressed Celebrities of 2013](#)

6. Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon: This celeb couple looks white hot in more than the matching angel costumes they wore one Halloween. [NY Daily News](#) shows the pair while vacationing in Aspen and looking glamorous in the winter wonderland setting while wearing white from hat-covered-head to boot-clad-toe; their dog even got in on the action by wearing an adorable little white jacket!

What do you think of coordinating celebrity couples? Do you and your sweetie match outfits sometimes? Let us know in the comments below.

Reap the Benefits of Cutting Costs on Your Big Day





By Rev. Randy Williams

For many couples, planning a wedding can be financially exhausting. If not planned carefully enough, the most important day of your life can leave a hole in your pocket shortly after you tie the knot. Although every woman yearns for a dream wedding, they also want a dream house, dream car and a family to go along with it. With the average wedding costing over \$20,000 nowadays, many newly engaged couples are becoming wiser and planning their weddings on a budget. If you and your significant other find yourself walking a financial tightrope just to get married, then you might want to consider setting a strict budget for a wedding ceremony that is more easily affordable.

Regardless of the size or planning, every wedding can cost a substantial amount money. You are going to have to pay for a venue, food, marriage licenses and invitations. One way to begin planning for an affordable wedding is to cut down on costs and avoid unnecessary expenses. Below is a list of ways you can cut down on some of your wedding costs:

Rent your tuxedo and wedding dress: There is no sense in paying a small fortune on something that you and your partner will only be wearing once. There are many places where you can rent classy tuxedos and beautiful bridal gowns.

Related: [5 Conversations Every Couple Should Have Before Getting Married](#)

Get creative and make your own invitations, decorations and centerpieces: By taking a trip to the local arts and crafts stores, you can save money on pricey invitations and buy materials to make your own.

Look for family and friends that can donate their talents: If you have a family member or friend that's a photographer, DJ or pastor, ask if they can provide a discount or possibly lend their services for the occasion.

Utilize the same venue: For most couples, renting two separate venues for the wedding ceremony and reception can be costly. Consider reserving one location and using the same furniture and decorations for both events to save some bucks.

Eliminating wedding costs and setting a budget will save you money for things that come after the wedding is over. The money saved on a wedding and the accompanying reception can be used for a down payment on a house, your honeymoon or to pay off debt from credit card balances and school loans.

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

By cutting down unnecessary expenses and planning a wedding on a budget, you can enjoy the biggest day of your life without worrying too much about the financial woes that follow.

Rev. Randy Williams is licensed, ordained, and is an active local pastor in Cave Creek, AZ. He has a Bible college degree and a seminary degree. He has been a minister since 1986. He has experience working with brides and officiating hundreds of

wedding ceremonies since 1988.

His approach and style to weddings and marriage preparation is casual and relaxed. He is very committed to preparing the couple for a life-long marriage, not just the perfect wedding day. For more information, visit Rev. Randy Williams official website: <http://phoenixweddingpastors.com>

Palmer's Spokesperson Ali Landry Chats About Making Her Family a Priority

Cupid's Pulse
★ Celebrities. Love. Opinions. ★



By Kerri Sheehan

Hollywood mom Ali Landry isn't letting anything slow her down! Perhaps best known as the Doritos Girl from a 1998 Super Bowl commercial, the former Miss USA is now focused on family life. Since marrying film director Alejandro Monteverde in 2006, she's been staying busy thanks to her growing family: her six-year-old daughter Estela, two-year-old son Marcelo, and the newest edition, baby boy Valentin Francesco, who was born earlier this summer on July 11th.

So does she have any tips for other moms with young kids? Landry answers with a laugh, "No, because I wish they would give me advice!" On a more serious note, she explains, "It's tough to juggle everything because you want to do everything yourself." When it comes to adding another child into the mix, Landry believes it's important to "put your focus on your older children because they're the ones that realize something is different. They need a little extra love."

Related Link: [Best Celebrity Moms \(Who Also Make Great Wives\)](#)

As many twosomes know, it's easy to get caught up in being parents and forget the importance of being partners. Landry and her husband, though, always make sure to find time for each other. "Life is really busy, and if we aren't good as a couple, then we aren't good for our family. We definitely make our relationship and our family a priority. We don't take that for granted."

The 39-year-old actress reveals that little getaways help keep their marriage strong. "We'll get away from the house and sleep at a hotel for a night, or we'll do a quick getaway in Mexico. It's our time," she explains. "When we're home, we're still focusing on the family and what needs to be done around the house. When we remove ourselves from that, whether it's for a date night or a short trip, we can really let go and focus on each other. We try to do that pretty often."

As important as her home life is, the television personality isn't ready to step out of the spotlight just yet. In fact, her role as a mother inspired her recent reprisal as the spokesperson for Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula and their national ad campaign. Landry first started using Palmer's products while pregnant with her daughter. "I was looking through magazines, and there were all these ads featuring some of my celebrity mom friends who were pregnant at the time. I thought to myself, 'Oh my gosh, they look so great pregnant! How brave of them to actually show off their bellies! I should really try these products.'" I started using Palmer's and really loved the results."

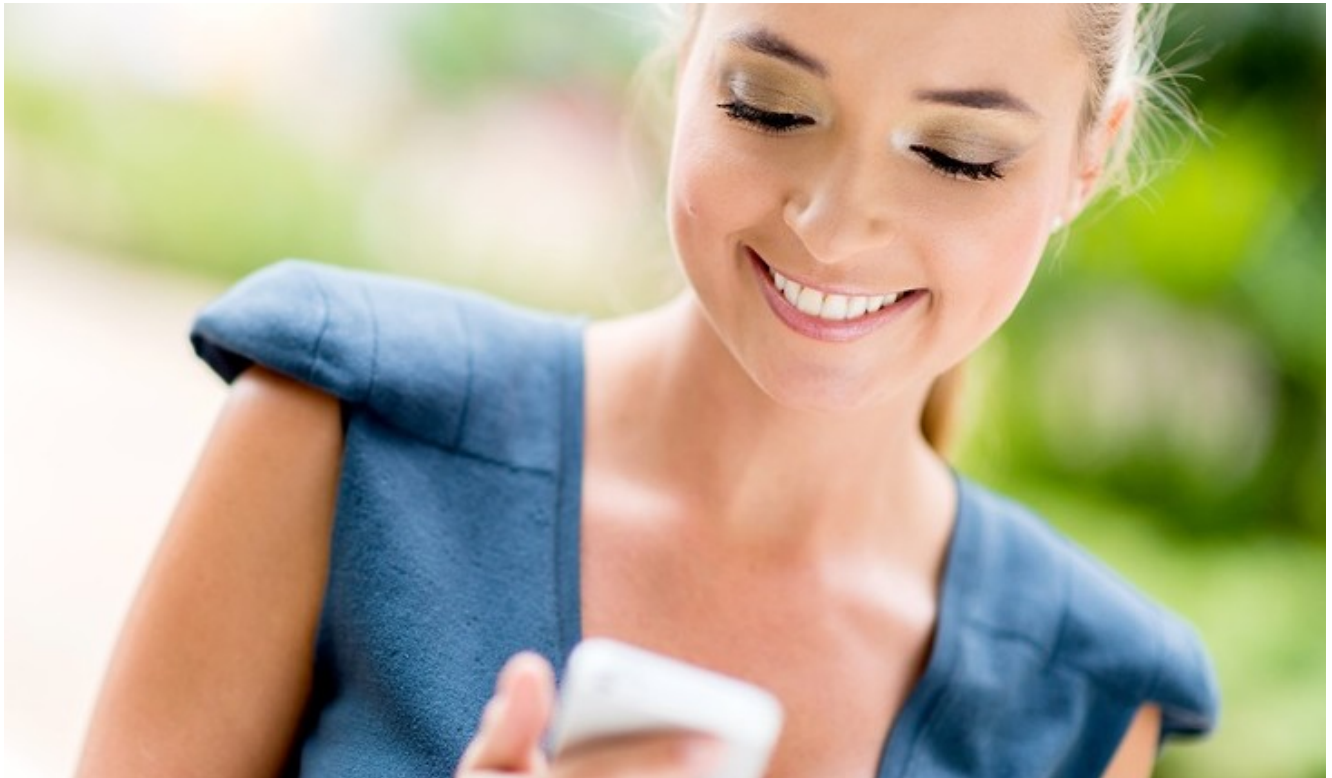
Related Link: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

The model made her debut as their spokesperson two years ago when she was pregnant with her first son. "Our whole family uses Palmer's products, and we love them. I am ecstatic to work with them again!" It's only fitting then that her two older children joined her for the current campaign.

As an alumnus of *People* magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People, Landry says she relies on Palmer's to keep her skin looking wonderful. She also notes, "I drink a lot of water and always have – you have to hydrate your body from the inside and out. I exercise too." Of course, balance is key. "I'm not super strict with my diet. If I want cake, I'll have cake, and if I want ice cream, I'll have ice cream, but for the most part, I do eat pretty healthy." This attitude makes her a great mother, a great wife – and a great role model for her fans.

For more information about Ali Landry, you can follow her on Twitter and Facebook.

8 Things Your Wedding Can Do Without



By Kendal Perez for GalTime.com

According to a survey conducted by The Knot, couples spent an average of \$28,427 on their wedding and related events last year. It's no surprise that weddings are big business, and yet it's tough to imagine dropping 300 Benjamins on a single-day event.

There are lots of ways to trim wedding expenses, especially with the number of DIY crafts available to eager brides on Pinterest. However, there are some things your wedding can do without entirely that add up to big savings. Read on for eight such recommendations.

1. Summer setting

The cost of a wedding is not only impacted by the season, but also by the time and day of the week. For example, a Saturday afternoon wedding in July will cost you more than a Sunday-morning ceremony in March. The impact of timing on the overall cost of your wedding cannot be overstated, so check Turbotax.com has a handy infographic for insight into the best budget-friendly times to get married.

Related: [Love Advice: 3 Signs He's the Right Guy to Be Your Valentine](#)

2. Enormous guest list

The best way to save money on your nuptials is to keep the guest list small. The number of people you invite impacts every cost associated with your event, from location to invitations to menu. The smaller the wedding, the more intimate the event. Plus, it means fewer headaches all around for those involved in planning the big day.

3. Save-the-Dates

I'm not sure when we decided one wedding invitation wasn't enough, but this trend is the bane of budgets the world over. While invitations aren't the costliest part of a wedding, they're the most redundant and unnecessary. If key people can't make it unless they pencil you in a year in advance, pick up the phone or send them an email. Everyone else considers two-months sufficient notice.

4. Custom invitations

With save-the-dates off of your list, you can invest lots of money in the invitations, right? Wrong. Gold-flecked cardstock and lace-trimmed envelopes will be lining wastebaskets within moments of receipt, or at the very most a few days post-ceremony. Thankfully, you can find customizable wedding

packages online for a fraction of the cost. For the truly frugal, free wedding printables abound, and you can buy cheap printer ink using Inkjet Willy to cut the cost of at-home printing.

5. Wedding favors

Wedding favors look charming in style shoots, but are ultimately a waste of money. Leave them out and I guarantee guests won't gripe about the lack of personalized M&M packets or monogrammed matchstick books. In fact, they may thank you – it's one less tchotchke to feel badly about tossing in the trash.

6. Full bar

A cash bar is a surefire way to save money and annoy your guests at the same time. Meet your guests halfway with complimentary beer, wine and a signature cocktail. You'll have fun creating your very own wedding drink, and you'll save on the cost of offering every spirit and mixer known to man. For signature cocktail inspiration, peruse [this gallery](#) of tasty offerings.

Related: [How to Balance a New Relationship and Love with a Booming Career](#)

7. Multi-course meal

The most expensive element of my wedding was the food. Despite guests' declarations that it was the best wedding spread EVER, I lament the cost. Before you deliberate over the chicken or the salmon, consider a more condensed eating experience to save money. Early-evening weddings can get away with cocktail hour accompanied by appetizers or small plates. Mid-morning ceremonies can have fun with brunch fare for much less than typical dinner spreads.

8. Location, location, location

Believe it or not, destination weddings can actually cost less than traditional ceremonies. The cost of travel and accommodations can be a deterrent for most guests, making your overall price tag potentially less. It all depends on the location, of course, but ultimately it's a good option to consider if you've always wanted to get married on a beach.

Lindsay Lohan Shows a Different Side in 'The Canyons'



By April Littleton

Directed by Paul Schrader, *The Canyons* is a story about a young couple trying to work through a past infidelity. Christian (played by James Deen) is a movie producer who works to maintain his trust fund by creating films. When he becomes aware that his actress girlfriend, Tara (played by Lindsay Lohan) is hiding an affair with another actor from him, his life takes a violent turn, filled with twists and unexpected misfortunes.

Should you see it:

Lindsay Lohan has been out of the game for awhile. Fans of hers will more than likely rush to local theaters to see this film. *The Canyons* falls under the mystery and suspense category, so if you like to be kept guessing until the very end of a movie, this would be the one for you.

Who to take:

Unfortunately, this movie is unrated, but rumors have been swirling around about sexually explicit scenes and plenty of nude flashes from *The Parent Trap* actress herself. So, naturally, it's not recommended to take young children to this movie. Would a movie about infidelity make a good date movie? Probably not. If you're still heartbroken over a breakup yourself, take a few of your close friends to see this movie. The destructive love story portrayed in the film might make you feel better about your own situation.

Related: [When Can You Trust Him?](#)

What do you do when your partner has cheated on you?

Cupid's Advice:

Knowing that you've been cheated on is probably one of the worst feelings in the world. You end up blaming yourself for your partner's actions and for everything that went wrong in

the relationship. You're not sure if you want to forgive your significant other for his/her infidelities, or move on with your life and find someone who would treat you with the upmost respect. Cupid has some advice:

1. Confront them: In order for you to make a clear decision about your relationship, you need to confront your partner about their wrongdoings. If you have solid proof, show them. Ask them why they did what they did. Be prepared for whatever answers they may give you. Your love may lie to you or he/she may admit to having cheated on you in the past. In any case, make sure you are mentally ready for the discussion before you go through with it.

2. Think about it: It's easy to cause on a scene the instant you find out your boo is cheating. Before you make any mistakes you'll regret, think about what you've just found out. Take a couple of days to let the information sink in before you bring it up. You might even want to share the bad news with some close friends you trust. They might have been through a similar situation and will have plenty of advice for you.

Related: [Your Partner Has Cheated. Should You Reconcile?](#)

3. Let go: Do you think your relationship is worth saving? Can you see yourself mending a relationship with someone who has cheated? You need to decide if you're willing to forgive or if you want to move on. Trust will always be an issue once infidelity becomes a problem in a relationship. If you can't trust who you love, what kind of future will you have with them?

Have you had a loved one cheat on you? How did you deal with it? Share your experience below.

Avoiding the Top 3 Dating Myths



By Ashley DelBello

Dating isn't easy – especially if you're in a large city like Los Angeles or New York. It seems like everyone gets easily distracted by the next best thing that comes along or really isn't looking to settle into anything serious. What makes it harder is that we have these ideas of what we should and shouldn't do that are large misconceptions and don't make finding that special someone any easier.

So what are these common dating myths that we fall into a trap

of believing?

Myth #1: You have to play the game and can't let on that you're actually interested. This is true when you first start dating someone new. There does need to be a sense of mystery or "the chase," but you can't be too unavailable or act too nonchalant. In a previous [Cupid's Pulse article](#), we spoke with relationship expert [Melanie Mar](#) and she cautioned that while there does need to be some element of that chase, it has to be balanced.

Related: [Should You Date Your Brother/Sister's Best Friend?](#)

"If a woman is being non-responsive in the beginning of a relationship when a man is actively engaging and pursuing her, she definitely will experience a feeling of control, but it will be short-lived. Eventually he will grow tired of chasing someone who acts as if she's not interested – even if she truly is – and he will stop the chase," said Mar. So, don't follow these so-called rules of "the game" too closely as you risk losing out on someone really cool. If you're interested, show it – just don't overwhelm the guy.

Myth #2: Online dating is a last resort and only the desperate do it. Not true. Online dating is becoming more of the norm. In fact, there are 40 million people in the United States who have tried online dating and one in five dating site users go on to marry someone they met online. Go ahead and ask around – most people you know have probably experimented with online dating. And they're probably cool people because they're your friends, right?

Myth #3: You have to wait 24 hours until you can text after a date. Also not true. If you like someone and had a good time with them – let them know. It tells them that you're interested and gives the guy permission to ask you out again. Men can't always tell if you're into them or not – especially if you're playing "the game" so they do need that

encouragement to ask you out again.

You also don't need to wait a certain amount of time before you text someone back – we all know that unless we're in a meeting at work, at a movie or some other rare instance in which our phone is not on us, we pretty much tied to our phones 24/7. So go ahead, text someone back immediately if you want to.

Related: [Is Your Perfect Man Criteria Keeping You Single?](#)

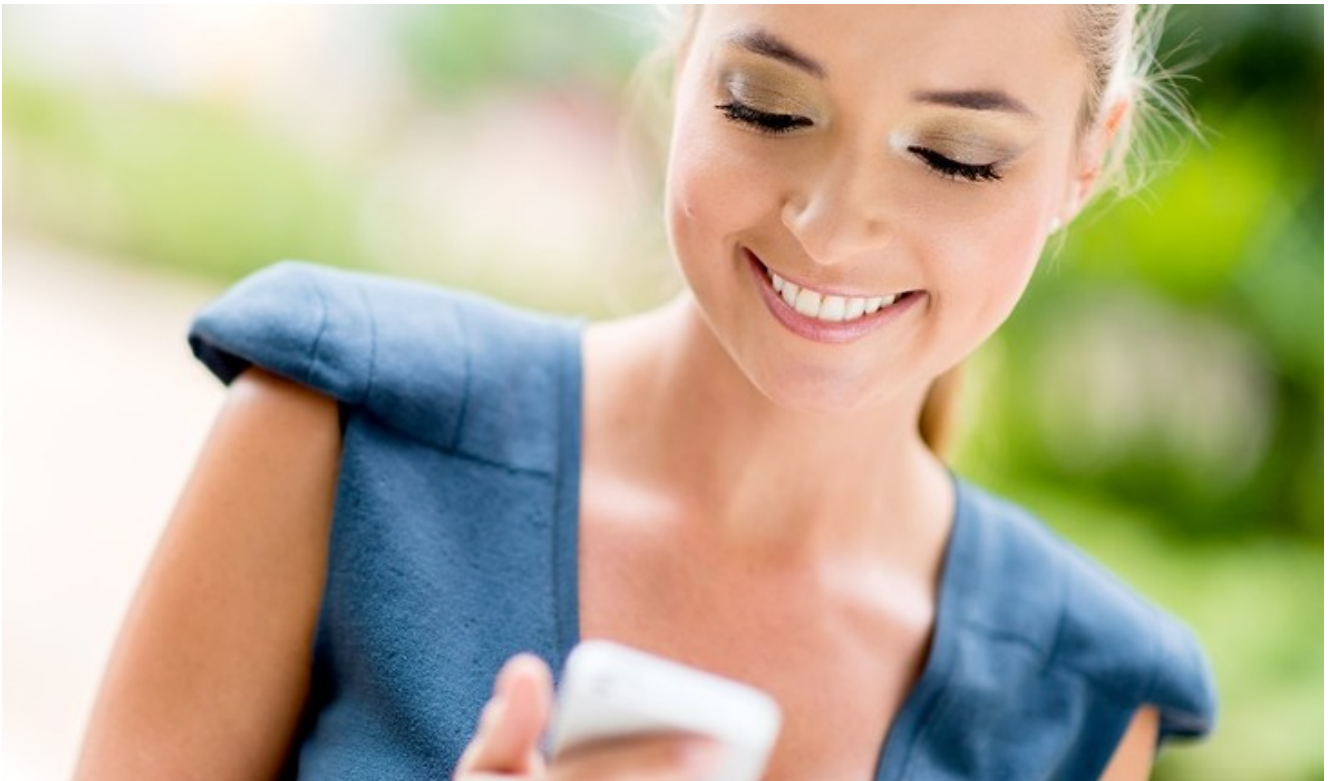
Lastly, I want to impart how important it is to just be you.

We hear that all of the time, but all too often we don't really HEAR it and we get caught up in trying to perfectly phrase our answers to questions or acting how we think the person we're newly dating wants us to. Doing this comes with a price. For example, this recently happened to me and I was too nervous and not comfortable enough around this person to just be me (which should have been red flag No. 1). And after about six weeks and several dates, I got an email that he didn't think we had enough in common to move to something more serious – which I don't think is exactly true. He was saying nicely that I'm not that into you, but had I just relaxed and been myself I wouldn't have been as quiet or always thinking about what I should do or say next. In the end the outcome may not have been any different, but I would have at least not been left with this unsettling feeling about what would have happened if I had been more of myself.

Dating is hard – don't make it harder by following misconceptions that don't let you be true to yourself and most importantly, just relax and have fun.

What are some other common dating myths that need debunking? Comment below.

'RHONJ' Star Jacqueline Laurita: "I Try My Best to Get Along With Everyone"



By Kerri Sheehan

You may know the sassy and fiercely protective Jacqueline Laurita from Bravo's hit reality show *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, but that's not her only claim to fame.

Before we delve into this season's drama and last night's episode, let's focus on a few things you may *not* know about Laurita, starting with the fact that this 43-year-old mother

of three has her own beauty website, AltruisticBeauty.com, with publicist Suzanne Summers. The two began working on the site together after first developing a friendship. "I told her about my idea, and we decided to turn our love affair for beauty into a business. Since I am a licensed cosmetologist with years of experience and Suzanne is a beauty publicist, we make a great pair. We bring our years of knowledge to the site and also handpicked a team of other beauty and health professionals to blog with us."

Inspiration for Laurita's company came from her days as a cosmetologist. "I had this vision for a beauty website a long time ago. I've spent several years educating people about cosmetics, skincare and everything beauty. I have literally tried it all." *Real Housewives* viewers were an impetus as well. "Fans of my show would tweet me beauty questions constantly, so I created a platform to get all of their beauty questions answered. I get all sorts of questions from what plastic surgery procedures I recommend to how to make treatments from items in your refrigerator. I love sharing beauty secrets!" she exclaims.

Related Link: [RHONJ's Teresa Giudice Debunks Divorce Rumors](#)

Inner beauty is just as important as outer beauty, and one thing that shines most about Laurita is her dedication to raising awareness about autism. She has become a strong voice in the community since her youngest son, Nicholas, was diagnosed. On one episode, viewers saw Laurita encourage Nicholas to try out a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, which is thought to help children on the autism spectrum. Family is the most important thing to Laurita and she says that she stays on the show (despite the drama) because it gives her a platform to bring attention to the cause.

If you tuned into the *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* last night, you know that things didn't go as planned during

Laurita's reunion with Teresa. "I try my best to get along with everyone," she says. "I really don't need the extra aggravation of fighting over nonsense when I'm fighting for my child's recovery at home. I really don't like fighting." At the same time, this Jersey mom is not afraid to hold her own when challenged. "If a certain situation presents itself to me, I just roll with it by responding organically, and I always have hope for a resolution in the future. This season you may see more "mysteries from last season reveal themselves," she says.

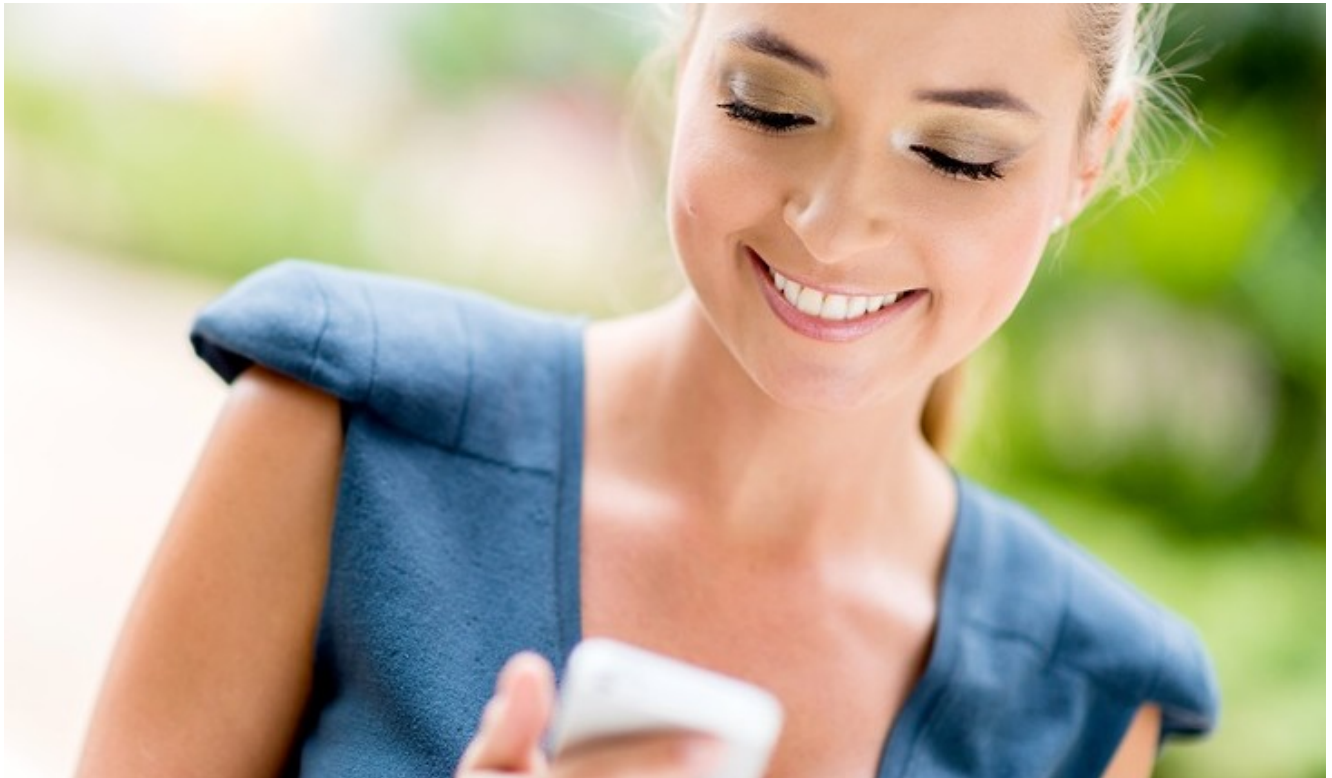
Related Link: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

Despite the fighting and feuding, the beauty guru's relationship with her husband has remained as strong as ever. She says that their secret is acting as though they just met each other and adds, "We always make sure we schedule in regular date nights. We like to go out with other couples too. It's fun and entertaining." Their typical date night involves good food, good conversation and a glass of good wine.

You can catch Jacqueline and the other Real Housewives of New Jersey every Sunday at 8/7c on Bravo. To keep up with Laurita, follow her on Twitter @JacLaurita or facebook.com/jacquelinelaurita. Head over to AltruisticBeauty.com for some beauty tips and tricks.

Jacqueline MacInnes Wood, Star of 'Her Husband's

Betrayal,' Says, "Don't Look for Mr. Right"



By Kristin Mattern

Best known for her role as Steffy Forester on *The Bold and The Beautiful*, Canadian actress Jacqueline MacInnes Wood has received three Daytime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Young Actress and has acted in movies like *Final Destination* and Disney's *Skyrunner*. Now the gorgeous brunette is taking a short break from her soap opera schedule to star in Lifetime's movie, *Her Husband's Betrayal*, which premieres tonight at 8 p.m. ET. Stunning and sophisticated, Wood takes her acting expertise to new heights in this raw and moving feature about a woman who puts herself and her son in danger when she falls in love with a sociopath.

Wood is no stranger to playing intense roles. As *The Bold and The Beautiful* viewers know, for years, she has daily slipped into shoes of the manipulative and sexy Forester. She excels in the rapid world of soap operas, a feat reflected by her many Emmy nominations. "It is always exciting to receive such an honor and to be noticed for the work you do," she shares. "Daytime Soaps aren't easy, and we have to become pretty much one-take specialists." Her long-running career on *The Bold and The Beautiful* and her devoted fan base certainly point to her mastery of the form.

Switching gears from this fast-paced world of daytime dramas, Wood loved working on the movie. Of the talented cast and crew on the set of *Her Husband's Betrayal*, she exclaims, "They were amazing to work with. It was a total joy everyday of the shoot."

In the film, she plays Cathy, a divorcée who had her son at a young age and who thinks she has found love in her second marriage, only to discover she has fallen prey to the charms of a deadly sociopath. The realistic storyline is what pulled the starlet into the role. "I loved the script right away. Immediately, I felt empathy for her character and her struggles. This is not a movie about some unrealistic hot chick with perfect makeup and perfect hair trying to find the perfect man. In fact, it's quite the opposite."

Related Link: [Are You Dating Someone with Narcissistic Personality Disorder?](#)

Sadly, sociopaths aren't fantasy creatures from a horror flick – they're very real. Women sometimes find themselves tangled up in a relationship with a real-life monster. "Who doesn't want to be charmed?" remarks Wood. "Unfortunately, that's what sociopaths do best, and the lies come in the same bundle."

Her advice for ladies in this situation is simple: "Get out as fast as you can! Don't try to deal with them. They will only

make your life even more of a living hell.” Love can be blind, and even if it isn’t in an extreme case like finding yourself married to a sociopath, it can be easy to overlook a partner’s flaws when you are in love. “I believe many of us have been there, at one time or another, until you get a rude awakening.”

The actress, who is said to be dating Daren Kagasoff from *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, doesn’t have a list of who “The One” should be but rather who he *shouldn’t* be. “He can’t be a walking ego; he can’t lack a sense of humor; and most definitely, he can’t be needy or dictate who my friends should or shouldn’t be.” She advises that women shouldn’t look for Mr. Right and should instead “just do what’s right for you. When you meet a potential partner, make sure he is a good fit in your world and doesn’t overtake or undermine it.”

Related Link: [The Four Biggest Myths About Men](#)

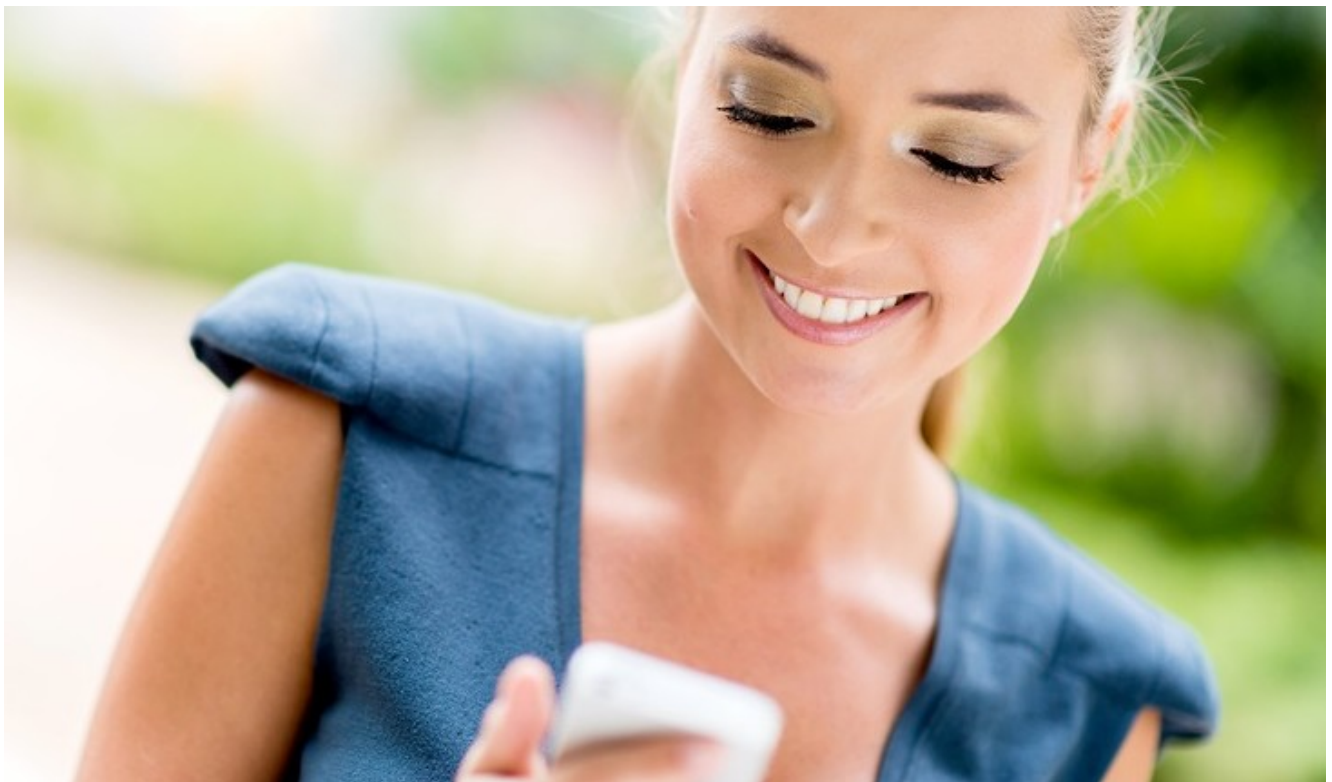
A huge motorcycle-enthusiast, Wood fell for biking when she was a little girl, a passion she acquired from her Harley-loving dad. “There is great bonding in biking, and I love every year that I see more and more women of all ages getting on bikes and taking control of the handles,” she says. Recently, the celebrity rode through her hometown of Windsor, Ontario as part of a charity ride for angioplasty called Bob Probert’s Memorial Ride. “I rode beside my dad and my sister, Dani Probert, with 1,200 other bikers. We were there on behalf of my late brother in-law, ex-NHL player Bob Porbert.”

There are surely great things on the horizon for this young star. She plans to return to *The Bold and The Beautiful* but is currently taking some time to travel through Europe.

To learn more about Her Husband’s Betrayal, which premieres tonight at 8 p.m. ET/PT, visit their website. For more information about Wood, connect with her on www.facebook.com/Jacqueline-MacInnes-Wood-154810727878252/ and

Twitter @JacquelineMWood.

Top 3 Questions about Open Relationships



By Natalie Vartanian

The way I see it is there are so many models for being in a relationship. Some people are naturally monogamous. Some people are not. Some people need variety. Some don't.

Instead of assuming a closed relationship is for you, or an open relationship is for you, really ask yourself the questions and be honest about your feelings. To help with

that, here are the top three questions asked about open relationships:

1. How do you classify a relationship as Open?

Open simply means you are choosing to open up the physical part of the relationship. If you want to flirt, kiss, go on a date or have sex with someone besides your primary partner, that is totally fine. With your partner or alone. You may even choose to have multiple partners (relationships) that are equally weighted in commitment and energy/connection.

What people love about open relationships is the freedom to talk to other people. Pursue them romantically if they want. It is a belief in the idea that you can love more than one person and have an intimate relationship with more than one person. Without feeling bad or wrong about it.

Related: [Is He In It for the Long Haul?](#)

2. What about fear of getting emotionally attached to someone or jealousy?

That may very likely happen: the attachment, care and love you feel when you are intimate with multiple people. Doesn't mean you won't encounter confusion or doubting your feelings for your primary partner (or any of your partners).

Being unemotional and detached is not the point. The point is enjoying the freedom, ability to love without definition and being open to the range of emotions. It is all part of the journey and self-exploration.

An open relationship requires a lot of communication and honesty, and self analysis. Jealousy is a natural part of open relationships. Identify the jealousy and deal with it appropriately.

Ignoring jealousy will inevitably lead to resentment and

eventually heartache. There is a great article on jealousy as part of the list of resources included at the end of this post.

3. Any tips or lessons learned for someone contemplating an open relationship?

There are so many pieces to a relationships besides physical, such as emotional, mental, spiritual, etc. So while the physical part of your relationship is important, it is not the end all be all either.

You have got to be clear about your level of desire and comfort up front and throughout the relationship. Open relationships are fluid. Once decided/agreed upon, it does not set it in stone. They can open, close, shift, expand, etc depending on where each other partners are in their level of comfort.

Related: [Return to the Dating World](#)

Remember to continually keep the lines of communication open and that will alleviate unnecessary stress on the relationship and allow it to be a thoroughly enriching experience.

Natalie Vartanian, CPCC, ACC, is a certified life coach, talented writer, speaker, workshop facilitator and an expert when it comes to sex and relationships. She knows it's possible to have amazing love in an unconventional way. She works with individuals and couples to build better relationships and help them amplify the communication and intimacy, which always results in better sex. She has also worked in organizations such as Google to develop personal development curriculum and present around the importance of designing relationships in the classroom to educators, as well as personal leadership for education outreach professionals. Her work has been featured in Forbes.com, Good Men Project, Your Life Your Way and CTI's Transforum Blog. You can find her at <http://nataliethecoach.com>.

“I Want My Clients to Have Fun With It,” Says Wedding Planner Sandy Malone of TLC’s ‘Wedding Island’



By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

Sandy Malone is the woman behind Weddings in Vieques, a full-service destination wedding planning company that will take your wildest island fantasy and make it come true. The vivacious personality is dedicated to making each and every bride happy with her special day and will do whatever it

takes, as showcased in a recent episode when she found a helicopter at the last minute. Now, viewers can share the high tension and drama when they join this thick-skinned wedding planner on her escapades as she creates romantic magic on *Wedding Island*, TLC's new series that showcases Malone and her company.

Related Link: [5 Conversations Every Couple Should Have Before Marriage](#)

Malone's wedding planning career began in 2004 when she had to save her own wedding to the love of her life, Bill Malone. "I hired a wedding planner that *said* she knew Vieques, but clearly, she didn't. It was awful," the reality star recalls. "I was getting frantic phone calls and dealing with vendors who were asking me if I was still getting married. I panicked! We had to fire her and start over."

Malone was able to plan their wedding on her own and realized that she could make a full-time gig out of that sort of work – but only if her now-husband was on board too. When the two first met, Bill was part of the Metro Transit Police Department, and Malone was working as a political journalist. He asked her out, but she politely declined. After many persistent attempts and chivalrous deeds, like clearing the snow from the path to her house, she finally came to her senses and let Bill into her heart.

The pair bought a house in Vieques a year after their wedding, and in 2007, when Bill retired, they decided to make the remote island their home. Soon after, they launched their company with the assistance of a close friend. "She helped me put together our original logos and actually referred our first client, who ended up being someone I knew in grade school," Malone shares. "We did the wedding on 07/07/07 and thought we'd do two weddings per month. We ended up planning forty or fifty weddings that first year."

In addition to adding wedding planning to their resumes, the couple also jumped right into running a business together for the first time. “We’ve worked hand-in-hand since the beginning. Sometimes it’s hard – we’re not the perfect couple, but we respect each other,” the event-planning wonder explains. “I focus on the planning, and he focuses on the execution, and we don’t interfere with each other’s work.”

Related Link: [Kelly Ripa on Her Marriage to Mark Conseulos: “We Still Dig Each Other”](#)

Along with her team, Malone has now put together over 400 weddings – and the number continues to grow as more and more engaged couples chose Vieques for their big day. “It’s been voted one of the top Caribbean spots for the past few years by *Travel and Leisure* magazine. It’s pretty spectacular,” she says of the island, seven miles off the coast of Puerto Rico. “You can go to the beach everyday and not go to the same one twice for weeks and weeks.”

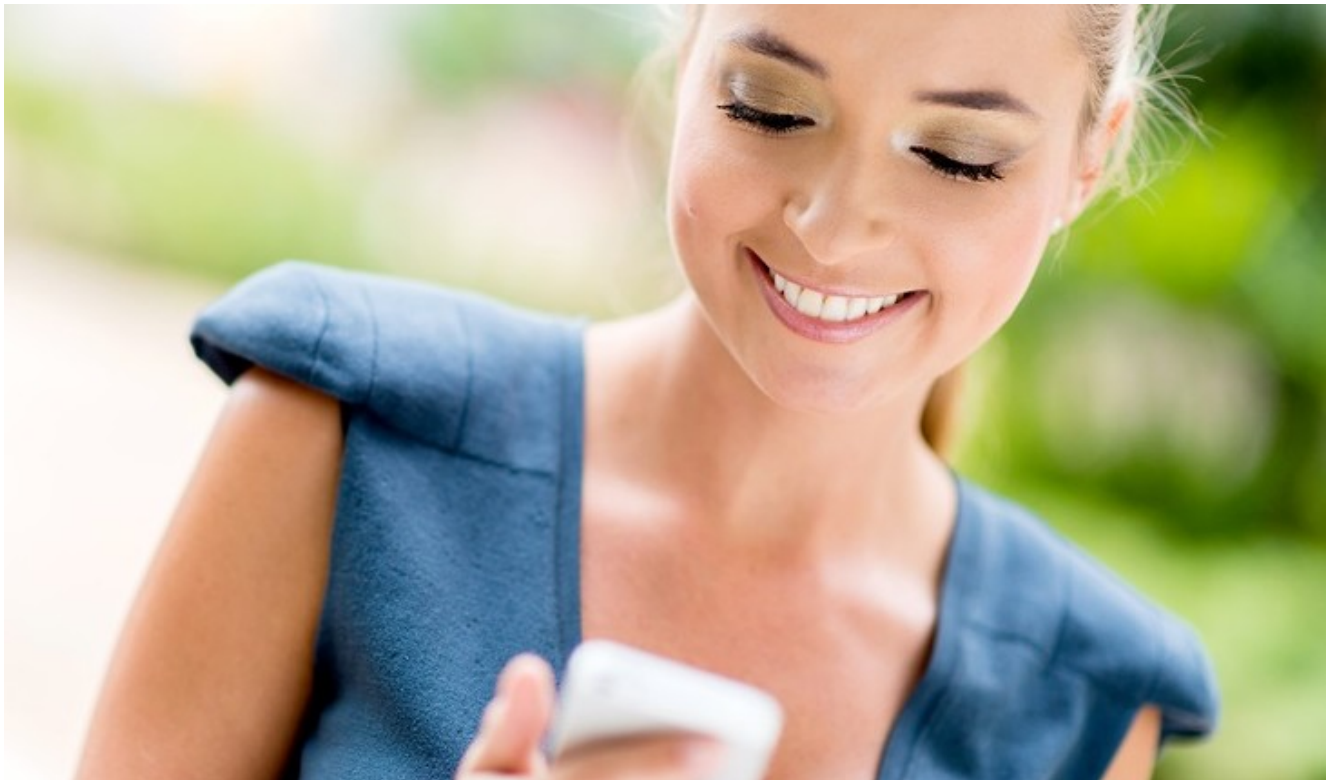
For those brides not lucky enough to be in Malone’s capable hands as they plan their walks down the aisle, consider this advice: “If you’re working with a wedding planner, talk to them and tell them why you’re feeling overwhelmed. If not, talk to your fiancé or bridesmaids. A lot of times, the problem in your head isn’t such a big deal. Write it all down, and then bite it off in little chunks.”

Ultimately, the wedding planner just wants to represent her industry and her island well. “I hope the show is a good reflection of the wedding environment. I just want my clients to have fun with it all. And we want people to come to the island – most people haven’t heard of Vieques.”

You can catch Malone and her team on Wedding Island on TLC on Thursdays at 10/9c – see above for a preview of tonight’s episode! For more behind-the-scenes details, check out her Huffington Post blog, www.huffingtonpost.com/sandy-malone/.

You can also follow her on Twitter @SandyMalone_.

Mastering the Art of the 'Plus One'



By Sarah Gooding for GalTime.com

The summer is upon us, and it has brought a new love interest with it! Your mind is drifting off to clear skies, beaches and breezy summer dates – we know. However, if you're in your late 20s or early 30s, you may have found the summer months becoming suspiciously less and less about lazing in the sun and spending endless afternoons on your favorite patio. Your

coveted weekends out of the office are becoming increasingly filled with wedding showers, bachelorettes and of course, the big day itself. Luckily your invite to the next wedding includes a Plus One, but there are also some major unknowns that come along with the first wedding you and your new guy attend together. Will he have fun? Will you have to babysit him the whole night? Will your friends and family like him? What if you're the Plus One? Will he be attentive? Will his friends and family be inclusive? Will he feel he needs to be by your side all night?

As the Dating Coach for PlentyOfFish, I receive many letters from our female users asking for dating advice; particularly when a relationship is first taking off. In light of wedding season, here are some tips that will ensure your first wedding together won't be your last:

If he's the Plus One:

Introduce him to your friends before the wedding. A wedding shouldn't be the first time your new beau is meeting all of your friends and family members. The focus of the day will be on the bride and groom, not getting to know new people. Plan a casual get-together before the big day and use it as an opportunity for your friends to get to know your new guy and vice versa. If a wedding is not the first introduction, it's still a nice gesture to host a dinner party for all your friends and their significant others who will also be attending the wedding. This is simply another opportunity for your date to get acquainted with your friends and feel like he's part of your close-knit group.

Related: [Dating Advice: Are You Dating a 'Mad Man'?](#)

Ask your best friend's boyfriend or husband for help. The last thing you want to do is look after your date all night. He likely won't be a fan of this either. An easy way to ensure

you're not babysitting your date but also not leaving him alone for too long is to enlist the help of one of your guy friends, preferably the significant other of one of your close friends. They'll likely be spending time together in the future (if things work out) so they'll have an incentive to get to know each other, too. While you're enjoying yourself on the dance floor with all your best girlfriends, your date can engage in some needed guy talk while bonding over drinks with a cool, new dude.

Don't force your date to dance (or do anything for that matter). If your date doesn't suggest a dance, don't force it. You want him to feel comfortable and he may not be the time to show his moves until at least a few months in. Aside from dancing, be careful not to force anything on your date at a wedding. Try to avoid asking 10 different people to take your picture or suggesting he try to catch the garter if you can sense he isn't into it. You don't want him feeling pressured to be the perfect Plus One or that you are much more serious about the relationship than he is.

Related: [Relationship Advice: Making Marriage Work Like Beyonce](#)

If you're the Plus One:

Offer to contribute to the gift. According to etiquette, unless your name is on the invite, you don't technically need to contribute to the gift. That said, it's a nice touch to at least offer. You are getting a nice dinner and a beautiful night out of the deal. If he declines, offer to pick out a nice card instead.

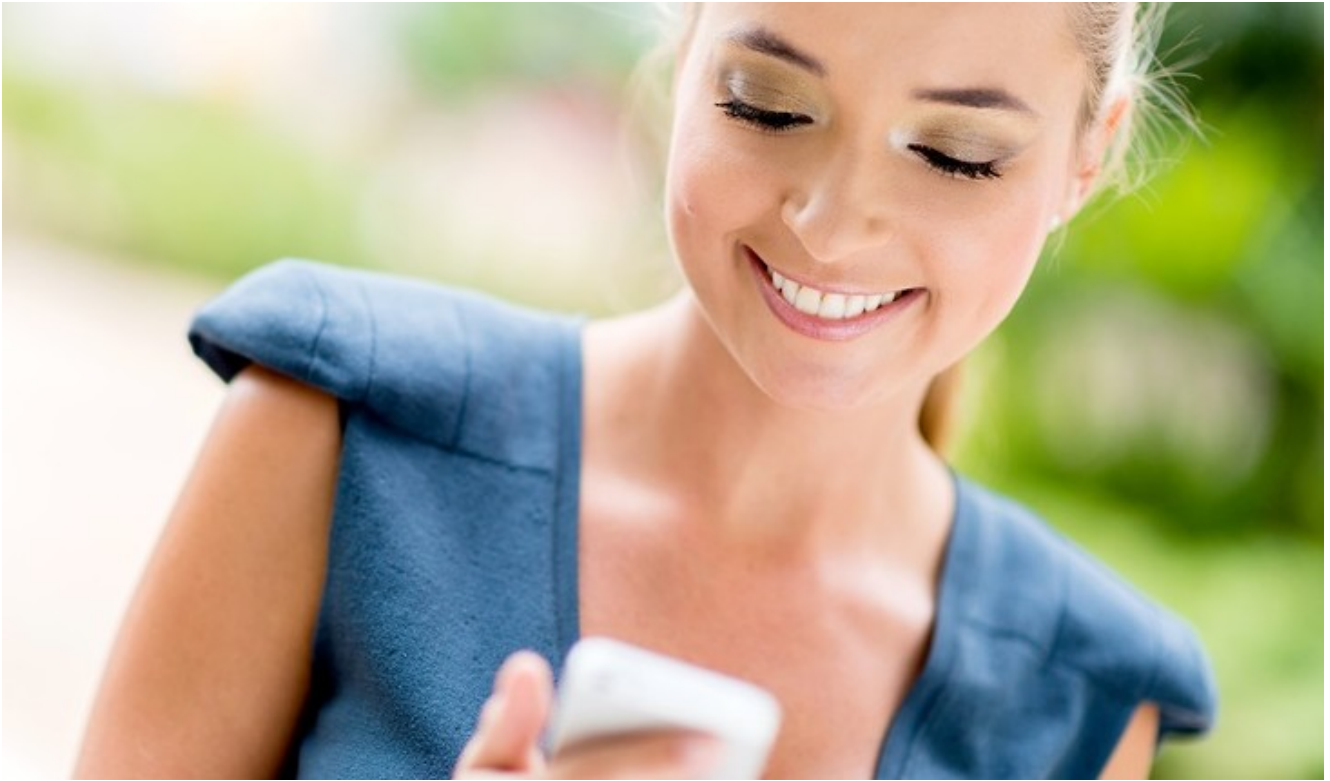
Mingle. The last thing you want is for your date to feel that he needs to stay by your side all night. This is likely an exciting night for your date and a chance for him to catch up with all of his close friends. Don't sulk in the corner or attach yourself to his hip. Show him you're outgoing,

independent and can make friends with anyone. All it takes is a 'Hello, I'm _____. How do you know the groom?' A little liquid courage also doesn't hurt.

Blend in with the crowd. You want to be on your best behavior at wedding, particularly when you don't know the bride and groom very well. For one night only, do your best not to stick out from the crowd or embarrass your date. When it comes to attire, stay away from pants and anything white. Also, while drinking is usually part of most weddings, be careful not to drink too much. You wouldn't want to have to cut your night short.

Kelly Ripa on Electrolux and Her Marriage to Mark Consuelos: "We Still Dig Each Other"





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#).

In this exclusive interview, CupidsPulse.com founder and executive editor Lori Bizzoco chats with Kelly Ripa about Super Saturday, which was held this past weekend in the Hamptons; her relationship with co-host and “soul sibling” Michael Strahan; and her strong marriage to Mark Consuelos. “We just love each other. We still dig each other,” the television personality says of the secret to their marriage of seventeen years. “He does it for me, and I think I do it for him. Otherwise, I don’t think he’d still be here!”

The mother of three also discusses her partnership with Electrolux and their French Door Refrigerator with the Perfect Temp Drawer. Not only does she love their products, but she loves their philanthropic attitude as well. “They’ve been helping me raise money for ovarian research since I’ve been with them. When a company puts forth such an effort not only to make lives easier but also worrying about the health of women, I just think that says something.”

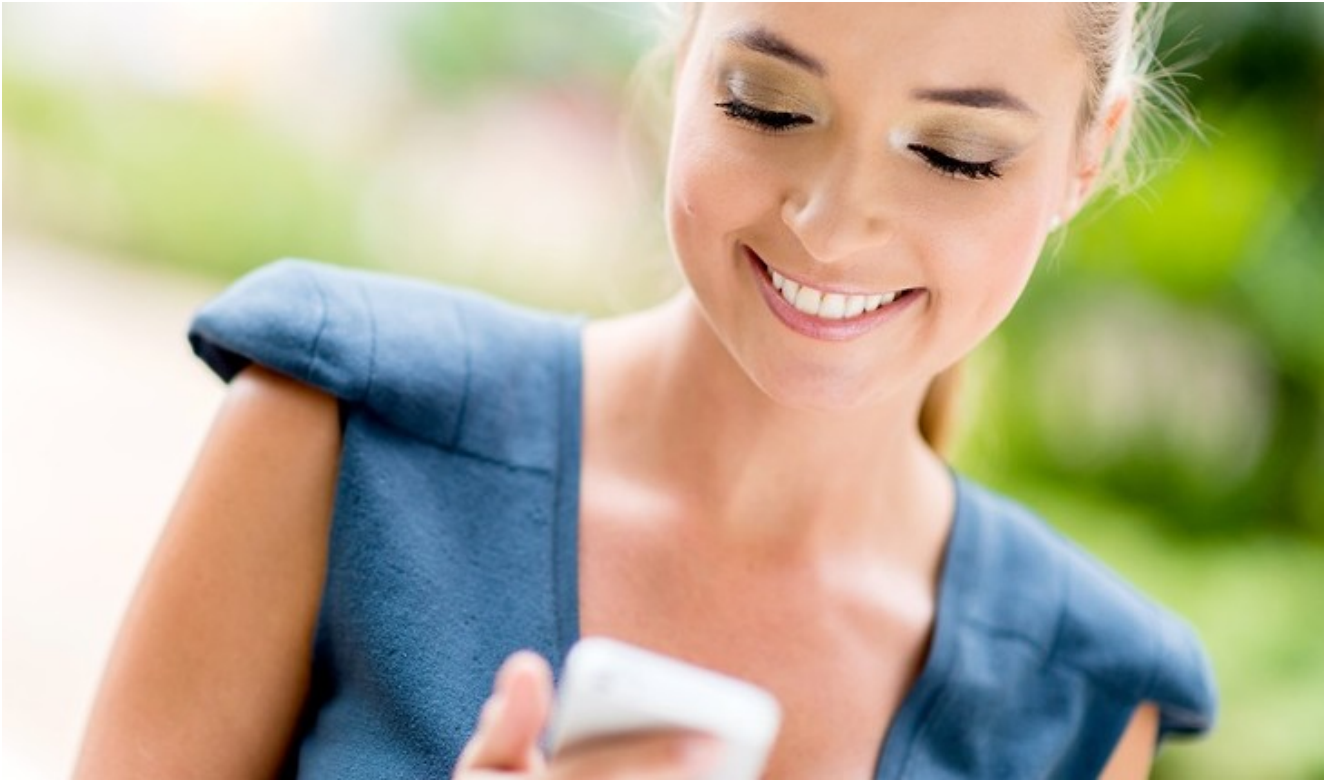
In addition to the event in New York City, Electrolux is inviting Americans to visit www.livelovelux.com through August

22 to enter the Electrolux Perfect Temp Sweepstakes for the chance to win a French Door Refrigerator and a trip to a climate with the Perfect Temp (the Bahamas!). For every entry or share, Electrolux will donate \$1 to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund (OCRF). Visitors to the site can also download Kelly's favorite summertime recipes, including her famous spicy mango-peach Greek yogurt popsicle!

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/CupidsPulse](https://www.youtube.com/user/CupidsPulse)

5 Celebrity Couples that Waited for Marriage





By April Littleton

The decision to have sex isn't one that should be taken lightly, but it's a personal choice. You may choose to wait until the love of your life comes along or you may not (just make sure you're always safe). In Hollywood, many celebrities are quick to hop into bed with the next star they see standing next to them on the red carpet, but this isn't true for every person who has the spotlight shining down on them. Some celebrities pledge abstinence because of their religious beliefs, while others hold out until marriage out of respect for themselves. Here are five couples who waited until their big day:

1. Kevin Jonas and Danielle Deleasa: Kevin Jonas, the eldest of the Jonas Brothers was very outspoken about his decision to abstain from sex prior to getting married. As a symbol of his beliefs, he wore a punk rock purity ring from Tiffany's on his ring finger. Jonas married his longtime girlfriend and former hairdresser, Danielle Deleasa, on December 19, 2009. The purity ring was replaced with a wedding ring, and now, the happily-married pair is expecting their first baby.

Related Link: [Celebrity Couples Who Cannot Wait to Become Parents](#)

2. Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon: After her marriage with music executive Tommy Mottola came to a halt, Carey decided to remain celibate with Nick Cannon until they exchanged meaningful "I Do's." In a December 2008 interview for *Mirror*, Carey said, "I definitely don't want to push it on anybody else. But we both have similar beliefs, and I just thought that it would be so much more special if we waited until after we were married." The happy couple have been married for five years now and are parents to twins, Monroe and Moroccan Scott, age two.

3. Tina Fey and Jeff Richmond: The *Saturday Night Live* alum was a virgin until she met her husband and composer of *30 Rock*, Jeff Richmond, at the age of 24. The couple dated for seven years before finally marrying in a Greek Orthodox ceremony June 3, 2001. The famous pair is now parents to two daughters, Alice Zenobia and Penelope Athena.

4. Adriana Lima and Marko JariÄš: In 2006, Lima told *GQ Magazine* that she had no plans to have sex until after she was married. The Brazilian Victoria's Secret model married Serbian NBA player, Marko JariÄš, on Valentine's Day 2009. Since then, the duo have become parents to Valentina and Sienna.

Related Link: [10 New Celebrity Moms](#)

5. Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey: Although this couple has since broken up and moved on to different relationships, no one can forget these lovebirds from the early 2000s. Because of her religious background, Simpson announced she would remain a virgin until her marriage to Lachey. The pop stars married October 26, 2002, but unfortunately, things ended in divorce only four years later.

What are some other celebrity couples who waited for marriage? Share below.

Handling the “Kids” Question On a Date



By Sheila Blagg for GalTime.com

The kids-or-no-kids debate is an issue for many couples. But, bring a child into a new dating relationship and the issue becomes even more complex. As people move from one relationship into the dating realm, they often wonder, “Does he want kids?,” Will she still want to date me?”

When both parties are on the same page in regard to the kids question (either in favor of kids or not), the new relationship experiences fewer bumps. But if one wants kids

and the other doesn't, the debate may result in a huge rift that not many couples survive.

When to talk about kids

It is my opinion that the do-you-want-(more)-children question should be tackled within the first couple of dates. Why continue to date someone who doesn't have the same goals and desires as you do? Sure, there are some cases where, along the way, someone changes his or her mind, and everyone lives happily ever after, but there are more cases that end in heartbreak and anger.

Related: [Relationship Advice: Can You Have a Friendly Meeting with Your Ex?](#)

Are you willing to take that chance? Does it make sense to invest so much time in a relationship that may never work?

Most people know whether or not they want children by the time they reach adulthood. Personally, I have five children, and three of them already know that they definitely want to have kids of their own. One of my kids is a no go, and one is still on the fence (which is fine since he's only 14!). My point is that, even though my kids are still relatively young, they already have a picture of what they want their family lives to look like.

I can change his/her mind

I've heard so many stories of heartbreak resulting from one person trying to change a potential partner's mind about having or not having children. The bottom line is, if someone you're dating does not want children (and vice versa), don't try to talk him/her into it. It's important to respect the vision of what that individual has in mind for his/her future.

Stop trying to change the other person and accept that you may need to change how you deal with the situation.

When I began dating after my divorce, I decided that I wanted to date only men who wanted children. I felt that the desire for kids was one common ground on which we could relate to one another.

But, one of my very best friends approached the kid debate in a completely different way. She decided that she had no interest in dating a man with kids. She didn't feel that she was cut out to manage someone else's kids and the ex-wife that would inevitably come as part of the package.

Related: [Relationship Advice: Why We Are Insecure About Relationships](#)

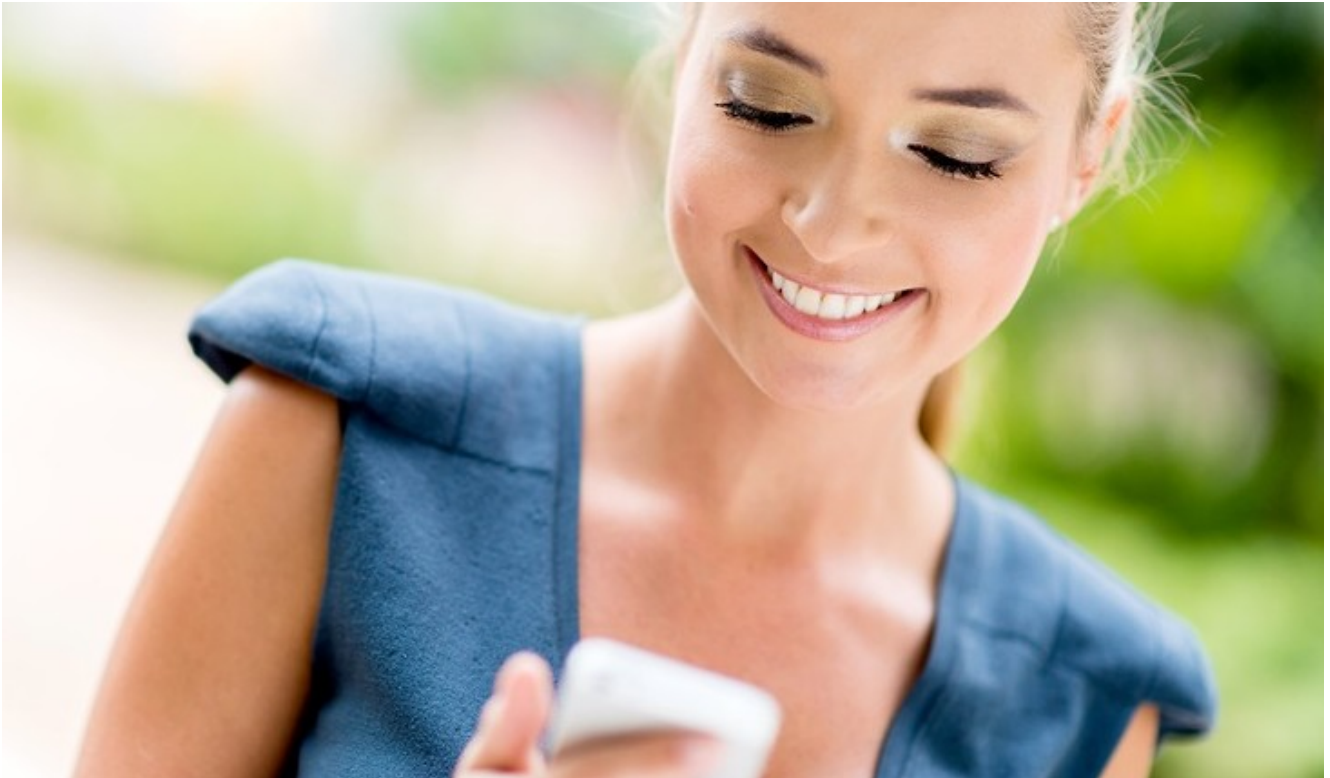
Know what you want

What it boils down to is that you must first decide what your goals are for the future. Do you want (more) kids? Do you want to date someone who already has kids? Know your limits, set boundaries and stick to them. It has been my experience – and the research will back me up – that it's never a good idea to try to “change his/her mind” on something as important as having a family.

Although there are always exceptions to every rule, dating someone who is like-minded – especially when it comes to children – makes for a less complicated relationship.

Charlotte Ross of 'Hit the Floor' Says, “Waiting for Mr.

Right Won't Get You Anywhere"



By [Whitney Johnson](#)

Charlotte Ross has a Hollywood story meant for the big screen: she fell in love with acting at an early age and began pursuing her dream while growing up in Winnetka, Illinois. She worked at Second City and the Goodman Theatre until graduating from high school. Just a month later, she moved to Los Angeles and was quickly cast as Eve Donovan on the infamous soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, a role that later garnered her two Emmy nominations. Audiences now recognize her as Quinn Fabray's uptight mother Judy on the hit show *Glee* as well as Olivia Vincent in the summer series *Hit the Floor*.

Related Link: ['Glee' Star Cory Monteith is Found Dead in Hotel Room](#)

The popular VH1 show, which airs its final episode of season one tonight at 9/8c, is about “a professional basketball cheerleading squad; the back stabbing that ensues to get and stay on the team; and the inner workings of the corporate side of this world.” Her character was a star dancer in her younger years and now serves as the director of the Devil Girls. As the actress explains, “Olivia’s extremely driven, expects complete professionalism and won’t settle for less than perfection at every performance. She can be a bit relentless, but she’s also like a protective mother who just wants her girls to succeed.”

“It’s a ripe background for juicy drama, and the writer and executive producer, James LaRosa, doesn’t disappoint,” she adds with a laugh. I think he was born to write this show!”

As much as she loves being on stage, Ross’s heart belongs to Max, her nine-year-old son with ex-husband Michael Goldman. The couple divorced in 2008 after four years of marriage but continue to co-parent their son. True to her optimistic personality, she chose to remain positive during this difficult time. “The truth is, we all have a good argument as to why our ex isn’t the best partner, parent or friend, but I worked really hard not to focus on the negative because I wanted what was best for my son.”

And what’s best for Max is two parents who are able to “come into each other’s houses without tension or stress. I’m beyond blessed that my son is very well-adapted to having two homes,” she candidly shares. “I enjoy it as well. I get to be fully ‘on’ when I’m with him and then ‘off’ when his father has him.”

Her advice for parents in a similar situation is simple: “Try to deal with the challenges as best as you can because it really makes a difference for your kids. They can actually learn something good from it, like how to work through tough things and treat people with respect.”

Related Link: [Solo Parenting: Reconsidering Your Ex](#)

Of course, jumping back into the dating game after divorce is never easy. The single actress says being proactive is the best way to meet someone new. "Sitting and waiting for Mr. Right won't get you anywhere. Instead, step out of your comfort zone and normal circle of friends," she says. "And don't be afraid to be set-up! Remember that your friends know you well and know what kind of partner you want."

As shown by her diverse professional choices, stepping out of her comfort zone is nothing new to Ross. This fearless attitude extends to her personal life too; she's even training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro later this summer. The blonde, who says "nature is like a church," sees this trek as number one on her bucket list. "It's been a dream of mine for years. We all have that list of 'One day, I will...' Well, time is passing, you know?" Reflecting further on the upcoming journey, she explains, "Challenging ourselves can be very healing. This adventure is both a physical one and a spiritual one."

The actress knows firsthand the effects of living a healthy lifestyle. "I truly believe that working out and clean eating (most of the time) is the fountain of youth. I look and feel better than I did decades ago. It amazes me!" As if that's not enough reason to head to the gym, she adds, "When you sweat for an hour or so each day, daily stress doesn't take the toll that it normally would. I think everyone should make time for fitness no matter how busy their life may be."

Don't miss tonight's season finale of Hit the Floor on VH1 at 9/8c! For more information about Ross, check out her website charlotteross.com/ or follow her on Twitter @charlotteross.

How to Create a Great (No Meal) First Date



By Kristin Mattern

You've met someone special. You're electrified with excitement and looking for a date idea, but you don't have the money for a meal, or you're just not feeling food for your first date. No problem! There are tons of great date ideas that will wow your new sweetie without having to deal with preparing a three-course dinner. With a little creativity, and a quick bite before you leave, you and your honey will have a wonderful time sans-food.

Start your date after dinnertime, and while you'll still be ingesting something, grabbing a cup of coffee is a great way to begin the date. The two of you can meet up at the coffee shop of your choice, order your favorite drinks and treat your darling to his/her cup-of-joe. This nice gesture will get the date going. Sit and enjoy the cozy coffee shop atmosphere and chat over your drinks about what each of you do for a living, favorite activities and interests. Make sure to listen as much as you speak. You don't want to dominate the conversation.

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

While you're both enjoying your cozy caffeine haze and butterfly jitters, continue the date by heading over to a local museum. Admission is fairly priced, if not free, and the abundance of art or historical pieces makes for great conversation starters. *Howaboutwe.com* recommends The Merchant House Museum in NYC, the Museum of Contemporary Art in LA, the Hirshorn Museum in DC and the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco as some great date museums. As you tour, show off your art or history knowledge, or discover if your sweetie is a museum lover. Slowly meander through the exhibits as you chat about one another and the various items on display. Museums or art exhibitions are great because the two of you can still speak to one another while enjoying the stimulating cultural atmosphere. Learn about each other while you share the moment of learning something new.

After you've both exhausted the exhibits, grab your babe and take an urban stroll. Explore the town or city that the museum is located in, or drive to the nearest downtown area to take advantage of what the strip has to offer. Check out the town or city website before you go to find out what is going on in the area. Sometimes, especially in the warmer months, there will be live music or other free events like festivals and street fairs. Aim for your date to be on a day when an event is going on, so as you walk around you can enjoy the sweet sensations of a smooth jazz concert, or share some screams at

a community carnival with your sweetheart. Play it smooth and make it seem like you didn't know the event was going on, it will increase the first date magic and feeling of serendipity. If you live near a historic town, see if you can walk around battlefields or visit houses where important people have lived, like Teddy Roosevelt's house, or where George Washington grew up. This date can take you anywhere; just make sure you both wear sturdy shoes.

Related: [Falling In Love: When to Say the L-Word for the First Time](#)

To end the date, find a place where the two of you can look out over the landscape of the city or town you are in. If you live near the water, head out to a local pier to admire the open ocean. Hold your honey as the sun goes down, or take in the beautiful sight of the moon shining over the scenery. Get a little sentimental with this date ending, it's sure to be a memorable one.

Ever gone "hungry" on a first date? Tell us all about it in the comments below!