

Date Idea: Ice Sculpting Festival



By Samantha Mucha

Do you and your sweetheart enjoy looking at art, or even making your own pieces? If so, take date night to the next level this winter by visiting an ice sculpting festival.

These events typically happen near ski resorts or state parks. Look online to find out if there is one near you. If you and your significant other want to travel and have the budget, make a weekend out of it. It's a breathtaking experience that you will want to see at least once in your lifetime.

The art of ice sculpting is incredible; talented artists are

able to turn a block of ice into castles and mystical creatures of every sort, as well as hundreds of other one-of-a-kind designs. Talk about a romantic winter wonderland. Spending the day walking around one of these festivals can be exciting as a couple. Get up close and check out the intricate details of the masterpieces. Make sure to take your video camera to capture the day for folks back home.

When you're done being in awe of the fantastic artwork, find a cozy spot for dinner. Since you will most likely be traveling, try a local restaurant in the area. On your drive home share your favorite pieces with your mate and compare your thoughts. If you and your beau plan to tie the knot one day, maybe you will stumble upon a design that can be incorporated into your own wedding theme.

Have you ever been to an ice sculpting festival? Tell us where it was and what you thought by commenting below.

Get Back In the Dating Game This New Year





By Shelly Blagg

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

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

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

Keep the conversation light.

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

Be yourself.

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

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

Make the best of it.

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

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

How To Have An Extraordinary Date At The Bookstore



By Alex Karpman

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

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

exploring the travel, architecture, joke and sexuality sections of the bookstore:

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

Datevitation.com is happy to offer free shipping on our books only to CupidsPulse.com readers. Just enter the code – cupid – at the checkout page, and you'll be discounted the \$3.50 that we normally charge for shipping. The free shipping code expires on Dec 15.

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

Advice for Meeting His Parents





By the Editors at JDate.com for GalTime.com

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. That's why making sure you come across as the likable, charming and delightful person you are is so important during an initial meeting, especially when the face-to-face is with the parents of the guy or gal you're dating!

While meeting ma and pa can certainly be intimidating, Rachel Seliger, Community Manager for JDate.com, has five sure-fire tips to guarantee that a meeting with the parental units goes as smoothly as possible. Here's what Rachel told us:

1. Give it a Hot Second: My current boyfriend (who I met on [JDate](http://JDate.com)) introduced me to his parents on the THIRD DATE. He's lucky he's so sweet and that his parents are so great, or it might have been a major red flag! Give your new found love a hot second before you schedule a brunch with mom, dad, grandma or any other member of the family you haven't seen since Independence Day. In fact, you should even go one step further and officially have the "Are we exclusive?" talk before introducing your new partner to any family members.

2. Give Adequate Prep Time: While it's best to wait until you've had "the talk" to meet the parents, you still need to actually tell the person you're dating that you're planning a meet-and-greet. Did I mention that when I met my boyfriend's parents, he didn't tell me where we were going? He said it was a "surprise." That was the understatement of the year! Give your honey time to prepare for the meeting, so they can think about what to say, how to dress and all those important factors.

3. Dress for Success: Luckily I never dress ultra-casual (my go-to "casual" outfit is skinny pants, a silky blouse and statement jewelry), so when I unexpectedly found myself at my boyfriend's parents' house on a Saturday afternoon, I was ready! When dressing for a first date with the parents, you want to dress to fit in, but still show your true personality. Wear something that not only makes you comfortable, but confident as well. The more confident you feel, the less nerve-racking meeting the parents will feel. And it goes without saying that you should NOT wear something that's revealing or suggestive.

4. Come Bearing Gifts: Do not, I repeat, DO NOT show up empty-handed when you meet the parents for the first time. I don't care whether it's a bottle of wine, a bouquet of roses, a small box of chocolates, or even a personalized key-chain (ok, avoid that last one), but you should definitely bring something. Bringing a gift not only shows that you respect your mate's parents and are excited to make this new connection, but you'll also make your own parents proud (and who isn't constantly striving for that?).

5. Seal the Deal: This last tip is the toughest part. By now, you've discussed the meeting, had time to prep, figured out what you'll wear and bought a small gift as a way to say, "Nice to meet you, I'm really into your son/daughter!" Now it's time to put on your game face.

Show up to the meeting on time, be friendly, listen carefully to what both parents are saying, respond with some kind of engaging story of your own and go with the flow. In other words, just be yourself – but be the best version of yourself! Offer to help clear dishes at the end of dinner and remember to say how much you enjoyed yourself at the end of the night, and you won't have to worry about figuring out how you can get that impossible second chance at making a first impression!

How to Find Love Amidst Holiday Craziness



By Courtney Allen & [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

The ever-so jolly holiday season sets the stage for one of the most romantic times of the year. But no worries, single gals and guys! There is more than enough love to go around. Even in the midst of the frantic, last minute gift shopping and preparations for throwing an unforgettable party to kick off the New Year, love is in the air ... and not just for the ones who are taken. The holiday season provides plenty of opportunity to meet a honey just in time to snag a kiss under the mistletoe.

Anything can happen during the holidays, so follow this [relationship advice](#), and keep your eyes and options open for potential love in these places:

1. Christmas party: [Celebrity couples](#) don't have all the fun around the holidays – you can, too! Holiday parties are an absolute must during the Christmas season. Take complete advantage of the endless party invites this year. Throw on a fancy red dress or suit, and go to a Christmas party or two. Make the extra effort to introduce yourself to the attendees. Sip on eggnog, and embrace the holiday spirit with new friends... and maybe even a future date!

Related Link: [Date Idea: Volunteer Together this Holiday Season](#)

2. Speed dating: Speed dating may be year-round, but the holiday season makes the experience extra special and will bring out twice as many people. Take a chance, and explore a new way of meeting potential love interests. You never know who you might meet as you shuffle from table to table, enjoying the company of other singles. If you're worried about

going alone, bring some adventurous friends along for the ride.

3. The mall: There is no place that is packed with tons of people during the holidays quite like the mall. Slow down your hectic Christmas shopping and truly enjoy others around you as they collect items to mark off their own list. Chat with the tall, handsome guy shopping for a Marc Jacobs watch or the sweet brunette bagging your tennis shoes. Love can find you anywhere- even in the mall.

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

4. Singles night: Although you may feel like you're the only one flying solo during the holidays, you're most definitely not. Classy clubs, snazzy lounges, and even church groups often have specific nights dedicated to those who are single and ready to mingle. Grab a few of your girlfriends or best guy friends and have a fun night out with singles just like you.

How do you plan to find love this holiday season? Share your ideas with us!

Lisa Hochstein of 'The Real Housewives of Miami' Says She Is the "Luckiest Girl in the World"



By Michelle Danzig

She's witty, laid-back, and beautiful—and couldn't be a more perfect addition to this season of Bravo's reality show 'The Real Housewives of Miami.' Former playboy and fitness model, 29-year-old Lisa Hochstein absolutely loves being a cast member. In the beginning, it seemed easy to dislike her, as she is the wife of the "Boob God" Dr. Leonard "Lenny" Hochstein and self-proclaimed "best creation" of her husband.

Despite their first impression, everyone was pleasantly surprised to find that she is funny, genuine and the most real of the cast members. Even amidst the telltale drama of the series, Hochstein finds herself very composed. "I have been through so much and have overcome so many of my own personal struggles and bad situations. So I just roll with it," she says lightheartedly. "It doesn't affect me because it is nothing compared to what I've seen in my past."

Hochstein, however, is not one to stand back when she is being disrespected. During our interview, she mentioned her lavish and infamous lingerie party to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure when two of the housewives got into a heated discussion that ultimately got physical. "When [the two women] almost destroyed my party for my charity and the music went off, that just set me off," she says "I was at my breaking point." Despite that particular incident, she still stands by her calm, cool and collected persona. "If you're going to get angry and lose it, it needs to be something worth it," she says. "There is no sense in getting premature gray hairs over this stuff."

Despite some choices that the viewers might find to be poor decisions, Hochstein doesn't have any regrets about her behavior on the show. In a recent episode, when a fight erupted at Thomas Kramer's dinner party, she was ridiculed for getting up on the table and dancing for the guests – on a stripper pole – in an attempt to lighten the mood. In the middle of the chaos, Hochstein managed to make everyone laugh. "I'm silly; I'm fun," she says. "I'm spur-of-the-moment, and if something comes to my mind, I'll do it."

Hochstein says that what people didn't see on television was that, after the incident, she invited the rest of the ladies at the party to join her on the table to dance. Sticking with her no regrets mantra, she says, "I don't think I did anything inappropriate, and my husband didn't mind."

That is exactly what she loves about her man. "He accepts everything about me," she explains. "I'm a little crazy; I'm a little out there. I like to have a good time, and I like to dance. I entertain him. There is never a dull moment with me. I think that's why he is so in love with me. I always have something outrageous to say, and I make him laugh."

Although the drama may affect the relationships of some of the other wives, Hochstein says that her marriage to Lenny has not

changed at all. “We are the same couple we’ve always been. He’s proud of me and all of the things that I’m trying to accomplish.” The couple just celebrated their three-year anniversary back in October – “That’s a big accomplishment in Miami,” Hochstein jokes.

Related Link: [QuickieChick’s Video Dating Tips: Why Hating Your Body is Destroying Your Love Life](#)

Since being on the show, Hochstein finds that people tend to misunderstand her relationship with her husband. She believes the opening line of the show has caused this issue. “He didn’t create me; he fixed a bad boob job,” she says. “It was a joke that was taken out of context.” In truth, her relationship with her husband isn’t about plastic surgery at all.

In their free time, the happily-married pair love to walk their dogs on the beach, travel and ski. They also love to go out to dinner or a club, watch movies and just hang out in bed together. This housewife knows the importance of continuing to “date” your partner, even after you get married. “Having a date night at least once a week is so important to your relationship because you can get off track,” she says. “A date night will feel like you’re courting each other again.” She also recommends taking an annual vacation with your significant other. “We go to Europe every summer. I think the alone time is extremely important.”

Related Link: [Tips to Keep Things Exciting with a Date Night at Home](#)

Her best piece of relationship advice, though, is one that she learned from her mother. “Never go to bed angry,” she recommends. “I’m a firm believer in that.”

While Hochstein is working to promote herself and the show, her husband is constantly maintaining his growing practice. Although it has been “crazy busy,” they are both loving it. It may be hard to find time for each other these days, but the

reality star says that she and her husband are still madly in love with each other. "My husband is young, hot, sexy and smart," she exclaims. "I am the luckiest girl in the world."

Tune into Bravo on Thursdays at 9/8c for 'The Real Housewives of Miami.' Keep an eye out for a skin care line and fitness supplement line from Lisa Hochstein sometime next year. You can also follow her on Twitter at @LisaHochstein

Date Idea: Go Holiday Shopping Together



By Samantha Mucha

This holiday season get your shopping done early. Turn this chore into a date and take your sweetheart with you. Doing this tedious task will be exponentially more romantic if you accomplish it together.

Make a list for both of you and see what you can tackle as a team. Both of your mothers will love new pajama and slipper sets, and both of your fathers will both enjoy ties, all from the same department store. Map your route before you hit the mall to ensure you have the smoothest shopping experience. Keep the romance strong and keep the arguing to a minimum!

Since this will most likely be a full day event be sure to feed your man so that he doesn't become agitated and ruin the day. Make pit stops at Starbucks and the food court throughout the day. Don't worry about the calories because all of that walking and bag carrying will burn them off.

Try to get as much shopping done as possible. However, don't buy your partner's gift in front of him. Let it be a surprise. The plus side of shopping early together is seeing what catches your beau's eye. Stop by your significant other's favorite store and see what they drool over. At a later date sneak back to the mall and pick it up for them.

Don't let shopping all day become stressful. Take your lover by the hand, take on the mall while emptying your pockets for the sake of romance.

Argo Style Study: How to Get

Affleck's '70s Look



By Ben Holbrook

It's been a while since Ben Affleck's overly-chiselled jaw has graced the big screen, and his latest movie, *Argo*, is a far cry from his days as a blind *Daredevil*. Affleck directed, produced and gave himself the lead role in this CIA action thriller, set in the late '70s. Whether it'll win him another Oscar (yes, he got one for *Good Will Hunting*) is not for us to say, but there's no doubt that men across the world be looking for ways to get that bold, but subtle, cop-about-town look. Here are a few of the vital ingredients:

Herringbone Jackets – The Essential Chevron Weave



Throughout the movie, and the late '70s, Herringbone suits and jackets can be seen almost exclusively. Herringbone gives a smart but down to earth kind of feel, and practical for day-to-day wear. For a more modern vibe take note of the lapels; the larger they the more you'll look like one of Starsky and Hutch's friends. Of course, if you are really trying to nail that '70s look – the bigger the better!

Related Link: [What to Wear to Meet His Family](#)

Where to find them?

Most menswear stores will have a good selection of Herringbone jackets, although full suits can be harder to find. For the real deal, check out your local charity shops and vintage stalls who will carry a small but authentic range of jackets.

Flannel Shirts

For the casual look, worn without a tie, you want earth-toned flannel shirts – don't be afraid of the washed out look. Darker colours give more of a '70s vibe, but you can wear brighter colors for a more modern look. Affleck also dons another classic style of the era: the denim shirt.

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

Where to find them?

With recent revival (some say saturation) of the good old-fashioned worker's shirt, authentic-looking flannel shirts can be bought from all menswear stores. You can also get the vintage look by buying them secondhand from your local charity

shop or vintage clothing stalls where you'll find them in bulk and at rock-bottom prices. There are also specialist stores on ebay that sell a mix of new and vintage designs.

Chunky Ties

Forget skinny ties, after watching Argo men will be delving back into their father's wardrobes, digging out the chunky styles of the '70s and early '80s. Heavy fabrics and simple colours added to a simple shirt with (optional) large collar, there's nothing that says "I'm in charge" quite like these bad boys!

Where to find them?

Have a look in your father/grandfather's wardrobe, no doubt they'll have plenty in the style you are after. If not, check out charity stores that will sell them off for next to nothing, or check out a car boot sale. They don't really make them like this anymore, so you'll need to buy vintage to get the right look.

'70s/Argo Style Tips:

- Don't ruin the look by wearing a modern, brightly coloured watch. Instead, make sure to wear something complimentary, perhaps with a silver or gold strap.
- Brown or black leather shoes will work well with these simple fabrics, Ben Affleck wears a brown pair of cowboy boots with his more causal outfits.
- Dark denim jeans work perfectly with herringbone jackets and a slight flair at the bottom will finish off the '70s vibe.

Ben Holbrook is a fashion writer for Miinto, where you can find fashion inspiration and designs from fashion boutiques across Europe.

5 Bachelor and Bachelorette Couples We Can Learn From



By Sara Dawkins

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ali Fedotowsky and Roberto Martinez: Ugh. This one was a tough one to get over. Not only were Ali and Roberto cute together,

but they actually seemed to be happy in front of cameras. After 18 months they decided to call off the engagement and end their relationship. **Lesson: Pretty people break up, too. Also as much as you want it to work out, sometimes it just doesn't.**

Charlie O'Connell and Sarah Brice: This is an oldie, but a goodie. And yes, Charlie is bro's with actor Jerry. Charlie chose blonde bombshell Sarah way back in 2006 and they broke up in 2007. They got back together in 2008 and then after 5 years, called it off again. It was a mutual break up, as they were both citing they fought over the same things the first and second time around. Who knows, maybe the third time's the charm? **Lesson: You break up the first time for a reason, don't forget why.**

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

Why You Shouldn't Buy Her a Ring for the Holidays





By Marina Sbrochi for GalTime.com

Hey, guys: Do you feel pressured by all the engagement ring ads you see on TV, billboards, radio and magazines? If you don't cough up two months' salary are you less than a man? Is someone putting the high pressure on you to get her a ring for the holidays? Are her parents giving you the stink eye every time you come over and don't ask her father for her hand? Is she dropping hints like, "I really like round diamonds better than emerald cut, you know, in case you were wondering."

Here are three reasons to skip the little velvet box presentation at Christmas, Hanukkah, at a big family gathering, over hot cocoa, on New Year's, while ice skating or on a carriage ride through the city.

1. Diamonds shouldn't be produced out of pressure

NEVER EVER EVER do anything because you feel pressured to do it! You don't **need** to buy anyone a ring. Are you feeling the pressure because you are inundated with ads telling you that you would be a lesser man if you didn't come through with the latest four stone, fancy cut engagement ring this year?

They've got your number my friend. They know your girlfriend is watching. They know she looks at those beautiful rings in the magazines that she ever so "carefully" leaves open on the table.

You only buy someone a ring if they are the love of your life. You only buy them a ring if can't live without them. Then and only then do you put your hard earned cash down for an engagement ring.

I won't even go into the fact that diamonds aren't rare and they are crazy overpriced. That's another story.

2. Holiday engagements are so cliché

A ring for the holidays is so predictable. Be original, dude. If she really is the love of your life, make the engagement a surprise! Don't give it as a holiday gift. Don't be cheap and think, *"Hey, I was going to buy her a ring anyway, might as well make it a gift and I don't have to give her something else."* Don't be that guy. Step outside the box and put yourself in her shoes. She's seen the ads, she wants something special. Pick some time when she really won't expect it and make it memorable. Remember, it is not to be combined with another gift or event 00 so her birthday is off limits, too.

3. Timing is everything (and nothing)

Most woman have a magic number in their heads of how long they will wait until the ultimatum pops out. For some it is a year, some three years. I say phooey! Let me explain: I definitely think you need to date someone for at least a year at a minimum before you even think about marriage.

However, there is no magic number to feel like you want to spend the rest of your life with someone. If you aren't feeling it by year two, she probably isn't it for you. Just because you have dated for two years does not mean you have to

come up with a ring. This is the completely wrong reason! If she doesn't do it for you – do her a favor and break up with her. No one wants to be a consolation prize.

That being said, if she is the love of your life and it's going on five years and she wants to get married but you aren't feeling the ring, you need to ask yourself why. Do you *not* want to be married? That's cool, if she's cool with it. But if she isn't, and you still feel she is the one, there are definitely bigger issues at hand. Seek some professional help to sort it out.

I'm not against engagement or marriage or this whole ring thing. I am against doing it for the wrong reasons. If you feel forced or pressured, you may end up with divorce papers and that ring will be at the pawn shop. Do both of yourselves a favor and propose **ONLY** if she is the love of your life!

Did you get engaged at the holidays? Would you advise it to someone else? Share your comments below.

5 Reasons Why Men Are Attracted to Celeb Bad Girls





By Joshua Pompey

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

Why Celeb Bad Girls

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. The attitude: The way a female carries herself can work wonders for her appeal. An average looking woman can become

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

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

Does it Matter How Old You Are When Your Parents Divorce?





By Jane Greer, PhD for GalTime.com

jessica simpson's parents file for divorce

Tina and Joe Simpson, parents to pop stars Jessica and Ashlee, have filed for divorce after 34 years of marriage, citing "discord or conflict of personalities." There have been rumors that Joe had an affair with a young man, though the couple denied any third-party complications, saying it was an amicable split.

Whatever the reason, whenever there are children involved – even grown children – it is hard not to wonder how the kids are taking it. Jessica Simpson has said she is [sad](#), but remains focused on the priorities of her own life – raising her new baby Maxwell and managing her post-partum weight loss. Ashlee has not yet spoken publicly about her parents' split.

We all can appreciate the enormity of divorce, and the toll it takes on everyone involved, especially the children. With that in mind, it is easy to understand why sometimes parents who are unhappy make it a priority to stay together while the children are young, raising them as a unit until they reach

adulthood, before they make the move to break up. The idea, or hope, is that if they wait until their children have their own lives with their own careers and families, then maybe the divorce won't have such a big impact. Maybe it will be just a small blip on their radar screens.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS AN ADULT WHEN YOUR PARENTS DIVORCE

While it might be true that, as an older person, you are better equipped to deal with that sort of emotional trauma. It also may be true that you are not dependent on your parents in the same way a young child is. However, it doesn't minimize the fact that the family you have always known, the image of which you carried around with you your whole life, no longer exists.

Whatever age you might be when a divorce occurs, it is likely that you will have a strong reaction to it. After all, it is the demise of the family you knew as a child from which you drew much of your emotional security. At the very least, you can expect it to be jarring. You may go through a potpourri of feelings, beginning with a sense of abandonment because the parents you've counted on are no longer there for you as a team. You may also feel rejected, taking their decision personally, and wonder if your mother and father don't love you enough to stay together. You might even feel betrayed, and want to blame either one or both of them. Ironically, if your parents had an extremely contentious or stormy marriage, you might even find yourself feeling relieved that they are getting divorced, and then guilty for feeling that way.

HOW TO COPE

Make room for the idea that your parents' divorce – no matter how old you are – can have a big impact on you. Increasing your self-awareness can help you cope so you can handle the negative feelings and keep them from spilling over into your own relationships.

Be patient with yourself and your parents, recognizing that it is their marriage and, no matter how close you might be, it is impossible to fully comprehend what goes on between two people unless you are one of them. Remember that your parents don't have a problem with you or with the family as a whole, but some unresolvable problem with each other. With that in mind, you will hopefully be able to side step the blame, and avoid being forced to take sides or being pulled into their battle.

Finally, determine the sort of relationship you want to maintain with each of your parents separate from the anger and animosity that is going on between them.

It is still so early for Jessica and Ashlee to process their feelings about their parents' divorce. But hopefully, they will be able to move forward without losing too much, and be able to hold onto what is important to them. And if your parents are separated, divorcing or apart, here's hoping you have the support to move on, too.

10 Reasons Women Stay in Bad Relationships





By Jennifer Harrington

Everyone knows the oldies song that proclaims “breaking up is hard to do”, but do you ever wonder why some women stay in bad relationships, rather than breaking up and starting over? Look no further than Hollywood to identify some of the most common reasons women don’t kiss Mr. Wrong goodbye:

Related Link: [Breaking Up Without Breaking Down](#)

1. She fears being single. *Esquire* Magazine’s 2011 Sexiest Woman Alive, Rihanna, has publicly admitted she hates the single life and it’s “overrated”. She’s made it no secret that she’s looking for that special guy to share her life with. While Rihanna may claim she is not enjoying her time unattached, after her disastrous relationship with Chris Brown, it seems she is taking some time out of the dating game to have fun and heal.

2. She doesn’t want to face the stigma of divorce. After being married for two decades, there’s no question that Robyn Gibson knew about some of the problems her husband, Mel Gibson, was facing. Mel has notably dealt with alcohol abuse, an arrest

for driving under the influence, and publicized racist remarks. Despite all of these warning signs, Robyn stood by her man until 2006 when they filed for divorce. Knowing what Mel put her through, one can only wonder if she stayed with him so long because for the sake of their seven children and their strong Catholic faith, which discourages divorce.

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

3. She wants children. Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux recently announced their engagement, which means everybody will be watching for Jennifer's baby bump in the coming months. A victim of constant pregnancy speculation over the past several years, Jennifer has shared that in regards to having a baby, "I still kind of go with, if it happens, it happens. I'm calm and peaceful with whatever the plan is. It's not something where I'm going, 'I gotta have a kid!'" Given she's 43, time will tell if Jennifer is tying the knot with Justin for true love or for babies.

4. She doesn't want to hurt her partner. Vanessa Paradis and Johnny Depp, while never married, enjoyed a long romantic relationship and became raised two children together. The couple has gone their separate ways. Vanessa still speaks glowingly of her former partner and it's apparent the love between these two was real, but given Johnny has been living for the bachelor for some time now, it's likely there was something very off-track in this relationship. Ultimately, Vanessa has decided that "Love is the strongest and most fragile thing we have in life. Nothing is ever for sure, but when something in love doesn't work from the beginning, it's never going to work. Don't push it."

5. She doesn't want to hurt her children. Several years ago, everybody watched as the relationship between Kate and Jon Gosselin crumbled. Any viewer of the hit television show Jon and Kate Plus Eight could tell trouble had been brewing between these two for some time. No doubt that raising eight

small children is difficult, but between Kate's belittling of Jon and Jon's playboy ways, divorce was inevitable. Kate has acknowledged her biggest fear about the divorce was being a single parent and hurting her children.

6. She thinks things will get better. Kourtney Kardashian's relationship with longtime boyfriend Scott Disick has been marked by Scott's excessive drinking and partying, and the couple's hesitancy to marry. In fact, in 2011, Kourtney shared with People magazine that she thinks Scott is "the one", but she is not "100 percent" yet. Scott has sought professional help for his alcohol abuse issues, and recently the couple welcomed their second child, daughter Penelope Scotland. It seems that Kourtney is hoping that Scott's wild days are behind him!

7. She thinks she won't find anybody better. It's hard to imagine what attracted Angelina Jolie to Billy Bob Thornton, but during the course of their three-year marriage, indulged frequently in public displays of affection, and even wore vials of each other's blood as necklaces. They ultimately split because they had different ideas of how they wanted to live; Angelina is a well-known globetrotter and Billy Bob is a homebody. When they split, they had just adopted son Maddox from Cambodia. Assuming the role of a single parent must have been scary for Angelina, but just one year later, Angelina met Brad Pitt met Brad Pitt, and the rest is history!

8. She labels herself as part of the problem. The late Whitney Houston and ex-husband Bobby Brown dealt with alcohol and drug abuse in the media spotlight. Many people blamed Bobby for introducing Whitney to drugs, but in an interview with ABC News, Bobby said "I wasn't the one who got Whitney on drugs". The 15-year marriage was violent at times, and Whitney shared with Oprah Winfrey in 2009 that, "He was my drug. I didn't do anything without him. I wasn't getting high by myself. It was me and him together, and we were partners, and that's what my high was—him. He and I being together, and whatever we did, we

did it together. No matter what, we did it together." It's hard to imagine that Whitney didn't blame herself for some of the problems in her marriage.

9. She doesn't have the frame of reference to understand healthy relationships. Britney Spears became a major international pop star when she was just a teenager. It's no surprise that her twenties were marked by increasingly erratic behavior and two short-lived marriages. However, Britney has spent the past several years living a much more low-key lifestyle, focusing on her duties as a mother to her two small sons. She's also enjoyed a long courtship with now-fiance, Jason Trawick. It seems the past decade has taught Britney a lot about life and love!

10. She feels pressure to make it work. It seems the relationship between Kim Kardashian and Kanye West is on the fast-track. Kim is only 31, but she has two failed marriages behind her (as well as many ex-boyfriends). Kim's 2011 marriage to Kris Humphries was widely criticized when she announced plans to divorce just 72 days after the lavish wedding ceremony. Many declared the nuptials were just a publicity stunt. If the romance between Kim and Kanye continues, Kim will likely feel pressured to make a real commitment this time around (it helps that Kim and Kanye were friends before dating!).

What other celebrities can you think of that have stayed in bad relationships for too long? Share your comments below.

E! 's Newly-Engaged Ashlan

Gorse May Head Back to France for Wedding to Philippe Cousteau Jr.



By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

You may recognize Ashlan Gorse as a correspondent and fill-in anchor on E! News or the new face of Murad Skincare, but lately, she's jumping into a different role: fiancé. Last month, her boyfriend of two years, Philippe Cousteau Jr., proposed on top of the George V Hotel in Paris.

"I was totally surprised!," Gorse says of the romantic proposal. "Our friend, Jeff Leatham, is the artistic director for the hotel, and he decked out the roof with candles and flowers. Just before the stroke of 10 p.m., Philippe snuck me

up there and proposed while the Eiffel Tower sparkled in the background.”



Of course, the famous landmark wasn't the only thing sparkling that night. Cousteau popped the question with an engagement ring he designed with the help of jeweler Jorge Adeler. Considering how shocked she was at the proposal, Gorse had no input when it came to her ring. However, Cousteau did keep her opinion in mind. “I had shown him a vintage oval ring that I loved a while back,” she shares. “He used that ring when designing mine but made it his own.”

She adds, “Honestly, it's more beautiful and more perfect than any ring I've ever seen.”

The couple met in 2010 at an environmental event where Cousteau was giving a speech. Gorse knew right away that they had something special. “I called my sister the next day and told her, ‘I think I just met the man I'm going to marry.’”

Related Link: [‘I See Your Soul Mate’: Sue Frederick Discusses How to Find the Love of Your Life](#)

Given their successful careers and busy schedules, they've had to make an effort to ensure that they get to spend time together. Of their long-distance relationship – Gorse has to be in Los Angeles during the week, and Cousteau often travels for work – the entertainment journalist says, “It's not always easy, but you make it work. Philippe always comes home to me in between expeditions, speeches and meetings, and we are

usually together two or three weeks each month.”

Keeping a long-distance love going can be challenging, but Gorse believes that “if it’s meant to be, you’ll make sacrifices to see each other.” When she and Cousteau are apart, they talk, text and e-mail all day long – “unless, of course, Philippe is off somewhere like the Arctic.”

When they’re lucky enough to be in the same place, they always make time for just the two of them. “Philippe is the most romantic person I’ve ever met or even heard of!,” Gorse shares. “Our favorite nights are at home, cooking together or sitting in the backyard with our dog.”

Her go-to date with her fiancé is just as low-key as those relaxing nights at home: a simple picnic, something they can do “on the beach, in the hills or just around the corner.” She’s even got a menu planned: two really good cheeses, apples, radishes, cherry tomatoes, grapes, a baguette, butter and salt along with a half bottle of white wine and a half bottle of red wine.

“It doesn’t really matter where we are as long as we’re together,” she adds.

Now, in their limited time together, they have a wedding to plan. They’ve started to kick around some ideas: “We want to get married in France at a vintage estate. We want to have a fun three- or four-day party with our family and friends and lots of great wine.”

We all look to celebrities for ideas and inspiration – especially when it comes to weddings – and given her line of work, Gorse is no different. She thinks Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds as well as Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied did a great job of making their big day personal, something that she hopes to emulate with her own wedding. “I really want to make the day about me and Philippe, so we are going to make everything as meaningful as possible to us and our guests.”

Related Link: [Why Fans Are Obsessed with the Love Lives of Celebrities](#)

While it's easy to get caught up in craziness of their daily lives or the many details of wedding planning, Gorse keeps what is most important in mind. "We both know how truly blessed we are to have found each other, and we cherish every moment we have together, especially the little ones," she shares.

You can catch Ashlan Gorse on E! News or keep up with her on Twitter at @AshlanGorse and Facebook.

Date Idea: Rent a Cabin for the Weekend





By Samantha Mucha

Take advantage of the weekend and escape the chaos of holiday shopping by renting a nice, quiet, cozy, cabin in the middle of the woods. There's nothing more romantic than cozing up with your sweetheart as you sit alone by the fire in the wilderness?

Put the city noise and stress of the up-coming holidays behind you and escape. A cabin gives you the chance to live simply for a weekend and who better to enjoy the relaxation with than your lover.

If you do your research, you may be able to find a good deal. Remember more than just retail stores go on sale during the holidays. Better yet, ask your friends for advice and see if they know anyone who has a cabin that they won't be using for the weekend.

If it's too costly for this time of year, invite another couple to join in the festivities for an added dose of fun. Although it may not be as romantic as you originally planned it's often more entertaining to share the experience with

close friends, especially when you are alone in the woods with nobody else around. It will also help cut down on costs.

If you're with another couple, you can play games together or have a spooky story night by the fire while you're roasting marshmallows. Go back to simpler times and play cards, and do other things you did as a child, this will allow your significant other to reminisce about the childhood that they may not have been around to share with you.

Have fun doing next to nothing and be sure to keep your mind away from the stress of going back home. Enjoy the company of your partner and the silence of the woods.

Have you ever rented a cabin or went camping? What did you think about the experience?

ShrinkWrap: Has Your Relationship Hit a Speed Bump?





By Jane Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime

catching the clues that something is off

Not all roads to romance offer a clear ride. Sometimes the signs are harder to read than others. As Emily Maynard, this season's Bachelorette, handed out roses, the message was pretty clear: stay or go. But short of gathering for the ABC show's famous rose ceremony, is it possible to miss the message? Might an important lane shift have taken place that you somehow didn't notice? And what can you do to protect yourself against the turbulence of an unexpectedly bumpy ride?

Take Lucy, for example. She was dating a guy named Adam with the usual excitement and reservation that comes at the start of any promising possibility. But Adam took off, gaining speed faster than she expected: telling her how much he liked her, wanting her to meet his friends, and calling and texting all the time. Since she liked him, too, she joined in and went along for the ride. Before she knew it, though, she was ahead of him, and he had slowed down, suddenly saying he couldn't keep up with her expectations. Because he continued to stay

connected, she didn't realize what that might mean. So she kept going at the same momentum. And then she didn't hear from him. That was two weeks ago.

She was angry, and didn't understand what had happened. How can you make sure you don't get ahead of the relationship, particularly if one person is coming on strong? Before you let yourself go full-steam ahead, you might want to build in a few speed bumps for yourself. There are some people who jump into a relationship fast, and then want out fast, and you want to protect yourself from getting too attached if there is the chance that person could burn out.

You can do that by being aware of when and how much of your feelings you share. If they say they like you, you can reciprocate with an, "I like you too, let's see where this goes." If they want you to meet their friends, suggest you get to know each other a little better first. Build a foundation under the two of you before getting carried away.

When Adam told Lucy he couldn't keep up with her, it was the equivalent of the Bachelorette's not offering a rose. It just took her a little while to realize it, and by then she was halfway down the highway and looking forward to the road trip. Once you're there, it's harder to come back.

Questions You Should Never Ask on Thanksgiving





By Piper Weiss for Yahoo! Shine

Thanksgiving is a high school reunion for relatives. Everyone gathers together to reflect on where they've been, how far they've come, and how much better or worse they're doing than before. It's a Butterball of nerves, particularly when you factor in Thanksgiving other high-stakes ingredients: the doomsday traffic, the one crazy relative who shows up and does his/her crazy thing, the underlying family feuds, the love, the all-day drinking, the hunger – the extreme hunger! – for the perpetually “almost-ready” turkey, and those ghosts of holidays past. The result is a minefield of emotions and the reason family baggage has become such a cliché. We've all got it, and we bring it to the table on Thanksgiving. All it takes is a seemingly innocuous question to snap that luggage right open and turn dinner into a Eugene O'Neill play. To bypass such family drama, avoid asking the following questions – or answering them.

Don't ask: “What happened with that guy you brought last year?”

Unless you want to hear: “We were both in different places in our lives, and he’s ‘doing him’ right now...but I guess I do feel like it’s weird (voice-cracking) being back this year without him...I’m sorry, I don’t know why I’m crying, I’m actually totally fine with things.” Please, distant relatives, do not interpret this reaction to mean she’s been wanting to share this news with you. It’s just that you’ve ripped the wound open again. Nice.

Along those lines don’t ask: “So...when is the baby/ring coming?”

Unless you want to hear: “Ha! Who knows?” (And then, in a whisper directed at someone else] “Can we switch seats?”

Don’t ask: “Why don’t we go help mom cleanup?”

Unless you want to hear (and you don’t): “Why, because we’re women? Mom may still embrace a hegemonic gender construct, but now that I’m out on my own, I’m making my own choices.

Don’t ask: “Will you marry me?”

Unless you want to hear: that crazy relative answer first and kill the mood. Contrary to what rom-coms will have you believe, Thanksgiving dinner is not ideal for super romantic moments. See the next question for more information...

Don’t ask: “Where’s the bathroom?”

Unless you want to: go to the guest bathroom, which by the end of the night is a devastated war-zone with a vigil candle. (Pumpkin spice!) Instead, just slip away when nobody’s paying attention and wander into the perfectly untarnished master bathroom oasis. There is your sanctuary of tinctures, furry toilet seating and trivia almanacs. You’ve got about 20 minutes until people start asking where you went.

And finally, don’t ask: “Where did you go for so long?”

Unless you want to: embarrass someone who just spent the past 20 minutes in a bathroom.

Leaving Your Mark: Celebs Who Profess Their Love with Tattoos



By Nic Baird

The rich and famous get tattoos for the same reasons as everyone else: They're about self-expression and an unchanging reminder in a changing life. A celebrity's brand is their

image, and that's often something to consider when deciding between Mike Tyson's tribal face design or Drew Barrymore's navel butterfly. While we common folk might get a little attention for a bold new tat, it doesn't compare to the [celebrity news](#) created by famous new ink. Here are some of the reasons celebs get tattoos. For the most part, they're not that different from anyone else!

Celebs And Their Ink

1. Self-expression: Maybe our expectations of rock stars like Amy Winehouse push artists to mark themselves as such. Music superstars seem like credible artists with some eye-catching body art. *Rock Of Love 2* runner-up Daisy de la Hoya was a human canvas. Her iconic three-quarter sleeve led to her own dating spin-off show and attracted the attention of heavily painted rocker Tommy Lee. The bottom line is that whether it's for the fans or for themselves, real rock stars get ink.

Related Link: [LeAnn Rimes Announce Love for Eddie Cibrian with a New Tattoo](#)

2. Proof of change: [Miley Cyrus](#) went under the needle again last month to get a Teddy Roosevelt quote on her wrist. She may be trying to remind us that she isn't 14-year-old Hannah Montana anymore but instead a more serious – or at least more tattooed – adult celeb. Actress [Angelina Jolie](#), who seems to be the lead celebrity spokesperson for tattoos, described them to *USA Today* as “something permanent when you've made a self-discovery, or something you've come to a conclusion about.” Just as a serial killer might etch the names of victims into his skin, you can record important life events by marking the occasion on your body. Jolie takes this to a whole new level.

3. Memory makers: Fond memories and self-discovery inspired Jolie to collect at least 14 tattoos over the years. Her body

is a map of her life. A Buddhist Pali incantation to protect her adopted Cambodian child sits on her left shoulder blade. All six of her children have a place beside it on her shoulder where geographical coordinates represent their scattered birthplaces. Jolie says she uses body art to remember the good times. When it comes to relationships and love, a lot of celebrities are guilty of this celebratory use of ink.

Tattoos For Celebrity Couples

4. For love: In fact, Jolie's infectious love of tattoos has spread to husband Brad Pitt. He's been marked with his celebrity loves' birthday in Khmer script on his chest. Thankfully, tattoos are not really all that permanent for those who can afford to get them removed. Jolie knows this because she was able to laser off three pieces of Billy Bob Thornton memorabilia and a Japanese symbol on her arm she had shared with Johnny Lee Miller. She also covered several others; after all, not everyone is comfortable sporting memories of their celebrity exes! Rocker Avril Lavigne shares four matching tats with her former boyfriend, reality TV's Brody Jenner, including his name under her right breast. And she's still hanging on to two with ex-husband Deryck Whibley of Sum 41, despite being engaged to Nickelback's Chad Kroeger.

Related Link: [Angelina Jolie's Tattoo Is 'for Brad'](#)

5. Brand billboard: While it's clear that celebs mostly get tattoos for all the usual, relatable reasons, there are exceptions. Pop icon Lady Gaga is blurring the line between self-expression and self-marketing. Recently, she gave her nearly 29 million Twitter followers and 53 million Facebook fans a look at her tenth tattoo. A picture showed ARTPOP printed along her wrist, which was also revealed as the title of her upcoming album. The confidence is admirable at the very least.

The only problem after getting inked up is regret. People

change, but tattoos don't. It seems ironic to commemorate something as fleeting as a celebrity couple with something as lasting as a tattoo. But artists at every level have always been attracted to body art. For Gaga's sake though, ARTPOP better not bomb.

What are some unforgettable tattoos that you've seen? Comment below.

Living Your Best [Single] Life



By Eleanore Wells

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

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

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

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

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

or discussing it with my husband— if someone rings me up and says “join me”.

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

2. Have Adventure. Pushing the “freedom” thing a bit, I recommend adventure...pushing the envelope...stepping out of your comfort zone from time to time. I want to make sure that I can look back at my life when I’m 90 and say “well done, girlie.” Being single means it’s okay to indulge in a few unconventional behaviors on occasion. I quit my corporate job and started my own company before I had a client, I found myself in the hotel room of an A-List actor, and I took off for a two-week trip to Europe alone after thinking about it for just a week. Had I not been single, these actions could have seemed a bit irresponsible. Instead, they were just fun.

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

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

My hope is to remind every unmarried woman out there that her life should be celebrated. There is something empowering and rather brave about not marrying or having children if you’re not 100% sure. Admittedly, some single women wish they were married, but since they’re not at the moment, I’d like them to

focus on what's good in their lives. A spinster may or may not eventually marry but, in the meantime, she certainly owes herself a great life.

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

"No More Duck Lips!" And Other Dating Profile Rules



By Luba Tolkachyov, from GalTime.com

how to make your online dating profile stand out

Finding that special someone can be frustrating, and many people use online dating and matchmaking sites to open up doors to new possibilities. There are literally millions of people out there looking for their soulmates, and an online profile might help them find you!

Here are some tips on how you can maximize your profile – and find someone great.

LOVE ISN'T ALWAYS SIMPLE, BUT YOUR DATING PROFILE SHOULD BE

Writing your online profile shouldn't feel like a college assignment. It should be a brief, natural extension of your own personality. A lot of people are reading dozens of profiles, so you want to communicate who you are as quickly as possible. Help your readers learn whether they have something in common with you as easily as possible.

When you're sharing information, simply ask yourself, "Can I sum this up in five words?" Most likely, you can and should; the second readers see you've written a short novel about yourself, they'll lose interest and move on.

You also want to keep in mind that dating is supposed to be fun! If it starts to feel like a job that's weighing you down and stressing you out, you need to change your attitude and approach it differently. Keeping it simple will help you spend less time overanalyzing things – and give you more time to meet people.

SHOW THE REAL YOU

Honesty is key. Online profiles are meant to lead to meeting people in person. If you're not honest in your profile, you won't have good experiences meeting people face to face.

Chemistry is something we all want, but it develops when you interact directly, not when you read about each other. The more accurate and true the online version of yourself is, the more likely you are to click with someone who's drawn in by your profile.

You also want to be approached by people who share your objectives, so if you're looking for marriage, say so! There's no reason to beat around the bush. I would hate to end up on a date with a nice, attractive, funny man I could fall in love with, only to find out he's not interested in falling in love as well.

SAY CHEESE!

The picture you choose for your profile is just as important as the words you write. Select one that clearly shows your face. Avoid group shots, since it makes it difficult for those browsing your profile to know which person you are. It also can imply that you're being misleading and want other users to assume you're the most attractive person in the photo – whomever the viewer might deem that to be!

And please stay away from clichés. Duck lips, cleavage shots, and photos of you hanging on others don't help you stand out. They just make you look tacky. You want a picture that's flattering and looks like the real you, not a gimmick.

LEAVE SOMETHING TO THE IMAGINATION

Of course, everyone is displaying her best side on an online profile, but don't feel a need to put every single positive detail about yourself on there. You want to make sure you include enough in your profile to describe yourself well and honestly, but you still want to have something to talk about when you meet.

Keep any emails and chats short. If you think you like the person, take it offline and meet for a date to get to know the real him. Remember, dating is about face-to-face interaction!

The dating world can be complex and intimidating, but setting up an online profile is an easy, wonderful way to start meeting new people. Keep your profile simple and honest, and online dating will be a fun adventure. (If nothing else, you'll have some great stories to share.) You never know – you just might find what (or who) you're looking for!

‘Breaking Dawn Part 2’: The ‘Twilight’ Finale Is Finally Here



By Nicole Weintraub

The long awaited conclusion to the *Twilight* saga has finally arrived with the final installment of *Breaking Dawn Part 2*. Who else is not jumping in their seat from sheer anticipation? Real life couple Kristen Stewart and Rob Pattinson reunite on the big screen as Bella Swan and Edward Cullen. In the first part of the last installment, our favorite vampire and human couple tied the knot. Low and behold somehow Bella became pregnant and in order to save both her life and their baby's life, Edward turned her into a vampire. Now, officially a Cullen and a vampire, Bella will stand by Edward through thick and thin to protect her new family and new husband. The Volturi, the official authority of vampires, has learned of the birth of a half human half-vampire child and fears for the safety of vampires as a whole. They seek out to destroy the child, but the Cullens stand together and will fight before they let that happen. In the epic conclusion of the *Twilight* series, the Cullens will rally troops to go head to head against the Volturi to protect all that they love. Ashley Greene, Nikki Reed, Jackson Rathbone and Kellan Lutz return as the Cullens. You won't want to miss this as, it already hit theaters November 16th.

Related Link: [‘Smashed’: A Lesson Learned](#)

Should You See It: Is that even a serious question? Who has not been waiting for this release since the original movie of *Twilight* hit theatres? Not only will this be the first onscreen appearance for the real life couple of Stewart and Pattinson since their break up and rekindling, but also it will be the last time to see our favorite couple of Bella and Edward. The trailer alone sends chills down your spine and lures you in just a bit closer to the screen, wanting to watch the entire movie.

Who To Take: Anyone! It has action and gore for the boys while still having all of that romance and vampire glamour for the girls. Go with a parent, girlfriends or your partner. Just

make sure to make it known that you will not stand for talking or kissing during the movie; this is a movie you will not want to miss a second of after all the waiting you have done.

Related Link: [The Upcoming Movie 'The Oranges' Will Have You Laughing Hysterically](#)

In the trailer, not only does your heart start pumping but we are also given a glimpse into the lives of Bella and Edward Cullen as a newly married couple of the same species. In the last movie we were introduced to the couple as an official husband and wife, but not as a vampire husband and a vampire wife. The two seem to be closer than ever as Edward explains that the two are now the same temperatures. It seems that with now being the same species, the two have a deeper connection. This deeper connection is also further developed with the arrival of their daughter and the desire to protect her from the Volturi. The Cullens ban together as a solid family unit to stand for their own, allowing Bella and Edward to come together as a newly married couple with a fantastic support system.

What are some ways to strengthen a relationship emotionally?
Cupid's Advice:

What are some possible ways to further advance as a couple – emotionally? Here are some tips on how to deepen your connection to your significant other:

1. Time investment: The more time you spend with someone, the stronger your connection will be come automatically. By experiencing new things together and creating new memories, the two of you will have something to laugh about and look back on. Take some dancing lessons or go ice-skating and create a scrapbook together afterwards.

2. Emotional investment: In order to be completely open to strengthening and deepening your relationship, you have to be

honest with yourself and with your partner. Keeping secrets is only going to push them further away which will not result in deepening a relationship.

3. Physical investment: Physical attraction and displays of affection (notice I did not say public displays of affection) is a great way to build on an emotional level. For many people relationships are a mixture of physical needs and emotional needs, not just one or the other.

What are some ways you bond with your partner on a deeper level? Share your stories with us in the comments below!

Date Idea: Go Black Friday Shopping





By Samantha Mucha

If you go out for this crazy, corporate holiday, then why not do it with your lover? This experience can be very frustrating when done alone, so why not take your favorite person along and make it a more enjoyable experience? Your partner could be the perfect addition and it will certainly be an interesting way to measure the strength of your relationship.

Black Friday begins a lot earlier than it ever used to in the past with merchants beginning on midnight or earlier on Thanksgiving eve. So, after your Thanksgiving dinner stay up and watch movies until it's time to go, and then hit the stores. End the early morning hours with breakfast and a nap.

Shopping with your partner allows you to test your relationship to see how well you two work as a team under the pressure of all the great deals. As well as, see how well you know each other. Find out if your partner cracks under sleep deprivation or if he knows your family well enough to help you select the perfect gifts for them.

To add more pressure to Black Friday, make a competition with

your beau. Whoever completes the most shopping and gets the best deals for their purchases wins! The loser has to make breakfast, or doesn't get to nap until after they give the winner a foot massage.

Be sure to map out your route, and scan online to find the best deals before heading out at the crack of dawn. A smart game plan will give you an edge over your sweetheart (and everyone else standing in line to buy that new flat screen television for \$99.99) and of course it will make the whole experience run a lot smoother.

How do you spend Black Friday? Let us know below.

5 Things That Drive Men Away





By Christopher Brya

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

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

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

Nagging

Most men told us that women that nag them drive them crazy. Now let's be honest: Sometimes men deserve a little nagging, but the difference between the helpful kind and the hurtful kind is all in the approach. Men said that if women would approach the situation at the right time (in the early evening is preferred) and with the right attitudes (to-the-point and

light-hearted) that they would respond in a much more positive way. This is good news: Women really can get what they want and better results. Most men don't respond well to nagging now because they worry it will continue being the method that women will use. And nobody likes that outcome.

Keep your past exploits to yourself

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

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

Being too clingy

Men told us that they adore women that are affectionate and really engage with them. However, there is a fine line between being "into" the man you're with and suddenly being *everywhere* with him. The clingy factor is another major reason men cite for exiting a relationship. Men want an independent and confident woman. They like when you call and text, but sending 10 text messages a day or multiple e-mails or phone calls is a big signal to men that you aren't comfortable being yourself. As one man put it, "Don't try to make a man love you but let him love you. If he wants to, he will. There is no way to make a person fall for you."

Bringing your baggage into the relationship

Another element that drive men away also relates to exes: what baggage you bring to the relationship, and what you do with it. Men know that you have a past and it doesn't end with

your previous relationship. But the key is learning from previous significant others, and not assuming that every man is going to behave like your ex.

Controlling your man

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

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

Does Your Past Interfere with Your Present?





By Relationship & Sex Talk, Jane Greer, Ph.D., for GalTime.com

how past betrayals can hurt new relationships

Did Eva Longoria's recent breakup with Mark Sanchez have anything to do with the memories of Tony Parker's infidelity?

There didn't seem to be any indication that they were having trouble, but sometimes there is nothing to see because it is what's going on below the surface that can cause the problem. For many, it's hard to start over, especially if you've been betrayed in a previous relationship. All of the anger, suspicion, and fear come through and can affect your current romantic situation.

You don't have to be a celebrity to ask the question: is your past interfering with your present?

Sometimes all it takes is one betrayal in your love life to leave you so devastated and reeling that it becomes a challenge to trust future partners. If you have experienced deception, it is not unusual for your reaction to that to be unwittingly repeated with new people even if they have done

nothing to deserve it.

Take my patient Hillary, for example. Her boyfriend had been cheated on by his previous girlfriend. He always wants to know where Hillary is, who she is talking to. She has no intention of hurting him or being with another guy, but his demands and constant questioning make her feel boxed in. The other day, when an old friend called, she didn't tell her boyfriend, not because she had anything to hide, but because she was afraid of how he would react. He found out later and blew up, saying she didn't tell him so how can he trust her? There was no actual problem, but he was creating one. His jealousy and accusations were perpetuating the very thing he was looking to avoid.

Try your best to take your partner at face value. If Hillary had been able to explain it was just an old college friend who had called, and her boyfriend had been able to listen and believe it, things would have been smoother.

Look at the consistency between what someone says and what they do. My patient wasn't making any moves to elude him, or attempt to be with someone else. If he hadn't been carrying over the fear from his last heartbreak, he would have been able to see that things were good between them.

And most important, focus on the present, not the past or what scary thing might happen in the future. That way, you can stay connected and work toward building your own, strong relationship.