

# 'Design Star' Champion Leslie Ezelle Offers Relationship Advice for a Happy Home



By Sarah

Ribeiro

This season of HGTV's 'Design Star' showcased former contestants vying for the winning spot one more time. After her participation in season six, Leslie Ezelle returned with her eyes on the prize. And in the dramatic finale episode, which aired August 21st, her focus paid off: she won the \$25,000 prize and an appearance on an HGTV show. The interior designer, breast cancer survivor, former Dallas Cowboy's cheerleader and mother of a blended family has a lot on her plate, but she isn't letting anything get in her way.

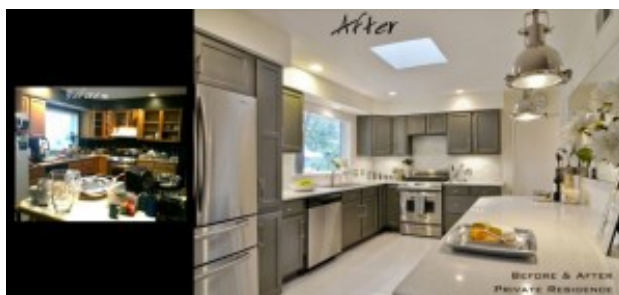
Ezelle says she thrives off her design career. She has been

producing her own design clips since her first round on 'Design Star' in hopes of getting her own show. Her personal home remodeling, coupled with her lessons in how to "tame your domain," has been keeping her busy, and she says she'd love to use television as a means of sharing her ideas and helping others find solace in their home.

"I'm producing a little show now called *The Real Modern Family*," she says. "I'm currently three months behind schedule and it's been very stressful having my family as my clients and taking input from the kids! Whenever these type of things come up, I'm swamped from the beginning of the day to the end of the day."

**Related:** [Season Five Premiere of 'Million Dollar Listing': Josh Altman Says, "Relationships are Harder Than Owning a House"](#)

Despite these struggles, Ezelle says her life doesn't get in the way of her family. Her "tame your domain" theory comes from the connections she has found between design and everyday life. According to Ezelle, "your energy comes from your home, and design plays a huge role in that. Your home is in direct correlation to your family – if you have a kitchen that works physically and if you have a dining room that works with that kitchen, then you have a great space to spend time together."



A design clip from Lezlie Ezelle's portfolio. Photo: Lezlie Ezelle

Ezelle and her wife Libby don't always agree on design though. Ezelle has a more contemporary style, while Libby prefers traditional decor. The pair combat this difference with "sweetness," Ezelle says, a method they learned from a relationship expert on a couples' retreat. Leslie encourages couples building a home together – whether new or old – to remember that physical belongings are solely physical. "If you have a happy relationship with your spouse and you're trying to blend your style, the best thing to do each night is to compliment each other," she advises. "Instead of using criticizing words, you just have to be diplomatic and remember that you're talking to someone who you love. You're trying to blend styles – why would you want to be critical and mean? That does zero good."

**Related:** [7 Signs You Might Need Marriage Counseling](#)

The design star has three pieces of advice for couples looking to blend their style:

- 1. Write down your must-haves, and share them with each other.**
- 2. Design is not just about having pretty things in your house. It's about having a home that is a reflection of your lifestyle.**
- 3. Practice talking to each other like strangers and being sweet and polite. You have to maintain that level of respect and be mindful of each others' feelings.**

Design has helped Ezelle with more than just her family life. In 2008, she was diagnosed with breast cancer – a rollercoaster involving six weeks of radiation and two years of reconstructive surgeries that left her embittered. "I didn't struggle with breast cancer; I struggled through treatment," she shares. "I didn't feel sexy; I felt weak, broken down and bitter. I kept saying, 'I'm not a victim,' and I was really angry."

But she took her mother's advice in pursuing her design career and made it on to 'Design Star.' "When you're going through something bad," remarks Ezelle, "you can't see why you're going through it. It became clear to me when I got on the show. I never would've auditioned for the show had I not gotten breast cancer. I said, 'I can't let my breast cancer be what's motivating me.'"

After competing on 'Design Star, Ezelle connected with Courtney Arbour, a marketing manager for Susan G. Komen, and together, they came up with the idea that "you can't strap a good woman down" – a sculpture of a metal bra crawling the tree of life.

Ezelle's sculpture, Ann-e Girl, which was named after her children's aunt who passed away from breast cancer, travelled around Texas, turning buildings pink for the day and raising awareness. "This was my way of embracing breast cancer rather than being angry about it," proclaims the designer. "The inner strength you gain from pursuing your goals is where you get your empowerment. If you're not going after your dreams, you won't feel sexy; you won't feel powerful; and you won't feel like a woman."

While design may have helped her cope with the ups and downs of life, Ezelle's real comfort is in her family. "The relationships I have my wife and my children completely outweigh everything else," she says. "Design, work, cancer – it's our love that matters."

*You can keep up with Ezelle on her Web site at [www.LeslieChristineDesigns.com](http://www.LeslieChristineDesigns.com).*

---

# Katy Perry's Baby Doll Beauty



By Ann

Csincsak, Vintage Sweet & Chic

Katy Perry is definitely a California girl at heart. Born and raised in Santa Barbara, her beach bum looks have morphed into a style that is fun, sophisticated and edgy. In the latest issue of *ELLE*, Katy admits that she can't be the bubblegum queen forever, but with five hit singles from her first album, she is certainly entitled to ride the wave for a while. While her stage outfits are nothing less than over the top, her street attire has an entirely different vibe. We often see her carrying Chanel purses, sporting Alice and Olivia tops and rocking Marc Jacobs flats – proving that she is no stranger to awesome style.

Her first look is a great representation of her style: playful and young but with an edge.

1. Alice and Olivia (actual), SOLD OUT. Club L Top (pictured above), \$29
2. Forever 21 Studs, \$3.95
3. ELF Studio Gloss, \$3 MUST HAVE!
4. Milly Black Suede Flats, \$56
5. Alice and Olivia Floral Capri (actual), \$195

Her second look shows off more of her girly side. This look is great for a dinner date with that special someone. Men love women in a dress – it shows off their curves and their feminine side.

1. Wheels & Doll Baby Belted Floral Tea Party holiday Dress (actual), \$28
2. Debanhams.com Pale Pink Cardigan, \$50
3. Christian Louboutin Burgundy Heels, \$170 DEAL from [www.heels-1st.com](http://www.heels-1st.com), COLOR STYLE WATCH
4. Marc Jacobs Grey “Murray” bag, \$395
5. Butter Polish ‘Sloan Ranger’, \$14.00 COLOR STYLE WATCH

Take cues from this pop star and never be afraid to change your look. Explore different styles and always try to remember to set the trends rather than follow them, just like Katy.

#### **PLUS: POPCHIPS GIVEAWAY!**

This weeks GIVEAWAY is from Popchips’ newest investor and spokeswoman Katy Perry! Courtesy of Popchips, we are doing a fantastic giveaway: Popchips will be delivering, right to your door, a month free supply of Popchips.

**TO ENTER:** Go to Twitter and tell @anncsincksak (that’s me!) and @popchipsCO who your three favorite designers are, along



with the hashtag **#katypops** (in honor of Popchips partnership with Katy herself!). We will pick a winner from Twitter once the contest is completed, and you will receive your shipment ASAP.



---

## Date Idea: Have a Dinner Date at Three Different Venues





By Ché

Blackwood

Spoil you and your partner this weekend by indulging in an untraditional three course meal, at three different restaurants. After a long workweek and a definite lack of quality time together, bond with your lover while experiencing the cuisine and atmosphere of the best restaurants your town has to offer. Plus, with a constant change in scenery, you're more likely to stumble across a few memory-worthy moments.

If you're a reserved couple, scope out your local eatery scene and plan out the night in advance. For instance, try that new tapas bar for a drink and an appetizer, head to a swanky steakhouse for dinner and then jet by a quaint coffee house for desert. By planning your night ahead, you won't waste time deciding on venues before you go. Plus, you'll have the luxury of making reservations, ensuring your night goes according to plan.

For more carefree lovers, make a goal to stop in the first restaurant you see. You may end up having ice cream to start, sandwiches for dinner and a glass of wine for desert. Wherever you end up, be sure to learn about the restaurant by savoring



the house specialties and home crafted drafts.

If running from spot to spot sounds too hectic, or if you're craving a night at home, simply order in from three different places. Lay out an ever changing spread on your coffee table, grab Casablanca and cuddle with your sweetie. There's no wrong way to indulge!

**Do you and your sweetie dinner-hop? Tell us in the comments below!**

---

## Is Divorce the Best Option?



Denley

By Punam

Today, 40-50% of first marriages worldwide end in divorce. Interestingly, the statistic for second marriages is even higher, with 50-60% of them ending. This shouldn't be taken lightly. Deciding to divorce someone is every bit as serious as deciding to marry in the first place. Just like marriage, divorce is a legal contract, but more importantly, it also has the same sort of personal and family consequences that can last a lifetime. Sure, sometimes the welfare of everyone affected by a relationship will be best served by a divorce, but sometimes, a couple's issues can still be resolved. Whenever possible, that's a better plan, so be sure to think about your situation before deciding to split with your spouse. There are a lot of potential consequences, so give these things some thought before you accept divorce as the best course of action:

**Related Links:** [Hollywood's Messiest Splits](#)

**1. Your children:** If you have any children, the impacts of the divorce on them are incredibly important. Occasionally, as in abusive relationships, it can benefit children if their parents split. However, more subtle relationship problems between adults can often go unnoticed by children, making a divorce more difficult in these circumstances. After all, you may no longer be husband and wife, but you're still Mom and Dad. Although the children of divorced parents are not condemned to have psychological problems, it still is essential to put them at the center of your deliberations.

**2. Your happiness:** Have you considered if getting a divorce will make you happy in the long term? People in general do better and are happier when they're in a relationship, and sometimes even very serious problems can be resolved by having a significant other. Keep in mind the emotional, financial and psychological implications of ending your marriage when deciding if a split is really a better choice for you than trying to sort out the problems.

**Related Links:** [How to Get Back Into the Dating Scene After a Divorce](#)

**3. Professional help:** Marriage and family therapy can be invaluable services when you're looking at issues as serious as divorce. Even if you ultimately feel that your marriage can't be saved and decide to divorce, these kinds of therapeutic processes can be very helpful in managing the issues surrounding the situation, especially if you have children. Professionals will help you weigh the pros and cons of your situation, in addition to helping you sort through things with your spouse if you choose to stay together.

After you've considered all of these details, you might still decide that divorce is the best option to ensure everyone's happiness. But if you do, be ready to live with the consequences of that decision. Divorce is an option, and it might be the best option for you, as long as you're clear that it is not the only one.

*Punam Denley is a Solicitor at Blanchards Law, which specializes in separation and divorce, cohabitation and family law matters.*

---

## **Celebrity Couples Who Function As Families After Divorce**





By Evan

Goldaper

In the world of Hollywood, it's easy for celebrities to move on after they've been through a breakup. After all, there are always new and exciting people for them to meet, and everyone already admires them. However, some celebrities don't choose to completely separate from their exes. Although they didn't start dating each other again, these celebrity couples had their reasons to remain a family even after their divorces:

**Related Link:** [Five Ways Being Friends With Your Ex Can Ruin You](#)

**1. Bruce Willis and Demi Moore:** For thirteen years, Bruce Willis and Demi Moore were among Hollywood's strongest power couples. The two actors were at the heights of their careers when they married in 1987, making their wedding one of the most talked-about events of the year. However, by 2000, their marriage had fallen apart and the two divorced. Unlike many other settlements, both in and out of Hollywood, Willis and Moore's split was uncontested and ended peacefully. They both agreed on the reasons for the divorce, blaming the increasingly small amount of time the two could spend

together. Willis always said that Moore and their children's happiness was the most important thing to him, and he gave around \$90 million to her in spousal support. When Moore was still married to Ashton Kutcher, they would their spend holidays with Willis as one large family. As Bruce said to *People*, "Life is too short to spend what little precious time you have alive being unhappy."

**2. Courteney Cox and David Arquette:** It's rare to see any relationship end as amicably as that of Courteney Cox and David Arquette. After meeting on the set of *Scream* in 1999, the two actors were married. Eleven years later, they began a separation that ultimately ended this June with a legal divorce. This separation was very simple and surprisingly friendly. Neither used a lawyer, assets were split 50/50 and Arquette didn't ask for any support. In a statement they both released, they said that "the reason for this separation is to better understand ourselves and the qualities we need in a partner and for our marriage." Even while separated, the two remained committed to raising their daughter Coco as a team. Cox told [People](#) in 2012 that Arquette is still her "favorite person in the world." It's easy to believe that: Cox came to cheer Arquette on when he appeared on *Dancing With The Stars*, Arquette had a guest role on Cox's sitcom *Cougar Town*, and their joint production company Coquette Productions still makes television shows.

**Related Link:** [Hollywood's Messiest Splits](#)

**3. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver:** Although this divorce was one of the messiest splits in recent years, Arnold Scwarzenegger and Maria Shriver have managed to remain respectful and friendly. We've all heard the story: after being married for 25 years, Schwarzenegger revealed that he had fathered a child with their housekeeper over a decade earlier. He remained apologetic and said he deserved all the criticism he was sure to get, making him very accepting of his marriage's inevitable end. In part because of the love they

still shared and in part because of Schwarzenegger's political position, the two tried to fix their marriage in couples therapy, but a divorce still seemed likely. Though the two are now separated, Schwarzenegger still has a great deal of respect for Shriver and the two raise their children as a team. As he said to the [Huffington Post](#) earlier this year, "The most important thing is that the kids are doing well, and Maria always has been an extraordinary mother and always has worked with the kids very closely."

**What couples do you think have had the friendliest breakups? Tell us below.**

---

## **How to Snag that First Date When You're Worried About Your Looks**







By

Leyu Goh

Florida can be harsh. I should know, I live here. In this state, it sometimes feels like a bikini body like Kim Kardashian's matters more than if you can point out Japan on a world map. You definitely have to have the goods, or else you risk being cast as "that weird girl who sits in the back" for all eternity. Of course, no matter where you live, it can sometimes feel like if you fail to live up to society's image of attractiveness, it'll be a while before you get that first date. That doesn't mean it's impossible. I may not be the most attractive girl, but I've still got game in the dating scene, and there's no reason why you can't as well. Instead of resigning yourself to dying alone or bending over backwards for people you hate, consider these tips to get you started:

**Related Link:** [Nine Unexpected Places to Find Love](#)

**1. Select your target audience:** As businesslike as this sounds, knowing your audience is important in relationships as well. Don't become a creep who throws themselves at everyone they meet. Figure out the specifics of what you want, and work towards that.

**2. Iconize:** Don't walk into a café or a bar being as nondescript as possible. People are visual beings, so play on this weakness by putting on an eye-catching article that reflects your personality, too. Don't overdo it: you don't want to seem like you're desperate for attention. Instead, find something small like feathers in your hair or unusual glasses, and you'll see that conversations start themselves.

**Related Link:** [Five Top Tips On How to Find "The One"](#)

**3. Situational awareness:** Once a conversation has started, immediately start trying to find your potential partner's opinion on the situation. If you can tell what their reactions are, you can carefully steer the conversation in a direction that's pleasing to both of you.

**4. Make that lasting impression:** Don't be so caught up in the moment of meeting someone new that you get overly enthusiastic and start sharing details about your daily defecation schedules and your laundry routines. Be that enigma that is just waiting to be explored, and you'll ensure that your potential beau will come back for more.

*Leyu was born in Singapore, but grew up in Australia. She moved back to Singapore in her youth but recently moved to Florida where she currently resides. She has seen the dating scenes and habits from many different countries and continues to be amused by the cultural differences in love. She is currently putting together an anthology of poems and flash fiction on the different types of love.*

---

# ShrinkWrap: J. Lo...Once Betrayed, Always Betrayed?



By Jane

Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime.com

J.Lo is back in the news and it isn't because of her music. Once again it is her love life that is getting attention. The three-time divorced megastar might be having romantic troubles, something she has dealt with many times before.

It was recently revealed that her boyfriend dancer Casper Smart walked into an "exotic massage parlor" and gay porn shop in New York City. Smart said he didn't mean to go there, that he was lost, but there is talk that his journey – mistaken or otherwise – is already taking a toll on their still relatively new relationship.

Jennifer is not new to betrayal, so the question is: if you are once betrayed are you destined to repeat it? Can you learn from a betrayal so it doesn't keep happening?

To begin with, you have to understand your own personal limits and boundaries. In order to do that, you must determine for yourself what is forgivable and what isn't. In my book, *How Could You Do This To Me? Learning To Trust After Betrayal*, I talk about the fact that there are many nuances to betrayal and what might be perceived as infidelity. For some, a tiny indiscretion such as flirting with or texting someone else might be enough to cause a great rift in a romantic partnership, while for others that might not even rock the boat. Knowing your boyfriend or girlfriend watches Internet porn might not seem like a problem at all to some, while for others it might be a deal-breaker. There are so many scenarios out there, each couple must decide together what is okay and what isn't, and if one partner exceeds those limits, then that is a betrayal.

The biggest question between Casper and Jennifer, and between any two people dealing with an issue like this, is what is acceptable and, therefore, forgivable in their relationship. This answer will be different depending on who you ask. If, in fact, Casper entered that store to satisfy unmet needs, and Jennifer is aware and accepting of those needs, then the tabloids are wrong: It wasn't a betrayal and this won't cause the downfall of their relationship. If she didn't know about these needs, however, and he was sneaking around, then it is possible that her readiness to invest trust in her relationship with Casper is not fully warranted.

It is hard to know if Casper has betrayed Jennifer, maybe we'll learn more as the story unfolds, but if he has then she will benefit from stepping back and taking inventory. So often people who are trustworthy simply believe their partner will be by default. They assume that their partner will put them first, just as they tend to do. Instead, the other person puts

their own needs first, and when they are sexual or romantic, inevitably it spells betrayal.

If you are looking to trust someone, you want to base that trust on what your partner does, not on what they say. Pay attention and make sure their actions are consistent with what they are telling you. If Casper has been open and honest and has shared his desires and needs with Jennifer, even if they don't always include her, they can make it work. In the end, from where we stand, only time will tell for the celebrity couple. In your own relationship, you don't have to be so passive. If your lover's actions and words don't mesh, or if you know they are keeping secrets from you, no matter how much you want it to work, unless you deal with your doubts, you will be at risk of being betrayed.

---

## **Stop Self Sabatoging! 5 Decisions That Are Working Against You**





By Ché

Blackwood

Self-help books and passive aggressive coworkers are always reminding us “You’re your own worst enemy,” and while we usually tend to roll our eyes at both... they’ve got a point. It’s easy to point out the flaws of those around us, especially those around us with really cute boyfriends, but it’s not as easy to recognize our own shortcomings. While exes, old friends and your mother can probably tell you one hundred different reasons why you’re to blame for the things your life is lacking, their negativity isn’t doing helping you to remedy your issues. Instead of focusing on what’s wrong with us or our lives, it’s more proactive to recognize the behaviors we exhibit that keep us from ditching our dire ways. Self-sabotage is a sneaky little monster, and you can’t get rid of it until you know how it works. Stop making the same mistakes and get to the root of the problem by focusing on this list of all-too-common anti-self behaviors.

**1. Cut Out the Overly High Expectations:** If you go on a first date and decide afterward that he’s your future husband, you’ve set your expectations way too high. Now, the first time



he lets you down, he's not a new beau that's made a mistake. Instead, he's your husband-to-be and his actions hold a lot more weight than the relationship merits. The same can be said for expecting a \$10,000 raise after one year on the job or by expecting your new friend to house sit while you're away on a two week cruise to the Bahamas. If you set your expectations unreasonably high, you're not staying grounded, and that will definitely blowup in your face. The more blowups you have, the less you're going to accomplish. Instead, keep your expectations sane! If you're let down, you have a right to be upset and can create a plan to keep that disappointment from returning. At least then you'll have the ability to move forward.

**Related Link:** [Five Things to Look for In a Wife](#)

**2. Stop Saying No:** Taking risks, going new places and trying out foreign experiences are great daydreams for the young, but they don't hold a lot of stake in your super adult, very important life. Right? Wrong. The more you say no, the more likely you are to miss out on fantastic opportunities and experiences. Stepping out of your comfort zone is really scary, but once you start giving "Yes" a whirl, you'll learn how worthwhile new experiences are. If you turn down that cute barista for an after shift drink, you'll never learn that he's actually a brilliant entrepreneur. If you refuse to take a spontaneous trip to wine country, you'll miss watching your best friend get introduced to her future husband. And, if you don't try a new adventure, you'll never be able to sit back and tell someone about the best chance you've ever taken.

**Related Link:** [How to Successfully Date an Aspiring Entrepreneur](#)

**3. Don't Give Up After One Failure:** Once you do take a chance and put yourself out there, it really sucks failing. It's embarrassing, you feel silly and everyone knows that you stuck your neck out only to get it chopped down. It's natural to

want to give up after that. "I tried it, and it didn't work," you'll tell your friends, and you'll be right. Kind of. No one makes it after one attempt at glory. Did Michael Phelps win a gold medal the first day he swam? What about the 100<sup>th</sup> day he swam? Did Steven King get the first short story he ever wrote published? Did your boss become your boss right out of college? The answer, of course, is no. It takes work, chance and dedication to get somewhere great, and everyone fails at first. If you give up, you are ruining your chances at succeeding, regardless of your dream. Let a failure motivate you to do better. Let your mistakes fuel your eventual success. Don't throw in the towel because you weren't a star after one day in Hollywood.

**4. Get Away from Bad Company:** In business they believe a company is only as good as its weakest employee. The same can be said for you and your group of friends. If you are constantly hanging with people making bad decisions or choosing paths that are detrimental to their lives, they are pulling you down with them. If you spend all day with people who complain, blame their issues on everyone else and refuse to move forward in their lives, you will feel absolutely no push to better yourself. But, if your circle is encouraging, motivated and supportive of each other, their good vibes will absolutely rub off on you. When your best friend works for a year to get that really impressive promotion, her desire to better herself will absolutely motivate you to do the same. Friends, boyfriends, family members; it doesn't matter. If you have negative people whispering in your ear, you're never going to meet your own personal potential.

**5. Stop Talking Bad About Yourself:** Have you ever tried to force yourself to smile during a really crappy day? Have you ever tried to hum a happy tune while feeling stressed out of your mind? If so, you know that a little mental positivity can go a really long way. Speaking kindly to yourself will really make you see everything differently. If you spend all day

telling yourself that you're incompetent, stupid, unattractive or anything else terrible, that is exactly how you will act. It's also how other people will eventually see you. Instead, be your own best friend. Talk positively to and about yourself. Sure, it'll be awkward at first, but very quickly you'll notice a serious change in your attitude, personality and confidence. Success at work, in relationships and any other life endeavor begins and ends with you. Might as well give yourself a real shot at it!

---

## 'Hit and Run': A Comedy to Close the Summer



By Jessica

Smith

When couples move in together they often find out that their partner isn't the person they originally thought they were. You might be taken by surprise when you realize they're OCD about the dishes or they're a control freak when it comes to their possessions, but none of that compares to finding out that your partner is a member of the Witness Protection Program because they have a dirty past. Kristen Bell's character Annie handles the element of surprise like most women would – she panics. *Hit and Run* is an action rom-com that will keep you guessing and definitely have you laughing. The film was written by funny man Dax Shepard who also stars as Charlie, the ex-bank-robber-getaway-driver-boyfriend, who does his best to protect Annie when she's caught up in his mess. While you watch Charlie try to untangle the issues of his past, you might have to deal with seeing ladies man Bradley Cooper as a bad boy with some pretty bad dreads. In between the two hunks taking shots at each other, their bickering back and forth like an old married couple is the perfect comic relief.

**Should You See It:** Well yea! Why not? It's going to be funny and the onscreen chemistry between Shepard and Bell is sincere and so cute considering the two are also in an offscreen relationship! Since this flick comes out on August 22, it will be a great escape to take your mind off the end of a spectacular summer season or the fact that school is just around the corner.

**Who to Take:** With an "R" rating, and the continuous banter of prison butt-rape, this won't be a movie for children. This is going to be a great film to see with your friends or out on a date.

The majority of us don't find out something as dramatic as a criminal past about our partners when we move in together. Instead, it's typically things like the gross sound they make while brushing their teeth or the strange ritual they have

before bedtime. During *Hit and Run*, Kristen Bell, whether she had a choice or not, stayed with her man regardless of his major flaw. Moving in with a partner is a HUGE step, and it shouldn't be taken lightly. This will be a true test of your relationship, and you'll discover if this is someone you could live with forever. Here are some red flags to watch out for when you move in with your loved one:

**1. Overly Possessive:** Your partner doesn't want to share. Don't touch that. What's theirs is *not* yours. With an attitude like this, it's going to be impossible for you to feel at home or even welcomed for that matter. If they have trouble sharing they may have some deeper trust issues going on, and if you're comfortable enough to move in together this should be an issue that you can confront them with.

**2. Disgustingly Sloppy:** You probably didn't realize you were taking a second job as a maid when you moved in. If they like to live a pigish lifestyle it's not your job to clean up after them, instead whip them into shape! This is your home now too, and both of you should take enough pride in your living space to keep it livable. If your partner knows their slobby nature bothers you, they will make an effort to keep you happy if they love you.

**3. Disregards You:** Now that you live together communication is definitely going to be key for a healthy relationship. If there's something, anything about your living situation or how the move has affected you as a couple that you feel needs discussing, then you deserve to have that talk. If your partner continuously puts it off or says they don't want to talk about it, perhaps your relationship (or your partner) isn't mature enough to handle this adult circumstance.

**Have you experienced any red flags after moving in? Share your comments below!**

---

# 5 Ways to Reconcile Arguments With In-Laws



By Deanna

Atkins

We all laughed at Ben Stiller's struggle to remain in his fiancé's father's "circle of trust" in the hilarious film *Meet the Parents*, but it's hard to find the comedy of fighting with your own in-laws. Sure, we get to choose the person we marry, but unfortunately for us, we aren't able to pick their parents. Not everyone's father-in-law is a retired CIA agent, but in-laws are almost always tough to deal with. The next time you have to deal with the family of someone you love, try to remember these tips:



**Related Link:** [Will Smith Says Family Is All About Love and Communication](#)

**1. Don't complain to your partner:** The last thing you want to do is accidentally insult one of your partner's family members. Family is family, and even if you are just venting, you don't want your significant other to feel like you're making them pick sides. By talking to a relative or friend in your support system instead, you'll be able to get your feelings off your chest without hurting anyone in the process.

**2. Be honest, mostly:** Be clear about your needs in order to settle disagreements, but don't be too firm by telling your mother-in-law that she needs to stop calling so much. This may be true, but that straightforwardness can easily be taken the wrong way. To be safe, say enough to get your point across without going too far.

**3. Arrange a family trip:** A lot of the time, actions speak louder than words, which is especially true when it comes to feuding. If you can't reach a compromise by communicating, it's probably time for some family bonding. Taking a mini-vacation with the family shows that your relationship is more important than your issues. Plus, you'll get to enjoy some time away from home.

**4. Be the bigger person:** Every now and then it's best to just give in. You may be right in the disagreement, but sometimes you just have to count your losses and do what's best for you and your partner. Fighting with your partner's family doesn't benefit you or your lover, so put a quick ending to the problem by saying or doing whatever makes your in-laws happy.

**5. Set some boundaries:** If you've done everything you can to play nice with a feisty in-law but you still find yourself struggling, you might have to just accept that you're not going to get along. Keeping the relationship civil is sometimes better than forcing it to work or taking drastic

steps like forbidding them from coming over your house. Your spouse will appreciate your willingness to keep the peace.

Even if you seem to have the perfect relationship with your in-laws, eventually there will be a time when you'll have to work through an issue. Whether it's as little as making a phone call to resolve a disagreement or just dropping the entire matter, with patience you'll always be able to come to a solution.

**What are some of your own bad in-law experiences? Share them below.**

---

## **4 Things Jennifer Aniston Taught Me About Relationships And Love**





By Liz of

[WeLoveDates.com](http://WeLoveDates.com)

I've always been fiercely and annoyingly Team Jen, so when the news of her celebrity engagement to Justin Theroux broke out, I was possibly a bit too excited. As a complete and utter romantic, I'm just happy she's found her happy ending. In honor of America's Sweetheart, here are four things Jennifer Aniston has taught me about relationships and love:

## Relationship And Love Advice from Jennifer Aniston

**1. Keep on keepin' on:** *"There are no regrets in life, just lessons."*

It's easy to look at someone like Aniston and wonder if she would have done anything differently. Would she have fought to stay married to celebrity ex Brad Pitt and gotten into a cat fight with Angelina Jolie? Would she have begged him to stay with her? But by having no regrets and choosing to learn from her past, she is telling the world that nothing that has happened to her in life will ever define who she really is.

**Related Link:** [10 Love Lessons From Bruce Springsteen](#)

**2. Take responsibility:** *“Relationships are two people; everyone is accountable. A lot goes into a relationship coming together, and a lot goes into a relationship falling apart. Even if it’s 98 percent the other person’s fault, it’s 2 percent yours.... You can only clean up your side of the street.”*

Even the best relationships and love can turn sour. A lot goes on behind the scenes, whether you’re part of a famous couple or not. Instead of playing the role of a heartbroken victim, good love advice is to evaluate where you went wrong in the relationship. You didn’t fall in love over night, and your relationship didn’t end in the blink of an eye.

**3. Don’t try too hard:** *“If you try and be sexy, you’ll never be sexy.”*

You never get the impression that Aniston is trying too hard. She doesn’t dress like she’s giving something away for free, and she isn’t overly gratuitous when it comes to her sexuality. There is a reason why she’s often referred to as the girl next door, and women all over the world look to her for style inspiration. Simply put, she’s not desperate, and you shouldn’t be either!

**Related Link:** [Khloe Kardashian Gives Tips For A Happy Marriage](#)

**4. Love doesn’t play by the rules:** *“You know, it isn’t designed. Love just shows up and you go, “Oh, wow, this is going to be a hayride and a half.”*

Nothing about relationships and love makes sense, and the sooner you accept that, the more fun you’ll have dating. To get the most out of love, you have to be willing to let go of control and just go with the flow. Sometimes things won’t work out your way, and you’ll be heartbroken and alone, but other times, you’ll be full of butterflies, loved beyond belief, and

excited about the future – like we sure Aniston is over her celebrity engagement.

*Liz is the social media manager for We Love Dates, a worldwide online dating site. Join for free now using code WLD GUEST, and check out the popular We Love Dates blog for more dating advice and tips.*

---

## Date Idea: Volunteer Your Time Together



By Ché

Blackwood

It's good to get creative and thoughtful with the way you and

your loved one spend time together. After all, there's more to a relationship than dinner and a movie. So, forget arguing over whether you should see the newest romance flick, or the latest blockbuster action movie. Instead, share your love with others by involving yourself in volunteer work.

A great way to spend your time together is by cuddling up with those who are less fortunate, and the animal shelter is the perfect way to start. Innocent pets that have been abandoned and abused need loving too. Maybe you and your significant other will both fall in love with these furry friends, and decide to adopt one of them. Regardless, you can spend time with one another by helping out some lonely animals in need. The shelter is always open to visitors.

If you enjoy spending time in the kitchen, why not share your cooking skills with the less fortunate at a food bank or homeless shelter. It will make you and your sweetheart think twice about the food we take for granted. Serving people who are less fortunate will help to put a smile on their face.

Life, as in dating, should be about the simple things. If you don't have time to volunteer right now, grab your calendar and do some planning. All you need to do is find a little time to help those around you.

**Have some good volunteer experiences? Let us know in the comments below.**

---

# **How to Kick That Bad**



# Relationship to the Curb



By AJ

Harbinger

You did it. You finally broke things off with your old partner, and now you feel great. The only problem is that now you're constantly thinking about your ex and wondering if you did the right thing. Ending a relationship is never easy, but if there was more drama and hurt feelings than good times and fond memories, then it's better for the both of you to say goodbye and move on. As any dating coach will tell you, the longer you stay in a bad relationship, the longer it will take for you to find a happy and healthy one. That said, moving on from a relationship can be more difficult than actually ending it. Though everyone handles a breakup in slightly different ways, the following guidelines can help you get through the process with as little self-torture and suffering as possible:

**Related Link:** [Five Ways Being Friends With Your Ex Can Ruin You](#)

**1. Don't contact your ex:** Maybe at some point down the road you two can be on good terms with each other; however, now is not the time to forge that bridge of friendship. No matter how bad the relationship may have been, many individuals may have a hard time accepting the fact that their ex will no longer be a part of their life. To ease the transition of being newly single, they decide to "be friends," or worse, attempt to hash out over and over again the reasons why you broke up in the first place. Neither of these tactics will help you to truly move beyond the relationship: they'll just cause frustration. Instead, commit to at least three months without contacting your ex. After that amount of time, you'll be better able to determine if you want them in your life again.

**2. Get rid of anything that could tempt you to contact them:** This is a hard rule to follow, but a necessary one if you really want to get over your relationship. Most dating coaches will advise you that any form of temptation, whether it's Facebook, Twitter or texting, should be temporarily disabled to prevent you from reaching out to your ex and creating a messy breakup situation. This might sting at first, but it's for your own good. Don't fool yourself that you need her phone number or email "just in case." For the time being, your priority should be trying to move on, not finding ways to stay stuck in the past.

**3. Don't isolate yourself from friends:** If you and your ex share mutual friends, things might get a little tricky for a while. Expect that their friends will take their side and quickly disappear from your social circle. On the flip side, your buddies will still be there for you and more than willing to throw back one or two drinks as you drown your sorrows. Be sure to take them up on their offers to hang out whenever possible. Though some activities will have to be put on hold, such as any parties where your ex will most likely show up,

now's the time to rally your friends and have them remind you why splitting was the right thing to do. Plus, spending time with your friends will leave fewer hours to obsess over your ex and possibly contact them.

**Related Link:** [Can a Rebound Relationship Turn Into True Love?](#)

**4. Test out the dating waters:** As most dating coaches will attest, you typically can't get over an old beau until you find a new one. Though no one is recommending that you dive right into the dating pool, especially after a particularly difficult breakup, there's no harm in dipping your toes in the water. Who knows, you might just find someone else testing the waters and looking for a person just like you.

*AJ Harbinger is one of the creators of The Art of Charm Academy. He has written a number of interesting guides, from dating advice on how to meet women to dating after divorce.*

---

## When is it Time to Face Your Past?





By Jane

Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime

### **Dealing with Evidence of Exes**

*Mirror Mirror* star Lily Collins was seen recently in pictures with Jamie Campbell Bower, taken while filming a movie together in Canada. That's a change. We're used to seeing Lily in photos with Zac Efron. But rumor has it that Lily and Zac have now split.

Celebrities get together and break up in front of the camera all the time. But these days you don't have to be a star to see your new love interest with an ex. With all the social media that comes into play today, it might be too easy to witness the relationship that came before yours. So what does this mean for your romantic future? And when, if ever, is it OK to talk about it?

In the old days, break-ups were much cleaner. Sure, there might be some old photos of an ex stuck in a box somewhere, but you would have to really snoop to find those. Now all you have to do is go to your new boyfriend or girlfriend's Facebook page.

First, if you are the one leaving those old photos up, it's time to take them down. You don't have to destroy them. Maybe you can just move them to a private file on your computer. If, however, you are the one left to see your new flame with his or her old one, the first thing I'd suggest is to talk about it. There is a chance your partner isn't aware the photos are up. If he or she leaves them there intentionally, don't become angry or try to force their removal. Instead, keep those pics in mind. Know that they're an indication that your new lover hasn't made a clean break. As your partner asks you to go further into a relationship, remember those images and hold back a little in an effort to protect yourself. Until he or she hits that delete button, the person won't be ready to fully move forward.

Celebrities like Lily and Jamie might not have control over the photos that end up in the magazines, but everyone has control over their Facebook pages.

---

## **Amy Laurent Tells Us How to Navigate a New Relationship and Go From '8 Weeks to Everlasting'**







By Whitney Baker

Matchmaker and reality star Amy Laurent didn't realize how much she needed her own help until she began filming Bravo's 'Miss Advised.' As viewers saw throughout the first season, she quickly learned how hard it was to be open to love and how scary it was to feel vulnerable. That was the catalyst she needed to write her book, which she began working on two-thirds through filming. *8 Weeks to Everlasting: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting (and Keeping!) the Guy You Want* isn't about getting the ring or getting to the altar; it's about building a strong foundation for a lasting relationship with your perfect person. "This book offers simple guidelines that every woman needs to follow when they first meet someone they like," Laurent explains. "It's about how to change your approach to dating so you don't lose yourself in it." No one knows the importance of these parameters better than the author. We had a chance to chat with her about what rules to follow, what lies men tell and what she's learned in her search for love.

### **How did you develop your dating philosophy?**

I found that women kept asking the same questions when it came



to men and the early stages of dating. I've been giving women solid advice on how to handle these situations, and they've come back to me and thanked me for everything I said. But here I am, getting back into dating myself, and I'm totally stinking at it. During the course of filming 'Miss Advised,' I realized that I needed my own coaching. Talk about a sense of urgency! It was like, "Oh my god, I need to take everything that I've been telling women to do and turn it into a handbook so I can find a guy for myself!"

No matter who we are, whether we're the expert or not, we really need rules that are clearly laid out, week-by-week, about how to date men. It's the first eight weeks that are the most torturous for women!

**Related Link:** ['Miss Advised' Star Amy Laurent Says, "I've Always Seen Katie Holmes With Someone Who Is More Mellow and Chill"](#)

**In the introduction of your book, you tell women that they're in charge of their fate and they can have any kind of relationship they want. What is preventing women from finding their ideal relationship?**

Accepting less than what we deserve. There are boundaries that teach a new guy in your life what is acceptable and if you are a relationship girl or a casual dater. Your actions towards him define how he looks at you; you teach people how you want to be treated.

How many of us get excited about a guy and then start to cancel our plans with girlfriends because he suddenly calls and asks us out? That's the complete opposite of what you're supposed to do, but we've all been there. We're so emotionally invested in this guy that we've only been out with a handful of times that he has an affect on whether we have a good day or not. As women, we need to remember that we're in control. If someone isn't respecting you or treating you how you want

to be treated, you get to choose to write that person off.

**You banish women from making the first move, yet so many of our male readers tells us they *want* a woman to approach them first. What are your thoughts on that?**

One of the biggest points in my book is that women should *never* initiate. You don't call or text a guy first; you don't suggest that you get together on a Friday night. You have to let the man take the male role. If you become aggressive, he's going to lose interest very quickly.

As a matchmaker, I work very closely with men, and they tell me things that I wish they would say to more women's faces. If a guy says he loves when a women takes the initiative and asks him out, he's lying to you. Any man will say that it's cool at first – it's less work when the woman comes to him. But he'll also tell you that he's never dated that girl for longer than two weeks. That's the truth.

**Related Link:** [Subtle Ways to Get a Second Date](#)

**What love lessons did you learn from filming 'Miss Advised' and writing this book?**

First, I gained a newfound respect for my clients. It had been so long since I put my heart out there, and I realized that my clients do it everyday. It's not easy!

I also learned that dating is about enjoying the process, weeding out the jerks, finding your perfect person and having fun along the way because you're in control. One of the keys is balance: you need to stay open enough but also hold the reins and pace yourself.

**Lastly, if there were one piece of advice you could give women looking for love, what would it be?**

One thing I said repetitively is that, if a guy genuinely cares about you and wants to get to know you, he is going to

try to impress you – and you should let him. You really have to communicate what kind of relationship you want, and you have to stick to that.

And buy my book, of course!

*You can buy '8 Weeks to Everlasting: A Step-By-Step Guide to Getting (and Keeping!) the Guy You Want' on Amazon. Be sure to keep up with Laurent on Facebook, Twitter and her personal site at [www.AmyLaurent.com](http://www.AmyLaurent.com).*

---

## **Celebrity Couples Who Have Been Hurt By Their Own Stardom**





By

Courtney Allen

In wonderful world of Hollywood, maintaining both a long-lasting relationship and a fast-paced career is evidently a huge challenge. The jam-packed schedules and non-stop tabloid mania in the everyday lives of celebrities leaves us constantly wondering when the next split will be—the fact they are going to happen is a guarantee. Nasty rumors of deceit, unexpected flings with co-stars and stress from an intense life can make stardom a celebrity couple's worst enemy. Unfortunately for these five celebrity duos, losing their battle to fame proved inevitable:

**1. Kate and Jon Gosselin:** Jon and Kate Gosselin first captured our hearts with their hit TLC show, *Jon and Kate Plus Eight*, which documented their hectic life as parents of sassy-yet-sweet twin girls and a set of adorable sextuplets. The Gosselins graced our television screens for seven seasons as they traveled the globe as a family, while we all hoped their marriage wouldn't end like many of the reality star relationships that preceded them. But Jon and Kate proved no different as the show slowly revealed Kate's exploding temper

and ego while the tabloids unraveled Jon's late-night getaways with other women. Years later, the two had one of the most public divorces in Hollywood.

**Related Link:** [Hollywood's Messiest Splits](#)

**2. Rihanna and Chris Brown:** Rihanna and Chris Brown shocked the world when their relationship began in 2008. In our minds, the singers couldn't be a more perfect match, as they're two beautiful and unique voices with stunningly-good looks. Things quickly changed after an incident in 2009 in which Brown allegedly assaulted the female pop star. The two have made amends since then and rumors of a new relationship have spread, especially after the recent release of their song, "Birthday Cake (Remix)." But due to their long-lasting tabloid presence and heated past, we can't help but think that a second try will end in disaster.

**3. Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt:** The split between *Friends* star Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, her "Mr. Perfect," was by far the most controversial divorces in the history of Hollywood. With Aniston's glowing skin and Pitt's captivating eyes, they always had America's attention. It wasn't until the 2004 production of *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* that things seemed to get off track. Pitt quickly fell in love with co-star Angelina Jolie while filming the movie, leaving him and Aniston's happily ever after in the dust as rumors swirled of an affair. Jen filed for divorce in 2005 and Pitt almost immediately began dating Jolie. Now called "Brangelina," the couple has six kids and have made their mark as one of the most powerful couples in Hollywood.

**4. Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush:** Kim Kardashian bared it all for her E! show *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, including her relationship with NFL star Reggie Bush. The reality show revealed their head-over-heels romance for several seasons. But after their final split, the unfortunate truth was revealed: Kardashian's stardom was too much for Bush, who

never seemed to adjust. Kardashian has since been searching for her fairytale: a guy who accepts both her and her lifestyle. She found love in her marriage to Kris Humphries, but that relationship ended after just 72 days. Now the star is happily dating Kanye West. Thankfully, the socialite seems to be taking her new relationship slow, because if there's anything Kim has learned, it's that fame comes at a high price.

**Related Link:** [Why You Should be Happy You Aren't Famous When it Comes to Love](#)[Love in the Limelight: Why You Should Be Happy You Aren't Famous](#)

**5. Katy Perry and Russel Brand:** California girl Katy Perry and British comedian Russell Brand began dating in middle of 2009. The two didn't waste any time getting serious as news of their engagement hit the headlines by the end of the same year. And in just ten months, the couple was married. The world watched the pop-star and her new hubby closely as we formed our opinions on whether they would last. Fourteen months later, the pair proved all the doubters right. Russell Brand filed for divorce last December, citing irreconcilable differences. But between both of their busy schedules and separated traveling, it's no wonder the pair couldn't stand the test of time.

**Which celebrity couples do you think have been most hurt by their stardom? Share your thoughts with us!**

---

## **Top Three Common Dating Faux**



# Pas



By Kongit

Farrell

There's no doubt that dating can be both fun and meaningful, but everyone knows that it can also be heartbreaking and challenging. If you find yourself getting constantly frustrated by repeated splits and breakups, you might just need to reassess your understanding of dating. To begin to fix your problems, you first have to understand what they are. Start by checking out the following dating faux pas, and what to do to work around them:

**Related Link:** [Three Dating Mistakes That Prove It's Time to Use a Matchmaker](#)

**1. "Winging it":** The famous adage "If you stand for nothing, you fall for anything" also has a place in the realm of

dating. Far too many times, people wind up in bad relationships because they entered it without any knowledge of what they wanted. The problem with this approach is that dating is a process, and how you approach it always determines the outcome. For example, if you are seeking a long-term relationship and commitment, rushing into the physical parts of a relationship won't help. That's why it's important to know what you want before you start dating so that you can come up with a dating strategy that will maximize your success. If only someone would have mentioned this to Halle Berry 15 years ago.

**2. Not understanding chemistry's role in love:** You meet at a coffee shop and feel this insane connection. You check to see if they feel it too, and low and behold, they do. Don't rush to assume that it's love at first sight. That intense connection you feel is a chemical process called limerence. It evolved in humans to help keep men and women together while raising children. It's not love, but rather one of the main ingredients needed for long-term love. There's a lot more at play than just limerence, however. Without plutonic compatibility, or similar beliefs and values, you just have friends with benefits, not love. Someone needs to let Jennifer Lopez know that with Casper Smart, it's not love, it's limerence!

**Related Link:** [Top Five Celebrity Love Mistakes We Should Avoid](#)

**3. Forgetting your animal nature:** The world has changed in many ways that have made dating practices and roles much harder to define. Who opens doors? Who pays for whom? Who wears the pants in the relationship? But at the end of the day, we're human animals, so the rules of the jungle still apply. Men and women might be equal, but they're still different, with one key difference being size. Ladies, you're smaller, so it's important to make sure that you date men who make you feel safe and comfortable. Men, take extra care to let women know that you aren't a threat. Speak softly, smile,

listen and open the door. This doesn't have anything to do with your ego, it's because you are literally larger. Check out Beyoncé Knowles, an intelligent female animal who loves it, as does her husband, Jay-Z!

*Kongit Farrell is a Strategic Life & Relationship Coach, and author who specializes in individual and couples counseling. She received her B.S. in Communication from the University of Southern California, and her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University. She applied her knowledge while working for the Clinton Administration in the Communication Office. Kongit has published numerous articles on mental health, and her first e-book She's Worth the Chase won critical acclaim. Most recently, Kongit appeared on Lifetime's morning show The Balancing Act to discuss her book. She is currently finishing her second book Dating the Natural Way: How to use Biology as a Guide for Healthy and Harmonious Relationships.*

---

## **Tip of the Hat: Decoding a Guy's First Date Accessories**





By Rachel

Seliger, JDate.com Community Manager, for GalTime

## Decipher Your Date's Personality

There's nothing quite like first date butterflies—you wonder what kind of spark there will be, pray that you don't spill food on yourself and spend hours meticulously primping. But for all that time spent getting yourself mentally and physically prepared, don't forget to take a hard look at what your man is wearing on a first date, as even his choice of accessories can convey a distinct message about his personality.

As a fashionista and the community manager for JDate.com, the premier online community for Jewish singles, I know about the importance of a proper first date wardrobe. I'm here to help you read between the lines—or paisley or plaid—to learn whether he's second date material or just a fling:

**Hats:** Obviously there are far too many types of hats to make a sweeping generalization. Though hats are a distinct way for a guy to show his personality, they can sometimes scream for too much attention on a first date. Venues where a hat is OK:

outdoor sporting event (baseball cap), speakeasy (fedora), poetry slam (beret), skiing (beanie) or monster truck rally (trucker hat).

**Nice watch:** Some guys' idea of a "nice" watch is simply that it ticks and doesn't have a superhero on it. If your man flashes a classy timepiece, it shows he is traditional and wants to put his best foot forward.

**Scarf:** In spring and summer: Prissy. You'll probably have to put your coat down for him to cross a puddle. In winter: Mature. It takes a big man to admit he's cold.

**Sunglasses:** He thinks he's too cool for school. It's important to look into your date's eyes when you're getting to know them, and let's face it, it's not like he had to dodge a crowd of paparazzi on his way to meet you. Occasion where sunglasses are OK on a date: You're outside and squinting uncomfortably to see your love interest.

**Cufflinks:** Let me just wipe my drool...ah yes, cufflinks. They show ambition. Not a lot of guys own them, even if dress wear requires them. They're truly an investment piece, and show he cares about his appearance and where he's going in life.

**Umbrella:** Meticulous. If he thought to check the weather before your date and made the effort to lug an umbrella with him, he's clearly a planner—and a keeper! Added bonus: there's room for two under that umbrella.

**Suspenders:** He thinks he's unique. Unless he's Steve Urkel, suspenders are a guy's way of showing how "different" and cool he is. He'll try to sell you a story about how he found these ol' suspenders at a thrift store in Williamsburg, but trust me, he spent \$500 to look that vintage.

**Bracelet:** Sentimental. Do you know any men who wear bracelets that don't have some sort of significant emotional meaning? Ask him about it as an icebreaker and get to know what makes



him tick.

The bottom line is that you have to give any man points for accessorizing—it's so much easier to just throw on a shirt and jeans rather than go that extra mile. When a guy puts in the effort, take notice of these nonverbal cues to see if he could be your perfect match.

---

## “But We Were Drunk”: 5 Reasons Why that Excuse is Lame



By Evan

Goldaper



Nobody's perfect, and we all do things we regret every now and then, especially while in love. Of course, if you and your partner are close, you can expect them to forgive you when you make a mistake. But as Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson have shown, infidelity can be tough for anyone to overcome.

What can make a regretful situation even worse is if you try to make an excuse for your behavior. If you've done something while drunk and expect that to be an acceptable justification, you might find your partner even less understanding. "But we were drunk!" might be a classic explanation, but it's very unconvincing. Here are five reasons why you shouldn't expect that to be a perfect failsafe:

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

**1. You chose to get drunk in the first place:** If you cheated on your partner, you have to be accountable for how you wound up in that situation. Remember that although you might not feel you had control of yourself after you were drunk, you certainly had control of yourself before then.

**2. You know yourself:** If you have a tendency to do crazy and unplanned things while drunk, then you've probably figured that out by now. Because you know how you usually act in circumstances like this, you should've known that you could put your relationship at risk.

**3. You have a responsibility to your partner:** When you're in a relationship, you can't act the same way you did when you were single. As someone's significant other, it's important to remain faithful. Don't set yourself up to challenge that: you're not scanning the dating pool any more.

**4. You'd be hurt if you were on the other end:** You know you'd be angry if your partner cheated on you, whether or not they were drunk. The same Golden Rule that applied back in kindergarten is true at times like this as well: don't do

anything you wouldn't want someone else to do to you.

**5. This won't go away:** Whether or not your partner accepts your apology this time, you can be certain that your misdeeds will permanently hang over your relationship. The next time you slip up, you can be almost certain that you'll be *breaking up*, so you shouldn't even get there in the first place.

**What do you think about being drunk as an excuse for cheating on your partner? Tell us below.**

---

## Date Idea: Publish a Love Sonnet



By Ché

## Blackwood

Your love may be hard to put into words, but it's worth a try. Sit down this weekend with your special someone and memorialize your relationship by writing a love sonnet. You don't have to be Shakespeare to put pen to paper. The attempt of putting your feelings into words will be romantic enough.

First, both of you should sit down separately, away from one another, and begin to write. You can recount your first meeting, when you knew that he was the one or simply state how much your partner means to you. Read your lists off to one another. Hearing why your cutie feels the way they do will make you fall in love all over again while also revealing what it is that they most adore about you.

Combine your lists and write a sonnet or poem together. Work as a team to make it rhyme while capturing your true emotions. Enjoy the collaboration, taking time to reminisce over old memories and forgotten experiences. Once it's finished, find a Website or print publication that accepts submissions. Your love will forever be chronicled in time, placing a mark on the world and your heart. Even if your sonnet doesn't get published, frame it and hang it in your house as a reminder of why the two of you are together.

**Does your honey write poems for you? Tell us about it in the comments below!**

---

## **Six Celebrity Couples We Wish**

# Existed



By Elle

Rose Williams

When surrounded by a celebrity culture and constantly looking at the world's most beautiful or talented elite, it's hard not to start wishing that two of your favourite celebrities were dating. No matter how perfect some couples seem, deep in our hearts we always know they could do better. Whether we think they'd make a great match or just want to see the children, here are five celebrity couples we wish existed:

**Related Link:** [Top Five Celebrity Couples Who Have Made Love Last](#)

**1. Lady Gaga and Tim Burton:** The quirky duo that is Lady Gaga and Tim Burton could be the ultimate power couple, with Gaga ruling the world of music and Burton ruling the world of film.

Their united interest in the bizarre and huge cult followings could be great starting points. With your own relationship, it can be a great idea to make sure you have common ground in this same way.

**2. Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams:** Although Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams used to be a couple, they're now separated. However, any girl who grew up with the ultimate romantic epic *The Notebook* would think these two should be reunited one day. It can be the same in our own relationships too: when we have such a long history with someone, it's easy to picture ourselves with them.

**3. Jennifer Aniston and David Schwimmer:** *Friends* might have ended eight years ago, but after ten years of portraying the ups and downs of Ross and Rachel, it's hard to see Jennifer Aniston and David Schwimmer as anything else. Considering Aniston's consistent bad luck in relationships, it'd be amazing for her and Schwimmer to get together and to finally see her settled and happy. With our own relationships, we like to see ourselves with someone who'll look after us and someone who will be with us through the rough times and the good times too, which Ross and Rachel always personified.

**Related Link:** [Love in the Limelight: Why You Should Be Happy You Aren't Famous](#)

**4. Madonna and Richard Branson:** Another important part of being a couple is balancing your attributes. This would make Madonna and Richard Branson a fantastic power couple. Plus, it would be great to see Madonna settled down with a man her own age. There's a lot that Madonna could learn from Branson, and even Branson could benefit from Madonna's publicity stunts. They'd be a good balancing act for each other, and this is always a good way to seek out a potential partner.

**5. Charlie Chaplin and Gwen Stefani:** How amazing would it be if Charlie Chaplin and Gwen Stefani were a couple? Sure, the

two are actually decades apart , but their quiriness and originality would make these two a brilliant celeb couple. We have a feeling their sense of humor would gel too. In your own relationship, humor is hugely important. As long as you can laugh together, the bad things will never seem as bad.

**6. Audrey Hepburn and Colin Farrell:** Audrey Hepburn and Colin Farrell are another couple that would be impossible, but still would be brilliant. We'd love to see the dynamic, cheeky Irishman be tamed by the ultimate lady of class and elegance. They'd be so different that they could actually be the perfect match. This can apply to real couples too, so look for someone who wants you to be the very best version of yourself.

*Elle works for CS Bedford, an engagement jeweller in London.*

---

## How to Make Sure Your Divorce is Amicable, Fair and Fast







By Amy

Osmond Cook

Thanks to Kris Humphries and Kim Kardashian, we have the celebrity divorce spectacle to which we've become accustomed. There are no kids (and apparently no deep feelings) involved, but oh, do we have drama! This divorce, like so many others, is all about money. Consider the top ten biggest divorce payouts in history below:

**Related Link:** [Five Celebrity Divorces We Really Weren't Expecting](#)

- Rupert Murdoch's divorce from Anna Murdoch; estimated at \$1.7 billion
- Adnan Khashoggi's divorce from Soraya Khashoggi; estimated at \$850 million
- Bernie Ecclestone's divorce from Slavica; estimated at £750m
- Craig McCaw's divorce from Wendy McCaw; estimated to exceed \$460 million
- Mel Gibson's divorce from Robyn; estimated at \$425 million

- Michael Jordan’s divorce from Juanita Jordan; estimated to exceed \$260 million
- Charles Edgar Fipke’s divorce from Marlene Fipke; estimated at \$200 million
- Neil Diamond’s divorce from Marcia Murphey; estimated at \$150 million
- Harrison Ford’s divorce from Melissa Mathison; estimated at \$118 million
- Greg Norman’s divorce from Laura Andrassy; estimated at \$103 million

Most of us won’t have a divorce settlement in the millions, but there are a few things you can do to make sure that any future split with your partner is amicable, fair, and fast:

**1. Write a prenup.** An ironclad prenup is the easiest way to speed up the divorce process. In 1985, Steven Spielberg and Amy Irving wrote a prenuptial agreement on a cocktail napkin. Four years later, Amy contested the agreement—and won. As a result, she received a settlement of about 100 million, or half of her ex-husband’s earnings, after just four years of marriage. The reason? Her attorney wasn’t present, allowing her to contest the prenup on the grounds of fairness, full disclosure, and duress. In the absence of an ironclad prenup, husbands and wives usually split their assets equally.

**Related Link:** [Prince William and Kate Middleton: To Prenup or Not to Prenup?](#)

**2. Don’t cheat.** Rudy Giuliani’s public affair with Judith Nathan cost him dearly when he and his wife, Donna Hanover, divorced. When they separated in October 2000, he was making a modest income as a government official. Then the 9/11 tragedy happened, and his popularity soared. Because they were already separated, Donna wasn’t legally entitled to the money he made

following the date of separation, including an estimated \$8M in speaking fees alone. But because Giuliani wanted to keep some of the more salacious details of his personal life out of the public record, he settled—paying an estimated \$6.8M, a substantially higher amount than he was legally obligated to pay.

**3. Don't forget about intellectual property.** Sometimes the greatest assets are the intangible ones. In 2000, Michael Douglas agreed to pay his first wife, Diandra, half of the acting earnings he accrued while they were married, including money from any future “spinoffs.” In 2011, Diandra filed suit, stating that she was entitled to half of Michael's earnings from *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, because it is a spinoff from the original *Wall Street* (which was filmed during their marriage). Michael claims is that the new movie is a sequel and *not* a spinoff, so Diandra isn't entitled to anything. The case revolves around one point: Is the new movie a spinoff or a sequel? If it's a spinoff, she gets half. If it's a sequel, she gets nothing. In this case, a judge will decide. But you can learn from Michael's potentially costly mistake by shoring up your intellectual property rights.

The key to an amicable split is to decide money matters before it gets ugly. Whether you are happily married or contemplating divorce, considering a prenup, keeping your actions blackmail-proof, and dealing with your intellectual property will serve you well.

*Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D. is a faculty associate at Arizona State University, where she teaches Communication and English classes. She is the publisher of Sourced Media Books and co-author of Hope After Divorce and Full Bloom: Cultivating Success. Amy and her husband, Jeff, have five children and look forward to welcoming baby #6 in April 2012. For more information about Amy, please visit [amyosmondcook.com](http://amyosmondcook.com).*

---

# Celebrity Marriages That Span the Decades



By Jessica

Smith

Celebrity marriages come and go—some much quicker than others. Of course, there are infamous short term marriages, such as Britney Spears and Jason Alexander, who were united in holy matrimony for a whole two days, Carmen Electra and Dennis Rodman, who were husband and wife for six days or Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries, who were committed for only 72 days. On the other hand, there's a good handful of celebrity couples that have stayed true to their marriage vows since the day they said, "I do." Undoubtedly these couples have gone

through major ups and downs like all couples do, but their love for one another and their marriage has conquered everything. Here are some Hollywood marriages to take note of:

**Related Link:** [Top Five Celebrity Couples Who Have Made Love Last](#)

**1. Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne:** This musical couple makes the top of our list because they've had one of the most successful marriages in Hollywood. As husband and wife, they've definitely had more than their fair share of obstacles thrown at them, but nothing can demolish their love for one another. Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne even managed to survive the reality TV show curse. They've been married for 30 years.

**2. Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick:** Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick met on set while they filmed a PBS movie, and they've been working side by side ever since. After 24 years of being bound together, they still seem incredibly happy and very close.

**3. Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson:** This is a couple that you can count on to be together for the rest of their lives. Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson met in 1985 on the set of the movie *Volunteers*. They were married three years later. The lovebirds have been supporting and loving each other for 24 years.

**4. Denzel Washington and Pauletta Pearson:** Before Denzel Washington became an Academy Award, Golden Globe and Tony-winning actor, he fell in love with his longtime wife Pauletta Pearson on the set of his first movie *Wilma*. The couple has been together for 29 years.

**Related Link:** [Five "Down-to-Earth" Celebrity Couples](#)

**5. Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman:** Danny DeVito and Rhea

Perlman were joined together in holy matrimony 29 years ago. Although this couple is very private, we know that they're still going strong. In fact, this privacy might be the reason for their success.

Who's your favorite successful Hollywood couple? Share your comments below!

---

## 9 Things His Handwriting Can Tell You About Him



By Mary

Edwards

You might not think it's important when you're looking for a



new partner, but you can tell a lot about someone's personality by studying what they've written. Handwriting analysis, also known as graphology, is a field of study that associates a person's writing style with certain psychological profiles. Though it's not an exact science, it can be a fun way to try to learn a little more about someone you've been dating, especially if you're wondering whether it's a good idea to start a relationship with them. Here are nine quick things to look for when trying to learn about someone from their handwriting:

**Related Link:** [Five Steps To Turn a Date Into a Relationship](#)

**1. Size matters:** Large, robustly written letters suggest a similarly big, outgoing personality. Smaller letters, on the other hand, indicate shyness. An average size implies a more balanced personality. If you're looking for an exciting new relationship, look for bigger letters.

**2. Open or closed:** The loops in someone's writing, as in the cursive letter 'L', indicate tension when closed. They show a spontaneous attitude when they're fully opened. Spontaneous people might be more open to unusual date ideas, so consider giving these a try if your partner writes this way.

**3. Slanted view:** If your subject's writing slants to the left, this could mean they're more of a loner or a rebel. Conversely, a right-slanting writing style says they are friendly and more sociable, which probably makes them very eager to fall in love. No slant tells you that they tend to be driven more by logic than by feelings.

**4. Pressure:** The pressure applied to paper when writing is another important indicator. Light pressure translates to a highly sensitive, empathic individual. However, heavy pressure means seriousness, which translates nicely into a willingness to commit to a relationship.

**5. Above the line:** Upper zone letters, like l, t and h that are very tall show aspiration and imagination. Wide loops may imply that your beau is a dreamer.

**6. Below the line:** Lower zone letters, like g, y and p, can tell you a lot as well. A tight loop could be a sign of impatience, while varied loops and pressure might be harbingers of an unsettled personality. If you're looking for a steady relationship, look for steady loops.

**Related Link:** [Fishing For Mr. Right—Types of Guys to Throw Back](#)

**7. Spacing:** When letters are spaced widely, you're most likely dealing with someone who needs their space in relationships as well. Similarly, tighter-spaced letters suggests more openness towards intimacy.

**8. Left Margins:** The spacing between the edges of the page and the text is just as revealing as the handwriting style. A wide left margin says "I'm open" to getting together, while a narrow one tells you to back off.

**9. Right Margins:** If the handwriting stops well before the end of the page line, your date is still apprehensive. A narrow right margin implies an impatience to get started as a couple.

You can learn a lot about a person's personality by evaluating their writing style. If your date's personality is in question, take a look at the way that they write. You might learn quite a bit more about them, or at the very least, verify traits you already suspected.

*This post originally ran on [BestDatingSites.org](#).*