

Five Guys Not to Overlook



By Marcus Osborne for GalTime

Dating: Give These Men a Chance

It's no real secret what qualities instantly attract women to a potential long-term partner. Let's face it, certain guys have a built in advantage. It could be their height, wealth, physical attractiveness, sense of humor or confidence...the bottom line is that some men just have what it takes to immediately attract members of the opposite sex.

And some don't. Here's a fact— not every woman is going to land her fairytale version of Mr. Perfect. So let's get real ladies... there are many diamonds in the rough out there that some women may dismiss at first glance. But if you give them a chance, you may discover one of these guys is the right

match for you.

So, as your straight male friend, I am offering you some viable alternatives to Mr. Perfect. He may not be Bill Gates or Will Smith or George Clooney...but he might still be your perfect partner:

1. The Geek: Of all guy types, I'd say the Geek is the guy with the greatest long-term potential if you're looking for a provider. Sure, there may be annual trips to San Diego's Comic Con, a trophy mantle packed with Darth Vader action figures and an extensive collection of Batman hoodies to launder, but you know what? These guys *also* build startup companies and make boatloads of money. See through his social awkwardness. The Geek offers you smarts, loyalty, sweetness and acerbic wit.

2. The Fast Food Dude: Sure his job isn't flashy, but hey, dude is holding down a job. And in this economy that's got to be worth some serious brownie points, right? Some might label this guy as unambitious, but I think that's an unfair generalization. Having a career in the fast food industry could mean this man is willing to take on a job he sees as a means to an end. Perhaps he's got a grand plan in mind. Maybe he's interested in owning one of those places. Last I heard, fast food restaurant owners make a pretty nice living. The guy could end up in a corporate office...or he may simply be okay with the job because *it's just a job* and he doesn't want to live to work. In any case, give the guy a shot. If it's true love you want, he may offer it in spades.

3. The Short Guy: Short guys never get the love they deserve. Women often overlook (literally) the guys under 5'9" to their own detriment. These gents have often had to compensate for what they lack vertically by developing winning personalities. Sure a lot of these fellas suffer from "Little Man's Complex" but many of them are empathetic and charming guys. In a long-

term relationship, your man's ability to understand the way you feel is vital, right? This is your man.

4. The Shy Dude: Notice, I didn't say *quiet*. The quiet guy is the guy who ends up on the news with his shocked neighbors saying, "He was such a quiet guy." Yet all fail to unravel the mystery: *How did he manage to hide all the heads in his freezer?* Yeah, stay away from that dude. But the Shy Guy is simply the man who just takes a little time to warm up. It's not that he lacks confidence; it's simply that he isn't skilled at the art of the game. So maybe you'll have to approach him first. So what? Get over it. And get over yourself. This guy is dedicated and caring when he's actually in a relationship, and he'll make you his priority.

5. The Portly Guy: Ok, so obviously we all want to be in good shape. And we all want out partners in good shape. But what's the most desired personality trait in a man, according to women? A sense of humor! Seriously, how many funny chubby dudes have we all come across? The world is filled with 'em! And these guys tend to be, like the short guys, making up for their lack of classic male beauty. Hey we can't all be an Adonis. When you're with your pretty boy 25 years from now, he won't be nearly as pretty. But the guy carrying a few extra pounds will still be fun the hang out with. Listen, a chunky guy can lose weight, but an a-hole is an a-hole for life. Oh by the way, bonus points for you on the Portly Guy. In all likelihood, this man likes to cook and likes to eat and won't be too bothered if you pack on a few yourself.

How to Communicate the Need for Communication



By Ché Blackwood

It seems like everyone says “Let’s talk” these days, but it often comes across as little more than whining. If you have a day job, you can’t be expected to stay up all night talking, but there still is a certain amount of conversation required for a relationship to stay healthy. If you’re having trouble communicating with your partner, it could be a sign that your relationship is headed for trouble, but it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s time for a breakup. Instead, try to approach your partner calmly and lovingly explain your need for dialogue. You’ll be able to talk about your problems without breaking up if you consider these following tips:

Related Link: [How to Communicate to Get What You Need](#)

1. Pick the right moment: It's one thing to feel neglected because your sweetie didn't call to say they were running late, but it's another thing entirely if they've done this every night for a week. If you stress the need for communication after one slip up, your beau is going to think you're overreacting. However, if you have a series of examples that have led you to feel the way you do, your honey will be more prone to take a step back and hear you out.

2. Think before you speak: The most important step to take before entering into a serious conversation is to analyze your own point of view. While every person has a right to their feelings, emotions can run away from us if left unchecked. It's vital that you know why you're upset. Does the lack of communication leave you feeling lonely? Disconnected? Uncared for? When you can pinpoint the exact reasoning behind your negative feelings, you'll be better able to explain them to your sweetie. If you don't fully understand why you feel the way you do, it's unfair to ask them to.

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3. Assert your expectations: Everyone needs their partner to act a certain way, but unless they express those requirements, their partners can't possibly get it right every time. Know what's important to you and articulate those expectations to your beau. Once they know the type of communication you require to be happy in a relationship, they'll be able to assess their own ability to deliver it.

4. Be fair: Communication is never one-sided, so you need to let your partner speak as well. They might not be very happy with what you've been sending their way either. Be open to hearing what they have to say, even if their feelings are different than yours. If you want to really communicate openly together, you need to be willing to listen just as you would

like to be listened to.

5. Remember who you're talking to: Your significant other is a unique individual, with their own way of doing things. You need to understand the person you love and their way of communicating in order to successfully express your own feelings to them. While you may need constant affirmation or hour-long talks after dinner, they might be happy with a ten minute phone call before bed. By understanding the motivations behind your beau's actions, you will better understand how to approach them.

How have you started communicating in your relationship? Tell us below.

'Hope Springs' Is This Summer's Guide to a Healthy Relationship





By: Jessica Smith

Love is a funny thing. Talking about intimacy can be even funnier. *Hope Springs* is a movie with the perfect mix that will keep you laughing, but will also make you think. Everyone's relationship is different, but so many of the issues are the same. An older couple, Kay (Meryl Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) are devoted to each other, but they're missing the spice that they had in their relationship when they were younger. To learn a few tricks to revamp the magic in the bedroom, Kay somehow convinces her stubborn and reluctant husband to hop on a plane to Great Hope Springs where they receive marriage counseling from a renowned couples specialist played by funny man Steve Carell. On their retreat, Kay and Arnold learn not only how to spark the flame in their physical relationship, but in their lives as a whole.

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Should You See It: I wouldn't miss it! Between Streep and Jones, the two A-list actors have four Oscars and 40 years of experience that guarantee this movie will be great. The film

debuts August 10th, and it could be just the film you need to spark your own adventure to a better love life.

Who To Take: Ladies take your men, men take your ladies, girls go with your girlfriends, but guys go see Batman with your boys instead. The movie is going to be a must-see for anyone in a relationship, but keep the kids at home since the flick is rated PG-13. This is going to be a film that parents and grandparents can appreciate!

In an interview with *AARP The Magazine*, Meerly Streep said that “...Built into it [the movie] was something really funny but lodged in something very real.” Her statement is very true. Whether you’ve only been together for a few years or a couple of decades, it’s common for couples to fall into a boring routine and bury the energy that once kept their relationship so alive. Well, if you and your partner have lost some of that oh-so-necessary fizzles in your love life don’t give up because Cupid has some tips to help you out:

1. Confront the issue: If you have a problem, you should be the first to acknowledge it. Don’t wait around for your partner to notice because you just might wait forever. Whether your partner notices the problem or not, they may choose to ignore it because they don’t want to deal with it, so make them!

Related Link: [When One Partners Needs Are More Important](#)

2. Reminisce: There was a time when you and your partner couldn’t keep your hands or thoughts away from each other. As a couple, go places that you used to go and do things you used to do. Rekindle the passion that used to be so easily passed between the two of you.

3. Experience new things: Often we get bored with each other because we’re bored with ourselves. Go on a vacation, pick up a new hobby, do something kinky, do something exhilarating that is going to spark a light within yourself, and in turn it

will bring you closer as a couple and restore some of that excitement.

Subtle Ways to Get a Second Date



By Jessica Smith

Getting asked out on a first date isn't the hardest part of getting back into the world of relationships, but it's getting a guy to ask you on a second date that takes work. Going into the first rendezvous, you and your date are going to have certain expectations of one another, and if they're let down,

the chances of getting a second date are slim. We've all driven ourselves crazy waiting for our phones to ring or a text to come through, making us wonder what we did wrong when we had thought everything went great! Guys might seem hard to reel in, but after following these simple and subtle steps from Cupid, they'll be knocking down your door to get the chance for a second date:

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

1. Don't dress for the Grammys: It's no mystery that guys will be wondering what you have to offer physically, but it's best not to dress too revealingly. Keep your cleavage tucked in so he's staring into your eyes instead of down your shirt, and don't bother with the extra stress of having to pull down the hem of your dress to keep your hoo-ha from showing. Guys love the girl-next-door look, so keep it simple and wear a cute tank and some jeans that highlight your curves in all the right places.

2. Keep things light: When it comes to conversation, the last things you should mention are your exes or past dates. They're not going to be interested in hearing about other men. Also remember that he didn't take you out to be your therapist, so keep your problems to yourself. By keeping the conversation light and happy, he'll see you as an easygoing kind of girl with whom he enjoys spending time.

3. Get him to talk about himself: Of course, you're going to have to talk about yourself if you want to get to know each other, but it's never good to do all the talking while he just chimes in occasionally. Ask him questions about himself, and the conversation will easily branch off from there. Learning about him this way is an easy way to see what you have in common and whether you're compatible.

4. Be your best self: You're going to be nervous and you might say something awkward. That's okay: you're only human. He's

just as nervous as you are and once the ice is broken the date will get easier. Remember that laughter is a quick way to ease tension between strangers, but don't overdo it. Most importantly, be yourself. You can't make a relationship off of all the right moves and impressive comments if that's not who you really are. Being yourself should settle your nerves and show him that you're a genuine girl with individual qualities.

5. Don't mention the second date: Girls have had their wedding day planned since they were old enough to forget that boys have cooties, but marriage is usually the last thing on a guy's list of things to do. If they feel you're rushing into a relationship, they're as good as gone. A guy won't be afraid to admit that he had a great time, but leave it to him to mention anything about going out again. Even if he was already planning your next encounter, mentioning it before he does he could easily change his mind. In your head, you might think you appear to know what you want, but he might view you as controlling or clingy.

Related Link: [How to Know When It's Time for the First Kiss](#)

6. Leave a little mystery: On a first date, never take things further than a first kiss. If he invites you to bed after one date, he's not a gentleman and he doesn't think of you as a serious potential partner. Even worse, if you agree and hook up with him right away, you're likely to become his booty call, which can be detrimental to a woman's self-esteem. By denying him and making him wait, he'll realize you're a classy lady who demands respect, and he'll be eager to see you again!

What tricks do you have for scoring a second date? Share your comments below.

'Miss Advised' Star Emily Morse Says, "I'm Not Choosing Monogamy; I'm Choosing to Date"



By Jessica Nappi

Radio show host, author and reality star – what can't Emily Morse do? If you haven't seen Emily navigate her dating life on the new hit show 'Miss Advised,' produced by Disney darling Ashley Tisdale, read her book, 'Hot Sex: Over 200 Things You Can Try Tonight!,' or listened to her radio show, 'Sex with Emily,' no doubt you soon will because this young lady is just getting warmed up. She's even been dubbed the real-life Carrie Bradshaw, although she openly admits that she

has never watched an episode of 'Sex and The City.'

After seven years of hosting her radio show, Morse was approached to be a part of 'Miss Advised,' which follows three single dating experts (Amy Laurent, Julia Allison and Emily Morse) who must put their own advice to the test. While the other stars may have learned that it's hard to practice what they preach, Morse stuck to her guns. She says, "I definitely take my own relationship advice to heart. But, I've made mistakes in my relationships – I'm not perfect."

Morse has stayed true to herself by finally acknowledging that she's "not choosing monogamy right now; [she's] choosing to date." But she didn't just come to this revelation overnight. "I've evolved into this person by saying it publicly and being on national television. I think it made me realize that it's okay to be me. It's okay to live my life differently than other people live their lives."

Related: [Going from 'It's Complicated' to Monogamy: 5 Tips Every Woman Should Know](#)

After receiving hundreds of emails in support of her dating philosophy and unrushed desire to settle down, Morse noted that she felt so much more "validated and accepted." But being open and vulnerable hasn't always been easy for her. "The greatest lesson I've learned is to "be honest with yourself; stay true to yourself; and be self-aware," she says. "The more honest you are with yourself, the more you'll know what you like, and the easier dating will become."

Since monogamy is crossed off her list, Morse is free to date and have fun with no constraint. "I've never been a woman who plays by the stereotypical dating rules," she says. Since there are so many dating advice books, she says you just have to "pick and choose what feels good to you because blanket rules for everyone just doesn't make any sense."

She may not be a fan of rules, but she is certainly a fan of helping others spice up their relationships. Emily notes that her favorite section of her book deals with partner massages. “By massaging your partner, you will feel reconnected again. I think it’s a really nice, sweet thing you can do to become attached to your partner again.”

As you may know by now, Morse doesn’t hold anything back. That’s why we get to see her dating life firsthand on ‘Miss Advised.’ Here is where we get to observe from afar as Emily goes on all types of dates. We even watch when she dates her newly-divorced fifth grade crush, David Rubin, and they drive to Napa Valley for a romantic night. Of the finale, which will be airing tonight, Morse promises that their relationship “takes an interesting turn. It’s surprising, and it’s a really fun episode, “ she says.

So what’s next for Morse? She aspires to be the Dr. Ruth of our generation – and she’s already well on her way. As she continues to grow her career, she will be getting her doctorate in human sexuality and coming out with a third iPhone App. She will also be hosting her radio show and keeping her fingers crossed for a second season of ‘Miss Advised.’

Be sure to catch Emily Morse tonight on the SEASON FINALE of ‘Miss Advised’ at 10/9c on Bravo. You can also check out her personal site at www.EmilyMorse.com and follow her on Twitter @SexWithEmily.

Date Idea: Get Fishy



By Ché Blackwood

Take advantage of the weather this weekend by getting slippery with your cutie and go fishing. Regardless of how you feel about spending the day with a few worms, strap on some sneakers and a bikini top and take on Mother Nature with your beau. By sitting on a dock, buying some bait and maybe even grabbing a beer or two, you and your sweetie can make memories while being adventurous!

If possible, rent a boat and go out to sea. Other than the fish, you may be lucky enough to see even rarer marine life. Plus, with the sun beating down on you and the blue water reflecting back up, you'll be sure to catch a golden tan. Make a game out of it by seeing who can catch the biggest fish of all. If it's legal, take some home and make a delicious dinner

for your love with what you two caught. Not only is it healthy, but you'll bond over the satisfaction that comes from catching and cooking your own meal.

Get extra outdoorsy by going camping or renting a cabin with your honey. Disconnect from the world and take a few days to relax beside a lake, or in the mountains, with the one person that matters most. Even if camping or fishing isn't your thing, the quality time will be more than worth it. Plus, an outdoor vacation means you'll have the rare opportunity to sit under the stars together, a great romantic ending to a fun and fish-filled day.

Do you and your honey go fishing? What's your favorite way to spend the day outside? Tell us in the comments below.

Miss Independent: The Joys of the Single Life





By Audrey Melnik

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise have been the center of a media circus since they announced their divorce. A number of rumors have surfaced about why their marriage ended, but no matter what the true causes were, it's clear that Holmes is doing what she thinks is best for her daughter, even if that means ending her marriage. Going through a divorce isn't easy and it always takes time to recover, but it should never be avoided when you think a split is important for you and your family. Thankfully, being single allows you to focus on what makes you a better person. Here are some great ways Holmes, and other singles, can enjoy their independence:

Related Link: [How to Handle Wedding Season as a Single Gal](#)

1. Work on your career: Now that you're single, you won't have any commitments other than your own. This will let you give your job the time and attention it deserves. Work hard, focus and you'll be able to rise to the top.

2. Take time for yourself: Singles can make their own rules,

so be spontaneous. You don't have to worry about anyone but yourself. Enjoy this time, it won't last forever. Find a hobby, read a book or do something you've never done before.

3. Travel: When you were in a relationship, you always had to coordinate schedules before you could travel. When you're on your own, you can just pack your bags and go.

4. Have a girl's night: Whether your girlfriends are single or not, plan a night every now and then to go out with just them. Have fun, go dancing and let loose. You'll see that even though you might not have a partner, there are still plenty of people who care about you.

5. Be a flirt: There's no better way to build confidence than to flirt. When you see someone staring at you from across the bar, go talk to them. Even if you don't wind up dating, it'll be good to give yourself a chance.

Related Link: [Celebrate Being Single This Year](#)

7. Buy yourself something nice: Without a partner, your money belongs to no one but you, and you know you worked hard for it. Find something luxurious that you love and splurge on it!

8. Be an awesome parent (if you have kids): For you single parents, devote more time to your kids. They'll make you happier than any partner could. Plan a fun day with them and do something you all love.

Sure, being in love is wonderful, but so is being strong and independent. You can pave your own way, make your own decisions with your own money and you don't need a man to do it.

Audrey Melnik is founder and developer of WotWentWrong, the breakup app for couples who never really broke up. It offers closure and answers for relationships past – and a blueprint for future dating success – directly from one's former

partners. Audrey is passionate about the intersection of internet technology and business and has successfully developed and enhanced the online businesses for both corporate and government clients in the U.S. and Australia. She credits NYC with her inspiration for WotWentWrong, realizing the web could coax former dating partners into spilling their secrets in a way people could not. Melnik received a Bachelor of Business Systems on scholarship from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. WotWentWrong is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia but Audrey recently moved to San Francisco.

Olympian Ryan Lochte Speaks Out About Love and Relationships





With the 2012 Olympics in full swing, there have certainly been a lot of amazing athletic feats to enjoy. Of course, when they're not spending time with their training regimens, the Olympians find time to date just like we do. [Women's Health](#) chatted with swimmer Ryan Lochte about what he looks for in a partner and how he starts a relationship. Here's what he had to say:

1. When you see a woman you want to meet, you: Make eye contact. Some guys keep staring, but I'll give a wink and come back later, because it keeps her thinking.

2. What confuses you about the opposite sex?: It's impossible to know what they're thinking. If I could have one superpower, I'd be like Mel Gibson in *What Women Want*, where he reads women's minds.

3. You're very stylish. How important is it for a guy to have fashion sense?: Really important—it's how your personality comes out. I don't have a set style, but I try not to dress like everyone else.

4. What do women look hottest in?: One of my long-sleeve button-down shirts and that's all. The second sexiest thing: white jeans.

5. You're surrounded by dudes constantly. Be honest: Do guys swap sex stories?: Yes.

6. Rapid Fire Questions:

Sexy women always...: keep a fit body.

Celeb crush?: Carmen Electra.

What do you sleep in?: I'm mostly naked.

Lights on or off?: On.

We at *Cupid's Pulse* wish Ryan Lochte and all of the athletes competing the best of luck both at this year's Olympics and in all of their future romantic endeavors!

Marcy Miller Sheds Light on Looking for Love and 'Rebooting in Beverly Hills'





By Deanna Atkins

From catching her husband cheating to combating breast cancer, there's no doubt that former lawyer and author, Marcy Miller, is a survivor. Sure, everyone has gone through a breakup, but Miller's memoir, aptly titled 'Rebooting in Beverly Hills,' covers so much more than your average heartbreak. She shares a witty and humorous account of finding herself at the age of 45 after two devastating divorces. Whether you've settled down with the man of your dreams or just recently found out the guy you loved is gay, anyone can relate to the challenges of twenty-first century living, dating and loving. We had the opportunity to chat with the Hollywood writer, and she unveiled her biggest fears and challenges as well as her love lessons learned.

What were your biggest fears as you re-entered the dating world after divorce? How did you overcome them?

For me, one of the biggest fears had to do with physical intimacy. In 2000, after being diagnosed with breast cancer, I had a mastectomy, and I hadn't been with a man other than my

husband since. I'm very proud of my reconstruction, but I feared what a new man's reaction would be to my naked body. What I learned is that we all have something that makes us feel self-conscious. Frankly, it wasn't an issue, so I was able to relax.

Why do you think women are more hesitant to get back into the dating world following a divorce?

No one wants to be heartbroken again. In order to fully put yourself out there, you have to take risks. If you protect yourself too much, you're not going to be relating to men and other people in a way that allows relationships to develop. It's a leap of faith to say, "Okay, I'm going to go back in there even if that means my heart's going to be broken again." I think it takes time to heal, to get yourself together. But it's important to be proactive. If you don't come up with a strategy to get back into the dating world, then you won't get past that passive-negative mind set.

You write that every woman needs a 'BGF' (Best Gay Friend). What can he offer you that a female friend cannot?

A gay-man friend sometimes sees things differently than a girlfriend. My BGF feels comfortable asking me, "What is wrong with you that you think this time will be easy?" Through humor, he can say to me, "Knock it off! Stop wallowing in self-pity." For some reason, you take criticism a lot better from a gay friend. Maybe because those sort of things aren't often said by a girlfriend. Women tend to want to make you feel better, while a gay friend can just let you have it – which is what you need at times.

Some women get offended when their friends try to fix them up. Why do you think that's the case? What are they missing out on when they say no?

That is my number one rule: do not say no to a fix-up! A fix-up is your best possibility of meeting someone; it's a pre-

selected date. Somebody who is nice enough to fix you up already knows who you are and also knows a nice man who seems like the type of person you're trying to attract. That doesn't mean you have to go out for a long dinner or evening of dancing, but why not have a drink or meet for a cup of coffee? It's a huge mistake to ever say no to that.

Related Link: [How To Ease Your Nerves Before a First Date](#)

What is the most important lesson that you learned as you were looking for love?

That's a really tough question, but I think the hardest lesson for me was to realize that I had to be able to bless my ex-husband – and mean it – in order to get on with my life. I would only be ready to attract the right man if I had totally forgiven him. His actions were unforgiveable, and it took me about four years to do it, but I had to truly forgive him in order to free myself.

What's the biggest takeaway that you hope your readers will discover from your book?

I hope my story will help people because there's a lot of practical advice in there. But if nothing else, I hope that they'll be inspired to keep trying. We all kiss a lot of toads before we find our prince, so enter into the process with a sense of humor and a sense of joy. Know that those experiences are just adding to the tapestry of your life.

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

And finally, what do you think is the biggest challenge of searching for love in the modern dating world?

To me, it seems like there's almost too much social media. We're bombarded by all of these different options of communication. There's a whole new set of etiquette that isn't discussed anywhere yet. Like, how many times do you email

someone before you speak on the phone or meet in-person? Do you Google your date before you go out with him to ensure that you have things in common? Or is it more fun to discover these details during the date? In many ways, it's easier to meet people with the Internet, but it does come at a huge cost.

To learn more about fix-ups, pick-ups and the craziness of modern dating, pick up a copy of Rebooting in Beverly Hills. Her smart, attractive humor will keep you laughing and learning. Be sure to check out her Facebook and blog on Huffington Post.

Celebrity Couples Who Are Better Off Single





By Nisha Ramirez

It's hard to be in the spotlight 24/7, but celebrity relationships can make that even harder. Famous people are known for pairing up with other stars for publicity or because of their poor judgment, but neither ensures success. Whether they find each other before they make it big or start out their relationships at the top of their careers, it seems like celebrity relationships always end badly. It's no surprise that many celebs often seem on the verge of a breakup, and the following celebrities are some of the many who seem better off single:

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

1. Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber: From the moment Selena Gomez started dating Justin Bieber, she received death threats from Bieber's many fans, indicating some serious stresses that are unique to their partnership. It's likely a sign that Hollywood's cutest couple should think about having fun apart and enjoying their youth and fame alone.

2. Bethenny Frankel and Jason Hoppy: Early on Bravo TV's *The Real Housewives of New York*, Bethenny Frankel and Jason Hoppy found love and success. She gave birth to their first child, Bryn, and increased her Skinny Girl trademark with her own Bravo reality shows *Bethenny Getting Married* and *Bethenny Ever After*. However, on this season of *Bethenny Ever After*, the couple bickered in almost every episode and divorce rumors began to spread. Though Frankel addressed these rumors on her talk show and stated that she and Hoppy have not seen a divorce lawyer, it's clear that this couple should take some time out from the reality TV spotlight or call it quits altogether.

3. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are becoming serious and aren't shying away from the public eye. Rumors of their romance began after Amber Rose, West's ex, explained how Kardashian sent emails and pictures to the rapper while she and West were still dating. Plus, Kardashian recently ended her marriage with Kris Humphries after 72 days. Relationships that start off as affairs rarely end happily. These two would be better off on their own.

Related Link: [On & Off: When Celebrities Should Call It Quits](#)

4. Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart: Pop star and actress Jennifer Lopez, 42, started dating her 25-year-old backup dancer Casper Smart months after she divorced Marc Anthony. However, critics and fans accuse Smart of being nothing more than Lopez's boy toy because of their age difference. Considering this and also Lopez's poor track record of dating celebs, she really needs to stop falling in love with love.

What celebrity couples do you think are better off single? Share your comments below.

Top Five Things to Do If You Get Dumped



By Chris Owen

When you're unceremoniously dumped by your partner, it could easily be a major life-affirming moment. However, most of the time, being dumped just seems to confirm that your life is awful and you're terrible to have trusted that good-for-nothing ex. Of course, even though it always hurts after a breakup, it's never the end of the world. Although you've stumbled along your path to happiness, with a little bit of reflection you can learn from your situation in order to move forward. Breaking up can be a little like overcoming an addiction, which can make it tough to move on. However, it's certainly doable, especially with the help of friends, family and time. Consider these tips for getting over a broken heart:

Related: [Dating After Being Dumped: How to Avoid Messy Rebound Relationships](#)

1. Have a good cry: Before you can move on, allow yourself time to wallow in self-pity and misery until you think you're completely done with tears. Though you might have a relapse, like if you hear a specific song or go to a certain place, it's important not to be upset if that happens. Just pick yourself and try again. Once you've had time to cry, it'll be a lot easier to get over your ex and move forward.

2. Go on holiday: Get your best friends together (preferably the single ones) and organize a holiday. It doesn't have to be an amazing series of adventure travel activities or anything else too fancy. Just getting together for a weekend in another town or country can help take your mind off your ex, letting you remember what it feels like to laugh and fun again. Be aware, however, that when you return home you might have a flood of emotions on your return. Don't let that be a setback.

3. Join a club: Concentrating on a project at work and putting in long hours can often help to numb the pain of a split. However, you don't want to overdo it, as that could make you exhausted or sick. A good alternative is to join a club or find a new hobby, which can be similarly distracting but more relaxing. This will let you meet new people while filling the gap left by your ex-partner.

4. Spend some cash: Don't underestimate the healing power of that old classic hobby—shopping. Of course, I'm not advising that you re-mortgage your house or max out your credit cards, but there's nothing wrong with a little retail therapy to put a smile on your face and some brand new clothes in your wardrobe. Bring along a fun and funky friend to help you stay away from beige and black and find something bright and cheery.

Related: [Is Dating Your Ex Off Limits?](#)

5. Look up some old friends: With social media, it's almost impossible to hide from old friends from school, college and work. Returning to the single life is the best time to get back in touch and have some fun. Seeing old friends is a good opportunity to re-encounter the 'old you.' By talking about the good old days, you'll forget about your current situation in no time.

When you're finally going wild on singles holidays abroad with your brand-new wardrobe and new friends that you met at Scuba club, it'll be easy to remember that life is for living. After a breakup, we just often need a nudge to know where to start.

Chris Owen is well over his first breakup and looking forward to adventure holidays with his young family—time's a great healer!

Letting Go of Past Loves





By Rabbi Arnie Singer for GalTime.com

Move on to Find Real Love

One of the main reasons singles in their late thirties and beyond (who are longing to be married) stay solo has nothing to do with “not meeting the right one.” The “good ones” meet lots of potential right ones. The problem is that they compare potential partners to their great love (actual or imagined). The new guy or girl doesn’t stand a chance.

“I had a shot at my dream person, and there’s no way I’m giving up and settling for anything less. I’ll wait until I meet my ideal Mr./Ms. Right again.”

The only problem is that these folks forget that they were at least ten years younger when the relationship that’s seared in their memories occurred. They were different people. So were the men and women they were dating. In their minds they are still the same fun-loving, upbeat twenty-somethings with unlimited options and time. Instead of updating their software to reflect their changing environment, they choose to remain blissfully entrenched in the old programs they remember

enjoying. They choose to stick with their Atari instead of switching to the latest Xbox. Remember how challenging those space invaders were?

I'll drop the analogies so as not to throw anyone off topic and keep it as raw as I can. If you think you can attract the same guy or girl that you did when you were 29 now that you are 39, you are living a fantasy that is destroying your future. You are trading real happiness for the promise of "true love" that exists only in your imagination.

Here are some of the most common examples of ways we hold on to past loves:

Related: [10 Tips to Avoid Marrying Your Future Ex-Husband](#)

1. Being stuck in a different decade: Daniel is in his late 40s. He's got lots of hair on his head and money in the bank. Most importantly, he's got a heart of gold. Seriously, he's truly a *mensch* and will make a wonderful husband and father, if he gives himself the opportunity. You see, Daniel has a very specific taste in women. It's basically the exact same taste that he had when he was in his 20s. I won't go into details, but let's just say that what he's looking for was probably out of his league in his prime. Now it's impossible. Like I said, he's a great guy, but he's much too old for the girls he's yearning for. And he pretty much looks his age. But Daniel is comfortably entrenched in his vision of the past, and is committed to waiting for "true love" in the form of a youthful-looking super model, just a few years out of college. There are plenty of attractive and personable women within ten years of his age who would almost definitely make him happy, if he gave himself a chance. But no, he's waiting for true love, the true love of his past, and he won't "settle" for anything less.

Related: [Why Younger Women Date Older Men](#)

2. Getting hung up on age: Lisa was a hot ticket in her 20s and most of her 30s. Now she's in her 40s and still looking good. She always dated guys within a couple of years of her, on either side. Now things are a little more challenging. Most guys in their early-to-mid-40s want to date women in their 30s (That's a fact, so accept it). Lisa is still living in her 30s, searching for that successful 30-something hunk to swoop down from his hedge fund trading desk and whisk her away to a romantic getaway at his Hamptons house (fully owned, no shares). Things aren't going so well for her, and her future is not so slowly being erased by past.

3. Clinging to the memory of an old flame: Carla recently broke 40 and is hotter and more accomplished than ever. She had a major love affair in her late 20s to early 30s that didn't pan out. Since then, she's been comparing every guy she dates to her old flame, and has passed on lots of good ones because they just didn't match up to her vision of manhood (she calls it true love). So, instead of being in a relationship (maybe even a mommy several times over), she is alone, by choice, waiting for true love to revisit after so many years of absence. Unfortunately, 40s true love is going to look much different than it did in her age of innocence.

Related: [5 Signs He'll Be Good in Bed](#)

What happens to people who continue living in the past? Many of them hold on to their fantasies until they reach the stage (drop the "st") where they just decide to give up. Then they have two choices. Either they make peace with their eternal single status and "enjoy" life on their own, or they marry someone they should have married 20 years before. It's then that that these folks can finally find the happiness that they now understand comes from a loving, caring relationship.

But why wait until the point of surrender? Why not close that door to the past for good and join the world of the present where people age and grow and mature and enter relationships

and love and care and share and live meaningful lives?

How have you moved on from a past love?

The Great Marriage Hoax: Why There's More to Life Than Getting Married



By Ché Blackwood

If romantic comedies and romance novels are to be believed, all single women are on a crazed mission to marry the man of their dreams. They aren't on a journey to know themselves,

find a job they love, test out their creativity or enjoy life: those are all secondary goals on the road to getting a husband. Of course, Hollywood also says women wear makeup to bed, so it's clear that cinema doesn't always portray things the way they really are. In the real world, humans are complex, and true inner happiness takes more than sporting a ring on your finger. Before getting swept up in the mighty hype of marriage, take stock of these components of your life and be sure you're nourishing them as well:

Related: [Celebrate Being Single This Year](#)

1. Your goals: Planning ahead, working hard and motivating yourself to accomplish your personal goals are some of life's most rewarding challenges. The more you accomplish, the more your life will open up. Go back to school, save enough money to buy a brand new car, write a book, whatever. Once you start meeting your goals, you'll realize just how capable you are. Plus, you'll be happier. Without achieving personal fulfillment on your own, you'll never be completely fulfilled while in a relationship.

2. Your fears: It's scary to take risks, because when you do you can often lose something. Of course, you'll also find new benefits when you take chances. Moving to a new city could make you lonely, but it also could open your world to romantic restaurants, new friends and amazing experiences. Even if you fail, the rewards of learning from your mistakes are too large to miss out on. Until you feel comfortable facing your fears, you won't be able to navigate the tough waters of love. Nothing is as risky as leaving your heart in the hands of someone else, and it's too difficult to even attempt until you've learned how to lose as well as win.

3. Your career: It might seem obvious, but if you can't provide for yourself, you're also going to have a hard time providing for anyone else. Full-time jobs, high salaries and

executive positions are never required for happiness, but you definitely need some type of income. In this economy, an even greater challenge is finding a job you actually like. If you feel accomplished, recognized and appreciated at work, your overall happiness at home and with your partner will skyrocket.

Related: [It's Time to Stop Asking, 'When Will It Be My Turn?'](#)

4. Your friends: Taking trips, talking until the early morning and sipping wine after a hard week are some of the sweeter moments of a friendship. However, maintaining such bonds take a lot more than just the ability to have fun. Friendships take work, patience and commitment. If you listen to your girlfriend vent for three hours over her boss, you'll learn that while no relationship is easy, they're all worth the effort. Take the time out of your busy schedule and nurture those relationships. The better friend you are, the better friends you'll receive in return.

What makes you happiest outside of your relationship? Tell us in the comments below.

10 Budget-Conscious Ways To Impress Your Partner





By [Whitney Baker](#)

Sure, sometimes it's fun to splurge on a fancy date, but other times, it's nice to do something simple, entertaining and budget-friendly with your guy. Regardless of what you do, he'll be excited that you took the pressure off of him and planned a cheap outing. Whether you enjoy exploring a new area of town, staying indoors (and avoiding the summer heat!) or being active, there's a date idea on this list for you:

1. Be Outdoorsy: Sometimes the best entertainment is right outside your front door – no tickets required. Take a hike and soak up the sights and sounds of the great outdoors. When the sun goes down, take a moment to appreciate each other and do a little stargazing.

Related: [Date Idea: Cuddle While Counting the Stars](#)

2. Pack a Picnic: Using only items that are already in your pantry or fridge, fill up that picnic basket and head to your backyard for an impromptu lunch date. Spread out your blanket and chow down! Luckily, there's no pricey bill to face when

you're done eating.

3. Free Booze: Take a tour of a nearby winery or brewery. Not only will you learn more about your drink of choice, but you'll pick up some ideas for the next dinner party that you throw with your man.

4. Eat In: Treat him to a romantic dinner at home. Cook his favorite meal, light a few candles and pop open a bottle of bubbly. Taking the time to treat him to a home-cooked meal will remind him how much you love him – and maybe he'll even return the favor tomorrow night.

5. DIY Projects: Spend a day tacking those do-it-yourself projects that you both keep avoiding. Accomplishing something together will remind you of how well you work as a team. Plus, you'll have a new piece of décor to show off to your friends.

6. At-Home Spa Day: Get ready for a day – or night – of pampering. Takes turn giving each other a massage and then enjoy a bubble bath together. When you're finished, wrap up in your plushiest robe and snuggle up with a glass of wine and some relaxing music.

Related: [Date Idea: Relax with a Spa Day at Home](#)

7. Game Day: Enjoy an afternoon at the ballpark. Tickets can cost as little as \$5 – they don't call them the cheap seats for nothing! By doing something that you know he loves, you'll show him that you pay attention to his likes and work hard to fulfill his needs. Don't forget to take care of yourself too: indulge in a hot dog and cold beer as you root for your favorite team.

8. Hit the Gym: By showing him your sweaty side, he'll know just how comfortable you are around him. You can introduce a bit of friendly competition in to your relationship too: challenge him to a sit-up or push-up contest. Thanks to this

active bonding sesh, you'll have a smile on your face, win or lose.

9. Be a Tourist: Sure, you'd love to take a romantic getaway to somewhere exotic, but sometimes, you can have just as much fun exploring your hometown. Check out a local art fair or weekend farmer's market. Wander around a downtown museum and broaden your cultural horizons. Or just take to the streets and do some people-watching. You're sure to have a fun stay-cation with your man by your side.

10. Go Househunting: Spend an afternoon visiting different open houses in your area – everything from a fixer-upper to that mansion with a pool and three-car garage. Even if you aren't in the market to buy, looking at homes is a good way to test your compatibility and see where your future lies. Who knows? Maybe you'll be inspired to do some work at your current house or apartment.

Do you have any cheap date ideas to add to the list? Tell us in the comments below!

‘Beverly Hills Nannies’ Star Marika Tsircou Says, “My Baby is My Life”





By Deanna Atkins

ABC Family's new reality series, 'Beverly Hills Nannies,' premiered on Wednesday, July 11th, and although the nannies may run the show, stay-at-home mom Marika Tsircou brings tons of humor and personality to the table. In the pilot, Marika's nanny, Justin, is blown away by Marika's 10-month-old, Xander's, lavish wardrobe – he's asked to iron the baby's Burberry. The 90210 mommy lives fabulously but always puts her son and husband first.

Marika and husband Kyri were married for seven years before bringing their baby into the world. The couple enjoyed a luxurious marriage filled with exclusive events and dinners, travel and friends, which they put the brakes on entirely to be with their little one at every possible moment. The new mom shares, "All that matters is this little baby; newborns need their mommy all of the time, so you have to make sacrifices."

Related: [Jessica Simpson Says, "Motherhood is the Best Thing I've Ever Experienced"](#)

Being an attorney, Kyri endures long work days, but Marika

tells us that both her and her husband take shifts with Xander during the week and enjoy trips to the park, zoo and Grandma's house on the weekends. Before Kyri starts his work day, he spends time with Xander: they eat breakfast together and play, while Marika jumps at the opportunity of an extra hour of sleep. The two certainly make a good team, which Marika believes is due to their relationship's strong foundation.

"Before having a baby, we actually took the time to be a couple. We'd already gone through everything together, so we knew that we were in it for the long haul," Marika says. She believes that in order to be the best parents you can be, your relationship needs to be at its strongest. She and Kyri weren't used to dirty dishes piling up or the change in their sex drive, but they knew it wouldn't last and, in time, their relationship returned to normal. Most couples have a hard time realizing that because they're not used to things being different or difficult.

Related: [Three Tips to Enjoy Marriage Despite the Battles](#)

"We are both very different people, and I think that is what makes us work so well together," reveals the reality star. On the show, Justin claims that Kyri is a lot more laid back than Marika, and she doesn't hesitate to agree. "He's calm, cool and collected, while I'm more artistic and always eager to be the center of attention – which is why we complement each other so well." The love birds accept and embrace each other's similarities and differences, which truly keeps their union thriving. Because of the success of her own marriage, Marika recommends that people don't look for a mate who's exactly like them.

As a stay-at-home parent, Marika doesn't necessarily need a nanny, but the extra help doesn't hurt. She prefers to be the one to put Xander down for all of his naps, but when she takes some time for herself to paint, it's nice to have someone she can count on to watch her pride and joy for that small portion

of the day.

The nannies on the show include the most sought-after sitters in the world, but when choosing the perfect nanny, the Beverly Hills mom shares some universal advice. She explains, “You really need to find someone who is loving, compassionate, educated and well-certified.” She also stresses how important it is to trust the person that cares for your child. “I need to know that they’re somebody like me, that they’re going to love this baby like there’s no tomorrow.”

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

All new mothers can relate to the uneasiness of leaving their child in another person’s hands, and that’s why, since Xander was born, Marika has only missed putting him to bed at night twice. Everyone takes a different approach to parenting, but these reality show parents appear to be naturals – and we think their happy baby would agree.

You can keep up with the twosome and their Gucci-wearing little guy on ABC Family’s new hit show ‘Beverly Hills Nannies,’ airing on Wednesdays at 9/8 PM CT.

Date Idea: Let Your Love Fly





By Amanda Martin

Relax this weekend by flying a kite in the beautiful outdoors with your honey. It's an inexpensive way to do something laid back while still being romantic.

Kites should be flown in an open, breezy area, making the beach the perfect location. Find out if there are any kite clubs nearby. Flying with other people will allow you as a couple to admire these embellishments that are said to have originated in China. Don't worry about your beginner abilities or keeping up with the more serious people around you; just have a good time.

You can buy a single-line kite for less than \$10, or if you're looking for a challenge, you can get a dual-line stunt kite for \$20. It'll be fun to help one another make the tricky figure 8 shapes.

Once you've become tired of flying, set up an intimate picnic lunch in a shady area. Quench your thirst with freshly squeezed lemonade and indulge in homemade sandwiches.

Afterwards, take a walk together and admire the beautiful scenery.

This fun and relaxing day with your other half will help you remind each other of how special your time is together. Maybe you can even talk about your future.

How do you relax with your honey? Let us know in the comments below.

Creating a Celebrity-Style Wedding



By Rob Toledo

As summer wedding season continues, it's possible that your own marriage has been on your mind. There are a lot of stressful decisions to make before you say "I do," but you shouldn't feel intimidated. There's no better way to design a unique, stylish wedding than to look to those style-makers. Here are some top tips for using the style of celebrity couples to create your own memorable wedding:

Related: [What to Wear to a Summer Wedding](#)

1. Find your personal estate: From Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel to Carey Mulligan and Marcus Mumford, estate weddings are very popular among celebrities. Luscious green lawns with perfectly pruned roses and long, elegant white tables can make any ceremony memorable. Sure, you might not be able to rent out Downton Abbey, but you still can turn almost any big backyard into an elegant property. Find a landscaping firm that will let you line the yard with your favorite flowers. Consider swapping expensive bouquets for colorful fruit bowls with a country elegance look. Wedding planning can be the perfect reason to start a backyard fix-me-up project, so get your yard in shape with floral gardens or a stone pathway that you'll be able to enjoy year after year.

2. Celebrate in good conscience: When Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied got married, they did it with their morals on display, doing things like buying recycled platinum and conflict-free diamonds. These same ethics are easy to apply to your own wedding. Take a cue from Alicia Silverstone and print your invitations and programs on recycled paper embedded with seeds so guests can plant their own gardens at home. Try booking a sustainable venue such as a wilderness retreat or with a self-sustainable resort like the one where Kristi Yamaguchi got married. Have compost and recycling options readily available throughout the ceremony and use only locally grown food for an all-around low footprint wedding.

3. 'Smush smush' down the aisle: Okay, so Jersey Shore star Snooki has yet to marry her sweetheart Jionni LaValle, but we have a feeling that the vows will be exchanged in pure Jersey style. If you want a wedding like hers, start by getting the biggest rock you can find. The bride's dress should be form-fitting, and there should definitely be a tiara and six-inch heels involved. Men should dress in fully unbuttoned shirts to show off their blindingly bronzed pectorals. For the wedding reception, make sure to rent several hot tubs and place them by a pumping dance floor to continue your hot, Jersey style late into the night.

4. Bring your furry friends along: Are you the type of person who can't be without your four-legged companion? Be like Jennifer Hudson and invite your dogs up to the stage. Better yet, have guests to bring their own dogs as well and serve dog biscuits right beside that wedding cake. Your canine friends will be sure to keep things fun and playful, and they'll give you a good pick-me-up lick if your energy starts to drop. Just make sure their paws stay away from that white dress!

Related: [Five Celebrity Couples Who Had a Low Profile Wedding](#)

5. Paparazzi it up: Want to feel like a celebrity? Encourage your friends and families to bring cameras. Put little disposable cameras at the entrance table and encourage lots of photography. Get everyone snapping pictures: the more flash the better. This is a great way to get hundreds of unique photos of your wedding. Ask your photographer to focus on mostly candid shots so you can have a celebrity-style photo album. If you run a red carpet down the aisle, those flash bulbs will go wild.

Celebrities are bursting with unique wedding ideas. Use them as a model and plan a big special day of your own!

Rob Toledo is planning his own wedding in the Pacific Northwest this summer. He probably won't use the Jersey Shore

idea himself, but thinks you should and share lots of pictures. He is working alongside Embrace pet insurance to create fun guides to animal ownership and encourages considering dog insurance for your four legged canines.

How To Know When It's "Just For Fun": Boundaries For Flings



By Daniela Agurcia

It seems like having a fling with someone you like is

incredibly simple, but it can actually be very complicated. When you're in a fling, it's always easy to ask yourself "What are we?" Because of the nature of these sorts of affairs, it seems like there can never be precise boundaries. After all, you're supposed to get all the benefits of being with someone without having to commit. Still, even though there aren't any specific rules, you should consider these hidden guidelines for your not-so-serious flings:

Related: [5 Ways To Know If Your Relationship Is Just A Spring Fling](#)

1. Don't have "the talk": If it's a fling, then you can't assume that your partner is going to fall in love with you and you'll end up having a relationship. The biggest mistake is assuming. Once you have "the talk" with them about where your fling is headed, things start getting serious. Even worse, if it's not mutual, then things can get uncomfortable. A fling is a fling; don't ruin it with a serious talk.

2. You can't get jealous: Not succumbing to jealousy is probably the hardest part of being in light-hearted fling. Without commitment, you can't have control over what your partner does when they're not with you. Make sure you're in the right mindset and remember that whatever you don't know won't hurt you. Don't go looking for answers that might make you upset.

3. Don't change your life around for them: Because a fling isn't a relationship, you and your partner shouldn't be each other's priorities. Don't cancel plans, lose your friends or base decisions on them. Similarly, don't try to enter a routine with them: you don't want to get too comfortable in something temporary. They're supposed to be convenient, so don't act like you owe a fling anything.

Related: [5 Ways To Keep Your Summer Fling Hot](#)

4. Keep it casual: Even if you keep an ongoing fling for a while, don't feel like you have to introduce your partner to everyone or to invite them everywhere. You don't need to take them to meet your family or even your best friend. Doing things like this can make your fling into a serious partnership, and your goal should always be to keep things casual. Keep all that business for someone who is in a committed relationship with you.

What are some ways you think can help keep a fling just "fun?"
Share your thoughts below.

Match.com Survey: U.S. Singles Dating More Than Any Other Participating Nations





Match.com released findings yesterday from a new international survey that revealed U.S. singles are going on more dates than singles in any of the other participating nations.

Inspired by the 2012 Olympic games – when countries around the globe will unite in the spirit of competition – Match.com, the world's largest dating website, surveyed singles from **six countries including the U.S., U.K., Australia, Japan, France and Canada** to compare dating norms and preferences of each nation. The data revealed many stark differences between the countries on topics ranging from who pays for the first date to which countries' singles are the most likely to kiss and tell. The survey also shattered cultural stereotypes – for example, in many categories, US singles were more traditional than singles from the other countries.

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

1. US Singles Win the Gold for Most Dates, with 77% reporting they have gone on two or more dates in the last year, followed by Canada (71%) and the UK (67%). Australia came in last place at 46%, showing that Aussies may want to focus a bit more on getting back into the dating game. **US and Canada's trick to**

winning the dating race? Could be their abundance of bold women, with more Canadian (63%) and U.S. (62%) women reporting they have asked a man out on a date – more so than other countries.

2. Friends' opinions matter the most in the US; the least in France: France took the gold for independent thinking, with 74% of French singles reporting that their friends' opinions weren't a factor for choosing a date. Japan, trailing by a large gap, came in second at 47% to claim silver. **For US singles, the opposite held true**, with a large majority (70%) reporting that friends' opinions of their date matter. Northern neighbor Canada held similar attitudes in this category (68%).

3. Who pays on the first date? US singles were the most likely to believe that no matter who initiated the first date, the man should always pay (48%), while 37% of UK singles felt the first date bill should always be split. French singles however were the least likely to believe in a specific rule, with 36% reporting that depending on the situation, either person could pay. **Additional data on how nations are 'split' over who should handle the bill are included in the below release.*

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

4. Kiss and tell? US singles bare it all, while the French keep details hush-hush: French singles were least likely to kiss and tell, with 35% of respondents not sharing details of their dates with their friends, closely followed by Japan at 30%. On the opposite end of the spectrum, U.S. singles were the most likely to tell their friends everything that happened on a date – with 92% admitting they would share at least some details with their pals.

5. Hottest singles in the world? Worldwide, the familiar trumps the exotic, with singles from every country overwhelmingly reporting that the hottest singles were in

their **OWN** country. Besides expressing loyalty to their own countries, those we surveyed agreed that Southern Europe is home to the hottest singles in the world. Japanese and Aussie respondents preferred the singles in Northern Europe.

For more survey results, visit <http://blog.match.com/dating-championship>. For more information, visit <http://www.match.com>.

5 of the Most Lavish Hollywood Weddings



By Jessica Nappi

Every girl dreams of the perfect wedding, with the most beautiful dress, and of course, Prince Charming. Some celebrities are able to turn these dreams into reality with weddings that both cost millions of dollars and look gorgeous. From custom-made attire to venues that resemble paradise, these celebrity couples top our list of lavish weddings we will never forget:

Related: [Five Celebrity Couples Who Had A Low Profile Wedding](#)

1. Prince William and Kate Middleton: Undoubtedly the most talked-about wedding of 2011 and perhaps the most anticipated 'I do' since Princess Diana's royal wedding, Prince William and Kate Middleton had a lavish wedding that will be very difficult to top. The royal pair wed at Westminster Abbey in front of 1,900 guests, while thousands more gathered outside to watch the newlyweds ride by in a horse-drawn carriage and kiss on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. The cake alone cost \$80,000 and Middleton's custom-made dress cost \$70,000. Overall the wedding had to be supported by the taxpayers of England because it cost over \$30 million.

2. Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries: The whole world was fortunate enough to see this wedding thanks to a camera crew so large that 50 guests had to be cut to accommodate for it. Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries wed in a beautiful vintage Hollywood black-and-white-themed ceremony where she helped design every detail. The venue was at a private estate in Montecito, California that is worth an estimated \$20 million. Over 500 guests witnessed the 'I do's' under large white tents that were built to keep the wedding under wraps and to fit in with the black-and-white theme. Let's not forget about the wedding *dresses*; yes, there was more than one. Each of the three gowns was Vera Wang and reportedly cost \$20,000 a pop. The entire wedding cost anywhere from six to ten million dollars, but we wouldn't expect anything less from Kim Kardashian.

3. Elizabeth Hurley and Arun Nayar: Elizabeth Hurley and Indian textile heir Arun Nayar started dating in 2002 and waited to wed until 2007. The lavish and eight day-long wedding was worth the wait. Because the couple came from different backgrounds, their wedding was divided into two locations. For the British wedding, Hurley married Nayar in a beautiful ceremony at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire where Elton John gave the bride away. The nuptials continued in India at a similarly-star-studded ceremony. Hurley wore beautifully embellished dresses and chocolate fountains were scattered all across the venue making this wedding unforgettable. The wedding cost an estimated \$2.5 million.

4. Fergie and Josh Duhamel: This celebrity pair opted for a white fantasy wedding at the Church Estates Vineyards in Malibu. **Fergie** and Josh Duhamel exchanged vows under magnolia trees filled with thousands of white roses. The bride carried a bouquet of flowers studded with crystals and wore a beautifully fitted Dolce & Gabbana gown. The reception was held in a tent that was made to look like a forest of trees, with the ceiling covered in lights. Kate Hudson, Rebecca Romijn, and Jerry O'Connell were a few of the many celebrities who attended this extravagant wedding.

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

5. Kendra Wilkinson and Hank Baskett: Kendra Wilkinson and former NFL player Hank Baskett's wedding was not only lavish: it was one of a kind. They were the first couple ever to wed at the Playboy Mansion other than Hugh Hefner himself. Of course, they had to make it special. Kendra walked down the aisle in a princess-style white gown and wore more than \$100,000 worth of platinum jewelry by Michael Barin. The ceremony was held out in the open on a lawn where white rose petals and flower wreaths lined the aisle. Hundreds of guests, including plenty of playmates, watched the happy couple promised to be together forever in this beautiful ceremony.

Celebrity weddings will always peak our interest because of how over-the-top they can be. These five celebrity weddings were definitely lavish, but in the world of Hollywood, there will always be more that will top these. Stay tuned.

What are some of your favorite celebrity weddings? Tell us below.

5 Tips for Awesome Lips for Your First Kiss



By Ferina Santos

Your first kiss with a new guy is a thrill. Not only can it

tell you a lot about what kind of a person your potential partner is, but it's also a great way to know if he's ready to go from dating to exclusive. That first kiss can be fun, but to get there, you have to show your new guy that you're ready.

Consider these five tips to get your lips ready before your next big date:

Related: [First Date Outfit Ideas: Dinner and Drinks](#)

1. Exfoliate the night before: Having dry cracked lips with dead skin isn't the right way to get a man to want to pucker up for you. To be ready, exfoliate your lips the night before. To do this, simply take a toothbrush and lightly brush off the dead skin. Afterwards, take a tip from former *Bachelorette* star Ashley Hebert and apply some Vaseline to your lips. She does this nightly to keep her lips looking moist and healthy. You should too, especially after exfoliation.

2. Ruby Red Lipstick: The ultra-stunning bright red lipstick, which is frequently worn by celebrities such as Katy Perry and Christina Aguilera, is the perfect way to draw in your man and make him focus on your lips. This sends the signal that you're ready for that big first kiss. Test a few shades prior to the date to find the perfect red for your skin tone. If you're able to, boost your confidence in it by wearing it out to a dinner with the girls the night before. Use this hue to make your guy know that you are ready to take your relationship to the next level.

3. Add lip liner: This is a tip that many women forget whenever they apply lipstick. It's simple: lip liner can make your lips look fresh and kissable throughout the night. The liner holds the lipstick in place and doesn't make it smear as you eat, drink or smooch.

Related: [How to Know When It's Time for the First Kiss](#)

4. Use lip gloss: It's important to make your lips look plump

and beautiful. Just as *Real Housewives of Orange County* stars Tamara Barney, Alexis Bellino and Gretchen Rossi constantly do, you should apply your lip gloss frequently to keep your lips looking moist and ready to be kissed. If you don't have lip gloss readily available, lip balm will still keep them looking healthy and fresh.

5. Avoid smoking or red wine: Even though you may like to indulge in these commonly-craved splurges, if you're hoping for a kiss at the end of your first date, avoid these wrinkle-causing, teeth-staining and not to mention unhealthy habits. This will keep your lips looking fresh and beautiful all night without the fear of stains or aging creeping in.

Prepare your lips the night before, and use color and gloss during the day to keep them looking great. Your man will be drawn in and have no chance to say no to that perfect first kiss.

Ferina Santos is part of the team behind Open Colleges, Australia's provider of outstanding makeup courses. A feisty, 20 year-old nerd at heart with an obsession for vanity, she captures all her random musings with daily photographs in her blog, A Pink Banana. When not online, she can be found reading a book or riding with her horses while fantasizing she's a real-life Khaleesi.

Supermodel Ines Rivero Says Confidence and Communication

Are Important For Finding Love



By Daniela Agurcia

After nearly two decades of walking the runways and posing for photographers, Victoria's Secret Angel Ines Rivero is experiencing the *other* side of the modeling industry as she sits on the panel of judges for nuvoTV's new reality show 'Model Latina South Beach.' In this exclusive interview, the Argentine supermodel, who has been featured on the cover of renown fashion magazines such as 'Elle' and 'Vogue,' talks about her role on the show as well as her experience as a model, her family and her advice for women everywhere.

Related: ['General Hospital' Star Jen Lilley Says "Confidence is So Sexy"](#)

Being a judge on 'Model Latina South Beach,' which premiered on Monday, May 28, sounds like an easy job. But of course, drama is inevitable when the stakes are so high: ten Latina models will compete for a chance to win \$25,000, a position as nuvoTV's spokesperson and a contract with international modeling agency, Q Management. Even so, Rivero enjoys playing judge. For her, the most rewarding part of the experience is being able to pass on the lessons that she's learned as a model and help the young women grow in the industry.

Lesson number one: Rivero stresses that confidence is sexier than physical appearance. Many single women focus on their looks when trying to get a man's attention. Even Rivero was guilty of this mistake, telling us, "I used to be worried about all of the little things wrong with my body, but now I don't care what people think."

It looks like Muriel Villera, 21, of Hialeah, Florida, took Rivero's advice to heart. Last night, she was crowned this season's winner. She believes that her personality played as big of a role in her success as her beautiful face and perfect figure, recently saying, "There is nothing more attractive than ambition and confidence." Next stop for this Latina? A move to New York City to use what she learned on the show and focus on her modeling career.

While Muriel hopes to be a positive example for aspiring models, Rivero believes that women get the wrong impression from this industry, often thinking that they need to be as skinny as them or that they need surgery to look a certain way. She argues that men are generally attracted to women who are natural, so instead of trying to cover up, just be confident with you you are. Recognizing the great influence that models have on women everywhere, she says, "I think we can inspire women by being healthy and in shape and showing off our bodies with confidence."

As for finding that self-confidence, Rivero thinks that

“finding a balance,” both physically and emotionally, is the most important step. She tells us that she’s learned to live her life by being optimistic and trying to find the good in all situations. “Confidence comes from having joy inside you, not necessarily by the way you look in the mirror,” she shares.

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

When asked if husband Jorge Mora is supportive of her career, Rivero says, “Absolutely.” Regardless of how demanding and revealing her career may be, he understands her lifestyle – after all, he is a professional singer and relates to being in the public eye. Despite her hectic schedule, her husband and daughter always remain her top priority, and she supports them both in whatever they do.

As for the secret to her lasting relationship? Communication. Rivero says she and Mora know how to respect each other’s space and to always talk through their issues. “One of the first things we did was learn how to fight effectively, so that helped us through a lot of problems,” she says. “Learning to talk about things is key, and we’re pretty good at it now.”

Be sure to catch the reruns of ‘Model Latina South Beach’ on nuvoTV!

Shrinkwrap: When Are You Exclusive?



By Jane Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime

Taking Your Relationship to the Next Level

From recent reports it seems that actors Michelle Williams and Jason Segel have quietly crossed that line between playing with the idea of being exclusive and committing to being a couple.

At a recent premiere party to celebrate Segel's film *The Five-Year Engagement*, they were seen holding hands and gazing into each other's eyes. They are both known for taking their time when it comes to romance. It raises the question, how does a hopeful pair get from one point to the next? When do you actually become an exclusive couple?

Related: [6 Things to NEVER Say to Your Man](#)

One of my patients was pondering this recently, and she asked

me about when it's appropriate to have the conversation and negotiate the terms of becoming a committed couple. I told her that in order to gauge that, you want to look at what is going on between the two of you.

Being exclusive is the exciting hill everyone wants to get over in a new, promising relationship. And there will be definite signs that you are successfully making that climb. One example might be if you begin to refer to each other, and to introduce each other, as boyfriend and girlfriend. Other clues are when you start to show your affection in public by holding hands and touching, making the statement that you belong together, or you start to say, "I love you." And the best indication of all is that you no longer want to date other people, or even leave that door open for the possibility. When it becomes clear that you are focusing your energy and heart on that one person, and that it is a mutual choice, that is a good time to check in to determine if you are now being exclusive.

Related: [5 Things to Give Him a Pass on this Summer](#)

Once you decide you are each other's one and only, you will be able to usher in the emotional and sexual trust and safety that most people crave. You want "the talk" my patient was referring to, and even more important, the move toward steady dating, to be an acknowledgment of what is already happening between the two of you rather than a negotiation to put something in place, just as it seems to be for Williams and Segel.

'Step Up Revolution' Makes You Want to Move



By Jessica Smith

Defying parents has always been a theme in the *Step Up* movies, but in *Step Up Revolution*, young adults put up the ultimate protest. Emily, who hopes to be a professional dancer, moves to Miami, where she encounters the dance mob that's been taking over the city. Once she proves herself to Sean, the oh-so-sexy leader of the mob, falls in love with him and joins their crew, she brings even more meaning to their dancing by suggesting they use it as a form of protest against the city-destroying plans of her father. As the awareness of their mission to save the city elevates, so does the relationship between Emily and Sean. It's a perfect flick to give the audience a little taste of that Miami heat, and like all *Step*

Up films, there's a plethora of hot sculpted male bodies. Come join the revolution July 27!

Related: [‘DWTS’ Pro Tony Dovolani on His Marriage: “My Wife is My Queen”](#)

Should You See It: Why not? Even though the film lacks any big celebrity names, it will leave you twitching in your seat wishing you could dance like the Miami mob.

Who Should You Take: Anyone over the age of thirteen of course! This is an exciting summer movie that has the potential to entertain a wide range audience young and old, boys and girls alike!

What do you do when your parents don't approve of your partner? Here are some ways to make your parents like your loved one as much as you do:

Oh the joy of dating: introducing your date to your parents. Whether it's the terror you feel as a father shakes your partner's hand and stares deep into their soul, or the frustration at the mother who's convinced that she's the only one who can really take care of her child, parent introductions are always nerve-wracking. However, you shouldn't lose hope! Even if the introductions don't go as planned and your partner failed to meet their expectations, there's still time to change their mind. Here are some tips to help prove your partner to your parents:

1. Be stubborn: When it comes to their kids, parents can be ruthless. If your parents have nothing but bad things to say about your significant other and you disagree with them don't just let them bury you in insults. Scream your protest from the rooftops! Don't let them get away with being rude and overprotective.

Related: [‘Magic Mike’: A Steamy Summer Flick](#)

2. Be persistent: Just because one night went wrong doesn't mean that all hope is lost. Both you and your partner need to be persistent in your attempts to gain the parents' approval and respect. Show your initiative and visit again with confidence.

3. Be mature: Your parents' love is their excuse for driving you crazy and making your life more difficult. Don't retaliate to their verbal abuse of your partner by giving them a taste of their own medicine. This won't get you anywhere. Instead, you might have to trade places with your parents and be the adults. Often, parents just need time. Let them have it, and they're likely to come around.

How did you and your partner handle meeting each other's parents? Share your comments below.