

# 'American Guns' meets 'The Bachelor' in Season Two



By [Whitney Baker](#)

Tonight, the Discovery Channel reloads for sixteen episodes in season two of *American Guns*. This reality television show features Rich Wyatt, a gun master and retired police officer with over 20 years of experience, and his family as they work at Guns Smoke Guns. Located in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, just outside of Denver, Guns Smoke Guns specializes in gun manufacture, trade and customization. Additionally, Wyatt, along with his son Kurt and a number of trained instructors, teach numerous shooting classes as well as a three-day self-

defense course.

Jesse and Ann Csincsak, both of *The Bachelor* fame, learned firsthand the importance of taking such a self-defense class. Prior to signing up for the class, they both agreed that they needed to learn the necessary skills to protect their family. However, they disagreed about having weapons in the house: Jesse was comfortable with the idea, while Ann was against it. Jesse reached out to Wyatt, who recommended that they sign up for the course and said that he'd refund their money if Ann didn't have a change of heart.

Of the experience, Jesse shares, "The class teaches you that a gun is a tool. If you pull your gun and you own it, the bad guy is going to run in the other direction nine times out of ten. You have to present with self-confidence."

As for Ann? "My wife had the fastest draw and shoot in the class!," Jesse says.



Be sure to tune in to the premiere of the second season of *American Guns* tonight at 10 PM ET/9 PM CT on the Discovery Channel. Keep your eyes open for Jesse and Ann's experience as well, which will be featured later in the season.

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# Mira Kirshenbaum Discusses Salvaging Your Relationship in “I Love You But I Don’t Trust You”



By Daniela Agurcia

It's no secret that trust is the adhesive that holds a healthy relationship together. To trust in a romantic partnership is to place confidence in your lover, and to assure that you can rely on his or her character to be there for you whenever you're in need. But trust, as essential as it is to a



successful relationship, is fragile in nature. Once it's broken, it's difficult to piece back together, and often times if it is repaired, the cracks of betrayal still show, and the relationship trudges on, damaged at best.

Mira Kirshenbaum, relationship expert and author of eleven books, including her latest, *I Love You But I Don't Trust You*, offers some excellent advice on trusting your partner, and how to salvage the broken bond in a relationship after it has vanished.

We had the chance to interview Mrs. Kirshenbaum about her latest book, and she shed some light on how we are affected by this trust dynamic, and what we can do about it:

**Some people have trust issues. Are there any early warning signs that issues may arise later in a relationship?**

Here are the most important warning signs that trust issues may arise:

1. One partner lies more frequently.
2. One partner needs, or feels that they need, to control the other.
3. One partner is unreliable.
4. One partner has much more money or power than the other.
5. One partner has a history of having been hurt.

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**What are some of the common mistakes that lead to mistrust in a relationship?**

One very common and very destructive dynamic occurs when Person A tries to control Person B (whether for good or bad reasons). Person B resists control, usually by hiding what they do. Person A finds out some of what Person B has been doing, or just that Person B has been hiding, and attempts to gain even more control. Which leads Person B to hide all the

more. In general, openness is best, even if what you are being open about is initially hard to hear.

**What are some tips you have for saving a relationship that has been damaged by trust issues?**

Of course, I outline a whole procedure for doing this in my new book, "I Love You but I Don't Trust You." But here are some tips that will be helpful: The sooner you both understand that you both played a role in getting where you are, the better. There are no purely innocent parties. If you go into couples therapy this will be driven home to you. So, you might as well embrace it now. If you are the one who broke trust, it's fine to be sorry, and you should certainly show how sorry you are, but the most important thing is showing that you really understand how hurtful your action was, and that you fully realize the damage you did. This means really listening to your partner, and showing you've heard, without excusing or explaining yourself. If you've been betrayed, there's a good chance you'll harbor that for quite a while. However, you need to realize that you're angry because you're scared. You don't want to be hurt again, and your anger—you hope—will seem very intimidating. Just realize that the longer your anger goes on, the more damage it will do to the relationship, because that anger will prevent the communicating the two of you will need to do to heal things.

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**If a couple follows your protocol, how do they safeguard their relationship so that these issues don't arise again?**

The trick is encouraging openness. We want our partners to tell us the truth, but we don't always like what we hear. This is where things get tricky. If we respond to things we don't want to hear in a way that discourages openness that will erode trust over time. The solution is to make it abundantly clear, powerfully clear, that while you may not

have liked what you heard you are very grateful for your partner being open. Just ask yourself, “Am I making it as easy as possible for my partner to be open?” The wrong answer is, “Well, he should just be open.”

**If the relationship doesn't work out, what are some tips for getting back in the dating game, and learning to trust again?**

You can't be in a relationship without a risk of being hurt, so don't worry about perfect safety. Just try to be as safe as you can one step at a time. It's important to encourage honesty and be honest yourself. If you see something that raises your suspicion, trust yourself by asking your partner why they did what they did. You need to ask what it meant to them, and what they thought about the impact it would have on you. Ask them how they expected you to respond.

Ask these questions calmly and patiently, making it as easy as possible for them to be open with you. This is just what a good detective would do; relax the other person, and you get the best information. Remember, knowledge is power. The more you know—by asking—the more you can figure out your next move. This is crucial when there are trust issues.

These are just some suggestions. The point is, learn everything you can about what they did and what it meant to them before you react. And then and only then will you be in a good position to respond.

**What is the one piece of advice you would give to someone who wants to build back trust in their relationship?**

They need to ask themselves, “What's the one thing I need most from my partner to regain trust?” Ask for it clearly, and make sure you get it.

You can purchase Mira Kirshenbaum's book “I Love You But I Don't Trust You” on Amazon.

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# On & Off: When Celebrities Should Call it Quits



By Daniela Agurcia

With fame comes glamour and wealth. These are things everyone wants, but they can also take a toll on a relationship. With a celebrity's busy schedule and a seemingly bottomless bank account, it's hard to make time and decisions for things other than themselves. The fact of the matter is that there's only so much a relationship can take before the best decision is to

just call it quits. Here are some of the issues that can ultimately break up a celebrity couple:

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**1. Your age becomes an issue:** There are many celebrity couples whose age difference is more than a couple of years and this starts to become a problem. Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher seemed madly in love and happy to be with each other, until the issue of their ages caught up with them and they realized they both wanted different things in life. When your age difference is significant and you both have a different mindset, this will catch up with your relationship, causing a split. When you're young, you want to continue experiencing life, while when you're older, you're usually ready to settle down .

**2. Distance:** The life of a celebrity can be hectic. Hollywood stars such as Katy Perry and Russell Brand have crazy schedules that barely give them time to relax and spend time with each other. Celebrities get caught up in everything they have to do and eventually the growing emotional distance between the couples becomes inevitable on both ends. There are only so many times you can Skype before you both realize it's just not enough. If you realize that you're only seeing your beau a couple of times a month, you're not ready to settle down with each other just yet.

**Related:** [4 Ways to Make Long Distance Work](#)

**3. There's someone else in the picture:** Celebrities are constantly on tour or on set with many different people so they're bound to meet someone who they have a lot in common with. When celebrities work apart from their partner, they sometimes get lonely and end up finding that missing company and comfort in someone other than who they're in a relationship with. How can you avoid falling in love with someone like Robert Pattinson when you're cast to play Bella



Swan? Sometimes things just happen.

**4. Fame and Money:** A lot of fame and money can get to some people's heads, and problems for celebrities are easily solved with having both, allowing them to avoid making rational decisions. With a lot of money, celebrities can make a quick escape out of a marriage or relationship, and it ends up being a trend in Hollywood to change your mind last minute about a huge decision, just like Kim Kardashian's 72-day marriage. If you notice a pattern in someone's love life that seems too fast paced, stay away!

**How do you know when it's time to call it quits in a relationship? Share your comments below.**

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## **Top 5 Don't Tips for Interracial Dating**





By Rachel Khona

She's hot. She's cute. And she just so happens to be of another race. These days, dating someone outside of your own culture is hardly taboo, particularly if you live in a major city. But potential family issues aside, interracial dating can provide its own set of minefields, particularly when it comes to the initial pickup. Here are some handy tips:

### **1. Don't use her race as a pickup line**

As a minority, I've encountered my fair share of men who think the easiest way into my pants is to use my ethnicity as a pickup line. The numerous times men have resorted to racial stereotypes to pick me up are endless. The problem is, while these men may have good intentions, their execution is poor. They forget to take into account that women of other races are people, too – people who don't necessarily walk around

thinking about their ethnicity or nationality all day.

**Related:** [What Does Your Date's Drink Say About Him?](#)

## **2. Don't assume you know what her race is**

As an added twist, no one really seems to know what I am. Guys try to discern what my ethnic makeup is, and my friends even take bets on what he's going to guess. Usually it's some form of Latina, often Mexican or Puerto Rican, but sometimes men branch out to Columbian or Chilean.

Alas, I'm none of the above. I'm Indian.

But that doesn't stop men from walking up to me in bars and saying "Hola!" or "Como esta?" Failing to relate to me as a person, they immediately use race as a cheap tactic to start a conversation. One man even went so far as to say I'm sassy because of all that Latin blood running through me. I am sassy, but being Latina has nothing to do with it.

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

## **3. Don't act as though she's not American, Canadian, Australian...**

Not all of these men are uneducated, dumb or otherwise ignorant. Everyone from lawyers, businessmen, police officers and artists have asked me where I'm from, seemingly perplexed when I respond "New Jersey," as if that couldn't possibly be the right answer. "No, where are you really from?" they ask again. When I once told a man I was Indian, he responded by saying, "You're not all Ganesh and stuff."

He was right. Funnily enough, I didn't have eight arms or walk around in a sari. I was raised in New Jersey. I pepper my sentences with "like" and "omigod." I have a predilection for classic rock, going to the shore and dive bars. My life is not a Bollywood movie. I am more likely to be found joining every other red-blooded American singing "Don't Stop Believing" at a

bar than dancing to Bhangra music. For all intents and purposes, I am as American as anyone else. Yes, I am of Indian heritage and proud of it, but that's hardly all there is to me.

#### **4. Don't pretend to be culturally enlightened**

Some men attempt to use race as a way to prove how culturally enlightened they are. Case in point: As I was writing this article at an airport bar, the bartender asked me what ethnicity I was. When I told him I'm Indian, he responded by saying, "That's what I thought. I've traveled to India quite a bit, so I could tell."

I didn't believe him, of course, as even Indian people often don't know that I'm Indian. What I believed is that he was attempting to impress me with his worldliness. I imagine I could have said Brazil, Italy or Iran, and he probably would have said the same thing. When I expressed my surprise, he continued by telling me most people are ignorant for assuming I'm Latina.

Even one of my closest Indian friends thought I was Puerto Rican upon first meeting me. I hardly consider my friend to be ignorant. In dissing everyone else who thought differently, it's as if he sought to show me how culturally enlightened he was. Not only did he assume that everyone else is just an unintelligent a-hole, he made the dire mistake of behaving like a know-it-all.

He then dropped the fact that he used to date an Indian girl. I wondered if I should respond, "Oh, I used to date a white guy. I've traveled all over America, Canada and Europe, so I know a lot about white people." I decided against it. He continued to tell me everything he knew about India, and even peppered the conversation with a few Punjabi phrases. My family doesn't speak Punjabi and isn't from Punjab. Not even close.



## 5. Don't stereotype

Regardless of what end of the spectrum these men fell on, they didn't realize how simple-minded they were showing themselves to truly be. They relied on racial stereotypes.

There's nothing wrong with talking about race with a woman, but it shouldn't be the first thing that comes out of your mouth. It should be something that comes up organically in the [conversation](#), not a way to impress her. If you find yourself interested in a woman of another race, whether she is Asian, Latina, or black, get to know her as a person first. Nobody wants to be reduced to a stereotype, and if that's what you resort to when meeting a woman, you most certainly will not get very far.

*Rachel Khona is a model broker and writer. She serves as a contributing editor for Vaga, and has written for Cosmopolitan, Inked, Treats, Richardson, Your Tango, and Ask Men. She's often consulted for her dating knowledge, though she claims to know next to nothing about men.*

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# Top 10 Sayings that Can Destroy Your Love Life Before It Begins





By Nisha Ramirez

Whether you're on a first date or in a new relationship, the things you say can play a huge role in finding and keeping love. They say that "actions speak louder than words," but we're here to tell you that sometimes certain phrases can destroy your love life before it even begins. Check out these 10 expressions you should avoid when you're looking for Cupid's arrow to hit your target:

### **1. My biological clock is ticking.**

Okay, we know women have to think about time when it comes to having a baby, but asking your new beau what day you should schedule a visit to the OBGYN together is just crazy. Let time run its course, and then the two of you can begin to talk about children. Rule of thumb: If you haven't discussed moving in or adopting a puppy together, chances are he is not ready to talk about babies.

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## **2. Do you find that guy attractive?**

It happens: you see a cute guy or television star and ask your boyfriend if he thinks the guy is good looking. If you occasionally do this just because there isn't another female around, we understand. However, if this is your way of finding out if your guy is gay, stop it now! The more you question a man's sexuality, the less attractive you will become to him.

## **3. Do you think that girl is cute?**

Asking a man if he finds another girl attractive can really make things awkward. Besides coming off as insecure (a huge turnoff), you look like you don't trust him. Don't worry about him checking out another girl unless you see him doing it. If that's the case, you have our permission to use some other sailor mouth "sayings."

## **4. You remind me of my father/mother.**

What? No one wants to be reminded of their date's parents. Comparing your partner to your mom or dad can cause major problems in a relationship. Your significant other may begin to feel like they have to live up to be like your parent, and expectations often lead to disappointments.

## **5. What's the passcode to your phone?**

Asking for a person's passcode is equivalent to asking for the key to a person's privacy and not their heart. Having your partner's phone can lead to constantly checking their emails, text messages, Twitter and Facebook. This unhealthy habit can really make you paranoid and might make your partner actually give you a reason to have to look through his things.

**Related:** [Five Bad Relationship Habits and How To Break Them](#)

## **6. How much do you make?**

Unless you're about to make a huge purchase with your partner, such as buying a house, this question is off limits. What if you make more money than him? That could really cause some self-esteem issues. Or if you make less than him, that could make you look like a real gold digger, when you should be looking for love.

## **7. Do you believe in God?**

Religion and politics should be off limits. They can really cause unneeded tension and can make the both of you feel uncomfortable. In a diverse society, we still tend to categorize people based on their religion and for whom they vote. Don't put a block on potentially meeting your soul mate.

## **8. This is going to be a great story to tell our kids, after the wedding of course!**

Letting a guy know that you want to marry him early on can really be a turnoff. You shouldn't be talking about children if you haven't made big life decisions together, and choosing what movie to go see after dinner does not count. Still don't understand? Telling a guy that you want to marry him on a date is like a guy saying he just wants to hook-up with you.

## **9. You look better in pictures.**

In our world of tech dating, sometimes we first meet our date through an online profile picture. If you ever meet someone for the first time, don't say that they look different in pictures. You're basically saying that they look worse in person. We're all for being honest, but not when it comes to hurting someone's feelings and self-esteem right after you meet them.

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

## **10. I loved being intimate with my ex.**



Conversations about exes and intimacy should not happen on first dates. Your date will think that you are not over your ex and that will definitely stop potential love in its tracks. If you stay away from this subject, you'll have a much better chance of the relationship surviving another date.

Have you ever said or been told any of these expressions?  
Share your comments below.

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## Beyonce's NYC Sleek Style



By Ann Csincsak, Vintage Sweet & Chic

Beyonce is not only a Grammy winning recording artist, actress and mother she is also a fashion style icon whose sleek look is full of glamour and edge.

The first look below blends spring fashion with a white blazer and light colored cropped skinny jeans by Free People. Braids are all the rage for spring and summer. So, even if you're meeting that special someone after the gym, a side braid can glam up any date instantly. Keep your makeup light for daytime with this great Dior Gloss or rev it up with a deep blush for a night out. Beyonce is wearing a pair of vintage Chanel hoop earrings. If that's out of our budget, find a stylish simple pair that will make your outfit look equally great. No matter what the occasion Beyonce knows how to look like a movie star without too much effort and now so can you!



In this next look, Beyonce shows us how to glam up a summer dress with some jewelry and a great studded bag. It's always fun to match your metals in any outfit. Gold with gold looks great with a bracelet and a bag or earrings and a belt.



No matter what the date or occasion, keep it simple with great statement jewelry and pick special pieces for your main outfit whether it's a dress, blazer, skirt, or top!

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## ABC's "The Bachelor" & "The

# Bachelorette" Face Lawsuit For Racial Discrimination



By Steven Zangrillo

New York, NY – ABC's "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" have another ugly public controversy to deal with. Despite 23 seasons of success, this past year has been tough on executive producer Michael Fleiss, as he is now dealing with his second set of legal issues in the span of a few months. CupidsPulse.com listened in on a press conference yesterday surrounding the impending class-action lawsuit against the popular ABC reality franchise for racial discrimination. The plaintiffs, Nathaniel Claybrooks and Christopher Johnson, are



two African-American males who say they were discriminated against during the casting call process.

**Related:** [Former Bachelor Contestants Prepare to File Class Action Lawsuit against ABC Producers](#)

The plaintiffs are suing American Broadcast Companies, Inc., Warner Horizon Television, Inc., Next Entertainment, Inc., NZK Productions, Inc., and Michael Fleiss, the executive producer of the franchise, on behalf of all other persons of color who have applied for the role of the Bachelor or Bachelorette but been denied equal opportunity for selection on the basis of race. The case alleges that the Defendants violated both federal and California laws intended to guarantee equal opportunity in business, commerce, and media regardless of one's skin color.

Christopher Johnson, who is an aspiring professional football player, was cognizant of the show's history of white-only contestants. "I knew at the time that there had never been a non-white Bachelor before, but I thought that a minority candidate with my qualifications would at least be considered," added Mr. Johnson. "In reality, it seems they never seriously looked at non-white candidates."

**Related:** [Bachelor Season 16 Finale: Jesse Csincsak Discuss Ben Flajnik's Big Decision to Choose Courtney Robertson](#)

Never, over 10 years and a combined total of 23 seasons of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," has either show featured a single person of color—whether African American, Latino, Asian, or any other minority race or ethnicity—in the central role of the "Bachelor" or "Bachelorette." In 16 seasons of "The Bachelor" and seven seasons of "The Bachelorette," every person featured in the lead role on either show has been white.

Jesse Csincsak, winner of "The Bachelorette" Season 4, has had



his own issues with Michael Fleiss. As recently as January, Csincsak was exploring the possibility of pursuing his own class-action suit against Fleiss and the producers. When Jesse was asked if he thought his lawsuit has inspired others to do the same he responded "I've been saying this for a long time. When someone stands up to this guy, other people will start coming forward. It's like rats in a flood."

It's anyone's guess where this will lead.

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## Justin Bieber Proves Honesty Is the Best Policy





By UK Date

Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber believes that he is the perfect boyfriend because he's loving, patient and honest, according to a recent interview. The 18-year-old even revealed his top dating tips on just what makes him such a good partner to 19-year-old Selena Gomez. Bieber, who has attracted millions of teenage fans since his rise to fame, exposed his relationship skills when speaking to Radio Disney while promoting his new single which is coincidentally dubbed "Boyfriend." The celeb's most important advice? Honesty. He claims that people dating have to be honest from the very start, and he concluded that your partner will appreciate trustworthiness over deceit.

This dating tip transcends for all couples around the world, because honesty really is the best policy. No one enjoys being cheated on or lied to, even though small fibs are necessary at times to make a relationship work. Here are ways to keep things legit in a relationship:

## **Date one person at a time**

The best way to start a relationship based on honesty is to refrain from dating more than one person at a time. It may seem innocent at first, but should the truth come out later, the whole relationship and its foundation may be called into question.

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## **Speak up about your likes and dislikes**

There's a fine line between impressing a partner to make them like you and being false, so if your prospective lover asks if you like horror films and in reality they make you squirm, say so. Often times opposites attract, so it's really in your best interests to be frank.

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

That's not to say that couples don't face challenges. For instance, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber began dating last year, but it wasn't made public until March 2011 due to hate mail from angry jealous fans. Gomez even received death threats after she was pictured kissing and cavorting with Bieber in Hawaii in May. The young idols have definitely faced their own trials and struggles in the relationship, and if they hadn't had a strong and honest foundation, they never would have stayed together. In fact, they never would have gotten through the next challenge they faced in November 2011 either, when 20-year-old named Mariah Yeater alleged that Bieber had fathered her son. This allegation was strongly denied by many in the pop star's court.

So perhaps Bieber's advice to be sincere is a top dating tip for real relationships in 2012. It seems to be working well for him!



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# 'The Lucky One' is Perfect for Spring Romance



From Nicholas Sparks, the author who wrote *The Notebook* and *Dear John*, comes this romantic tale starring heartthrob Zac Efron. The *High School Musical* star plays Logan, an Iraq war veteran who claims to have survived for one reason, a picture he found a girl he does not know. After the war, he goes to find his savior. It turns out her name is Beth, and Logan ends



up working at her family's kennel. Romance develops between the two and could lead to true love. *The Lucky One* looks to be a perfect spring romance film.

**Should You See It?** If you need a romance fix or just feeling having a good time at the movies then absolutely. This film should be a fun romance flick to get away from reality for a few hours.

**Who To Take:** This is a great one to take your mom to. It should be a fun bonding experience, but you could also take your friends. Unless your significant other is a big romance fan, this is a date movie that might bore them.

**Do you have trust issues? Here are some tips on how to be more trustworthy so that love can enter your life more freely.**

In *The Lucky One*, Beth does not immediately trust Logan when he shows up on her doorstep. But the story develops in a way that she learns to trust him. This reflects how a lot of people live their lives, except they fail to let their guard down for someone who could be very special. Here are some tips on how not to do that.

**1. Don't judge them right away.** There is a lot under the surface of a person, but sometimes when we first see someone all we perceive is the surface. Try to be open minded and give them a legitimate person if they had the courage to personally seek you out.

**2. Listen to your friends.** Sometimes our friends have better insights into our own lives than we do. If they think someone is right for you then perhaps you should give it a try.

**3. Trust yourself.** Do you keep making excuses for why it wouldn't work? That usually means you are scared. Let them in and give this thing a shot. You never know until you at least try. If any part of you wants to try it, then it is worth it.

Have you gotten over trust issues before? Share your experiences below!

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# Five Signs Your Partner Is Using You for Your Money



By Melissa Caballero

Every relationship has its ups and downs, and in our economy today, a major love obstacle is money. It takes two people to form a stable life together, and one of the main factors to

stability is the almighty dollar. There are many ways for couples to navigate through the everyday expenses of life and joint payment decisions. However, this burden should never fall on just one person, no matter what the circumstances may be. If you feel that your partner is only in this relationship for your money, step back for a moment and evaluate why you are putting up with this fact. You may feel that you are caught up in a web of guilt or obligation to your mate, but that should never be the case. Here are five ways to tell if your partner is using you for your money:

**1. You often give your partner money and lend them things without getting them back.**

If your partner is always broke and is relying heavily on you to pick up their financial slack, this may be a clear indication that you are being used. Your mate should respect every aspect of you and this includes your belongings. You may have just moved in together, but that doesn't mean they can abuse what is yours. If you are always paying for them or letting them use your stuff, then they are not treating you with the respect you deserve. You need to protect yourself, your money and your emotions.

**2. Excuses flow freely about not being able to find a job.**

You may not want to admit this, but maybe you are dating a loser. They feed you every excuse in the book as to why they are broke this month: the economy, their previous boss was a jerk or they are waiting for a check to come in. If you come home to find a filthy kitchen after working all day and you see your partner lounging on the couch playing video games, this is a clear sign of a lazy deadbeat with no motivation. It is not your responsibility to 100 percent support your mate with no reciprocation. You may think you are helping them, but in the long-run you are allowing this behavior to continue and enabling their laziness. Instead, talk to them about how you

feel.

### **3. When you go out to dinner, you're always expected to pay.**

Chivalry is not dead. So, women if you find that your man is always leaving the dinner check for you, he is taking advantage of your hard work and income. Even if you are the breadwinner in the relationship, you work hard for your money and this fact alone does not automatically qualify you as the one to always pick up the check. On the reverse side of this equation, if you have been together for at least a couple of months and your man usually pays for every dinner and movie you attend, it wouldn't hurt to once in a while offer to pay for something as well. You do not want him to become resentful and feel as if you are taking advantage of him.

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### **4. He expects you to pay for everything without blinking an eye.**

If your partner always expects you to pay the rent or buy any necessities for your apartment without EVER offering to chip in, question their motives. It may be the case that your partner is truly struggling to find a job and is dealing with their own personal finance issues, making it difficult for them to equally contribute to the relationship in that capacity. However, if they feel burdened about their situation and lack of ability to partake in purchases, you will know. Your partner would show you appreciation, thankfulness and love in a way that would make it clear they are not using you for your money. If not, you may be dating a [jerk](#)!

**Related:** ["Should I Stay or Should I Go?: A Guide to Knowing if Your Relationship Can – and Should – be Saved"](#)

### **5. Pure intuition.**

If you are having any sort of feelings that your partner is



using you for your money, you are probably right! Too many times, people ignore their intuition, denying that their partner would be in this relationship if it were just about the money. Trust your inner feelings and communicate exactly how you feel and what you need. You should never feel an ounce of doubt, and you definitely do not want to find yourself taken advantage of.

**How can you tell if you're being used? Share your comments below.**

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## **3 Reasons Nice Guys Shouldn't Finish Last**





By David Wiseman

For many women, there's something exciting and stimulating about the bad boy. He's a rascal and a rogue, and that's part of the attraction. Confident, good-looking, stylish and poised, he knows how to conduct himself. So, then, what is the downside? Here are three good reasons that nice guys shouldn't be left unnoticed:

### **Bad Boy Attraction Can Quickly Burn Out**

At first, part of the attraction stems from the fact that things are so spontaneous and exciting. He doesn't call four times, but rather just shows up unannounced. But after a while, this can become a bit tiresome and a woman wants someone she can rely and depend on.

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

Take George Clooney, for instance. He's a bad boy who is

seemingly never going to be tamed. He has said that he doesn't want to get married again and would rather just hook-up. For a girl who wants a long-term commitment, the glamor and excitement is quickly going to fade.

## **The Long Term and Starting a Family**

If you're after something serious, a nice guy shouldn't finish last. A relationship needs to be built on a platform of trust, communication and honesty, and you will be struggling to get that from a bad boy.

Plus, there's the desire to start a family. If this is something you're after, you are going to want someone who will parent with the same concerns and values that you will.

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

Some celebrity example of this is are Kevin Federline and Matthew Broderick. K-Fede is now barely a part of Britney Spears' life, and she takes care of her boys without his help.

Matthew Broderick is anything, but a bad boy and is a devoted dad. This isn't something you're going to be thinking of in the early stages of a relationship. Many women regret their choice of partner because the bad boy couldn't successfully make the transition from boyfriend to father. So, it's important to think ahead wherever possible.

## **Getting Bad Out of the Nice**

The thing is, it's very easy to write off a guy after a first meeting. He may be a bit shy and a socially awkward. His dress sense isn't the best, and he says the wrong thing at the wrong time. But, after a while, you get to know him; he feels more comfortable in your presence and comes out of his shell.

What you may have is nice guy on the outside and a bad boy on the inside.

He will give you the best of both worlds. For example, Ashton

Kutcher was like this with Demi Moore until the bad boy just took over, and they split. But being bad doesn't always lead to relationship failure. One famous guy who seems to have been able to keep the faith is Jon Bon Jovi, who married his high school sweetheart and is still happily married to her.

They have four kids, and he seems to be one of the very few who has been able to get the balance just right.

Dating a bad boy is like flying too close to the sun. If he gets a little bit worse, he might not be loyal to you, and staying faithful is one of the biggest issues that prevent bad boys from being in long term relationships.

*David Wiseman loves popular culture and is one of the few people left who think Ted Mosby will actually get married. His dream celebrity video chat is Christina Hendricks. His role models are Don Draper and Walter White.*

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## 26 New Yorkers Set to Star In New Badoo Billboard Campaign







## **Europe's Hottest Social Network for Meeting New People Announces Winners of The Badoo Project Photo shoot**

Badoo, the world's largest social network for meeting new people unveiled the names of the 26 New Yorkers set to appear around the city later this month, as part of Badoo's first U.S. advertising campaign.

The diverse group of New Yorkers were all selected from The Badoo Project, the largest public fashion photoshoot New York has ever seen. Kicked off by entertainer Nick Cannon, The Badoo Project saw four of America's leading fashion photographers capture more than 1,000 portraits of New Yorkers over three days in March, all with the aim of giving everyone a gorgeous, magazine-worthy online profile picture.

In total, 26 New Yorkers were chosen to front the new campaign, and the winners are as diverse as the great city itself: 14 guys and 12 girls, aged between 18 and 30, hailing

from all corners of New York. Between them, they're into all sort of things – 90's Hip-Hop, getting into trouble, gypsy jazz shows, playing the ukulele, X-Men, the Wu-Tang Clan, museum hopping, and of course fashion and lookin' good...

Twenty four of these winners were selected by Badoo's panel of judges, and the final two "People's Choice" winners were voted for by the public online. Teresa Hui from Brooklyn and Jason Tez from New Jersey both garnered thousands of votes apiece as they mobilized their social circles to vote them into the winner's spot.

Jessica Powell, Badoo's Chief Marketing Officer, comments: "Badoo is about getting out and meeting new people in the real world. And our first US campaign features exactly the type of real people that you'd want to learn more about and meet up with in person. The final 26 are a genuine mix of everyday New Yorkers, who are all looking to Badoo to help them make new connections and enrich their social lives. We have had a great response from New Yorkers to Badoo and the new campaign leads the way for our continued roll-out across the U.S."

### **Roll Call of 26 New Yorkers Appearing In Badoo's New Advertising Campaign:**

Alex Bavolar (Harlem), Andrew Daum Chung (Manhattan), Chris Descartes (Brooklyn), Jonathan Adlelaide (Harlem), Jude Kazar (Manhattan's Lower East Side), Karmin Battle (Brooklyn), Laura Lane (Brooklyn), Richard Jordan (Brooklyn), Sakiko Ann Boggs (Brooklyn), Saulriishearow (Saucey) Alonzia (Manhattan), Scott Kay (Manhattan), Sierra (Manhattan), Tope Alabi (Harlem), Jacira Araujo (Manhattan), Quinn Fuller (Brooklyn), Jongo Zeizel (Manhattan), Jerry Davis (Brooklyn), Lynnese Page (Harlem), Ludget Delcy (Brooklyn), Saglara Lidzheeva (Brooklyn), Maryam Basir (Jersey City), Jimmy Gonzales (Manhattan), Heather Schwalb (Manhattan), and Sean Cunningham. The people's choice winners were Teresa Hui (Brooklyn) and Jason Tez (New Jersey).

More details about The Badoo Project campaign will be announced in April. To start meeting people now go to [Badoo.com](http://Badoo.com).

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# Women Who Are the Breadwinners of Their Celebrity Relationship



The ladies of Generation X were some of the first to trade the



domesticity of the housewife for the slacks of Corporate America. Powerful and confident women are sexy, but society hasn't completely caught up with us yet, and it's still uncommon for a female salary to outweigh that of her spouse's. That's where Hollywood comes in with a good message for once, as stunning starlets are throwing off the national average by earning more than their celebrity loves. Below is a list of sexy female celebs empowering themselves through healthy relationships *and* hefty paychecks:

## Women's Upper Hand in Celebrity Relationships

**1. Gisele Bundchen:** Other than her svelte silhouette and pristine profile, Bundchen impresses with a net worth of \$200 million. Her hunky husband Tom Brady is known for his jockey skills on the football field but is only worth \$100 million. While both salaries are envy worthy, Bundchen makes far more than the man she shares her bed with. Regardless, this celebrity relationship is picture perfect, and Brady doesn't look at all emasculated by his wife's high salary.

**Related Link:** [Gisele Bundchen Says She Knew Celebrity Love Tom Brady Was The One 'Straightaway'](#)

**2. Jessica Simpson:** We've watched Simpson transform from a young singer and clueless newlywed into a confident entrepreneur. With a net income of \$100 million and a shoe line that racks in over \$500 million annually, she would be hard pressed to find a man wealthier than she. Fortunately, she's has found happiness with ex-NFL player Eric Johnson. Though his salary hasn't been reported, he *is* currently unemployed. Regardless of their paychecks, the two are expecting their first child this year, proving that money is not an issue with this celebrity relationship.

**3. Oprah Winfrey:** Whether you're an Oprah devotee or totally



impartial, there's no denying this woman grabbed life by the reigns when she began her journalism career in the mid 1970's. Forty years and one huge following later, Winfrey is worth a staggering \$2.7 billion. Longtime partner Stedman Graham may not make as much, but he isn't loafing off of Winfrey's riches either. As CEO of S. Graham and Associates, Stedman has wracked in an impressive \$10 million of his own.

**Related Link:** [Oprah Winfrey Explains Why She Never Wanted to Raise Children](#)

**4. Julia Roberts:** Roberts, America's *Pretty Woman*, has a hefty income of \$140 million. Her husband, however, Danny Moder, is a camera man. Though his salary has not been reported, it has long been known that Roberts is the money maker in the Moder home. Regardless, after ten years of being a married celebrity couple and having three children, the two have shown that true love trumps any jealousy over income.

## Actress Earns More Than Celebrity Love

**5. [Angelina Jolie](#):** From dominatrix to domestic diva, Jolie is another star we've had the pleasure of watching grow up in front of our eyes. While her days of drinking blood have passed, she continues to make celebrity news by adopting children, working as a humanitarian and starting foundations to help combat poverty. Somehow, this busy mother and activist also has time to star in movies and grosses nearly \$150 million. Her equally famous and good-hearted soon-to-be husband Brad Pitt makes only a little less than her at an annual salary of \$130 million. These two aren't sitting home comparing paychecks though. Instead, they combine their incomes to help better the world around them.

**6. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi:** Outside of partying, tanning and going to the gym, Snooki found her fame by starring on MTV's

*Jersey Shore*. Though her wild antics have made her somewhat infamous, she wasn't downing tequila shots for nothing. At an annual salary of \$2 million, the tiny beach bum can at least impress with her bank statements. Fiancé Jionni Lavallo chose a more modest lifestyle and is currently studying to become a teacher. While his salary may never match Polizzi's, the two were able to work past the drama of the shore and are currently expecting a baby.

**Do you think salaries matter? Do you make more than your man? Comment below.**

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## **‘General Hospital’ Star Jen Lilley Says “Confidence is So Sexy”**





By [Whitney Baker](#)

Fans of ABC's *General Hospital* recognize Jen Lilley as the most recent actress to step into the very fashionable shoes of the sassy, Maxie Jones. In addition to her role in the world of daytime soap operas, Lilley also appears on MTV's hidden camera romance show *Disaster Date* and plays a supporting role in the Academy Award-winning film *The Artist*. Her diverse acting resume, coupled with her family history (her parents are both marriage counselors), makes her a valuable source of advice for all questions related to relationships.

Lilley's time on *General Hospital* has already taught her a lot about the choices we need to make for love. As viewers of the show know, Maxie is currently involved with both Dr. Matt Hunter and Damian "Spinelli" Spinelli. "Maxie really wants her relationship with Matt to work because of the status it gives her versus the love and security it gives her," Lilley explains.

Despite the complications of Maxie's love triangle, there's a clear frontrunner in Lilley's eyes. "Ultimately, I really want Maxie to be with Spinelli," she reveals. "He's head over heels in love with her. He's very selfless and relentless in his love for her."

Unfortunately, Maxie could make a very common mistake by overlooking the good guy. "I think it's a subconscious thing that girls do because we feel like we don't deserve love."

Lilley went on to draw her characters experience to a real life example, explaining, "Maybe that's part of what's going on with Maxie. She thinks she doesn't deserve something so good with Spinelli."

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

Thankfully, Lilley's love life is much less dramatic than that of her character on *General Hospital*. She's been in an "awesome relationship" for eight years and is very much in love. She cites balance as one of the most essential parts of a healthy relationship and uses her own romance as an example.

"My boyfriend is an introvert, and I'm an extrovert. But it works for us," she says. "I have these really lofty dreams, and I want to do a million things at once, but he kind of brings me back down to reality."

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

As Lilley discovered from her time on *Disaster Date*, there are a few key things that a couple should agree on, such as religion, finances and children. "Children are one of the *big* things that you don't talk about on a first date – and I would always bring it up on *Disaster Date*," she says with a laugh. "But it is important to know. If one of you wants kids and the other one doesn't, your relationship is probably going to end. Hopefully, you won't have that disagreement after you're married."



Of course, Lilley grew up with parents who were marriage counselors, so many of this was ingrained in her since childhood. From the time she was young, her parents made sure she, along with her three siblings, knew how to talk about whatever was going on in her life. "Even though I wasn't in a relationship, they taught me how to discuss things rather than fight through them," she explains. "In a lot of ways, they really helped me understand conflict resolution."

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

They also ensured that their daughter developed a strong sense of self-value – an indispensable quality for a girl as she's growing up. My parents always said, "You have worth. You don't need a boyfriend. They also taught me how to have confidence in who I am and not crush on boys so hard."

Lilley reveals that this guided her decision making later in life, "I think every person, before they get in a relationship, should know their self-worth. Know that you're worth having someone love you."

Perhaps most importantly, Lilley's parents provided her with a wonderful illustration of a strong marriage. "My parents have been married for thirty years, and while no marriage is perfect, I really respect their relationship. They never fought in front of us, which was really nice. It was always very admirable that they talked through things," she says.

Based on the example that they set, she developed a distinctive opinion about relationships. "I really, truly believe that, in any relationship, the guy has to be a little more in love with the girl than the girl is with the guy," she begins. "I'm not saying that I don't 100 percent love my boyfriend – I do. But at the same time, for a marriage to last, the boy has to be a little bit more infatuated with the girl."

Referencing her parent's marriage, she adds, "My mom would do

*anything* for my dad. They love each other so much. But my dad is still so completely charmed by her. It's very endearing."

Taking a cue from her parents' line of work, Lilley dispenses a bit of her own advice to our readers. She believes that guys are most attracted to confident women. "I just think confidence is so sexy – not self-centered confidence like Maxie but just confidence in who you are," she says.

Another suggestion for single women? Play hard to get. "My mom would always tell me, 'Jen, men are hunters by nature, and they don't like an easy target.' I hated it, but it's so true!" Lilley says. "I don't mean that you should be rude or be a bitch but just don't be so available. In the beginning, leave some room, leave something to be desired."

*Keep your eyes open for Jen on General Hospital as she plays Maxie Jones and tries to decide between the hunky doctor and dorky Spinelli. For more information about what's next for Jen, follow her on Twitter or Facebook.*

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## Renew Your Vows Like #1 Life Coach and Mariah Carey





By Evan Money

How can a Life Coach be proud of the fact that he's getting married for the 16<sup>th</sup> time? Well, in my case, I'm marrying the same woman! You see, my bride and I remarry in a different state or country ever year, and this year is number 16! We are not alone, however, as celebrities like Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon are following our lead and doing the same exact thing.

Whenever my bride and I share this story, most people respond by saying they would really like to do follow suit or that it sounds really [romantic](#). Guess what? It really is! And I highly recommend it for everyone, not just my clients. Here's my story:

**Related:** ["Get Married This Year: 365 Days to 'I Do'"](#)

It all started 15 years ago when I heard a story about a

successful business man who was married for 25 years, and he and his wife renewed their vows every year. As a newlywed and young businessman, it sounded like this idea would be a big help in having a successful marriage, something my bride and I desperately wanted. It seemed to us that most married people were divorced or miserable. We wanted to “live happily ever after,” so rather than just saying, “Oh, that sounds like a good idea,” my wife and I chose to take action.

We just happened to be in Paris for our anniversary the next year. However it's not as romantic as you think, since we were chaperones for a group of high school students on a tour. My business had yet to take off, and money was really tight, but a funny thing happens when you make a real commitment – you can always find a way. So, lo and behold, my bride and I found ourselves in the City of Love for our first vow renewal. It was really pretty simple, as we had a small private ceremony in the gardens of Versailles (a famous French mansion) that lasted about five minutes. Simple, short and sweet, but our married lives were changed forever from that day forward.

When we returned home, we became so excited to plan our next renewal. We still didn't have any money, so we just needed to get creative, take action and find a way. We chose Arizona for our second renewal simply because we could drive there and not have to pay for airfare. We had some wealthy friends with a ranch in the city of Carefree and we had a fun ceremony on their private lake. My bride's bouquet was made of peacock feathers since they had a few of the majestic birds on the property. This ceremony was much bigger and more exciting, thanks to our friends' help, and yet again, our married lives were changed forever. It seemed after each ceremony, our marriage bond became stronger and stronger. We were truly living happily ever after!

**Related:** [Khloe Kardashian Gives Tips for a Happy Marriage](#)



Through the years as my business has grown, along with my love for my bride, we were able to do more exotic yet still highly creative vow renewals. Number 14 was in the Bahamas at the famous Atlantis resort. A friend of mine is one of the dolphin trainers, so we were able to have the ceremony in the water with the dolphins by our side. I had my best “mammal” and my bride had her brides “mammal.” It was so amazing!

For those who have really connected with this idea, but are still having doubts or letting your limiting beliefs get in the way, I want to encourage you with these final thoughts:

**If your limiting beliefs are around finances:** If you’re not willing to invest in your relationship, what else is there to invest in? The returns on renewing your vows is 1,000% more than the stock market or real estate.

**If your limiting beliefs are about time:** I have two young children that we home school, I run multi-million dollar corporations, I lead a non-profit, I volunteer with foster kids and even teach a high school class on entrepreneurship at a private school. Even with those commitments, every year my bride and I prioritize our time so we can leave the country or state and take two to five days for marital bliss.

**Finally, for any of the guys that may be reading:** Why would you only settle for one honeymoon in life? I’m on honeymoon number 16, and they just keep getting better!

*Evan Money is the #1 Online Life Coach and the author of the runaway hit Take Action Now – How to Live Your Dreams in Less than 3 Weeks!*

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# Rachel A. Sussman Helps Us Recover After a Breakup in 'The Breakup Bible'



By Nisha Ramirez

It's easy to find a book about searching for your soulmate or discovering the rules of dating, but where do you turn to after an excruciating breakup? Have no fear, psychotherapist and breakup expert, Rachel A. Sussman, LCSW, has your guide to healing, understanding and transforming your life after a broken heart. In her new book, *The Breakup Bible: The Smart*

*Woman's Guide to Healing From a Breakup or Divorce*, she tells her readers how to create a personal love map and take the steps needed to get over an ex. We had the chance to speak with Sussman, who has counseled women in all stages of heartache and recovery, about her work and the importance of perseverance after a failed romance.

**Tell us about *The Breakup Bible: The Smart Woman's Guide to Healing From a Breakup or Divorce*.**

My program lets women heal in a building-block fashion. The first section is healing, which explains why it is so important to take the time after your breakup and just settle into your emotions. I think the biggest mistake is to make plans 24/7 and start dating right away. People stop taking care of themselves. That's only going to prolong your agony and lengthen your healing time. Instead, accept that it has happened and build a support system. That's the most important thing for a woman to do: build a really big support system. Rely on family and friends and, if possible, even colleagues, professional therapists, support groups and clergy. Everyone can then use the understanding and transformation sections to create their love map.

**Related:** [How Decoding Your Love Map Can Heal a Broken Heart](#)

**Why did you write this book?**

I wrote this book because, in addition to being someone's best friend or wake-up call, I wanted to give validation to my readers. They are not alone. There are millions of break-ups and divorces every year in this country, and there is a sisterhood of women out there who have experienced a similar suffering. If you're in a relationship and that relationship ends – your significant other cheats on you, lies to you or tells you that he or she doesn't love you anymore – it's like sticking a knife through your heart. It feels like you're going to die, and it feels like you're never going to recover.

## **Is it okay to be angry with your ex after a break-up?**

Absolutely! I always say that anger is very important, and it is perfectly legitimate to feel that way. You just don't want to share that anger with your ex; it's important to contain your feelings. Make sure it isn't spilling out on too many people.

## **One of the hardest parts about breaking up is suddenly realizing how alone you feel. How do you get over that loss of companionship?**

You have to learn to be alone to navigate. It's hard, but there's a difference between being alone and being lonely. I think that it's a good exercise for every woman out there to learn how to be alone. If you schedule yourself non-stop, you're going to be exhausted. It's an adjustment, but everything in life is an adjustment. You have to say to yourself, "I know it is hard right now, but it's going to make me stronger." If you can learn to be your own best friend, it's the greatest gift in the world.

**Related:** [How to Deal With Life After Divorce](#)

## **Why is it hard for us to see the bad in our ex after a breakup?**

All of the time, people come talk to me, and they're complaining, complaining, complaining about their significant other. And then the relationship ends, and it's like the problems never existed and the relationship seems perfect. I think that it's easier to see the truth as you become older and more mature. If you understand your love map and do the necessary recovery work, then you can say, "Okay, this is really a bad relationship, and I need to get out of it." It helps to write down a list of all the reasons why you broke up with him.

## **When an ex says, "Let's just be friends," should we?**



It never works. The only time people can be friends is if it was a really dispassionate relationship and it ended very amicably. In that situation, maybe you can be friends, but it usually doesn't work out that way. How can you be friends with someone who really hurt you? And if the relationship had any elements of dysfunction, everything that played out in your romance is going to play out in your friendship as well.

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

### **Are rebound relationships healthy?**

A rebound relationship is never healthy, but a transitional relationship can be okay. Here is the thing: even if you follow my formula – you experience healing and understanding – and then you think it's okay to start dating, you're probably not ready for a full-on relationship. People get their confidence back and start saying to themselves that there are some good guys out there. So that can be a transitional relationship, but a rebound relationship is a terrible thing because you're still not healed and you don't feel good about yourself. You're probably going to attract the wrong guys, and there is a very good chance that you're going to have another breakup.

### **When do you know that you have successfully fulfilled healing, understanding and transformation?**

You've completed the program when you start feeling great about your life, when you start having so many more good days than bad days, when you have a circle of friends. You're not lonely; you're not depressed; and you're not obsessing about your ex. Maybe you begin to make new friends, to go out more. Then it's like, "Yes, I've made it! I'm here!"

*To start Rachel A. Sussman's three-phase healing process, you can purchase The Breakup Bible: The Smart Woman's Guide to Healing From a Breakup or Divorce at Amazon. Be sure to read Sussman's blog at [www.rachelasussman.com](http://www.rachelasussman.com) for even more tips.*

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# Reality Stars Who Found Real Love



By Samantha Mucha

For the past decade, the world has become infatuated with reality TV shows. However, most people are less interested in the everyday lives of the featured stars, but rather their drama-filled love lives.

There have been beds flying across rooms, as seen on

MTV's *Jersey Shore* with Ron and Sam, and a couple of weddings on *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. We've been in shock, we've laughed and we've cried with reality stars as we sit on our couches and watch them make the same mistakes over and over again. No matter how many times the things happens, we're drawn in and simply cannot take our eyes off the screen.

Through all of the deceit and drama, most reality relationships end in failure; however, there are a few couples that beat the trend and have ended up happy and successful together:

**1. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and Jionni LaValle:** With Polizzi and LaValle expecting their first child and discussing future wedding plans, they proved they were able to make their love last ... at least for now. This couple fell in love quickly after meeting in New Jersey and began dating after hooking up with each other on *The Jersey Shore*; but when Polizzi left to film in Italy, they ran into some issues. After a major argument and break up, the two lovebirds were able to restore their romance and are now happier than ever.

**Related:** [Snooki's Pregnancy – Can You Salvage Your Image?](#)

**2. Trista and Ryan Sutter:** After being the runner up on *The Bachelor*, Trista went on to become the star of the first season of *The Bachelorette* where she met the love of her life, Ryan. They have been happily married for the past seven years and are now the proud parents of son, Max, and daughter, Blakesley. Although this pair's love story began on television, they opted out of raising their family in front of millions of viewers and cherish their "normal" life in Colorado. Trista told *Parade*, "We never would have met have if it had not been for the show, so we're thankful for that. For the most part, we do live a quiet life out here, and I think it's definitely helped to keep us grounded and together."

**Related:** [How to Avoid the Reality Show Relationship Curse](#)

**3. Matt Hoover and Suzy Preston:** This duo's romance began after meeting on *The Biggest Loser* and quickly grew as the two took long walks while getting to know each other. Eventually, Hoover and Preston dined at a healthy restaurant for their first date after the finale and have been together ever since.

Their success on *The Biggest Loser* gave them a unique foundation for their romance, and Hoover proposed to Preston live on the *Today* show. "I saw him at his worst, absolutely," Preston told *People*. "And he saw me at my worst. He saw me sweating and passing gas." Luckily, their sweat and hard work not only led them to healthy lifestyles, but to a happy marriage as well.

**4. Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt:** Ex-friend Lauren Conrad's show *The Hills* led this couple to meet. Although the show destroyed Montag and Conrad's relationship, it caused Pratt and Montag's relationship to blossom. Through struggles and hardships this couple has managed to have a lasting marriage.

**5. Nick Lachey and Vanessa Minnillo:** Who would have thought a relationship could bloom out of recovery from a marriage gone wrong. This Hollywood duo began dating after Minnillo, the *Total Wipeout* host, starred in Lachey's music video "What's Left of Me" in 2006. The couple is happily married and are expecting their first child! Minnillo told *Dailymail*, "I can't wait to meet my new son or daughter!"

**Who are some other reality couples that have found real love?  
Share your comments below.**

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# Paula Patton Says “Passion” is Key to a Successful Relationship



By Steven Zangrillo

If you didn't have the opportunity to catch Paula Patton sizzle in Mission: Impossible 3, don't fret. Just ask her about her marriage with singer/songwriter Robin Thicke, and you'll see Paula light up the room with her million dollar smile. "Passion," she gushes, is the key to a lasting and happy relationship. She further took the time to discuss her

marriage's bumpy ride from a high school romance to a stable and successful marriage. Compromise was another major component, coupled with simply "liking each other."

The rest of us men will just have to remain flush with envy. Good job, Mr. Thicke.

*For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our YouTube channel.*

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## Love Advice For a Stronger Long-Term Relationship





By Ricky Peterson

Everyone wants to have a great long-term relationship that keeps on getting better, but it simply won't happen without some effort on the part of both partners. Making a stable relationship and love work isn't always easy though, as we see many famous couples going through their ups and downs in public via celebrity news and gossip...and it's no different for us regular folk. That being said, here are four pieces of love advice (with help from some of our favorite celebrity couples!) that we can all use to make our relationships stronger.

## Love Advice To Follow

**1. Be prepared to listen to each other:** Listening is the hallmark of all good relationships. If you don't listen to your partner or they don't listen to you, how can you hope to develop a strong relationship and love for the long haul?



Talking is good, but recognize when listening is required of you, and practice doing it more often. Everyone feels more valued when their partner sits and really listens to them. Listening means comprehending and not just making the right noises in the right places!

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice On How To Fall In Love](#)

**2. Don't ignore problems – they'll only get worse:** You cannot hope to go through life with no problems at all. There might be minor setbacks in your relationship or problems that occur outside the relationship that affect you both. The trick is to never ignore them and to confront them head-on. Talk about these issues and decide how to tackle them as a team.

***Celebrity Couple Example:*** Seal and Heidi Klum are a great example, as Seal's reported anger management issues seem to have caused a rift in their celebrity relationship. This is the sort of thing that, if worked on early, could have been resolved, possibly saving the marriage.

**3. Never wait for the other person to apologize:** The apologies have to come from both partners; otherwise, one of you will always be saying "sorry" even when the other one does something they shouldn't. You've probably heard the idea that you should never go to bed angry, and that definitely applies in this case.

**Related Link:** [Heidi Klum and Seal – What Blew Up Their Marriage?](#)

**4. Be positive in lots of little ways:** We would all benefit from being more positive in our daily lives. For example, if your partner has a job interview, be sure to call them just before they go in to provide some support. Then, call them afterwards to see how it went. You could even plan a dinner to mark the event, whether they were successful or not. You can either congratulate them or provide support and let them know the experience was still a positive one because it will help



them gain experience for a the future.

**Celebrity Couple Example:** [Angelina Jolie](#) and [Brad Pitt](#) have had their ups and downs, but recent reports of a date night show that they are at least making the effort. Sadly, the media is much more into reporting on Hollywood couples who are having problems than those who are happy, but little bits of effort like this can make all the difference. Let's hope it works out for these two!

## Stronger Relationships and Love

By following this love advice, it'll be easier than you think to build a strong partnership that will survive the test of time. Be sure you know how to make the most of your relationship and love, and start putting more effort into it today for the best results in the future.

*Ricky Peterson is a writer who works for passionsearch, an online dating site.*

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## Four Ways to Tell If He's "The One"





By Johanna Lyman, the JOY Professor, for GALtime.com

*Finding your soulmate may take longer than you think. Take some time to get to know your partner, then ask yourself the following questions to decide whether he/she is truly "the one".*

How do you know when you've found "The One?" Allow me to first dispel a common myth. Most of us have more than a single "The One" in our lives. With few exceptions, we will all experience more than one great love in our lives. Each person who shows up as a great love is there to teach us a lesson (or two) and to bring us closer to unconditional love. Everyone who shows up as love in your life is one of your soul mates.

Another common myth is that you can discern true love within the first 3-6 months of a relationship. I'm sorry to say, it just ain't so. What you're feeling in the first 3-6 month (aka the honeymoon period) is a potent cocktail of hormones

designed to make a man and a woman want to copulate to propagate the species. It feels sexy, but it's really about the survival of the species. Please do yourselves and the population a big favor by not falling for it. I don't mean to sound negative. There are lots of great things about that potent combination of oxytocin, serotonin and other chemicals.

I'm just saying that if you think you're thinking clearly while under the influence of the honeymoon hormones, you're mistaken.

After the honeymoon phase begins to wear off, here are some things you can look for to help you determine the staying power of this relationship.

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

**1. Are you truly yourself around him?** Does he understand (or at least humor) your handbag obsession? Does he really know how much you drink, smoke, shop, or eat Twinkies, and is he truly comfortable with it? Do you act the same way with him when you're around each other's friends?

**2. Is he truly himself around you?** Do you know about his "Three Stooges" fetish? Do you know how many hours he spends gaming and are you comfortable with that? One way to gauge how authentic he's being is to check out if your friends see him in the same way you do. Obviously they won't know him as intimately as you do, but they should have the general same impressions. Also, does he act the same when you're alone together as he does around your friends?

**3. Do you trust him?** Not just about monogamy (if that's your agreement together) but do you trust him with your secrets, desires and ambitions? I believe that trust is a lot harder to come by than those emotions we call love. Trust is the number one barometer of longevity in relationships, in my experience.

**4. How do you fight?** Do you, or does he, bring up old wounds,

or do you fight in the present, about the current hurt? Can you disagree without attacking each other? Are you comfortable with disagreeing, or do you try to smooth things over? Couples in healthy relationships learn how to fight productively. If you weren't having being intimate with him, how much would you still like him?

**Related:** [When It Comes to Dating, How Long Is Too Long?](#)

Believe it or not, you will not always be wildly attracted to your partner. Even if he is an Adonis, familiarity tends to take the spark out of the eroticism in relationships. And while I have lots of remedies for bringing back the spark, the more you like about each other outside the bedroom, the tastier those remedies will be. People tend to think that love just happens. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but long-term love takes effort. It doesn't just happen, but if you focus your time and energy on keeping your relationship healthy, the results will bring you a lifetime of JOY.

These are good questions to ask yourself, whether you've been in a relationship for three weeks or thirty years. If you don't like your answers, you can always choose again. When you change your mind you change your attitude and when you change your attitude you can change even the most worn out relationship.

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## **Is Your Boyfriend Hopping Around the Big Question?**





By Daniela Agurcia

It's only expected for the next step in your relationship to be marriage after years of being committed together, right?

However, sometimes boyfriends evade the big question and you end up waiting for, well, nothing. Even if they do plan to spend the rest of their lives with you, they tend to forget that if you're left hanging for too long, you'll move on to find someone who's ready to get serious. But most of the time, it really isn't your fault. Here are some reasons why your boyfriend may be hopping around the big question:

### **1. He's waiting for the perfect moment, financially**

When a man gets married, he feels the responsibility to

provide and care for his family. These financial responsibilities will usually push a guy to taking any opportunity in order to make the most money he can. Getting married without being financially stable or without having a plan isn't in the books for him.

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## **2. He doesn't want to give up his buddies**

A guy is usually obsessed with his male buddy and his '[guy time](#)' can be something he may feel like he'll be giving up entirely once he gets married. Especially if your boyfriend's friends are single, it will be harder for him to tear himself away from the group. He'll try to get all that guy time out of his system before deciding he's ready to be 100 percent committed to marriage.

## **3. He might not be ready to get married yet**

Getting married leads to other huge decisions that go along with it. Marriage means getting into the topic of having kids, possibly moving someplace different and other responsibilities he isn't ready to get into just yet. It's better to know he's proposing when he is completely ready to make those decisions with you, so you don't run into any problems later.

**Related:** [5 Things Men Look For in a Wife](#)

## **4. He doesn't want to lose all his privacy**

When you're dating someone for so long, you become a huge part of each other's lives. Marriage is another step ahead of that; you're around each other *all* the time. Privacy can be very important to a man, something that's hard for them to give up and share with a female. Realizing that everything unites once you're married may have made your boyfriend

wanting to delay the proposal a little bit longer.

What you can do to help speed up the process before he gets too comfortable is to avoid trying to change him. Let him do his own thing while you're together, and if he feels he has to give up too much to be with you, it won't be something he'll want to make permanent. But, definitely make sure to have a talk with him about your next steps together as you always want to be on the same page. If you are, marriage can't be too far into the future.

What are some other reasons your boyfriend may be hopping around the big question? And how do you keep from losing your cool? Share with us below.

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## **Exclusive Interview: 'Million Dollar Listing's' Josh Altman Says, "Relationships are Harder Than Owning a House"**







By [Whitney Baker](#)

Thanks to Bravo's reality television hit *Million Dollar Listing*, viewers have gotten an inside peek at the high-end real estate business. And thanks to the aggressive tactics of real estate agent Josh Altman – also known as “The Shark” – fans of the show know what it takes to make it in such a cutthroat industry. What they may not realize are the lessons in love that Altman learns from selling houses to bachelors, single women, new couples and divorcees alike. Luckily, in an exclusive interview with CupidsPulse.com, he shared some tricks of *both* trades: real estate and romance.

Altman, who works with the Beverly Hills firm Hilton & Hyland, has certainly found success in the Los Angeles real estate market. He recently sold a condominium on Ocean Drive for \$10.5 million, making it the highest sale in Santa Monica history.

“Everybody wants to know, ‘What the hell do you get in a \$10.5



million condo in LA?’ It’s one thing in New York – everything is like \$10 million bucks,” he says with a laugh. “But in LA, you get 8,000 square feet of 360-degree views. Plus, you get an 8,000 square foot rooftop deck. It’s absolutely incredible.”

He continues, “On one side, you have the entire coast, and then you turn around, and you have Hollywood Hills. It was the most spectacular condo I’ve ever seen.”

**Related Link:** [Three Tips for Moving in Together](#)

Of course, most people cannot afford such an expensive home.

Even so, regardless of the price tag, everyone approaches house hunting from a different perspective, with single people and couples perhaps having the most distinctive viewpoints.

“It’s two totally different ballgames,” says Altman. “Most bachelors love to have a nice, plush movie theater. They want the cool, outdoor pool and entertaining area too.”

Couples, on the other hand, have a much more standard focus. “For couples, it’s always about the kitchen and the bathrooms. Always,” Altman explains. “They want to make sure there is a fence outside and not too many stairs inside, so it’s safer if they decide to have kids.”

**Related Link:** [Monica Pederson from HGTV Shares Advice for a Great Date Night at Home](#)

He adds, “It’s a lot of fun seeing both sides of it.”

Unfortunately, couples can sometimes struggle to compromise when it comes to buying a new home. Just like all aspects of dating and maintaining a relationship, both parties must learn to give and take a bit. “You’ve got to find a happy medium,” Altman recommends. “But if there’s too much argument and they end up buying a house, there’s a good chance that I’ll get two more sales out of it when they divorce!”

Taking his advice a step further, he shares, “I believe that a couple should sit down and each person should come up with a list of the top five to ten things that they want in a house. Then, they can put their lists together and kind of meet halfway. As long as both sides get two to four things that they want, they can both be happy.”

It may sound straightforward, but in truth, even deciding how big of a house to buy – for either a bachelor or a couple – can be a daunting task. For a single woman, it’s often tempting to plan for the future and buy a home suitable for a family.

However, Altman cautions against this plan. “Sure, she may be a wealthy girl who can afford a big house that would be great for the future, but it can be intimidating for the guy,” he says. “He’s going over to his girlfriend’s big, beautiful house, and then he’s going home to his not-so-big-and-beautiful house.”

And the same challenge holds true for couples. “If you get too small of a house, you may be on top of each other. Everybody needs their space, so that can be a disaster,” Altman explains. “But at the same time, if you have too big of a house, it’s a different type of disaster and can lead to financial troubles or difficulty with upkeep.”

For couples just moving in together, Altman believes it is best to test the waters first and move into one of their current homes. If you take things slow, there’s less chance that you’ll end up with a broken heart. “It’s easy to buy or sell a house and not so easy to fall in love,” he says.

**Related Link:** [Tiffany Current Tells Us ‘How to Move in with Your Boyfriend \(and Not Break Up with Him\)’](#)

Some couples, though, are trying to escape from romantic ghosts, so moving into a new house is the best option. “I run into a lot of my clients who are either remarried or still

living in a house from a previous relationship, and they want to sell. They want to start from scratch – you know, the new boyfriend doesn't want to be in the same house as the old guy," Altman says.

"It makes sense: they want a fresh start. They want to move on from the memories, and that's the best way to do it," he adds.

As much as Altman's learned about real estate from his clients, he's also picked up a few house-buying tips from his own experiences. When asked about buying his first house, he says one word comes to mind: scary. "I bought my first house in 2002, and it seemed like a huge amount of money, especially when you're borrowing from a bank," he shares. "The whole process is overwhelming, which is why it's so important to have the right realtor who can walk you through everything."

Since then, Altman has bought a new house every year or so. He explains, " I don't like to stay in the same place very long because I get bored. Most of the time, I'll fix something up and then sell it."

He also knows firsthand the importance of buying a house of the right size. A couple of years ago, he owned a house that was about 6,000 square feet. He says, "It ended up taking up all of my time. It was just too much."

Keeping in mind both his business and personal experiences, Altman boils down his opinion to one simple statement: "Relationships are a lot harder than owning a house!"

*You can read more about Altman's real estate success on his Web site or follow him on Twitter. On Wednesday, June 6 at 9 p.m./8 p.m. CT, Altman will reunite with costars Josh Flagg and Madison Hildebrand for the premiere of season five of Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles on Bravo!*

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# Five Celebrity Divorces We Really Weren't Expecting



By Francesca B.

The world of celebrity is fraught with ups and downs. Scandals of drug abuse, cheating husbands and lying wives make for gripping and sensational stories when they come to public attention. We have come to expect a bit of drama from Hollywood romances, but even so, there have been some celebrity divorces that we really didn't see coming. Here are



a few:

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### **Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman**

The original Hollywood sweethearts, Tom and Nicole met on the set of the hit movie, *Days of Thunder*, in which they played a young and romantically entwined couple very believably indeed.

It was therefore no great surprise when their on-screen romance started to become apparent off screen as well, and they were eventually wed on Christmas Eve, 1990. A popular and adorable couple, they stuck it out for over a decade before “irreconcilable differences” saw them seeking the advice of divorce solicitors and putting an end to the fairy tale romance the whole world had enjoyed. Still, both parties have now happily remarried and have children with their new partners.

### **Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes**

The beautiful actress of *Titanic* fame, who we all thought would marry the gorgeous Leonardo DiCaprio, instead fell for dashing director, Sam Mendes. Despite being 10 years her senior, he definitely wasn't her sugar daddy, with Winslet being worth about double the Mendes fortune. They painted a picture of domestic bliss, but following the making of *Revolutionary Road*, a film starring Winslet and directed by Mendes and ironically about a couple stuck in a failing marriage, their relationship hit the rocks. To the surprise of the couple's friends and fans, they split in March 2010, leaving Winslet with two children from two marriages at just 34.

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

### **Courtney Cox and David Arquette**

One of the world's best-known faces of the '90s for her role

in *Friends*, Courteney Cox surprised everyone when she hooked up with David Arquette after starring in the *Scream* movies with him. However, even more shocking was the news that after 11 years of marriage and a child together, the couple had decided to split. Despite speculation about the real reasons, Cox stated that she “was tired of being (David’s) mother.”

### **Madonna and Guy Ritchie**

We all love Madge, and when she decided to marry a quirky British director and settle down in the English countryside, the place we held in our hearts for her grew a little bit bigger. The announcement that the couple were splitting up in 2011 came as a complete shock to most, with Madonna claiming that Ritchie ‘drinks too much’ as the reason for the split. That’s OK, Madge, we still love you.

### **Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt**

Another celebrity of *Friends* fame and so popular she had an entire generation of young ladies going into hairdressers and asking for ‘a Rachel,’ Jennifer Aniston tied the knot with the most eligible bachelor in the world, Mr. Brad Pitt. Without a doubt the hottest couple in Hollywood, it seemed nothing could come between them. But that was until naughty Brad went off to film Mr. and Mrs. Smith and reportedly fell in love with Miss Luscious Lips herself, Angelina Jolie. Brad and Jen split a few months later, back in 2005, but even today Hollywood still rumbles with the scandal from time to time.

Whether expected or unexpected, Hollywood splits never cease to rock the Tinseltown boat with rumors and gossip. If only everyone could just be happy all the time!

*Francesca is a freelance writer and blogger who enjoys writing about a variety of subjects from celebrity gossip and fashion, to travel and food. Be sure to let her know what you think of this guest post by leaving a comment below or Tweeting her @franki\_blogs.*

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# Why Celebrities Fall In and Out of Love So Quickly



By [Whitney Baker](#)

In recent years, the divorce rate in America has hovered around 50 percent, and in Hollywood, this statistic appears to be closer to 70 percent.

For some celebrity couples, rushing into a serious relationship or even marriage is no big deal; they can always

break up or file for an annulment or divorce, knowing that their family, friends and fans will stand behind them. They are not held accountable by their vows, viewing any “easy way out” as an acceptable solution.

But why do so many Tinseltown twosomes approach romance with such a wavering attitude, in such fleeting terms? Here are just a few reasons why some celebrity relationships change with the seasons:

**1. Publicity:** They say that all you need is love, but in the case of some celebrity relationships, all they want is publicity. And some celebrity couples continue to demand attention even *after* the break-up. Take Jon and Kate Gosselin, for example. The *Jon & Kate Plus 8* stars are still garnering media attention for their failed marriage and exceptionally large family.

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**2. Rushing things:** Many celebrity couples mistake lust for love and rush into something too serious when they’re still in the “get to know you” phase of their relationships. Beyond their own feelings, there may be outside pressure from family, friends and perhaps the media. For instance, Kim Kardashian’s whirlwind romance with Kris Humphries lasted only 11 months, but included a made-for-television proposal, wedding and divorce. As this relationship’s quick demise proved, infatuation can easily outweigh true love, but it doesn’t last nearly as long.

**Related:** [How to Avoid the Reality Show Relationship Curse](#)

**3. Time apart:** Relationships require both time and effort to flourish. For celebrities, time together isn’t always possible. Their busy schedules often keep them apart; such was the case with Katy Perry and Russell Brand. After only 14 months of marriage and a Christmas spent 7,000 miles apart,



Brand filed for divorce. As celebrities focus on their individual careers, they fail to make the proper commitment to build a lasting and meaningful relationship.

**4. Just because they can:** Among some celebrities (such as Britney Spears in her younger years and Brandi Glanville of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* fame), there's a sense that they can do anything they want. Spears married childhood friend Jason Alexander in a Las Vegas ceremony, only to have it annulled a mere 55 hours later. Glanville – a divorced mother of two – rushed into Las Vegas nuptials with a close friend on New Year's Eve. Calling it a "[drunken BFF thing](#)," she later admitted that they were just having fun.

**5. Constant media attention:** Sure, some celebrities fall in and out of love for publicity's sake, but on the opposite note, too much media hype can also lead to heartbreak. Back in 2003, Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson seemed to be living a fairytale romance until MTV cameras invaded their home for the reality hit *Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica*. Similarly, Taylor Swift and Jake Gyllenhaal dated for only two months at the end of 2011 and sources blame the short-lived romance on aggressive media coverage.

**Why do you think some celebrity romances don't last? Share your comments below.**