

# Relationship Advice: 3 Reasons Not to Break Up Via Social Media



By [Courtney Omernick](#)

Relationships and love are never easy roads to navigate. However, when you know you've hit a dead end and it's time to move on, it's natural to feel scared at the prospect of taking a new path. Sometimes letting your significant other go via social media can seem like the ideal situation. But, it isn't the best option.

# Cupid has a few pieces of relationship advice below as to why you should not break up via a social media channel.

**1. It doesn't bring closure:** The abrupt "we're over" via a Facebook or Twitter message feels impersonal. The person you're breaking up with is going to have some additional questions beyond 140 characters. They'll be able to find more closure if they're seeing and hearing your feelings rather than reading them via the internet.

**Related Link:** [Bradley Cooper and Suki Waterhouse Become Celebrity Exes After Two Years of Dating](#)

**2. It makes you look cowardly:** It's been said that it's easier to express our feelings via the internet because the computer screen is a "wall" between us and the other person. Breaking up via social media makes you look like you'd rather hide behind a wall than confront your true feelings.

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**3. It shows that you don't care:** Granted, if you're breaking up with them, you might not "care" about them anymore. However, breaking up via social media makes it seem like you would rather not treat the other person as a human being with actual feelings. If you're breaking up with them via social media, it gives off the vibe that you're just checking another item off of your "to do" list.

**Why do you think people shouldn't break up via social media? Comment below!**

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# Celebrity Baby News: 5 Reasons Why We Can't Wait to Meet the Royal Bundle of Joy



By Maggie Manfredi

The arrival of Prince George was one of the most anticipated moments of 2013. Kate Middleton's fashion is closely watched and Prince William has many royal expectations. So it is no surprise that baby number two is creating buzz. This royal bundle of joy is bringing people across the globe together to talk baby names and sibling rivalry.

# Here are five reasons we can't wait for royal baby number two!

**1. A boy or a girl:** Is Prince George going to get a baby brother or sister? The gender of this royal baby plays a large role in the conversations being had about the baby-to-be.

**2. Big brother:** Let's not forget about everyone's favorite toddler, Prince George! Will he love his new sibling right away, or will the big brother need to warm up to the familial addition? We will have to wait and find out!

**Related Link:** [Royal Baby: Prince William Says 'We Could Not Be Happier'](#)

**3. Kate's closet:** Like last time, the fans are dying to see what the Duchess will don next. Though a royal, Kate has been known to repeat some of her best looks for different occasions. We are wondering if there will be some pregnant fashion repeats from her wardrobe in 2013.

**4. They are royals:** There is also buzz around the second child and what this means for him or her in regards to the legacy. Will George have a little brother with a bad boy reputation (Prince Harry, Jr., perhaps?) or a little sister who will no doubt be as poised and gorgeous as her mother?

**Related Link:** [Prince William and Kate Middleton Welcome Their Royal Baby Boy](#)

**5. Bring on the pictures:** We can talk and place bets all day long, but at the end of the day we cannot wait to get a look! The fantastic portraits of Prince George from Christmas, or the baby blue polka-dotted dress worn by Kate the day Prince George was presented to the public...all forever documented on Pinterest boards and Twitter feeds globally.

**What are you most excited for with the newest addition to the**

royal family? Share with us below!

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# Relationship Advice: Social Tips from Ben Franklin and Other Maxims Masters



By Vicky Oliver

Eons ago, long before the invention of Facebook and Match.com, our ancestors grappled with social conundrums. Before Twitter sent out its first tweet, or anyone had heard of an RSS feed, our forebears asked themselves questions. Namely, how does one

overcome social alienation, win friends, and build a richly rewarding social life?

**Consider these three social, relationship advice gems that have withstood the test of time. Their insights may help form the foundation of a richly rewarding social calendar that leads to new opportunities for success:**

**1. “Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise:”** Benjamin Franklin noticed in the late 18th century that good sleeping habits made him feel better and think more clearly. If our overextended, hectic lives leave us too sleep-deprived and grouchy to pursue a rewarding social life, it’s time we take Ben’s advice. Shut off the computer in favor of shut-eye. Friends and business associates will enjoy their interactions with us more, which may lead to more opportunities.

**Related Link:** [Q&A Should I Be Concerned About My Man’s Social Network Activity with Other Women?](#)

**2. “A rolling stone gathers no moss:”** What Latin writer Syrus, circa 100 BC, may have foreshadowed regarding our 21st century lifestyle is that many of us move too fast (“rolling”) to gather much moss (“a social life”). Think about places where we fritter away our time, such as planes, trains, and automobiles. Then, make a point of engaging fellow travelers in conversation. These individuals may have access to all sorts of insider tips, connections, and other perks that will make the road well traveled more interesting.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples Who Let Social Media Run Their Relationship](#)

**3. “Birds of a feather flock together:”** To find our flock, it’s often helpful to turn solitary activities into social opportunities. Those who like running or painting might use [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) to find a running buddy or an artist’s colony, writers may consider organizing a monthly writers group, and divorcees can create support groups. Forming groups over shared activities helps us break out of our individual silos and find like-minded individuals.

*Vicky Oliver is a leading career development expert and the multi-best-selling author of five books, including her newest, Live Like a Millionaire (Without Having to Be One) (Skyhorse, 2015). She is a sought-after speaker and seminar presenter and a popular media source, having made over 700 appearances in broadcast, print, and online outlets. For more information, visit [vickyoliver.com](http://vickyoliver.com).*

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## What to Do When Religion Conflicts In Your Relationships and Love Life





By Molly Jacob

In our modern world, interfaith couples are becoming increasingly common. That being said, for some people, dating someone of another religion may be a deal-breaker just because religion is such a huge part of their identity.

**If you're willing to work with your partner to find a balance between your religious views and your relationship and love life, Cupid has relationship advice for you!**

**1. Educate each other:** It's always good love advice to get to know all about your partner during your relationship and love life, but what about their religious background? Tell each other a little about the beliefs, traditions, and meanings of your religion, and you'll begin to understand each other's perspective. Do some research on your own, too, so you can

understand where your sweetheart comes from. As with anything involving relationships and love, better understanding of one other can lead to a stronger relationship. It also shows you care.

**Related Link:** [Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie Are Scheduled to Meet the Pope](#)

**2. Attend services:** Dating someone of a different faith can be difficult during the holidays, but you can make it easier if you attend each other's important religious services! Not only will you be showing support by attending a service at a church, mosque, synagogue, or wherever your significant other may worship, you can also continue to educate yourself about his or her religion. This also can appease potentially disapproving in-laws. Getting your significant other's parents to like you is always great relationship advice, but some may be wary of their son or daughter dating someone of a different religion. By attending a service of your honey's faith, you can show that you're both supportive of him or her and interested in learning more about their religion.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples Keeping the Faith Alive](#)

**3. Find shared values:** While religion may not have been the factor that brought you two together in the first place, you two may have more in common than you think. You may realize that there are certain values or even beliefs that you two share, even if you come from different religious backgrounds. These might include love, loyalty, and honesty. Love advice: when you two encounter rough times in your relationship, reflect on what you two share, not how you two differ. This will bring you two closer together and help you resolve your relationship problems.

**Do you have any other relationship advice for people in interfaith relationships? Share in the comments section below!**

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# Relationship Advice: Add a Little “Luck O’ the Irish” to Your Wedding Day



By Meghan Fitzgerald and Molly Jacob

Irish wedding traditions are very strong. When an Irish bride begins to plan her wedding, it can be fun to center it around that culture and tradition, which essentially means planning to tie in good luck and shun as much bad luck as possible. There are many superstitions within the Irish outlook on marriage. Did you know that some believe the saying “tying the knot” comes from an Irish wedding custom? Adding an Irish

tradition to your wedding is great relationship advice, and it can make your important day even more special!

## **Check out these Irish wedding traditions and learn how you can add a bit of luck o' the Irish to your day of relationships and love:**

1. If the sun is shining on your face the morning of your wedding day, good luck is present amongst you and your mate!
2. In no circumstances should you get married on a Saturday; it is the worst of luck in Irish traditions.
3. Marry during a growing moon and a flowing tide for eternal luck.
4. It is very lucky to hear a cuckoo on your wedding day and it is especially lucky if you see three magpies. Your luck will triple for three of them!
5. The lucky horseshoe! Brides used to carry horseshoes down the aisle for good luck. Carrying a heavy piece of iron might sound unappealing, which is why brides now buy porcelain and fabric ones for their special day.

**Related Link:** [Desiree Hartsock and Chris Siegfried Announce Their Wedding Date](#)

6. As obscure as it may sound, it is bad luck for a caterer to break a glass or cup on the wedding day. Don't have your day of relationships and love ruined by a clumsy waiter!
7. For the bride to be followed by good luck, it is essential for a guest to throw an old shoe over her head as she exits the church.

**8.** It is very lucky to be married on the last day of the year. The beginning of the year symbolizes the beginning of their life of relationships and love together.

**9.** In Ireland, it is luckiest for a couple to be married on St. Patrick's Day!

**10.** Chiming of bells is said to keep away any evil spirits attempting to ruin the couple's love and future.

**Related Link:** [Love Advice: 10 Ways to Meet Someone on St. Patrick's Day](#)

**11.** Irish brides wear blue on their wedding day, not white. In ancient times, blue symbolized purity. It was actually during Victorian times that white became the go-to color for brides.

**12.** It is said that if the bride's mother-in-law smashes a piece of cake on her head as she enters the house after the ceremony, they will be friends for eternity. Staying on the good side of your mother-in-law is always good relationship advice!

**13.** Have the bride and groom toss a handful of coins to their guests, it is said to bring them prosperity and good luck forever.

**14.** It is good luck for a happily married woman to put on the bride's veil, not the bride herself.

**15.** After the wedding ceremony, it is important for a man to wish the bride joy, not a woman.

**Did you have any luck on your wedding day? Share below!**

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# Dating Advice: How to Introduce Your Kids to Your New Partner



By [Katie Gray](#)

When you have children and are no longer with the other parent, it can be a very difficult transition. Raising kids is a lot of hard work and it's important. When you get a shot at happiness in your relationship and love life, you deserve it – even if you do already have children. The important thing is to make sure your kids are still your number one priority – them. It's often very hard to tell when you should introduce your kids to your new partner.

# **Cupid talked to some experts about relationships and love to find out exactly when and how you should introduce your kids to your new partner.**

## **1. Introduce when it gets serious.**

When you do decide to introduce your children to the new special person in your life, it should be when the relationship and love is developing into something permanent. Dr. Jane Greer, a New York based relationship expert and author, gave dating advice by explaining, "You should introduce your kids when you become really exclusive and serious with the new partner. You don't want to confuse the kids or allow them to become attached to the new partner if he or she won't be around for long."

## **2. Keep it casual.**

As far as how to go about introducing the children to your partner, Dr. Greer says, "It's always best to introduce the kids in an activity that's casual and informal – a ball game, a movie, etc. – something where everyone is participating together." She also added that if your new partner also has children, then this is the perfect time for everyone to get to know one another. If you are unsure how to label your significant other to your kids, it's always good to use, "Mommy's good friend" or use your partner's first name.

## **3. Make it positive.**

JoAnn Ward, President of Master Matchmakers, emphasizes, "No matter what, always make it positive and show that you can create a balance between your kids and your dating life."

#### **4. Consider age and timing.**

The amount of time that passes before you introduce your kids to your new partner varies. It depends on factors such as: the age of your children, how comfortable you are with your partner and how long you have known them. Ward suggests that the minimum would be a month to six weeks for mentioning them to your kids and about three months to initially introduce. She explains, "Younger kids do not quite have a firm grasp on time, so you don't want to confuse them if you tell them about your new partner too early and it doesn't work out."

#### **5. Mention a new partner to your kids' other parent.**

Ward says that you should absolutely tell the other parent of your children if they are going to meet your new partner. Ward explains, "The kids will wind up saying something anyway. You'd want to say that you're seeing someone and give them notice that you're planning to introduce them to your kids." It's a common courtesy and the polite thing to do, especially if this significant other will be around long term.

Dr. Greer and Ward both agree that you must be honest with your children. That is the most important thing!

**What are some other things to keep in mind when you're introducing your kids to your new partner? Share your thoughts below.**

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## **Julie Andrews' Relationship Advice: How to Survive the**

# Death of a Loved One



By Dr. Jane Greer

Actress Julie Andrews revealed that she is still dealing with the death of her husband, Blake Edwards, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 88. They were married for 41 years, and it “was a love story,” according to Andrews. Some days she gets along just fine, but others the loss of this relationship and love hits her like a brick, and she finds herself missing him and wishing he were still with her. This is common when one is dealing with grief, especially the death of a spouse.

## When you spend decades with the

**same person, and form hundreds of habits and routines that include them, it's devastating when they are no longer with you.**

Very often when someone is mourning the loss of a loved one, it is hard for the people around them to understand why they haven't gotten over it already. As a result, the person who is grieving may have unrealistic expectations of themselves, and could worry that there might be something wrong because they haven't yet been able to let go. Consequently, they may stop sharing their feelings either because people aren't asking anymore, or because they think people might no longer want to hear it. With that in mind, the fact that Julie is able to talk publicly about her sadness and not bottle it up is a positive action.

In addition to the normal course of processing the death of someone close to you, there is another piece of relationship advice that helps with coping that I wrote about in my book *The Afterlife Connection: A Therapist Reveals How to Communicate with Departed Loved Ones*. I was compelled to write it after my mother died.

### **Recognize signs and messages.**

In my book, I identified the ways to recognize the signs and messages that are coming your way from your loved one who has died. I also talk about the power of transcommunication, whereby rather than just waiting for those signs, you can initiate contact by directly asking for them.

## **Utilize the power of experience.**

Through the power of the experiences you share, it is possible to remain spiritually connected to the person you lost even after they cross over. It is another way of coping with your grief, and can be a tremendously helpful tool in alleviating the anguish of their death. Although you will always miss your loved one on a physical level, knowing their energy lives on and feeling their presence can help you buffer the pain of their departure. For many people, myself included, you may now feel as if you have a very special guardian angel who is with you when you need them to be.

While we don't know if Julie embraces the possibility of maintaining a spiritual connection to her deceased husband, we do know that at the very least she is being open about the magnitude of her loss. The truth is, we never really get over the death of someone we loved and lost. Rather, we look to get on with it in terms of living our lives as best we can in one way or another. Hopefully Julie can continue to cope with her husband's passing, and be able to enjoy the rest of her life to the fullest without her grief weighing her down.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on HealthyLife.net every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](https://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow @DrJaneGreer on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy.*

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# Relationship Advice: 3 Ways to Handle Unmet Expectations in Marriage



By Jennifer Smith

I unintentionally entered marriage with a heart full of expectation of how life would be once I became a wife. I desired a perfect relationship and love, free of hardship and pain, and full of adventure and passion.

**Once we were finally married, I was blindsided by the circumstances we**

**encountered and the conflict that arose in my relationship with my husband. With each passing day, if my husband fell short of fulfilling one of my expectations, discontentment would grow in my heart.**

At the climax of our marital issues, when we both thought the next decision in our relationship would be divorce, God saved us! Among many things, God opened my eyes to the destruction of unmet expectations and how I had allowed them to cripple intimacy in our marriage.

I want to provide three ways to handle unmet expectations in marriage based on my experience:

**1. Joy:** We must cling to joy! Despite our circumstances or conflicts faced in marriage, we must understand that joy is more powerful and more necessary than happiness. If we pursue personal happiness we will never feel fulfilled, but if we pursue joy we find contentment!

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: How to Keep the Spark in Your Relationship After Valentine's Day](#)

**2. Contentment:** This is the ability to be satisfied no matter what! It's important because there are many things we can complain about in life. However, if we are able to be content with what we have, including our spouses, then there will be no room in our hearts for bitterness to grow!

**Related Link:** [Divorce Attorney Jacqueline Newman Offers Relationship Advice: "You Want to Be Divorcing a Happier](#)

## Spouse”

**3. Thankfulness:** This is the seed that leads to contentment, which leads to pure joy. We must be intentional everyday to find things in life and in marriage for which we are thankful.

I hope my love advice encourages you today and inspires you to let go of your unmet expectations in marriage. I challenge you to embrace joy, contentment, and thankfulness. When I challenged myself with this task, my heart as a wife was transformed, and my marriage was saved!

*Jennifer Smith created Unveiled Wife, a web-based ministry for wives, in March 2011, where she publishes weekly marriage articles and encouragements all geared toward empowering and discipling wives. She shares more of her story in her new book, The Unveiled Wife. Jennifer and her husband currently live in central Oregon with their young son.*

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## Love Advice: 10 Ways to Meet Someone on St. Patrick's Day





By Krissy Dolor and Molly Jacob

You don't have to be Irish to be lucky in love on St. Patrick's Day. This day is traditionally about beer and the color green, but this year, it can be about relationships and love!

## **Cupid's Pulse has love advice for ways you can meet someone special this St. Patty's Day:**

**1. Dust off your "Kiss Me I'm Irish" button from college:** You're guaranteed to get a peck or two if you keep it on all day. But, be careful who you wear this around: this love advice could go sour if you get a kiss from someone you'd rather not get one from!

**2. Head to the parade:** Take the day off and indulge in the festivities. New York City's parade, which passes in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, is world famous and always filled with people of all backgrounds celebrating Irish

history. Put yourself in a new situation to meet someone new!

**Related Link:** [St. Patrick's Day: 10 of the Most Desirable Irish Celebrities](#)

**3. Forget to wear green:** By accident, of course. Pinching those who aren't wearing green is a holiday tradition that started in Boston. People thought that by wearing green you would be invisible to the leprechauns, who would pinch anyone they saw. Pinching others is a reminder that the leprechauns can see you! Hint to a cutie standing nearby that you need a pinch.

**4. Do some pinching of your own:** This mini-PDA gesture goes both ways, so nip an arm or a cheek – it's up to you to pick which one would be most appropriate! Dating advice: sometimes you need to make the first move if you're interested in that hottie at your office, so here's a perfect way to do so.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Bar Crawl Party!](#)

**5. Brush up on your history:** Everyone knows about the pinching tradition, but did you know that St. Patrick – whose real name was Maewyn Succat – wasn't even born in Ireland? Share interesting tidbits of your own and you're bound to get noticed.

**6. Test your Irish accent:** See how natural your fake accent sounds by asking the closest hottie if you could pass for a Celtic woman. Maybe he can give you a few pointers!

**7. Hit up a pub (or five):** There are tons of places that will be in the Irish spirit on St. Patty's day, so take advantage! Check out the New York Irish Pub Guide and Boston Irish Pubs for extensive lists.

**8. Go to bars that *aren't* celebrating the holiday:** If slamming multiple car bombs back isn't your idea of a good time, why not see if there are others who share your sentiment? Finding

someone who shares your interests is always good love advice.

**9. Throw a party:** You don't need to go out to have a good time! You could get started on making this day full of relationships and love by inviting your friends over to your own St. Patrick's Day party and having them bring their single friends as guests.

**10. Make holiday treats:** Any food can become St. Patty's Day-themed with a little green food coloring. If you're looking for recipes, check out Food.com's 35 Green Treats for St. Patrick's Day. Impress your crush by giving them a green cupcake on the 17th. Your mom gave good dating advice when she said the way to anyone's heart is through their stomach!

If you're shy, St. Patrick's Day is the perfect time to get out of your shell! And with these tips, who needs a lucky charm? Cupid wishes you luck on the road to your pot of gold!

**Have you ever met someone special on St. Patrick's Day? Share below!**

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## **Cameron Diaz: Is Sex the Answer to Relationships and Love?**





By Dr. Jane Greer

In latest celebrity news, actress Cameron Diaz recently revealed her secrets to a healthy life: diet, exercise, and getting busy between the sheets! She credits sex as being her “fountain of youth,” what keeps her young despite the hectic and fast-paced lifestyle that comes with being a celebrity and constantly in the public eye. Cameron believes people need lots of sex in their relationship and love lives and that it’s a healthy, natural bodily function. She’s right.

**My love advice is that sex not only promotes intimacy between partners and strengthens their relationships and love on a physical level, but it also boosts self-confidence and increases happiness.**

While having lots of sex promotes health and well-being,

making the time and being able to do it as often as you like can be challenging. A variety of responsibilities can get in the way, including work, children, making dinner, etc. So, what can you do to safeguard against this? Here are a few pieces of dating advice that can help you spend more time in the bedroom and less time worrying about getting there.

### **Consider scheduling spontaneity.**

While it seems paradoxical to plan it, more often than not that spontaneity we all crave happens at the beginning of a relationship when you are falling in love and all you want to do is fall into bed, letting everything else fall by the wayside. But that moment in time can't last forever when there are so many things you need to deal with. That is the tricky part of sex; while it can alleviate stress, making it happen and not letting the stress of everything else on your plate get in the way can be difficult. Still, everyone wants that feeling of being swept away and leaving everything else behind. Considering what stands in the way of that, the reality is that it may not happen unless you plan it. We plan vacations, parties, dinners out – so many activities that we enjoy. Why not plan to be sexually spontaneous with your partner? If you decide that you will spend an hour together on Saturday afternoon, or on Tuesday morning right after you drop the kids off at school, then you can make sure all the things you absolutely have to do are done, and you can allow yourself to not think about them for that hour or so you've set aside. It also gives you an opportunity to look forward to being with your lover in the same way you looked forward to it when you were first establishing your relationship and love. Think of it as mental foreplay. And once you reach your planned date, don't worry about anything else – those dishes can wait!

**Related Link:** [Cameron Diaz and Benji Madden Visit Her Parents in Florida](#)

**Say “Yes” and take a rain check.**

But what happens when you really can't find the time? In that case, instead of saying "no," say "yes" and take a rain check. It is so rare that two people want the exact same thing at the exact same time. Maybe you are hoping for a big pizza dinner, but your wife had a huge business lunch and just wants a salad tonight. When that happens, you probably compromise – maybe you'll have a salad tonight and plan for the pizza over the weekend. It's the same thing with sex – presumably you both want it at some point, but maybe not at the exact same time, or maybe one of you wants to do it more often than the other. Many times people just say "no" and leave it at that. But instead of saying you're not in the mood, and leaving your partner to feel undesirable, or to wonder if it is something they've done, say "yes," but not tonight. How about tomorrow? Or, maybe you can compromise, do a little something tonight and more over the weekend when you are both relaxed. Sex doesn't have to be the whole thing all the time.

**Related Link:** [Benji Madden Sends Celebrity Love Cameron Diaz a Cute 'Miss You' Message](#)

### **Embrace the moment.**

Finally, do your best to embrace the moment! How often has your partner come up behind you and given you a hug that makes you think: sex now, really? You know you haven't showered yet, or closed all the windows for the night, or responded to all those emails just waiting there for you. So you push off the advances, thinking you can get back to that later, after everything else is done. The problem is, not only is that moment of excitement long gone by the time you return to it, but your partner might feel unwanted and rejected in the meantime. Whatever you are doing to take care of things so you can relax better can be a put off to the other person. If you are at a party and your favorite song comes on, you wouldn't finish eating, carefully fold your napkin, take another drink, and risk getting out onto the dance floor with only the last notes of that song left. No, you'd jump up, grab your

partner's hand, enjoy dancing to the song, and get back to everything else after. Sometimes life gets in the way of the moment, and in letting that happen you let the passion evaporate. The next time your partner gives you that romantic snuggle, go with the flow. Try to see if your sex doesn't sizzle a little more because you stepped into the passion while it was burning hot.

No matter what might work for you, it's helpful to keep in mind that the quality of the sex you have with your partner is as, if not more, important than the quantity, especially since everyone has different notions as to what seems like a lot or enough sex. As long as you and your partner can find a middle ground on how often you both want sex, you'll both be content.

We can thank Cameron Diaz for being so open and sharing her secret to healthy living with all of us!

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## 5 Celebrity Weddings We Wish We Were Invited To





By [Katie Gray](#)

When it comes to celebrity weddings, the world goes crazy to see their favorite stars tying knots in celebrity weddings. We feel like we know them since they are in the public eye. Often times, we see their relationships and love grow from the start of dating, to the celebrity engagement, to the nuptials. Typically this excitement derives from discovering the intimate wedding and reception details of those we admire, especially when it comes to learning about all of the glamour on the big day. That being said, celebrities are just like us in some respects, and they have the same framework for their weddings as we do: love and commitment. Some stars choose to go all out for their big day, and others choose a simplistic style. Whatever the case, the celebrity weddings always turn out fabulous and true to the personality of the person in question.

**Cupid has compiled a list of the**

# five celebrity weddings we wish we could have attended.

**1. Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton:** These country superstars stayed true to their country roots! Their country-themed celebrity wedding fit their personalities and songs perfectly. Miranda and Blake both donned cute cowboy and cowgirl boots, there was a red pickup truck and tire swing, plus plenty of deer cutlets to eat. All of the traditional aspects were present too, including gorgeous flowers and décor that fit the theme, such as their chair wraps with vintage belt buckles. Yeehaw!

**2. Prince William and Princess Kate:** We had the honor of watching the royal couple say “I do” on live television, but it would have been amazing to attend it live, too! This royal wedding had 36.7 million viewers, and it even has its own Wikipedia page. The beautiful Prince and Princess tied the knot at Westminster Abbey in London, England. Following their vows, they made the traditional appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. She wore a gown by Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen, and a Cartier tiara and shoes that featured a Swarovski buckle. Such a fairytale!

**Related Link:** [Prince William and Kate Middleton Meet Jay-Z and Beyonce](#)

**3. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West:** This widely publicized celebrity wedding had as much glitz and glam as you would expect. The reality star and rapper prepared for their big day with family and friends in Paris and then flew to Florence, Italy for the ceremony at the Forte di Belvedere. Lana Del Rey performed at the rehearsal dinner and VOGUE did a spread on the luxurious wedding; as it clearly was the most fashion forward wedding of the decade. Keeping Up With The Wedding would have been fabulous!

**4. George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin:** America's favorite bachelor and A-List movie star, George Clooney, tied the knot with lawyer and activist Amal Alamuddin. They went for a classic look, and it was pure elegance. The duo celebrated with their 90 guests at the seven-star Aman Canal Grande Hotel in September. Amal's dresses were by Oscar de la Renta and were breathtaking. She opted for natural pearl earrings with square diamonds, and included her platinum band and engagement ring for accessories. This was the old Hollywood elegant wedding, and a classic affair to remember indeed!

**Related Link:** [George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin Have Civil Ceremony in Venice](#)

**5. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt:** Brangelina! Brad and Angelina celebrated their big day at their French Chateau with lots of sentiment, including their children involved in every aspect of the wedding. How sweet! Her gorgeous dress was by Versace and it was custom of course, including drawings of the couple's six children on the gown itself. Talk about a beautiful family affair!

**What celebrity weddings do you wish you were invited too? Share with us below.**

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## Who Gets the Dog Post-Relationship and Love?





By Jacqueline Newman

A couple of years ago, a lovely woman named Sara came into my law office for an initial consultation. One of the first things she said to me was, "All I care about is Molly. I do not care about the money – I need her to be with me." Now, this is not uncommon as many of my clients who have fallen out of a relationship and love feel that protecting their children is their number one concern. I asked the client, "Who would you say is the primary caretaker for Molly?" Her response (again, very typically was) "I am the one who takes care of her daily needs. I feed her, I wash her, I take her to the doctor, I take her to the park, I set up her play dates – I do absolutely everything for her." When I asked her about her spouse, Linda's, relationship with Molly, she responded, "She does love Molly and will play with her occasionally, but she does not care for her the way that I do." Sara then whipped out her heart shaped keychain that had a picture of Molly ... her little pug puppy.

In the days when a dog was just a dog and slept on the rug by the bed instead of in the bed, I would have explained to Sara

that courts treat animals like any other personal property.

**Now in the pet-centric society that we live in, courts are trending toward looking at animals differently and applying similar standards to those used when determining custody of children when people fall out of their relationships and love.**

A court will often consider who the primary caretaker of the pet is and will look to the “best interests” standard when determining custody.

The advice I gave to Sara is similar to the advice that I would give any parent. I said, “If you want to be awarded custody of Molly, you need to be able to show a court that you are and have been during the marriage, the primary caretaker for the puppy.” The history of caretaking plays a large role in custody determinations and it is logical to think the same mindset will apply in a pet custody fight. I told Sara to keep a journal of the times that she takes Molly to the vet and a detailed list of what she does to care for Molly. If the judge needs to select one party to have Molly reside with, Sara needs to be able to show that her pup will thrive best in her care.

Typically if there are young human children within the marriage, I find that most parents agree that the dog will follow the children. When the children are packing up to spend the weekend with one parent, the dog packs up his dog bones, too. This way the children are not deprived of time with their

pet and it aids in their transition between homes. Even when children are not in the picture, people can also share custody of their pets and set up a specific access schedule. Expenses for the pet can also be shared (which can be quite significant when you factor in doggy day care and veterinarian expenses – Molly needs to have her organic high fiber dog food!).

Up next... prenupts for pups!

*Jacqueline Newman is a Family Law Attorney & Managing Partner at Berkman Bottger Newman & Rodd in NYC. Ms. Newman's practice consists of litigation, collaborative law and mediation. Jacqueline specializes in complex high net worth matrimonial cases and negotiating prenuptial agreements. She has appeared as a commentator on various television shows and has been quoted as an expert in numerous publications, including Glamour Magazine, Crain's New York Business, U.S. News and World Report, Woman's Day and The Huffington Post.*

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## **Lady Gaga: Does Her Celebrity Engagement Ring Raise the Bar?**





By Dr. Jane Greer

Singer and superstar Lady Gaga got engaged to her longtime boyfriend Taylor Kinney on Valentine's Day weekend. The [celebrity engagement](#) involved Kinney giving Gaga a one-of-a-kind huge heart-shaped engagement ring that includes a T and S for their initials. We could all see it sparkling on her finger when she sang at The Academy Awards recently. It harkens back to young love when everyone would write their initials in a heart, and it's both romantic and lavish.

## **What Lady Gaga's Celebrity Engagement Ring Means for Other Couples**

So, what does the magnitude of her celebrity engagement ring mean for everyone else – her followers and fans? Does it raise the bar, and possibly make non-celebrity couples who are now getting engaged feel that they have to do something extraordinary and unique in order to make their partner feel special?

**Related Link:** [Latest Celebrity News: Lady Gaga Takes the Polar Plunge with Fiancé Taylor Kinney](#)

Getting engaged is a big deal – and not just because of the ring. There are so many pieces of love advice to consider as you figure out the best way to make it exceptional for both of you. Of course, there is no denying that the ring has become symbolic of the whole event. When it comes to Lady Gaga's celebrity engagement, that has certainly been something the press has been focusing on. She and her ring are both distinctive and seem to suit each other perfectly. While that is wonderful for her, it is important to keep in mind that we are all original and rare, so what might be perfect for her won't necessarily be right for your non-celebrity couple status. Your ring can be remarkable without having to be a showstopper.

The idea that an engagement ring has to be original, handmade and/or very expensive can skew what everyone hopes for, and if those expectations are too high, you might end up missing the point of what you are actually doing – which is pledging your love to each other and agreeing to spend your lives together. I have seen many women who were let down by the engagement ring they received because it wasn't the size, style or stone they had wished for. The engagement ring speaks to commitment and endurance, and the willingness to go the distance with your partner.

With that in mind, try to keep what you envisioned realistic to the man you are with, the resources he has, as well as his interest and taste in jewelry. Just because he doesn't design it or get you as big a ring as your girlfriend may have received, that doesn't mean you are loved less. Whatever ring you receive will be testimony of his relationship and love and the desire to share his future with you. So when he pops the question and holds out the much-anticipated ring he chose for you, it can usher in excitement rather than disappointment. Keep it about for better or worse, rather than for bigger or

worse.

**Related Link:** [Lady Gaga Celebrates Celebrity Engagement with Taylor Kinney's 'Chicago Fire' Family](#)

The bottom line is that an engagement ring does not have to be the only one of its kind, over-the-rainbow-fabulous to symbolize the love you share for each other and the commitment you are making to each other. For Lady Gaga it is a huge diamond heart, for you it might be something else, possibly not even a diamond but an emerald or a ruby. In the end, though, you both hope the ring will lead you to the same place – bringing in a life full of love and adventure together.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on HealthyLife.net every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to [Dr. Greer](#) at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](http://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow @DrJaneGreer on Twitter for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy.*

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## Dating Advice for Dealing with a Jobless Boyfriend





By Maggie Manfredi

There are multiple common sayings when it comes to the relationships and love: “love is a two way street,” “what’s mine is yours;” and “love is patient; love is kind.” But, what happens when your main man is stagnant and jobless? Are you expected to do all the heavy lifting? How do you know how to approach the topic with sensitivity, honesty and love?

**Cupid believes that you have every right to confront your jobless boyfriend. In fact, we have some valuable dating advice to help you navigate through this tough situation.**

**1. Talk it through:** First things first, talk to your partner. One of the main reasons to be in a relationship and love is to have that person you can talk to and that you trust. Be brave,

but not brash when you move to bring up your boyfriend's jobless status. Ask questions that will help him to open up. For example, ask, "If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?" Or, "What and who inspires you?" Not only will you learn more about your beau, but this might open their eyes to different career paths that they had not thought of before. Help them visualize an opportunity, and then you can take the steps toward making it a reality together.

**2. Motivate and keep moving:** The hardest thing about being unemployed is finding the motivation to get up and apply to jobs, and it can be hard to watch someone you love not able to take initiative in the situation. This is especially true if you are taking care of your man and providing for the both of you. Consider this love advice, and make sure you are supporting him in his quest for employment by not letting him sit and complain all day. Remind him to be proactive in a tactful way. A man with dreams is sexy, and a man with a job? ... Also very sexy.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: How To Keep The Spark in Your Relationship After Valentine's Day](#)

**3. Work and play hard:** If your guy is totally comfortable sitting on your couch and not contributing to your relationship and love, then maybe it's time to hit the town with your ladies. Happy hour is made for the working girl, so take full advantage. However, if your jobless boyfriend is making an effort to find work and do right by your relationship, then make sure you are both going out and enjoying life together. It is easy to let the stress of bills, careers and aging get in the way of having a good time. Make sure to continue scheduling date nights to keep the spark alive.

**4. Be patient and kind:** Life is a wild ride with bumps and road blocks. You and your partner need to feel love, especially if he has been laid off or is struggling to find

something to be passionate about. Be patient if they are doing some soul searching, and when they face rejection, be kind and understanding. There's no doubt that the road will not be perfectly paved, and as their partner, it's important to be there as they try to navigate.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: 5 Basic Workouts To Do With Your Partner](#)

**5. No excuses:** Cupid wants to make one thing perfectly clear: DO NOT MAKE EXCUSES FOR LAZINESS. A lazy partner now will be a lazy partner in the future, and this is not an ideal attribute in your soul mate. Everyone is allowed to make mistakes and to be unsure; but if your partner comes across a problem and doesn't want to solve it, then they might not be the best fit in a partner after all.

Work hard at your job, and work hard at your relationship. Your jobless boyfriend might need a little help to change his title, but with a little patience and a lot of love, you may see him make something of himself. Don't let him couch surf any longer, and if he makes excuses, it might be time to excuse yourself from the relationship.

**Have a different perspective on this relationship scenario? Share with us below!**

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## **Their Lips are Sealed: 5 Celebrity Couples That Kept a**

# Secret



by Molly Jacob

What's juicier than a best kept secret? Sometimes we like to keep things to ourselves, and celebrities are no different. With all the celebrity gossip that follows anything anyone famous does, we don't blame people in Hollywood relationships who like to keep their lips sealed.

## From secret baby daddies to secret weddings, see what celebrity couples have kept a secret!

**1. Hilarie Burton and Jeffrey Dean Morgan:** The *One Tree Hill* star not only managed to keep her relationship with *Grey's*

*Anatomy* actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan a secret, but also a baby bump! Burton and Morgan's relationship apparently moved along very quickly in 2009, so no one knew they were together (but this celebrity couple has stayed together ever since). Because she managed to avoid the spotlight after finding out she was pregnant, fans were shocked to find out she was expecting. In March 2010, she gave birth to their son, Augustus. She continued to be tight-lipped about the birth and name of her son until months later, even as the celebrity gossip swirled around them.

**2. Leighton Meester and Adam Brody:** These two lovebirds kept their romance a secret! A source revealed in February 2013 that the two were dating, and they had been close ever since working together in 2011 on the set of the film *The Oranges*. In November 2013, a source confirmed that the duo had gotten secretly married. This news came out only three months after their engagement went public, something else they were super secretive about. Being in a Hollywood relationship often comes with a lot of gossip and speculation, so these two probably wanted to keep their relationship as drama-free as possible.

[Related: Leighton Meester and Adam Brody Secretly Marry](#)

**3. Jude Law and Samantha Burke:** Although these two aren't a celebrity couple anymore, this duo kept a secret back in 2008. Law, known for his scandalous affairs, had a secret, brief fling with model and aspiring actress Samantha Burke. She found out she was pregnant soon after, and conducted a DNA test to determine that Law was the father. Burke gave birth to Sophia, their baby girl, in September of 2009. Although he is no longer in their lives, Law did make a statement in 2009 that he would be supportive of both mother and daughter.

**4. Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively:** This Hollywood relationship also seemingly came out of somewhere. Reynolds and Lively married at a secret and private wedding ceremony in 2012 even before publicly confirming their relationship or

announcing an engagement. Even more interesting: this was not Reynolds' first secret wedding. He and Scarlet Johansson got married in secret at a Canadian resort in 2008.

[Related: Blake Lively Shares She's Always Wanted Her Celebrity Pregnancy](#)

**5. Alison Brie and Dave Franco:** The *21 Jump Street* star and *Mad Men* actress also apparently like to keep their love from any celebrity gossip mills. Everyone was shocked to find out last spring that the two had been dating for two years. While *Neighbors* fans all over the world received this news with heartbreaking despair, others were surprised they had kept their relationship under wraps for so long.

What other celebrity couples do you know that have kept a secret? Share below!

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## Relationship Advice: How to Keep the Spark in Your Relationship After Valentine's Day





By Molly Jacob and Jennifer Ross

Now that the beautiful romance of Valentine's Day has passed, you may think it's time to return to ordinary life. Even though it's technically no longer the season of relationships and love, that doesn't mean your love ends! For the rest of the year, spread your love continuously, especially in your relationship. Not sure how to do that?

## **Cupid has some relationship advice for how to keep the spark in your relationship all year long!**

**1. Express your feelings:** One of the best parts about this day of love is when you take the time to tell your partner how you really feel. Who says you can't do so all year long? While your significant other of course knows that you love him or her, sometimes we all need a little validation. Just by saying, "I love you," in the most unexpected moments, such as when they're eating dinner or brushing their teeth, has a lot

of meaning.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: Valentine's Day Tips](#)

**2. Send love notes:** Valentine's Day cards are wonderful ways of expressing your feelings about relationships and love on paper, so why not keep those going throughout the year? Just slip a note somewhere sure to be noticed later by your sweetheart. Many card stores have all sorts of blank cards or customizable stationary for you to send your message. If you can't write like the greeting card writers can, don't fret! You can steal great quotes from your favorite songwriter or poet, as long as you give credit where credit is due.

**3. Go on romantic dates:** Think about how much fun you had sharing a lovely meal with your significant other out on the town on the 14th and plan something like that again. You might have spent a pretty penny this Valentine's Day, but don't think you have to do so on every date. Think a quiet afternoon at a cafe or lunch at your partner's favorite pizza joint. The key here is to appreciating each other in public and sharing a delicious meal, too.

**Related Link:** [5 Celebrity Couples Who Celebrate Valentine's Day in Style](#)

**4. Make an appointment:** We often get so caught up in our busy lives that we take alone time with our loved one for granted. Just how Valentine's Day is a day of the year that you devote to your partner, create a specific time each day that you plan to spend with him or her. This can be a time that you talk about your day, discuss your relationship and love, or just do something together, such as make dinner. This sacred, alone time can strengthen the intimacy in your relationship.

**5. Seek advice:** If your Valentine's Day date was a complete flop, don't let that stop you and your partner from fighting to keep the love alive. Sometimes life's hardships can distract you from focusing on the love and goodness in your

relationship. Seek advice from other couples that have stayed together and passed the test of time. They are full of valuable relationship advice about keeping the spark in your relationship, even after years of being together.

**How do you keep the spark in your relationship after Valentine's Day? Share with us below.**

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## **Divorce Attorney Jacqueline Newman Offers Relationship Advice: "You Want to Be Divorcing a Happier Spouse"**





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Emma L. Wells.

Jacqueline Newman has an impressive career as a family law attorney in New York City, so it's no surprise that she knows a thing or two about how to best handle a divorce. For starters, she encourages couples to stay away from social media. Saying negative things about your ex could affect more than just your relationship; it may also impact their career, as future employers may Google them and not realize that it was a former spouse who called them a cheat or a liar.

## **Jacqueline Newman Shares Relationship Advice for Couples During Divorce**

It's also important to remember that your words will be around long after your divorce proceedings end. "Nowadays, children learn to tweet before they learn to walk," the divorce attorney explains when sharing some relationship advice. "You're making a footprint that's going to be there forever. You're saying bad things about your spouse because

you're caught in the moment, but your kids may see this one day."

**Related Link:** [Making Special Occasions Comfortable for Children After Divorce](#)

If you're thinking of splitting from your husband, there are several steps you should take. "One of the first things I ask my clients when they sit down in my office is, 'Are you sure you want to get divorced?'" Newman shares. She points out that this process is far from fun and shouldn't be undertaken unless you're 100 percent sure you want out of your marriage.

If your answer is yes, now, you have to decide *how* you want to get divorced. There are three basic options: litigation, collaborative law, or mediation. You need to figure out what process is best for you and what kind of divorce attorney you want to hire. "You want to be with an attorney who you feel you can say anything to. If you're not comfortable talking to them, then you're not giving them the tools and position to really protect you," she reveals.

While a good personality fit is the number one quality to look for in an attorney, the second thing you need is a person who can think strategically. "You need someone who's going to look at the big picture and figure out the best way to get you to your goals," she adds.

**Related Link:** [Facing a Divorce? Don't Take the Adversarial Approach](#)

Newman also encourages her female clients to become familiar with their spending habits. "Women are not always aware of their finances before getting divorced," she explains. "Pay attention to your lifestyle." It will empower you to know what's going on and help you control the outcome of your divorce.

Her best relationship advice for those going through a divorce

is simple: “You want to be divorcing a happier spouse.” She says it’s important to maintain a civil attitude – especially if children are involved – and make sure everyone has what they want in the end. If you want to look at [celebrity divorces](#) for inspiration, it may be tough. “If they’re really smooth and amicable, you never hear about them,” she divulges. “The best divorces are the ones you find out about after the fact.”

## Prenuptial Agreements Aren’t Only for Celebrity Couples

Believe it or not, you don’t have to be a celebrity couple or have a lot of money to have a prenuptial agreement. Prenups are the biggest part of Newman’s practice, and there are many situations that require one. For instance, if it’s your second marriage and you have children from your first marriage or if you own your own business, then a prenup is necessary. As the divorce attorney explains, you should get a prenup “if you have assets that you want to be very clear are going to stay yours after a divorce.” She adds that laws are constantly changing and that it’s good to guarantee what’s going to happen in the event of divorce.

**Related Link:** [Divorce Expert Advice: Kindness No Matter What](#)

Apart from providing security, prenups can be good for your relationship and love. “Not only do they help assure the wealthier spouse that they aren’t being taken advantage of, but they teach couples to have difficult conversations about money,” she shares. “You shouldn’t look at prenups as asking for a divorce.”

As far as her own ten-year marriage goes, Newman believes that her job actually *helps* her relationship and love. “I think, on some level, it strengthens my marriage because seeing people at their worst, seeing what they will do, gives me perspective

on how little it matters if he doesn't unload the dishwasher," she says. "I fight all day long at work, so I really don't fight that much at home. I get it out of my system. You can't have a lot of drama in both parts of your life!"



*Jacqueline Newman joined Berkman Bottger Newman & Rodd, LLP in 1998 and is now the managing partner of the firm. Ms. Newman's practice consists of litigation, collaborative law and mediation. She specializes in complex high net worth matrimonial cases and negotiating prenuptial agreements. Newman has appeared as a commentator on various television shows and has been quoted as an expert in numerous publications, including Glamour Magazine, Crain's New York Business, U.S. News and World Report, Woman's Day and The Huffington Post. For additional information, check out her website, <http://www.nycdivorcelawyer.com/>*

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## Dating Advice on How to Meet Someone for Valentine's Day





By April Davis

With Valentine's around the corner, you may feel a lot of pressure to find the person who's right for you. Relationships and love are something that few people put much effort and energy into finding.

**Many think that if you just sit back, then it will just happen when it happens. The problem is that it won't happen while you're sitting on the couch. Here's some dating advice you can use to meet your Valentine.**

**1. First thing's first – Get rid of the idea that Valentine's day is the deadline.**

It can be a checkpoint, but not a deadline. It's a process to find the person you can spend the rest of your life with and there are steps involved. It's not like buying a car where you can go to the dealer and give your preferences on features, color, etc. Remember it will take some time and effort to meet the one for you and there are a billion possible matches for you, but it can be a lot of fun in the meantime if you're open-minded.

## **2. Wear red.**

When you're out and about at social gatherings or just any given day at work or the grocery store, take advantage of the Winter seasonal colors and wear red. This will attract attention to yourself and it's sexy. Also, research has shown that people are more attracted to both women AND men who wear red.

## **3. Get out and be seen.**

Your future King or Queen isn't going to find you in front of your TV at home. Get online and find all the singles events, happy hours, business networking events, nonprofit fundraisers, etc. and get them on your calendar. This dating advice can save you a lot of worry, so be proactive. These places are full of professionals and many of them are going to be single. The places you go to meet people don't all have to be singles events. When you are at these events don't forget to smile and try out your refined conversation skills. One trick to open the door for conversation at an event, go up to someone you'd like to meet, have a drink in your hand, and say, "Cheers". Most anyone will respond positively.

## **4. Learn how to make a connection with someone while in conversation.**

This really is a skill set and not everyone knows how to do it. One thing you can do to start improving in this area is to initiate conversations with anyone you meet. Don't wait to

only talk with people you're attracted to or want to date. It's smarter to be friendly and practice connecting with anyone you meet.

If you're in the elevator, smile, say hello, and make a comment to the other person sharing it with you. Maybe you can notice something about their bag, hair, or what they're wearing. Throw out a compliment to the person working behind the counter. Ask your server at a restaurant a question such as, "Where are you from?" These are all ways to start a conversation and will help you to build your confidence when it's time for you to chat it up with someone you are interested in.

## **5. Make a list of things you've always wanted to do, and do it.**

If your New Year's resolution is to get in shape, then get in the gym. Or maybe you've always wanted to try rock climbing. There are several groups out there that will provide lessons and get you started. How great would it be to meet someone there who you already know you have something in common with? Love advice: Don't forget to wear red ☑

While Valentine's Day can feel annoying when you're single, it's a reminder to us that relationships play an important role in our lives. By following these couple of tips, you're being proactive in your future and finding the person who is right for you. Then next year you may even be spending Valentine's with your new partner.

*April Davis, founder of Cupid's Cronies is sharing some of her tips for meeting someone this Valentine's Day. With offices throughout the U.S., Cupid's Cronies is bringing a lot of love to people through her various services from having a wing woman or wingman alongside them, an online dating assistance or simply just good ol' fashioned dating coach.*

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# Relationships and Love Are Overrated



By Brian Worley

While “Virginia is for Lovers,” Valentine’s Day is all about celebrating your lover. However, relationships and love are overrated. Don’t stress out if you are among the more than half of the single population in the U.S. that will be celebrating this romantic holiday solo, because you are not alone. According to a report on Bloomberg.com, you are one of the 124.6 million single Americans that will not be contributing to the \$13.19 billion annual spend on roses, candy, candlelit dinners and stuffed cupids. Take this dating

advice, and put love on hold, if not only for the amount of money you can save!

**The average consumer spends \$116.21 on Valentine's Day, so pocket the cash and follow these sexy, single and ready to mingle tips that could potentially leave you with Cupid's arrow piercing your heart or a bunch of mental memories of another night on the town where you have the time of your life and can still keep searching for that relationship and love.**

**Here are the 5 Ways to throw a Singles Party that Rocks:**

**1. Invitees:** It is all about the singles. Invite single friends only and each person needs to bring a new single friend. Make sure there are an equal number of guys and gals to mix up the fun. So where do you find these singletons? Your social network – Invite people in your social circle on Facebook or maybe you have common friends but you don't know them. Now, is your chance to branch out and invite them.

**2. Décor:** Forget about pink and red. A little played out isn't it? Well this year try turquoise and orange. Let's think a little bit more about that décor. A star is defined as a bright point of light in the sky or a five-sided drawing that is meant to resemble the points of light in the sky. So you can have star shaped sugar cookies – green with vanilla icing

packaged up as a parting gift. Or, do the whole party around the opposites of what people think. For example, – Not roses...Rather thistle- Not chocolate...Bring out the steak.

**3. Playlist of music:** Just forget all those love songs and bring out the real fun jams! Such as “All the Single Ladies.”

**4. Food / Beverages:** Keep it fun and flowing. The opposite of chocolate is vanilla so why not add some vanilla touches. And, make sure the food is fun – Gourmet Grilled Cheese sandwiches are easy to make and always a big hit.

**5. Invitation:** And, don’t forget about the invite. How about setting the theme in advance by sending the party goer a puzzle piece and they then have to find the person that has the other piece of the puzzle.

They say, ‘the grass is always greener on the other side’ which seems to be more accurate on Valentine’s Day than any other holiday. As you throw yourself into the perfect singles soiree, think about all your couple friends in a relationship and love eating overpriced dinners because technically love is in the air. Follow these fun pointers and next Valentine’s Day, you may just find yourself on the other side of the fence receiving a dozen of the 196 million red roses produced to show how much you are loved!

*[Brian Worley](#) is the co-founder of Your-Bash and TV’s favorite event planner and LA’s man about town. Worley is known for his over the top and memorable style and has been the voice of everything from E!’s Party Monsters Cabo, to WE TV’s Platinum Weddings, to The Style Channel’s Big Party Plan Off. From American Idol Parties, to the Oscar Pre-Show and Grammy After Party, Worley says the key is to NOT go with tradition.*

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# 5 Celebrity Couples Who Celebrate Valentine's Day in Style



By Brittany Stubbs and Molly Jacob

While flowers and chocolates are nice, in Hollywood, Valentine's Day is usually done a little different. Although there are many ways to show your love, check out how some of our favorite celebrity couples are doing it! Celebrity love is definitely in the air this season, and there's no better way to show it than with extravagant gestures. If you need some romance inspiration, check out the five famous couples below:

# Celebrity Couples Who Celebrate the Day of Love in Style

**1. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West:** Kimye has gone overboard with V-Day celebrations in the past few years. Last Valentine's Day, Kim received 1,000 roses from Kanye, which she showed off on her Instagram account. West also has shown his love to Kardashian with some serious bling. In 2013, the rapper gave his sweetheart a \$73,000 bracelet from Cartier's Panthere Collection. The stunning bracelet featured a diamond-encrusted panther motif with emerald eyes and an onyx nose, completed with a black cuff and a white-gold trim.

Although Kardashian loves her bling, she admits that Valentine's Day presents don't have to include a huge price tag to be special. In a interview with *Gotham*, Kardashian said, "Valentine's Day is all about showing the people around you how much you love them, so the gifts that come from the heart are always the most special. One year, Mason [Kourtney Kardashian's son] gave me the most adorable Valentine's Day card that he made himself, and it is still one of the best gifts I've ever received."

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

**2. [Lauren Conrad](#) and William Tell:** Conrad and Tell, one of our favorite celebrity love stories, will be celebrating their third anniversary this Valentine's Day. The celebrity couple were introduced to each other by mutual friends on the day of love in 2012 and have been lovey-dovey ever since. Last year, Conrad showed her love to her then-fiancé on Instagram by posting an adorable engagement photo with the caption, "Happy Anniversary to my favorite Valentine. I love you dearly xo." This is their first Valentine's Day as a married couple, so we're excited to see what this day of love and joy brings them!

**3. Kate Middleton and Prince William:** Valentine's Day isn't always about spending the time with your lover. In 2013, Kate Middleton and Prince William celebrated the day of love in style by doing something they love: helping others! The Duchess Of Cambridge visited Northolt High School, a London high school, and officially opened the school's ICAP Art Room after receiving a lovely floral arrangement. Middleton has been a patron of the art room since 2012. William spent Valentine's Day morning in Datchet, Berkshire with Prince Harry, delivering sandbags to communities affected by flooding

This wasn't the first Valentine's Day the royal couple has spent apart! In 2012, William was on a tour of duty in the Falklands during the 14th of February, but he still managed to send her a card and flowers despite his being 7,000 miles away.

**Related Link:** [5 Valentine's Day Celebrity Engagements](#)

**4. Brad Pitt and [Angelina Jolie](#):** This power couple has shown their celebrity love on Valentine's Day by celebrating with some laughter. In 2013, Pitt gave his lover vegan, gluten-free, sugar-free mints for Valentine's Day, a loving joke since he's always teasing Jolie that she has bad breath. Although he could easily buy her something fancy (which we assume he did along with the gag gift), this gift shows the couple's unique, playful side, which is always in style!

The couple doesn't always make a joke about the holiday, though! In 2010, Jolie gifted Pitt with a 200-year-old olive tree worth \$30,000. The tree was planted at their French home, the Chateau Miraval, where it joined an olive grove, vineyard, and more.

**5. Jay-Z and Beyonce:** Is anyone surprised that this "Drunk in Love" couple would celebrate the Day of Love in anything less than amazing style? Last Valentine's Day, Jay-Z bought his wife a \$2,300 Tacori bracelet. The bracelet's intertwined gold

and silver design is said to represent their union, and it can only be unlocked by a private key. Jay-Z reportedly gave Bey her gift a few days earlier than the 14th because she was so eager to receive it.

Last year wasn't the only year the rapper surprised his wife with an extravagant gift. In 2009, Jay-Z bought Beyoncé a platinum cell phone worth \$24,000 for Valentine's Day. We can't wait to see how this superstar celebrity couple celebrates V-Day this year.

**How do you plan on celebrating Valentine's Day in style? Let us know in the comments below!**

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## **Relationship Expert Shares Hot Valentine's Day Gifts**





By Kris Schoels

*6 million – The number of people who expect or are planning a marriage proposal.*

*1.9 billion – The amount people will spend on flowers alone.*

*53% – Women who would end their relationship and love if they didn't get something for Valentines Day*

With these statistics, it's no wonder we get crazy about a seemingly harmless day in February. As a relationship expert, I think Valentine's Day should be about managing expectations and making sure you both are on the same page about gifts and celebrating.

**Here are some ideas for Valentine's Day presents...and a few things you should never get for the girl in**

# your life!

## **1. Gym membership or workout gear: Is that ever a good idea?**

I say yes, but only if your partner is already into working out in the first place. Have a Pilates lover? Get her a class pack to her favorite studio. Significant other running in a marathon late this year? Buy her some running clothes. Dating someone who is not into the gym or fitness at all? This is not the time to introduce them to the fitness scene. I can guarantee it will cause some hurt feelings and self-doubt.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice for How to Manage Valentine's Day Expectations](#)

## **2. What about jewelry (or any item that isn't a ring) in a small box?**

I am just going to put this out there: If they do not already have a ring on their finger, girls want to be engaged! You don't have to be a relationship expert to figure this one out. If you have been together a while, they will probably (even if you have told them you are not going to) think that you are going to propose on Valentine's Day. Do NOT, under any circumstances, give them a gift in a small box *unless* it is an engagement ring.

## **3. Go the traditional route and give flowers.**

Maybe some people will disagree with me, but I feel like you can't ever lose with flowers. All girls love flowers, and it doesn't matter to me if they are straight from the grocery store or arranged by the best florist in town. Flowers bring a smile to anyone's face.

## **4. What about lingerie?**

I'm on the fence about lingerie, as I think it's more of a

gift women get for the men in their life. I say, if you are a guy, stick to a nice silk robe instead of a lacy and racy underwear set. Robes are safe – they're pretty, useful, and appreciated.

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

## **5. Avoid a gift certificate.**

These are not personal enough and seem like a cop out. Save them for other occasions, even birthdays – but not the most romantic day of the year.

## **6. Don't have money to spend?**

Cook a nice meal for her (or together) and give her a sweet love note. You don't have to spend money to make a girl happy; just some time together and attention is enough for your relationship and love.

*Founder, blogger, wife, Kris Schoels began The Chic Wife based on the idea of creating an ongoing dialogue inspired by the unique juxtaposition of her peanut farm-life upbringing to her now married, everyday city lifestyle. Beyond her blog, Schoels has been seen on The Today Show, Insider Edition, Access Hollywood, Dr. Oz, Hallmark Channel, Fox&Friends, The Better Show, just to name a few while also having been featured in Shape, Self, Martha Stewart and OK! Magazine with her chic tips and budget tricks.*

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# **5 Valentine's Day Celebrity**

# Engagements



By Maria Darbenzio and Molly Jacob

Valentine's Day is the holiday of relationships and love, so what better way to celebrate than getting down on one knee, popping open the ring box, and asking your partner to spend a lifetime with you? While some may find proposing on VDay to be cheesy, these celebrity couples do not agree.

## Check out these five Valentine's Day celebrity engagements:

**1. Christina Aguilera and Matthew Rutler:** On Valentine's Day last year, the singer revealed her celebrity engagement to her film producer boyfriend by tweeting a photo of a massive

diamond on her left hand. This celebrity couple met on the set of *Burlesque* in 2010, as she was going through a divorce from Jordan Bratman (a divorce that, ironically enough, was finalized on Valentine's Day in 2011). Looks like Rutler "Ain't No Other Man" in Aguilera's eyes!

**Related Link:** [Christina Aguilera Welcomes a Baby Girl with Matt Rutler](#)

**2. Dave Annable and Odette Yustman:** In 2010, Annable, most known for his role on *Brothers and Sisters*, proposed to his co-star girlfriend of two years. He proposed at the place they first fell in love and had their parents waiting for them at the hotel restaurant. The actress was surprised by the proposal and excited that she got to share it immediately with her parents and future in-laws. This celebrity engagement did not last long – the twosome got married eight months later!

**3. Vince Vaughn and Kyla Weber:** For this couple, the engagement had been discussed months before it actually happened. Little did Weber know, her comedian boyfriend did not want to pass up the opportunity of proposing on Valentine's Day. Not only was it a romantic holiday, but it was also a date that he said he would always remember. In 2009, Vaughn got down on one knee and proposed to the Canadian real estate agent. She said yes, and this celebrity couple is now married with two children.

**Related Link:** [Dealing with a Valentine's Day Breakup](#)

**4. Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart:** Actor and producer Ford decided to take his relationship with Flockhart to the next level in 2009. Prior to that Valentine's Day, this celebrity couple had been together for seven year. When Ford asked her to marry him, it's reported that she was taken by complete surprise.

**5. Christina Applegate and Martyn LeNoble:** The *Anchorman* star and her Dutch bassist beau got engaged on Valentine's Day in 2010. This celebrity love story gets sweeter. According to the

*Daily Mail*, Christina gives credit to LeNoble for saving her life after she had a double mastectomy in 2008. The celebrity couple wed three years later in February 2013.

**What are your thoughts on a Valentine's Day proposal? Share in the comments below!**

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## **Relationship Advice: The 8 Best Budget-Friendly Valentine's Gifts**



By Jude Bijou MA MFT

Lots of us, particularly males, fret about what to do for Valentine's Day. Need some relationship advice? Chocolate and roses are nice, but not exactly creative or even heartfelt.

## **Sexy lingerie or a romantic dinner may be fun, but is this what she really wants?**

I talk to many clients who express genuine anxiety about Valentine's Day, and this is what I tell them: Don't get caught up in peer pressure or commercialism associated with Valentine's Day. Instead, think of it as a time to honor your love partner, and to let this person know you value, respect, and admire him or her. With that as your intention, giving the "gift" is actually very easy. Best of all, it won't cost you a cent.

## **Take some relationship advice and use these 8 gifts that will win the heart of your Valentine.**

- 1. Put it in writing:** Write a list of qualities that you appreciate about your loved one, and put those words in a card, poem, or a short video of you reading the list.
- 2. Stir up memories:** Jot down 5 or so of your favorite, most precious memories of your partner and the time you've spent together, and convey them verbally.

**Related Link:** ['Single Ladies' Star Denise Vasi Shares Her Valentine's Day Plans](#)

- 3. Grant a wish:** Put yourself in your lover's shoes and think of a chore or an activity that would bring a smile or ease some stress. Then make it happen.

**4. Spend some time:** Arrange an outing to a favorite place you share, maybe a hike or a stroll around a special neighborhood. Or just take the evening off from your normal routine and cook a favorite dinner.

**5. Be emotionally generous:** Refrain from making negative jokes about Valentine's Day or your loved one's views about the day. Regardless of how you feel, only say positive things.

**Related Link:** [Valentine's Day Advice: Nine Gift Ideas for the Frugalista](#)

**6. Lend an ear:** Set up a cozy place to talk and ask your loved one questions about life, dreams, wishes, and feelings. Offer to "just listen" while he or she talks and shares. Don't interrupt.

**7. Clean the slate:** Valentine's Day is as good a day as any to let go of any grudges you're holding and to accept your loved one, flaws and all. This will help you genuinely say, "I love you just as you are."

**8. Fall in love anew:** Allow yourself to fall in love again. Conjure memories and feelings of a time you were full of feelings of love for your Valentine, and keep your focus there. Recall the way you felt when you first met.

*Jude Bijou, MA, MFT, is a respected psychotherapist, professional educator, and workshop leader. Her theory of Attitude Reconstruction® evolved over the course of more than 30 years working with clients as a licensed marriage and family therapist, and is the subject of her award-winning book, **Attitude Reconstruction: A Blueprint for Building a Better Life**. Learn more at [www.attitudereconstruction.com](http://www.attitudereconstruction.com).*

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# Love Advice: 3 Signs He's the Right Guy to Be Your Valentine



By Molly Jacob and Suzanne Casamento for Galttime.com

Valentine's Day is like the New Year's Eve of relationships and love. There's all this pressure to have an amazing evening, maybe even the date of a lifetime. That's thanks to the amazing Valentine's Day dates in unrealistic rom-coms. But before you get all caught up in all the hype, it's important to consider who you're going to spend the holiday with this year. So instead of settling for just anyone's company, set

yourself up for success by spending Valentine's Day with the right guy.

## **Are you still in the market for a Valentine? Here are some signs he's the right guy to be your Valentine's Day date:**

**1. He gives you butterflies:** Yes, that reference rings middle-school bells, but thankfully, butterflies don't disappear once you become an adult. When it comes to spending Valentine's Day with someone, he should be someone you really like. First and foremost, because you want to enjoy it, but also because you don't want to spend such a big holiday with someone you're not truly interested in. It could be misleading and ultimately hurtful for your date. With relationships and love, if you are not excited about your date, you can be sure that that's a warning sign you may not go on many other dates with him.

**Related Link:** [5 Celebrity Couples Who Got Engaged on Valentine's Day](#)

**2. He treats you with respect:** This love advice sounds like a total no-brainer, but many of us have felt the *whoosh* of butterflies around a guy who doesn't even know we're in the room. In order to have a spectacular Valentine's Day celebration, it's important that he's equally as crazy about you. Determine his level of interest by the way he treats you. Does he call and text you often? Does he listen when you speak? Does he ask questions about you? Does he remember details about what you say? Those are all signs that he respects you.

If you're still not sure after answering those questions, flip them and ask yourself the following questions. Do you always

have to contact him first? Does he seem distracted when you talk? Does he only talk about himself? If someone disappoints you on a regular date, rest assured he will disappoint you on love's biggest night of the year, too.

**Related Link:** [How to Get Through Valentine's Day Being Single](#)

**3. He knows how to have fun:** When it comes to a big holiday like Valentine's Day, fun is definitely the "it" factor that will take an ordinary date over the top. Sure, V-Day is all about relationships and love, but don't let that take precedent over just having a good time. Choose a date who is relaxed, positive, and can make you laugh. Whether you enjoy a romantic dinner, go ice-skating, or see a play, your Valentine's Day celebration is only going to be amazing if your date is someone you have fun with when you're out (or if you stay in). Dinner at the best restaurant in town is good, but a date who makes you laugh will elevate your chocolate mousse from tasty to downright dreamy.

If you find that none of your prospects fit the date criteria above, ditch the date idea and plan an evening doing something you love. Don't let cheesy rom-coms make you think you have to spend this day with someone just so you're not alone. Don't worry, Valentine's Day will come again next year.

**Cupid's wants to know about your Valentine's Day plans! How did you know your date was the one to spend this holiday of love with?**