Top 7 Best-Dressed Celebrity Couples of 2013





By Dixie Somers

Celebrity couples are almost always in sync in the fashion department. They coordinate their clothes most of the time, so their outfits usually complement each other. Here are the seven best-dressed celebrity couples we would all love to imitate in 2013:

1. Will and Kate

Arguably the most adorable and loved celebrity couples, Prince William and Kate Middleton always bring their A-game in the fashion department. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge always look put-together, stylish and classy. From Will's elegant

suits and crisp footwear to Kate's ladylike-chic look, it's no wonder why this couple tops the list of the best dressed celebrity lovebirds.

Related: What to Wear on a First Date

2. Liam and Miley

This adorable couple has the same edgy street style that consist of grungy band shirts and polished jeans, but when they walk the red carpet, they definitely turn heads in a good way. Miley Cyrus usually sports an edgy/elegant dress that complements Liam Hemsworth's crisp suits in the best of ways. As a result, they will always be known as a fashionable couple.

3. Will and Jada

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith always look superb on the red carpet. Because they both have a retro glamour style, they complement each other's look perfectly. Jada always wears sexy yet sophisticated gowns that fit her body perfectly, and Will always looks sharp in his suits and tuxedos.

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4. David and Victoria

Posh Spice and Beckham always look amazing. Victoria's style is always trendy, always fashionable and always jaw-dropping. In fact, Posh is one of the most fashionable women in the world. Combine her fashion sense with Beckham's suave look and you've got a well-dressed celebrity couple who turn heads whenever they walk in a room.

5. Eva and Ryan

Goodness, don't Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling make such a cute couple? They also make a fashionable pair. Gosling always

looks like, well, a celebrity, and so does Eva. Eva's glamorous flair pairs perfectly with Ryan's simple yet luxurious style.

6. Gwen and Gavin

This rocker pair always looks edgy and cool whether they're walking the carpet or just strolling. Gwen Stefani's edgy style looks amazing when paired with her hubby, Gavin Rossdale's similar rocker-cool look.

7. Emma and Andrew

This adorable couple is a match made in heaven. Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield have different styles, but they complement each other perfectly. On one hand, you've got Emma who wears some of the most beautifully sophisticated dresses on the carpet. On the other hand, you've got Andrew who likes to wear unexpected pieces like bold suits. Together, they look amazing.

This article was written by Dixie Somers. Reem clothing offers trendy, fashionable clothing that is sure to spice up your man's closet.

Relationship Advice: How to Get Financially Stable After Divorce





By Jeff Landers for GalTime.com

As a divorcing woman, you are no doubt looking forward to having the whole divorce process over with, so you can move ahead to your new life. If you're like most women, you probably think the past few months (or years!) have been filled with enough emotional upheaval, not to mention legal and financial hassle, for a lifetime, and you'll be very glad to have it all behind you . . . at last.

Life as a single woman will bring new responsibilities, including all the issues surrounding your personal finances. So how do you make sure you set your best foot forward?

Of course, life as a single woman will bring new responsibilities, including all the issues surrounding your personal finances. Even today, it is surprisingly common for wives to remain uninvolved in family finances. If that was the dynamic in your marriage, then it may now seem quite intimidating to face all the budgeting and bill paying, in addition to managing investments and debt, and saving for education, retirement and other long-term goals.

However, there is a bright side.

Throughout the divorce process, it's likely you've become intimately familiar with your marital financial situation. Now, as your divorce settlement agreement is finalized, you can take that know-how forward as you plan for a secure financial future.

Here are a few important practical steps to help you get on the road to financial stability after your divorce:

Do the financial housekeeping.

If you changed your name after the divorce, you'll need a new Social Security Card, driver's license, passport and credit cards. You'll also need to notify your bank, utilities, insurance companies, credit card companies, the motor vehicle department, your children's school(s), etc., about any name or address changes. Titles on all houses and vehicles will have to be modified and recorded with lending institutions, and you will also need to update beneficiaries on your life insurance, 401k, pensions and IRA accounts.

To keep all these details straight, follow this checklist of financial tasks that need prompt attention post-divorce:

- 1. Obtain a copy of your certified divorce decree, and make extra copies so that you're able to provide them promptly when needed.
- 2. Close joint credit accounts.
- 3. Remove your husband's name, and/or change your name/address, on all remaining accounts, including:
 - Bank, brokerage and investment accounts
 - Credit cards
 - Driver's license, automobile title, registration and insurance policies

- Employer's records
- IRS records
- Life, health, homeowner's and disability insurance policies
- Post office (Remember to have your mail forwarded, too.)
- Professional licenses
- Social security card
- Title to real property
- Utility bills
- **4. Research your health insurance options** and apply for COBRA, if necessary.
- 5. If your divorce decree requires a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO): Provide the QDRO to appropriate banks, brokerages, pension plan advisor, 401k administrators, etc. (Even better, have this step completed before your divorce is finalized!), a quitclaim or warranty deed: Make certain the appropriate documents are executed and recorded. Also, the transfer of title to property (automobiles, boats, etc.): Sign and deliver the necessary documents to complete the transfer.
- **6. Open a new bank account**. Consider establishing direct deposit or income withholding for child support, spousal support and/or alimony payments.
- 7. Open a new credit card account and request a copy of your credit report.
- **8. Disinherit your husband.** Write and execute a new will, trusts, medical directives and/or living wills and powers of attorney. Don't forget to change the beneficiaries on your life insurance, 401k, pension and IRA accounts.
- 9. Establish a system to keep track of all child support

made/received, alimony payments made/received, medical
expenses, etc.

Establish good credit in your own name.

Good credit is the foundation of your financial future. Without it, it can be very difficult to get a bank loan, and even hard to manage regular household expenses. Get a copy of your credit report (AnnualCreditReport.com offers them free of charge), and address any inaccuracies it contains. Then, if you are employed and/or already have credit cards in your name, building your credit is relatively straightforward: use your cards regularly, pay off the balance in full and on time each month, and watch your score rise!

However, if you're not employed and don't already have a credit history, the process may not be as simple. A few years ago, new federal regulations made it difficult for women with little or no income to establish credit on their own. The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009 was designed to protect consumers from getting into financial trouble by running up credit card debt they can't afford to pay, but unfortunately, this legislation also makes it difficult for "at-home" spouses without paid work to obtain credit on their own.

After a public outcry, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently proposed changes to rectify these unintended consequences. When enacted, the modifications will allow non-working spouses to apply for credit in their own name based upon shared household income.

So, be prepared. Securing credit may require more than simply filling out an application or making a single phone call.

Develop a comprehensive financial plan for the future.

If you had a Lifestyle Analysis prepared during your divorce, you should now have a very clear understanding of what funds

came into the marriage (income) and what funds went out (expenses). Use this as a basis for developing a budget going forward. You'll need to address both short-term (day-to-day expenses, monthly utilities, mortgage, car payments, etc.) and long-term (college tuition, retirement, travel) financial needs.

If your divorce settlement includes any lump sum payments (i.e., for alimony, pension rollovers, sale of a vacation home), you'll also need to develop a sound strategy for managing those assets. Establishing —and then sticking to — a financial plan is essential, both for financial stability and peace of mind.

Seek help from an experienced financial advisor.

All the fundamental components of a sound financial plan — creating a budget, investing, retirement planning, outlining your goals and aspirations, saving for college, choosing life insurance, etc. — should be completed under the guidance of a financial advisor.

Be sure to find a financial professional with expertise and experience helping divorced women, specifically. The financial needs of divorced women are very different from those of a married couple, and you should have an advisor who completely understands those differences and knows how to properly manage their money and invest on their behalf.

In addition to an experienced financial planner, I believe most post-divorce women can benefit from the assistance of:

- An estate-planning attorney to work with your financial advisor to help with your estate planning needs and the legal issues concerning your will, medical directives, trusts, charitable giving, etc.
- A therapist or counselor to help you cope with the emotional challenges of starting your life as a single

woman.

A vocational counselor to help you re-enter the job market, or even start your own business.

Enjoy your new life!

With your divorce in the rear-view mirror, and these important steps completed, you'll be well-positioned for a secure financial future. It's likely you will find, as most women do, that it's empowering to make financial decisions on your own, and to be the one who's in control of your financial portfolio. Rest assured: The road ahead belongs to you!

Dating Advice: 5 Date Ideas Created Just for Moms





By <u>Whitney Baker Johnson</u>

It's always important to recognize the hard work moms do — not just on Mother's Day, but every day of the year. They often put their partners and children first, forgetting to take time for themselves. This May, we're encouraging moms to step away from their household duties and embrace some kid-free time with their significant others. Remember, your loved ones want to make you just as happy as you make them. Below are five date ideas that every mom will enjoy.

1. Chick Flick: Sure, your beau may want to see the latest action movie, but instead, pick the most romantic movie in theaters and enjoy every cheesy minute of it. Take this opportunity to snuggle up to your hubby and reignite the spark that may be dimming. You'll have at least two hours to relax and decompress before you resume your mom duties.

Related: <u>Create an Action Plan to Make Every Date Feel Like</u> Valentine's <u>Day</u>

2. Spa Day: While your man may be hesitant to admit it, he'll

enjoy a couple's massage just as much as you do. Be fully in the moment as you both take this time to recharge. Get a manicure, pedicure or a facial to make the most of your day of pampering. Your partner can sip on some champagne and keep you company while you feel like a princess for an afternoon.

- 3. Just Dance: Sometimes, the best way to let loose is to literally let loose. Sign up for weekly dance classes and learn a romantic waltz together, or head to a local salsa club and practice your moves in an environment filled with passion. Any mom will love the chance to not only bond with her significant other, but to also do an adult-only activity. End your night with a glass of wine at your favorite restaurant.
- 4. Date Night at Home: Plan for grandma and grandpa to watch your children so that you and your honey can have a fun evening in the comfort of your own home. Cook a romantic meal together and open up your favorite bottle of wine. Enjoy the warm weather by cuddling up outside and counting the stars. Steer conversation away from your babies, and instead, focus on your marriage. When bedtime rolls around, don't set an alarm!

Related: How Celebrity Moms Keep an Active Dating Life

5. Breakfast in Bed: Don't let your date night at home end when you crawl in bed. Wrap up your alone time with breakfast in bed. You can make an extravagant meal with all of your favorite foods: from scrambled eggs with cheese and fresh vegetables to crispy bacon and toast topped with butter and homemade jam. Order in from a local diner — somewhere you may have frequented before the kids came along — and enjoy every greasy bite.

Moms, we want to hear from you: What's your favorite date idea? Share below.

Relationship Advice: Finding Your True Destiny After Losing Love





By Susan Russo

The other day a friend asked me, "What am I going to do? I can't live without him in my life. How do I go on? He was my life." When faced with being alone after your relationship ends, it literally feels as if you don't know who you are, where you are and how you got there.

Your life was so intertwined with your partner's life that it

seems that the two of you became one. No wonder people tend to use the cliché, "A part of me is missing."

Related: Returning to the Dating World

NEWS FLASH

You're normal!

How do you think you're going to feel after you've spent years sharing everything together? That includes family, friends, vacations, pets, children, life ... and the most private and intimate details of who you are with the person you believed would be there forever. Is it any wonder you can't get your head on straight after this emotional volcano erupting in your life?

But rest assured, even though you feel like you'll never find your way out of the darkness, there is a light shining so bright at the end of the proverbial tunnel that you will bask in its glory when you're through it and this heartbreak is behind you.

I'll never forget the time Nicole Kidman was on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* after Tom Cruise had filed for a divorce. Her pain was so palpable you could hear it in her voice, feel it through her words, and see it on her face.

I was crushed and it wasn't even happening to me!

I'm sure millions of viewers could relate to Kidman's pain because they know there isn't anything quite like the devastation you feel when the person you love decides they don't want to be with you anymore.

But...look at her now!

PICKING UP THE PIECES

1. GRIEF: Cry until you're dry! Grief is a process. You can't

go around it, under it or over it. You have to go through it. Get it out so you can get on with your life.

- 2. ACCEPTANCE: This is the first step in letting go of the past. You will begin to pick up the pieces when you finally let go of all of the lamenting of how you wished things would've turned out differently and accept the reality of your situation.
- **3. FORGIVENESS:** This can be one the toughest things to do, but at the same time when you find forgiveness it is the most freeing thing you can do. It is a gift you give yourself.

Related: Falling Out of Love and Back Into Life

MOVING ON

The end is just the beginning. There is life after this relationship and it's going to be a great one. Look at all of the people who have loved and lost and who are now happy. You'll find your soul mate when you let go of the past. So, embrace the future one day at a time and before you know it you'll be living the life you so richly deserve.

Susan Russo is the author of: There Is Life After What's-His-Name, The 7 Keys to Unlock the Power Within You and is coauthor of, Success and Happiness-16 Experts Reveal Their Secrets. A graduate from the EPIC Coaches Academy and with over 10 years' experience as a Life and Relationship Coach, she teaches you how to transform adversities into life changing opportunities.

Dating Advice: Why A List of Requirement Won't Get You Mr. Right





By Laurel House for GalTime.com

When it comes to finding "Mr. Right," I used to believe in lists. After each relationship, I would add to my "Musts" and "Won't Stands" based on experiences had and realizations made.

It seems the whole list thing is pretty common. The idea is that if you make a detailed, honest list of exactly what you are looking for in a guy, it will help you find your Mr. Right. Why? Because you are being clear on what you want and putting it out there.

Essentially, you are creating this perfect person in your mind so that either:

- **A. You can use it as your gauge to judge each guy** you go out with and be prepared to look out for red flags or (hopefully) your ideal perfection.
- **B.** You are tossing your picture of perfection out to the universe so that that guy will be sent your way, cross your path, and you won't be able to help but take notice when you come across the embodiment of your specifications.

But it's more than a list of positive attributes and the components that you want your ideal guy to bring to the table (or what I call "must haves"). It's also about the negatives-the "won't stands." Those are the deal-breaker elements that you absolutely cannot look past.

So I made my list. And after each date I would check it, x'ing the poor guy off because he didn't qualify. When my list exceeded 250 pre-recs, I realized that pretty much no one could embody my needs.

me And then I found him. He was the complete (as hard as it may be to believe) embodiment of my list. Every single item was checked off. He defined who I have always wanted. He wrote little notes telling me how great I am. He picked flowers and put them in a bud vase beside my bathroom sink. He was successful and interested in helping boost my career too. He woke up in the morning and allowed me to sleep for a few extra minutes as he prepared coffee for me — despite the fact that he wasn't a coffee-drinker himself. He wanted to and had the financial and scheduling means to travel with me — anywhere, everywhere, anytime — on a whim. He loved my body, and told me all the time. He was emotionally available and supportive. He liked to live a healthy lifestyle and wasn't addicted to any drugs nor did he excessively drink. I learned from him, both from his personal experiences and his career. He would make an

amazing husband, partner, the type of man who you could spend a life with, and always have something to talk about. He was interested and interesting. He was perfect... paper perfect.

Sure, he was the embodiment of my list, but once the initial excitement wore off and regular life set in, we realized that we were better off as friends. We didn't have that spark, that chemistry that is so hard to define but so necessary in a relationship. And so we had a conversation about it and decided that that was what we should be — just great friends.

And that's when I realized... screw the list!

Like when a smile doesn't touch the eyes, just "paper perfect" sometimes doesn't touch the heart. But the fact is that you're not looking for a walking list. You're looking for a feeling. What you might find is that the person who in fact is perfect for you, might be very different from what you thought you were looking for. Because it's not your eyes that should be doing the looking. It's your heart.

So What Do You Do?

Create a list. But don't just write the musts in terms of activities, appearance, location, interests, or even personality. Think about:

- 1. Core Values. What are your core values? I mean, what are the most important things to you at the core? I'm talking about home, family, trust, close relationship with parents, ability to be emotionally raw and available, compassionate, giving back, and close friendships.
- 2. Feelings. How do you want the relationship to make you feel? Comforted, excited, sexy, calm, balanced, secure, safe, at home... If "home" is on the top of the list, what does "home" feel like to you?

Now let go of the list. You aren't going to find someone who is "exactly perfect", someone who embodies every line on your

list. But someone can be a lot of what you are looking for, and maybe even more of things that you didn't realize you wanted. Sometimes you didn't realize the things that really matter to you, because you were never exposed to them in the past.

Create an Intention Board

An Intention Board is a collage of images and words cut from magazines, drawn, or written that illustrate the energy, feelings, and loose goals of what you are looking for. Each morning, and before you go on a date, spend 5 minutes looking at the board. Focus on the elements that pop out at you and remind you what truly is important to you and important in the person you are looking for, and life you are looking to live.

How to make it:

- Use a poster board and cover it in images, words, photos, magazine cutouts, whatever you want, that helps bring to life your ideal
- Visualize what living that wish might be like.
- Every morning as you are drinking your tea or coffee or eating your breakfast, sit in silence with your board and just take it in. Look at the images, read the words, and imagine how the energy of that board, those desires, and that energy can translate into your life. Don't take each image literally, just take its energy.
- With the intention of your board in mind, see how you can make small changes throughout your day to make those goals take shape.
- Don't be attached to the form or outcome of your wish. You have to surrender a little bit of control here and trust that your wish will come true in some shape or form- just maybe not in the exact shape you saw in your head. Focus more on the energy or feeling that your board expresses instead of the exact pictures or words that it contains.

Celebrity Couples: Celebrity Women Involved with Non-Celebrity Men





By <u>Ashley DelBello</u>

Celebrity relationships always seem like they're over before they start, but for some women who look outside the world of entertainment it appears that long-lasting love becomes a possibility. Is that the key to finding love in Hollywood, or is it easier to date someone in the biz since they may be able to better understand the pressures of the industry? Cupid takes a look at a few relationships between celebrity women and "normal" men:

Scarlett Johansson + Romain Dauriac:

Scarlett Johansson has only been dating French creative agency manager Romain Dauriac since November, but whether she's dating a star or a non-celeb, ScarJo doesn't seem to stay single for too long. She was married to Ryan Reynolds for two years, quickly rebounded with Sean Penn, dated advertising executive Nate Naylor for about a year and then quickly moved on to her current beau just one month after her break up with Naylor. Considering Johansson's fame, the new couple appear to be trying to keep their relationship as <u>normal</u> as possible.

Related: <u>Matt Damon Returns to Work After Renewing Vows with</u> Wife Luciana

Tina Fey + Jeff Richmond:

Tina Fey met Jeff Richmond in Chicago when he was a composer, while she was trying to make it big with the Second City improv group. According to UsMagazine.com, the key to this long-lasting relationship is to "never stop having fun." The couple has been married for more than eleven years and has two daughters.

Drew Barrymore + Will Kopelman:

Before meeting art consultant Will Kopelman, the actress was in a serious, five-year relationship with The Strokes' drummer Fabrizio Moretti — who is now dating Barrymore's close friend Kristen Wiig! However, this shouldn't bother Barrymore as she's now not only newly married to Kopelman, but gave birth to the couple's first child, Olive Barrymore Kopelman last September.

Related: 'Glee' Star Heather Morris Is Pregnant!

Meryl Streep + Don Gummer:

Surprisingly, the three-time Academy Award winner has a leading man who is not in the entertainment business. Streep and sculptor Don Gummer have been married for nearly 35 years and have four children together. Keeping their relationship out of the public eye seems to have helped this marriage last.

What do you think? Do relationships between stars and non-celebs last longer? Share your thoughts below.

Four Dates and a Wedding





By Lisa Becker

You've heard of the movie Four Wedding and a Funeral? Well, the story of how I met my husband online is Four Dates and a Wedding. Those online dates yielded some valuable lessons, which I'm happy to share in order to help other online love seekers:

Date 1: Justin

When I dipped my toe into the online dating pool, I was reeling from a bad breakup. Too modest and emotionallybruised to write glowing things about myself in my profile, I instead wrote what other people would say about me, such as my family and co-workers. For example, I wrote, "My friends would say I'm fun, easy going and incredibly loyal, and my nephew would say I'm incredibly silly but sing a mean rendition of I've Been Working on the Railroad." I received dozens of generic emails reading, "You sound interesting and I think we would have a lot in common." It felt as though these men were carpet bombing the online dating site in the hopes of getting *someone* to respond. Justin emailed me one simple line that captured my attention and heart: "I would say adorable." I was hooked! While it didn't work out in the long run, he was as sweet, charming and sincere as I had imagined he would be.

<u>Lesson</u>: If it doesn't sound as if he's read your profile, he might not have.

Related: 3 Benefits of Meeting People Online

Date 2: Pete

From his profile and our brief email exchanges, Pete sounded like fun. He had three photos posted, and all of them seemed to be taken in a party setting where he was enjoying a cocktail. On our one and only dinner date, Pete's true colors

rang through. Every story seemed to begin with, "My buddies and I were out drinking one night." I knew right away that he wasn't the man for me.

<u>Lesson</u>: Pay attention to the little details, as they can often be quite telling.

Related: <u>How to Find Love Online with Non-Traditional Dating</u> Sites

Date 3: Eric

After receiving an email from someone and deciding I wanted to start an online conversation, I sent a series of questions to see if we would be compatible, such as the last book he read or the favorite part of his job. I'm a huge fan of pop culture so I also asked questions to see if we would have fun bantering about various topics. Eric and I seemed to be twins separated at birth. We had so much in common that I was convinced he was perfect for me. Unfortunately for me, after our lunch date, it became quite apparent that Eric was gay. And to toss out a Seinfeld pop culture reference here: "Not that there's anything wrong with that." As lovely as he was and as much fun as we had together, I was convinced that once he came out of the closet, we would both be competing for the same man.

<u>Lesson</u>: If he sounds too good to be true, he probably is.

Date 4: Todd

Typically, I would avoid anyone who didn't post a photo online because I heard that men who were married or in committed relationships would secretly troll the dating sites looking for hook ups. Todd didn't have a photo posted with his profile, but he was so charming via email that I decided to meet him anyway. We planned to meet at a local restaurant. Since I didn't have a picture to reference, he gave me a description of himself. It could not have been farther from

the truth. Fortunately, he knew what I looked like, so he was able to spot me in the crowded restaurant. I don't know if he was delusional or trying to be deceptive, but either way, it was a turn off.

<u>Lesson</u>: If there's no photo, proceed with caution.

Wedding: Steve

Not long after my date with Todd, I had my first date with Steve, which turned out to be my last first date ever. We've been happily married for 10 years, which in Los Angeles is apparently no small feat. So, if it happened for me, there's hope for anyone!

Lisa Becker had endured her share of hilarious and heinous cyber dates, many of which inspired <u>Click: An Online Love Story</u> and <u>Double Click</u>. She is now happily married to a wonderful man she met online and lives in Manhattan Beach with him and their two daughters.

Relationship Advice: 10 Signs He's Not Really Committed





By Johanna Lyman for GalTime.com

Men may have a reputation for being commitment-phobic, but I'm not sure they all deserve the reputation. I think men just show their commitment differently than women do. It's the whole Venus/Mars dilemma: how are you supposed to know if he's committed to your relationship when you seem to be speaking a different language?

While you might not be speaking the same language, there is a universal communication that everyone understands. It is the language of actions. What you consistently do shows the world what you believe, and what's important to you. There are ways you can use this universal language to decipher how committed your partner is to you and to your relationship.

Take these 10 tips from Dr. Hernando Chaves, resident sexologist at AskMen.com, to assess if your own partner isn't really in it with you.

1. They say they'll change, but they don't. Actions speak louder than words. This is the first thing to look for when

you're reading the language of actions. Unfortunately, when you don't like what you see you might want to ignore it. Don't just look for big actions; inconsistency in small things will tell you just as much as whether he does the big things.

- 2. Your partner enjoys spending their time with others more, and the time spent with you seems forced or less enjoyable to them. In a healthy relationship, you each will spend time apart, but if he starts spending more time apart, or you're fighting more when you're together, he's probably feeling less committed.
- 3. They threaten to break up with you often or break up with you often. People who have problems with commitment need to have an "out" or an exit strategy. When things get too intense, they want to run. They're afraid of their feelings, so they're afraid of commitments.
- 4. They prioritize their own desires and needs before the relationship or partners' needs. While it's healthy and important to make sure that your needs are getting met, it shouldn't be at the expense of the relationship. If you find that your partner's needs are consistently at odds with the relationship, pay attention.
- 5. The commitment seems to be based heavily in one or a few aspects of relationships, such as sex, money, stability, or some other personal gain. Relationships have a lot of moving parts. It's normal, especially in newer relationships, for some of those parts to work better than others. But if there's really only one or two aspects that are working, it's time to consider the commitment level of both your partner and you.
- 6. They don't do the little things. This goes back to the first point. All actions, not just the big ones, will show you how committed your partner is. Does he remember your favorite restaurant, or your food allergy? Does he do little things to make you feel special? (And conversely, do you do little

things that make him feel good?)

- 7. They are uncomfortable with relationship titles, feelings, and behaviors with you and in front of others. If your guy is really committed to you, he'll want to bring you around his friends, and he won't pull back from being affectionate because you're in front of other people. Unless he has the emotional maturity of a thirteen year old, he should be the same person in public as he is behind closed doors.
- 8. You notice changes in their behavior that gives you evidence they are pulling away. Some people jump into relationships with both feet, then realize they've made a mistake. Or they get afraid as the relationship deepens and don't know how to communicate what's happening. When something like this happens, your previously committed partner will start to pull back. He might make excuses about why you can't get together, or he'll cut your time short. He might start arguments or just withdraw.
- 9. They have a pattern of having commitment issues in their past relationships. History often repeats itself. While you might harbor the illusion that "this time it's different," don't fool yourself. Unless he's done work on himself with a coach or therapist to change long standing patterns, they will surface. Don't fall into the illusion that you're the One who can change him and make him finally commit.
- 10. Your partner has a negative view or expresses negative comments on relationships, marriage, or commitment. Men are generally congruent. They say what they mean and mean what they say. Their actions back up their words (unless they're conflicted inside themselves). Don't make the mistake of thinking you can change him, or he doesn't really mean it. If he's saying negative things about relationships, marriage, or commitment, consider it a big red flag. Don't keep going with the relationship, hoping it'll be different with you. It

Dating Advice: The Pros and Cons to Taming a Bad Boy





By Andrea Surujnauth

There is nothing like the thrill of dating a bad boy. He is exciting to be around and is always taking chances. They give you goosebumps every time you're around them. He is spontaneous and always knows the right thing to say or do to send shivers up your spine. You dated him for fun but what what happens when you discover that you are beginning to feel

real feelings for this bad boy? Can you eventually tame him and make him boyfriend material? If Angelina Jolie could do it to Brad Pitt then why can't we do it? We decided to weigh in the pros and cons of dating a bad boy to help you come up with an answer to your question, is it worth it to attempt to tame a bad boy?

Pros:

- 1. Best of both worlds: By taming your bad boy, you will be able to have a guy that is both exciting but also loyal. You can teach him to cut out the bad boy aspects that don't work for you while keeping the ones that do. You will be able to have a bad boy that is good for you!
- 2. Confidence: By taming a bad boy that many girls before you have always been running after, your confidence level sky rockets. You bad boy beau changed for you, you were the one that was able to get him under control. That's enough to make any girl feel good about herself.
- 3. Life changer: By helping your sweetie become a good boy, he will be thankful to you for helping him turn his life around. Getting his life on track towards a successful future will make him see how good you are for him and how much you care for him. He will see you as his savior and is sure to fall for you because of it!

Related: What Attracts Us to Bad Boys?

Cons:

1. Relapsing: This guy is a naturally a bad boy, those are his instincts. By attempting to tame your honey, you are risking him relapsing and going back to his bad boy ways. You might stop him from breaking the law or being a player, but you never know how strong the pull is for him to return to his old lifestyle. You are at risk of getting hurt.

- 2. Tables may turn: When taming a bad boy, you are also risking becoming a bad girl. If you let yourself get sucked into his lifestyle while in the process of trying to tame him, you might find yourself breaking laws, becoming irresponsible, or enjoying the recklessness of being bad.
- 3. Unwillingness: There may be certain things about the bad boy lifestyle that your new man may not want to give up. This may cause a fight about your desire to change him. No one is ever happy about changing who they are, so this may cause your relationship to expire.

Related: When Do Opposites Not Attract?

So are bad boys worth taming? After weeding through the pros and cons, we still don't have a straight answer for you. Whether it is worth it is an answer only you can decide for yourself. Take all of this into consideration when deciding if you really want to tame your bad boy. Make sure you are confident in yourself and stick to your values if you decide to do it. Some bad boys can be tamed but take care of yourself first and don't lose your self respect or sanity while trying to tame the stubborn ones.

What are some of your pros and cons of taming a bad boy? Comment below and let us know!

Dating Advice: Deal breakers That REALLY Matter





By Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

If you're one of the millions of women who are single, dating regularly, and yet you've had inconsistent luck in the match game, it may be time to do some introspection. I can't begin to tell you how often I hear complaints about scarcity of quality guys. I hear it in the dating echo chamber with alarming regularity; "Men don't want to commit!"

Okay, let me clear that last bit up. The idea that guys won't commit or don't want to commit is an unabashed fallacy. I've said this before, it's not that the guy won't commit — he just won't commit to you. The right guy for you will find you. That's a guarantee.

Now about this so-called, "quality guys" drought....complete bunk. Seriously, most of the guys I know who are looking for serious relationships bristle at that statement. Because they know a certain general truth that women don't seem to appreciate; the quality guys are there but you're either ignoring them or not giving them the opportunity to show you how great they are. But why does this chasm exist? There are obviously variables aplenty that cause these missed connections. But I would submit that the idea of "dealbreakers" is a major culprit.

We all have relationship dealbreakers. That handful of key traits that any potential partner must possess in order to stay in the game — dealbreakers. And quite frankly, we all *should* have them. But our dealbreakers should be meaningful. I like to have women break their dealbreakers into two separate groups: shallow dealbreakers and substantive dealbreakers. We should have both but with the understanding that the major emphasis should be placed on the substantive dealbreakers. You'd think that that would be a given.

Of course the substance should take precedence over the shallow.

Unfortunately, what we *know* doesn't always inform our actions. So let this be your reminder. Keep your priorities in order. Those shallow dealbreakers, "must be this tall, must have this color hair, must have this type of degree, must make this sixfigure salary, must come from this kind of family, must look like George Clooney" should ultimately be seen as great-to-haves instead of must-haves.

The real stuff, the substantive stuff, is what's going to get you through the years. You want to find the quality guys? Use these as your new dealbreaker template.

- 1. His closest friends should be great people. You want a real gauge on what kind of guy you're getting involved with? Observe his friends. The type of people in your potential partner's inner circle will say a lot about his character.
- 2. He should be calm under pressure. Long-term relationships

are rife with emotional highs and lows. That being the case, the person closest to you had better be some one you can count on to be not only be in control of his emotions but who can also be a steadying and comforting influence when times aren't quite as great.

- 3. Must be in pursuit of his passion. Maybe he doesn't make six figures. Heck, most people don't. But he had better be driven by something other than money. Far too often women get involved with guys because they have a juicy bank account, then they get serious with that guy and realize that the man who's passion is making money may never have enough money. This then creates the real possibility that Mr. Moneymaker may only have time to make money and not have time for you.
- 4. Must appreciate your independence. You're your own person with your own opinions, perspectives and aspirations. Whether you're traditional and expect to be a stay-at-home mom or a lady with dreams of being the President of the United States, your guy had better be on board with you. Do NOT commit that typical mistake of trying to change your guy's mind try to get him to understand your position. The right guy requires no convincing.
- 5. Your friends should like him. This isn't to say that your judgment should be completely colored by your friends' opinions, but if there's a collective aversion to your guy by your inner circle, it's definitely time to start asking questions.
- 6. Laugh, laugh, laugh. He better be able to laugh....and you'd better be able to laugh with him. Few things in a relationship are as intimate as a couples' ability to share the gift of laughter. You'll find that successful couples' most common trait is the two simply know how to make each other smile.

So there you go. Take those deal breakers to the bank and

that's where you begin seeing your quality guys. Everything else, the looks, the money, the career, are all amazing icing on the cake, but for long-term potential start with those six building blocks and you're suddenly finding good quality guys to date.

Celebrity News: 10 Hot Latin Celebrities





By Jennifer Harrington

It's no secret that the influence of Latino celebrities is growing every day (Latino celebrities have 600 million

followers on Facebook and Twitter!). And with a new South American pope in office, Cinco de Mayo quickly approaching, and frequent news coverage of the growing Latino population in the United States, we figured it was a good time to look at the hottest Latino/Latina celebrities. Here's Cupid's opinion of who is sizzling!

Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer was born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, and she's been a staple in the entertainment world for years — as a dancer, actress, entrepreneur, fashion designer, singer, and American Idol judge. When J-Lo joined American Idol as a judge, it was seen as an important move because the show is very popular with Hispanic audiences, and she brought a kinder, more positive attitude to the show. While she's moved on from the popular show, there's no question she will continue to remain a staple in pop culture.

Related: <u>Jennifer Lopez Still Believes in the Fairytale</u> <u>Marriage</u>

Alex Rodriguez

Like Jennifer Lopez, Alex was born in New York City. He was raised in a Dominican family and currently plays baseball for his hometown team, the New York Yankees (although he grew up a Mets fan!). In addition to making plays on the baseball diamond, Alex has also been linked romantically to several major celebrities, including Kate Hudson, Cameron Diaz, and Madonna.

Eva Longoria

Eva is a Mexican-American, and best known for her roles on *The Young and the Restless* and *Desperate Housewives*. Her role as the saucy Gabrielle Solis on *Desperate Housewives* may have ended when the series wrapped last year, but Eva remains in

the spotlight. Most notably, she was actively involved in President Barack Obama's re-election campaign in 2012, and she even spoke at the Democratic National Convention!

Mario Lopez

Mario is a close friend of Eva's, and like Eva, he is of Mexican descent. Mario is best known for his role as A.C. Slater on Saved by the Bell, and in recent years, he's remained in the limelight with an appearance on Dancing with the Stars and as host of the daily entertainment program, Extra. Recently, it was announced that Mario's family with dancer Courtney Mazza is expanding; the couple is expecting their second child in the fall.

Sofia Vergara

Sofia is a Colombian-born actress, television hostess, and model — and if you watch television, it's hard to miss her. A star of ABC's hit TV show Modern Family, Sofia is also featured in advertisements for Diet Pepsi and Cover Girl cosmetics. Sofia has also made a splash within the Latino community because many wonder if she takes the Latino stereotype too far with her portrayal of loud and boisterous Gloria on Modern Family and remarks she made in a 2012 interview with Esquire magazine about common Latino stereotypes.

Enrique Iglesias

Enrique was born in Spain, and his father was a well-known singer and entertainer. Enrique established himself as a singer in the late 1990s with songs such as "Bailamos" and "Hero". He has performed at the Super Bowl, and has been dating tennis star Anna Kournikova for the past decade. Enrique is extremely private about his relationship with Anna, and has even remarked that marriage is not a priority for the couple as long as they are happy and committed to each other.

Penelope Cruz

Penelope was born in Spain, and is well-known worldwide for her work as an actress. She first burst on the scene with films such as *Blow* and *Vanilla Sky* (this movie also sparked her three-year romance with co-star Tom Cruise; the couple allegedly broke up because she refused to embrace his Scientology beliefs). She's now married to Spanish actor Javier Bardem, and she is expecting the couple's second child later this year.

Antonio Banderas

Antonio is also Spanish. He was in several high-profile movies in the 1990s, including *Evita, Interview with the Vampire, Philadelphia*, and *The Mask of Zorro*. He is married to fellow celebrity Melanie Griffith. Today, Antonio does voice work for movies such as *Shrek* and focuses on parenting his daughter, Stella. He's spoken out about the importance he places on fatherhood by saying that he takes Stella out on "daddy-daughter" date nights once a week.

Shakira

Shakira is a Colombian singer-songwriter. She crossed over into the English market in 2001 (a native Spanish speaker, she's fluent in English and Portuguese, and can speak some Italian, French, and Catalan) with hits like "Whatever, Whenever" and "Hips Don't Lie". Shakira is featured on this season's installment of *The Voice* and recently welcomed her first child (son Milan) with her boyfriend, a Spanish football player.

Salma Hayek

Like Eva and Mario, Salma is Mexican-American. She's known for her roles in films like *Desperado*, *Dogma*, and *Frida* and the television show *Ugly Betty*. She is married to French billionaire Franã§ois-Henri Pinault, and the couple has a

young daughter. Her charitable work over the years has increased, and she focuses her efforts on raising awareness of violence against women and discrimination against immigrants.

What do you think — who is your favorite Latin celebrity, and why? Share your comment below.

7 Things NOT to Do in a Relationship





By Sujeiry Gonzalez for GalTime.com

For many women, the first week after a breakup goes a little something like this:

Hide under the covers. Sob uncontrollably while watching reruns of "Sex and the City." Play "I Will Survive" to feel empowered. Sob uncontrollably because Aretha Franklin has a man, while you are single again. Talk to your girlfriends and feel better. Take a shower. Sob uncontrollably in the shower. Repeat sequence.

The cycle eventually ends in reflection. We ask ourselves what went wrong and what part we played in the demise of our love affair. Well, it just may be one of these seven mistakes women make in relationships.

7 Things NOT to Do In A Relationship

- 1. Drunk Dialing: If you're upset at your partner, put down the booze and step away from the phone. Alcohol triggers deepseated emotions that roar once the sweet nectar brushes our lips. Once inebriated, drunk dialing ensues. Like a clumsy boxer, you attack your lover verbally, slurring through the conversation. In the end, the relationship suffers. He thinks, "What happened to the cool, confident woman he fell in love with?" Too much Bacardi and Coke, that's what.
- 2. Facebook Stalking: Facebook has changed the way the world communicates. It also drives women to stalk their boyfriends online. If he hasn't returned your phone call or text, you check his Facebook profile. (He just updated his status! Why didn't he call me back?) If he went out with friends, you spend the night scanning his photos. (Who's that girl he's hugging?) And, of course, there's the dreaded relationship status. (I changed my status to "In a Relationship." Why is his status still hidden?)

Ultimately, stalking his Facebook profile shows a lack of trust. No man wants to be with that woman.

3. "I'm Fine": Your boyfriend asks what's wrong. You turn to him, shrug and say, "I'm fine," though you want to kick him

for not remembering your birthday or changing his Facebook relationship status. As women, we "I'm fine" men to death. We let our anger simmer for fear of rocking the boat or just because we want him to "figure it out." This is an unhealthy tactic. No matter what you fear or assume, you must communicate with your partner. If you don't, then he will think everything is "fine." Until you drunk dial.

- 4. Nag, Nag: You tell him what's wrong. Every minute of the day. That's a big no-no! As women, we must give men time to process our feelings, especially when it's a serious matter. When we nag and push, men withdraw. They begin to see us as negative and that is so not sexy. So speak your mind, give him space... and regroup once you are both ready to tackle the issues.
- **5. Ignoring the Blaring Red Flags:** Often times, instead of ending a relationship, men call less, text less and show up less. Still, we push for the relationship. We believe there is a chance for change because he hasn't ended the relationship. The thing is men hardly ever end relationships. *They show us through actions*, and in many cases… it's their inaction that shows us they want out. That's when we must stop fighting for a relationship that no longer exists.
- **6. Talking About/Comparing Exes:** Nothing kills a relationship faster than talking about your ex-boyfriend and comparing him to your current beau. This leads your partner to feel insecure, with good reason. He doesn't need to know that your ex gave you multiple orgasms or that he was the one that got away. If you are still dwelling on your last boyfriend, you shouldn't be with your new one.
- 7. Compromise Is Not Sacrifice: Women sacrifice themselves for the good of all. We are everything to everyone, forgetting about our needs and what makes us happy. In romantic relationships, we suck it up and "compromise" on relationship deal breakers because we are afraid of the consequences. We

hold it in because we want to be the perfect girl. The thing is there is no such thing as perfect.

So, when you are in your next relationship, take note of these common mistakes. Remember who you are and what you stand for. Leave the drama, self-sacrifice and mistrust behind, and self-analyze to find solace in heartache. Remembering what NOT to do can give you better chance at lasting love.

5 Ways to Spice Up Your Relationship





By <u>Sarah Ribeiro</u>

Even if you and your love have been dating for a short time, it's not unusual to find yourself bored quickly. If you're spending all your time together, you may find yourself running out of things to do or talk about. You've gone on as many dinner-and-movie dates as you can handle, and you need to spice up your relationship before it grows stale. Here are some ways to keep your love exciting and new:

1. Try a different kind of date: Traditional dates may be fun, but they grow repetitive quickly. Try a unique date that involves something you've never done before. Go on a weekend outing; explore some place exotic for a cultured experience that will broaden your horizons and give you and your babe something new to talk about.

Related: 10 Ways to Keep the Honeymoon Phase Going Strong

- 2. Play a game: When your conversation runs dry, the only way to save it is to get creative. Not sure what you don't know about your love? Those ice-breakers you did all throughout high school may come in handy. Playing 20 questions or "never have I ever" is a good way to learn new things about your honey and feel like a kid again at the same time.
- 3. Spice things up literally: Does your boyfriend burn water? Take a cooking class together. You can learn ways to incorporate different and exotic cuisines into your everyday cooking, like spicy Indian, Peruvian, or Brazilian food for a flavorful experience. Plus, a class gives you a chance to work hands-on and learn something together.

Related: Date Idea: Attend A Stand-Up Comedy Show

4. Stop saying no: Most of the time, relationships fizzle out because one person is constantly turning down the other's ideas. Next time your sweetheart asks you to go to a basketball, don't turn him down just because you don't like it. Keep yourself open to his interests and he'll be more open

to try new things, too. Who knows — you may even have a blast!

5. Take some time: A big reason most people get tired of their partner is because they're exhausting all their time with each other. Take some time to yourself — hang out with your girlfriends, run some errands on your own, and stop spending every night at his place. You'll find the time you spend together more precious when it's not so constant.

How do you and your partner spice things up? Share with us below.

Three Hollywood Breakups That Offer a Lesson In How Not To Behave During Divorce





By Sheena Clarkson

While about half of all marriages end in divorce, in Hollywood the rate is undoubtedly higher. We look to celebrities to see the latest trends in everything from hairstyles and designer shoes to baby strollers and exercise regimes. But when it comes to breakups, stars aren't always the greatest role models.

If you're facing a difficult breakup, take a lesson in dealing with lost love from a few celebs that handled it less than famously.

Related: <u>Is Divorce the Best Option?</u>

Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin

At the center of this couple's divorce was a bitter child custody battle. Kim claimed to have been victim to physical and emotional abuse during the marriage. Meanwhile, Alec tried to discredit his estranged wife by portraying her as moody and unstable.

What really turned up the spotlight on this nasty divorce was when a voicemail was leaked to the press in which Alec, in an angry rant, referred to his 11-year-old daughter as a "thoughtless little pig". It was the voicemail heard 'round the entertainment world, and resulted in a judge ordering that Baldwin be temporarily banned from seeing his child.

Lesson: Don't let frustration toward your ex spill onto your kids.

Related: Demi Moore Proves There's Hope After Divorce

Liza Minnelli and David Gest

Having been married and divorced 4 times, Liza is one celeb who could single-handedly affect Hollywood divorce statistics. Though their marriage officially lasted about five years, after the first year of marriage the couple separated and things got messy fast.

Gest hurled accusations and lawsuits at Minnelli, suing the Oscar-winning actress for verbal and physical abusive, even claiming she had given him an STD. Though David Gest hurled a slew of allegations in the courts, the whole ordeal ended with his case being dismissed.

Lesson: Toss the dirty laundry out with the relationship.

Denise Richards and Charlie Sheen

Nowadays, the name Charlie Sheen is pretty much synonymous with traits that are big red flags to most marriage-seeking women. Egomaniac? Check. Self-described porn-addict? Check. Drug and alcohol problems? Check, check. It probably doesn't come as much of a surprise that Sheen also has difficulty handling rejection.

When the couple split after three years of marriage Richards accused Sheen of being abuse, unfaithful, and an addict. Charlie responded with a string of voicemails and emails that

make Alec Baldwin's post breakup rant sound cordial in comparison. In messaged leaked to the press, Sheen calls Richards a "sad, jobless pig" and even makes fun of Richards' cancer stricken mother.

Lesson: Don't resort to personal attacks.

There's no getting around it, love has the potential to make us all a little crazy. But if you skip the angry voicemail in favor of some healthy self-reflection you'll rebound from heartache as a stronger, happier person.

Sheena Clarkson is a freelancer who writes for McKinley Irvin and others. While researching this article she learned more than she ever wanted to know about Charlie Sheen.

Dating Advice: The Key to a Lasting Relationship





By Alan Strathman for GalTime.com

What makes a relationship last? Many people would say love keeps a relationship going. But if your love doesn't translate into compromise, it might be extremely difficult for both partners to stay committed.

On some level, we all hate compromise — when we compromise, we may not get what we want. In fact, we may not get anything close to what we want. But that's the nature of compromise, and it's necessary if you want to see your relationship go the distance.

Creating "We-ness"

Compromise creates what psychologists call "we-ness," the sense that both partners feel they're "in this together." Partners who have this sense of we-ness tend to use couple-oriented words like we, us, and ours, rather than individual-oriented words like I, me, and mine.

We-ness is self-perpetuating; as we hear the words more often, we *think* the words more often, and when we notice that our

thinking has changed, we feel more engaged in "couplehood." As we become more entrenched in this way of thinking, we are more likely to search for solutions that serve both partners and continue this positive trend.

Obstacles to Compromise

Our willingness to compromise is deeply impacted by our perception of fairness. If we think we're getting the short end of the stick, we become more stubborn. But it's important to understand that the amount of compromise may balance out only in the long run. If you zero in on a single negotiation, one person may seem to come out ahead. Fortunately, what often matters more than the outcome of a discussion is that both partners have a say in the negotiating process. This can make even an unfair outcome feel fair.

In addition, comparison can throw off your perceptions of your relationship. It's common to compare your contribution to the relationship to your partner's contribution. It's also typical to contrast your relationship with other relationships. This is a dangerous game. There are many aspects of other relationships that you don't see, so focus on your own relationship and don't make assumptions. We are all individuals, and our relationships are reflections of this very fact.

Tips for Developing We-ness

A deep connection doesn't typically develop on its own — it's far too easy for us to take our partners for granted, or expect our partners to compromise on our behalf. There are ways, however, to consciously create a sense of we-ness.

Put the Relationship First

We often get so focused on getting what we want that we sometimes lose sight of what would be best for the health of the relationship. Recognize that what is best for "us" as a couple can be different than what's best for us as individuals. In other words, don't be selfish.

Don't Keep Track

Keeping track of who got more, or who won a particular negotiation, is characteristic of the type of short-term exchange relationships you have with car dealers, not the lasting, communal ones you have with people you love.

Have a Win-Win Mindset

Give-and-take involves negotiating, but not the kind of negotiating you do when buying a car. Negotiating with your partner in a lasting relationship should involve finding outcomes that are mutually satisfying. Resentment shouldn't secretly build over any of the decisions you make together.

Consider Your Partner's Perspective

Research has found that both parties end up with better outcomes when each is considering his or her partner's interests — and the possible reasons behind them. Be careful to avoid making decisions based on assumptions about what your partner wants. Instead, listen carefully and consider what he's telling you.

Focus on Feelings over Words

Accept that, sometimes, we cannot clearly express why we want what we want. We often get focused on explanations, but behavior is often driven by feelings, which are hard to put into words.

Compromise can be hard, but if you're focused on the greater purpose of establishing a lasting relationship, you can find the strength to resist taking what you want all the time — and instead focus on giving to the one you love.

Celebrities That Actually Get Their Hands Dirty When Giving Back





By Samantha Menjor

Picture this: You are helping rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy down on the Jersey Shore. You ask a fellow volunteer to give you a handful of nails, and when you turn around you're staring into the eyes of Brad Pitt himself! While the chances of that scenario actually happening are slim, it is no surprise that most, if not all, celebrities attach their name to some sort of charity work. Whether they

are boosting their image, expanding their brand, or truly helping out those in need, you can always count on seeing a celeb promote a foundation or organization at some point throughout their career. However, many times it is hard to differentiate between those who volunteer for good publicity and those who are really adamant about helping the less fortunate.

Most Charitable Celebs

Angelina Jolie: We've watched Angelina Jolie grow from a wild child to a doting mother and philanthropist for a plethora of causes. A majority of her work surrounds her children, three of whom were adopted from different countries around the world. Her want to help others seems to have rubbed off on her celebrity love Pitt, who has joined her on many humanitarian efforts. The parents of six started the Jolie-Pitt Foundation in Cambodia, the native country of their eldest son. The organization focuses on eliminating rural poverty and protecting natural resources and wildlife. Since its beginnings in 2003, the foundation has expanded to provide aid in over 60 countries. Jolie is also a special envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a role in which she will contribute to finding solutions for people displaced by conflict. Are you wondering how she does it all? So are we!

Related Link: <u>Jay-Z and Beyonce Raise \$1 Million at Fundraiser</u>

Oprah Winfrey: Even if you haven't watched her number one daytime television talk show, you know that the celebrity news surrounding Oprah has shown she has always been a strong advocate for education. The Oprah Winfrey Foundation awarded grants to organizations that support the education and empowerment of women, children, and families everywhere. During a visit with Nelson Mandela in 2000, she pledged to build a school, which created the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation. Winfrey herself contributed 40 million

dollars towards the creation of her self-named leadership academy for young girls in South Africa. Because she has such a large following, she encouraged her audience to get involved with her public charity Oprah's Angel Network, which has raised over 80 million dollars to fund projects all over the world. Winfrey is one of the few celebs whose altruistic credibility you cannot deny.

Related: Charlize Theron's 'Scary' Blind Date for Charity

Elton John: This British pop singer has lost many close friends to HIV/AIDS over the years. As a coping mechanism, he decided to dedicate a large part of his time and money to fighting the auto immune disease. In 1992, he started the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), which works to cushion the blow of destruction the disease causes worldwide. EJAF has raised over 125 million dollars to support efforts in 55 countries since its commencement. The singer has also given a staggering amount of his own money to charity. In 2004, he gave 43 million dollars to different foundations, making him the most generous person in music that year. We cannot forget about his song "Candle in the Wind," which he wrote following the death of Princess Diana. Proceeds from the hit single totaled 40 million dollars, all of which was donated to charity.

These three celebs have made it their life's mission to use their fame to make a difference in the world. Their selflessness has made an insurmountable difference in the lives of so many of the less fortunate throughout the world. There are plenty of stars who could probably take notes from these influential characters.

What other celebs do you think deserve to be on this list? Let us know in a comments below!

Dating Advice: 3 Ways to Use the Psychic Edge to Find Mr. Right





By Louise Helene

Celebrities face the same challenges in love as everyone else, only their mistakes and heartbreaks are made public. Many of them seem to be repeating the same mistakes. If they would just listen to their inner intuition, or their "psychic edge," their love lives would be much happier. Here are a few exercises that can help them and you:

Related: <u>Is That You, Mr. Right?</u>

1. Visualize Your Dream Man

Visualization is a powerful tool not only to draw to us what we want, but to exercise our psychic muscles. When we focus on something, we help the universe send it to us. I psychically feel Kim Kardashian longs for her soulmate. Because of her numerous failed relationships, many people wonder if it will last with Kanye West. Kim should lie down in a quiet place and get comfortable, closing her eyes and taking a few deep breaths. When she is totally relaxed, she should visualize the man of her dreams, being as detailed as possible. Once she has a clear image, she needs to say out loud, "Darling, I will know you when I meet you," repeating this five times. Kim's main problem is not recognizing her dream man when he comes along; this exercise will help her — and you — to do just that.

Related: Fishing for Mr. Right — Types of Guys to Throw Back

2. Command Him into Your Life

Never underestimate the power of sound, especially your own voice. Sound vibrations are very powerful in the universe and help us focus intuitively, helping us make the right decisions. Taylor Swift is one celebrity who's famous for singing about her Mr. Wrongs. She could use a psychic nudge to attract Mr. Right.

Every morning when Taylor wakes up, she should look in the mirror, close her eyes and take three deep, relaxing breaths before saying out loud, "Love of my life, come to me." She should say this three times, with confidence and belief, and repeat this mantra before she goes to bed. Done regularly, she might be planning a wedding in the coming year.

3. Write Down the Possibilities

There are many potential conclusions to any romance. Writing down these possibilities gives us a powerful psychic edge. What does your gut say? Just imagine the heartbreak that could have been avoided if Katy Perry, Selena Gomez, or Demi Moore had tried this simple exercise.

Whenever you have a question about a man in your life, write several statements about him down on slips of paper and fold them in half. For example: "he is a cheater," "he loves his ex," or "he is my soulmate." Put all the slips of paper in a bowl. Close your eyes and meditate for a moment before randomly choosing one of the slips of paper. What is your immediate reaction to the statement? Many times our conscious mind suppresses our natural insight. This is a wonderful way to feel the subtle sensations of your own intuition.

Romance is very challenging for all women, famous or not; that's one thing we all have in common. We need to start using our psychic edge to find the happiness we deserve.

Louise Helene is a second-generation psychic, Tarot reader, and crystal ball gazer who has conducted thousands of readings during her thirty-year career as a spiritual advisor. She is the co-author of I Saw Your Future and He's Not It: A Psychic's Guide to True Love. www.louisehelenethepsychic.com

Dating Advice: Words That Wound Men





By Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

For most guys, the very idea of being caught in an emotionally vulnerable moment is...oh, what's a good word?

Nauseating. Literally.

Yes, I absolutely mean that if offered a choice between throwing up and admitting that he cried at the end of "The Notebook", most guys would choose to bury their faces in a barf bag. It doesn't matter how enlightened or evolved the guy happens to be, when it comes to exposing of real, raw, hurt, guys will fight it. And they will fight it like Luke Skywalker fought the dark side of The Force.

It's not that men want to be that way; it's just something that simply can't be helped. Guys are genetically predisposed to hide feelings because showing feelings of hurt is showing weakness. And as much as ladies say that they admire a guy who's unafraid to bare his soul and shed a tear, that guy may get a pass at first. But if he bares that bleeding heart too often, the lady eventually thinks, "too soft" and she's out of

there! An inconvenient truth...women get the lifetime emotional hall pass, guys...don't.

And though women tend to believe otherwise, when couples argue, guys are often hurt by many of womens' mid-fight retorts and declarations. And just as guys know that there are certain buzzwords and statements guaranteed to be a roadblock to reaching any resolution, women should know that there is a female equivalent. Guys have feelings too!

So I'm going to give you an assist. The following list is comprised of a few particular words and phrases that are guaranteed to wound a guy no matter how he may react outwardly. So here we go...

- 1. "I'll just talk to someone who understands me." So you're saying that I'm such an awful partner that I've spent all this time with you without paying attention to your particular emotional needs? Wow. That hurts.
- 2. "You never…." This is a particularly hurtful statement. Why? Because by saying, "you never…", you've essentially made it clear that something he most likely has done at least periodically, was a waste of time and effort because you didn't notice it anyway. And you can't save the situation by saying, "Well, you know what I mean." Nope. We don't know what you mean. We don't read minds. We know what you've said, though.
- 3. "You always..." See above.
- 4. "I just can't talk to you." This stings. All we ever want to do is make you happy. It may not always seem like it, but generally that's where most guys' heart lies. Say that and the guy immediately thinks, "You can't talk to me? All I do is try to talk to you and hear whats on your mind...but when I ask you 'what's wrong?' You say, 'nothing.' I can't win."
- 5. "_____ used to do _____ for me/with me!" Ouch. If
 ____was so great, why the hell didn't you stay with him?
 6. "You're boring." Come on. Seriously? I mean even if
- that's kind of true, there's got to be a better way to relay

the message that you'd like to go out more often. Being told you're boring is a stab right in the heart...NO guy wants his partner to think he's bland. That comment is also a kick to a guys' confidence. Now he's worried that his lady is seeking excitement somewhere other than him.

There are more, but the greater point here is that you may want to think twice before blurting out something in anger or out of blatant insensitivity. Guys may not always share the hurt, but they feel it — and far too often that point is forgotten simply because a man is....a man.

Dating Advice: When Do Opposites Not Attract?





By Courtney Allen

'Opposites attract'... a saying you've heard from your supporting best friend as you desperately try to put the puzzle pieces together in order to explain why you find interest in the 5'9" college freshman, instead of the tall, stacked senior track star that runs alongside you. Well, don't waste your time trying to figure it out; it happens to the best of us! The truth is: dating someone who is opposite from you is quite the learning experience if you have the right combination of differences. Sometimes opposites are not so hot, and can backfire at first sight or first discussion. If you meet someone whose opposite from you in the following three ways, your red flag will most likely go up:

1. Religion: Religion can be a killer when it comes to attraction. It's the one thing that many people are not willing to compromise on. If you and a potential love interest are on two completely different pages when it comes to religious beliefs, the attraction between you will suffer.

Related: Five Reasons Why Opposites Attract

2. Physical attractiveness: Physical attraction is the first and usually most important rules of attraction. It's very rare that you spot a picture-perfect model with someone who is short and seems to be out of shape. We are typically attracted to those we consider just as attractive as ourselves.

Related: What Attracts Us to Bad Boys?

3. Needs: Having different needs can ruin attraction right off the bat. People that are independent and needy, in search of a relationship and in search of a good time, the desire for kids and the desire to not have kids… all of these needs most likely need to be aligned.

What qualities that are opposite from your own do you find unattractive? Share your ideas with us!

Relationship Advice: Is He In It for the Long Haul?





By Abraham Morgentaler, M.D.

One of my goals in writing my new book was to help women understand men better. Over the last 25 years of talking with thousands of men with their pants down — literally and figuratively — I've learned what makes a man tick when it comes to love and romance. Although there's no foolproof way to tell if he's really in it for the long haul, a number of clues can help a woman tell if her man is smitten. Hopefully those clues are easier than figuring out if he's faking orgasms during sex, like the young man in love in my book.

Men and commitment

Contrary to popular "wisdom," men have a tremendous capacity for commitment and loyalty. However, men will not happily commit to any woman unless he feels manly with her. I say "happily commit" because some men do wind up with women who don't make them feel good about themselves. Those marriages are doomed before the wedding vows are over. Trust me, you don't want that. No, you want a man who commits to you because he adores you.

Related Link: What To Know Before You Say 'I Do'

A happy romantic commitment by a man requires two key elements. First, he feels like a good provider, inside and outside the bedroom. If a man can find a woman with whom he feels gallant, big and capable, then he's more than halfway home to his own vision of romantic love. Second, he has to make his own decision to commit.

Promising signs

Here are some promising signs that he thinks of you as more than just a casual girlfriend:

- -He introduces you to his family and friends
- -He invites you to join him for his reunion scheduled a month or more away
- -He is attentive to your sexual pleasure
- -He opens the car door for you or insists on buying the popcorn at a movie long after the second date

Related Link: Guys Edition: How To Behave Like A Gentleman

What if he doesn't seem ready to step up?

Many couples stay together for a while because things seem fine and easy. However, a more serious commitment requires more serious feelings. Sometimes it's just not there for the man. And sometimes the man does want more but isn't sure whether the woman feels the same. If your guy seems really into you, but the relationship isn't progressing, take a moment to consider whether you've stepped up for him.

- -Have you introduced him to your parents or other family members?
- -Do you invite him to work events as your boyfriend?

If you don't seem proud to be identified with him among the important people in your life (not just your roommates or best friend), he may well believe you don't see him as "the one."

Finally, show some self-respect. If you're not already monogamous, tell him he'll now need to be or you'll be unable to see him any longer. If you don't believe you're worth it, he won't either.

Dr. Abraham Morgentaler is the author of Why Men Fake It: The Totally Unexpected Truth About Men and Sex, and you can follow him on Twitter @DrMorgentaler.

Dating Advice: When Can You Trust Him?





By Jane Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime.com

Sports celebrity couple Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn announced recently that they are officially an item after much speculation. Adding to the intrigue, of course, is Tiger's history, which speaks for itself. It makes one wonder, how do you know if you can trust your new partner?

Take a typical dating scenario any single person might find themselves in: everything seemed great at first, then he canceled one date, and then another. The first time he said he had a cold, the second an old friend was in town. Last night he couldn't make dinner because he said he had to work late unexpectedly. The thing is, you really like him and he keeps making future plans. But with his recent track record, can you trust that he's going to come through on Thursday as promised? And what can you do so you're not just stuck in a holiday pattern?

The first step to take is to have a back-up option — something scheduled in case he once again cancels the next date. That way if you're already halfway through getting ready you will still have someplace to go. Most important, you won't be alone and stranded with nothing to do. Next, if you do see each other again, check out his M.O. with a causal question, "Do you often change plans at the last minute?" If he says yes he does, then let him know you would rather leave things more open and flexible. Instead of making a date to go out on Friday night, ask him to call you at whatever point he knows he is going to be free. If you are still available, you'll go out, and if not, you'll try for another time. This will eliminate your waiting and wondering all week if he's going to come through.

The bottom line is, if you're not feeling that your time is being considered and that you're important to this person, you especially want to make sure you look out for and take care of yourself. While it's possible that three things came up in a row that he couldn't help, and it has nothing to do with his

feelings for you, you want to make sure you don't feel like a puppet on a string. Avoid waiting around in limbo and stay active and involved in your own life. When you think about yourself and have something else to do just in case, you won't get derailed by his thoughtless behavior.

Dating Advice: Fun Dates That are Virtually Free





By Meghan Fitzgerald

Money is not always available in times of need. Queue dating. Dating is difficult as it is...the anxiety of the date, the

stress of where to go, what to do. Double that difficulty if your financial situation is not at "its' best." Plus, perhaps your mate's financial situation is also in the dumps. There are always ways to bend the rules of physics and plan the perfect date for little or no cost. Fun dates are a possibility, even if you are flat-out-broke. A relationship can loom from Ramen noodles! Here are some tips:

- -Make a time capsule. Gather you and your partner's favorite memories. Take apart these memories and put something into the capsule that reminds you of it. Put in the shirt you wore your first date. A picture of you two together. Items you both will cherish.
- -Picnic. Pack a basket full of your favorite Chardonnay, gourmet cheeses from Trader Joe's, and a music player filled with a mix tape of your favorite songs. Enjoy the day outside with one another.
- -Roller skating. As corny as it may seem, roller skating not only takes you back years. However, it is cheap and a fun night out. Enjoy some drinks, disco balls, and cheesy love songs.

Related: <u>How to Avoid Arguing Over Money</u>

- -Play grown-ups. Dress up in your finest, most adolescent clothes and visit open houses. Joke about where you would put your beige Northern Hemisphere Marc Blackwell love seat. What you would do with the kids in the house. Have fun with it.
- -Nature. It is given to us people to enjoy. Go hike up Diamonds Head. Pack a bag of trail mix, water, electrolytes, and a camera. Sweat and laugh. Joke and embrace one another.
- -Local farm. Spend the day with your beau picking fruits at the nearest farm. Take back all of your goodies to the kitchen and spark up some spice in the kitchen. Think of what you can

use it for, make up your own recipe!

Related: Who Do We Really Think Should Pay for The First Date?

- -Wine tour. All you have to do here usually is buy a ticket for the venue and drink away. Enjoy the scenery, culture, and your partner.
- -Movie date: Take your mate out to a matinee. It is immensely cheaper to go to the movie theater during the day. Sneak in candy and drinks. Buy a large popcorn and share under the dark lights.
- -Art gallery: Walk or cab it towards your local art gallery. Have pretentious conversations of the paintings lighting, hues, and purpose. Enjoy cappuccinos at the nearest coffee shop afterwards.

Have you ever gone on a fun date which was virtually free? Explain below.

Dating Advice: 5 Signs It's Time to De-Clutter Your Love Life





By Rachel Sussman

Spring is the season of renewal and fresh starts; as the days start to get longer, you may begin to see your relationship in a new light. So how do you know when it's time to do some "spring cleaning" in your love life?

Online dating sites ChristianMingle and JDate recently surveyed more than 2,700 singles for their inaugural State of Dating in America report, revealing what they really think about dating, sex, marriage and more. The stats in the report can help you see how your relationship stacks up in comparison to other U.S. singles.

To help determine if it's time to do a clean sweep of your love life, I've compiled a list of five tell-tale signs based on the report's findings:

1. If he won't commit: More than one-third of singles surveyed think that one to two years is the minimum amount of time to date before getting engaged, and only two percent said that more than five years is the appropriate amount of time. So if you want to take that next step and after five years of dating

he still shows no signs of proposing, it may be time to move on.

Related: Falling In Love: When to Say the L-Word for the First Time

- 2. If he doesn't get along with your friends: As the saying goes, chicks come first, so it's no surprise that women say their friends have the most influence on who they date. It's important to make sure your friends and your guy get along, for the happiness of all.
- 3. If he's unfaithful: This one might seem like a no-brainer, but in fact data shows that men and women have different views on cheating. Women are more likely to believe that having an emotional relationship, texting or online flirting is cheating; make sure you discuss these issues to prevent future conflict or misunderstandings.

Related: You've Cheated, So Now What?

- 4. If he doesn't like your pet: One quarter of singles would break up with someone if their pet didn't like that person. Fido or Fluffy is going to be in your life for a long time, so it's important that they mesh well with any humans you bring into the family.
- 5. If you have different world views: Nearly three-quarters of singles are looking for a partner who shares their religious faith. If you and your mate have vastly different views on religion or other important issues, it's not an issue that will easily go away, and could cause conflict down the road.

Rachel Sussman is a licensed psychotherapist, relationship expert, author and lecturer. She is the founder of Sussman Counseling, a psychotherapy practice specializing in treating couples and individuals with relationship dilemmas. She is the author of THE BREAKUP BIBLE: The Smart Woman's Guide to Healing from a Breakup or Divorce.

Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets





By Laura Seldon for GalTime.com

A new study suggests American singles are taking their search for love into the wild! The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) says there has been a major rise in pet ownership among singles since 2006 as they look to fill a sense of love and family in their lives. It seems these little creatures are serving as creatures of comfort for singles.

Singles Tap into Their Animal Instincts

According to a recent AVMA survey, pet ownership among single people has increased by an impressive 16.6 percent — from 46.9 percent pet ownership in 2006 to 54.7 percent in 2011. While it's still more common for a pet to be owned by a family, the increase in pet ownership by singles far exceeds the growth of pet ownership for families, which has only grown by 1.37 percent since 2006 (from 65.5 percent to 66.4 percent). Other interesting findings include:

- Pet ownership among divorced, widowed and separated adults grew by 17.7 percent, from 51.3 to 60.4 percent.
- The number of single men living alone with pets increased by 27.7 percent, from 34.3 to 43.8 percent.
- The number of single women living alone with pets increased by 22 percent, from 46.8 to 57.1 percent.

Paws for Thought

Pet ownership has not only been linked to positive mental and physical health outcomes, but in general has been shown to make people happier.

"Surely the most important role our pets play in our lives is that they love us. No person is too old or ugly or poor or disabled to win the love of a pet — they love us uncritically and without reserve," writes Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship author and animal behavior expert Elizabeth Marshall

Increasingly, singles are becoming aware of just how much a pet can serve as a source of love.

"It's interesting to see that more and more single people are discovering the comfort and satisfaction that owning a pet can offer," says Dr. Douglas Aspros, president of the AVMA. "Pets are powerful, positive influences on our lives, offering unique emotional, psychological and physical health benefits

to their owners."

Animal Magnetism

Pets can serve as important sources of social and emotional support. However, according to research published by the American Psychological Association in 2011, researchers found that pet owners were just as close to key people in their lives as to their animals, indicating no evidence that relationships with pets came at the expense of relationships with other people — or that people relied more on pets when their human social support was poorer. So, while more and more single people may be in the throes of "puppy love," it doesn't mean your love life has to go to the dogs!