

# Single Celebrities We Want to See Hitched



By Nic Baird

Whether single by choice or by broken heart, the prospect of marriage for the unattached seems distantly hypothetical. If you're a free spirit looking for flings, fun and flirting, you'll avoid even the thought of it at all costs. For those recovering from a lost love, it's important not to give up, because Prince Charming will come again. In fact, there are some Hollywood bachelors and bachelorettes who are in desperate need of true love as well. Others are devoted to such a carefree life of casual hookups that it makes one wonder if even the most glamorous single celebrity could lock them down. Here are the stars we'd like to push down the aisle:

**1. Robert Pattinson:** Shying away from public appearances, steady drinking and tales of heartbreak characterize the media

vampire since his split from Kristen Stewart. Robert Pattinson is known for his legion of Twi-hards, and it's only a matter of time before a Hollywood lady gets close to Team Edward. Katy Perry, a mutual friend of Robsten, took the bruised *Twilight* hunk out to cheer him up shortly after news of Stewart's affair broke. Whether it's a shoulder to cry on or, less likely, a fresh love to sink his fangs into, Pattinson deserves the fairy tale romance he portrays.

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**2. Cameron Diaz:** She's been romantically linked to the likes of Matt Dillon, Jared Leto, Justin Timberlake and Alex Rodriguez, but Cameron Diaz is currently single. The freshly 40-year-old actress is still a blonde bombshell at the box office, but her most recent appearance in the pregnancy comedy *What To Expect When You're Expecting* makes us wonder if a family is on the horizon. "I've never said I don't want children," Diaz explained to *InStyle* magazine. "I just haven't had children yet." The simple truth is that a long marriage seems daunting to the powerful starlet, according to a *Stylist* interview. "Have someone for five years and another person for another five years. Life is long and lucky and yes, love might last forever, but you don't always live with the person you love forever."

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couples That Have a Kid-Free Marriage](#)

**3. Gerard Butler:** While his adoring female fan base would probably send truckloads of hate mail his way if it happened, we all wonder what type of woman could get this Hollywood bad boy to commit. Party antics got Butler fired as a lawyer and have also kept him from serious coupling. "*I'm not a big relationship guy,*" the *300* actor told *Men's Journal*. "One of my vices is, I'm too wrapped up in myself and not always in a good way." That said, as of last spring, Butler has been seen with Madalina Ghenea, a Romanian model who helped him promote

a brand of razors. Is the rowdy Scott breaking his old habits?

**4. Katie Holmes:** Not that the young actress has to start rehearsing her dating scene so soon after her summer divorce, but Katie Holmes still has plenty of time for future love, and even marriage. As a single mother with Tom Cruise's powerful shadow looming over her, future suitors might have an easier time trying to date Batman's ex. Last week, she insisted in *Women's Wear Daily* that the important things were to keep trying and not be afraid to fail. Holmes has welcomed some male attention since her split: a friendly kiss from an unidentified dinner date. It would be nice to see a happy ending follow her foray into Scientology.

**Which Celebs would you like to see tie the knot? Share your comments below!**

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## How Raising a Child Can Bring you Closer Together as a Couple





By Nancy Parker

If you speak to any number of parents today about how parenting has affected their marriage, you may be surprised to hear many tell you that it has solidified their marriage. They will almost certainly tell you that parenting is hard work and incredibly stressful, but at the same time, they will tell you that they feel closer to their spouse after having kids than before. This may seem paradoxical. After all, enduring intensely stressful situations and bringing responsibility and hard work into your relationship seems like it may pull a couple apart. In many cases, however, the opposite is true. There are a number of key reasons why raising a child can solidify your marriage despite being stressful:

## **1. Shared Love**

In most cases, no two individuals love a child more than his biological parents. The love for a child may begin to grow almost as soon as the parents learn of the pregnancy, and this love deepens with each passing day. This is a love that the parents together share for the child, and they both work to provide the child with the best childhood experience possible. Sharing the same intense feelings for another person is a bonding experience, and this is a bond that can indeed solidify a relationship.

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## **2. Teamwork**

Raising a child together is about more than just feeling intense love for the child. It takes a lot of hard work to care for and raise a child, and this hard work begins as soon as the child is born. During infancy, the couple must work together as a team to ensure that the baby as well as both parents meet their basic needs regarding feeding, sleeping and more. An infant is dependent on the care of the parents, and the parents work together as a team to fulfill those needs while also watching out for the health and well-being of each other. As the child grows, the teamwork approach transitions into different aspects of parenting such as discipline, education, childcare and more.

## **3. More Than Just a Couple**

Before the first child is born into the marriage, the couple is simply a couple bound together by love and perhaps wedding vows. When you bring a child into the relationship, however, your relationship transitions into something more significant. You are no longer a couple, and instead, you have transitioned into a family. There is a bond that deepens between a man and a woman when a family is formed. The deep feelings associated with creating a family with another person deepen the bond you have with that person.

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It is interesting to take note that giving birth to a child will not heal a relationship that is already on rocky ground. In fact, the hard work and stress associated with raising a child may be the tipping point in an already shaky relationship that could lead to the couple breaking up. On the other hand, when a couple that has a solid relationship brings a child into their lives, the experience of raising the child

can provide a deeper bond than the couple previously had. With a look at celebrity couples, you may see how relationships like that between Victoria and David Beckham have been solidified with the addition of their children in their lives. On the other hand, other relationships that may have been on less steady ground to start with, such as that Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, were not solidified with the birth of a child.

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## Taylor Swift and Conor Kennedy: How Fast is Too Fast?





By Relationship &

Sex Talk, Jane Greer, PhD for GalTime.com

building a base for love

Superstar Taylor Swift and boyfriend Conor Kennedy hadn't been dating long when he took her to a family wedding in August, despite reported requests that she not go because some worried Taylor's presence would take away from the bride's attention.

That's a problem most of us don't have to worry about, but it does raise the question: When is it a good time to meet your new flame's family? And is it a good idea to attend a big family event early in a relationship?

A patient of mine was in this situation recently. She had been dating someone for a few weeks, and was over the moon about him, when he asked her to his best friend's wedding. She was thrilled, to say the least, and read his desire to take her as a sign that he was really into her and wanted her to meet his inner circle. Not only was she flattered, but she attached great meaning and expectation to their blossoming relationship because of the invitation.

Hearing her enthusiasm and high hopes, I was concerned about the possibility that for her new boyfriend, this was more

about the upcoming occasion – and not wanting to go solo – than it was about actually beginning a serious relationship with her.

That is not unusual, that you meet someone around the time of a big event and have it in mind during those first few weeks of dating. In other words, the new excitement and romance which for her was all about getting to know each other, may have been for him simply about having a great time at the wedding. Or, perhaps his intention was to get to know her better, but his sister didn't like her, or his best friend gave her the thumbs down. Whatever the case, it didn't go well for my patient. After the wedding, she never heard from him again.

Sometimes the timing can't be helped. You have been dating for a short time and his sister just happens to be getting married next week. Or it is her older brother's birthday bash and everyone will be there. On the one hand, it can feel very encouraging that your new partner seems to like you so much that they want to bring you to a big family party and meet the important people in their lives. On the other hand, you might be walking right into a judgment fest in which, if you haven't established your own strong connection yet, your newly significant other might be too easily swayed away from you should their family suggest you aren't the right match. Instead of gaining favor, you run the risk of getting the seal of disapproval.

Think of it as building a good fire. Sometimes the top takes off right away, burning high. But if there isn't a hot smoldering base, that fast fire can quickly fizzle out. Take the time to establish a foundation before opening yourself up to any possible criticism. If you are asked to that wedding or birthday celebration early on, you can politely decline, adding that you would love to go to the next occasion. That will give you a chance to build a solid relationship so when you do meet the family you are already an item, and your new

partner can better withstand any negative comments that might come your way. And if, in fact, the motivation to pursue you stems from wanting a date for the event itself, you will have your answer before you got in too deep.

Taylor and Conor didn't choose this path, but jumped right in. She has met the family, attended big events, and even, sadly enough, visited the grave of Conor's mother who died recently. For him, obviously, it wasn't just about having a date to the wedding, but only time will tell if their foundation will be strong enough to sustain them.

**What do you think...how fast is too fast to introduce someone to your family, bring them to a big event, move in, propose, etc?**

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## **Pros & Cons: Splitting the Bill on a Date**





By Whitney Baker

"Going Dutch" is becoming more and more popular, not only with your closest friends but also with your partner. While it's still typical for your man to pay for your date-night bill, it's equally common for couples to split the bill. Of course, for a special occasion, such as your partner's birthday or an announcement of a job promotion, it's nice to cover the entire bill as a surprise to your significant other. But other times, you may want to go halvesies to show them that you can still pull your own weight. Still, there are both pros and cons for splitting the bill on a date.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Women Who Are the Breadwinners of the Relationship](#)

#### **Pros:**

**1. It keeps things fair and balanced.** It's nice to feel like you're contributing to your relationship: emotionally, financially or otherwise. If you want to split the bill on your next date, approach your partner about it. They're sure to appreciate your effort. There are even apps like Tip Calculator Free to make the math easy for you.

**2. It shows your independence.** This is especially important

for women, who still sometimes suffer from the old-fashioned notion that their boyfriends are expected to pay for every meal. Modern women are proud of their financial freedom. In fact, some women make more money than their significant others. One way to show your success to your date is by footing your half of the bill.

**3. It's just a nice thing to do.** If you're in your twenties or thirties and going out on a first date with a new guy, he's probably paid for his fair share of dates already. Offering to split the bill will defy his expectations, which could make him like you even more.

#### **Cons:**

**1. It may signal a financial problem for your partner.** What if your man is asking you to split the bill because he can't afford to pay for it? It's never good to assume anything, but if you notice that he wants you to cover your half of the bill every time, he may be hiding something from you.

**Related Link:** [Five Signs Your Partner Is Using You for Your Money](#)

**2. It makes the date more platonic.** If a guy asks you on a date, chances are, he'll take care of the bill, especially if he plans to ask you out again. However, if he offers to split it with you, he may be more interested in just being friends. Either way, it's important to make sure that you two are on the same page, so this can help you make that judgment.

**3. It takes away the "treat" aspect of the date.** When you split the bill, it's kind of like taking yourself to dinner rather than going out for a special evening with your significant other. Sure, it's perfectly fine to go halvesies for a random pizza lunch on Wednesday afternoon, but don't let that habit carry over into Saturday night's fine dining.

Do you think that the advantages of splitting the bill outweigh the potential problems? Tell us below.

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## 5 Red Flags to Be Aware of In Your Relationship



By Grace Pamer

I am a fan of the show *Dexter*, and was probably just as surprised as everyone else that the two stars, Jennifer Carpenter and Michael C. Hall, filed for divorce. The couple appeared happy, like best friends, being married and working as a team on the award winning show. When Michael C. Hall was diagnosed with cancer, Carpenter was at his side helping him through it all. But later, Hall's break trust via rumors of infidelity made their way into the relationship, resulting in its dissolution.

We may, as a society, idolize stars and follow the ups and downs of their relationships. But the truth is that their partnerships are very similar to us “normal folks,” minus the millions. We may be in shock when a famous couple that appeared so committed announces their divorce, but it can happen to any couple at any time. Though couples are, by definition, a team – they are also two unique individuals, with their own thoughts, feelings, experiences and emotional baggage.

The seemingly best relationship can go wrong, even mine. Noticing that there might be trouble is the key to trying to work things out before it is too late. Keep in mind that there can be valid reasons for the following relationship warning signs and that they in no way are intended to imply certain doom. There can be stress at work, grieving a loss, a family member moving in or a health issue that appropriately explains away any concerns in the short term.

**Related Link:** [Demi Moore Proves There's Hope After Divorce](#)

But sometimes there are no valid reasons for the following five red flags, which can appear in even what seems to be the healthiest relationship:

### **Red Flag 1: Losing Trust**

If we find ourselves beginning to doubt our partner's honesty, we need to listen to our inner voices. Whether catching a mate in frequent, little lies is the trigger or there is a bigger concern because our lover is keeping longer hours and coming home late each night, losing trust is a signal to us that something could be wrong.

**Related Link:** [Red Flag or Quirk? How to Tell the Difference](#)

### **Red Flag 2: Avoidance**

If we begin to see our partner less and less, without

explanation, this is another red flag. It can spell trouble when rituals such as watching favorite shows on weeknights, doing crosswords in bed, eating meals together or weekend date nights begin to disappear. Keep in mind that avoidance doesn't have to equate to infidelity – it could signify fear and distraction over a health concern, depression and a host of many other things.

### **Red Flag 3: Acting Guilty**

Humans are curious creatures and sometimes, without even knowing it, their actions speak much louder than words. A lover who traditionally was never one to bring home flowers or expensive gifts, if feeling guilty, might subconsciously begin to do just that.

### **Red Flag 4: Less Intimacy**

If we notice less intimacy, that could also be a warning sign that there is an underlying problem. Intimacy isn't just about making love, though that is a big part in healthy relationships – it is about touching a lover's shoulder when we walk by, holding hands when taking a walk, massaging feet when lying on the couch. If usual intimacy levels begin to decline, we need to recognize the warning sign that something is awry.

### **Red Flag 5: Lack Of Respect**

Respect is so important in any successful relationship. Being respectful is when we don't ridicule our lover for having his/her own opinion. It is about sharing the load and responsibilities of daily life. Respecting a mate also involves making sure both people's needs are met, not just our own. If the partner begins to criticize, ridicule or take the other for granted, there could be an underlying problem.

Aside from the red flags mentioned above, we need to simply be aware of any unexplained changes in the relationship. The goal here isn't to play detective and "catch" our partner in a

misdeed, going on the offensive. That could backfire because an innocent partner being accused of guilt could cause irreparable damage. Consider how a lover would act if he or she didn't want to burden us with the stress that there are rumors of layoffs at the workplace. There can be many valid reasons why a person starts acting differently.

It is our job to simply communicate our concerns in a peaceful, loving manner – stating only how we feel, not criticizing behaviors. When red flags appear, the only goal should be to find a block of time in a quiet environment where open, honest communication can take place. Behavior changes aren't always about infidelity and red flags aren't always bad – they can actually lead to a healthier, more stable relationship, because they force us to put our love first.

*Grace Pamer is a work from home mom and author of [www.RomanceNeverDies.com](http://www.RomanceNeverDies.com) which provides a resource for all those seeking romantic ideas and inspiration whether for a date, a marriage proposal or in a long term relationship.*

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## How Long Should You Wait for a Proposal?





By Jane Greer, PhD

for GalTime.com

In the land of quick marriages, Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank has taken a different tack. She was married to actor Chad Lowe for eight years, and dated him for six years before that.

Most recently, the actress dated John Campisi for five years. Swank recently announced that they broke up in May. The rumors suggest that John's not proposing might have sparked the separation. That may or may not be the reason, but it does beg the question for anyone who has been in a long-term relationship and waiting to get engaged: How long do you wait for your partner to be ready? Basically— When is enough... enough?

There is no question in your mind that you are ready to commit to your partner for life. Your partner, however, continues to drag his feet. As hard as it is to accept, sometimes relationships outlast their shelf life and stop moving forward. How can you know if your relationship has reached that point, and you have entered that zone of just wasting your time? Is there anything you can do or are you destined to be taken along for the ride?

The most important thing to keep in mind is that, despite the fact that your partner's reluctance to commit can feel like a rejection of you, try not to take it personally. You can do this by recognizing that when one partner is holding back on taking that huge step, it often has more to do with their own individual issues and fears than with how they feel about the other person.

He may have experienced his parents' divorce when he was younger, and see marriage as destined to fail. Perhaps, he was betrayed at one time themselves and now has trust issues. If he has been married before and gone through his own divorce, there might be all sorts of concerns keeping him from remarrying. Or he might be worried about differences in religious beliefs and lifestyles, or his career success. One of my patients, for example, is ready to get married and eager to take that next step, but her partner is hesitant. They have been dating for three years, and are now living together, but he says he needs to feel more secure in his job and be earning a higher salary before he feels ready to buy her a ring.

I encouraged her to talk to him, as I would suggest you talk to your partner about why they are not ready to go forward. See if you can jointly determine what it might take for them to get beyond their fears. Set goals to work toward making those changes. Maybe it means talking through the religious differences and making a concrete plan, or it could be as simple as finding a new job or asking for a raise. And then you can set a time limit for yourself, maybe six months or a year, and see if anything is being done.

As long as your partner is trying then your relationship is still viable and worth fighting for. But if your partner is all talk, and has made no attempt to move toward the goals you set together, then sadly it might be an indication that nothing will ever change. At that point, you can do what they have not been able to do and take the next step yourself and move on.

Then you will know you did everything you could. Hopefully, if this was the issue that separated Hilary and John, these were the steps they were able to take.

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## Favorite Celebrity Engagement Rings



By Sarah Ribeiro

Engagement rings can be one of the most important elements in beginning a marriage. They signify the bond you have with your partner, their commitment to you, and the security of your relationship. Of course, there's also the glamour and luxury that comes with a gorgeous diamond on your hand! Here are some celebrity engagement rings that perfectly represent both the strength and extravagance of celebrity weddings and marriages:

# Top Celebrity Engagement Rings

**1. Kate Hudson:** Hudson's engagement ring from Muse rocker Matthew Bellamy is an outstanding statement in such a private celebrity relationship. The \$200,000 platinum ring is a nine carat emerald-cut diamond with tapered baguettes on the side. The two have been engaged for a year, and although they have no wedding date set, they do have a son together, Bingham.

**Related Link:** [Jessica Biel Had No Say In Her Engagement Ring](#)

**2. Kate Middleton:** The royal duchess of Cambridge was definitely given a ring fit for a queen. Her celebrity love Prince William presented her with his mother Princess Diana's engagement ring, a round-cut blue sapphire surrounded by 14 diamonds. At the time it was worn by Diana in 1981, it cost 30,000 British pounds – the equivalent of roughly \$47,000.

**3. Angelina Jolie:** Being one of Hollywood's most luxurious famous couples, this duo will no doubt have an over-the-top celebrity wedding celebration. Newly-engaged Jolie was given a rectangular-cut diamond on a yellow-and-white gold band. Rumor has it Pitt commissioned a jeweler to find the finest-quality diamond for his love, even requesting a cut shaped perfectly for her hand.

**Related Link:** [Knicks Star Amar'e Stoudemire Proposes to Longtime Girlfriend](#)

## No Limits For This Famous Couple's Ring

**4. Beyoncé Knowles:** One of Hollywood's most expensive wedding rings naturally belongs to one of the highest-grossing Hollywood couples. The rapper gave Beyoncé a

\$5 million celebrity engagement ring before their secret marriage in April 2008. The 18-carat diamond, made by jeweler Lorraine Schwartz, is emerald-cut and set in a platinum band. For security purposes, the singer wears a fake copy of it, which is still worth more than \$5,000.

**5. Natalie Portman:** In 2010, the famous actress, vegan and humanist was gifted an eco-friendly engagement ring to fit her lifestyle. Husband Benjamin Millepied found ballet dancer-turned jeweler Jamie Wolf to design the \$35,000 ring, which uses recycled platinum and an antique oval center stone surrounded by pavé diamonds from a conflict-free mine, meaning no miner was hurt or treated unfairly when mining the stones. Millepied personalized his choice by making the ring a statement to his love's activism and loving nature, a sweet statement for an even sweeter couple.

**Which celebrity engagement ring is your favorite? Tell us below.**

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## **Cosmetic Surgery: How Does It Affect Your Relationship?**





By Ed Beardsell

In recent years, cosmetic surgery has become more widespread and acceptable in the United Kingdom. The taboo associated with plastic surgery is being replaced with a more general view that surgery is a legitimate way to improve appearance. The decision to go under the knife is often seen as a private and personal decision. However, the procedure and its results can often have a significant impact on the people closest to the individual undergoing it. This is especially true for partners who must face the changes cosmetic surgery will bring. Can it be said that altering one's appearance will really affect one's relationship?

## **The Positives**

### **1. Confidence boost for the patient.**

After cosmetic surgery, patients often have more confidence in themselves which can strengthen the relationship as a result. People with low confidence may shut themselves away and not want to socialise or try new experiences and surgery may change all of this. The patient may even have the confidence to strive for more in life which could benefit the couple both financially and help bolster their confidence once more.

**Related Link:** [Why Amazing Confident Women Stay Single](#)

## **2. Improvements in the bedroom.**

Before surgery your partner may have been ashamed or embarrassed about their body so much so that their intimate relationships may have suffered. However, after surgery there is a strong chance that it will improve as their confidence grows which is of course, beneficial to their partner too (nudge nudge, wink wink).

## **The Negatives**

### **1. "I like you as you are."**

Many partners may be set against their other half's surgery as they believe they are fine as they are. After all, they fell in love with their partner looking the way they do and may think it is unnecessary to change. Partners can often fear surgery could change their partner's personality as well as their appearance.

**Related Link:** [Why You Don't Need the Perfect Body](#)

## **2. The cost.**

There is no getting away from the fact the plastic surgery is expensive and indeed, even some quite minor procedures can cost thousands. The high cost of surgery can cause arguments and strain the relationship between even the closest couples.

## **3. Confidence can change a person.**

A partner may worry that while cosmetic surgery may give their other half confidence, it could also change their personality. This may seem quite ridiculous however patient, galvanized by their new found confidence may want to try new and exciting things whereas the partner is quite happy to stay as they were before the surgery.

#### 4. Jealousy.

An improved appearance often results in more attention from the opposite sex. Whilst the patient may view this as a compliment, their partner often takes a very different viewpoint. The partner may not be able to deal with the extra attention their other half is now receiving and this jealousy could be detrimental to the whole relationship.

There is no doubt that cosmetic surgery has the possibility of affecting a person's relationship. We have seen how it could potentially improve or indeed cause a great deal of damage. It is, therefore, clear that potential cosmetic surgery patients must be fully aware of their partner's feelings before undergoing a procedure. If both sides are aware of the possible problems that could be solved as well as those which might arise, then there is a greater chance that any future issues will be calmly resolved.

*This article was produced by Ed Beardsell who writes for the UK based plastic surgery portal Clinic Compare at [www.ClinicCompare.co.uk](http://www.ClinicCompare.co.uk). Clinic Compare are dedicated to providing potential cosmetic surgery patients with a comprehensive resource of impartial advice and guidance on a wide range of cosmetic procedures.*

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## Tips for Getting Through Football Season





By SMF Marcus

Osborne for GalTime.com

Fall is basically here. For guys, it's a magical time of year. Each Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, a dude gets to wallow in the sheer, unbridled ecstasy of following his favorite football team. Nothing brings him greater joy and satisfaction than seeing his squad of eleven helmeted gladiators scratch out victories during football season. And I'm sure you've also been witness to his devastation... evidenced by your man's vacant look and glassy eyes after a loss.

Here's the best way to describe the male connection to football— it's sort of like a soap opera for men. There are multiple stories, with outrageous characters, good guys, bad guys, cliffhangers and the inevitable conclusion.

I'm writing this to prepare you for the next five months. Many of you are football fans yourselves (including many of the GalTime Gals— don't worry, we'll do another post for diehard female fans), but for those of you who aren't ... I'm hopeful that some of these tips will help to make the coming months more manageable — perhaps even save a few relationships. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

## Tips for Getting Through Football Season

**1. This Storm Will Pass.** It's easier said than done, I know, but if you just keep reminding yourself that that the season does end eventually, it will lighten the emotional load a tad bit.

**2. It's just a game.** The emotional rollercoaster men ride during the football season is not to be taken lightly. The absolute worst thing anyone could say is, "It's just a game." No. This is not true. This is SO not true. Was Michael Jackson "just a singer?" Was Mark Twain "just a writer?" Is you mom "just a mom?" Of course not. The game and the teams matter. As guys, we're not offered many opportunities to unleash raw emotion – crying, experiencing child-like giddiness, anger, depression, and exultation – are all uncharacteristically free-flowing during football season. Don't judge, just be there to wipe his tears... and keep bringing out the nachos.

**3. Do Your Thing.** There's no better opportunity for "Girl Time" than during football season. Seriously. I wish more women understood this. Don't get mad at his obsession. Don't feel neglected by his attention being focused on his football mistress. Get back in touch with your girlfriends and hang out them. Oh and you have no idea how easy it is to get compliance from a guy when the game is on. He'll say "yes" to virtually any request. HER: "Honey, my ex boyfriend, you know the one who still wants me? Yeah, he wants to meet for coffee on Sunday." HIM: "Oh cool, babe. Tell him said 'Hi'!"

**4. If You Can't Beat 'Em.** Listen, of all the things you could do, this might be the absolute BEST move on your part. Join in his fun (or soul crushing depression) by buying his favorite team's jersey and get on board on game day. Learn the game, some basic strategy, a few players' names, etc. Odds are you'll get swept up in the emotion right along with him. Like the old saying goes, "The couple that watches football together... holds off the divorce for 6 more months." Or

something like that. One point though – never ask questions DURING the game! Wait for commercials!

**5. Find Another Guy.** Seriously. If you that selfish and you can't let your man indulge himself during the season then you're just not a nice person. Poor guy. All he ever does is try to make you happy and all you can do is think of yourself? Do you have any idea how emotionally draining a football season can be? If you can't be his rock during those harrowing final two minutes of the game with the team down by 6, needing a touchdown to win, with 99 yards to go and the starting quarterback knocked of the game, then what do you really have? This is not a real relationship! Do him and you a favor and find a new man!

I think that last one may have been a teensy bit over the top. Maybe.

Not really.

Are you ready for some football?

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## Your BFF Chose Her Boyfriend Over You – Now What?





By Jessica Nappi

You and your best friend are usually inseparable: you laugh until you cry, lie side by side on the beach all day and even pluck each other's eyebrows. So when she finds Mr. Right, it's easy to find yourself left in the dust. You no longer hang out, and the only time you see her is when you accidentally bump into her while she's hand in hand with her boyfriend at the mall. While it's perfectly normal to have that "can't get enough" feeling when a relationship begins, it's not okay for a friend to leave you out of their life because you've been replaced by someone else. Here are some ways you can help them find a balance between love for you and love for their partner:

**Related Link:** [How to Move in with Your Boyfriend \(and Not Break Up with Him\)](#)

**1. Let them go through their honeymoon phase:** When two people meet and the chemistry is tangible, it's hard to rip them apart, especially in the beginning. Every couple goes through what is called a "honeymoon phase," where they want to spend every waking moment with each other. As a best friend, know that every phase has an expiration date. As soon as your friend has their first fight with their partner, they're sure to come running back to you. Of course, it's important to be

cautious in welcoming them back. Make sure they know that their sudden absence has hurt you and that they need to make more time for you for your friendship to continue.

**2. Remind her that her world does not revolve around him:** When a friend begins dating, their mind is in a fog. It can be important to pull them outside of their head and put them in your position. Chances are they wouldn't like to be ignored by their best friend the way you've been. If you put your situation in perspective, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for you, which is sure to repair your relationship.

**Related Link:** [5 Lies Your Single Friends Like To Tell](#)

**3. Pick a day of the week to have BFF day:** Since your friend's beau is occupying most of their time and almost every thought, you two need to sit down and set out a day for yourselves. As much as your friend loves their partner, it's likely that they're growing tired of hanging out with them all the time. For example, a woman can only spend so much time in the 'man cave' before she realizes she needs hair and nail treatments every now and then. Picking a set day to hang out every week is a way to ensure that you will never lose touch. Go out to eat, gossip or even talk about the ins and outs of your friend's relationship. Just don't let their significant other interrupt in any way.

**What would you do if your BFF chose her boyfriend over you? Tell us below.**

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# How to Pick a Perfect Gift for Your High School Sweetheart



By Jon Dawson

Finding the perfect gift for your sweetheart is a challenge. You want to give her something that shows her how much you care, without emptying your wallet. If you need a little guidance on how to find a great affordable gift, you can't go wrong with these ideas:

**Related Link:** [Nine Gift Ideas for the Frugalista](#)

## Jewelry

Jewelry does not have to be an expensive pair of diamond earrings. You can purchase a charm bracelet, stud earrings or a similar item at a local retailer for less than \$20. Without spending a lot of money, you can give your girlfriend a gift

that complements her style and makes her smile.

**Related Link:** [Engagement Rings of the Rich and Famous](#)

### **Personalized Playlist**

Does your special someone have an MP3 player? Consider creating a personalized playlist of songs that mean something to you as a couple. Because songs are just a dollar or so apiece to download, you can make this gift fit your budget, yet it will be meaningful as your sweetheart will have something to remember you by every time he or she turns on some tunes.

### **Moonlit Walk in the Park**

Many high schoolers dismiss parks as unexciting places filled with playground equipment that they have long since outgrown, but nothing says romance like strolling in the moonlight, hand in hand. Take a turn on the swings to show your sweetie your playful side, or just lie side-by-side on the ground and look at the stars.

### **Write a Letter or Poem**

Written mementos of your affection are something your boyfriend or girlfriend will treasure forever. While writing a love letter may not seem overly important to you, it will mean the world to the recipient. Of course, the best part about this gift is the cost – unless you need to buy stationary, it's free! All it takes is a little effort and creativity, and you have a winning gift.

### **Lotion or Body Spray**

Do you know your honey's favorite scent? If you do, pick up some lotion or body spray in that scent when the next gift-giving opportunity arises. If you have the money for the fancy stuff, then that's nice, but the great thing about giving the gift of lotion or body spray is that the generic, store brand

stuff usually smells pretty good, too.

It may be the thought that counts, but when you are buying something for your sweetheart, you need to make sure it is meaningful and conveys your feelings well. Gift giving is not an exact science. You have to know the person you are buying for to find the perfect gift, but each of these options is a good choice if your funds are limited, but you still want a meaningful gift.

*Jon knows what it's like to try and find just the perfect gift. He's always on the lookout, and shares his findings and musings over the web. His most recent find was <http://www.birchbox.com/>, a great venue for unique men's and women's gifts.*

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## 5 Things You Should NEVER Say on a First Date





By Jennifer Oikle,

PhD for GalTime.com

## **tips for that first date conversation**

The night you've been waiting for is finally here. You're going out with HIM! You're so eager to get to know him better. Let's be honest... you want to let him experience the real you. But hold on; It's make it or break it time. You only get one, somewhat delicate, chance to make a first impression so he needs to meet the best you.

To ensure he sees your most excellent, beautiful self shine through, you'll need to watch your words. They can have a way of hanging you when you least expect it. To stay in the safe zone, be sure never to utter one of these five things on your first date:

### **Impression Buster 1: "Doesn't dating (online) suck!"**

Singles often say this to build rapport and it can feel chummy to share dating war stories. However, in the back of his mind, you've already planted a little negative seed that says, "I look on the dark side." Now, he will be waiting for it to sprout into a full downer.

**Impression Booster:** Instead, build a real and positive connection by asking what he's passionate about. Also, share your most meaningful thrill too.

### **Impression Buster 2: "You should know, I have this condition, baggage, big fat hairy issue..."**

Shouldn't you just come out and share all of the potential deal breakers right off the bat? No! When you make it past the first three-crucial dates, there is plenty of time to share the full, naked truth. Telling him right now, without knowing more about you, he'll probably press the reject button. However, if he likes who you really are at first, there is a lot he'll accept, including your otherwise lovely self.

**Impression Booster:** Why not highlight reasons why you are a total catch? Share a few stories that show your "great catch" qualities in order for him to get a sneak peak into your true self.

### **Impression Buster 3: "My ex was such a jerk."**

Any talk of your past relationships on a first date is a big turn off. Playing the blame game is the biggest no-no of all. This shows that you aren't mature enough yet to take responsibility for your behavior. He'll wonder just how long it will be until you blame him for everything.

**Impression Booster:** If you must explore previous relationships on your first date, try asking him what he learned about himself the last time he was part of a couple. This will encourage him to show you how he's grown as a partner! In return, you can share the same about yourself.

### **Impression Buster 4: "Waiter, I can't believe this soup is cold. Get me another!"**

He's watching your every move to get a sense of how you will treat him over time. Even if you're sweet as sugar to him,

once you indulge in impatient, unkind, or rude remarks to other people, he will not be able to trust you. He'll know there is a monster lurking and ready to attack him at any moment.

**Impression Booster:** When things do not go perfect or as planned, show him you can stay calm, friendly, and gracious under stress. That's the kind of partner he knows he'd be lucky to land.

### **Impression Buster 5: "My place or yours?"**

If you really like him, leave a little mystery by making him wait to discover more of you. Building intrigue and allowing time for a real bond is the only way to avoid a crash-and-burn first date.

**Impression Booster:** Keep it simple by saying, "You seem like a great guy. I can't wait to learn more about you soon," as you smile and head for the door.

By watching your words and staying positive, you can create a great first impression, which will spark in him the desire to see you again.

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## **5 Celebrities Who Found Love After Rehab**





By Daniela Agurcia

We've all witnessed several celebrities succumb to the dark side of fame and fortune and end up checking into rehab. For some of them, rehab has been the end of their career as we know it, while for others, it's been their breakthrough. Even better, some celebrities managed to find true love after recovering. Maybe romance was just what the doctor ordered. Here are five celebrities who found love after rehab:

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Celebrities Who Have Made Love Last](#)

**1. Britney Spears:** Against all odds, Britney Spears has made a comeback. The pop star has been in and out of rehab, even spending some time in the psychiatric ward after a series of breakdowns. It's been a bumpy road for the singer, but she has since been successful in her career and is now happily engaged to her former agent, Jason Trawick. Unlike her unsuccessful marriage to Kevin Federline, Spears and Trawick seem to have discovered true love as the star climbs her way back to the top.

**2. Drew Barrymore:** Drew Barrymore is a celebrity with an infamous history. She spent her life growing up in and out of rehab due to her drug addiction, but has since bounced back from her faults. Today, you'd never expect the beautiful

actress to have had such a rebellious past. Barrymore not only got herself together for her career, but has even found love with Will Kopelman. The recently married couple couldn't be happier and are expecting their first child.

**3. Nicole Richie:** Nicole Richie had a bad-girl reputation which eventually landed her in rehab after getting DUIs in 2003 and 2006. Richie's life turned around for her, especially when she landed in the arms of current love, Joel Madden. Since then she's been happy and healthy with Madden, abandoning her old rebellious ways, and creating a family. The couple has two children together, and Richie has been beaming in love and joy since.

**Related Link:** [Top 3 Reasons Celebrities Seek Therapy](#)

**4. Kirsten Dunst:** Kirsten Dunst checked herself into rehab after falling into depression in 2008. Ever since checking out, she's been living a healthy and happy life with her current boyfriend and *On The Road* costar, Garrett Hedlund. The actress seems to have had a successful recovery, and has been spotted with a huge smile across her face and in the arms of her beau. There's nothing a little love can't resolve.

**5. Kate Moss:** Stunning model Kate Moss checked into rehab in 2005 after she was caught in possession of drugs. She split from then-boyfriend Pete Doherty when he checked out of rehab after failing to better himself. Moss on the other hand left rehab healthier and happier, finding love with The Kills guitarist Jamie Hince. Since then, she has gotten married and has remained in love and more beautiful than ever.

**What celebrities do you think found true love after rehab? Let us know below.**

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# 5 Dating Rules You Need to Break



By Karl Stockton

It should be fairly clear to most people that are trying to rekindle their love life that the way people meet and get to know each other has changed significantly in the last few years. Between online dating, and shifts in what is considered socially normal, it's a shame that so many people still seem to stick to the same, tired old routine when it comes to dating, especially first dates. Here are five common rules that should probably be avoided:

## **1. Dinner and a movie are acceptable for a first date.**

Breaking this rule actually has little to do with stepping away from cliché, and a lot to do with wanting to put yourself in an environment with your date where you have an easier time interacting them. This will result in doing the most

productive thing you can be doing on a first date: getting to know them on a more personal level. While a dinner is almost universally acceptable for this, it's definitely advisable to skip the movie, or at least save it for a later time. There's nothing to be gained from sitting next to your date for two hours in complete silence.

**Related Link:** [What to Wear on a First Date](#)

## **2. The man should always pick up the check.**

Due to a number of unfortunate factors, it's becoming a widespread reality that most middle-class households in the future are going to depend on more than one income. A willingness to help out with the expenses associated with a pleasant evening out on the part of the woman, at least every now and then, isn't about the death of chivalry, or any other such nonsense. It's about an acknowledgment that times are tough, and that she's perfectly willing to be a part of a two-person team effort to make life just a little bit easier.

## **3. Never kiss on the first date.**

It simply isn't the 1950's anymore. Nobody's saying that a woman has to compromise her own sense of morality when it comes to intimacy, and romance should certainly be allowed to progress at its own pace. Still, if a man treats a woman to a nice evening out on the town, and she genuinely had a good time, a nice, direct kiss when he's preparing to tell her goodnight will tell him more about her desire to see him again in the future than words ever can. It's the ultimate way to make sure that he'll be thinking about her pretty constantly until the next time he talks to her.

## **4. Avoid awkward silence during dinner.**

This is a rule that seems to appeal more to an innate desire to not feel conscious of oneself while getting to know someone new than anything else, but it's actually fairly silly. After

all, you're in a restaurant to eat, and if dinner is the only chance you've given yourself to get to know your date for the evening, you're probably doing something wrong. Certainly, conversation shouldn't be avoided, but there's no point in breaking a sweat from trying to come up with filler just for the sake of avoiding silence. Silence among two people that are clearly attracted to one another can even denote a sense of comfort and compatibility, in its own way.

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

## **5. Talk at length about your personal history.**

Even if you've gotten to know your date before first meeting with them, such as through online chatting or phone conversations, the importance of pacing yourself when allowing them to get to know you in person really can't be stressed enough. Information about people you've dated in the past, or traumatic experiences that are sensitive talking points for you should probably be saved until you've spent a significant amount of time with your new partner. This is particularly true on first dates, and trying to reveal too much about yourself too quickly can be a good way to scare off someone that might actually be good for you.

*This article was written by Karl Stockton, a writer with interests in relationship dynamics, corporate culture, and dating trends. This particular piece was penned for speeddate.com; visit them to see an online dating service, a critical aspect of modern dating.*

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# After the Split: Get Past It in 4 Steps



By Marni Battista

for GalTime.com

## How to heal after a breakup

We've all been there. You just broke up with a boyfriend, husband, or long-term partner. Whether you thought he was "The One" or the one of the month or year, it never feels good.

Breakups are always hard because they represent the loss of a shared commitment. Even breakups that make logical sense are still emotionally painful. Moving on can be difficult. However, there are essential steps to getting past this that can ensure less time to move from breakdown to breakthrough.

Here is the Dating with Dignity, "Break Over," 4-Step Program to help you heal post-split.

## **4 Steps for Getting Past a Breakup**

### **Step 1: Give yourself permission to grieve the loss of your relationship.**

Even if it was the “right choice,” it still sucks. Whether it’s writing in your journal or talking with your sister, expressing you’re emotions will help you feel less alone. However, this does not mean that you should dwell on these negative feelings forever. Remind yourself that the end goal of your grieving process is to move forward.

Mentally check in with yourself while you’re feeling low. Ensure that you’re taking care of your basic needs (sleeping, eating, and exercising), maintaining friendships, and living your life while you’re healing. If you feel paralyzed by your emotions, or have a thought that you’ll never get out of the depression, you may want to seek professional help. This is a totally normal experience. Remember, YOU are your priority.

### **Step 2: Don’t go through your breakup alone.**

Support from friends and family is a big key to getting past your breakup. Spend time with people who value you. Even though you may want to be alone, separating yourself from friends and family is not the way to go. Keep in mind that many people have gone through a painful breakup. Therefore, your friends can help you get there and remind you that you will heal. Surrounding yourself with love and positivity is an excellent way to heal from this painful breakup.

Most importantly, make sure your ex isn’t part of this “Break Over” support system. Often it can be alluring to put him in the “friend” category prematurely because he “knows you better than anyone else.” However, avoid the temptation and create as much distance as possible.

### **Step 3: Learn important lessons through your breakup. Every “ex” is the next right step toward a better relationship.**

Although it might not seem like it now, moving through a breakup can be among the best ways to grow as a person. You can choose to come out of this experience as a stronger woman who now knows infinitely more than before the breakup.

It's important to fully understand the part you played in a breakup so you can ensure you don't make the same mistakes again. Even if he was the biggest jerk EVER and it seems like the bad ending was entirely his fault, you will best serve yourself by looking at your role in the relationship. Did you choose someone who wasn't good for you? Did you allow him to take advantage of your generosity? Did you ignore the signs that he really wasn't ready for a long-term commitment? Are you repeating the same mistakes over and over again in your relationships? Are you confused about what you really want from a relationship? Now is the time to look back at these things and clearly define what your relationship goals truly are. Take steps to change what's not working for you, and shift your energy so you can attract someone new (and better) to love.

#### **Step 4: Take care of yourself and stop playing the victim.**

The breakup didn't happen TO YOU. Choose to see yourself as something other than a victim and begin to see the pain as an opportunity to learn, grow and get closer to finding your best match.

Once you embrace this mindset, the fun can begin. Make every day a time to nurture yourself. Savor your coffee in the morning; take a relaxing yoga class or enjoy being outside. Don't lose your healthy routine; make sure to keep eating balanced meals and regularly exercising. Take this time to possibly find a new hobby and explore new interests.

Also, while a breakup signifies an end, it also indicates a new beginning. Take a little time out; don't make any major decisions such as getting a new job or moving to a new city.

And remember: you are not alone. You can make this time as fulfilling as the time you were in that relationship. There is a reason it ended, and you're going to be just fine.

Although it might seem like you may never get over a painful breakup, you can and you will. The Dating with Dignity, "Break Over," 4-Step Program is a great place to start taking care of yourself. Getting over your painful breakup can start today.

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## How to Turn a Summer Fling Into a Healthy Relationship



By Bernadette

McCadden

The summer time is notorious for producing flings, and why

not? When the sun is high and you and your man are together, everything seems perfect. It's easy to just have fun with your guy and not have it become too serious or worry about where it might lead. But what happens to your summer fling when the temperature cools and the leaves start changing? Do you make transform that fling into something more or just call it a great three months? If you decide you want to make the relationship into something more serious, make sure you go about it the right way. Create and maintain a healthy relationship by following a few simple rules:

**1. Communicate:** Talk to your man and express your wishes to continue the relationship and see if he wants to move to the next level as well. Communication is the most important thing in creating and maintaining a healthy relationship. Remember that this includes listening to his wants and needs, not just expressing your own.

**2. Manage your expectations:** Summer time means freedom and the demands of the fall can put stress on a relationship. Whether the autumn season means a new school year, living somewhere else or just going back to work, the change can make your relationship seem more difficult. Realizing and understanding that you might not see each other as much and life may not be as carefree as it was in the summer months can prevent future arguments. The adjustment back to work or school may be hard, but give it time and let things fall into place. Patience is key.

**Related:** [Five Steps to Turn A Date Into A Relationship](#)

**3. Be willing to work at it:** Relationships take work. Things won't always be perfect, but if you are both willing to put the time and effort into the relationship it can withstand anything. Don't give up at the first sign of trouble, but learn from your mistakes and push through.

**4. Support each other:** Going from a carefree fling to

something more substantial means that you need to put more emphasis on the other person's needs, not just your own. Learn more about his future goals and support him in his endeavors, showing him you care however you can.

**Related:** [Date Idea: Explore the Wilderness](#)

**5. Explore new things:** A summer fling insinuates that most of your time is spent in an informal atmosphere. Change things up; go out to dinner or take a walk in the park. Engaging in activities together can spark greater conversation so you can really get to know your guy.

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## Why It's OK to Have Kids Later In Life



By Ken Myers

It wasn't that long ago that women were expected to have kids in their 20's, and any woman that ventured into motherhood after she turned 30 was seriously testing her fertility waters, not to mention was destined to be an old mom who wouldn't be able to keep up with her young children. However as women continue to gain a stronger foothold in the corporate world and are experiencing a shift in personal goals, they are also invoking a serious delay in when they decide to have kids; many are opting to have their children well into their 40's.

Actress Uma Thurman is a prime example of this trend. Thurman, who is 42, just recently welcomed her third child into the world, and while many fans have rallied behind her in support, an equal amount have pronounced disgust at her decision to have kids so late in life, holding fast to the notion that women need to be young moms to be good moms.

So why are women waiting longer to have kids these days? Here are five reasons that many women have decided it's OK to wait to have kids until in your 30's or even 40's:

**1. Their career comes first:** It's taken a long time for women to gain equality in the workplace, and many women are reluctant to give that newfound career equivalence up to have kids. Instead they are opting to further their career first and have kids second, whereas not too long ago it was the other way around.

**Related Link:** [Keira Knightley Talks Balancing Love and Her Career](#)

**2. Time spent with their spouse is more important:** Many women are opting to spend more quality time with their spouses before trading in alone time for time spent with kids. This is usually done in an effort to experience as much of life as possible with their significant other while they're still young, instead of waiting until the kids are out of the house

to do so.

**Related Link:** [Prince William and Kate Squeeze In Alone Time In Canada](#)

**3. Their education is taking the front seat:** With more education options available and many people choosing to further their education by pursuing their masters and doctorate degrees, the decision to have kids early is being put on the backburner.

**4. Achieving financial security is a priority:** Most parents will tell you that you'll never be fully ready to have kids; however, despite this, many couples are putting a higher value on ensuring they have a more guaranteed financial security net in place before they decide to try having kids.

**5. Personal maturity:** These days many women are recognizing that they simply don't feel ready to have children at such a young age, and are waiting to have kids until they've developed more as an adult.

Whether you decide to have kids in your 20's or your 40's makes no difference, no matter what anyone else may say. Sure, some women may have more trouble getting pregnant right away the longer they wait to have kids, but your age has no bearing on your ability to be a good mother.

*Ken Myers the editor in chief is a frequent contributor of [www.gonannies.com](http://www.gonannies.com). Ken helps acquiring knowledge on the duties & responsibilities of nannies to society.*

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# Do You Have To Kiss A Lot Of Frogs To Find Your Prince?



By Dr. Jane Greer

for GalTime.com

## learning from failed relationships

Jennifer Aniston has finally found her prince, and it wasn't easy. After several failed, and very public relationships, she has found love. Jennifer's boyfriend Justin Theroux, whom she had dated for fifteen months, asked her to marry him. And she accepted.

Now clearly John Mayer, Vince Vaughn and the other men she was involved with were anything but frogs; however, they were not the right guys for her, or the answer to her finding happiness. They were, though, testimony to her willingness to break out of her comfort zone and explore different types of men. She didn't allow herself to fall into the habit of typecasting a boyfriend, repeating the same negative patterns

and thinking there was only one kind of guy for her.

I recently talked to one of my patients about the ending of her long-term relationship. She was in that difficult place that follows the aftermath of a break-up. She did, however, do something that she never would have done before. She was willing to take the chance of going on a blind date. Much to her surprise it went well, especially because she told me he was so different from the kind of guy she would usually consider dating. She is now in a new, exciting relationship. This reminds me of Jennifer, who remained open, rather than closing off her options, by dating various kinds of men as she searched for her dream guy.

Throughout dating different guys, Jennifer Aniston held onto her vision of what she was looking for and seeking in a partner. To put it another way, she had a clear image of her prince. In 2011, she told People, "I'm really picky. When I feel it, I feel it." She knew he was wandering around out there somewhere, and she wasn't willing to settle. Ironically enough, she connected with Justin Theroux on the set of Wanderlust, a movie they were filming together. Her instincts were right on target. Because she never gave up, even when confronted with the intense betrayal and heartache she suffered along the way, she was finally able to find the soul mate she was seeking.

Jennifer is a great role model for any woman who has experienced betrayal. Despite the hardships she's endured in her various relationships, she was able to learn and grow from them. She persevered and remained optimistic in the face of the heartbreak and the disappointment she sustained. She rose above public judgments thrown her way, and instead stayed true to herself, trusting her own judgment. Because she had the courage of her convictions and gave herself the room to explore, she was ultimately able to heal from her pain and find her true love.

May they live happily ever after.

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# Celebrity Couples That Have a Kid-Free Marriage



By Jessica Smith

Parenthood, that is, bringing a child into this world with your own DNA, is a miracle. Sure, it's an extraordinary undertaking and a definite blessing, but it can also be one giant pain in the butt. As a result, deciding to have children as a married couple is a gargantuan step that will forever change your lives. Although you can expect to lose your privacy and most likely your mind, you can also expect to feel love and gratitude beyond anything you've ever experienced. However great these rewards, and perhaps because of the many potential troubles, these Hollywood couples remain

kid-free:

**Related Link:** [Best Celebrity Dads \(Who Also Make Great Husbands\)](#)

**1. Prince William and Kate Middleton:** As a royal couple, there's undoubtedly a lot of pressure on Prince William and Kate. The whole world is waiting for the confirmation on a baby bump—which despite rumors, still doesn't exist—but no one is anticipating it more than the lovebirds themselves. Although they've only been married for a little more than a year and have been busy on tour for most of that time, they have pregnancy plans to bring a little prince or princess into this world soon. We suspect that the Duke and Duchess will announce their pregnancy by New Year's Eve.

**2. Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum:** Could this couple be more beautiful? After Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum first made their debut together in the movie *Step Up*, they've been married for three years. This dancing couple is in their young thirties, and although they do plan on having children in the future, they're still not sure when. With their hectic lives and crazy schedules, their main focus is on having enough time for each other.

**3. Fergie and Josh Duhamel:** Let's forget about the fact that Josh Duhamel was accused of cheating on Fergie, since she has decided to forget about the matter herself, and instead focus on the dream-fulfilling marriage these two now have—literally. Nine years ago, Fergie read a tabloid about a dream that Duhamel had about her, and she later asked him if it was a good dream. His answer eventually led them to a marriage. Though they've been married for four years now and want to start a family, they still remain kid-free. Time's ticking away, so they'd better hurry before it's too late!

**4. Rachel Ray and John Cusimano:** Lately, the only coverage Rachel Ray and John Cusimano have been getting isn't so happy.

Though you can't always believe everything you hear, the rumor mill has been churning up reports of a potential split for this couple. Even before these rumors, however, the two had no plans of parenthood. Ray says that she puts too many hours into her career to even consider having time to raise a child. Parenthood just isn't in the cards for this couple, and if the rumors are true it might be for the better!

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

**5. Jay Leno and Mavis Leno:** It only took Jay Leno three days after meeting Mavis to know that he wanted to marry her, but she wasn't even sure she ever wanted to marry anyone. After falling in love, she married Leno on the same day his parents were married. In the thirty years they've been married, they have always been sure about keeping their marriage child-free. The couple admits that they simply have zero interest in being parents.

**In what ways have children affected your marriage? Share your comments below!**

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## 6 Tips for Texting Your New Crush





By Emily Hellman

Ah, the joys of texting. Texting seems like the ideal way to communicate, right? Simple, easy, and to the point. Texting can even define celebrity relationships, like Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson's. Rob reportedly used to text Kristen 400 times a month, Kristen allegedly broke off her affair with Rupert Sanders through a text message before the affair was exposed, and now, after their breakup, it's been rumored that Rob will ONLY communicate with Kristen via texts.

**So what happens when we jump the gun and start replacing real communication with texts?**

**Related Link:** [How to Communicate the Need for Communication](#)

Although women aren't the only sex that does this, I have to admit we do it more. We say something coy and seemingly innocent like, "I had a great time last night. I always have fun with you. You make me smile... I can't wait to see you again!" and he writes back, "me 2". We're dumbfounded. You, too...what? You had fun, too? You always have fun with me, too? I make you smile, too; You can't wait to see me again, too? All of the above?? Or...wait...are you too busy to come up with an original reply? Or too distracted? Maybe by some hot chick? Or maybe you just don't care enough to take five seconds to write

more than that? Or maybe you're not interested anymore? Are we breaking up? Have you already moved on???

This all seems silly to you men out there I'm sure, but unfortunately some women inherently function this way.

Here are some easy tips to follow if you choose to use texts to communicate early in a relationship:

**1. Don't have expectations.** When you send a text, it should be to relay information or just to say "Hello." You can't be tied to a specific response, or you're doomed to be disappointed.

**2. Don't expect "feelings" to be reciprocated through a text.** Some people just aren't comfortable with – or sure of – the way they are feeling, so trying to put their feelings into words on a phone just isn't possible.

**3. Be aware of your partner's circumstances.** Don't text them in the middle of a work day and expect an immediate response!

**4. Don't put time limits on a response, and don't play games.** Enough said.

**5. Don't make assumptions.** If you get a short response (or no response at all), give them the benefit of the doubt and don't assume something is wrong.

**6. Fight the urge to read into a text conversation.** If something is bothering you or you don't understand something, it needs to be discussed in person. A phone call or face-to-face conversation is required at this point!

So remember – texting is meant for the straightforward, not the emotional. Men, take a second to TRY to respond with more than a word or two. Women, give the guy a break. They don't process like we do. Save the texting for directions, times, "I'm running late", and maybe some fun, harmless flirting.

*Emily Hellman is the founder and CEO of [www.CaliberMatch.com](http://www.CaliberMatch.com),*

*where she uses her dating and matchmaking expertise to give a personal touch to those seeking love online. She couples her background and degree in Psychology and coaching with her passion for helping others find and maintain healthy relationships. Emily is married and has two daughters.*

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## 6 Things Women Do that Scare Men Off



By SMF Marcus

Osborne for GalTime.com

### Don't make these mistakes

We over at Your Straight Male Friends never claim to be relationship experts. But we are *dude* experts. We've got you covered there.

I have an inbox full of emails from ladies trying to understand the men in their lives. As I recently sifted through them, I noticed one particular question over and over again: **Why do guys seems to vanish after a few dates?** Well ladies– sometimes it IS something that you are doing or saying that makes a man want to run for the hills.

**Related Link:** [Top 5 Truths About Women, According to Men](#)

Here are some potential early-in-the-relationship dating fumbles that set an alarm off for most guys. Stop yourself before you make one of these mistakes with a man you just started dating.

**1. Ex-Talk** – Ex-boyfriends will come up. And from my perspective, exes *should* come up. I’ve always found that knowing a little bit about the ex and why that relationship didn’t work out is healthy and informative. You can learn a lot about a person by listening to how they talk about their former partner. But when that “talk” makes it obvious that you are still carrying a torch for your ex-boyfriend– or worse, you show symptoms of stalker-like aggressiveness, you won’t be getting a call back. What you should be getting is therapy.

**Related Link:** [Top 10 Things Guys Wish They Could Say...](#)

**2. Baby-Making** – Sure, it’s perfectly reasonable to want kids. But no guy wants to be sized up for fatherhood at the outset of the courtship. There’s a hint of desperation in bringing up the topic too early. Even if you’re THINKING about babies, keep it to yourself. Let me be totally honest here. Those first few weeks of a new relationship, men are thinking about two things: “Do I like and respect this woman enough to pursue a long-term relationship... and when are we going to be intimate?”

**3. Meeting The Parents** – Parental introductions are a major

step. Nothing puts the exclamation point on the statement, “We’re a couple!” quite like meeting mom and dad. And most dudes are not down for that with just a few dates logged in. Don’t push– it comes off as desperate and manipulative, especially within the first few weeks of dating.

**4. Being Controlling** – Some people can’t help themselves. They just have to manage every situation. That behavior repels guys, in particular. Don’t try to dress him, don’t try tell him what to eat, don’t try to get him to exercise... or to get a job. You started going out with him in whatever state he was in, accept him or move on. Don’t fall into the typical trap, “He’d be perfect if I could just get him to change...”

**Related Link:** [When You Should Treat a Man Like a Woman](#)

**5. Claim-Staking** – You’re not a couple until you’re a *couple*! Four dates in and you’re changing your Facebook relationship status? That sound you hear is the screeching rubber and a sonic boom as that guy cracks the sound barrier trying to get away from you. Have “the talk” about where the relationship stands at some point, but give yourself and him the time and space to enjoy the launch of this blossoming romance. It’ll all happen in time. Or it won’t.

**6. Sharing Past Relationship History Too Soon** – This is a delicate subject, so tread lightly. This conversation can be uncomfortable to most long-term partners, imagine how odd it is to the new guy to be getting grilled about his previous relationship history after just a few dates. It’s an absolute requirement to have this talk at some point, but it’s got to be handled delicately. And whatever you do, unless he’s asking, do not offer up the intimate details of your physical and intimate exploits... the dude does not want to hear it. And he’ll make sure he won’t by not dialing your digits again. Ever.

What are some other dating don't's you have experienced?

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## 5 Ways to Bond with Your Partner



By Jessica Nappi

It's Monday morning and your alarm clock goes off just as it does every week. You still have to shower, pick out an appropriate outfit and, with luck, even squeeze in some breakfast. But before you find the strength to start your day, you feel a slight tug on your arm. A longing pull from your beau followed by a whisper so soft you can barely make it out makes you want to stay in bed for the rest of your life. "Stay with me," your partner says. Of course, even the most romantic words often can't overshadow the piles of work

you have waiting for you on your desk. If you're tired of your daily routine and stressed about missing out, consider these five ways to put your life on hold and keep your partner in bed:

**Related Link:** [Reduce Stress and Maximize Romance](#)

**1. Convince your partner it's 'World Stay in Bed Day':** 'World Stay in Bed Day' is an actual holiday that falls on September 25<sup>th</sup>, but most people don't know that. This sounds like a legitimate enough of an excuse to stay in bed, and even if you don't have the exact day, it can be a little secret for you and your partner. Everyone deserves to stay in bed in for an entire day once in a while, and a day named after this guilty pleasure is the perfect way to justify it.

**2. Date idea:** Time spent together in bed can be far more romantic than any date night out, and much cheaper to boot. Lure your partner to stay and cuddle by making them breakfast in bed, but don't just stop there. Treat yourself and your partner by eating all three meals in bed, and even throw dessert in there to assure that neither of you want to set foot out of bed. Plus, when you're in your bedroom, you don't have to worry about too much PDA.

**3. Movie marathon:** Everyone needs an occasional movie marathon day. You can get your work done later. Consider buying or renting both movies that you and your partner enjoy and some new ones the neither of you have seen. That way, you can recite lines and bond over the movies that you love, but also keep your interests peaked by watching movies you've never seen.

**4. Plan ahead:** The more you plan, the better off you will be. Call in sick the night before, or use that precious vacation time. Either way, an excused day off will clear your mind of everyday stresses, whereas an unplanned

absence leaves room for feeling tense. You and your significant other need to take the day off together, and pack on the overload of affection and cuddling in bed.

**Related:** [Five Signs He's Not Ready to Commit](#)

**5. Massages:** As relaxing as a day in bed is, a massage can make it even more soothing. Take turns giving each other massages and focus on the areas that bother you most. After a massage, you'll be incredibly calm, and neither of you will want to leave your bed. To top it off, massaging is a guaranteed way to raise oxytocin levels in the bloodstream, which is a bonding hormone that will make you feel closer as a couple.

How would you keep your partner in bed? Tell us below.

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## Can You Be 'Just Friends' After Dating?





By Matthew Sullivan

Many different writers and relationship experts, not to mention everyday people, have pondered the dilemma of whether or not two people can remain friends after they've dated. Clearly, this question has no easy answers. Whether or not a couple can remain friends after their exclusive relationship has ended depends on a host of different factors, especially the personalities of the individuals involved. In order to accurately answer this question, it's important to look at and consider the different scenarios that might lead to a friendship:

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

**1. Your relationship was very casual:** Sometimes two people date fairly informally before coming to the mutual conclusion that a relationship simply isn't in the cards. In this scenario, a friendship is a distinct possibility. For example, Kylie Minogue and French actor Olivier Martinez were courting back in 2007. Their relationship did not have much time to mature and they decided to split, however to this day they remain good friends. Casual courtships like this can easily turn into a solid friendship as long as both parties agree that a continued dating relationship is not the best idea.

It's always easy to still be friends when deep romantic feelings emotions have yet to develop between two people.

**2. Your relationship was more serious:** When relationships develop beyond the casual stage, a friendship becomes much less likely. Many people have attempted to befriend their exes, but it's rare that they have any long-term success. In many cases, this is because breakups in serious relationships are rarely, if ever, mutual. The idea of friendship serves as a consolation prize. The party that agrees is in the midst of being broken up with and eagerly agrees in hopes of hanging on and winning their lover back. When the two parties are operating on these different wavelengths, the new friendship rarely works.

**3. Neither party was wounded:** Of course, as with all things in life, there are always exceptions to that rule about serious relationships. Actors Bruce Willis and Demi Moore were married and had three daughters together, but their break up did not appear to be dramatic and they were further bonded in friendship by their responsibilities to their daughters. This made their separation one of the most amicable among celebrity couples. In fact, when Demi Moore later broke up with Ashton Kutcher, Bruce Willis was quite supportive of Moore. In the case of Willis and Moore and many similar situations, neither party was wounded from the breakup, meaning there are few lingering thoughts to make a new relationship with the ex.

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

**4. You've taken your time:** In order for a friendship to legitimately grow out of a romantic relationship, time is essential for both parties to heal and for the emotional connection to dissolve. A solid six months in which the former lovers do not speak is often necessary for the emotional wounds to heal and for each person to decide if a friendship would be helpful. After that period, the two parties can come together and attempt a friendship. However, even in that

situation, you can never guarantee success.

Remember, none of these scenarios are guaranteed to work out in these ways. Even more importantly, there isn't one answer that applies in all scenarios. It's best to know yourself when figuring out whether or not to try.

*Matthew is a freelance writer and lifestyle coach. He enjoys writing on various online lifestyle publications, including the DatingWebsite.com.*

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## How Celebrity Couples Celebrate Labor Day Weekend



By Whitney Baker

Labor Day weekend is often filled with beach and barbeque, giving people an opportunity for an extra day off before the

summer ends. Some celebrity couples like to keep things simple as they spend time together with the sand and the sun, while others add a little glitz and glam to the usual date plans.

In anticipation of the upcoming holiday weekend, let's look back at how the hottest duos in Hollywood celebrated Labor Day last year:

**1. Partying in Las Vegas:** Stars seem to flock to Sin City for a final summer blowout. Before she was on baby bump watch, Nicole 'Snooki' Polizzi hosted a bash at PURE Nightclub inside Caesar's Palace with then-boyfriend Jionni LaValle. That same night, Carmen Electra and her former fiancé Rob Patterson hosted a party at Nikki Beach in the Tropicana Hotel.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Venture Out on Labor Day](#)

**2. Lying Poolside:** Other celebrity couples prefer to focus on relaxing and soaking up the last bit of summer sun. Gabrielle Union and Dwayne Wade spent the afternoon at a Miami Pool with Wade's two sons, while Dave and Odette Annable enjoyed some newly-wedded bliss before celebrating their one-year anniversary in October.

**3. Saying "I Do":** Many celebrity couples choose to [tie the knot](#) over this three-day weekend. Last year, Lauren Bush wed David Lauren, son of fashion icon Ralph Lauren, on his private ranch in Telluride, Colorado. Additionally, Mark Ronson, a well-known DJ and the brother of designer Charlotte Ronson and DJ Samantha Ronson, and actress Josephine de la Baume celebrated their wedding with a two-day celebration in Aix de Provence, France. It sounds like the perfect way to mark the end of the summer.

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

**4. Hanging Out with Their Kids:** Some Hollywood pairs opt for a

more traditional route and enjoy low-key plans with their family. The Malibu Fair and Chili Cookoff was a popular spot last year: Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott took their kids, while Pink and her husband Carey Hart were there with their daughter. Also in Malibu, Nicole Richie and husband Joel Madden spent Labor Day on the beach with their two children.

**5. Working:** Even celebrities have to show up to work on a holiday once in a while. With the 13<sup>th</sup> season of *Dancing with the Stars* underway, many of the dancing duos, including Cheryl Burke and Rob Kardashian as well as Lacey Schwimmer and Chaz Bono, were spotted practicing for the next show. Similarly, Selena Gomez was in Colorado for her 'We Own the Night' tour, keeping her away from boyfriend Justin Bieber.

**What are your plans for Labor Day weekend? Tell us below.**