

# How to Successfully Date an Aspiring Entrepreneur



By Suzanne K. Oshima

It's easy to see the fairytale ending when you date an aspiring entrepreneur, but many don't realize all of the work it took for men like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, PayPal's Elon Musk and Bill Gates to be successful. The women who supported them in the early stages sacrificed just as much as the entrepreneurs themselves as they dealt with their stresses and lack of free time. Zuckerberg had to put in so much time at Facebook that his then-girlfriend Priscilla Chan made him sign a contract that called for "one date per week, a minimum of a hundred minutes of alone time, not in his apartment and definitely not at Facebook." A contract might seem a bit drastic, but it does demonstrate that it's clearly not easy to

date an aspiring entrepreneur. If you want your relationship to survive in the long term, consider these important tips:

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**1. See and understand his vision:** An aspiring entrepreneur appreciates someone who finds his unique idea as exciting as he does. Whatever they're planning is important to them, so caring about it is essential. Try to see and understand their vision while removing enough from the situation to give them the opportunity to take their minds off of work now and then.

**2. Be supportive, understanding and patient:** When you're dealing with an entrepreneur, there are going to be many times that they'll have to cancel plans at the last minute because of business. It's important for you to understand that it's not because he doesn't want to have date night, it's just because he simply couldn't. Entrepreneurs are under a lot of stress: the last thing they need is more stress from you.

**3. Make quality time:** As mentioned, entrepreneurs are always busy, so your time together will always be limited. Make the most of it, and enjoy your togetherness rather than complain that you can't be spending more time with them. Remember, quality is much more important than quantity.

**4. Set expectations:** Many aspiring entrepreneurs seem married to their business, so be clear on what you expect from your relationship as soon as it begins. Rather than make demands, politely tell them what you appreciate and expect from someone you're dating.

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**5. Live your own fulfilling life:** The majority of an entrepreneur's days, nights and weekends are going to be spent building the business, so be sure to have your own life to

occupy your time. Your [partner](#) will be happy to see that you're getting out and doing your own thing, instead of sitting around waiting for them to have free time.

**6. Prepare for Uncertainty:** Entrepreneurs are unconventional risk takers who never lead normal, 9-to-5, predictable jobs. It's important to look forward to the excitement of the inevitable ups and downs and embrace the uniqueness of your life together.

It's very easy to date a rich and successful entrepreneur, but very few people have what it takes to date an aspiring, struggling one. Overall, however, it can be an amazing experience. You just have to be willing to take the risks with them, and ultimately try to be someone who can add value to their life.

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## Miley Cyrus...Mr. and Mrs. Hannah Montana?





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

Celebrity stars shine so bright and we look up to them. Yet often we are puzzled when they fall, so Shrink Wrap is here to shed light on it all. Is there any love so pure and optimistic as the first? Believe it or not, 19-year old Miley Cyrus is engaged to her Australian beau Liam Hemsworth, 22. The couple have been together for three years, making Miley a mere 16 when they met.

[Is Miley too young to be planning her wedding?](#)

Media coverage of the pair is dripping with doubts over the everlasting nature of their romance. But Miley is no naïve little girl. She's faced scrutiny before for her brazen and mature moves, moves that pushed the boundaries of 'age appropriate' (or just plain appropriate). Consider her 2008 photo shoot with Annie Leibovitz. The *Vanity Fair* spread caused weeks of media uproar for printing images of Miley, then 15, gazing subtly over her shoulder draped in nothing but a satin sheet. Just last week, tabloids were gawking over photos of Miley in her notorious short shorts.

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But through it all, Miley has maintained the scrubbed up rep, stemming from her Disney days. Though bold and provocative, she's managed to avoid the club scene scandals that plague other tweens-turned-starlets. She's close with her family and boasts 6 million (yes, million) Twitter followers. Miley's been ranked several times among Forbes top Celebrity 100. She must be doing something right.

Even if youthful naïveté and the pressures of public scrutiny were removed from the equation, there is still a lot the couple has to deal with. But at the end of the day, Miley and Liam are two adults managing mega careers as well as an intimate relationship—no small feat. Most importantly, they are happy and ready to tackle whatever it takes to launch their new marriage. So here's to lending them support and congratulating them on their engagement.

**Have you had a loved one marry when you thought they were too young? How did you handle it?**

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## **Date From Hell: 10 Ways to Get Out of It, Tactfully**





By Sarah Ribeiro

Picture this: you're on a date and your potential partner walks in 30 minutes late. Plus, they're a sloppy, sweaty mess. As soon as you sit down, they make sure you're paying for your own meal and begin to check out the server, setting off all the red flags that romance isn't going to blossom. It's enough to make you dread the rest of the night if you haven't already bolted out of the restaurant. However difficult it might seem, there are better ways to handle situations like this. Check out these tips to leave that date from hell—with class:

**1. Try a do-over:** The “date from hell” might not be a bad person; maybe they're just nervous. Stop them mid-idiot and politely tell them that they're not currently coming across as a potential partner, but you'd like to try again. Set a date for a fresh beginning, and see what happens then.

**2. Ask for the bill:** Getting the check early is a clear sign that your date—and any sign of a relationship—is over. Doing this quickly cuts out any additional awkward time and keeps you from having to say flat-out how miserable you are.

**3. The white lie:** Sometimes it's better to be gentle with your let-down. Tell your date that you have plans you forgot about or that you left something important at home and you have to leave immediately. This prevents you from having to tell them how upset they're making you.

**4. Use your sense of humor:** Bad dates are usually some of the most memorable. You'll definitely be able to look back on your terrible experience and laugh. Stick around and gain some material for funny storytelling with your friends and future significant others.

**5. Be open-minded:** Your date might have underlying issues that are impeding the success of your night. Try to understand why they're acting the way they are, and you'll be able to see them in a better light.

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**6. Ask for a change of scenery:** Maybe part of the problem is that neither of you are comfortable in your location. Hating the loud, crowded bar filled with singles? Switch to a quiet, intimate couple's café—your new environment might bring a new attitude.

**7. Call for back-up:** If you're concerned that a date you've planned is going to get awkward, make arrangements beforehand. Prior to your date, ask a friend to call you halfway through the night. If things aren't going well, use your acting skills and tell your date there's been an emergency that you have to tend to immediately.

**8. Enjoy yourself:** Try to have a good time outside the date. There's sure to be something you can enjoy, even if it's not the person with you. Appreciate your meal or your surroundings and stay optimistic by entertaining yourself.

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**9. Take care of yourself:** Of course, if your date is being insulting, aggressive or threatening, you never need an excuse. Get up, leave and don't look back.

**10. Be honest:** Tell him kindly that you're not interested. If they're being such a painful date, chances are they're not interested either. It will save you both the trouble if you take the mature and truthful route.

**What are some ways you've gotten out of a bad date? Tell us your story below.**

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# Celebrity Couples Who Have Worn Out Their Welcome







By [Whitney Baker](#)

There are some celebrity couples that we love to hate. Sure, they annoy us, but we can't help but wonder what they'll do next. And then there are those couples that we want to go away. They're constantly in the news – and often, for the wrong reasons. Thanks to their outlandish behavior, we've forgotten why they're famous in the first place.

From their frisky displays of public affection to their willingness to do *anything* for attention, these five Hollywood pairs have us wishing that they'd break up already:

**1. Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt:** This couple first met when Lauren Conrad introduced them on *The Hills*, and we've been following their rocky romance ever since. After their reality show ended, the couple strived to stay in the spotlight with their alleged divorce, Montag's multiple plastic surgeries and her fledgling singing career. Most recently, Speidi has attracted attention by contacting their former – and estranged – co-stars through Twitter. These messages were ignored, making us wonder why we don't do the

same.

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**2. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West:** Although this new couple hasn't yet confirmed their relationship, they're certainly not keeping their feelings for each other under wraps. Taking their love from coast to coast, they've been spotted getting cozy at a restaurant opening in New York City as well as a Los Angeles Lakers game. Kardashian's even made a romantic fashion statement for her new man, sporting 'KW' earrings at numerous public appearances. Given Kardashian's romantic track record, here's to hoping this relationship doesn't surpass the 72-day mark.

**3. LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian:** Their relationship had a memorable start: the couple met when they co-starred in the Lifetime movie *Northern Lights*, and they instantly fell for each other; although, both were married at the time. Rimes and Cibrian have never been shy about their relationship, even going on public dates during their extramarital affair. From Rimes' revealing tweets to their constant PDA, it's time for this couple to get a room.

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**4. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and Jionni LaValle:** Just when we've grown accustomed to their outrageous behavior on *Jersey Shore*, Polizzi and LaValle shock us with a big announcement: they're engaged – and expecting a baby! Since promising to change her wild child ways, Polizzi says that her partying days are over and that "pregnancy just made [her] more mature." Still, the star can't help but attract attention, tweeting pictures of her cleavage and belly. When will enough be enough?

**5. Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth:** The on-again, off-again couple met on the set of *The Last Song* and quickly took their

chemistry off-screen, with Cyrus sharing private details of their relationship through her Twitter account. The former costars recently got engaged, but we're starting to care less and less about their next moves.

**Which celebrity couple do you most wish would disappear? Share your thoughts below.**

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## Three Far Flung Honeymoon Destinations



By Vanessa Roberts

Honeymoon planning might be the least stressful and most fun

part of planning your wedding, but there's still a lot to consider. While celebrities such as Carrie Underwood, Molly Sims, Fergie and Tiger Woods choose luxurious locations like Maui, Tahiti, the Bahamas or the open seas aboard a \$57 million yacht, we regular folks don't have to sacrifice our savings to have an unforgettable honeymoon. You just have to know where to go.

There are some honeymoon destinations that are not only insanely beautiful, but that also won't drain your bank account. Of all the places I've traveled, here are my three favorites:

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### **1. Koh Tao, Thailand.**

Koh Tao is a tiny slice of paradise close to the Gulf of Thailand that will steal your heart and let you honeymoon like a star for a fraction of the cost. It has crystal-clear turquoise water and luxurious beaches, making it hands-down the most beautiful island I've ever visited. Plus, the locals are very friendly, and everything is inexpensive. And it's not just the scenery and cheap prices that make this 13-mile island a honeymoon favorite. There are also boat cruises,

snorkeling trips, world-renowned scuba diving, zip-lining and mountain hiking. When the day is done, you and your partner can settle down with \$10 luxurious massages, to-die-for dining right on the beach and 2-for-1 happy hour. Now *that's* what I call honeymooning!

## **2. Yangshuo, China.**

Surrounded by hundreds of mountains in central China, Yangshuo is a destination for the adventurous couple who aren't afraid to step outside of their comfort zones. From bustling walkways filled with bargains and delicious dining to bike riding through mountain-lined dirt roads and bamboo rafting down the Li River, this natural wonder will give you a honeymoon you're sure never to forget. Don't let the language barrier deter you! It's easily overcome by downloading any translation app to your smartphone.

All in all, this little mountain paradise is the perfect place for newlyweds who not only have keen senses of adventure and open minds, but are also looking to kick off their honeymoon with a bang.

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## **3. God's Own Country (New Zealand)**

I never understood why New Zealand was referred to as God's

Own Country until we stepped off the plane and onto the South Island. To say we were struck speechless is an understatement. The South Island of New Zealand is a spot at the bottom of the world that you have to see to believe.

Just looking at the soaring mountains and glacial lakes is exciting, but there are plenty of things to do in New Zealand as well. Like adventure? You can go bungee jumping, skydiving, surfing, hiking and more. If you prefer to relax, you can take a wine tour, go canoeing, explore the quaint towns or even see the sights from *The Lord of the Rings*. There's no shortage of things to do here, especially if you want to start your married life in a truly thrilling and unforgettable style. How many celebrities can say they did that?

Photos: Courtesy of Vanessa Roberts

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## Is it Time to X-Out Your Ex?





By Jane Greer, Ph.D. for GalTime

If you're still carrying around old baggage from a past relationship, use these tips to help with letting go.

Cameron Diaz is a good example of someone who does not burn her bridges of love. From A-Rod's statement that he cherished her even after they broke up to her working with Justin Timberlake on a movie after they had a relationship, it is clear that she doesn't cut people completely out of her life once the romance is gone. Some might say that's a good thing, but what could it mean to her future relationships? If you've kept up with your exes, you might want to keep reading:

Not all relationships end on a bad note. Sometimes the timing isn't right, or the spark is gone, but you really still like the other person. Is it so bad to text or call every once in a while to see how they are doing? It is especially easy to keep in touch these days. How many of you have looked up an ex on social media, like Facebook, and then sent a friend request? What harm could that cause? How much contact with an ex is okay? The answer is, it depends.

To begin with, does your current partner know you are in touch with your former partner? If so, and they don't see it as a threat and truly don't mind, then I would say a little contact with your old lover is harmless. If anything, that would speak to the trust that exists in your new relationship. But if you are keeping it a secret, that could be a red flag that there is more going on that you are not comfortable enough with to share with your new flame. If what you are doing with your ex is taking away from your new relationship—either by creating problems or by taking energy away from your new relationship—that might be an indication that it is time to close that door.

Finally, there is the chance that you are fueling your ex's possible hope that you will get back together, or maybe you are keeping that door open just in case things don't work out this time around. If you are aware of that, shift your energy to the future, instead of the past, because it is probably holding you back.

Sometimes it is what brought you together that endures. Other times, though, you might want to remember why you broke up in the first place.

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## **Celebrity Women Who Built a Business Empire With Their Husbands**







By Deanna Atkins

While our culture thrives on talent-less females to entertain us as we get out guilty reality tv fill, it's more than refreshing to see celebrity gal's with brains, and million dollar net worths, to give women back the reputation we deserve. All women are beautiful, bright and capable, and if the media would stop flooding its audience with Lindsey Lohan's latest relapse, we would be able to hear more about celebrity women who make remarkable role models. Female power is certainly something to embrace and there are plenty of women in the spotlight who used their platform to build lucrative businesses. Below are a handful of leading ladies that chose to make the most of their celebrity, by making themselves successful empires, of course with the help of their supportive and loving husbands:

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**1. Bethenny Frankel:** Reality star, entrepreneur, wife and mother, Bethenny Frankel, is easily envied by every woman in the world. By combining her passion for healthy, natural foods

with her craving for cash, she developed and sold Skinnygirl Cocktails for over \$100 million to Fortune Brands' Beam Global in 2011. We were able to see Bethenny's dream become reality over season's of Bravo's series, The Real Housewives of New York, and Bethenny and her husband, Jason Hoppy's, own show, Bethenny Ever After. Together the duo brought Skinnygirl to life as Jason brought his background in finance to the table to ensure that Bethenny's business would flourish, and it did more than that.

**2. Tori Spelling:** From actress to author to executive producer of her own show, with husband Dean McDermott, Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood, it's no wonder she stays so skinny, she can't possibly have enough time to eat. Coming a long way since her roll as Donna Martin on 90210, she happily resides in Los Angeles with her hubby, their three children and another baby on the way. She's written four books with her first, sTORI Telling, on the New York Times Bestsellers list, operated a bed and breakfast with Dean, created a signature fashion and jewelry line and manages her own site, ediTORIal by Tori Spelling.

**3. Beyonce Knowles:** Bringing in a whopping \$87 million a year is nice, but it's even nicer once you've got rapper, producer, co-owner of the NJ Nets and entrepreneur, Jay Z, to put a ring on it, making their combined net worth over \$800 million. This brilliant couple brings in the dough with their chart topping hits, but Beyonce also acts, designs, and models which is why she gained the #2 spot on Forbe's 2010 list of 100 Most Powerful and Influential Celebrities in the World. Hollywood's hottest pair showed off their business smarts when they trademarked their first child's name, 'Blue Ivy' which is expected to become an empire of its own.

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**4. Lisa Vanderpump:** Even if you knew her dog, Jiggy's, name

before her husband, Ken Todd's, there's still no denying that Lisa VanderPump's bank account is as obscenely large as it is because of her adoring spouse and business partner. Born in England and a Real House Wives of Beverly Hills star, the Britt earned her \$65 million net worth co-owning 26 restaurants with her hubby of 29 years. Hard work payed off as she now thoroughly enjoys her luxurious lifestyle while designing shoes and clothes, developing a skin care line and writing for Beverly Hills Lifestyle Magazine.

**5. Jill Zarin:** Entrepreneur, business woman and Real Housewives of New York City reality star, Jill Zarin and husband and businessman Bobby Zarin own a home furnishing and fabric store on the Lower East side. Recently Zarin has expanded her business to the fashion world, as she created 'Skweez Couture' a fashionable and functional shapewear line for women. She has also launched her own jewelry line and bedding line, 'Jill Zarin Home.' The couple's business was big enough originally, but Jill's most recent endeavors are expanding her empire even further.

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## How To Ease Your Nerves Before a Blind Date





By Nisha Ramirez

You're sure to have a lot of troubling questions before any first date. What should you wear? What will you say? Will you make a good first impression? However, when you're set up on a date with someone you've never met before, new questions about your mysterious potential partner are added to the mix. What will they look like? What will their personality be like? As a result, blind dates can be both the most exciting and the most nerve-wracking romantic experiences of all. Take a deep breath, count back from ten and read our tips on how to stay calm before a blind date:

**1. Spend the day with friends:** Creating a relaxing and easygoing atmosphere early in the day can set the tone for a relaxing and easygoing date in the evening. Go shopping, see a movie, eat lunch with your friends or just do something you love. A fun-filled day will leave you in a positive mood and give you plenty to talk about on your blind date. Plus, if you wear an outfit that can easily go from day to night, you won't have to rush home and change your outfit 50 times.

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**2. Exercise:** Before you slip on that hot outfit, work out! Exercise releases endorphins that will make you feel happy and confident. You don't have to hit the gym or a high-cardio Zumba class; it's enough to dance to music around your house. If you time your workout well, you'll still have a glow from your improved blood flow when you show up on your date.

**3. Think positive:** When trying to lose weight, experts tell their clients to picture a thinner version of themselves for added confidence and motivation. Why not try this for calming your pre-blind date jitters? Take a warm bath or sit in your living room while meditating on what you hope your date will look like and how the evening will go. By visualizing your evening as pleasant, you'll stay in that positive mindset.

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**4. Be fashionably late:** If you still feel nervous after trying the steps above, arrive at your date a bit late. This way you can scope out the venue and get a chance to see your potential mate before they see you. Just don't stand your date up. If you really have to leave, be sure that you've at least spent some time getting to know them first.

**How do you ease your nerves before a blind date? Share your comments below.**

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## **Top Five Celebrity Couples Who Have Made Love Last**



By Tammy Warner

It sometimes seems like every married couple in Hollywood is filing for a separation, an annulment or a divorce within a few months of their wedding day. There are a few celebrity marriages, however, that have managed to last despite the unique challenges that fame can present. Here are some couples who have defied the odds:

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**1. Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne:** Perhaps the most unique couple on this list are Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne, who have been married since 1982. The Osbournes say that their relationship is stronger now than ever. Their marriage has definitely faced obstacles, but the two have beaten a hectic touring schedule and even a drug addiction. The pair have stood by each other through many life events, even working together on projects,

and their 30th anniversary is this year.

**2. John Travolta and Kelly Preston:** *John Travolta* and Kelly Preston were friends for several years before dating, but once they were both finally single, Cupid's arrow struck. The duo were married in a quick ceremony in Paris, France, in 1991. Their relationship has overcome allegations of infidelity—an unfortunately common problem for many celebrity couples—and the loss of their son. However, the two are still going strong.

**3. Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson:** Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson met in 1981, but romance didn't blossom until 1985. The couple recently celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary, and both claim that they continue to fall more and more in love with each other. When most other celebrity marriages seem to be falling apart, Hanks and Wilson's is a glowing exception.

**4. Jon Bon Jovi and Dorothea Hurley:** Like the Osbournes, Jon Bon Jovi and Dorothea Hurley have dealt with difficult touring schedules, drug abuse and infidelity throughout their long marriage. Despite the presence of these major issues, the couple always works through them. Bon Jovi still states publicly that Hurley "is the best ever."

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**5. Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith:** Even though rumors have claimed that the marriage between Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith is over, both of them state that nothing could be further from the truth. Married in 1997, they are happily raising two children who appear to be following in their parents' famous footsteps. They state that the reason they have made it in Hollywood is because they "continue to grow together," and they will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

These five couples aren't the only celebrities who have

managed to make their relationships succeed, but they are some of the brightest glowing examples. As they show, whether you are a celebrity or not, relationships can last with enough work, patience and determination.

*Tammy is a freelance writer who contributes to various websites and [www.christiandating.org](http://www.christiandating.org). She enjoys writing about relationship issues.*

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## Best Celebrity Dads (Who Also Make Great Husbands)



By Che Blackwood



At times, dads seem to know everything. They're the ones we can always turn to, whether we need advice on how to drive manual transmission or just want to play soccer. That's why we love them. However, the greatest lesson a dad can teach is what he'll do for those he loves, including being an awesome husband. By keeping his relationship strong, a father is able to ensure his entire family rests atop a foundation that can weather anything. Here are some celebrity dads who have unlocked the secrets to a strong family by keeping both their kids *and* wives happy:

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**1. Brad Pitt:** While Brad Pitt might not be married yet, he definitely qualifies as a great father and partner. From taking time out of his busy schedule to see his children every day to stressing the importance of family dinners, Brad makes sure his Hollywood lifestyle is kept separate from his home life. To keep his family close, he even makes sure Angelina Jolie only works five days a week. Meanwhile, before proposing to Jolie, Pitt spent a year consulting the best jewelers to ensure the ring would fit her hand and lifestyle perfectly. With such attention to detail, he's able to guarantee a happy life for himself, his soon-to-be wife and their six beautiful children.

**2. David Beckham:** For this gorgeous athlete, it can't be easy to act in ways that are more impressive than his jawline. But, outside of being a soccer star, model and fashion icon, David Beckham's most notable role is that of a father. By dressing up as the Easter Bunny last April, taking each boy to sporting events on their own and constantly being photographed cuddling with his kids in public, it's obvious that his family is his highest priority. However, being an active father doesn't mean he neglects his famous wife, Victoria Beckham. The two were recently caught kissing at a sporting event, and are often off vacationing with their family. Plus, having just had their

fourth child, we think it's obvious Victoria still find's David's jawline as impressive as we do!

**3. Will Smith:** Will Smith has a reputation as being one of the nicest celebrities around, and his relationship with his children is proof of that. While we thought dedicating a song to his son Trey was adorable, his love has only become more obvious throughout the years. Starring in movies alongside his son Jaden, supporting his daughter Willow's singing career and taking the time to cheer for his kids at their school sporting events, Smith is a great example of an active, loving father. Meanwhile, he and wife Jada Pinkett Smith keep their relationship strong amidst divorce rumors. The power duo has never been shy about the work a marriage takes, and Smith is a strong advocate of keeping his love life creative.

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**4. Gavin Rossdale:** This rocker dad always manages to keep fatherhood cool. Allowing his sons, Kingston and Zuma, to rock Mohawks and crazy styles, Gavin Rossdale knows the importance of self-expression. By taking only one son on tour with him at a time, Rossdale gets alone time with his children while allowing them to experience a well-supervised rock star life. Rossdale is also careful to spend just as much alone time with his wife, musician Gwen Stefani. Since their daily work schedules don't start until after five in the afternoon, the two spend every morning together.

**5. Matthew McConaughey:** Matthew McConaughey is a father of two with his fiancée, Brazilian model Camila Alves. This laidback superstar has taken on fatherhood with ease, defining parenthood as a "wild adventure." Matthew can often be spotted jogging with a baby strapped to his chest or walking on the beach with his kids in tow. He loves telling amusing and adorable stories about his children. McConaughey and Alves have similar mindsets: they both believe that the secret to a

strong family is simply being happy. As such, the two do whatever it is that pleases them, and at this point, nothing brings them more joy than being together.

Who are some of your favorite celebrity dads? Tell us below!

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# Love in the Limelight: Why You Should be Happy You Aren't Famous



By Edwin

Finding love is hard, and it's one thing that being rich and

famous doesn't make easier. Although people like you and I might have moments of dating delights and despair, we at least get to experience these in private. Because of all of the attention they get, celebrities don't have it easy when it comes to making a love connection. However, it's not all that different for them. Here are some things we can all learn from watching the pitfalls of dating in the spotlight:

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**1. Make time for love.** Plenty of celebrity couples have ultimately split because of conflicting schedules that forced them to spend too much time apart. Lady Gaga recently called off her relationship with Taylor Kinney because of the demands of her Born This Way Ball tour. However, even those of us without international tour schedules need to make love a priority if we want a lasting relationship. Take a look at your schedule and figure out what you're willing to put aside to make room for love. If your relationship is important to you, you might have to sacrifice small things like yoga or book club.

**2. Don't give up your successes:** Rihanna has talked about how her fame often intimidates her potential suitors. Similarly, some men can be intimidated by regular girls with successful careers, healthy bank accounts or nice cars. Keep your radar up for guys who feel uncomfortable with your success. If they seem more interested in getting you out of the boardroom and into the kitchen, then it's time to move on. And men, embrace a woman's strength and independence—don't try to smother it. She will treat you the same in return.

**3. Keep some things private:** No matter what they do, stars have the whole world watching. Even a regular Joe or Jane who hooks up with a celebrity is subjected to an onslaught of paparazzi and gossip rag rumors. However, even if you're not

in the spotlight, your love life will often be scrutinized by friends and family. To keep your relationship going strong, be sure that some things are reserved for just the two of you. Don't overshare with your friends and don't dish about your exes to your current love interest.

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**4. Show the real you:** Celebrities are often so used to keeping up their professional image that it's hard for them to reveal their true selves. Similarly, with online or speed dating, it's tough to tell what's true and what's just advertising. Make sure you don't oversell yourself on dating profiles, and be willing to show the real you. After all, a true love connection has to be based in reality.

**5. Take a chance:** Winona Ryder shared a story where she met a nice guy, but when he revealed that he had always had a crush on her, she couldn't trust his motives. She wondered if he just wanted to meet someone famous or if he really liked her. Ultimately, trust is a key issue for all relationships, famous or otherwise. For love to take flight, both parties have to let their guard down and take a risk on letting someone in. While it's always best to proceed cautiously, don't be so guarded that you scare love away.

*Edwin is a writer for Celebutaunt and content specialist for USDish.*

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**Father Knows Best: 5**

# Relationship Rules Dad Taught Us



By Ché Blackwood

Fathers have the ability to influence all aspects of their daughters' lives, including areas most wouldn't even imagine. According to numerous psychological studies, a father's temperament, sense of humor and even facial features are stored in his daughter's memory bank, becoming favorable traits in her search for a partner. While some of this happens automatically, most dads aren't exactly passive when it comes to doling out their wisdom, *especially* when it comes to dating. In honor of Father's Day, we've compiled the five best pieces of relationship advice ever given by dear ol' Dad:

**Related:** [Your Mom's Top 5 Relationship Mistakes: Don't Make Them](#)

**1. Teach them how to treat you:** Every woman remembers the night she brought home her first boyfriend, and how terrified she was when Dad brought him into the next room for “a talk.” Sure, it mortified us then, but Dad was ensuring our dates knew his standards up front and that we were to be treated accordingly...*or else*. When you're on your own, it's still important to set ground rules at the beginning of every relationship. Being confident enough to strike out behavior you wouldn't normally accept without fear of scaring your new beau away is the key to creating the type of relationship you ultimately want.

**2. Love isn't a guessing game:** Dad was there on prom night, shocked by how beautiful we looked in our poufy pastel dresses. He was there at graduation with flowers and a look of pride on his face. And when we couldn't stop crying over our first breakup, Dad came armed with a box of tissues and an arsenal of hugs. We never had to wonder if he loved us or if he was interested in our lives because his behavior showed it. In the dating scene, you also shouldn't have to wonder whether your partner cares about you. Even if they're usually busy, it shouldn't be a stretch to expect our honey to accompany us to dinner parties or pencil in mid-afternoon phone calls just to say “hello.”

**3. Learn to spot red flags:** Whether forbidding us from hanging around with a bad crowd or scowling at our leather-clad boyfriends, Dad seemed to judge people based on his own invisible list of “Disqualifying Characteristics.” It frustrated us when we were 16, but his dedication to our well-being mattered. As an adult, be sure to make your own list of “Disqualifying Characteristics.” If you can't stand someone who drinks too often, has a short temper or simply refuses to clean up after dinner, it's important to keep a mental record of things that bother you. The more red flags your beau

exhibits, the less likely he's Mr. Right.

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

**4. Make him come to the door:** One quick way to make Dad angry was for a young suitor to come to the house and honk the horn rather than come to the front door. If Dad got his way, your date was probably sitting in that driveway for a very long time. Dad was right: it's not old-fashioned to want to be treated like a lady. If your potential sweetheart thinks it's okay to honk the horn on your first date, how is he going to treat you six months later? Dad never forgot that the little things make for a special relationship, and neither should you.

**5. A good father is priceless:** The greatest lesson Dad taught was the importance of fathers in children's lives. Whether he was at every recital or didn't make it to a single one, Dad's presence (or lack thereof) left a lasting impression. His choices, behavior and actions had major effects that still influence you today. There are few things as important as a Dad's relationship with his children, so keep that in mind when you're looking for a long-term partner. If you wouldn't want your beau's behavior being repeated by your potential kids, maybe you need to rethink your status.

**What did you learn from Dad? Tell us below.**

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# **Five Ways Being Friends With Your Ex Can Ruin You**





By Ashley DelBello

Let's be honest: remaining friends with your ex usually doesn't work. It might sound like a good idea in the beginning, especially if your relationship ended amicably. However, a few months later, you're sure to find yourself either pining away for them when they only see you as a friend or participating in late night hook-ups while one or both of you are dating someone else. To remind us about these consequences, here are Cupid's top five reasons why being friends with your ex isn't such a great idea:

**Related:** [Spring Cleaning: 5 Types of Guys to Dump](#)

**1. You will be single forever:** Okay, so maybe that's a little extreme, but being friends with your ex can keep you from moving on and looking for someone new. Not only is hanging out with them precious time you're wasting when you could be

finding someone who does want to date you, but it also prevents you from opening yourself up to the idea of being with someone else.

**2. It will damage your new relationship from the start:** With your ex still in the picture—even if you claim your feelings are just platonic—how can you be fully committed to your new relationship? Give the new person a chance and dump the ex. The beginning of a new relationship is always a little hard, so don't make it any harder by keeping your ex around.

**3. You will end up with a jealous partner:** This is related to the second point, but it's a little more specific. Think about how your current partner must feel with your ex still hanging around. Jealousy might not be attractive, but it's definitely warranted if you're constantly spending time with your ex.

**4. Your ex won't be able to move on:** While this won't necessarily ruin you (unless they become a stalker), it's not fair to your ex if you're giving them a false hope that there might be something more. While it may seem innocent on your end, there needs to be time after a relationship when both of you go your separate ways.

**Related:** [Brooke Mueller's Binge With Charlie Sheen Lands Her Back in Rehab](#)

**5. You could hook up with your ex while you're dating someone else:** Whether you're the one with the new partner or they are, hooking up with each other isn't going to end well, and it's easy to consider doing so if you continue hanging out together. Remember this though, you broke up for a reason.

Maybe being friends with your ex won't always ruin you, but it's likely to cause additional heartache when you've already had your fill.

**Has remaining friends with your ex actually worked? Share your comments below and let us know what you think.**

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# Five Top Tips On How To Find “The One”



By Chris Owen

If you're single, bored and playing the field, there's never been a better time to get the job done and find a new person to date. Though most relationships start in the workplace, you can still find love anywhere if you're willing to work at it. By acting the part and grabbing fate by the throat, you can easily find “the one” and be happy in love. Here are some simple tips to help bring you closer to the object of your affection:

**Related Link:** [Nine Unexpected Places to Find Love](#)

**1. Be caring.** Even if you're a mean or moody person, you still have a heart, so show it and get involved! Find out how you can run, walk, swim or cycle for charity. As soon as you're passing around that sponsorship form and subtly letting colleagues know you've turned over a new charitable leaf, you can guarantee that you'll be raising both dollars and pulse rates.

**2. Be nice.** Don't just care about causes, care about the people around you as well! Even little things like opening doors, giving compliments and being nice are all great ways to get yourself noticed by members of the opposite sex. Fill your day with smiles, laughs and cheery greetings and you're sure to be well-liked. If you adopt a pleasant attitude towards everyone, the object of your desire is sure to notice you sooner or later.

**3. Be there.** If your intended "catch" always takes the same bus, always brings lunch to the park or they're hitting a particular bar at five o'clock every Friday, then learn that pattern and make sure you're there, too. Of course, I'm not advocating stalking, but if you just so happen to be in the park, on the bus or down at the bar once a week, then there's no harm in that. If you slightly adjust your own schedule, you won't even have to acknowledge them. Just be there, and after a while, they'll speak to you and romance can blossom.

**Related Link:** [10 Ways to Get Into a Summer Romance](#)

**4. Be interesting.** How hard is it to read a great novel and leave it casually on the corner of your desk or go to the theater and drop it into a conversation within earshot of your "partner-in-waiting?" Learn a language, play the guitar or go on vacation to an exotic country. If you make what you want to do seem interesting, you'll be noticed for sure.

**5. Be exciting.** If you're the kind of person who enjoys warm

baths, NPR and an early night, then good for you. There's a lot to be said for the comforts of home, and I hope you'll be very happy with your partner Tim the cat. However, for all of you who are still looking for someone who's slightly less feline, you need to actually get out there and make it happen. Being perceived as exciting doesn't mean you have to ride a Harley Davidson or go on adventure holidays every other weekend. Stay out late every so often, watch a few live rock bands, do the odd bungee jump or get yourself pierced or tattooed. Even small things like these can make you seem like a great person to date. Plus, the more out of your comfort zone you step, the more likely you are to book some safari holidays down the road.

Remember, if you're hoping to date someone, the only one who can get you there is you! Keeping simple ideas like these in mind can turn you from single to taken before you know it.

*Chris is happily married after meeting his wife in the middle of the jungle while undertaking his adventure holidays in deepest darkest Asia.*

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## Five Celebrity Couples Who Had a Low Profile Wedding





By Creshawna Parker

Planning a wedding is hard work. You have to pick a date, send out invites, take engagement photos, find the perfect dress, choose the hall, get a caterer – actually, the planning really doesn't end until the big day. And if you're a celebrity, add trying to shun paparazzi and other camera toting individuals to your to-do list and this task can become even more stressful. Contrary to this belief, thanks to reality TV and celebrity magazine contracts, some celebrities [insert Kim Kardashian here] have the pleasure of publicizing their exchanging of vows for millions of Hollywood enthused fans to see on TV in trade of cashing a multi-million dollar check. While, this gives off a semblance of an easy pay day for celebrities, these Tinseltown twosomes traded in the cameras and the public access to celebrate their intimate moment with family and close friends:

**1. Beyonce Knowles and Shawn 'Jay-Z' Carter:** This power couple started dating back in 2002 and after years of speculation, the duo officially tied the knot on April 4, 2008. The ceremony was followed by a lavish party thrown at the rapper's

New York Tribeca apartment and was decorated with 50,000 to 60,000 white orchid blooms from Thailand. In attendance was the couple's closest family and friends including the singer's parents and sister Solange, former Destiny's Child members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams and actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Normally a private person about her love life, the new mom stated in *People* back in January 2006, "I never pictured myself as a bride, but after my sister's wedding, I did start thinking about what kind of wedding I want. I don't think I want a big one."

**2. Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon:** These two lovebirds started dating in March of 2008 after Cannon appeared in the singer's music video "Bye Bye." After dating for only a few weeks, the couple said "I do" on April 30, 2008 in front of a dozen of their closest family and friends at Carey's Bahamian ocean-side estate while enjoying live Maine lobster and Dom Perignon that was flown in for the special occasion. Not only did the couple seal the deal in just a few weeks, they also marked the event with permanent ink. "We got tattoos," Carey told *People*. "His is on one shoulder to the other and it says 'Mariah.' [Mine is] on my lower back and it says 'Mrs. Cannon.'" "

**Related:** [Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon: New Parents on Their Anniversary!](#)

**3. Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green:** It took two engagements before this Hollywood pair tied the knot in Hawaii on June 24, 2010. The couple, who met in 2004 on the set of the sitcom "Hope & Faith," wed at the Four Seasons Hotel resort in a private ceremony while vacationing on the island. Before calling off their first engagement, Green described his ideal wedding to *People*. "Originally we were talking elopement and now we might have a few people there," he said. Obviously a man to get what he wants, the two reportedly exchanged vows in front of a half dozen guests including Green's son, Kassius.

**4. Jessica Alba and Cash Warren:** When it comes to low-profile weddings, this actress and producer take the cake. Opting out of having a glamorous Hollywood wedding, these two tied the knot May 19, 2008 at the Beverly Hills courthouse's ceremony room under an arch of green silk foliage and white flowers, with Alba dressed in a long blue gown and her hair in a ponytail. Although the pair considered having a fall wedding, they were evidently satisfied with keeping their nuptials low-key.

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

**5. Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck:** There was nothing gaudy about this couple's wedding. Married on beautiful Parrot Cay of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a makeup-less Garner, wearing her hair in a loose ponytail wed Affleck on June 29, 2005, in a private ceremony with no family-including their parents- or friends in attendance. "They didn't need or want a crowd. They just wanted each other," Affleck's pal, director Kevin Smith, told [People](#). Perhaps, the secluded time away from the Hollywood glam and cameras made for the best wedding gift for the couple. "They're in it for one another, not for anyone else," Smith said.

**Who are some other celebrity couples that had a low profile wedding? Share your comments below.**

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## **Making the Most Out of Your Long Distance Relationship**





By Grace Pamer

For some people, a long distance relationship can seem like a tremendous hurdle to overcome, and many couples who are apart frequently see these relationships as positive instead of negative. Celebrities are no exception.

One celebrity couple that speaks openly about the benefits of long distance partnerships is Victoria and David Beckham. Their busy careers frequently keep them apart, forcing them to have separate homes oceans apart. However, they feel the distance doesn't take from their love. Instead, they think that the extra space enhances it.

The key to understanding how to make the most out of your long distance relationship is to change your way of thinking. A long distance relationship can improve your life! Take a look at some of the many benefits:

**Related:** [Jesse James and Kat Von D Split Due to Distance](#)

### **1. It Can Lead to a Happier You.**

Having a lot of time to yourself, as long as you use it to your advantage, can lead to a healthier mind, body and spirit. You'll have more time to follow your own dreams. You can work on your career or further your education, so that when the time comes for you and your partner to settle down, you'll be in a better place in your life. You can take time to care for your body by getting fit or relaxing in a hot bath, which will enhance your self-esteem and overall well-being.

### **2. You Get to Have it "All."**

Many singles yearn for companionship and love, while many people who are in relationships yearn for the freedom they had when single. In a long distance relationship, you have both a loving, supportive partner and time to yourself. It's the perfect combination of some of the best elements of single life and dating.

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

### **3. No One Will Resent the Relationship.**

If you talk to many unhappy couples, you will hear stories like, "I was going to get my Master's degree, but I met my love and settled down." In the passion of love, it is easy to put aside dreams because it feels as if nothing else matters. But years later, that can impact a relationship negatively. There is plenty of time for you to pursue becoming your own person when your partner is far away.

### **4. It Can Make the Relationship Stronger and Healthier.**

When two people in love are also fulfilling their own hopes and dreams, that positive energy will spill over into their relationship. A couple is only as strong as the two individuals who form it. If either partner feels they have no free time, missed out on their dreams or lack fulfillment, the relationship is bound to suffer.

## 5. You Can Still Keep the Romance Alive.

Being apart doesn't mean that you'll be treating each other like strangers. You can find ways to connect every day, and even tell your lover goodnight each night. With modern advancements like Skype, you can even see each other's faces and talk about your day while eating dinner at the table. Don't think of these types of relationships as dispassionate and lonely! Absence can make the heart grow fonder. You'll be even more passionate and romantic if you find unique ways to stay bonded though physically separated.

For reasons like these, long distance relationships can definitely be very healthy. Being able to be the best "you" while having a deep, loving commitment to one another can truly be the best of both worlds.

*Grace Pamer is the author of [www.RomanceNeverDies.com](http://www.RomanceNeverDies.com), one woman's on going quest to get the world reacquainted with the art of writing love letters.*

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# The Independent Woman: Do We Need A Do-Over?





By SMF Marcus Osborne for GalTime.com

If you've been a regular reader of StraightMaleFriend.com or if you've been following this column for the past year or so, you already know that one of my steadfast beliefs is individual independence.

**In other words: "Be honestly you."**

When it comes to love, dating and relationships, the very best advice anyone could ever offer is for you to be who you truly are. But what happens when being yourself is pushing your love one away?

That simply means that when it comes to love, dating and relationships, the very best advice anyone could ever offer is for you to be who you truly are, as opposed to what you believe people want/expect you to be. Sure you can (and many people do) fool the masses into buying into some image you've manufactured. Pretending to be "outdoorsy" when you're a couch potato. Acting as though you love foreign cinema when you abhor the idea of reading anything more than the credits

during your favorite motion pictures. Passing yourself off as less accomplished than the high-powered executive that you are in order to massage the ego of your latest date.

**Related:** [Don't Objectify Me... Just Tell Me I'm Hot!](#)

I've long supported women going out and exercising their power in their communities, in the workplace, in the home and in the marketplace. Why not? You've earned it. You've gone to school, fought for your education, worked your way up the corporate ladder and established yourself as a pillar of the community and yet... you're still unfulfilled. For all that you've achieved, there's still a glaring vacancy on your life's resume.

*Unmarried and childless... and full of regret. Does that description fit you?*

I've made no secret of my deep respect and admiration for the woman who get out there and chase their independence, but on more than one occasion recently, I've had heavy conversations with women who harbor some real regrets about their life choices.

We've gone from a culture that once pushed the idea that women needed to stay at home, raising kids, cooking dinners, and pampering their husbands in order to society to thrive. In essence, women were considered domestic servants with benefits. With the rise of the women's movement, we've reached a point in time where having women outside the household is not a luxury but in most cases, a requirement for the survival of families.

**Related:** [Has Feminism Ruined Relationships?](#)

Now, maybe this is a small group of professional women feeling the angst of being over 35 and unmarried and without kids, but it's an issue that deserves a conversation. My friend lamented, "Marcus, I'm 40 years old. I'm not married. I don't

have kids. And I WANTED all those things, but it may be too late now. Most of the decent guys are already married and even if I met someone TONIGHT, fell in love, got married, and had a baby (if I can still even HAVE a child) it'll still be another two years."

She went on to say that at a young age she decided that she would pursue a career and get settled professionally before settling down to start a family. But throughout the course of her life, career consumed her because that's what she was always advised as a young girl: marriage and family should come after you've established yourself.

**Related:** [The Truth About Single Men and Strong Women](#)

In hindsight, my friend was wishing that she had given more weight to that life goal. Her feeling was that if she had to do it all over again, she'd have put more stock in long-term relationships and perhaps gotten married and even had those kids. In her mind, even if the marriage hadn't worked out she'd still have had that experience and the children to show for it.

I found her reasoning interesting, but I found her belief that her pursuit of independence had actually been an obstacle to her long-term happiness... absolutely fascinating.

**Where do you stand? After all your success, are you feeling like you'd go back and make different choices if you could?**

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# Is That You, Mr. Right?



By Melissa Caballero

Is there such a thing as 'Mr. Right?' Hollywood and the movie producers have made us to believe so! It is very difficult to sift through reality and sweep our fantasies under the rug when it comes to our own personal love lives. We watch our favorite female celebrities being lifted off their feet (many times) on the big screen while riding off into the night hand-in-hand with a George Clooney or Zac Efron while we are left drooling and fantasizing about our own love story. We leave the movie theater captivated by this notion of 'Mr. Right,' and we're deceived by love more than ever. Let's take a look at a few important factors to keep in mind when aiming to find your 'Mr. Right':

**1. Reality vs. the big screen.** It's important to take the concept of 'Mr. Right' off of a pedestal. While finding love is a wonderful thing and we are creatures who were made to share this emotion, the reality of how love can exist escapes us. We take mental notes while watching movies and make bullet points of all the things we think are important to find in a man, ultimately fabricating in our minds this person we call 'Mr. Right.' We all need to accept that love comes in many different shapes and sizes and usually in the most unexpected places. These places are often times not found in the movies. Keep an open mind, and you may find yourself pleasantly surprised by what comes your way.

**Related:** [Do Fairytale Relationships Only Exist in Hollywood?](#)

**2. The man resume.** When you're dating or analyzing the relationship you are already in, we all have a set of standards and guidelines. However, if you only like his qualities because they look good on paper, you may get caught up in thinking he is "the one." We get so wrapped up in the fantasies we have created for ourselves that we forget to see him for who he really is instead of someone you may or may not be able to grow with in the future.

**3. Love yourself.** You are the most important person, so be right for yourself first. Finding the right man will not make you happy in the long run, despite what you may think. A man will not fill the voids in your life, so that's why it's essential to love who you are inside and out, alone or in a relationship. Whether your physical appearance has you troubled or you find yourself wishing you went back to school for another degree; go out and do something about it! Once you embrace yourself for everything you are, you will shine, and that is sexy to any guy.

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

**4. Never settle.** You should never feel that you have to modify



yourself in order to fit the needs of any man. If you are not being yourself in an effort not to lose him, it will start to catch up to you and cause an eruption of frustration and unhappiness. While a man may not be able to fill our internal voids, he should be encouraging you to be yourself, and no conflicts should arise because of it. In the beginning of a relationship, those couples that are right for each other will come across far less problems and issues. And, even when you do face troubles, getting out of it will be must faster. When you find the right person to share your life with, they will only enhance your true self.

**What do you look for when searching for 'Mr. Right?' Share your comments below.**

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## **Why You Don't Need the Perfect Body**





By Lisa Moore

Many women obsess about having the ideal body, model looks and flawless hair. In fact, one survey suggests that 66 percent of women are so unhappy with their bodies that, despite the recent recession, they would spend money to achieve a perfect look. 90% of the 3,000 women questioned said their bodies depressed them, and 75% of women think about their shape and size every day. Gill Todd, a clinical nurse specialist at Bethlem Royal Hospital in South London, says that women are getting the message that they need to be thin in order to be happy and successful, especially in the romance area. It seems like women hate their bodies.

The question is, why should they? Why do women want these “perfect” bodies? Here are some misconceptions that put unneeded stresses on a female’s relationships and keep her from loving who she is:

**Related:** [Kasey Kahl Says He’d Love Vienna With Any Size Nose](#)

**1. There is only one acceptable body type.**

One beauty website invited shoppers to select their favorite famous body parts, and then combined the results to create the ultimate celebrity. This pseudo-celebrity ended up as a combination of Kate Middleton's hair, Cheryl Cole's eyes, Keira Knightley's cheekbones and Gwyneth Paltrow's chin. Her eyebrows were shaped like Megan Fox's, she had Kate Beckinsale's nose, Angelina Jolie's lips and the chest of Kelly Brook.

The fact is, there isn't a single body type that is perfectly appealing. Think about it: The fact that two opposite procedures, breast augmentation and breast reduction, are just as popular is concerning, as it supports the idea that it's impossible to have universally "acceptable" breasts. So, why try?

## **2. Thinner is always better.**

Though society often seems to think that being incredibly skinny is the perfect choice, an Australian study revealed that a man's ideal female shape was represented by those of average women, not by supermodels. One woman explained that men can't help loving women who have curves. They're genetically drawn to rounded women, because curves signal a woman who will successfully conceive, carry and then nurture a man's offspring. It's a sign of fertility.

And, she adds, who can blame guys for loving curves? They're more comfortable than being poked by sharp elbows and holding a set of ribs.

**Related:** [How to Keep Weight Gain from Ruining Your Love Life](#)

## **3. Cosmetic surgery will please your partner.**

Almost two-thirds of women believe that their love lives would be better if they had better looking body parts. Similarly, many women believe that cosmetic surgery will make their partners happy. A 42-year-old book-keeper stated that she

probably would not have had a breast enhancement if it hadn't been for her man. She said that he wasn't as much in love with her as she was with him. Surgery might help, she thought. Did it, though? What do men really like?

The truth is, guys find a too-perfect look boring. A gap-toothed smile like Georgia May Jagger's, or Alexa Chung's style of messy hair can actually serve to keep up your man's interest level. Many women also overlook the fact that men appreciate beauty in their hair, eyes, skin, neck curves and even belly buttons. Chances are that your man already loves how you look. You should, too.

So relax, ladies, and realize that the natural you is more enchanting to your man than a frazzled you that's stressed over your parts. Love who you are, and your man will too.

*Lisa Moore, senior editor of Interactive Service Group, has written several articles focusing on women, body image and parenting issues. Her articles have appeared on number of sites including HerExtra.com, ProfessorsHouse.com, and Eurweb.com.*

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## What to Wear to a Summer Wedding





By Sarah Thaman

Spring has arrived, and along with it comes prime wedding Season! If you have a relative or friend getting married this summer (and you didn't get called to bridesmaid duty), you may be wondering what appropriate attire might be. How can you dress to impress while still embracing the summer style? While the rules vary, here are some great ideas for three common types of weddings: Formal, Semi-Formal, and Casual/Beach.

**Formal:** Formal, or black-tie, affairs typically call for full-length dresses. Channel your inner goddess with a color block maxi paired with a headband and silver bangles. Mint green is a hot trend, and pairing this hue with an emerald jewel tone make it ideal for day or night. Wear your hair down, or stun with a low, loose bun. A small black clutch is a perfect complement, holding all of your night's necessities.

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

**Semi-Formal:** Semi-formal weddings are often harder to decipher. It's always better to be more dressed up than

underdressed, so opt for a flirty cocktail dress. A chiffon dress with bright-colored accessories will always hit the mark. Nails are another great accessory – and they often go overlooked. Choose a pair of neutral peep toe heels and perfectly pedicured toes for an added pop of color.

**Casual/Beach:** If the event calls for casual attire, such as a beach wedding, choose a feminine sundress. This is a perfect opportunity to sport a trendy print such as florals. Dress it up with a pair of adorable wedges, or dress it down with a pair of flat sandals. A peachy cheek and a cute, pastel bag complete the look.

**Related Link:** [What to Wear to Meet His Family](#)

When choosing a color of dress, consider when the wedding will take place. If the event is during the day, opt for lighter colors. Remember that while you want to look your best, this is the bride's day. Out of courtesy, stay away from ivory, or all-white dresses. If the event is taking place in the evening, consider darker, jewel tone frocks. Follow these tips and you can't go wrong. Who knows, you may just end up meeting your future husband – possibly a groomsman?

*Author Bio: While I may not be a professional stylist, I pride myself on choosing fashion that looks polished and classic, and I'm always helping friends choose their date outfits.*

*Although I'm a writer for HandbagHeaven.com by day, outside of work I take joy in being a matchmaker, a newlywed, and a momma to my precious puppy, Luna.*

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# Host a 'Bachelorette' Viewing Party



By Andrea Woroch

I don't watch much television, aside from an hour of news to go along with my morning latte. Yet there's something about this sappy, reality dating show that makes me scramble to the couch every Monday evening. Though I hate to admit it, I eagerly awaited the premiere of season eight of 'The Bachelorette' as America's favorite past contestant and single mom, Emily Maynard, took the stage in her quest for love.

Though Emily weeded out some of the weirdos in the first episode, there's still plenty of drama, tears, exotic destinations and heartfelt goodbyes to enjoy. So whether you're looking to gossip with some gal pals over your favorite

eligible bachelor or you simply have nothing better to do on Monday nights, consider hosting a 'Bachelorette' viewing party, using these tips to make it memorable and fun.

**Related:** [Reality Stars Who Found Real Love](#)

**1. Create an Entrance:** What's a 'Bachelorette' party without any roses? To set the mood, hand out red roses to each guest upon arrival. Depending on the number of friends attending, you may consider red carnations as an inexpensive alternative. Otherwise, pick up some faux flowers from a nearby craft supplier.

**2. Dress to the Nines:** Request Rose Ceremony-appropriate attire. Ladies should come dressed in fancy gowns, and men should sport a suit or coat with a tie.

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

**3. Be Refreshing:** 'Bachelor' and 'Bachelorette' contestants are always sipping on a cocktail, enjoying a glass of wine or toasting with champagne, so decide what drink you'd like to serve at your party. Ask guests to chip in with their favorite beverage to keep costs under control, and pick up inexpensive plastic flute glasses from the dollar store.

**4. Serve Exotic Food:** In addition to festive cocktails, you may also consider offering ethnic finger foods based on the show's upcoming destination. Check out Pinterest for recipe ideas, and load up your supermarket loyalty card with mobile coupons from CouponSherpa.com to score savings.

**5. Drink Up:** Reality TV drinking games are an exciting way to get your friends into the show, especially those who could care less about which bachelor is sent home. Identify a common word or phrase that gets overused by a specific character, and ask everyone take a sip of his or her drink each time it is said.



**6. Vote On It:** Ask guests to vote on which bachelors they think will be picked for a one-on-one date and which guys will be sent home during the Rose Ceremony. Make sure that anyone who read a spoiler blog keeps his or her lips sealed!

**Related:** [Date Idea: Couple Up with Game Night](#)

**7. Try Trivia:** During commercials, quiz your guests on their '[Bachelor](#)' and 'Bachelorette' IQ. Grab details about past episodes and contestants on TV.com, and create a trivia game using index cards.

**8. Offer Goody Bags:** You can't play games without handing out prizes to the winners. Keep it cheap with inexpensive treats like candy and candles for the goody bags.

*Andrea Woroch is a nationally-recognized consumer and money-saving expert who helps consumers live on less without radically changing their lifestyles. From smart spending tips to personal finance advice, she transforms everyday consumers into savvy shoppers. Woroch has been featured on top news outlets such as Good Morning America, NBC's Today, MSNBC, New York Times, Kiplinger Personal Finance, CNNMoney and many more. You can follow her on Twitter for daily savings advice and tips.*

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## **Celebrity Couples Who Let Money Ruin Their Relationship**



By Lily Rose

It's 2.6 inches wide and 6.1 inches long, and we all want it. We're not sure what you're thinking, but we're talking about the Benjamin's, dough, loot, c-notes, otherwise known as ... money. The green stuff may not be the root of all evil, but it certainly is the root of a lot of relationship woes. Just ask these celebrity couples:

**1. Sir Paul McCartney and Heather Mills:** In June 2002, model Heather Mills and former Beatles member, Sir Paul McCartney, married, but then divorced just four years later. Money may not have ruined this couple's marriage, but it certainly made an amicable post break-up relationship seem improbable. Once the divorce papers were filed, the mudslinging started. Mills branded McCartney an abusive drug user, while she was labeled as a high-class prostitute. Watching the nasty insults and allegations flying back and forth was like watching a fast

moving tennis match—it left the public dizzy and a bit nauseous. With a model on one side of the court and music royalty in the other, our bets were on McCartney. Mills ended up with a £24.3 million settlement, a mere fraction of McCartney's total net worth.

**2. Rihanna and Chris Brown:** It's all in the tweets, folks. Pop star Rihanna and long time ex-beau, singer Chris Brown, may be doing a little something-something on the down low. Brown's new girlfriend, aspiring model, Karrueche Tran, and Rihanna have even engaged in a little social media sparring on Twitter. If Rihanna and Brown are privately seeing each other, money is a likely factor in their unwillingness to publicize their reconciliation, as Rihanna fans may never forgive the pop princess for taking back her abusive ex. And seeing Rihanna and Brown together is just one more reminder of Brown's assault conviction— a reminder his career may not survive.

**Related:** [Rihanna Explains Why She's Still in Contact with Chris Brown](#)

**3. Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson:** No one can argue that reality television is financially lucrative. But, many celebrity couples pay the ultimate price – their relationship. Just ask Jon and Kate Gosselin, Travis Barker and Shanna Moakler or Carmen Electra and David Navarro. Maybe it's the stress of having each of your private moments taped and shared with the public, or maybe it's having a camera crew following you around, hoping for controversy. Who knows? But one thing is crystal clear – couple-centered reality TV shows are almost always a precursor for divorce. For singer Nick Lachey and *Fashion Star* judge, Jessica Simpson, however, divorce may not have been such a bad thing. On July 15, 2011, Lachey married television host, Vanessa Minnillo and on May 1, 2012, Simpson and fiancée, Eric Johnson welcomed their daughter, Maxwell.

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

What are some other celebrity couples who let money get in the way? Share your ideas below.

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## When Dates Go Bad: 5 Ways to Find the Funny in Dating



By Sujeiry Gonzalez

We've all had our share of bad dates. Even gorgeous celebrities like Katherine Heigl have dished on terrible romantic encounters. She admitted to once having an awkward date with a personal trainer, who not only gave her his headshot, but also shaved his legs. Total turn off!

My latest bad date was with a Miami artist who was new to New York City. I met him at Bryant Park and demanded dinner, as opposed to sitting on a bench with a basket of fruit. He obliged, and we ended up at BBQ's in Times Square. As he discussed his career goals in a monotone voice (I thought I was on a date with Ferris Bueller's English teacher), I realized I was on yet another bad date.

So, what can we do in this common situation? For my survival, I decided to find the funny in the ever present bad date. Here's how you can, too:

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### **1. Imagine yourself on a deserted island.**

If you picture this, you can appreciate your date's company even when he chews with his mouth open. Besides, wouldn't you rather have someone to laugh at with than be alone?

### **2. Chow down as if you're with a girlfriend.**

You don't need to impress a bad date, so why not unbutton your jeans and order a real meal? On my date with Miami Monotone Man, I ordered a quarter chicken, French fries and a piece of warm cornbread. Leave the salad for the one you want to impress!

### **3. Drink yourself into a tizzy.**

Drinking will make your date seem funnier, hotter and much more pleasant. When he slurps his soda, slurp your drink. When he picks up his cell phone to text, take a shot. It's like your very own drinking game! That said, don't let it get too out of control. Bad decisions, anyone?

### **4. Make a mental list of things to tell your friends.**

This won't be difficult when you're on a bad date. Just make

sure to jot down what's funny. You could focus on the bad, but that's less challenging. Plus, what fun is that?

### 5. Test out different dating techniques on your bad date.

You're already out, so why not use him like a guinea pig? You can flirt in different ways or ask questions you wouldn't dare ask a man you want to impress. This experiment can be a fun twist to a dud of a night.

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

Next time you're on a bad date, remember that it's supposed to be fun even when you're not hitting it off. Try these tips and have a laugh while you're out with Ferris Bueller's English teacher.

*Sujeiry Gonzalez, often referred to as the "Latina Carrie Bradshaw," is a funny and vibrant relationship (non)expert that tells it like it is – with just add a little more sass, a lot more Bacardi and ton of laughs. Recently she penned her first book, **Love Trips: A Collection of Relationship Stumbles**, a poignant and witty collection of personal essays in which she chronicles her relationship stumbles. For more information on Sujeiry Gonzalez, visit [lovesujeiry.com](http://lovesujeiry.com) or [lovetripsbook.com](http://lovetripsbook.com).*

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## What Role Does Ambition Play In a Relationship?





By Steven Zangrillo

Women and men have ways of motivating each other for the greater mutual success. The need for a partner with drive and ambition is an overarching common criterion among people looking for healthy relationships. Ambition affects how we choose our partners and is an attractive quality when a person gives you the confidence that they will always be looking to improve on their successes. It begs the question of what role ambition plays in the dynamic of our relationships; how do we reconcile our need for better things? It is important to know that when ambition, positively or negatively motivated, is driving or dragging on your partnership. Here are just a few ways ambition plays a significant role in a relationship:

**1. Career:** This is where the prospect of ambition becomes a two-pronged situation. Ambition is a dangerous factor in the scope of a relationship – it can bring goal-oriented love birds together or it can split you in two different directions. Someone ambitious for a life as a successful writer who is dating someone ambitious for immediate success in a finance career might have a hard time making that work.

Our level of ambition affects the way we make career and social choices.

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**2. Finances:** The whimsical notion that “love conquers all” is difficult to uphold when you have a mortgage to pay. This, of course, is different than gold digging. However, when people are looking for their potential life-long mate, they are essentially searching for someone who is, or plans to be, financially stable. In that reality, ambition walks hand in hand with how far you're willing to take your relationship.

**Related:** [Celebrities – Love, Marriage and the Money in Between](#)

**3. Love:** Ambition should, at the very least, determine what kind of partner you pursue. It's unfair to pursue someone who won't help you achieve the things for which you're ambitious. While it isn't someone else's job to adjust their entire life strategy in the interest of solely supporting the life you want, you should find someone who is willing to compromise in the means of supporting both you and their endeavors. In this sense, you should also make sure that you are both following paths that are more or less on the same track. The search of lasting love, being taken care of emotionally and being loved for who you are all timeless notions. People want that, and will go to great lengths to ensure they are in an emotionally stable and healthy relationship.

There is no universal advice to be given on how ambition should define the scope of your relationship. Everyone is ambitious for different reasons – success, money, healthy love, being taken care of financially or being able to provide. How that ambition affects the steps you take together is up to you. Don't put yourself in a position to be disappointed. Above all, the things that we are ambitious for determine the arc of our life paths; so, if you're ambitious for happiness you'll never fall short.



**What role does ambition play in your relationship? Share your comments below.**