

Women Who Are the Breadwinners of Their Celebrity Relationship



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

Women's Upper Hand in Celebrity Relationships

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

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

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

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

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

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

Actress Earns More Than Celebrity Love

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

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

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

Renew Your Vows Like #1 Life Coach and Mariah Carey



By Evan

Money

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

Whenever my bride and I share this story, most people respond by saying they would really like to do follow suit or that it sounds really [romantic](#). Guess what? It really is! And I

highly recommend it for everyone, not just my clients. Here's my story:

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It all started 15 years ago when I heard a story about a successful business man who was married for 25 years, and he and his wife renewed their vows every year. As a newlywed and young businessman, it sounded like this idea would be a big help in having a successful marriage, something my bride and I desperately wanted. It seemed to us that most married people were divorced or miserable. We wanted to "live happily ever after," so rather than just saying, "Oh, that sounds like a good idea," my wife and I chose to take action.

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

When we returned home, we became so excited to plan our next renewal. We still didn't have any money, so we just needed to get creative, take action and find a way. We chose Arizona for our second renewal simply because we could drive there and not have to pay for airfare. We had some wealthy friends with a ranch in the city of Carefree and we had a fun ceremony on their private lake. My bride's bouquet was made of peacock feathers since they had a few of the majestic birds on the property. This ceremony was much bigger and more exciting,

thanks to our friends help, and yet again, our married lives were changed forever. It seemed after each ceremony, our marriage bond became stronger and stronger. We were truly living happily ever after!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reality Stars Who Found Real Love



By Samantha

Mucha

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

There have been beds flying across rooms, as seen on MTV's *Jersey Shore* with Ron and Sam, and a couple of weddings on *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*. We've been in shock, we've laughed and we've cried with reality stars as we sit on our couches and watch them make the same mistakes over and over again. No matter how many times the things happens,

we're drawn in and simply cannot take our eyes off the screen.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Matt Hoover and Suzy Preston: This duo's romance began after meeting on *The Biggest Loser* and quickly grew as the two took long walks while getting to know each other. Eventually,

Hoover and Preston dined at a healthy restaurant for their first date after the finale and have been together ever since.

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

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

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

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

Love Advice For a Stronger Long-Term Relationship



By Ricky

Peterson

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

Love Advice To Follow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stronger Relationships and Love

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

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

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





By Johanna

Lyman, the JOY Professor, for GALtime.com

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

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

Another common myth is that you can discern true love within the first 3-6 months of a relationship. I’m sorry to say, it just ain’t so. What you’re feeling in the first 3-6 month (aka the honeymoon period) is a potent cocktail of hormones designed to make a man and a woman want to copulate to propagate the species. It feels sexy, but it’s really about the survival of the species. Please do yourselves and the population a big favor by not falling for it. I don’t mean to sound negative. There are lots of great things about that

potent combination of oxytocin, serotonin and other chemicals.

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

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

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

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

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

4. How do you fight? Do you, or does he, bring up old wounds, or do you fight in the present, about the current hurt? Can you disagree without attacking each other? Are you comfortable with disagreeing, or do you try to smooth things over? Couples in healthy relationships learn how to fight productively. If you weren't having being intimate with him,

how much would you still like him?

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

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

Is Your Boyfriend Hopping Around the Big Question?





By Daniela

Agurcia

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. He might not be ready to get married yet

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

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4. He doesn’t want to lose all his privacy

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

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

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

Five Celebrity Divorces We Really Weren't Expecting



By

Francesca B.

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

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Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman

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

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

Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes

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

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

Courtney Cox and David Arquette

One of the world's best-known faces of the '90s for her role in *Friends*, Courtney Cox surprised everyone when she hooked up with David Arquette after starring in the *Scream* movies

with him. However, even more shocking was the news that after 11 years of marriage and a child together, the couple had decided to split. Despite speculation about the real reasons, Cox stated that she “was tired of being (David’s) mother.”

Madonna and Guy Ritchie

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

Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt

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

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

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

Why Celebrities Fall In and Out of Love So Quickly



By [Whitney](#)

[Baker](#)

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

For some celebrity couples, rushing into a serious relationship or even marriage is no big deal; they can always break up or file for an annulment or divorce, knowing that their family, friends and fans will stand behind them. They are not held accountable by their vows, viewing any “easy way out” as an acceptable solution.

But why do so many Tinseltown twosomes approach romance with

such a wavering attitude, in such fleeting terms? Here are just a few reasons why some celebrity relationships change with the seasons:

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

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

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

3. Time apart: Relationships require both time and effort to flourish. For celebrities, time together isn't always possible. Their busy schedules often keep them apart; such was the case with Katy Perry and Russell Brand. After only 14 months of marriage and a Christmas spent 7,000 miles apart, Brand filed for divorce. As celebrities focus on their individual careers, they fail to make the proper commitment to build a lasting and meaningful relationship.

4. Just because they can: Among some celebrities (such as Britney Spears in her younger years and Brandi Glanville of

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

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

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

What Attracts Us to Bad Boys?





By Dr.

Carole Lieberman

Though we women pride ourselves on how ‘we’ve come a long way, baby,’ we still fall prey to the charms of bad boys. Why? It all starts with Daddy – the first man we’ve ever loved. If this relationship was dysfunctional, such as with a father who was abusive, depressed, a workaholic, or simply divorced and unavailable, we feel unlovable and grow up with a penchant for bad boys.

The Dozen Dangerous Devils, or 12 types of bad boys, include the: Fixer-Upper Lover, Compulsive Flirt, Grandiose Dreamer, Misunderstood and Married, Mr. Power Mad, Commitment Phobe, Wounded Poet, Self-Absorbed Seducer, Man of Mystery, Dramatic Daredevil, Prince of Darkness and Lethal Lover. We are attracted to one or more of these types in an unconscious effort to turn our disappointment with Daddy into a fairytale happy ending.

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For example, if a little girl’s father abandoned her, such as by death, divorce or emotional distance, she would likely grow up to be attracted to a Fixer-Upper Lover (also named the Frazzled Frog), who seems like he would be the least likely

man to abandon her because his life is in need of much repair.

But, once she provides him with the nurturance he craves and helps him get his act together, he hops away to find a more discerning princess. All Dozen Dangerous Devils are heartbreakers. They just break a woman's heart in 12 different ways!

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Headlines are perpetually filled with celebrity bad boys – from Brad Pitt, who claimed to be Misunderstood and Married when he fell for Angelina Jolie; to Chris Brown, an abusive Prince of Darkness who Rihanna still can't resist; to *Bachelor* Ben Flajnik, who's become a Compulsive Flirt despite his engagement.

Some bad boys can be tamed, but a woman must be careful not to lose her self-respect or sanity in the process. Look where it got Catherine Greig, the woman who harbored mob boss James 'Whitey' Bulger, a Lethal Lover. She'd laughed about liking bad boys until it landed her in jail!

Dr. Carole Lieberman is an internationally renowned "Media Psychiatrist." On TV, Radio, the Internet, in Film, Print, as a Speaker and as the first "Shrink on Board" airline in-flight entertainment, Dr. Carole's insights help people seize the moment to live happier, more fulfilling lives. She's also the author of Bad Boys: Why We Love Them, How to Live with Them and When to Leave Them.

Spring Cleaning: 5 Types of

Guys to Dump



By Marianne

Beach, GalTime

The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing—meaning it's time for some spring cleaning. But we're not talking about clearing out your closet or freshening up your house. Nope, we're talking about spring cleaning your love life. Yes, you heard me. It's time to wash that guy right out of your hair.

Jumpstart this spring with a fresh outlook and shed yourself of the five kinds of guys that spell out trouble.

Of course we girls are notoriously bad at letting go of Mr. Wrong. Even though we know in our hearts we should. (How could we not, with our best friends telling us every five seconds?)

So for a little added motivation, we recruited our favorite Straight Male Friend, Marcus Osborne, to smack us

down. And give us the 411 on the **five guys we need to dump** this spring.

“You’ve GOT to be willing to cut the cord. Respect your deal-breakers... and let the deal be broken,” Osborne insists. “The alternative is to stick around in a relationship that fires round after round at your self-esteem.”

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Is your man on Osborne’s hit list? Take a look!

5 Guys to Dump

1. Mr. I’m Too Busy: “Gosh you’re amazing but I just don’t have the time for a relationship right now.” If you’ve heard any variation of that line, know that you’ve just been warned.

That relationship, if that’s what you’re hoping for, is going nowhere and he’s basically told you so. The deal with Mr. I’m Too Busy is that he really isn’t too busy. If you believe nothing I ever tell you, believe this- If the guy is into you, he’ll find time. Period.

2. Mr. Panderer: This is the guy who has mastered the “game.”

Typically, he seeks out women who are looking for an old-school/traditional guy. Why? Because (in his mind) that woman can be had by sticking to the old courting playbook.

She’s not a huge challenge for him—even though the woman may think she is. Not for Mr. Panderer. He knows what SHE thinks before she even thinks it because it’s all in the playbook.

He says and does all the “right” things as a gentleman all the time. If he seems too good to be true...start looking for clips of him on Dateline.

3. Mr. Mysterious: This guy can be everything or anything.

His genius is making you feel as if you know him “well enough” without knowing a thing about him. You probably haven’t been to his place. And if you have, you’ve probably only been there at certain times. He never really answers

questions about his life. It's likely he's reluctant to introduce you to his friends or family—and has made mention or attempt at doing so. And he probably doesn't care to meet yours. This guy probably has no male friends either. No best friends? Beware. No matter how sexy or intriguing Mr. Mysterious seems to be, there's something not quite right about him.

Related: [Why Men Look at Other Women](#)

4. Mr. Know-It-All: One of the worst. Mr. Know-It-All may initially be impressive. His intellect is alluring, no doubt. Problem here? No one really knows it all. Furthermore, no one wants to be around anyone who thinks they know it all. Even worse, this guy can tend to be overbearing and domineering. He's always telling you what you did wrong, always telling you the "right" way to do things. He has very little regard for other perspectives. His high opinion of his opinions turns your friends off as much as it turns you on. Ultimately, this guy will end up being far more controlling than you expect and that's not good.

5. Mr. Apology: We all love and appreciate contrition. You screw up? You own up to it. But there's a limit to everything. How many times can a person apologize before you realize that the repentance has the worth of Monopoly money? (Especially if it's for the same transgression time and again.) Understand this; if the guy is constantly apologizing he either lacks confidence or he doesn't really respect you. Because at some point the lesson learned should stick and shouldn't keep happening. If it DOES, it's because he knows he can get away with it by saying, "my bad." Not good enough. _

Can Being A Sibling Teach You To Have A Good Relationship?



By Steven

Zangrillo

My sister and I grew up in Suburbia, which affords bored, middle-class children multiple opportunities for creative mayhem. My sister, therefore, functioned as a guinea pig of sorts. For instance, picture a 10-year-old and his friends chasing you around with Super Soakers filled to the hilt with pickle juice. You'd have hated me, too. When we both hit adolescence, we grew up a little bit. We went to high school and started to test the dating waters. As if being a 14-year-old, pimple-faced fat kid wasn't enough, I had to come home to the chiding laughter of my older, hotter, more dating-tested sister whenever I failed. Good news of failed romance spreads fast in Suburbia. My immaturity blinded me from taking in the romance lessons that are now so clear to me. Let's break them down:

Related: [10 Love Lessons From Bruce Springsteen](#)

1. People will always aggravate you, but how you react is dependent on how you want this situation to end.

On Easter we would have an Easter egg hunt, followed by a trip to the Sunday car show downtown. My sister would wake up extra early and find out where the eggs were, leave them there and go back to bed. When our parents woke us up a little later, Samantha would rifle through the house and snag every egg. Me? I was left in bitter tears and tuxedo pajamas (they were sweet, don't judge). She won the battle, and I didn't complain. I won the war later when I, not she, got to sit in the cars first at the show. Karma comes back around.

The lesson here is that your significant other will purposefully or unintentionally do aggravating things, just like your sibling. Whatever habits, issues, or situations you're faced with, remember that you can either continue to stamp your feet and cry while everyone goes to the car show, or you can calm down and hop your little tush into the front seat of a '72 Corvette.

2. Everyone is equally accountable under the same roof.

I had a Sega Genesis; she had a boom box. Montel Jordan was particularly popular at the time. You're already singing it in your head, "*Thiiiiis is how we doooo itttttt...*"

I was busy freezing people and knocking their heads off in *Mortal Kombat* when Samantha came bounding down the stairs, asking if she could play. I shrugged and, since I was bored anyway, surrendered the game console to her. I began to aimlessly prance around the house as quickly as my 7-year-old body would allow me to move. I stumbled upon her glistening, gorgeous new Sony boom box. Somewhere between the chorus and the second stanza I managed to scramble up the tape deck. I was left with a mangled mess of what once was a cassette. Needless to say, my sister and I brawled that day.

The lesson here, of course, is to communicate. Want to borrow his toothbrush? Fine, just say so. The idea that “What’s yours is mine, and mine is yours,” is great up until that last drop of orange juice is gone and someone is forced to adjust their routine because you didn’t say anything. It seems mundane, but little things add up. Give yourself few chances to be accused of things.

Related: [How to Communicate to Get What You Need](#)

3. Be a softie- it’s okay, seriously. If you don’t know how to be one, open yourself to learning about it.

My sister and I have spent 24 years being absolutely obnoxious towards each other. Between the passive-aggressive verbal assaults, physical encounters, finger pointing, name-gaming nonsense, we’ve seen some real and palpable tough times. There have been days where I’ve been called on to be her little brother. That’s a role that I relish and will always take seriously.

The same thing goes for relationships. It’s easy to be a fun, happy boyfriend or girlfriend. Life is great when you’re out on the town having drinks and dinner, going to your favorite club, seeing a movie, or whatever the case may be. The next day that person may be in need of something more concrete.

You might be called on to be there for support and you better be ready for it. If you aren’t, then just listen to everything they have to say to you. Be a softie. Listen, understand and appreciate. That’s your job as a sibling, significant other and a person in the world.

Do you think being a sibling has helped shape your relationship? Share your comments below.

How to Get the Best Sleep You Can With Your Partner



By David O

Volpi, M.D.

Sleeping habits aren't exactly first date conversation topics, but the reality is that more than a quarter of couples say their partner's sleep habits prevent them from getting a good night's rest, according to the National Sleep Foundation. Sleep incompatibilities are a top reason why one in four couples sleep in separate beds, and snoring is actually one of the top three reasons for divorce in the U.S.

So, how can women sleep in sync with their guys? Often times, simple lifestyle changes can help busy couples make their sleep routines mesh, and stop the snoring and bad sleeping habits that prevent them from sleeping soundly together. To get the best sleep possible, try the following tips:

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

Sync up your sleep schedules. Going to bed and waking up at different times every day is a sleep destroyer, and it's easy to do when couples have different work or social schedules.

In order to practice good 'sleep hygiene,' couples should get into a pattern of going to sleep and waking up around the same time every day, including weekends.

Change your position. For some people, an increased amount of airway obstruction occurs when they sleep on their backs.

This is called positional snoring. The obstruction can be reduced or eliminated if the snorer sleeps on their side, which is why bed partners always try to get their snoring counterpart to wake up and "roll over." In this case, a simple solution is to keep the snoring person off their back.

To do so, you can try sewing a ball into the pocket of a t-shirt, and having the snorer wear it backwards during sleep. Sleeping with an extra pillow can also help, because it elevates the head and opens the airways.

Reserve the bed for two things: Sleep and intimacy. Try to avoid eating, watching TV or using electronics in bed. It's been scientifically proven that the light from TV and computer screens affects melatonin production and throws off circadian rhythms. Plus, working in bed won't help couples bond, or wind down and ease into sleep.

Related: [Celebrity Couples Who Could Use an Extra Hour of Sleep](#)

Make sure neither of you use alcohol or sleeping medications before bedtime. Alcohol and medicines that make you drowsy can actually prevent you from sleeping through the night, even though they may make you drowsy initially. Alcohol and sedatives also cause the throat and tongue muscles to relax even further than usual, exacerbating snoring.

Create a relaxing bedtime routine. When your body gets used to

a nighttime routine (whether it's a beauty routine or an activity like reading), the brain is tricked into knowing that it's ready for bed. Try doing a crossword puzzle together or taking a warm bath. A study in *Sleep*, the Journal of the American Sleep Disorders Association, suggests taking a hot bath 90 minutes before bedtime can help you fall asleep. The hot water raises body temperature, and cool air in the bedroom lowers skin temperature, which triggers your body to produce melatonin and become drowsy.

Finally, always see a doctor if you or your partner struggles from sleep problems. Sleep disorders affect millions of people. Even celebrities like Rihanna and Shaquille O'Neal are known for struggles with snoring! But taking time to fix sleep problems is always worth it. In fact, it can help save relationships!

David O. Volpi attended Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia and completed his post graduate training in General Surgery at the Hospital of The Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and a residency in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the New York Medical College Affiliated Hospitals and the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He is also the co-author of the book Wake Up! You're Snoring... which was conceived and written to be an authoritative information source for people seeking guidance on treating the many causes of snoring.

Going the Distance: Celebrity Couples Who Make It Work



By Jennifer

Harrington

Everyone has heard the saying that “relationships are hard work.” But it seems that in Hollywood, relationships are even harder work, and celebrity news is always full of star couples calling it quits. We’re only a few months into 2012, and this year we’ve already heard of Russell Brand and Katy Perry’s divorce, the conclusion of Drew Carey’s five-year engagement to Nicole Jaracz, and the shocking end to Heidi Klum and Seal’s seven-year marriage.

We are always looking to celebrities for the latest trends in clothing, music, and movies. But with these couples frequently dissolving in divorce and disputes, are there any famous couples we can look to for inspiration in the love, romance, and marriage department? Cupid checked it out, and here are three couples who have been lucky in love, despite the constant glare of the spotlight:

Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn: These lovebirds have been

together for a quarter of a century, despite never tying the knot. Goldie was quoted in a 2007 *Woman's Day* article saying, "We have done just perfectly without marrying...I like waking up every day and seeing that he is there and knowing that I have a choice. There is really no reason to marry." What's the best part of their romance? They make their own rules and live life their way. Make your own rules in your relationship and do what works best for you and your honey.

Related: [Are Celebrity Cougars Becoming Extinct?](#)

John Travolta and Kelly Preston: The *Saturday Night Fever* star and *Jerry Maguire* beauty have been married since 1991. While both have built enduring, interesting careers in the film industry, personally they have experienced great sorrow with the death of their son Jett in 2009 (due to a seizure) and joy in 2010 when they welcomed son Benjamin into the world. What can we learn from them? John and Kelly share a common foundation in their religion, Scientology, and it's obvious that these shared beliefs have guided them through life's trials and tribulations. Whatever your beliefs, it's easier to cope with life when your partner shares a similar belief system.

Related: [What Celebrity Marriages Can Teach Us About Love](#)

Mark Consuelos and Kelly Ripa: Millions of people start each day with Kelly on the show *Live! With Kelly*, and she's always an open book on all aspects of her life, including her marriage to Mark, which started after they met on the set of *All My Children* in 1995. Between two showbiz careers and three children, Mark confided in a YourTango interview that the secret behind their successful marriage is remarkably simple. Mark said, "We have a lot of respect for each other. Our children are our priority and we come from two families where both parents are still together, and we hold that in high regard." Keep that in mind with your other half; don't lose sight of the basics, such as respecting your partner and

putting family first.

So while it may initially seem like Hollywood is full of short-lived romances, it turns out there are successful love stories as well. Thanks to Kurt and Goldie, John and Kelly, and Mark and Kelly for showing us all about love – Tinseltown style!

What are some other celeb couples who continually make it work? Share your ideas below.

Snooki's Pregnancy: Can You Salvage Your Image?



Parfitt

By

EJ

What happens if you have a certain image at work, and then you change that image? If everyone expects you to be a particular type of person, will they still accept you if you are suddenly different? Can you be effective in your job if you alter your personal “brand”?

We all change as we go through life, and in many cases those changes can affect the way people see us on the job. Even someone with a job as unusual as *Jersey Shore*’s Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi has to deal with these issues. Snooki is pregnant, and the question remains as to how that may affect her career as a reality TV star. Here are two ways to look at it:

The Pessimist

If you look at the situation from a negative point of view, being pregnant could destroy Snooki’s career. From this viewpoint, Snooki’s fame is based on being a wild and crazy party girl who takes the freedom of being single to deliciously tacky extremes. This is what viewers have become used to, and this is what they want to watch. It won’t be any fun to see her settle down into motherhood. Pregnancy could ruin Snooki’s “brand.”

Related: [Movie Review – Easy A](#)

The Optimist

Though there’s no denying the potential ruin of Snooki’s career, there’s another more positive way to look at the situation as well. It’s possible that it’s mostly Snooki’s personality, rather than her crazy antics, that keeps viewers interested. If that’s the case, then Snooki’s pregnancy won’t stop her from continuing to be a star. If people watch her because they feel they can relate to her, then they will be eager to see what will happen next in this new phase of her life. Her pregnancy and motherhood could even give the show a

boost for viewers who were becoming tired of the endless partying.

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

What's true for Snooki is true for everyone. You don't need to have satellite TV providers beaming your life story across the world in order to think about your personal "brand." The key is to make your brand about the things that will last throughout your lifetime, such as your personality, intelligence and skills, not about the things that will change, such as being young, single and childless.

If your image at work is based on being cute and perky, think about the traits you have that will last over the long haul.

If you're a partier like Snooki or a young rebel, realize that you are likely to make a transition to a calmer and more stable stage of life eventually. Don't put all your career eggs in the basket of who you are right now. Hook people on your long-lasting qualities and abilities, and you'll be able to use life's changes to your advantage. You don't need to be a Guidette to learn this lesson from Snooki.

Tech writer EJ Parfitt has been writing for a short time now and has already picked up steam with several tech and sports sites. During his free time, you're sure to catch him competing in local chess tournaments in downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

April Fools Pranks to Play on

Your Significant Other



By Ryan

Boyle

Whether it's the prank of all pranks, or a cute and funny trick you play on your better half, taking part in some April Fools Day shenanigans is a great way to reacquaint your partner with your playful side. A couple harmless escapades can be exactly what you need to create those memorable laughs that help keep your relationship strong. If you're having trouble coming up with ideas, Cupid is here to help. Here are five tricks that are sure to get a rise out of your mate:

1. Bogus Lottery Ticket

It's no secret that we'd all like to be millionaires. So, it's time to trick your love with a fake ticket to Paradise. All you need to do is mix a bogus lottery ticket from a trick shop into a pile of real ones you've purchased from the local gas station. Leave them on the kitchen table, or a place in

the house he'll be sure to frequently visit. When he gets home, tell him you were feeling lucky and decided to buy a few tickets for the two of you to enjoy together. Watch as his eyes light up with thoughts of all the ways he's going to spend his newfound fortune. Of course, when he returns from his triumphant jog and realizes the ticket was fake, you'll have to be there to playfully laugh at him and give him a long consoling [hug](#).

Related: [Chris Martin Says Marrying Gwyneth Paltrow is Like Winning the Lottery](#)

2. Have Him Think You're Planning a Massive Prank

Psych majors gather around in an effort to employ a little reverse psychology this April Fools. This non-trick will prove to be a bit more difficult to carry out, but will leave a lasting sense of trickery paranoia on your partner throughout the day.

Start a few days before the first of the month and tell your mate that you have something spectacular planned for April Fools and he's the target. Let them know that you've been talking about it with your friends and they're all in on the joke. As the days go on, he'll grow increasingly curious and when he asks you about it, [be sweet](#) and sinister in the way you let him know that he'll just have to wait and see. Of course, at the days end, he'll be sure to ask you about the prank, to which you reply "April Fools!"

Related: [Date Idea – Create Magic in Your Relationship](#)

3. Scratch Decals

If your partner adores their car, a few well-placed scratch decals will be sure to not only make it look old and in poor condition, but it'll put a quick scare into him or her on the morning of April 1st. Watch from the window as they notice the marks and erupt into a panic attack. Be sure to meet them at

the curb with a smile on your face and your arms stretched out as you let them know just how easy these decals are to pull off.

4. Mildew Sandwich Bag

You were nice enough to make your partner that special turkey sandwich that he loves so much. Today however, embrace the April Fools trickery, and put that delicious lunch treat in a faux moldy sandwich bag. These bags appear to be your standard Ziploc lunch carrier, but upon further inspection, it becomes clear that there are green splotches painted on the outside that mimic the signs of old, molded bread. He or she will get a real shock when they tear open that brown paper bag at noon to see the sandwich they were looking forward to has turned into its own living organism.

5. Electric Shock Mouse

We'll set aside all offensiveness to our hairy pals at Geico, but it's obvious that you and your lover aren't cave people.

If you have electricity, chances are you're a part of the new age of technology. From texting on your iPhone, to Skyping, video chats, tweeting and status updates, our lives have become more and more blended with the results of advanced technology.

This April Fools Day, set up a new mouse for you and your love to use on your desktop computer ... only this isn't an ordinary mouse. When he or she goes to sit and test it out on their favorite computer game, every time they presses the left and right select buttons they'll get a gentle shock into the palm.

Be sure to watch on as they start frantically clicking around on the computer, but be sure to come to the rescue with a smirk on your face.

This year, hone those pranking skills, and turn this April 1st into one for the scrapbooks.

What prank did your partner pull on you last year? Tell us in a comment below.

Love Advice For Making Your Long-Distance Relationship Work



By Jemima

Lopez

He lives in L.A, and she lives in London. While having a trans-Atlantic relationship is tough, if there's anything British celebrity couple David and Victoria Beckham prove, it's that long-distance relationships *can* work. Married for 12 years, they just welcomed their fourth child. Their American counterparts, Hollywood couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie,

have made it work too. Despite separation between films, they've managed to stay in a committed relationship for seven years, and they share six children.

But non-celebrities have remote relationships too. In fact, more than 3.5 million Americans were in a long-distance relationship in 2005, according to the latest statistics. With the development of new technology, that number is most likely on the rise. While us common folks can't afford to jet set or send extravagant gifts, that doesn't mean our long-distance relationship can't last just as long. Use this love advice to help maintain your relationship and love like the stars:

Love Advice For Long-Distance Couples

1. Use all forms of communication: Let's get the obvious out of the way: Physical interaction is scarce, so communication is key. Text messaging, instant messaging, or even Facebooking is a start, but make your "communication" more interactive. Here are some examples:

Related Link: [Five Ways Social Media Can Help Your Relationship](#)

– **Date nights:** "Skype dates" are the norm – a designated time couples agree to video chat. But try to have a *real* date instead. Each week, pick a movie and a meal to prepare or purchase. Arrange your laptop, screen facing you. Eat and engage in conversation like in a restaurant. Then, pop in the movie. This way, you can hear and see each other's reactions to scenes. Bonus: Other movie-goers won't tell you to pipe down!

– **Send photos:** Sending self-portraits are great, but always try to send photos of things that you find interesting or funny. It will allow your mate to become more in-tune with

your personality and give them some insight into your world.

– **Make videos:** Hearing someone's voice and seeing their face is more personable than a text. But people don't always have time to videochat. Instead of sending a text, create a 30-second SMS video. Your significant other can view or respond when they have time, and it's still special. There are apps that deliver "voice text messages," like Voxer.

Related Link: [Do's and Don'ts of Flirtexting and Sexting](#)

2. Send them a package: Sending your partner a gift for no reason is great love advice that can keep a smile on their face. Remember that you can also treat your boo to lunch or dinner because it's easy to get online and order a pizza that can be delivered to his or her front door. You can send traditional letters too. There is something incredibly personable about seeing someone's handwriting.

How to Strengthen Your Relationship and Love

3. Schedule monthly trips: You can talk for hours, but unless you see each other in the flesh at least once a month, your relationship will most likely fizzle. There are exceptions, like military relationships, which don't have the luxury. But for those that can travel at their own leisure, take turns planning monthly visits.

4. Be secure: Lastly, most remote relationships fail due to lack of trust. While understandable, if there is no trust, you shouldn't be together. Try not to let your jealousy get the best of you. That said, never completely ignore your intuition either. If something doesn't feel right, speak up.

Jemima Lopez is a freelance blogger and writer who writes for Zen College Life, the directory of higher education, distance learning, and best online schools. She welcomes your comments

at her email: lopezjemima562@gmail.com.

Are Celebrity Cougars Becoming Extinct?



By Ché

Blackwood

Until the early 2000s, most women hadn't even considered moving backward a generation in their search for a partner, and if they did, their friends and the rest of society served them with a cool dish of disapproval. Then, the cougar craze peaked when couples like Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher became household names. Single women everywhere finally felt free to scope out younger men in their hunky hunt for love. Now, nearly a decade later, the publicity over cougars has slowed to a crawl and with the dissolve of the Kutcher-Moore

marriage, some have been left to wonder if the phenomenon has passed. Newsflash: it hasn't! The press may have moved on to newer stories, but these couples prove that women have been following their hearts, regardless of age, long before the cougar craze hit, and they'll continue to do so long after:

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

1. Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon: Married April 30, 2008

With 11 years between them, this duo's whirlwind romance proved to be more than a fling when Cannon placed a rock hard diamond on Carey's hand. The birth of their twins in 2011 only solidified their union, and the pair shows no sign of slowing down.

Related: [10 Most Beautiful Celebrity Couples](#)

2. Deborra-Lee Furness and Hugh Jackman: Married April 11, 1996

Mrs. Wolverine slashed her way into sexy Hugh Jackman's heart in the 90s, stepping over their 13 year age difference long before being a cougar was trendy. Fifteen years and two children later, Furness isn't regretting her decision to ditch society's sense of normalcy as the couple prepares to celebrate another anniversary in April.

3. Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart: Together Since November 2011

After going through a very public divorce with music legend and ex-hubby Marc Anthony, Lopez has found happiness with her backup dancer Casper Smart. With an 18 year age difference causing a backlash of criticism, Lopez has taken to Twitter to fight back. She's explained that 'age is merely a "log" of the time we've been on Earth' and that 'society needs to shut their ears and open their hearts.' With pictures surfacing of the two lovebirds enjoying their time together, it appears that this Bronx girl has certainly opened hers.

4. Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell: Together Since 1983

With their story starting in 1983, this twosome demonstrates a classic case of love outlasting all obstacles. Other than their six year age difference, the couple overcame blending their families together (both had children from previous marriages) and rumors of Russell's alleged infidelity. With a romance that's lasted 25 years, we think Hawn is one of the the best examples of the longevity of a cougar's love.

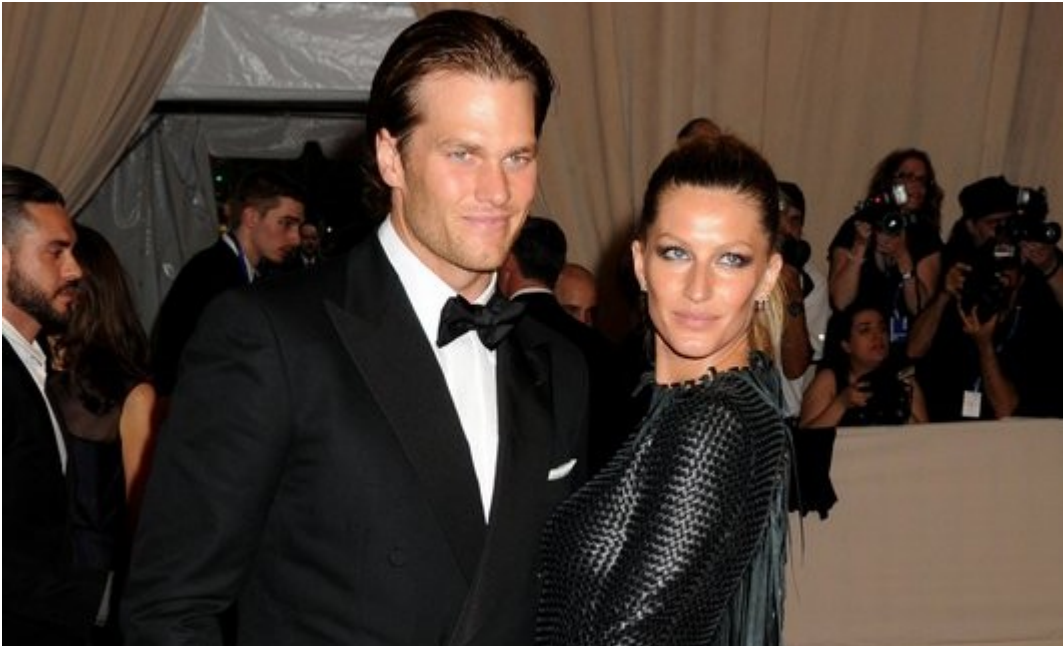
5. Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas: Married May 14, 1996

This adorable couple have been married for fifteen years, long since laughing off their three year age difference. While both have had successful acting careers, nothing has been more fulfilling than their relationship, marriage and child. While their age difference isn't the most shocking, it appears as if these two would have hooked up no matter their ages.

Do you think the cougar phenomenon is over? If not, are you the cougar in a successful relationship? Tell us in a comment below.

3 Ways to Use Celebrity Media To Assess Your Relationship





By Samantha

Peters

Anyone who follows gossip news is probably well aware that the celebrity media gets plenty wrong and is far from an authority figure. But, even when the media is wrong about the status or longevity of a celebrity relationship, for example, it knows how to interpret individual and publicly-displayed signs. It knows how to assess, even if it can't always see the full picture.

The celebrity media's outsider assessment skills can actually be used by anyone who seeks to examine their own relationship.

Now that Valentine's Day has come and gone, and now that the seasons have begun to change, it's as good a time as ever to take a step back and do just that. It's time to figure out if your relationship is growing, stagnating or declining. How is your [chemistry](#)? How happy and excited does your significant other make you feel? Though difficult, these are all good questions to ask.

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

That said, rather than answering these oft-abstract questions, try to instead assess your relationship from a more public, outsider perspective – and let the celebrity media give you a

hand.

As an example of how to do this, we're going to look at the ongoing relationship between actor Leonardo DiCaprio and Victoria's Secret model Erin Heatherton. Heatherton is just the latest in a long line of tall, thin, blonde models that DiCaprio has been known to date. From her perspective, although Leo is 15 years older (sugar daddy definition, anyone?), we can't blame Erin for finding his charm and his fame too irresistible to ignore.

Based on their relationship (and on the celebrity media's reaction), here are a few factors that any couple can assess:

Family Involvement

Love them or hate them, but our families usually know us better than we'd ever like to admit. In fact, they can probably form a pretty solid opinion of whether a relationship will work – or should work – in the long run. At the beginning of January, Leo took Erin out for an upscale New Year's Day brunch – with his mom. The celebrity media reported Erin and Leo's mom chatting, laughing and generally hitting it off. This was interpreted as a good sign for their relationship. *How would the paparazzi view the time you and your significant other spend with family members?*

Related: [Zoe Saldana Goes on a Movie Date with Bradley Cooper's Mom](#)

Time Together

A good relationship is one in which couples find ways to truly enjoy the time they spend together. All too often, the paparazzi spots a celebrity couple lounging on the beach for hours on end without communicating, or sees them sitting and sharing a silent dinner together. While a less communicative couple is not in and of itself a sign of a stagnant relationship, it certainly compares less favorably to the

couple spotting laughing and interacting in a lively manner.

When Leo and Erin took a romantic vacation to Mexico last month, they were photographed zip-lining their way all around Cabo San Lucas. According to the celebrity media, this was another positive sign. *When outsiders view your relationship, do they see it as fun and enjoyable?*

Public Plans

Amidst recent news that Leonardo was spotted in Sydney (where he is filming *The Great Gatsby*) with top Australian models, but no Erin in sight, speculation emerged that the couple had [broken up](#). However, Leo, Erin, nor either celebrity's publicist has been willing to make any comments about the relationship in the first place. Some in the media have interpreted this as a sign that nobody involved believes that the couple has much of a future. *What do you and your significant other tell friends about your future plans?*

These are just a few things to consider while assessing your relationship. Although the celebrity media is not always to be believed, and even though Leo and Erin are certainly not reflective of every couple out there, you can still learn from their publically-displayed actions – and from the media response – when trying to determine where you and your significant other currently stand.

Samantha Peters is a passionate follower of Hollywood celebrity relationship gossip. She loves blogging about ways to sustain successful relations, which sometimes requires assessing your relationship using a little celebrity media. Samantha lives in beautiful San Diego, California, and makes frequent trips to west L.A. to go shopping and celebrity spotting.

5 Ways to Stop Sabotaging Your Relationships



By Jacquee

Kahn

My mother always told me to work on myself first, and from there, everything else will follow. Little did I know that this would become a practice for me as I became a relationship “guru” for my friends (and later, clients).

News flash ladies: If you’re having a hard time with dating and relationships, it’s not about the men. It’s not because they’re players or commitment-phobes. It’s about YOU.

I meet incredibly smart, beautiful and talented women who have completely lost themselves in relationships. When they were single, they were confident and independent. But once in a

relationship, those attractive qualities dissolved and these same women became needy, insecure and emotionally broken.

It's time to stop undermining your relationship by first working on yourself. Here are five ways to get rid of those bad habits that sabotage relationships:

1. Be Yourself: Don't be so eager to please your man that you lose yourself and become completely disempowered. Tom Cruise's line in the film "Jerry McGuire" may be "You complete me," but it's simply not true. You don't have to be in a relationship to be a complete person.

Related: [Simple Ways to Please Your Man](#)

2. Know You're Worthy: We often become so desperate to make relationships work that we do whatever it takes to please our partners, much to the detriment of ourselves. So, don't be needy, clingy or desperate. These behaviors are a huge turn off and usually create the opposite effect.

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

3. Keep a Loose Grip: Refrain from holding on too tight. If your man pulls away, let him go. Don't show insecurity by begging, pleading or trying to manipulate him to stay. If he comes back, it's because he wants to, not because you forced him to.

4. Don't Accept Less Than You Deserve: Don't accept crumbs by allowing yourself to settle for a "friends with benefits" or a "booty call" situation when what you really want is a committed relationship.

5. Save Yourself: Don't look outside of yourself to be rescued. Take ownership of your personal happiness, because all relationships start and end with YOU.

Jacquee Kahn dispenses "Super Nanny"-style tough love to women

in need of relationship help. The author of Girlfriend 911: Decoding Dating and Rescuing Relationships One Girlfriend at a Time, her no-nonsense, straightforward advice points toward the foundation of the book.

Celebrity Weddings: 5 Famous Couples That Said 'I Do' in Vegas



By Katanya

Royster

What's the first thing you think of when someone says Sin City? Okay, *after* legalized prostitution. That's right: quickie Vegas weddings in chapels illuminated with neon lights. The fact is, Las Vegas issues approximately 100,000

marriage licenses each year and boasts almost as many wedding chapels as it does casinos. For famous couples, those quickie celebrity weddings are typically followed by quickie divorces and embarrassing publicity. Vegas' abundance of 24-hour bars makes us wonder if some of our favorite celebs were under the influence of something other than love when they tied the knot, Vegas-style. Here are a few examples:

Famous Couples That Married in Vegas

1. Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos: In 1996, former soap star and current television host Kelly Ripa married actor Mark Consuelos at the Chapel of the Bells in Las Vegas. Sixteen years and three children later, this happy married celebrity couple proves Vegas weddings can sometimes stick!

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

2. Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton: In 2000, actress Angelina Jolie and actor/writer Billy Bob Thornton wed at The Little Church of the West on the Las Vegas Strip. The famous couple called it quits after two years of marriage with Jolie petitioning for divorce, citing "irreconcilable differences." It was Jolie's second marriage and Thornton's fifth.

3. Britney Spears and Jason Alexander: In 2004, pop star Britney Spears wed longtime friend Jason Alexander at a 24-hour wedding chapel. Apparently, Spears forgot to grab a pre-nup on the way to the chapel. meaning that this stunt could have cost her a lot more than a little public backlash. 55 hours later, Alexander signed annulment papers and took an economy class flight home. During a subsequent interview with MTV's *Total Request Live*, Spears said Vegas "took her over" and admitted that "things got out of hand."

Related Link: [5 Celebrity Couple We Want to Reunite](#)

4. Pamela Anderson and Rick Salomon: In 2007, Rick Salomon, who famously co-starred in the leaked Paris Hilton sex tape *One Night in Paris*, and actress Pamela Anderson tied the proverbial knot at Las Vegas' Mirage Hotel, making this the third celebrity marriage for both Salomon and Anderson. However, Salomon and Anderson's 15-year friendship did not translate into a successful union. Two months later, the famous couple's marriage was annulled in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

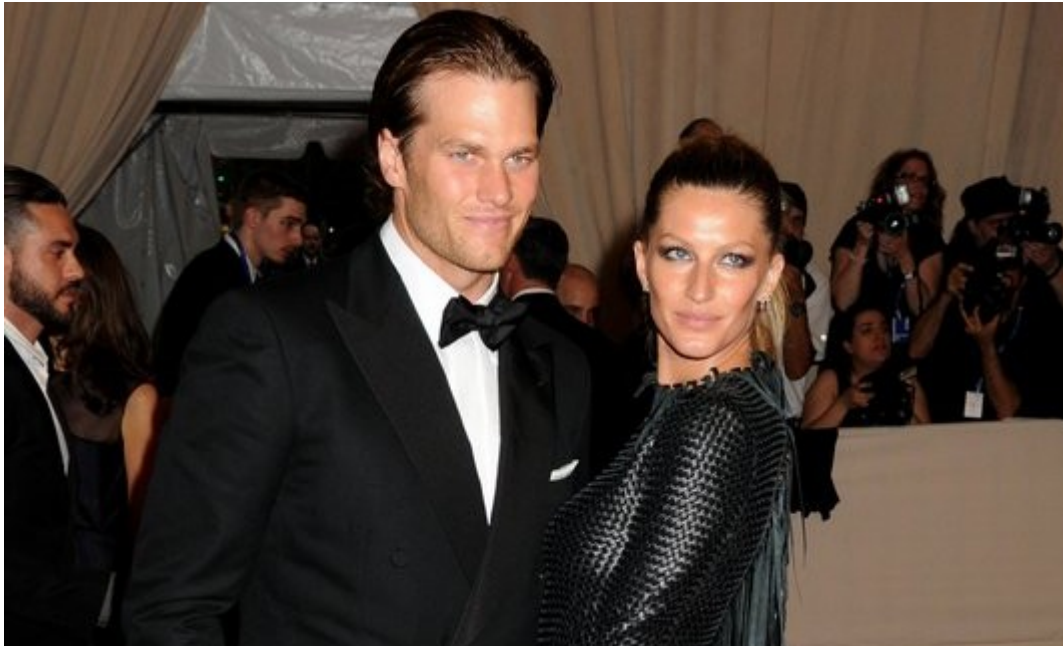
Celebrity Love Has No Age Limit

5. Doug Hutchison and Courtney Stodden: In 2011, actor Doug Hutchison married aspiring singer Courtney Stodden at Las Vegas' Little Chapel of Flowers. The groom was 51 years old, and, at only 16, the bride was probably still learning to operate a motor vehicle. Despite Stodden's age, the celebrity marriage *is* legal. Under Nevada law, a person who is at least 16 years of age but is not yet 18 years old can marry with parental consent – and Stodden's parents consented to the marriage. "We all need a good man in our lives," her mom Krista told Fox411.com. "True love can be ageless," Hutchinson told E! News in response to the controversy surrounding the celebrity couples' age difference.

Would you get married in Vegas? Share your comments below.

How Decoding Your Love Map

Can Heal a Broken Heart



By Rachel

Sussman

When it comes to celebrity breakups, many of us spend plenty of time analyzing their trials and tribulations. We identify on many levels with our favorite Hollywood couples by getting inspired by their romances and mourning their losses. In fact, we even tend to fear that the same types of failures they experience can happen within our relationships as well.

Whether you're a celebrity or not, there are numerous ingredients which go into determining whether a connection exists between two people. Love, attraction and pheromones are key components, but there are many others that dictate the choices we make as well, and they happen from the very beginning of our lives. It's important to remember that genetic/biological, social/cultural, and psychological issues determined your partner selection, romance and grieving period. In other words, they're part of your personal "love

map.” Through interpreting your love map, you will understand how important events from your past shaped your individual personality development and self-esteem, which directly correlates to your relationship behavior.

Here are two celebrity examples where creating a love map would be invaluable:

Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher

Since the beginning of their relationship, Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher’s romance fascinated the public. They’re both attractive and accomplished actors, and, of course, there’s the famous age difference. Sadly, Moore has suffered from depression and grappled with addiction since the pair’s split.

In a recent interview, she said, “What scares me is that I’m going to ultimately find out at the end of my life that I’m really not lovable, that I’m not worthy of being loved.”

Moore’s unworthy feelings most likely existed long before she ever met Kutcher. According to multiple reports, she experienced a difficult childhood and both of her parents were alcoholics, which undoubtedly influenced her relationship choices and her behavior in those relationships. By creating her personal love map, Moore would be able to work through her pain in order to regain strength and health.

Related: [Demi Moore Proves There’s Hope After Divorce](#)

Heidi Klum and Seal

Heidi Klum and Seal also recently went through an unexpected split. Many of us were thrilled to see a beautiful bi-racial couple with a large blended family who were happily wed. That said, Seal’s hard childhood inspired him to create beautiful music, but it also affected him negatively as well. It’s been reported that he was raised by a foster family, which would have influenced his personality development during his formative years. Apparently his emotional problems, in

particular his inability to control his anger, had become too much for Heidi to take. In this case Seal should decode his love map to understand his psychological makeup. Heidi, on the other hand, should interpret her love map in order to discover what factors from her earlier life led her into the arms of a volatile man in order to expedite her emotional recovery.

Related: [Heidi Klum and Seal Confirm Separation](#)

Creating and interpreting a personal love map will enable anyone, celebrity or not, to heal and recover from a bad breakup. It will also allow you to understand and change behaviors that may be negatively impacting your romances – and that is definitely something worth striving for.

Rachel A. Sussman, LCSW, is the author of The Breakup Bible, a licensed psychotherapist and the founder of Sussman Counseling, a psychotherapy practice specializing in treating couples and individuals with relationship dilemmas. She is an official relationship expert for Cosmopolitan, Destination Maternity and Celebuzz.com and has appeared on the Today show, the CBS Early Show, Martha Stewart Living Radio, and elsewhere. She holds a BA from Emerson College and a master's from NYU. For more information, visit: rachelasussman.com.

St. Patrick's Day: 10 of the Most Desirable Irish Celebrities



By Matthew

Dougherty

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner! With so many celebrities from Ireland or with Irish descent, now is the perfect time to decide who would be the best match for you. With a little Irish luck, anything can happen. Here are our picks for the best Irish actors and actresses to hit the bars with on Saturday – after a romantic dinner, of course:

Top 5 Irish Actors To Romance

5. Cillian Murphy: Cillian Murphy was born in Douglas, a suburb of Cork, Ireland. The actor has appeared in many films, but perhaps he was most desirable in the opening moments of *Red Eye*, where he played the perfect potential boyfriend to Rachel McAdams' character. That is, until he turned out to be a homicidal lunatic. Murphy has a laid-back, cool persona and would likely make a charming date.

4. Jonathan Rhys Meyers: This television actor, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, has a reputation for partying and would be

a great person to hit the clubs with on St. Patty's Day. His piercing blue eyes also make him almost impossible to resist.

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

3. Pierce Brosnan: Okay, so he's married, but our list wouldn't be complete without James Bond. Plus, there's hope for a movie romance: with every new film comes another Bond girl. Brosnan was born and grew up in Ireland and is practically ageless, both qualities that help him play the super suave and sexy spy.

2. Mark Wahlberg: Marky Mark was born in the most Irish town in America: Boston, Massachusetts. Boston is the best place in the U.S. to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. If you are lucky, maybe Wahlberg will take you to some of his favorite pubs in the city.

1. Colin Farrell: No actor flaunts his Irish heritage as much as Colin Farrell. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Farrell is known for being one of Hollywood's bad boys. But that does not take away from the fact that he would be a great date. Plus, he does have a [soft side](#). Farrell has said that what inspired him to become an actor was watching E.T., which brought him to tears. Need we say more?

Top 5 Irish Actresses To Romance

5. Jennifer Connelly: Jennifer Connelly is of Irish descent, thanks to her father. You can very easily see it in her face. Do you know what you cannot see in her face? Her age. Jennifer Connelly is 41 years old and does not look a day over 30. She is a beauty queen and easily one of the sexiest women on the planet.

Related: [Why Amazing, Confident Women Remain Single](#)

4. Olivia Wilde: This rising star has citizenship in Ireland. Coming off of some major television and movie roles,

Wilde is becoming one of the hottest names in Hollywood. If she is anything like some of the characters she plays, she is kind-hearted and absolutely loveable but with a bit of an attitude as well.

3. Rooney Mara: She may have played a Swedish hacker in last winter's *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, but Mara comes from an extremely Irish family. Her great uncle was, at one time, the United States Ambassador to Ireland. Mara is very shy and modest in interviews. This makes her one of the cutest and most humble people in the business. Oh, and she is absolutely gorgeous.

2. Zooey Deschanel: Who can resist Zooey Deschanel? *The New Girl* and *(500) Days of Summer* star has a glowing personality but manages to be more down to Earth than a lot of other actresses. She would be an entertaining date because she knows how to laugh at herself – and how to make you laugh, too. A combination of her bubbly personality and beautiful, big blue eyes will make her very difficult to ignore.

1. Anne Hathaway: Hathaway is of mostly Irish ancestry, which is pretty obvious when you look at her. Based on interviews and what many in the inner circle of Hollywood have said, Anne is one of the sweetest, nicest people in the business. Last summer, she starred in the romantic film *One Day*, leaving many of her fans wanting to spend more than just one day with her. This summer, however, she will take on a much darker role as the new Catwoman in the next Batman movie, *The Dark Knight Rises*. Hathaway is great as any character, but who can pass up dating Catwoman?

Do you like our picks? Any other Irish celebrities you would rather date? Sound off below!

4 Wedding Styles of the Rich and Famous



By Lauren

Martina, ASID and Katherine Shell Benson

When it comes to upcoming trends, we can guarantee that the hottest engaged celebrity couples will be showcasing the latest and greatest. In fact, we had so much fun pairing the most talked about celebrity brides-to-be with the wedding styles that everyone is talking about! Here's our forecast for what we think we will see in 2012!

Anne Hathaway: When we think of Anne Hathaway, we think of vintage elegance. Between her classic fashion style and the grace she exudes each time she walks out of her door, we believe that a *Vintage Elegance* wedding is what fits her best. Although her wedding will be in NYC, this very popular style can be scaled up and used in any setting from penthouse rooftops to grand hotel ballrooms.

Jessica Simpson: Very Southern and hand done outdoor weddings are huge right now and are not going away any time soon. One of the things we love about Jessica Simpson is that she is authentic, and this is the type of wedding we can see her having this time around ... very intimate, Southern and hands on.

Britney Spears: Although this is not her first rodeo, we believe she has found the one this time! With two adorable boys, and the reputation of sometimes going against the grain (which isn't so bad sometimes when an electric razor isn't involved), we can't imagine Ms. Spears in a traditional white dress. This is why we are pairing her in a colored Vera Wang dress, which is one of 2012's hottest trends.

Jessica Biel: *Luxe Weddings* are all the rage right now, and if you go to any Canadian wedding source (Canada is always a step ahead when it comes to wedding trends), you will see what we mean. Who better to have one than Jessica Biel? We envision her wedding very luxe with champagne and gold trims, acanthus leaves and lots of layered texture. We can see her and Justin Timberlake with this fabulous Luxe cake from The Cake Opera Co. Love this!

For more of the hottest trends and wedding day ideas, come see us on our blog at www.bellabaxterevents.com/blog.

Hollywood Relationships: Celebrities Who Found Romance

On Set



By Megan

McIntosh

Everyone remembers the moment they met the love of their life, whether it be at a park, a coffee shop or at the office. For many celebrity couples, the setting of the beginning of their love story was the work place. While some pairs couldn't keep the torch in their love life burning, the following Hollywood relationships turned "just a normal day at the office" into unforgettable romances that tabloids and fans constantly follow and discuss:

Hollywood Relationships On- And Off-Screen

1. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie: This famous couple has to be one of the most unforgettable set of co-stars to have met on

set (they were filming *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*). Pitt divorced his then-wife Jennifer Aniston in 2004 and later got together with Jolie. The duo has a total of six children together – three biological and three adopted.

Related Link: [Brad Pitt Trashes Marriage to Jennifer Aniston](#)

2. Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell: Famous actress and mother of Kate Hudson, Hawn has been with actor Kurt Russell since 1983. This Hollywood relationship started on the set of *Swing Shift* in 1982, and the famous couple later starred in the film *Love Overboard* in 1986. Despite a relationship that spans nearly four decades, the couple has no plans to marry.

First The Movie, Then The Celebrity Wedding

3. Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner: This dynamic duo met while on the set of *Daredevil* in 2002 and celebrated their celebrity wedding in 2005. The Hollywood couple has maintained a relatively low-profile relationship, unlike Affleck's previous relationship with another Jennifer, Jennifer Lopez. Affleck and Garner have three children together.

Related Link: [Jennifer Garner Says She 'Would Do Anything' for Ben Affleck](#)

4. Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson: This twosome has experienced great popularity with their on-set/off-set chemistry. The celebs met on the set of *Twilight* in 2008 and also starred together in the other films of the *Twilight* saga: *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*. Bella may have difficulty in choosing Jacob or Edward on-screen, but Stewart is Team Edward all the way! Both Pattinson and Stewart will star in the last film of the series *Breaking Dawn Part II* later this year.

5. Jessica Alba and Cash Warren: These lovebirds had a

slightly different matchmaking experience. Though not an actor himself, Warren met Alba while she was filming *Fantastic Four* in 2004, and the two were married in 2008. The couple have two daughters together.

6. Freddie Prinze Jr. and Sarah Michelle Gellar: This reclusive celebrity couple met while filming the scary movie *I Know What You Did Last Summer* in 1997. They were married in 2000 and filmed two additional movies together, *Scooby-Doo* in 2002 and its sequel, *Scooby-Doo: Monster's Unleashed* in 2004. Prinze and Gellar had a baby girl in 2009 and switch off with at-home responsibilities.

Who are some other Hollywood couples that have found love on set? Share your ideas below.