

What Celebrity Marriages Can Teach Us About Love



By Sherry Amatenstein, LCSW, and author of *The Complete Marriage Counselor*

It sounds simplistic, but the primary key to a successful marriage, whether the couple are superstars or just plain folk, is for the pair to make each other a priority.

This advice is easy to say, of course, but hard to implement, especially when your every move is followed by Twitter, Facebook, 24/7 cable news, and paparazzi. In the case celebrity couple John Travolta and Kelly Preston, their union endured the scrutiny that arose after a blackmail attempt surrounding the death of their autistic son. No couple is immune from trauma and strife, but they must band together in

the face of the trouble, instead of becoming separate camps.

Travolta and Preston exhibited grace under unimaginable sorrow and pressure, and their union seemingly emerged stronger for the ordeal.

Compare that grace to the four star bad judgment exhibited by David Arquette, by blabbing to Howard Stern about how his estranged wife, Courtney Cox, was tired of being his mother and had given her blessing to his having sex with other women.

He added that sex with Cox was scheduled to some degree. Loose lips may not sink ships, but certainly can further puncture troubled marriages.

Another lesson to be gained from Arquette is his seeming unwillingness to compromise. On *The View*, he professed to love his wife, the mother of his child, but says she wants a quiet, calm life, while he (seven years younger) still wants to party. Is this really a gulf that cannot be bridged if both partners agree to give a little?

If star couples in love exhibit a little more Travolta and a lot less Arquette, perhaps the shelf life of these unions will be longer than a carton of milk!

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Election Day Celebrity Style



By Kaitlyn Monteiro

With this year's 2010 midterm elections coming to a close today, we aren't seeing the celebrity star power that we witnessed in 2008. Make no mistake; it's not the Presidential election but it's still an important time to vote. According to experts, Hollywood is staying home this election period. Why the lack of star power now? Where's Brad and Angelina? Demi and Ashton? Whether we like it or not, these famous folks can influence public opinion. If you and your partner are ready to vote but don't see eye-to-eye when it comes to politics, there are still ways that you can make a stance while maintaining a healthy relationship:

1. One way to achieve neutral ground is by educating others. Instead of focusing your attention on who you're voting for, put the spotlight on the traditional lack of voter turn out instead and help increase the numbers.

2. Stand behind a group. While Jay-Z has made it clear in the past Presidential election who he was voting for, this time around he's working with the Vote Again 2010 campaign headed by HeadCount, a nonpartisan organization that works with musicians to promote participation in democracy. Find ways to get involved with groups that share the same political viewpoint as you.

3. Avoid trying to change your partner's opinion. You're with them because of the person they are, not the political candidate they support. Respect that they have the right to an opinion that differs from yours. Don't ridicule your significant other's views on certain issues – instead, listen and work to understand their stance.

Without becoming a political celebrity staple, celebrity couples are taking on a more open-minded and neutral stance when it comes to the midterm elections, and you and your significant other can try this out too. While issues dealt with during political elections can be the breaking point for some couples, that doesn't mean that Republicans, Democrats, and all parties alike cannot find mutual grounds in the dating world.

Wicked Celebrity Breakups



By [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

Let's face it: It's not often that breakups and divorces are civil and lacking in drama. In fact, most are ridden with angry fights, jealousy and revenge. America's A-list celebs prove that theory better than any other group! Consider Bristol Palin, Courteney Cox and Mel Gibson.

Bristol Palin

After revealing that she was expecting a baby during her mom's run for Vice President, a teenaged Bristol Palin announced her engagement to baby daddy Levi Johnston. Things eventually turned sour, however, when the couple called it quits and both of their families turned to the media for revenge. Johnston bad-mouthed Palin's family in an attempt to destroy it in a famous interview with [Vanity Fair](#). He said that Sarah Palin originally wanted to keep her daughter's pregnancy a secret

and then adopt the child as her own when he was born. When the couple decided to try to make it work again recently, things went downhill pretty quickly. Bristol talked to the tabloids herself this time, claiming that she called it quits with Johnston due to his being in an intimate music video with singer, Brittani Sanner. Johnston had apparently told Palin that he was going to Hollywood to film a hunting show. Even now, as Bristol stars on this season's *Dancing with the Stars*, Johnston had something to say about it, remarking that she never once danced with him while they were together. Big or small, the drama won't seem to leave this couple alone! Unfortunately, with a son in the picture, the two will have to eventually make it work in a civil way.

Courteney Cox

Everyone's favorite *Friends* actress Courteney Cox isn't innocent to relationship drama either. Although we have yet to hear much from her camp after her split from husband David Arquette after 11 years, Arquette has been very vocal. What started out as a united statement to the media, saying, "'The reason for this separation is to better understand ourselves and the qualities we need in a partner and for our marriage.

We remain best friends and responsible parents to our daughter and we still love each other deeply. As we go through this process we are determined to use kindness and understanding to get through this together" quickly led to Arquette's shocking radio interview with Howard Stern. The actor commented on the couple's sex life, among other things.

"'We're not having sex, and I completely understand," he said. "She's in a place of wanting to be real and emotional.

She's an emotional being. She's an amazing woman. If it doesn't feel right, she doesn't feel like bonding in that way." It's been reported that Cox is more than unhappy about her former flame's big mouth (I know I definitely don't blame her!), but it remains to be seen where the two will go from here. It's so sad when a celebrity couple who seems to have

it all together shocks us with buried anger and bitterness!

Mel Gibson

And then, of course, there's the case of Mel Gibson. After being married for 28 years to Robyn Gibson, Mel left his wife for Russian entertainer, Oksana Grigorieva. The couple dated for two years before breaking up, at which point Gibson allegedly lost it and began leaving abusive messages for his ex. The crazy messages were recorded and eventually leaked to the public. In them, Gibson uses explicit language and is very hostile toward Grigorieva. At one point, he says, ""You're a f-ing mentally deprived idiot. You're a f-ing using whore ... I own you." At another point, Grigorieva says, "You control me, like marionette ... I walk on eggshells with you." Fighting words! The duo have been in a legal battle ever since. Personally, I'd want it all over and done with as quickly as humanly possible, wouldn't you?

Drama, drama, drama! Some celebs just can't avoid it. And when you add an anger-ridden break-up or divorce into the picture, A-listers seem to lose all control.

Top 10 Celebrity-Inspired Halloween Costumes





By Kari Arneson

Lady Gaga

It seems impossible that just a couple of years ago, no one had ever heard of Lady Gaga. Now the international pop superstar is one of the most stylish and controversial stars of her generation. But for Halloween, which outfit (out of thousands) should you choose? Try some of her most well-known, like the blue swimsuit from her “Poker Face” music video or one of her famous VMA outfits. Warning: Be careful with the meat dress.

The Bachelor

This is the perfect costume for the single guy looking for love. All you have to do is put on a nice suit and some hair gel, and you’re good to go. And don’t forget the most important part of the costume: roses. Hand them out to the cutest girls at the party.

Katy Perry

Nostalgic for the summer? Now that the weather’s turned cold,

celebrate summer 2010 with the artist who delivered its biggest hit. Dress like Katy Perry in her candy-themed “California Gurls” music video with a blue wig, candy-covered dress and, if you’re feeling adventurous, some whipped cream, too!

Sarah/Bristol Palin

Is teen activist Bristol Palin becoming more famous than her political mom? The teen mother is on this season’s *Dancing With the Stars*, the #1 show on TV, and has millions of fans across the country. If you want to go the more traditional route, go with the now-classic Halloween costume: Sarah Palin. Hey, it worked for Tina Fey!

Edward Cullen

One of the most popular book series of the past decade, the *Twilight Saga*, has produced three blockbuster movies so far, rocketing its actors to superstardom. Robert Pattinson plays the brooding vampire, the romantic lead and the subject of many a teen girl’s fantasies. Get the look with some white makeup, a gray peacoat and a bouffant hairdo. All you have to do now is practice your pout. Add some fangs if you’re feeling daring.

Jersey Shore couple

Although they may not be an actual couple, The Situation and Snooki are undoubtedly the breakout stars of MTV’s *Jersey Shore*. Besides the obvious GTL (gym, tan, laundry), get Snooki’s poof with lots of hairspray or a wig. For the Situation, three words: abs, abs, abs. You might need some time to prepare for that one..

Justin Bieber

While the Biebs was blowing up the charts this year, Halloween costume-makers were busy making, you guessed it – the Justin

Bieber wig. All you need to complete this costume is some baggy jeans, sweet kicks, and the hair. Screaming 12-year-old girls are optional.

Kim Kardashian

This reality TV bombshell is one of the most talked-about celebs on the planet. With her hit show Keeping Up with the Kardashians under her belt and the new Kourtney and Kim Take New York coming soon to a living room near you, the curvy brunette is a perfect costume idea. Try a wig or extensions to get Kim's long dark locks, a bandage dress, and if you need it, a little help in the chest area will complete the transformation!

Mad Hatter

If you're a fan of Johnny Depp and/or huge top hats, this is the costume for you. Replicate the iconic character played by Depp in this year's Alice In Wonderland with a tall, raddy-looking hat, long pinstripe pants and a colorful blazer.

Avatar

So a tall blue alien with long hair and very little clothing might not be the most traditional costume, but will no doubt be the most recognizable. Avatar, the highest-grossing movie ever made, came out last year and the Na'avi people featured in the movie are still all the buzz. You can find plenty of blue body paint and full Avatar costumes at most Halloween stores.

Social Do's for Dating Mark Zuckerberg



By Vicky Sullivan

In the opening scene of the recent box office hit, *The Social Network*, the fictional Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) insults girlfriend, Erica Albright (Rooney Mara,) by debasing her background and education. She then says, "Dating you is like dating a stair master." And quickly dumps him. 500 Million friends and billions of dollars later, the real Zuckerberg and girlfriend Priscilla Chan, who he met while studying at Harvard, have just become Palo Alto's 'it' couple. It must be tough dating a billionaire at the helm of one of the world's most influential websites. Especially, when you have lawsuits and the paparazzi following you. However, Chan has stuck with Zuckerberg through it all.

According to [People](#), the couple live together in a modest rented house. Shortly after the release of the film, the reclusive Zuckerberg briefly let cameras into his home on a live broadcast of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. In response to the movie, Zuckerberg said, “The last six years have been a lot of coding and focus and hard work. But, maybe it would be fun to remember it as partying and all this crazy drama.” Perhaps, he isn’t that much of a stair master after all.

How do you keep your relationship in perspective when you’re dating someone rich and powerful?

Cupid’s Advice:

Most people dream of being swept off their feet by someone with wealth, success, and fame. If you find yourself in that situation, here are a few things to remember:

- 1. Be yourself:** Money can change everything or nothing at all. So when it comes to dating someone with wealth, remember they’re just a regular person like everyone else with the same needs and insecurities.
 - 2. Don’t get intimidated:** Your partner is and always will be your equal. Try not to feel that your partner is out of your league. After all, they chose you for a reason.
 - 3. Jealousy isn’t an option:** Jealousy shouldn’t be a part of any relationship. However, when it comes to the rich and powerful, there is bound to be competition. Try not to let it get to you.
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5 Signs That George Clooney May Actually Commit



By Kimberly Dawn Neumann of Dating Diva Daily and author of *The Real Reasons Men Commit*

Recently there have been all kinds of tabloid rumors working to put a chink in the bond between George and his stunning Italian amore-du-jour Elisabetta (sex and drug scandals anyone?). Though Elisabetta has chalked a lot of it up to envy (okay, we'll admit we're a little jealous but seriously...that wouldn't cause us to implicate her in a drug debacle), later this summer there was also a flurry of speculation that E and G were about to become EG (in other words, they were possibly EnGaged).

While more recent reports have explained that the reported

left-hand ring flash was actually a napkin ring with which she was playing at dinner (on her left hand while waving it to the paparazzi...ummm...okay, whatever), the reality is that there may actually be some validity to the idea that good ole' George is in a commitment frame of mind when it comes to his latest gal.

Here are some signs that George (and any man for that matter) may be ready to commit that go beyond how ridiculously stunning Elisabetta looks like in a bikini:

1. He makes room for his woman in his home and his life: In George's case that means that Elisabetta has been spotted frequently at Clooney's Lake Como villa. Any man that welcomes a woman into his home with such open arms is exhibiting commitment-mindedness.

2. He takes the relationship public: In the non-celeb world, this usually means that a man is willing to tell all his friends, family, coworkers about the lady in his life. In George's case that also means telling the tabs, the Oscar voters and the red carpet mavens. So, it is wise for him to remain mum on a gal unless he's serious. George has shown no qualms about displaying his affection for Elisabetta on a very public stage.

3. He has a sincere desire to please and make his woman happy: Elisabetta was quoted recently in Italian Vanity Fair stating "I feel good, I feel light. Like when I was 18 years old." She goes on to add that George pampers her like she's never experienced before and that he is the person to whom she owes the color that is back in her life. He is clearly working to make this woman happy.

4. He is supportive and complimentary: In that same interview, Elisabetta said that Clooney is very supportive of her and always close. A man who is there for and builds up his partner is definitely more commitment-ready because he cares about his partner's sense of self and well-being, not just his

own. "If you feel loved, you always feel beautiful," she says. Ah, well put. And if Elisabetta is feeling that kind of love from George then he's clearly invested in this relationship.

5. He recognizes that he can be independent and in a relationship at the same time: One reason George has previously said that he'll remain a confirmed bachelor is that he always felt the women he was with didn't understand the demands of his work and how it might take him away for long stretches. However, with Elisabetta, George seems to be comfortable since she's clearly independent and strong enough to stand on her own two feet if he has to go away. Though marriage may not be the end game here, George is exhibiting signs that this woman will be in his life for more than a blip. Sorry to all you Mrs. Clooney hopefuls out there, but the signs (for now) seem to be lining up in Elisabetta's favor.

Kimberly Dawn Neumann is a New York City-based dating/relationship writer and coach whose work has appeared in such publications as Cosmopolitan, Maxim, Marie Claire, and online for Match.com, Yahoo, AOL, MSN, and iVillage. She is the author of two books, The Real Reasons Men Commit and Sex Comes First and an advisory board member for CanDoBetter.com. Her blog-zine is Dating Diva Daily.

Love Lessons From ABC's 'The Bachelor'



By Erika Vujnovich

While there's no question that *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* are must-watch television shows, statistics show that out of a 19 seasons, only two couples have stayed together, while waiting to see how the latest relationship between bachelorette Ali Fedotowsky and Roberto Martinez ends up. These are programs designed to produce long-lasting marriages, yet we often wonder whether we can call them reality TV or merely fantasy, designed to whet the appetite of women and men everywhere. Season after season, the program dominates the ratings with an average audience of 10 million viewers taking part in a voyeuristic game of watching desperate singles attempt to find true love.

If you're looking for "happily ever after" and contemplating the reality show route, here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Get real: Each season, the contestants are whisked away to some exotic location to fall in love. Viewers watch as the couples travel over the canyons in helicopters, fly through the sky on zip cords or bask in the sun on a tropical island with a breathtaking backdrop. These settings could make even the biggest skeptic feel like they're falling in love. Let's face it, reality isn't always having the luxury to lounge on the beach and sip champagne with your partner, but rather it's realizing how you couple cope with money problems, children and everyday monotonous routines.

2. Play the field, but keep it simple: For those of you not familiar with the concept of the show, the series revolves around one man or woman dating 25 singles in the hopes that they will find a partner for life. Throughout the season, the bachelor goes on a series of group dates, two-on-one dates and one-on-one dates. At the end of the journey, two contestants are left standing from which a fiancé is ultimately chosen. According to [Match.com](https://www.match.com), there are several benefits of dating more than one person at the same time, "Multi-dating isn't merely a tactic for doubling your pleasure. Rather, during your hunt for 'The One', it can be a way to achieve romantic wholeness by dating partners with differing interests and personalities." This may be true but you also want to make sure you don't let your emotions get the better of you. Dating several people at one time can stir up feelings leaving you confused.

3. Don't come across as desperate: Put 25 singles against each other in a competition to land the perfect mate and you are sure to see some desperation among the contestants. Think about it: they all came on the reality dating show with one sole purpose – to find love and get married (or at least that's what they said). Therefore, it's no surprise that drama always finds its way into the story. When dating, try not to make yourself too available or be the one always initiating contact. This could come across as desperate. Be

confident, attentive and a bit assertive, but most importantly, just be you.

The next season of "The Bachelor" returns to ABC in January 2011.

Single Celebrities Who Rock (and Rule)!



By Terry Hernon MacDonald of singlewomenrule.com

A happy marriage may be among life's greatest pleasures, but there's a lot to be said for living single. For too long, single men and women have been portrayed as unlovable,

irresponsible, selfish, or childish. (The media tend to portray single celebs in their 20s as sexy, but once she – and in this case, it's usually a she – turns 30, the question, "Is there anyone special in your life?" comes with increasing frequency and feigned concern.)

It's time to celebrate two unmarried women who make single living desirable, and they're both well over 30. If you're not there yet, they'll give you plenty to aspire to; if you are, they'll give you reasons to be cheerful.

Susan Sarandon

The young woman who played the grating but endearing Janet Weiss in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* went on to draw acclaim for her performance in *Atlantic City* and ascended from there.

She built a reputation for being the wise, sexy, and – later on – the older woman men find irresistible. (After 40, she solidified her status as a sex symbol – not a sex object – in *Bull Durham* and *Thelma and Louise*.)

And, while she's sexy, she's also one to beat the odds. According to IMDb.com, doctors Sarandon that she'd never have children. She had the last of three at 45. Today, she's 64, living on her own terms, having recently ended a 21-year relationship with *Durham* co-star Timothy Robbins.

Marisa Tomei

According to IMDD.com, this 46-year-old actress says of marriage, "I'm not that big a fan of marriage as an institution, and I don't know why women need to have children to be seen as complete human beings." Tomei does enjoy relationships, though, having dated many attractive men, most recently actor Logan Marshall-Green, who is 12 years her junior.

Since hitting it big in the 1992 comedy *My Cousin Vinny* (her

performance was ridiculed by the likes of Charlie Sheen), Tomei earned considerable respect for her work in *Welcome to Sarajevo* and *In the Bedroom*. She garnered an Oscar nomination for *The Wrestler* in 2008 and will co-star with Kevin Bacon, Steve Carell, and Emma Stone in *Crazy, Stupid, Love*, due for release in April 2011.

While Tomei's acting made her famous, what we at SWR really love her for is her work on behalf of women's causes, most notably Equality Now.

SWR Singles Blog Crawl: Day 3



Rachel Buddeberg Muses on All Things Single

2010 SingleWomenRule.com Blog Crawl for National Unmarried and Single Americans Week

September 19 – 25, 2010

Crawl over to a new blog by Dr. Bella DePaulo, All Things Single (And More), where **Rachel Buddeberg** will share her musings.

Bella DePaulo (Ph.D., Harvard) is the author of *Singled Out*, *Single with Attitude*, and a blog “All Things Single (and More).” She also writes the “Living Single” blog for Psychology Today. Her op-ed essays have appeared in publications such as *The New York Times*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Forbes*.

Rachel Buddeberg, a feminist and freethinking humanist in the San Francisco Bay area, muses on her blog about meaning making; redefining community and relationships to build alternative ways of relating, which avoid cultural trances and thus support equality and democracy; and anything else that interests her.

SWR Blog Crawl-Step Outside Your Dating Comfort Zone This Fall



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Guest Post by *Melissa Braverman, Singlegalnyc.com*

Summer may be over, but there's no better time to heat up your love life than by stepping out of your dating comfort zone this fall.

Some of today's hottest celebrity couples got their start because one half of the pair made a bold move. During an appearance on Josh Duhamel's Las Vegas, Fergie walked right up to him and said 'I read you had a dream about me' for her opening line. Desperate Housewives' Marcia Cross first saw future husband Tom Mahoney at a flower shop and asked the owner to give him her phone number.

As a woman, making the first move isn't always easy – and, in some countries it hardly happens at all, as I've discovered during my European Dating Blitz. Over the last five weeks, I have traveled far out of my own comfort zone to explore what being single is like in six European countries. One recurring theme I've heard, especially in England and Ireland is that neither gender feels comfortable initiating a flirty conversation. "In Europe, people don't really want to make the first move," according to Fabrice LeParc, CEO of SmartDate.com, an online dating site that caters to both Americans and Europeans. "Here, it's not accepted for a woman to make a move. A smile is the most you can hope to get."

Part of the challenge in Northern Europe is single men tend to be reserved. "Men here are more on their guard and shy than in Spain, France and Southern Europe," observes France-born single Charlotte, 37. "They just come and say hello and start a conversation." Something that most British single women don't feel comfortable doing. "I would never go and talk to someone in a bar and neither would any of my girlfriends," says London bachelorette Nichola, 34. "As a single girl, you would never go to a bar on your own."

When flirting does happen, sex happens more quickly without the so-called rules that are so much a part of the American dating scene. For European singles, though, breaking the ice

isn't easy since small talk doesn't happen in the same way that it does in the U.S. "If you don't know someone in Paris, you don't talk," says bachelor David, 35. "In Anglo-Saxon places like the U.S., it's normal to talk. We are too closed in Paris."

Perhaps one of the greatest differences between American and European dating is in how singles approach their love lives. "People in France and Latin countries, they want to feel fate has a role to play," says Fabrice. "Americans and Nordics are more organized, they want to take control of their lives."

I'm no exception. A few nights ago, I decided to venture out on my own to a bar in Berlin. I wouldn't think twice about doing this in New York, but I had a little trepidation in unfamiliar territory where a woman out on her own is not at all the norm.

"Are you here alone?" asked the bouncer, clearly surprised to see that I was.

Once I was inside, I spotted a cute redheaded guy also alone, at a table by the window. Drink in hand, I gingerly walked in his direction and placed my glass on the table. He said, "hello" and we ended up talking the night away.

Like Fergie and Marcia Cross, I've found that your love life can be full of surprises when you step outside of your comfort zone. Here are three tips for shaking up your routine this fall.

Skip The Same Old, Same Old: Take a break from your favorite neighborhood haunts and venture to a new zip code. Whether it's exploring a watering hole you've never been to or discovering a new restaurant, act like you're visiting your hometown for the first time.

Take The Why Not Approach: If there's something you've always wanted to try, whether it's speed dating or a singles lock and

key party, don't ask yourself why. Ask why not? and just do it. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain by putting yourself out there.

Recruit A Wingman: It's no secret that getting out of your comfort zone is a lot more fun when you've got a wingman by your side. Recruit a fellow single friend to join you as you embark on new season of adventure and romance.

MTV's Video Music Awards: What You Missed



By [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

Well, the MTV Video Music Awards have come and gone yet again, and the celebs in attendance this year didn't disappoint!

Some of the more notable duos walking the white carpet this year were Justin Bieber & Selena Gomez, Usher & Justin Bieber, *Jersey Shore's* Ronnie & Vinnie and Stephanie Pratt & Lo Bosworth, according to [Hollywood Life](#). And, of course, there was the much-anticipated awards show participants Taylor Swift and Kanye West. After last year's debacle where West barged on stage during Swift's acceptance speech, he was on his best behavior. The two stars separately sang two brand new songs addressing last year's event, "like a pair of dueling attorneys making closing statements in front of a jury," according to Tris McCall at the New Jersey [Star-Ledger](#).

That's not to leave out the host of this year's VMA extravaganza. E!'s popular comedienne Chelsea Handler took the podium, and the question is: how did she measure up?

Here are three reviews that seem to sum it up:

1. "As the live portion of the show began, Handler turned in a moderately funny Gaga sendup, appearing amid red-lycra-clad dancers wearing a dollhouse on her head. Though, again, it felt a little like Host the VMAs Paint-by-Numbers – Gaga's both the easiest and the lamest (not to mention the most willing) target around," said Jennifer Armstrong in *Entertainment Weekly's* PopWatch.

2. "And then there was the awkward plight of the night's host, Chelsea Handler. She was among the worst in the show's history – purposefully out-of-touch, with brief, alarming flashes of off-color racial humor," said Jon Caramanica of the [New York Times](#).

3. "But there was little smooching or feuding on Sunday, despite some nudging from the host. 'I want to encourage everyone to be on their worst behavior,' comedian Chelsea

Handler declared in her opening monologue, a string of flat punch lines that felt a few degrees below crass," said Chris Richards in *The Washington Post's* Click Track.

Although the VMAs usually make for some stories full of cat fights and on-stage duels, the show was pretty tame overall this year. But with the best ratings since 2002, according to Just Jared, Chelsea Handler can't complain!