

Forbes: What Do Powerful Celebrity Women Really Want From a Relationship?



By Krissy Dolor

Forbes may be a money magazine, but that doesn't mean that they don't love celebrities, too! Last week, the magazine reported on a recent study conducted by the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland, which found that as women earn money and financial independence, their attraction to good-looking, older men increases. In addition, these women hold a man's looks to a higher standard. The university has dubbed this "The George Clooney effect."

Previous studies have found that women care more about whether

or not a man can provide for them, while men were more attracted to lookers. This new study showed that when a woman's income increases, her taste in men change.

"We'd assumed that as women earn more, their partner preferences would actually become more like those of men, with a tendency towards preferring younger, more attractive partners rather than those who can provide and care for children," said lead researcher Dr. Fhionna Moore, a psychology lecturer at the University of Abertay Dundee. "However, the preferred age difference did not change as we'd expected – more financially independent women actually preferred even older men. We think this suggests greater financial independence gives women more confidence in partner choices, and attracts them to powerful, attractive older men."

Forbes analyzed 12 celebrity couples, posing this question: What is each woman in the celebrity couple attracted to? They say that Angelina Jolie, as one of the highest-earning women in Hollywood (\$20 million), wants a hot, older man. Hubby Brad Pitt is 12 years older than the starlet. Think Demi Moore's marriage to Ashton Kutcher is part of the cougar effect? Think again. She told *Harper's Bazaar* she does not like the term – and Kutcher's Twitter presence seems to garner enough fame on its own. We can even look at Ellen DeGeneres, who earned \$55 million last year, and is married to Portia De Rossi – a woman 15 years her junior.

In addition to the UK study, lead researcher at dating site [eHarmony](#), Gian Gonzaga, said in the *Forbes* article that high-earning women are attracted to successful men who have established careers – and typically, these men are older. "In the data I've seen, women always want higher earning men," said Gonzaga. He also said, "the Cougar thing is likely a myth."

Well, there you have it: money only begets more money. If

only there were a slew of George Clooney and Brad Pitt look-alikes up for grabs...

Gwyneth Paltrow Says Dating Brad Pitt and Ben Affleck Was Weird



Before marrying rocker Chris Martin and becoming a family woman, Gwyneth Paltrow was a serial dater. In the 90's, she was known for her high-profile relationships with men like Brad Pitt and Ben Affleck. Paltrow now confesses that now she feels a little weird about her famous ex-boyfriends, according

to [Us Weekly](#). “It was strange to be part of a public couple,” she says in a new E! special, *Gwyneth Paltrow*.

What are personality traits to avoid in a potential partner?

Cupid's Advice:

To avoid a “strange” relationship, there are some things you should look out for in a potential partner. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Bad boy:** He may be hard to resist, but dating a bad boy is, ironically, a bad idea. Oftentimes he's afraid to commit and will be unfaithful.
- 2. Power-hungry:** It's good to be ambitious and want to advance in your career. But you should avoid a guy who is obsessed with money and power because he won't give you the attention you deserve.
- 3. Too vain:** Who doesn't love a pretty boy? But if he spends more time staring in the mirror than looking at you, he's way too into himself.

Is Brad Pitt Ruining Your Love Life?





We know how effective media is in shaping our perspective and even our values, including our self-image. We know that being bombarded with images of beautiful men and women molds our vision of attractiveness. As we mature, we know it's fantasy, and that even Hollywood beauties don't look that stunning without professional hair, make-up, wardrobe and lighting.

By now, you've probably seen the Dove video called "Evolution." It shows how an attractive woman morphs into a fabulous knockout through professional hair, make-up, lighting, and yes, even Photoshop.

How do these unrealistic images affect your dating life?

1. They can influence your expectation of a man's looks. Very few men, especially middle-aged men, look anything close to George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Colin Firth or Pearce Bronson. While we realize these men personify an unattainable ideal, some small part of many women want – and perhaps expect – their guys to look as yummy.

2. The Photoshopped images of pencil-thin people on magazine

covers and in movies exacerbates women's feelings of inadequacy. Actresses like Cher, Teri Hatcher, Vanessa Williams, Julia Roberts, Helen Mirren, Glenn Close and Ellen Barkin are sparkling in their perfection – with personal trainers, private chefs, and perhaps a bit of nip-tuck. How many real-life middle-aged women do you see looking like that? Just as women have unrealistic expectations of a man's looks, so, too, men have an idealized expectation that women should look like these air-brushed fantasy females.

So it seems like a lose-lose for both genders.

We think (hope?) that as one matures, people realize that these movie star looks are really just fantasy. But unfortunately, I've found both men and women hold themselves and their potential dates to standards that nearly no one meets in real life.

So what can you do?

- 1. Play up your own physical attributes:** Got beautiful eyes? Don't hide them behind glasses. Get a makeover if you haven't had one in years, or make an appointment with a free personal shopper at a department store to help you dress to look your best.
- 2. Realize that there are many good people underneath a few bags, sags and extra pounds:** While we know that goodness has nothing to do with outer appearances, we sometimes get caught up or put off by what we see. I've gone out with many wonderful men who aren't gorgeous. The thing is, they got more attractive as I got to know their kind hearts, senses of humor and caring natures.

Dating Goddess is the author of the 13-book Adventures in Delicious Dating After 40 series. For information on her books and her blog, go to <http://www.DatingGoddess.com>.

A New Hollywood Trend: Dating with Kids



By Kelly Seal

Considering dating someone with kids?

Celebrities without children are daring to date single parents these days, at least according to the tabloids. Rocker Matt Bellamy recently started dating single mom Kate Hudson. Brad Pitt became an adoptive father to Angelina Jolie's oldest son shortly after their relationship took off. And let's not forget Jake Gyllenhaal's romance with Reese Witherspoon, single mother of two.

I have to admit, I never thought I'd be dating a man with children, let alone marry him. I don't have any myself, and had never dated any single dads previously. It's one thing to figure out the twists and turns of being in a relationship, and quite another when you add children to the mix. And yet I decided to pursue this path, not only because I fell in love with my husband, but because I saw him as a compassionate, caring, and loving father with his kids.

Whether this is a new trend in Hollywood or not, dating a single mom or dad comes with its own unique challenges. If you find yourself in this situation and are looking to navigate your way through, here are some considerations that may help guide you in the right direction.

1. Are you looking for a long-term relationship? Perhaps you've fallen for a single mom or dad, but you aren't really sure if it's just a fling or something more substantial. Until you decide that you are in it for the long-term, don't meet the children. They do not need more instability added to their lives, and it's more confusing when girlfriends or boyfriends come and go. Take your time so you really know what you want.

2. Be flexible. Single parents are going it alone, so remember if a child gets sick or has a change in schedule, the parent has to take care of things. If you planned a nice evening out or a trip with your beloved and it gets canceled due to the kids, recognize that sometimes you have to go with the flow.

3. Do you want to form a relationship with the kids, too? When you date someone with kids, you're also entering a relationship with his/her children. If you are uncomfortable with the idea of taking the kids places or getting to know them, you may want to reconsider.

Kelly is a writer and former speed dating host. She writes

regularly for Womens Online Magazine, Examiner.com, and DatingSitesReviews.com, and blogs about dating and relationships at www.kellyseal.com.

Celebrity Couples Make a Blessing Out of Interfaith Relationships



By Erika Hymowitz Vujnovich

Chelsea Clinton/Marc Mezvinsky, Naomi Watts/Liev Schreiber, Tom Cruise/Katie Holmes and even Brad Pitt/Angelina Jolie are

among the numerous celebrity couples attempting to make an interfaith relationship work. While it's nice to believe the old saying "love conquers all," there are often many challenges an interfaith couple faces. Speaking from experience, I entered into an interfaith marriage five years ago. It has taken a tremendous amount of respect and understanding between me and my husband to make our relationship work and to be able to provide a stable foundation for our children.

[ABC News](#) says that one in three U.S. couples is in a religiously mixed marriage. However, back in June, the [Chicago Family Law Blog](#) highlighted the issue and cited data taken from a 2001 American Religious Identification Survey, which show couples in mixed-religion families were *three times* more likely to be divorced than those who were of the same faith. The [New York Times](#) also wrote on the issue this past summer, following the high-profile marriage of Chelsea Clinton and Marc Mezvinsky. Clinton, a Methodist and Mezvinsky, who is Jewish, pushed the issue of mixed marriage into the spotlight again.

Whether mixed-religion marriages are becoming the new norm or not, if you are in such a relationship and are questioning whether or not it can work, here are a few things to consider:

1. Don't ignore the differences: Religion often contributes to who we are. As such, it's crucial not to disregard religious beliefs. One of the top mistakes that couples make is that they believe their love for one another will conquer all interfaith marital problems. This is not always true. Take the time to discuss your beliefs. You may find that your partner feels the same way, or you may realize you come from completely different backgrounds.

2. Look for clergy counseling: If you're looking for that mixed marriage blessing, you'll want to consider speaking

with clergy from your place of worship. When my husband and I first considered getting married, we immediately went to meet with my Rabbi. He was very open to the idea of us getting married, with the understanding that we will raise our children in the Jewish faith. A member of the clergy will help outline the challenges you may face as a couple as well as give advice on how to best approach your respective families, who may not be as accepting.

3. Think of the children: The last thing you'll want to do is make a child decide which religion they want to follow. Before you even have children, you and your spouse should decide how you want to raise them. Lay the foundation from the beginning, and be honest with each other about your wishes. You don't want to confuse your child, but rather give them a solid sense of faith and culture. There is nothing wrong with celebrating all holidays, but make sure that as your children get older, they have a belief system.

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.

Jennifer Aniston Voted Most Eligible Single Woman





The celebrity with the most scrutinized love life is also the world's most eligible bachelorette. Jennifer Aniston, who counts Brad Pitt, Vince Vaughn, and John Mayer among her exes, was voted the most eligible single woman in the world in a new *60 MINUTES/Vanity Fair* poll. [Us Weekly](#) reports that the 41-year-old actress earned 29 percent of the vote, ahead of Halle Berry (21 percent), Elin Nordegren (15 percent), and Betty White (11 percent), among others. Despite her history of failed relationships, Aniston doesn't want people to pity her. She told *Vogue*, "This whole 'Poor lonely Jen' thing, this idea that I'm so unlucky in love? I actually feel I've been unbelievably lucky in love... I'm right where I'm supposed to be."

Can being labeled as a "single" destroy your chance for romance?

Cupid's Advice:

Being known as an eternal single can actually be a hindrance to finding a serious relationship. Cupid has a few reasons why being sans boyfriend or girlfriend could keep you single:

1. Commitment-phobe: Male or female, when you bounce from one relationship to another without finding anything permanent, people might think you are afraid of commitment. If you're chronically single, you may also give the impression that you're a player and therefore unlikely to settle down.

2. Undesirable: While it can be fun to be single with no attachments, the opposite sex might think it's because there's something wrong with you. Even if that's not the case, people may jump to conclusions or tread with cautiousness if you're always riding solo.

3. Not serious: If you've never been in a serious relationship, it may send a message that you lack emotional maturity. Someone looking for a serious partner may not want to put their heart out there if they feel that the other person isn't able to sustain a long-term relationship.

Angelina Jolie On Brad Pitt: We Have Each Other's Backs





With six kids at home and the paparazzi waiting outside, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie depend on each other more than ever. The 35-year-old *Salt* actress tells [People](#) in last week's issue, "We have each other's backs." This can come in handy when the kids are fighting.

How can you make co-parenting more effective?

Cupid's Advice:

Parenting is a difficult job, but if you share the responsibilities equally with your partner, it will be a lot less challenging.

- 1. Power struggle:** A major parenting problem is who's going to play the bad guy, but neither of you have to play that role. Establish a balance of power by agreeing to issues before they happen. One rule is to never undermine your spouse in front of your kids.
- 2. Ask for help:** Don't take things out on your partner if you're having a hard time with the children. Instead, tell him or her what you're struggling with, and ask for their help

and input. Your spouse is more likely to be there for you when their opinions are being accounted for.

3. Savor the moments: Keep in mind that your children learn by watching you, so don't let parenting be a burden that makes you irritable and angry towards your partner or others. Set aside some time for R&R each day or week to enjoy each other's company.

Angelina Jolie's New Tattoo is 'For Brad'



Angelina Jolie is well known for both her high-profile romance with Brad Pitt, as well as her array of inspiring tattoos. During a recent interview with [MTV](#), Jolie was questioned on her latest ink, located on her inner thigh. Fans got a glimpse of it in *Vanity Fair*, which featured the actress as August's cover story. When MTV asked about it, Jolie shied away from the topic, and said, "Um, it's for Brad."

How else can I express commitment in my relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Getting a tattoo in honor of your loved one is a permanent and significant way to show you care. Want a less drastic approach? Cupid has some ideas:

- 1. Try the alternative:** If you like the idea of something permanent, try getting a piercing instead. If you don't want it to be seen, you can simply take it out. Beats laser surgery!
- 2. Commit:** If you're jumping the gun by getting a tattoo in your partner's honor, it looks as if you're ready for marriage. Not the case? Try a promise ring. Already married? Take celebrating anniversaries a step further and commemorate your first date or your first kiss with a sentimental tradition, then promise to do it every year.
- 3. The small things count:** You don't always need a physical object to show you care. Just being there for your partner says you're in it for the long haul. Simple gestures, such as surprising your partner with breakfast in bed, or even just saying, "I love you," can go a long way.

Angelina Jolie Shares Her Secrets On Staying Together



After several years in the public eye, six kids, and a slew of movies to her name, Angelina Jolie spoke with *Parade Magazine* about how she keeps her relationship with Brad Pitt going strong. “The children certainly tie us together, but a relationship won’t hold if it’s only about the kids,” Jolie said. “You also must be really interested in each other and have a really, really wonderful, exciting time together. We do. Brad and I love being together. We enjoy it. We need it, and we always find that special time. We stay connected. We talk about it. It’s very important.”

What can you do to keep the spark alive in a relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Staying interested in each other, enjoying each other's company, and talking about things are all major components for a healthy relationship. However, there are other ways to stay connected. Cupid has some ideas:

- 1. Spice up your dates:** Try doing something you and your partner wouldn't normally do, like attending a wine tasting class, or a taking a spur of the moment road trip. Opening yourself up to new options will reduce the chance of boredom. Oh, and don't forget to take turns planning the new adventures!
- 2. Talking dirty not your thing?** Use the past as an aphrodisiac! Stroll down memory lane and tell each other your most intimate and favorite time as a couple.
- 3. Nothing to talk about?** Sometimes couples get to a point in their relationship where they think they know everything about the other person, and they have nothing additional to share. Experience new things on your own and share it with your partner later. Not only does it make for interesting conversation, but it can help you find fun, creative hobbies along the way.