

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.

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Eva Longoria Finds Messages to Tony Parker from Teammate's Wife



Eva Longoria officially filed for divorce from San Antonio Spurs player, Tony Parker this past week. The actress was appalled after finding hundreds of inappropriate text messages from the wife of Parker's teammate whose identity still remains a mystery, according to [People](#). The *Desperate Housewife* confided in pal, Mario Lopez, and it's now been revealed that this is not Tony Parker's first affair. Prior to this indiscretion, he cheated with another woman and continued to keep in touch with her on Facebook. "[Eva] is devastated, she wants us all to know that, but she's strong," said Lopez.

How can you tell if your partner is cheating?

Cupid's Advice:

Time will always reveal the truth. If you suspect something is going on, follow your gut. Cupid has some tell-tale signs:

- 1. His phone book is full:** If your partner has many names in their cell phone book that you do not recognize or which are listed by only the first name, this could be sign that they are hiding something or someone.
 - 2. He's not interested:** If your partner begins to lose interest in you either physically or emotionally, one of the reasons could be that he's getting affection elsewhere.
 - 3. His spending habits change:** If you notice unexplained dinners, hotel rooms, transportation services or gifts, this shady money trail could lead to a cheater.
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Christina Aguilera Talks About Being a Single Mom After Divorce from Husband Jordan Bratman





All Christina Aguilera wants for her son, Max, who “is the happiest guy ever,” is “to see to it that he remains that way.” After filing for divorce on October 14th from her husband, Jordan Bratman, Aguilera looks to her own childhood for assurance when it comes to parenting. [RadarOnline](#) reports that the singer/actress was raised by a single mother as well, which “turned out fantastic.” Despite the confidence Aguilera exudes while promoting her new film *Burlesque*, she admits raising Max won’t be easy. She says, “It’s hard just being a working mom.”

How do you regain control of your life after a divorce?

Cupid’s Advice:

After a divorce, it can seem like life has spun out of control. Cupid has a few daily affirmations to keep in mind during your trying time:

1. Forgive yourself: Divorces are a stressful time for both parties. Allow yourself to bring closure to one chapter in your life and look forward to the beginning of new opportunities.

2. Self-confidence: There are things you can’t control, but your mindset isn’t one of them. There’s nothing sexier than

killer confidence.

3. Set realistic goals: After getting yourself back on track, set some goals for the future, whether they be career-oriented or hosting a weekly BYOB *Modern Family* night with close friends.

Sources Say Eva Longoria Plans to Divorce from NBA Star Husband, Tony Parker



Eva Longoria and Tony Parker are ending their three-year marriage, reports [Us Weekly](#). Parker had been exchanging personal text messages with another woman for over a year, and Longoria found out. Sources say, “Eva is heartbroken by the betrayal...Once the

trust was lost, the marriage was over.” Longoria filed for divorce papers on Wednesday. Says an insider, “Eva truly thought she was going to grow old with Tony and have children with him. She’s inconsolable.”

How can you rebuild trust in a failed relationship?

Cupid’s Advice:

Whatever your mistake, trust is always the hardest element in a relationship to regain once it’s lost. Here is some advice to help you and your boyfriend or husband reconnect:

1. Tell the truth: When you’ve made a mistake, it’s best to be completely open with your partner. At some level, they will appreciate the fact that you’re telling the truth.

2. Ask questions: Make sure to ask your boyfriend or husband how they’re feeling. It’s wrong to assume and predict emotions. In order to know how to handle the situation, make sure you fully understand your partner.

3. Give it time: No problem can be cured overnight. Give your partner some time, and eventually the trust will reappear.

**Gwyneth Paltrow Slams
Celebrity Couples Who Teach
Important Relationship**

Lessons



By [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

Recent *Glee* guest Gwyneth Paltrow is making headlines lately. Even though she's part of a high-profile celebrity relationship herself, she is speaking out against "unnecessary" celebrity couples. In fact, she went so far as to tell CNN, "It's just unnecessary to be a public couple, and to have your couple-dom or whatever be its own entity. It doesn't make sense to have that in the public world."

Alright, Gwyneth, I see your point. There are definitely famous couples who live for the spotlight, which is pathetic. One obvious example is former *Hills* stars Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt.

I don't know about you, but I'm under the impression that their every move is to garnish media coverage. And then there's LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian. Has anyone else noticed their everyday presence in tabloids lately? They cheated on their respective spouses with each other and then

they spend months defending their indiscretion to the media.

Is that necessary?

Even Taylor Swift is becoming a constant presence in the celebrity relationship world. While she doesn't currently have an 'other-half,' I'd be shocked to see someone who *doesn't* know that Taylor Swift is single and loving it. I've read at least three interviews in the last month where she refers to her singleness. Okay, we get it already!

Yes, I see Gwyneth Paltrow's point. She even refers to her own relationship, saying, "When I see high-profile relationships now, I think, 'Oh my God' even though I'm technically in one. But we sort of don't do anything public, we try to keep it behind the scenes as possible (sic).

Because it just generates more interest...it just undermines the quality of your life." That being said, there's certainly a lot to learn from those high-profile pairs that Gwyneth Paltrow speaks about. Celebrity couples can teach us about our own personal relationships. Consider the following:

1. Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt: You may roll your eyes at their publicity stunts, but through that negativity you realize that you want to avoid being like them in your own life. They convince you that it's probably best not to discuss every detail of your relationship to anyone who will listen.

2. LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian: This singer and actor duo made the mistake of cheating on their significant others and then defended their decision to do so, even though many would agree that infidelity is morally wrong. LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian help you realize that if you find yourself falling in love with someone who isn't your current partner, you should call it quits and come clean about any wrong doings.

Apologize and move on. And whatever you do, don't rehash the past in public!

3. Taylor Swift: She's not only been linked to John Mayer, Taylor Lautner, Joe Jonas and Jake Gyllenhaal, but she's turned around and written songs about it. And right now, Taylor Swift is embracing the single life, calling it "wonderful." What have we learned from her? Being single is okay! Dating is okay! Instead of sulking in a dark corner and lamenting your current solo status, enjoy the experience while it lasts. If Taylor Swift can do it, so can you.

Gwyneth Paltrow may make a valid point in her rant on high-profile celebrity couples, but I highly doubt those who crave the limelight will leave the tabloids anytime soon. As long as they exist, we can use these stories to gain insight into the multifaceted world of dating and relationships.

Former DWTS Pro Julianne Hough Speaks Out About Boyfriend Ryan Seacrest





Former *Dancing With The Stars* pro Julianne Hough is finally speaking out about her relationship with Ryan Seacrest, reports [Us Weekly](#). On *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, Hough gushed, “Oh my gosh, he’s phenomenal. He’s really romantic. He’s not even in town, and I got in my car and there are flowers everywhere.” And it looks like things are getting serious because Ryan Seacrest has met her parents! “Everyone’s like, ‘Oh, you met the folks!’” she says. “It’s like, ‘I don’t know. Both of our folks are like our best friends so when we hang out, it’s more like hanging out with friends.’”

What can “meeting the parents” mean in a relationship?

Cupid’s Advice:

Meeting the parents is a huge step in a relationship. Here are some reasons why your partner may decide to introduce you to their family:

1. To see if you get along: If your partner introduces you to their folks, it usually means they see a future with you and want to see whether you fit in with their family.

2. To test you: While meeting the parents usually means your mate is serious about you, it can also be a test. If they’re unsure if you’re the one, they may ask their folks to weigh

in.

3. To share a part of them: Family is an extremely important part of who we are. By showing you where they came from, your partner is signaling that they want to get to know you on a deeper level.

Kohl's to Launch First Ever Celebrity Couple Lifestyle Collections with Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony



By Krissy Dolor

The couple that works together, stays together, right?

Let's hope so for this one! Kohl's department stores and Music Entertainment Sports Holdings announced yesterday its plans to launch two multi-department contemporary lifestyle brands with international stars and super-couple Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. They are the first celebrity couple to design collections for one retailer at the same time. The collections, which will consist of apparel, accessories and other merchandise, will be exclusively available from Kohl's stores nationwide and Kohls.com in Fall 2011.

"We are pleased to announce lifestyle brands with one of the most successful and talented couples in the entertainment business and have every confidence Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony will resonate with our customers," said Kevin Mansell, Kohl's chairman, president and chief executive officer, in the press release.

"The addition of the Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony collections further differentiates Kohl's with exclusive, world-class partnerships and positions us to continue to gain market share."

The Jennifer Lopez collection will include sportswear, dresses, handbags, jewelry, shoes and sleepwear, while Marc Anthony will launch in sportswear, dress shirts, neckwear, accessories, suit separates, sportcoats and shoes. Both collections may expand into home.

"We are thrilled to embark on this new venture with Kohl's and to join in this important partnership," said Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony in a statement. "These are really exciting times for us and our family and we are looking forward to collaborating with Kohl's in the creation of a lifestyle brand that represents our true style and the essence of who we are and what we have come to represent as artists. It is with much excitement that we can bring this to the Kohl's customer."

Congratulations and good luck to Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, as well as to Kohl's and Music Entertainment Sports Holdings for this exciting collaboration. We're excited to see what they come up with!

Jersey Shore's Snooki Shows Off New Boyfriend, Jionni LaValle



After weeks of suspense, Snooki's finally ready to put a face to the tweets and an answer to the question on every *Jersey Shore* fan's minds: "Who is Snooki's mystery man?" According to [RadarOnline](#), Snooki just released pictures of herself with her new boyfriend, Jionni LaValle enjoying Disney World together this past weekend, and it's "LOVE"! Jionni LaValle is a

teacher and not so fond of the limelight, which is a huge difference from Snooki's former "juicehead" boyfriends. It's also the reason it took Snooki so long to show off her new man.

How can you keep your relationship under wraps?

Cupid's Advice:

Sometimes at the beginning of a relationship, you may want to spend time enjoying each other without outside distractions. Here is some advice on how to keep things hush-hush:

1. Romantic night in: In the beginning, everything the two of you do together is exciting and new, whether it's going out for dinner and a movie or loading up a Netflix DVD and ordering take out. We know you want to show off your new guy, but if everything works out, there will be more than enough time for that.

2. Lay off the social networks: Anytime you tweet or post something on Facebook to your new man, you're saying it to his 500 friends and followers. If you feel the need to say something "coupley," shoot him a text.

3. Watch your body language: In some situations, you may not be able to avoid public settings with your new guy. If that's the case, make sure your body language doesn't leave people around you wondering about your status.

Prince William and Kate

Middleton: How Will Their Wedding Compare to Charles and Diana's?



When Prince William marries his fiancée, Kate Middleton, there will be many people who will be comparing his wedding to that of his parents', says [People](#). When Prince Charles married Princess Diana on July 29, 1981, the wedding was viewed by millions around the globe. The bride arrived at St. Paul's Cathedral in a glass coach, dressed in an ivory taffeta and lace gown designed by David and Elizabeth Emanuel. After the ceremony, the royal couple rode in to Buckingham Palace, where they kissed on a balcony in front of thousands of onlookers.

How can you make your wedding stand out?

Cupid's Advice:

1. Incorporate unique decor: You may choose to stay away from traditional wedding color schemes, and go for something more unique for your wedding. For example, if you're getting married in the winter, try silver and white instead of warmer hues.

2. Be creative with your vows: When you write your vows, try to stay away from clichés. Tell a brief story, or crack a joke. The guests, and your husband, will appreciate the effort.

3. Be considerate: While you may have been extremely busy in preparing for your wedding, chances are your maid of honor has been working just as hard. Reward her, and your other bridesmaids, with a personal and creative gift that shows how much you appreciate them.

Dating: First Impressions – Part II





By Alex V. of The

Urban Dater

Reality. If reality was an actual person, I'd probably punch it in the neck. Why? Sometimes, or most times (depending on how much baby Jesus thinks I suck) reality really is a jerk. Only sometimes, though.

I'm a dork, I gigantic geek bag! It's true. No, really, it is! I was a nerd before it was cool, dammit! However, there's just no helping a person's uninformed perception aka ignorance. You see, being a dork and an odd ball, dating women was often lost on me. No women wanted to date a geek like me, I thought.

You never heard about Dustin Diamond dating a hot girl, now did you? If you did, surely you chuckled at such a ridiculous rumor. However, the coolness of nerds and geeks has sky rocketed over the years, with shows like *Beauty and the Geek* and the rise to stardom of actors, like my hero, Seth Rogen.

Seeing that, the king of chubs and geeks, Seth Rogen was dating super-hottie Lauren Miller, for, at the time, four years, gave me hope that a geek like me could find a hottie of my own as well; and found one I did! The nerd wins!

My girlfriend, I tell my friends, is a lot prettier than a

dork like me deserves. I'm sure Seth Rogen felt the same way, too! Once we get passed the looks and the superficial associations and self-stylings, we're all looking for love, ultimately. It's not just about looks, after all. Right?

There was something about this person that made me fall for her, many somethings, if you will.

– The person has got to make you laugh. No question about it. The women I've loved were the ones that made me laugh. No doubt about it.

– Are they open minded? Is your would-be partner in crime willing to pony up when you want to go on an adventure?

– Will they help you clean your place after a raging party at 3am? Just having the support is important.

– Do your friends like your significant other? This, by far, has been the biggest difference for me. Most of the women I've dated, my friends didn't get along with. With my girlfriend, now, all my friends simply adore her. They would probably dump me, if I dump my girlfriend!

– Do they make you believe you can do anything? My girl does. She's my biggest fan; my biggest cheerleader. The girl supports all of things I'm working on... That's huge. Seth Rogen? You better believe he needs a cheerleader after a box office bomb... I'm just sayin'.

It's pretty amazing what becomes clear once we set perceptions about beauty and status aside. No?

Expecting 'Bachelor' Couple

Jesse Csincsak and Ann Lueders Go Hiking



Former *Bachelor* winner Jesse Csincsak and his pregnant wife, Ann Lueders, still find ways to stay active and healthy together, [People](#) reports. Lueders, who used to jog daily pre-pregnancy, has swapped her jogging sneakers for hiking boots as her and her husband take their two Siberian huskies on two mile walks. Now in her third trimester, Lueders and Csincsak have toned down the level of exercise in their lifestyle, but they haven't cut it out all together.

What are some fun ways couples can exercise together?

Cupid's Advice:

Studies have shown that couples who exercise together, stay together. Being fit and healthy isn't just good for you, but for your relationship as well:

1. Walk it out: Take a tip from the *Bachelor* couple, and get moving. Walk, jog or hike. Whether it's with the dogs, around your neighborhood or a trip to the state park, the quality time you spend together is irreplaceable.

2. Make goals: Set goals together, and watch each other accomplish them. The support and dedication to make each other succeed will create a stronger bond.

3. Challenge each other: Sign up for your city's 2011 marathon, and train together. There's nothing more important than a support system. Teaming up with your partner and getting through a challenging event together, can only help strengthen your relationship if you face bigger obstacles down the road.

Singer Duffy's Lyrics Show a 'Hopeless Romantic'





Duffy's new album *Endlessly*, out Dec. 7, shows a new side of her: the hopeless romantic. The 26-year-old Grammy winner told [People](#) she was looking for love when she wrote the title track on her album. "I had a piece missing. I thought, 'Who am I going to have those special moments with?' I needed some arms around me." Duffy found what she was looking for in September 2009 when she began dating rugby player Michael Phillips. "The story is yet to be finalized," she says, "but it seems like a happy ending."

How can you tell if your romantic notions are realistic?

Cupid's Advice:

All of us tend to ignore reality sometimes and instead focus on the romantic, idealistic side of love. Here's how to tell whether your ideas about love are realistic:

1. Life is no fantasy: If you're waiting to ride off into the sunset with Prince Charming, you'll be waiting a long time. Keep in mind that no relationship is a fairytale.

2. Look around: Do you know a perfect couple who never fights and does romantic things together all the time? If you can't find a real-life example, it probably doesn't exist.

3. **Be open:** Don't let your unrealistic expectations keep you from meeting people. Just because he doesn't meet all of your criteria doesn't mean he couldn't be the one.

'Survivor' Contestant Stephenie LaGrossa and Philadelphia Phillies Pitcher, Kyle Kendrick Get Married



Stephenie LaGrossa, three-time *Survivor* contestant, tells [People](#), "I never thought there was 'the one,' but now I believe it." She and Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, Kyle Kendrick got married in

front of 105 guests at the Silverado Resort in Napa, California. The outdoors ceremony featured the bride in a dress by Priscilla of Boston, while the groom adorned a tuxedo by Huge Boss. Don't forget about the dogs! Bebe and Champ "acted as flower girl and ring bearer and wore a white dress and a tuxedo, respectively."

How can you incorporate your pets into your wedding?

Cupid's Advice:

While your wedding is meant to honor your relationship with your fiancée, why leave out the little guys who are there through thick and thin: your pets!

1. Wedding party: Who said anything about the flower girl and ring bearer being human? Adding your pets to the wedding party like Stephenie LaGrossa and Kyle Kendrick makes for great pictures, especially when clothed in dresses and tuxedos alike.

2. Gifts: Turn your party favors into donations to a local animal shelter. Gifts for the newlyweds can be substituted with contributions to an animal charity.

3. Cake topper: Couples adorn their wedding cakes with figurines resembling themselves, but why not the pets? Forget the traditional couple sitting atop the icing and find a cake topper that looks exactly like Gypsy and Beau.

LeAnn Rimes Congratulates Ex-

Husband, Dean Sheremet on Engagement



After finding out that ex-husband Dean Sheremet was engaged, country superstar LeAnn Rimes tweeted her congratulations, [People](#) reports. “Congrats to @deansheremet and @sarah_silver on your engagement! A little birdie told me the happy news last night. Wishes for a life full of happiness.” LeAnn Rimes made headlines last year when she admitted to cheating on her husband with actor Eddie Cibrian, who was also married at the time.

How do you cope when your ex moves on?

Cupid’s Advice:

When your ex-husband moves on without a backward glance, it can really hurt. Cupid has some advice on how to cope:

1. Remember why it didn’t work: When your ex gets serious with

someone new, you may think, “Why her and not me?” But don’t forget – you ended things for a reason.

2. Stay busy: The more you dwell on the situation, the worse you’ll feel. Go out, and try to have fun.

3. It’s your turn: If your ex-husband can move on, so can you! It might be just the push you need to get your act together and find your own Mr. or Ms. Right.

Dating: First Impressions – Part I



By Taylor Cast of

The Urban Dater

First impressions are incredibly important, and even more so when it comes to dating. People make a snap decision when they meet someone if that person is going to be a friend or potential date. Instant decisions are an innate process in us, and most of the time we don't change our mind. I have met men who in theory are exactly what I want, but they failed to impress, and I lost the urge to pursue dating them. Or men who in their dating profiles are good looking, they have great "stats," and then they misspell something. For example, the last guy to message me said in his profile that he is "very intelligant." Afraid not pal.

When we first meet a person we size them up, make judgments and decide if this person is going to get us naked. My roommate will not date a man who shows up with dirty shoes. So if his white sneakers have the slightest tinge of dirt on them, she is done with him. I eliminate men based on their literary knowledge. It may be silly, but we all do it. A guy friend of mine wouldn't even entertain the idea of dating a brunette, because blondes were his "thing." We decide that a person isn't for us based on that first minute or so.

Now pretend you're a famous celebrity: a star whom the world knows. Every detail of your life is published for the masses to consume. Oh, and you're single. No, thank you. I can't imagine what it is like to date as a celebrity, where most of the public thinks they "know" you. To have all of those preconceived notions out there about you and then to meet someone and show them who you really are. How difficult must it be to be Jennifer Aniston? Most of the public pities her for the end of her marriage and inability to find a partner. Can you imagine what it's like for her to meet someone and go on a first date?

Dating is difficult enough, but to have the obstacle of being incredibly famous must at times feel like an incredible burden. I'm sure Jennifer Aniston has her own ideas of what

she wants in a man, and first impressions must count ten fold to her than any of the rest of us. That man has to follow in the steps of Brad Pitt. BRAD PITT. I don't know if there could be bigger shoes to fill.

For the second part to this series, visit us on Thursday for The Urban Dater's male perspective from Alex V.

Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson Are Engaged



Free agent NFL player Eric Johnson has officially proposed to Jessica Simpson. The good news is that she's accepted, according to [People](#). After being introduced by mutual friends in May, the pair started dating. Recently, they celebrated Jessica Simpson's 30th birthday in romantic Italy. Fans can look for

this athlete and singer/fashion designer combo at the upcoming Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. "I'm gonna be on a [Macy's parade] float. It's not always the best way to spend a Thanksgiving, but it's a great way to celebrate. So, maybe I'll just have all families on the float," said Jessica Simpson.

What are some ways you can meet your future mate?

Cupid's Advice:

Like many other couples, Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson were introduced through mutual friends. Though there is no best way to meet your future partner, the secret is to put yourself out there. Cupid has a few options to explore:

- 1. Online dating:** The use of the Internet can expand your dating pool many times over. If you're having trouble meeting people the traditional way (in person), getting to know potential partners via online dating sites may be the answer.
 - 2. Singles' mixers:** Speed dating and singles cruises are great options for those looking to meet their next love interest. It takes the guessing out of the situation because you know everyone is attending for the same reason.
 - 3. The friend connection:** Whether you're being introduced to someone new through friends or playing wingman for a pal, friends play a huge role in helping you find a happy relationship. Utilize your network!
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'Hills' Couple Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt to Renew Vows



Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt are making headlines once again. The *Hills* couple are now planning to renew their vows. "I feel like our first [wedding] was an elopement and we had so many margaritas and it was such a crazy time...and then the second one wasn't our wedding. It was just a *Hills* wedding, and it was for all the people there, and it was about everyone else," said Heidi Montag, according to [Us Weekly](#). The couple's marriage has had its fair share of ups and downs so far, including short-lived divorce proceedings. Heidi Montag explained, saying, "We had just gone through so much crazy stuff personally and through our jobs and everything, so for me this feels like our first real marriage. Like our first restart. We deserve a second chance at our marriage and really having this moment and not being robbed of this."

What are some creative ways to renew your vows?

Cupid's Advice:

Renewing your vows is a great way to strengthen your marriage. Here are a few ways to keep the ceremony intriguing:

1. Go back to the original venue: Try going back to the place you were originally married. While it may be easier to revisit a church than a beach in Hawaii, it will be fun to return to a place with so many memories.

2. Celebrate with new friends: You and your husband have inevitably made some new friends since your wedding. Invite your new pals as well as the old so that they can add some new life to the occasion!

3. Incorporate your children: If you have had children since your wedding, make sure that they can be a part of the ceremony as well. If you haven't been blessed with children yet, bring along your pets. A dog ring bearer is always a crowd pleaser.

Sources Say Prince William and Kate Middleton Are Engaged





Hearts are breaking all over the world. [Us Weekly](#) reports that “after eight years of dating and two brief splits, Prince William and love Kate Middleton will finally tie the knot next year.” Due to Prince William’s wedding jitters, Kate Middleton agreed to wait after making a secret pact to marry three years ago while the royal couple were on vacation in the Seychelles. While the palace representative refuses to comment on the matter, sources are claiming, “The engagement will be announced in 2011.”

What are the benefits to a secret engagement?

Cupid’s Advice:

You’ve said ‘yes’! Now what? There are many ways to celebrate your engagement, and keeping a secret is just one of them:

- 1. Avoid the Q&A:** The engagement period is meant to be a special time between you and your fiancée. Keeping it a secret can help keep both of you relaxed while avoiding never-ending questions from friends and family.
- 2. Keep family peace:** Unfortunately, your family won’t love just anyone you bring home. If you’re certain that your current mate is “the one,” keeping your engagement a secret will keep the peace.

3. Easily elope: While it's been said that every girl dreams of the day she walks down the aisle, most people forget about the months of chaotic planning. An alternative choice is to remain mum and elope! Just be sure to send out a beautiful photo to friends and family who missed out.

Christina Milian: 'I Love Being Single'



Though Christina Milian will be appearing in the holiday movie *Christmas Cupid* December 12th on ABC Family, she does not plan on being struck by Cupid's arrow anytime soon. As the singer/actress told [People](#), there is no man in her life now, and she loves being single. Christina Milian recently split from rapper-producer The Dream. The two have an 8-month-old daughter together, and

she is her mother's first priority. She says, "I'm learning about myself all over again. And as far as my daughter, I will never bring anyone into her life that I don't have a real connection with. I'm going to protect her. I don't just bring anyone into my life or her life." **What are some of the perks of being single?**

Cupid's Advice:

Being in a relationship is wonderful, but being single can be just as amazing. After all, you have to love yourself before you can begin to love someone else:

- 1. Embrace independence:** Singles can breathe a sigh of relief because the only person they have to worry about is themselves.
- 2. Self-reflect:** Flying solo means you have time to find yourself and figure out what you want from a potential future relationship.
- 3. Enjoy being alone:** You are always your best company. So if your last relationship didn't work out, remember it's far better to be alone than in bad company.

Pete Wentz Says Jessica Simpson Is In Love with Boyfriend, Eric Johnson





It looks like Jessica Simpson and beau Eric Johnson have the seal of approval from Simpson's brother-in-law, rocker Pete Wentz. According to [People](#), Pete Wentz said, "He's a really smart guy, and Jessica really loves him." He explained, saying, "I think that's the most important thing, seeing her happy."

What are some ways to tell if your love is the real thing?

Cupid's Advice:

Many relationships come and go, but how do you know when it's not just lust – it's love? Cupid has a few things to look for:

- 1. You can talk:** You and your partner can talk for hours without getting bored. Conversation becomes second-nature and requires little effort.
- 2. There's no stress:** When you no longer stress over bad hair days or an unflattering outfit, then you know that your relationship is for real. You're completely comfortable with your beau.
- 3. You can be yourself:** When you are more yourself around your mate than you are around any of your other friends, then you know that you're truly in love.

Chris Evert Talks Divorce Recovery



After her divorce from pro golfer Greg Norman, tennis champ Chris Evert needed some time to get back on her feet. The two were married for just 15 months before separating last year. Chris Evert told [People](#), “I spent the summer in Aspen healing.” The athlete’s whirlwind romance with Greg Norman left little time for her family. “I was traveling a lot and just not around... My kids are dynamos and needed their mom,” she said, referring to her three sons from a previous marriage. “Things are back to normal, and my sons are my first priority,” she says. **How can you heal after a divorce?**

Cupid’s Advice:

Divorce represents not only the breaking up of a relationship, but the end of life as you know it. Cupid has some tips on how to pick up the pieces after a divorce:

1. Feel your pain: Healing after a divorce doesn't mean putting on a brave face and pretending everything's great. Recognize that you are in pain, and don't ignore your feelings.

2. Take responsibility: Stop blaming your ex for everything that went wrong with your relationship, because it always takes two. You can begin the healing process when you accept responsibility for your own actions.

3. Talk to family and friends: After her divorce, Chris Evert found comfort in spending time with her children again. Lean on friends and family after a breakup to help you cope.

Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones Step Out in NYC





Michael Douglas and wife Catherine Zeta-Jones were seen walking around Manhattan recently, despite Douglas' struggle with throat cancer. The 66-year-old actor is recovering from eight weeks of chemotherapy treatment for the tumor found at the back of his throat. Michael Douglas, though thin, seemed to be perfectly happy. The actor even managed a recent trip to Pennsylvania to visit his son Cameron in prison. Douglas' publicist told [RadarOnline](#), "He's not going everyday and not as often as he would like, but he is still visiting with him."

What are some ways to cheer up your beau during an illness?

Cupid's Advice:

1. Bring him a book/movie: While your beau may own countless movies and an alarming amount of literature, bring him something new. He has a lot of time to kill, and a book or movie is relaxing and entertaining.

2. Make breakfast in bed: Breakfast in bed never fails. If he has medicine, serve the pills as a side dish. If he's not coughing too much, you may even get a laugh out of him.

3. Visit him: While movies, books, and his cell phone may keep him connected to the outside world, they are no substitute for a face-to-face visit. Visit him It's an easy way to show him

that you care.

Anne Hathaway Fakes Jealousy at Jake Gyllenhaal and Taylor Swift Couple Talk



Apparently *For Love and Other Drugs* star Anne Hathaway will not entertain talk of her co-star's love-life during interviews, according to [US Weekly](#). During a press conference for the movie, questions arose about Jake Gyllenhaal and his connection to teen singing sensation Taylor Swift. Anne Hathaway took the pressure off of her co-star by saying, "You keep the conversation to me and only me or otherwise I'm going to get nasty! Thank you."

How can you avoid answering prying relationship questions?

Cupid's Advice:

Don't fold to the pressure of onlookers when your private life is abuzz, and you're not ready (or willing) to talk about it:

1. Laugh it off: If a topic or question comes up that you aren't comfortable answering, give a little laugh paired with a mysterious smile and a shrug. This will send the message that your lips are sealed on the matter.

2. Change the subject: Segway the question at hand onto another topic. Interjecting "speaking of..." or "that reminds me..." takes the focus off of you and onto something new.

3. Be blunt: If all else fails, be blunt about it. "I'm sorry, but I'm not comfortable answering that," or "That's none of your business" will get to the point when politeness doesn't.

Thoughts from a Single 30-Year-Old





By Jessica Downey of Chicago Now's All the Single Ladies
Christina Aguilera recently divorced Jordan Bratman, and she is about to turn 30 in December. I am at the opposite end of things – I just turned 30, and I have never been married (read that as I am totally and completely single).

When I was 20, I thought that I would be married or at least in a really serious relationship by the age of 30. And it's not that I think 30 is old by any means or that I had some sort of timeline but at that time, 30 just seemed so far away.

I mean, 10 years is a pretty long time; plenty of time to meet a guy, fall in love and get married.

Obviously as I went into this year, I figured out that marriage probably wasn't going to happen. Technically, it didn't take me that long to figure it out, but I mean, you really never know what can happen. But as my birthday got closer and closer, I kind of liked the idea of having a boyfriend or at least a date by my side on that day.

When the day actually came, I honestly have to say that I wasn't all that sad that I didn't have a man by my side.

Actually, I wasn't sad at all. I looked around me and saw all of the amazing friends and family that went out of their way to make the day special for me. I also realized that I have accomplished a lot in life since I was 20.

Now that I am actually 30, I can honestly say that not having a significant other really doesn't feel any different than when I was 20. I mean, things around me have changed. I now live in a completely different place. Certain characteristics about me have also grown and changed, but honestly being single doesn't feel any different for me.

I am not trying to take anything away from the whole concept of finding someone that you truly love. But I do believe that there are many other things in life that you can also be happy about. Things that are important as well. And while the once 20-year-old girl thought she would be married by this time, the 30-year-old woman knows that she just hasn't met the right guy yet.

Jessica Downey is a freelance writer who writes about dating and single life in Chicago. All of her ramblings can be found on her blog on ChicagoNow.com. She also writes for badonlinedates.com and has written for examiner.com.