

Christina Aguilera Explains Why She Filed for Divorce and Talks About Her New Man



Burlesque star

Christina Aguilera recently spoke out about the real reasons she filed for divorce from Jordan Bartman, according to [People](#). The main reason turns out to be her 2-year-old son, Max. “When you’re unhappy in your marriage, your children are the ones who suffer. That’s the last thing I wanted for my son,” said Aguilera. The Grammy winner is now back on the dating scene with a new man, Matthew Rutler, a set assistant she met while filming *Burlesque*. She describes him as a kind person who she could spend hours talking to without realizing any time has gone by.

How do you know if your relationship unhealthy?

Cupid’s Pulse:

If you think your relationship is unhealthy, it's probably true. Though all couples fight sometimes, if your relationship has become toxic, it's time to move on:

1. Unhappiness: If you're unhappy with your partner, chances are the feeling is mutual. Don't try to tough it out.

2. Fighting words: An unhealthy couple doesn't always mean fighting all the time. Snide passive aggressive comments can be even more hurtful than a full-out fight.

3. Abuse: At the first signs of physical or emotional abuse, get out of the relationship immediately.

Neve Campbell Secretly Files for Divorce from Husband, John Light





Another celebrity couple has split! According to [Us Weekly](#), *Scream* star Neve Campbell filed for divorce from husband John Light in secret earlier this year, citing “irreconcilable differences.” The 37-year-old actress married her British actor husband, 36, in Malibu in 2007. This is the actress’ second divorce after being previously married to Canadian actor Jeff Colt.

How can you keep your divorce under wraps?

Cupid’s Advice:

When you decide to part ways with your spouse, sometimes you just need some privacy for a little while. Here’s how to keep your divorce confidential:

- 1. Talk to your spouse:** You and your ex-partner should agree on when to go public with your divorce. Make sure you’re on the same page so that your mate doesn’t tell anyone too soon.
- 2. Don’t say the D-word:** If friends and family start noticing something has changed in your relationship, just tell them that you and your spouse are going through a difficult time, which is true.
- 3. Keep your records private:** Most people don’t realize that divorce records are public information. If you don’t want the

public to be able to access your papers, file a motion to have your divorce documents impounded.

Tony Parker Responds: Files for Divorce from Wife Eva Longoria in Texas



Apparently one set of divorce papers isn't enough. Just days after Eva Longoria filed for divorce from husband Tony Parker in California, Parker has counter-sued in Texas. Longoria's decision to end the couple's 3 year marriage was due to her discovery of a number of text messages between her husband and Erin Barry (wife of fellow San Antonio Spurs teammate Brent Barry). According to [RadarOnline](#), since Longoria's filing, the only public comment Parker had to make about the split was to

People, saying that he was aware that his wife was filing in California, while denying allegations that he had already filed in Texas.

How do you cut out the drama in a breakup?

Cupid's Advice:

Breaking up is hard, but Cupid has some advice on how to make the split drama-free:

- 1. Watch what you say:** Of course you're going to need to vent after a breakup, but make sure you're careful about what you're saying and to whom you're saying it. Once the bashing starts getting back to your ex, that's when the drama starts.
- 2. Stop texting and calling:** It's hard to cut off all ties with someone who was such a big part of your life, but it's even harder to continue communicating with them. Take some time away from your ex.
- 3. Deal with it:** There's a reason the two of you couldn't work it out. The faster you come to terms with the breakup, the less chance of drama there will be.

Tony Parker Speaks Out About Divorce from Wife Eva Longoria





Tony Parker recently set the record straight about his impending divorce from actress Eva Longoria, reports [People](#). The NBA star was aware that Eva Longoria would be filing for divorce in Los Angeles, and they are trying to deal with the situation in private. He also denied rumors that he was the first to file for divorce. “I did not file for divorce in Texas and did not hire divorce attorneys in either Texas or California,” said Parker.

How do you break the news of a divorce to friends and family?

Cupid's Advice:

It's hard enough to admit to yourself that your marriage is coming to an end, which makes it even harder to admit it to other people. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Be honest:** Once the divorce papers have been filed, don't try to act like everything is honky dory with the other people in your life. Tell those close you what's really going on.
- 2. Don't trash talk:** When a relationship ends, hard feelings are almost always inevitable. Breaking the news to your

friends and family isn't an excuse to trash your ex. Stick to the facts.

3. Keep the details private: It's inappropriate to reveal the sensitive details about your current or desired divorce settlement, such as the amount of your alimony payments or custody battle. Break the news, and move on.

Jon Gosselin and Kate Gosselin Agree to Share Custody of Kids for Thanksgiving





[RadarOnline](#) has

learned that TLC reality stars Jon Gosselin and Kate Gosselin have come to a custody agreement for their eight children this Thanksgiving. After a very public divorce, the two have decided that Kate will have the kids on Thanksgiving, while Jon and his girlfriend, Ellen Ross, will celebrate Thanksgiving with the kids on a different day. While no agreement has been set on how the divided family will spend Christmas, a similar arrangement may follow.

What are ways to make the holidays enjoyable after a divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

Dueling parents is no way to celebrate the holidays, especially with young ones around. As difficult as it may be, putting aside your differences for a few days will do everyone good in the long run:

1. Make a schedule: One of the best and easiest ways to avoid fights on the holidays is to make a schedule. One parent gets the kids one year and the other gets the kids the following year. It's not an ideal situation, but it's better than holiday drama.

2. Rotate: Split up the time by day. Perhaps one parent will

always see the children on Christmas Eve while the other parent gets Christmas Day. Make it clear that Santa Claus makes exceptions and may come more than one day in their situation!

3. Look to the future: In a few years, the kids will be grown and what will have become your holiday routine will slowly disappear. When the kids begin to decide on their own, act like Switzerland and stay neutral on the decision making process.

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.

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.
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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.

Real Housewives of O.C.'s Tamra Barney Talks New Boyfriend, Eddie





Tamra Barney has a surefire plan for getting over her breakup blues, and it involves two new b's: a boyfriend and a BMW. *The Real Housewives of the O.C.* star recently told [Us Weekly](#) that she's been seeing a man, Eddie, who bought her the new car for her birthday. Tamra Barney began her new relationship about a month after her and her husband, Simon Robert Barney, filed for divorce in January. **After an ugly divorce, what are some things you should consider before dating again?**

Cupid's Advice:

For some, the fastest way to mend a heartbreak is to fall in love again. But before you jump back into the dating pool, figure out why you left it in the first place. Cupid has some things you may want to consider:

1. Are you ready to date?: If your friendships, finances, professional life and/or emotional health are still bruised from your breakup, you should work on recovering before you bring someone else into your life.

2. What do you need to work on?: Like relationships, breakups are rarely one-sided. Consider what personality flaws or bad habits you brought to the table in your last relationship and work on fixing them.

3. What are you really looking for?: Many people end up dating the same type of person over and over again. Decide what qualities you actually want in your next partner, and actively seek out people with those traits.

Billy Ray Cyrus Refuses to Discuss Split from Miley Cyrus' Mom, Tish



Billy Ray Cyrus won't talk about his "Achy Breaky Heart." During a radio interview on *Woody and the Wake-Up Call*, Billy Ray Cyrus walked out when Woody Johnson brought up the singer's pending divorce from Tish Cyrus. When asked about the split, Billy Ray Cyrus said, "Oh man. You know what bud? Woody Johnson. Woody Johnson. God bless America, God bless our troops."

Woody Johnson, look at you.” The couple, parents of actress/singer Miley Cyrus, filed divorce papers on October 26, and rumors have been flying about Tish Cyrus’ alleged affair with rocker Bret Michaels.

How do you avoid talking about intimate relationship details?

Cupid’s Advice:

While some couples may be loud and proud, you shouldn’t broadcast every aspect of your relationship. Cupid has some tips on how to keep the intimacy in your relationship:

- 1. Prioritize:** If you feel the need to dish about your relationship problems to a friend, pick the most important issue and confide in only one friend. Complaining about too many problems to too many people will bring on a bad reputation.
- 2. Think before you speak:** If you talk about a problem with a friend, it may do more harm than good. Consider how your words will affect your partner and your relationship before you open your mouth.
- 3. Be optimistic:** Bottling up feelings isn’t healthy, but try to keep things in perspective by staying positive about minor spats.

‘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.

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.

Christina Aguilera Dating 'Burlesque' Assistant Matthew Rutler



It looks as though Christina Aguilera is back in the dating game! Since separating from husband Jordan Bratman, Aguilera has been spotted out and about with Matthew Rutler, a set assistant from her new movie *Burlesque*. Most recently, Christina Aguilera and Matthew Rutler went on a double date with

celebrity couple Nicole Richie and Joel Madden at Hollywood's SoHo House, according to [PopEater](#).

What are ways to tell you're ready to date after a divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

While it's important to take time to mourn the end of a marriage, you can't stay single forever! Cupid has some advice on how to know when you're ready to date after a divorce:

- 1. You're okay being alone:** Don't jump into a rebound relationship right after a divorce. Take time to grieve, and get used to being by yourself before you start dating again.
- 2. You have a support group:** You shouldn't go through a divorce alone. Lean on friends and family when you're feeling low. They can also help you decide when you're ready to enter back into the dating world.
- 3. You're healthy:** Often people turn to alcohol or food to help ease the pain of a divorce. Make sure you don't overindulge too much, and wait until you're healthy before you start seeing someone new.

**LeAnn Rimes Has No Regrets
About Affair with Eddie
Cibrian**



After meeting on the set of the Lifetime movie *Northern Lights* last year, LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian began an off-camera affair when they were both still married to other people. In a recent article in [US Weekly](#), the country queen revealed that what happened with Eddie Cibrian is not who she is, but she refuses to live with regrets. "It happens every day to so many people," said LeAnn Rimes. "And if I take away my album sales, my words ... you have just another couple. You had two couples whose marriages didn't work who really stumbled upon each other and fell in love."

Is an affair okay if it's in the name of love?

Cupid's Advice:

Though some couples are able to work it out after an affair, most of the time an affair marks the end of a relationship. Though you have every right to fall in love with someone else, try to be fair to your partner and end your current relationship before you start a new one. Here are some things to consider:

1. Honesty is the best policy: If you have true feelings for someone else that are starting to prevail over the feelings you have for your current partner, it's time to end the relationship before someone gets hurt.

2. Forbidden love: The secrecy that is often behind an affair can add some much-missed excitement to your love life. Make sure you have true feelings for your new lover and aren't just getting caught up in the excitement of it all.

3. We all make mistakes: It's only human to follow your heart instead of your mind, especially when it comes to love. If you do slip up, don't be too hard on yourself, but make sure to come clean to those you care about.

Miley Cyrus' Mom Tish Had Affair with Bret Michaels





Could the reason for the split between Miley Cyrus' parents be due to her mom, Tish, having an affair with rocker Bret Michaels? [US Weekly](#)'s source seems to think so. The 17 year marriage between Tish and Billy Ray Cyrus is coming to an end as Billy Ray filed for divorce on October 27. Michaels was introduced to the Cyrus family back in February when he and teen sensation Miley Cyrus released the duet "Nothing to Lose." Since then, Tish was spotted at Michaels' February 28 show in Los Angeles. Although reps for both Tish and Michaels deny that there is nothing more than a professional relationship between the two, Billy Ray is seeking joint custody for his three minor children he has with his soon-to-be ex-wife.

How do you handle the news of a parent's affair?

Cupid's Advice:

Dealing with the possibility that one of your parents is having an affair is a devastating blow, no matter your age. Cupid has some advice on how to handle it:

- 1. Sibling support:** If you have any brothers or sisters you can turn to, they would be your best bet for support. Families get torn apart and turned against each other when everyone begins to take sides on who's right and who's wrong.

Even if you have friends who were in a similar situation, your siblings are the only ones who know exactly what you're going through. Lean on them.

2. Know the facts: Sit your parents down together and ask for the truth. They owe it to you as their child to tell you what's going on. You'll start to hear lots of different takes on the situation from family friends and family members themselves trying to persuade you to take one side over the other. Knowing the truth will help you disregard other rumors and come to your own conclusion.

3. Find an outlet: Whether it's finding a counselor or channeling your emotions through another hobby, you'll need a release from your family situation. It's normal to feel a slew of emotions, including anger toward one or both parents. Rather than taking it out by saying or doing something you may later regret, placing that energy into a hobby will help you take your mind off of things in a healthy way.

Courtney Cox Denies Pending Divorce





Actress Courteney

Cox has finally spoken out about her pending divorce to husband and actor David Arquette, [People](#) has learned. During an interview for Australia's *TV Week*, Cox said, "I don't know what will happen, but this is not like we're getting divorced...This is a separation and I think that takes a lot of courage. Whatever is supposed to happen will be the best thing for us." At the same time, however, Cox admits that all is not well in the duo's 11 year marriage. "Sometimes you just realize 'Wow, we actually have grown apart,'" she said.

As far as her husband's Howard Stern radio appearance, Cox seemed nonchalant about it, saying Arquette is a "kook" and an "entertainer." And as Arquette went to Stern for support, Cox has been spending time with her bestie, Jennifer Aniston. "We just have fun, we laugh, we're inseparable and it's great."

When is it time to try separating in a marriage?

Cupid's Take:

Sometimes things taken a turn for the worst in a relationship.

Often times it can be a phase and, in time, things will go back to normal. Other times, however, we must make the sad conclusion that this relationship won't have a fairy tale ending. And that's when a separation in a marriage may be for the best:

1. Time off: When neither of you can get a word in edgewise without voices escalating and faces turning red, a separation may be right for you. You'll have time to sort out your thoughts without letting your anger get in the way.

2. Think it over: If recent times between you and your mate are more negative than positive, perhaps it's time to get some space. You'll be able to lay all factors out in front of you in order to figure out exactly why the two of you have been arguing more than kissing.

3. When love is lost: Sometimes, sadly, people outgrow each other, and the love they once had for one another fades away. When this happens, it's best to face reality and go your separate ways rather than forcing something to work that doesn't.

Courtney Cox and David Arquette Unite for Halloween





In the midst of their very public separation, Courteney Cox and David Arquette have vowed to make sure that daughter Coco, 6, remains their top priority, according to [People](#). When the duo announced their separation last month, they insisted that they would remain dedicated parents. In fact, the two even planned to celebrate Halloween together with their daughter. “Sunday, yeah we go trick-or-treating,” Arquette said at a recent film screening. “Coco is going to be a bumblebee and Courteney is going to be a sunflower. I’ll put on a flower suit or something,” Arquette joked. **After a split, how can you keep your child’s life normal?**

Cupid’s Advice:

Breakups are especially hard on children, which is why it’s important to make sure you remain responsible parents. Cupid has some ideas on how to keep your child’s life as normal as possible during a separation or divorce:

1. Stick to the routine: Although your child’s life will undoubtedly change, you should try to keep their routine as normal as possible. If you used to get pizza every Tuesday night, keep on doing it to show your little one that some traditions will never change.

2. Split up time: Unless you have already figured out custody issues, try to split your tot's time evenly between both parents. This will remind your kid that they aren't going to lose either of you.

3. Communication is essential: Don't leave your child in the dark about the breakup. Talk to them about why you two are separating and make sure they know that they are still your number one priority. Also, make sure they're 100% confident that it's not their fault.

Billy Ray Cyrus Files for Divorce From Wife Tish



In a surprising

announcement, Hollywood proves that not everything is about award shows and after-parties. Citing “irreconcilable differences,” Miley Cyrus’ father, Billy Ray Cyrus, filed for divorce from wife Tish after 17 years of marriage. Like any couple that have contemplated and chosen divorce, they’ve attested, “As you can imagine, this is a very difficult time for our family. We are trying to work through some personal matters.” While they appreciate thoughts and prayers, the issue of custody has come up, and as [Us Weekly](#) states, “Billy Ray asks for shared custody of their three minor kids [Miley, Braison, and Noah], and for an equitable division of their marital assets.”

What are the most important factors to consider before deciding on divorce?

Cupid’s Advice:

When your relationship has hit a rough patch and it seems like there is no solution to your personal issues, should you consider a divorce? When is divorce a topic to put on the table during a discussion with your partner? Here are some factors to consider:

1. Hopeful or hopeless: DivorceMag.com says, “Hopelessness is the cancer in marriage. People convince themselves that their problems are too huge to surmount and so they have to divorce.” Before bringing up the idea of a divorce, make sure to ask yourself, “Is this something worth saving?” Are you willing to put in the time and effort for counseling to save the union between you and your partner?

2. Threat or decision: Everyone gets angry sometimes. It can make it seem like times are tough. Are you simply threatening a divorce to demand change from your partner, or are you confident that there’s nothing left for either of you to do to salvage your relationship? Before you resort to a last ditch

power play in an argument, think about why you are choosing that path. Perhaps take some time apart so your decision comes from a grounded, reasonable place.

3. What does this mean for everyone?: When considering divorce, you will have to come to terms with the negative consequences this brings for you, your partner, and possibly, your children. Are you ready to sit your children down and explain to them what has occurred and provide a support system for them during this time? Do you have a support system outside of your home?

Counseling or a trial separation are measures many couples take before deciding on divorce. Give yourselves time to make sure this is the step you want to take.

Jon Gosselin's Ex-Girlfriend Calls Him a Chronic Liar





After what seemed like a heartfelt message to his family and friends via Twitter, Jon Gosselin's ex-girlfriend Hailey Glassman is calling him out on his chronic lying habit. Gosselin tweeted, "I am acutely aware of the mistakes I made in 2009 and I am ashamed of the choices I made. I have apologized to Kate, my family, and to my friends. Through counseling I have learned to own my actions. My goal is to move forward in a positive direction." Despite Gosselin's seemingly good intentions, Glassman insists that his Twitter apology was just a "negotiating tactic to gain sympathy from the public," according to [RadarOnline](#). Glassman called her ex a "pathological liar" whose life coach once told her and her parents to "accept his lying and not get mad at him for it because he will then never tell the truth."

Is there any time in a relationship when lying is okay?

Cupid's Advice:

Honest communication is the crux of a healthy relationship, but sometimes telling white lies is necessary in certain situations. Cupid has some examples of instances when it's okay bend the truth:

1. You look so thin!: If she asks, "Does this make me look

fat?" tell her "no," whether it's true or not. Sometimes you need to fib to spare her feelings, especially when talking about her appearance. There's no need to bring insecurities into your relationship.

2. Thanks, I love it!: Whether it's a diamond ring or a pair of socks, this is always the correct response when receiving a gift. If you don't want to offend your mate, pretend you love it... then if necessary, quietly return it later.

3. I'm not attracted to other people: Just because you notice when a total babe walks by doesn't mean you have to tell your partner! Some things are better left unsaid.

Christina Aguilera & Jordan Bratman Admit to Separation





Burlesque's

Christina Aguilera and husband Jordan Bratman are yet another couple on Hollywood's long split list. After almost five years of marriage, [E! Online](#) originally confirmed the two had called it quits and were living separately, but were still hoping to work it out for their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Max. Now, however, Aguilera and Bratman have filed for divorce, citing "irreconcilable differences," according to [TMZ](#). The former couple began dating in 2002 and wed in 2005 with a private ceremony in Napa Valley. The pair announced their separation right on the heels of another celebrated Hollywood couple – Courteney Cox and David Arquette. It seems as if celeb couples are having a rough time this month!

Why should you try separation before divorce?

Cupid's Advice:

People are so busy juggling their crazy lives these days that they sometimes forget how much time and energy it takes to maintain a healthy relationship. When things in a relationship get bad, it may seem like divorce is the only option. But this decision can be life-altering, it's better to try separation first:

1. Take a step back: Sometimes when you take yourself out of a situation, it's easier to gain perspective on what's truly

going on in your relationship. You'll have time to decide whether it's possible to work things out or whether it's time to call it quits. It's best to clear your head, analyze the situation and allow enough time to pass before making any serious decisions.

2. Define your wants and needs: Go back to the basics, and make sure your personal goals haven't changed over time. Do you still want kids? What are your career goals? Where does your partner fit in? Figure out exactly what you want out of life before returning to your mate to make sure he/she wants similar things.

3. Love or lust: Do some soul searching and make sure that what you and your partner have is true love. You may have married too quickly or too young and mistaken lust for love.

But if what you have is the real thing, it might be worth figuring out how to work together as husband and wife.

Separating for a bit may motivate you to recommit to your marriage together.

Surprising Split for Ben Harper and Laura Dern





It's splitsville for another seemingly happy celebrity couple. [RadarOnline](#) reports that singer Ben Harper and *Jurassic Park* actress Laura Dern have filed for divorce. The pair dated for five years before marrying in 2005 and have two children together. The breakup is especially surprising because it comes three weeks after the Harper-Dern family traveled to Hawaii together to attend the wedding of their close friend, Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder. Vedder and model Jill McCormick married September 18, and Harper and Dern spent a week partying in Honolulu along with other celebrities like Jack Johnson and Sean Penn. The couple's reps had no comment on the split.

What are some signs that your partner is unhappy in your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Some relationships end so abruptly that it leaves you wondering, what happened? Cupid has some tips on how to recognize signs that your partner is unhappy:

1. He seems distracted: If he doesn't pay attention to you when you talk or seems distant on dates, he may be thinking about ending it. Not fully engaging shows that he's not content in the relationship anymore.

2. He cancels plans: If he suddenly opts out of that cruise in the Bahamas you had been planning forever, he's not ready to take that next step with you. If he doesn't want to move forward, he's not happy with where the relationship is going.

3. He starts fights: Some people have a hard time showing emotion, and men often express their sadness or frustration through anger. If it seems like you're constantly bickering, he might be trying to show you that he's lost that loving feeling.

Courtney Cox & David Arquette Split



After years of

irreconcilable differences, Hollywood couple Courteney Cox and David Arquette have announced their official separation. The two have been married for 11 years. Ironically, this romance began when they met on the set of *Scream* in 1996. They now have a six-year-old daughter named Coco, whom they both adore.

As Cox and Arquette recently told [*People*](#), “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.” Though this separation may appear drama-free, it seems the marriage was not. The media has reported repeated arguments in the past.

How can you put an end to the “same old fights” in your relationship?

Cupid’s Advice:

Irreconcilable differences are the number one cause of breakups and divorces. No matter how big or small these issues are, many couples tend to have the same fight over and over. In order for a relationship to grow, these ongoing issues need to be worked out:

1. Seek the advice of a third party: Sometimes all you need is the counsel of a completely uninvolved third party to help you and your partner come to a compromise. This can be, but doesn’t have to be, a marriage counselor; however, a mutual friend could also do the trick.

2. Recognize the problem: As soon as the “same old fight” begins, look for the redundancies. Write down the problem. Sometimes it’s better to see it on paper. This can be the first step to working things out.

3. Reevaluate the relationship: If after countless tries to work out your issues you are not any closer to finding a

solution, then perhaps you're not right for one another. It may be a hard thing to face, but it could be time to move on.

Celeb Stylist Rachel Zoe & Brad Goreski Split



Celebrity stylist

Rachel Zoe and her assistant Brad Goreski have decided to part ways, reports [People](#). The amicable split between the two was brought on nearly a month ago when Goreski broke the news to Zoe. He tells *People*, "... there's a point where either I do it now or I'll never know what it's like to spread my wings and soar." With the duo being used as fodder for her show, *The Rachel Zoe* project, Zoe speaks kindly of Goreski, "I don't want to hire somebody for the purpose of the show, we just got

lucky. No one's ever going to be Brad to me."

Is it better to "test the waters" before committing to a relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

You shouldn't extend the inevitable by staying in a relationship when one person wants to explore other options. Whether you're just starting out or you've been together for a long time, Cupid has some pointers for determining if your partner (new or old) is ready to settle down:

1. Start slow: Instead of dinner and a bottle of wine on a first date, agree to meet for coffee. People can have a fuzzy sense of belief or communication when alcohol is involved. Keeping it sober can help you get a sense of someone's level of commitment before you pencil him or her in for a Friday night.

2. Following the crowd: If you or your partner are surrounded by friends and family who are in relationships, this may be what's keeping you together. Watching others around you couple up could make you feel like the black sheep if you're the only single one. Explore your partners feelings about being serious and most importantly be upfront with yourself.

3. Be careful: Dating different people can be fun but eventually it could leave you feeling lonely. Before you decide to break it off with someone or say "no" to dating them, make sure that you're ready. Sometimes people break-up and end up regretting it for the rest of their lives.

'Raising Sextuplets' Couple Go Their Separate Ways



It's over for *Raising Sextuplets* stars Bryan and Jennifer Masche. Jennifer has officially filed a petition for separation from her husband, closely following his Arizona arrest at the beginning of September. Police intervened when Bryan allegedly shouted profanities at his wife and threatened to "flatten" his father-in-law. Although he says he's "not a criminal," according to [RadarOnline](#), his wife is going ahead with separation proceedings. Ironically, the Masches were often viewed as more positive role models than reality stars Jon and Kate Gosselin, and were said to have been seeing a relationship counselor prior to Bryan's altercation. It seems that couples with numerous children aren't fairing well in the reality world lately!

What should you do about your mate's bad temper?

Cupid's Advice:

Dealing with your partner's temper can be a difficult task. Cupid has some suggestions:

1. Toughen up: It's never a good idea to provoke someone who's angry, but it's also important to stand up for yourself. Don't let your partner's rage stifle who you are, how you feel or what makes you happy.

2. Listen to the clues: Learn to listen to your partner when he or she is upset. Yes, you happen to be the target at the moment, but try not to take these blow-ups personally. They are most likely just a way for your significant other to cope with stress and have very little to do with you.

3. Know when to escape: If your partner's bad temper translates into physical or emotional abuse, it's time to say "goodbye" (or "hello" to a counselor who can help). Anger management issues are nothing to take lightly, so don't wait until it's too late to do something about it.