

# When Dates Go Bad: 5 Ways to Find the Funny in Dating



By Sujeiry Gonzalez

We've all had our share of bad dates. Even gorgeous celebrities like Katherine Heigl have dished on terrible romantic encounters. She admitted to once having an awkward date with a personal trainer, who not only gave her his headshot, but also shaved his legs. Total turn off!

My latest bad date was with a Miami artist who was new to New York City. I met him at Bryant Park and demanded dinner, as opposed to sitting on a bench with a basket of fruit. He obliged, and we ended up at BBQ's in Times Square. As he discussed his career goals in a monotone voice (I thought I was on a date with Ferris Bueller's English teacher), I

realized I was on yet another bad date.

So, what can we do in this common situation? For my survival, I decided to find the funny in the ever present bad date. Here's how you can, too:

**Related:** [Spring Cleaning: 5 Types of Guys to Dump](#)

### **1. Imagine yourself on a deserted island.**

If you picture this, you can appreciate your date's company even when he chews with his mouth open. Besides, wouldn't you rather have someone to laugh ~~at~~ with than be alone?

### **2. Chow down as if you're with a girlfriend.**

You don't need to impress a bad date, so why not unbutton your jeans and order a real meal? On my date with Miami Monotone Man, I ordered a quarter chicken, French fries and a piece of warm cornbread. Leave the salad for the one you want to impress!

### **3. Drink yourself into a tizzy.**

Drinking will make your date seem funnier, hotter and much more pleasant. When he slurps his soda, slurp your drink. When he picks up his cell phone to text, take a shot. It's like your very own drinking game! That said, don't let it get *too* out of control. Bad decisions, anyone?

### **4. Make a mental list of things to tell your friends.**

This won't be difficult when you're on a bad date. Just make sure to jot down what's funny. You could focus on the bad, but that's less challenging. Plus, what fun is that?

### **5. Test out different dating techniques on your bad date.**

You're already out, so why not use him like a guinea pig? You can flirt in different ways or ask questions you wouldn't dare

ask a man you want to impress. This experiment can be a fun twist to a dud of a night.

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

Next time you're on a bad date, remember that it's supposed to be fun even when you're not hitting it off. Try these tips and have a laugh while you're out with Ferris Bueller's English teacher.

*Sujeiry Gonzalez, often referred to as the "Latina Carrie Bradshaw," is a funny and vibrant relationship (non)expert that tells it like it is – with just add a little more sass, a lot more Bacardi and ton of laughs. Recently she penned her first book, **Love Trips: A Collection of Relationship Stumbles**, a poignant and witty collection of personal essays in which she chronicles her relationship stumbles. For more information on Sujeiry Gonzalez, visit [lovesujeiry.com](http://lovesujeiry.com) or [lovetripsbook.com](http://lovetripsbook.com).*

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## Brad Pitt Says Celebrity Engagement With Angelina Jolie 'Made Sense'





One half of the hottest Hollywood couple – Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie – attended the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday. The actor took the time to discuss his recent celebrity engagement to his leading lady. According to [People](#), Pitt said the engagement was “something that made sense.” Although he was in France to promote his new gangster movie *Killing Them Softly*, he also put to rest a rumor that he and his celebrity love were planning to marry in August. He explained, “There is no date. We’re still hoping for marriage equality in the United States before we get married.” With that said, Hollywood may just have to wait a little longer for their walk down the aisle.

**Pitt knew he was ready for his celebrity engagement. What are some ways to tell it's time to pop the question?**

**Cupid's Advice:**

An engagement is one of the most important steps in a relationship, The biggest decision is choosing when to make the move. How did Pitt know that his celebrity engagement was at the right time? Here is some relationship advice on when to pop the question:

**1. Consider her constant hints:** If a girl is ready for that next step, she will usually let you know in some way or another. She may start to discuss her dream engagement ring or a friend's recent wedding. Listen out for any clue your partner may be giving.

**Related Link:** [Lady Gaga Celebrates Celebrity Engagement to Taylor Kinney](#)

**2. Talk of the future:** If your significant other always includes you in his or her future plans about relationship and love, it may be time to starting thinking about taking that next step. The word "our" rather than "my" means a lot more them than you think!

**Related Link:** [Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt Tie The Knot!](#)

**3. You're 100 percent committed:** If you are crazy in love, completely faithful, and can't imagine being with anyone else, maybe it's time to prove this commitment to your partner. Show your mate that you want them in your life forever by proposing.

**How would you show your man that you're ready for him to pop the question? Share your ideas below.**

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# Four Steps for Stress Free Dating



By Dr. Tranquility – Lydia Belton, PhD, Ct. H.A.

Everybody experiences some anxiety in dating, whether it's simple butterflies or anticipatory anxiety. Even a super stars like Russell Brand believe that we can find our soulmate and learn to relax through meditation. Meditation and relaxation exercises, major areas of my practice, all help to reduce anxiety. But for most of us, all we need is to follow a few simple steps to have a stress-free experience:

**Related:** [Reduce Stress and Maximize Romance](#)

**Step 1: Prepare.** If this is going to be your first date, take time for a “get to know you” phone call before you set out.

Find out what hobbies your date enjoys, whether or not their primary focus is work, and explore common interests. Bring up current events and ask for their opinion. This will stimulate conversation on the date and allow you to get to know one another better.

**Step 2: Plan Your Outfit.** Ladies, you will feel much better if you are not hiking in stilettos. Guys, wouldn't it be great to know that you are going to need a tie and coat before you get there? We all like a surprise, but let's get real. Jennifer Lopez always knows where she is going and how to dress appropriately. You will both have a much better time with each other if you're comfortable.

**Step 3: Be Confident in You.** People who are confident and comfortable in themselves are attractive, because they are at ease – not stressed! So, take the time to be comfortable and confident; give yourself time for hair, make-up and nails. Pick out what you are going to wear in advance, and make your favorite outfit suitable for where you are going. The same thing goes for the guys, as both of you should amaze each other. Have fun channeling your inner Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie. It's better for both of you when you feel as good as you look! Here is a little secret: have some strawberries and a bit of chocolate before you go, because they kick up the positive-relationship-brain chemistry, and your date will notice it in your eyes.

**Related:** [Relax With a Spa Day at Home](#)

**Step 4: Just Breathe.** Dating with tranquility means dating without stress. This really comes down to a little pre-planning, a bit of self-confidence and investing some time. Is your date the person you've been searching for, or maybe the person with whom you'll spend the rest of your life? It's too early to tell, so relax and have a good time. As they say, there are plenty of fish in the sea, so allow yourself to live in the moment and remember – *you are wonderful*.

*Developed by Lydia Belton PhD, Ct.H.A. of DrTranquility.com, Date Therapy® is an effective protocol that helps people get in touch with their criteria for an ideal mate. DrTranquility's protocols® have been featured most recently on Forbes.com & Yahoo, ABCNEWS.com, ABC's the View, KISS FM, CupidsPulse.com, Metromix for the Chicago Tribune, British Glamour, REDBOOK, Cosmopolitan Magazine & promoted by Match.com.*

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## **‘Bachelorette’ Emily Maynard Discusses Sending Home Joe**



Season 8's *Bachelorette* Emily Maynard recently talked about



her tough decision to send home hopeful bachelor, Joe, in her blog for [People](#). Maynard discussed her date with Joe, mentioning how fun of a time she had with him. However, she said, “I knew that we were just in different place in our lives.” So, even though she had a blast with fun-loving bachelor, she knew they weren’t a good match and let him go.

## **How do you know when to cut ties early in a relationship?**

### **Cupid’s Advice:**

**1. Know both of your intentions:** If one of you is just looking for someone to go on dates with and simply keep them company and the other wants marriage, that’s an issue that needs to be addressed immediately. Like Emily Maynard, you have to recognize when the person you’re dating is in a different place in their life than you. You can’t keep a relationship going if the two of you have battling goals.

**2. Don’t make the same mistake twice:** If you notice something that your new lover does that ruined your relationship, talk to them and see if this is a problem that can be fixed. If not, it might be time to cut your losses. There’s nothing worse than repeating a bad relationship.

**3. Accept that not everyone is your perfect match:** Too many people cling to a relationship even when it isn’t working just for the sake of “seeing how things play out.” If it isn’t working now, chances are it won’t work in the long run. Why waste your time?

**How do you know when it’s time to cut your losses on a new relationship? Share your stories in the comments below.**

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# Celebrity Couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt Indulge in a Romantic Museum Date



Celebrity couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt made a stop by London's Lucian Freud exhibit this past Thursday without the kids, according to the latest celebrity news on [Pop Sugar](#). However, they did recently have a family outing to see the matinee showing of *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Soon, the famous couple and their celebrity kids will be heading to the South of France together for the Cannes Film Festival. The celebs will have a chance to spend some family time together while walking the red carpet.

# This celebrity couple spent some quality time together at the museum. What are some other cultural date ideas?

## Cupid's Advice:

Spending time with your loved one while getting a taste of culture at the same time isn't only for celebrity couples. Here are some great date ideas for a cultural experience:

**1. Attend a festival:** Look up the great cultural festivals happening in your area. You'll get the chance to meet a lot of people together and also experience a little bit of a new or different culture.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Garage Sale](#)

**2. Eat at an ethnic restaurant:** Literally get a taste of another culture by going to a foreign restaurant and trying the different foods available. It's a great way to spice up your relationship and love!

**Related Link:** [Famous Couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt Enjoy a Weekend Celebrity Getaway Without Kids](#)

**3. Take a trip:** Instead of choosing somewhere close to home for your next date idea, take a trip somewhere unique and new. There's no better way to experience another culture than by actually visiting the country.

**What are some culture date ideas? Share your ideas below.**

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# What Role Does Ambition Play In a Relationship?



By Steven Zangrillo

Women and men have ways of motivating each other for the greater mutual success. The need for a partner with drive and ambition is an overarching common criterion among people looking for healthy relationships. Ambition affects how we choose our partners and is an attractive quality when a person gives you the confidence that they will always be looking to improve on their successes. It begs the question of what role ambition plays in the dynamic of our relationships; how do we reconcile our need for better things? It is important to know that when ambition, positively or negatively motivated, is driving or dragging on your partnership. Here are just a few ways ambition plays a significant role in a relationship:

**1. Career:** This is where the prospect of ambition becomes a two-pronged situation. Ambition is a dangerous factor in the scope of a relationship – it can bring goal-oriented love birds together or it can split you in two different directions. Someone ambitious for a life as a successful writer who is dating someone ambitious for immediate success in a finance career might have a hard time making that work. Our level of ambition affects the way we make career and social choices.

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

**2. Finances:** The whimsical notion that “love conquers all” is difficult to uphold when you have a mortgage to pay. This, of course, is different than gold digging. However, when people are looking for their potential life-long mate, they are essentially searching for someone who is, or plans to be, financially stable. In that reality, ambition walks hand in hand with how far you're willing to take your relationship.

**Related:** [Celebrities – Love, Marriage and the Money in Between](#)

**3. Love:** Ambition should, at the very least, determine what kind of partner you pursue. It's unfair to pursue someone who won't help you achieve the things for which you're ambitious. While it isn't someone else's job to adjust their entire life strategy in the interest of solely supporting the life you want, you should find someone who is willing to compromise in the means of supporting both you and their endeavors. In this sense, you should also make sure that you are both following paths that are more or less on the same track. The search of lasting love, being taken care of emotionally and being loved for who you are all timeless notions. People want that, and will go to great lengths to ensure they are in an emotionally stable and healthy relationship.

There is no universal advice to be given on how ambition should define the scope of your relationship. Everyone is



ambitious for different reasons – success, money, healthy love, being taken care of financially or being able to provide. How that ambition affects the steps you take together is up to you. Don't put yourself in a position to be disappointed. Above all, the things that we are ambitious for determine the arc of our life paths; so, if you're ambitious for happiness you'll never fall short.

**What role does ambition play in your relationship? Share your comments below.**

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## **Justin Bieber Brings a High School Fan to Billboard Awards**





Teen sensation Justin Bieber took a lucky date to the Billboard Music Awards on Sunday, and it was not long-time girlfriend Selena Gomez. One of Bieber'' biggest fans, Cady Eimer, an 18-year-old from Virginia, had been asking Bieber to attend her senior prom through her website for years. The pop star could not make it to her prom, but he did one better. Bieber told [People](#), "I couldn't make it [to prom] so I said I need you to fly to the Billboard Awards and you can be my date." This super fan was one less lonely girl, at least for the night.

**What are some ways to make a blind date more comfortable?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Blind dates have been stereotyped most often as awkward set-ups from close friends. The fear of getting stood up, or worse, not clicking with your date, can overwhelm you. That said, blind dates can muster up exciting feelings of getting to know a complete stranger, and who doesn't love that? Cupid has some tips to get over your fears:

**1. Acknowledge the awkwardness:** You and your date will start to open up more if you come right out and have a laugh about the unique manner of blind dating. Once the ice is broken, you can breathe a sigh of relief and become comfortable enough to be yourself.

**2. Go somewhere low-key:** The fancier the place, the stiffer the conversation. For instance, a good pizza joint creates a warm and relaxed environment whereas a four star restaurant calls for poise and elegance, creating a lot of pressure.

**3. Find a mutual interest:** Right off the bat, try to find something you have in common with your date. It can be anything from a love of action movies to traveling. Finding similarities creates comfort and sparks interest.

**How do you think you could make a blind date more comfortable? Share your thoughts below.**

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## **Lauren Conrad and William Tell Go Public With Their Relationship**





Although they've been dating since Valentine's Day, [UsMagazine.com](https://www.usmagazine.com) reported that Lauren Conrad and William Tell were finally sighted together in public. Conrad, a fashion designer and the star of *The Hills*, and Tell, a law student at the University of South California and the former guitarist of the band Something Corporate, got lunch together last Saturday in Brentwood, Los Angeles. Though Conrad broke up with actor Kyle Howard a year ago, she's hopeful that this new relationship will last. According to a source, Tell is "either deeply in love or he's on to the next thing. He's the kind of guy you marry."

**How do you know when to make a relationship public?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Everyone gets excited in a new relationship, but rushing to reveal it to the world can put you and your partner's happiness at risk. Consider these points before making your relationship public:

**1. Make sure you're serious:** Don't tell everyone about your

relationship until you're sure you want to remain committed to it. Waiting is better than making an announcement of something that you're not sure is going to last.

**2. Consider the steps you've taken:** If you've already been on several dates and told some of your closest friends, telling the world about your relationship might not be as difficult as you think. When you're already spending most of your free time with your partner, going public is a natural progression of the relationship.

**3. Ask your partner:** You shouldn't go public with your relationship if your [partner](#) isn't ready. Ask for his or her opinion before spreading the word to others. This will keep you from taking a step that could make your partner uncomfortable.

**How do you know when it's time to go public with your relationship? Tell us below.**

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## Melissa Gorga Tells Sister-in-Law to Stay Out of Her Marriage







On Sunday's episode of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, Teresa Giudice couldn't keep quiet any longer about her sister-in-law, Melissa Gorga's relationship. The tension boiled into an ugly confrontation. According to [UsMagazine.com](http://UsMagazine.com), the main issue was that Gorga said she'd leave her husband if a richer man came along. Giudice then accused her sister-in-law of ruining her relationship with her brother, Joe Gorga.

**What do you do if family members start to come in between you and your partner?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

As much as we love them, family members tend to get over involved in our relationships. Here are some ways to get them to back off a bit:

**1. Don't give out too much information:** Though lying to your family is never a good idea, if you don't want them to get too involved with your love life, only tell them what they need to know.

**2. Tell them you can take care of yourself:** When your family tries to get too involved in your business, it's okay to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

**3. Get them to see the situation from your point of view:** Chances are the family members getting too close for comfort into your love life would want you to get into theirs. Politely remind them of that.

**What are the negative consequences of getting too involved in someone else's relationship? Share your stories below.**

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## Memorial Day Getaways for Lovers





By Deana Meccariello

Kick off a new summer with your beau the right way by getting away! Memorial Day is a time for fun, sun and relaxing with that special someone. Here is a list of places you and your loved one can take off to celebrate the arrival of summer as well as your feelings for each other:

**Related:** [Three's a Crowd: Four Perfect Couples Holidays](#)

**1. Montauk:** Long Island, New York is home to Montauk, which not only offers a romantic and picturesque setting for couples to enjoy, but an array of fun filled activities for you to enjoy over the course of your weekend. Intimate outdoor restaurants and bars and beautiful beaches where you can take in a breathtaking sunsets are just some of the activities you and your partner can enjoy.

**2. The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel:** One of the benefits of vacationing in Florida is that it offers beautiful beach getaways. While visiting this romantic wonderland, you and your lover must be sure to visit what the state deems to be

its “most romantic park,” Lovers Key, which overlooks the Gulf of Mexico. Here you can partake in beautiful walks along the beach or thrilling water sports with your beau like parasailing or jet-skiing.

**3. The Delaware Water Gap:** Enjoy a day floating along the Delaware River or rent a raft and float along with your lover. If you’re looking to get more than just your feet wet, go for a swim or unleash your inner dare-devil and partake in cliff diving, which is available in certain areas along the way. Surely, after enjoying all morning tubing down the river, a meal will be long overdue, so enjoy a romantic lunch while taking in the sun and each other’s company.

**4. Wine Country:** For the romantic, low-key couple, San Francisco’s Wine Country offers a gorgeous place to indulge in wonderful wine and great food. This place offers many secluded cottages for you and your love to find solitude together. Napa Valley and Sonoma County are also infamous for the wine and their activities. Depending on which destination you choose, you and your partner can enjoy live music, BBQ oyster among other foods at Sonoma’s “Oysterpalooza” or sip organic tea and honor the memory of a loved one at the “Tea & Memories in Rose Garden.” If you and your mate have your heart set on Napa Valley, “Sterling Vineyard’s Greek Festival” and “Tres Sabores Movie Night” are just some of the activities you and your lover can enjoy

**Related:** [Date Idea: Plan a Picnic with Love](#)

**5. Lake Tahoe:** California’s Lake Tahoe is a wonderful place to spend Memorial Day with the one you love if you’re the outdoorsy type of couple. It offers an escape from the heat and fog present in other parts of California and leaves you with beautiful landscapes and fun activities such as mountain biking and hiking. It truly is an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise.

What do you and your partner have planned for Memorial Day weekend? Share your comments below.

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## Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey Bid \$2,000 on Shoes at a Charity Event



Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon were spotted at the Opera Gallery in New York City for an event that benefited the Urban Arts Partnership. According to [People](#), the giving couple, who had just celebrated their twins' birthdays and renewed their vows, bid on a pair of Project Canvas shoes and a diver watch,



designed by Audemars Piguet. It looks like the married couple are excited to share some of their happiness and money with others.

**How can giving back as a couple help your relationship?**

**Cupid's Advice:**

Finances can be a strain on any relationship, but giving to charities or your community as a couple can really help make it stronger. Here are some reasons to give back as a couple:

- 1. Togetherness:** Making a decision about what charity to give to and how much can build the communication skills between you and your partner.
- 2. Turn-on:** A man or woman who cares about a cause is super sexy! Earn bonus points with each other in the sexy humanitarian area of your relationship.
- 3. Share the love:** Couples who give a little get more in return. Sharing your love for a cause shows others and each other your dedication.

**How has giving back helped your relationship? Share your comments below.**

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## **Do Fairytale Relationships Only Exist in Hollywood?**





By Keryl Pesce

When Richard Gere came galloping back on his white horse (AKA stretch-white limo) to rescue Julia Roberts (AKA Cinderella), a not-so-small piece of the dreamer in us melted as we sighed and secretly wished real life were just like that. I mean, fairytale relationships only exist in childhood stories and movies, right?

If you want to get closer in touch with what relationships are really like, tune in to *The Real Housewives of NJ, NY, Atlanta* or wherever. That's more like it. Relationships are hard work, next to impossible to maintain and filled with drama, jealousy and cruelty. Umm, how about not!

I'm going to let you in on two very big secrets:

**Secret #1. What you believe equals what you receive.**

**Secret #2. Fairytale relationships DO exist in real life.**

There. I said it. I know it's not what you're used to hearing. That's precisely the problem.

**Related:** [It's Time to Stop Asking, 'When Will It Be My Turn?'](#)

We're bombarded with statistics, negative news stories and a personal thorn in my side – reality TV which hammer into our brains that divorce, affairs, selfishness and crap relationships are the norm and what we should expect. Make a note. What we focus on expands.

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

If you're wondering why you've had a difficult time finding Mr. Right or why your "was hoping he would turn into Mr. Right" made a left, I've got good news for you. There are fantastic people and amazing relationships waiting to be had. They exist. They are real. I know, because I'm in one.

I had the "get married in case no one better comes along" relationship. He cheated. I left. And truthfully, I'm not knocking him. It was simply the wrong two people coming together.

Fast forward to today and the newer, younger (by 8 years – go me!) version is quite frankly, a fairytale. My happiness is more important to him than his own. He cooks, helps with laundry, is generous in bed and yes, calls me "Baby." Hate me if you wish, but I'm not here to brag. I'm here to raise your expectations. Because that is the one and only thing you need to do to bring yourself closer to the same thing.

The problem isn't you, life or the lack of quality people. The problem is that we believe (wrongly) that we should expect all the negatives about relationships. That's the bad news. The good news is that the solution is pretty simple. Hit reset.

You attracting an amazing relationship begins with deciding what you want and believing you can get it. When I crawled out of the pitiful depths of despair, I began to think in terms of what I wanted, not what I didn't want. From there, it was simply a matter of training myself to stay focused on that and

to trust. Think and act out of faith that what you want will come to you, not fear that it will not. Make this one small shift in your thinking, and watch what happens.

*Keryl Pesce is the author of "Happy Bitch – The girlfriend's straight-up guide to losing the baggage and finding the fun, fabulous you inside." She is co-host of the weekly talk radio show "Happy Hour" and is co-founder of Happy Bitch wine.*

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## **Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley Step Out with Newly Adopted Daughter**





Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley have finally stepped out with their newly adopted daughter. The couple brought their baby girl to a friend's house in Beverly Hills on Saturday, reports [UsMagazine.com](http://UsMagazine.com). The couple announced the adoption on April 25th, though they did not release the name of their new daughter or other details. Heigl and Kelley are already parents to Naleigh, who they adopted from South Korea in 2009. "Josh and I started talking about [adoption] before we were even engaged," said Heigl in February. "My sister Meg is Korean, and my parents adopted her three years before I was born. I wanted my own family to resemble the one I came from, so I always knew I wanted to adopt from Korea."

**How do you introduce your new child to your friends and family?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Introducing your new children to friends and family is always an exciting task. Here are a few ideas:

**1. Small get-together:** Parties are much too overwhelming for



children, and especially babies, to handle. Have a small get-together instead so you can introduce your new child to friends and family in a calm, friendly setting.

**2. Prepare your friends:** With adopted children, it's important that your friends and family don't intimidate your new son or daughter. Talk to your friends before hand and tell them a bit about your child's situation.

**3. Continued meetings:** Most children will not remember a face that they've only seen once. If you want your friends and family to be a part of your child's life, make sure that they are frequent visitors. The sense of familiarity will be a comfort to your child.

**How would you introduce a newly adopted child to your friends and family? Feel free to leave a comment below.**

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## Stars Who Go Public With Love and Affection





By Samantha Mucha

Finding the right person is a thrilling experience, but keeping your hands off of one another in public is often a challenge. A new relationship is filled with flirty kisses, not-so-secretive butt grabs and romantic handholding.

In some cases, a little PDA is cute and picture worthy. Finding the balance between over-the-top scandalous make-out sessions and a cute peck on the cheek is the key to being a favorite couple versus a hated couple. These celebrity couples are all successful at acting like a couple in the spotlight without going overboard with their PDA:

**1. Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber:** Every time a photo of this duo surfaces, they are usually smiling, [holding hands](#) or sharing a kiss. Since Gomez and Bieber are young and have a young fan base, acting appropriately in public is important for them not only in the relationship world, but for their careers as well. Nothing Bieber and Gomez do would be banned PG rated film.

**Related:** [Justin Bieber Proves Honesty Is the Best Policy](#)

**2. Khloe and Lamar Odom:** This celebrity couple is famous for their baby talk and goo-goo eyes, however they do it in a way that makes people fall in love with their love. These lovebirds share a special bond that's obvious to those who see them interact. Sweet kisses and giggles are all this couple allows the press to capture, making them appear innocent and sweet.

**3. Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus:** This is another fairly young couple who shares their love for one another with linked arms, holding hands or gentle kisses. Each photo seen of Hemsworth and Cyrus appears happy and simple. Whether it be a giggle on the beach or a deep glance into each other's eyes at an award show, this couple is the epitome of happiness and love.

**Related:** [Liam Hemsworth Says Miley Cyrus Would Beat Him in 'Hunger Games'](#)

**4. Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey:** Smiling faces are an understatement with this celebrity pair, especially when pictured with their beautiful babies. The duo is usually spotted holding hands and placing kisses on each other's cheeks, creating a special glow about them whenever they are together.

**5. Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise:** Holmes and Cruise are another charming couple whose photos demonstrate their closeness and the way they deeply care about one another. Cruise always wraps his arms around Holmes or has his hands poised on her face while he plants a kiss on her lips. Their long, trusting relationship is evident in the simple, but pleased way, this celebrity couple glances into one another's eyes.

**What couples do you think go public with love and affection? Share your stories below.**

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# Ben Affleck Calls Jennifer Garner a 'World Class Mom'



Ben Affleck took to social media to wish his wife, Jennifer Garner, a happy Mother's Day. Affleck, 39, posted a video on his Facebook page advocating for women raising children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reports [People](#). Affleck founded a nonprofit, the Eastern Congo Initiative, in 2010, and is almost as dedicated to the charity as he is to his family. "I want to say Happy Mother's Day to the moms in my life: my mom Chris and my amazing wife Jennifer, who is an incredible, spectacular, world-class mom," said Affleck in the video. "[Being a mother is] the hardest job that there is, every single day."

**What are some ways to thank your partner for being a good parent?**

**Cupid's Advice:**

Though Mother's Day has passed, there are still plenty of opportunities to show appreciation for your partner's good parenting. Here are a few ideas:

**1. Spa day:** Parenting can often be very stressful, so try rewarding your partner with a gift certificate for a day at the spa. Your partner will come home feeling relaxed and grateful.

**2. Take turns:** If your partner provides most of the childcare on a day-to-day basis, try switching it up. When possible, take the kids for a day, and let your partner enjoy their newly found free time.

**3. Enlist the children's' help:** Being a parent is often a reward in itself. Enlist your children to make a heartfelt card or art project for your partner. Your partner will appreciate the gift, and your kids will have fun making it.

**How do you thank your partner for their parenting skills? Feel free to leave a comment below.**

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## **Nine Unexpected Places to Find Love**





By Kelly Rouba, GalTime Writer

You can find love anywhere, just make sure to keep your eyes open!

Finding love is never easy— or so it seems when you're single. As many women will admit, the bar scene isn't always an ideal place to meet men and flirting with someone at work is sometimes frowned upon. So if you're "looking for love in all the wrong places" or just unsure of where to mingle with eligible singles, GalTime's relationship expert Nikki Leigh has a few suggestions that just might help you get on the right path to meeting the man of your dreams.

According to Leigh, it's possible to meet someone just about anywhere; whether it's while shopping at the grocery store or while working out at the gym. But if you're looking for a true partner, Leigh believes there is a strategy or two that can

help you find someone that you're more likely to be attracted to and really interested in. "If you want to meet someone that may be more compatible with you and [who shares] your likes and dislikes, think about meeting people in places and around things that really interest you," she said. "If you love to read, you could meet someone at a library or at a book store or at a book reading or signing. If you are very health-conscious, think about going to a gym or a health food store."

Also keep in mind when you're looking for love, it's important to be open-minded. "A key to meeting people is to always be open to the idea of making new friends and reaching out to people," Leigh asserts. Here are some more of Leigh's tips with helping you find love in unexpected places:

## **9 Unexpected Places to Find Love**

- The post office
- On the bus, subway, or other public transportation
- An airport
- In a night class or another type of class, such as cooking class
- At a church or church events
- At local senior events, if you're an older adult; oppositely, many colleges are hosting "young alumni" events and some organizations even have mixers for young professionals
- Online (aside from dating sites, you may want to try gaming sites or sites devoted to hobbies of interest to you)
- In the park
- At a local store

"There can be a fine line between reaching out to meet new people and coming across like a crazy stalker," Leigh cautions. Remember, if you do decide to approach someone at a public location or event, make sure to do so with tact.

"If you're in the grocery store and you see an interesting guy

or girl and a quick glance in their cart reveals they have similar taste, you may want to say hello as you pass them," Leigh said. "Then, if you can meet their gaze, smile at them, a smile is very warm and friendly." Noting that you should be careful not to leer at the person, Leigh continues "After that, if they smile back at you or, if they are pondering a decision in one of the aisles, you can subtly mention a favorite of yours and recommend they try it, but never be pushy or get in their face." There is a real art to being subtle yet friendly and a little flirty.

"This approach can also be used on a train, bus, or subway, especially when it's a route you travel frequently," Leigh adds. "I've talked with people who have done this with great results, and I've had a great number of fun conversations in the grocery store."

Next time you see someone who catches your eye, don't be afraid to say hello and flash him a suggestive smile. You never know where it might lead you!

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## Newlyweds Carey Mulligan and Marcus Mumford Have a Charity Date Night





Newlyweds Carey Mulligan and Marcus Mumford came out together in support of a charitable cause at the ARK Gala Dinner at London's Kensington Palace. They proudly supported this event arm-in-arm raising money for children's charity partnerships.

The couple, who have previously kept their relationship private, are also involved in other charitable endeavors. According to *People*, Mulligan is selling the Prada dress she wore to the Met Gala on eBay and donating the proceeds to Oxfam.

**What are some ways to give back as a couple?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Giving back to your community or helping those in need can not only make you feel better about yourself, it can make you feel better about your relationship. Here are some ways you and your partner can make a difference as a team:

**1. Make a joint donation:** Making a donation together to a cause you are both passionate about can be a very satisfying endeavor.

**2. Spend the day volunteering:** Plan a day in which the both of you volunteer at a soup kitchen or animal shelter. It'll warm your heart seeing your partner working next to you.

**3. Support your friends' causes:** When a friend asks for your charitable support, get your partner involved, too.

**Has involvement in charity brought you and your partner closer? Share your thoughts below.**

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## **Eva Longoria Didn't Question Her Worth When Tony Parker Cheated**







Eva Longoria is a tough woman on the inside, beyond her beautiful looks. The actress is getting back up on her feet after divorcing her cheating husband, Tony Parker. On Thursday, Longoria opened up on Lifetime's *The Conversation With Amanda de Cadenet*, saying that she refuses to blame herself for what happened. She claims to have had a conversation with Parker about why he did what he did, but in a way most women wouldn't have done. "I really wanted to know, and if you genuinely want to get something out of somebody, you have to not judge," she said. Since her divorce, the actress has been able to accept the fact that what happened was out of her control, and to start having fun again. With her positive attitude, Longoria seems to be on the right track to happiness.

**How do you keep from blaming yourself when your partner cheats?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

Even if something bad has been done to you by someone you love, you can't help but thinking it's something that you did

wrong. But guilt and blame will never allow you to get over the situation, and you have to accept what happened and move on for your own sake. Cupid has some tips:

**1. Have a conversation with them:** You can try what Eva Longoria did, and ask your partner to honestly explain why they cheated on you. It will get you some answers to questions that have been haunting you.

**2. Look at it from their point of view:** If it were the other way around, think about why you would have cheated. It's most likely out of temptation. People usually act on impulse and give in to things, so it probably wasn't because you did something wrong.

**3. Remember that cheating is cheating, no excuses:** Regardless of your partner's motives for cheating, it's still wrong. It's a lack of respect to you and the relationship. There shouldn't be any excuses for what they did, which means you especially shouldn't blame yourself.

**What are some other reasons as to why you shouldn't blame yourself for being cheated on. Share your comments below.**

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**Jessica Simpson Says  
'Motherhood Is the Best Thing  
I've Ever Experienced'**





Singer and *Fashion Star* judge, Jessica Simpson, 31, took to Twitter to proclaim her love for her new addition, Maxwell Drew. “I want to cry every time I look at her. Motherhood is by far the best thing I’ve ever experienced,” said Simpson. According to [People](#), the [new mom](#) isn’t the only one in love with Maxwell Drew, as grandfather Joe Simpson and aunt Ashlee Simpson can’t get enough of her.

**What are some ways to prepare your relationship for kids?**

### **Cupid’s Advice:**

Every relationship has milestones and having a baby may be the biggest one. Here are some ways to prepare for kids:

- 1. Pep talk:** The two of you are a team. Sit and talk to your partner about how you’re going to set rules and discipline your child together.
- 2. Fears:** What are your fears or your partner’s fears about adding a new member to the family? This is the time to be honest before the baby comes.

**3. Expectations:** Make sure you discuss finances and delegate chores that will make both of you happy when the baby arrives.

**How have you prepared your relationship for kids? Share your comments below.**

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## **Date Idea: Say Cheese at a Photo Shoot**



By Amanda Martin

Spend this weekend enjoying the beautiful outdoors with your honey while making photo memories that last a lifetime.

Visit a park or local garden and soak up the surroundings while enjoying the company of your significant other. Smell and identify the flowers, pack a picnic lunch and spend time throwing around a Frisbee. This is no time to be camera-shy. Be sure to capture these photogenic moments by asking passers-by to take pictures. You can even turn this into a mini photo shoot. Style your boyfriend or girlfriend how you think they look sexiest and then have them pose.

When you're ready to go home, upload your pictures and start a scrapbook. It's easy to do using a website such as Snapfish. Don't limit yourself; you can also make calendars, mugs, posters and cards. These souvenirs are a fun way to catalog your [romance](#) and they help remind you of the great times you had together.

How do you make your memories last a lifetime? Let us know in the comments below.

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## Where Did Macho Go?







By John Powers

Modern love is complicated. Expectations are higher than ever and men are being forced to evolve or risk becoming obsolete. This man believes that there are positives to masculinity that are often overlooked. Here are some tips to help you let your man be a man:

### **Smell His Pheromones**

He is a man, and sometimes smells like one. You should cherish his manly characteristics. His testosterone brings balance to your relationship. Do not force him to shave his chest. If he wants to grow a beard, let him. Admire his manliness, and encourage him to enjoy sports and spend time with other men.

**Related:** [Pros & Cons – Bonding With Your Man's Friends](#)

### **Let Him Dress Himself**

As long as he wears khakis to your cocktail party, you should allow him to veto the argyle cardigan. He is not Mr. Rogers. If he wears a sportscoat, don't bust his balls about the

jeans. They are not as tight as the jeans on a hipster in the West Village, but they are new and clean. Be proud of the man you're with, and he will walk proudly beside you.

## **Embrace His Sexuality**

He is heterosexual, not metrosexual. Allow him to indulge his primal urges. Let him take control in the bedroom, and stay open-minded. He likes your lady lumps, and you should appreciate your differences. Just because you're vegan doesn't mean he can't enjoy an occasional steak.

**Related:** [Love Advice Q&A: Is It Weird That My Man Always Texts Instead of Calling?](#)

## **Masculine Men**

Too often these days women look at Johnny Depp or even Justin Bieber as their ideal man. A man need not appear feminine or prepubescent. Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale are both happily married and full of machismo. An old-fashioned man knows how to treat a lady right.

Clearly your man and his masculinity are vital to the success of your relationship. Follow these tips to ensure your man feels like one.

*John Powers is a heterosexual, single male. He does graphics for TV by day and standup comedy by night. He enjoys playing and listening to rock music, driving around with the top down on his convertible, walking aimlessly around Manhattan, and sipping on deep red wine near the beach.*

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# 10 Avengers-Sparked Questions to Bring You Closer



By Amy Osmond Cook

"If you could have one superpower, what would it be?" I asked my husband, Jeff, on Friday. We were on our way to see *The Avengers* with our twelve-year-old son, Jake. "I would have mind-reading power," Jeff said. "I'd be Superman," said Jake. "Then I could have them all." "I said just one superpower," I quibbled. "But I'd stop time."

Then, for the next ten minutes, my 12-year-old and I argued about whether you could count Superman's powers as only one power and whether being able to stop time would make you invincible. But I digress.

When I was dating, I wished I had those mind-reading powers Jeff was talking about. What was really going on behind the polite, glassy-eyed smile across the restaurant table? *Is he bored? Is he preoccupied with work? Is he on drugs?* were all questions I found myself asking.

**Related:** [Which Avenger Would Make the Best Date?](#)

We may not be able to read minds, but Maria Coder has brought us the next best thing: a systematic procedure for vetting our dates. Her book, called *InvestiDate: How to Investigate Your Date*, has all kinds of interesting tips to help you identify liars, cheaters, and con artists in the dating world and avoid physical danger, financial ruin, and emotional harm. One thing that particularly caught my eye in this witty book was a list of 36 questions that can help us develop emotional intimacy with our partners. Written by Arthur Aron and colleagues, the list was derived from their 1997 study in interpersonal closeness. Below are my top ten favorite questions:

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

1. What would constitute a “perfect” day for you?
2. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?
3. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?
4. If a crystal ball would tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future, or anything else, what would you want to know?
5. If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?
6. What is your most embarrassing moment?
7. Your house, containing everything you own, catches on fire.

After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?

8. What is your most terrible memory?

9. What is your most treasured memory?

10. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

This list, frequently referred to as “The Sharing Game,” can give us insight into our partners’ inner psyches. If we like what we see, this multilayered communication allows us to reach new levels of intimacy quickly.

So while I may not have mind-reading powers, I can use these questions to understand Jeff a little better and refresh our emotional connection.

But I’m still hoping to stop time.

*Amy Osmond Cook, Ph.D. is a faculty associate at Arizona State University, where she teaches Communication and English classes. She is the publisher of Sourced Media Books and co-author of Hope After Divorce and Full Bloom: Cultivating Success. Amy and her husband, Jeff, have five children and look forward to welcoming baby #6 in April 2012. For more information about Amy, please visit [amyosmondcook.com](http://amyosmondcook.com).*

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**Molly Sims Celebrates  
Pregnancy at Baby Shower**





Mom-to-be Molly Sims was all smiles on Saturday. The actress attended her baby shower at a private residence in Hollywood Hills, reports [People](#). The house was decorated with blue balloons and flowers and hosted around 50 guests. “[Sims] was smiling the entire time,” said one of the guests. “It was like she just couldn’t believe how lucky she is. She was so thankful everyone was there for her. Her husband [Scott Stuber] joined her at the end of the shower and Molly was beaming. She showed him all the baby presents and wouldn’t stop smiling.”

**What are some ways to make your baby shower unique?**

### **Cupid’s Advice:**

Chances are, you’ve been to at least a handful of baby showers. Here are a few ways to make yours unique:

**1. Creative theme:** Instead of going for traditional colors like blue and pink, try picking a creative theme. If you're having a boy, try a sports theme or for a girl, try a fairy tale theme.

**2. Presents:** Instead of receiving traditional gifts like stuffed animals and baby bottles, ask your guests to donate to charity. This way, you'll be making a difference instead of receiving multiple teddy bears for which you'll most likely have no use.

**3. Games:** Play a few games at your shower. Try baby-themed Bingo or have your guests play Twister while wearing a faux-pregnant belly.

**Do you have any ideas for a unique baby shower? Feel free to leave a comment below.**

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## Which Avenger Would Be the Best Date?





While *The Avengers* certainly doesn't cater too much to the romance crowd, it does feature a cast of burly and charismatic superheroes that will have people swooning over them for months to come. Whether you want to be them or be with them there is no question that this cast is pretty incredible. But which Avenger is the best contender for a candlelit dinner?

### **Contestant #1: Iron Man-**

**Bio:** Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) used to be in charge of a major weapons manufacturer but changed his ways after a run in with terrorists in Afghanistan. Now he spends his money, which he has a lot of, creating and modifying his suit as Iron Man. Personality wise, Stark seems not to care about a lot of things, but if you get close enough you could mean the world to him.

**Pros:** With Stark's insane amount of money, you could have dinner in Rome once a week! Also, the guy has a great sense of humor, and when it comes down to it, he will do whatever he

needs to to protect what he loves.

**Cons:** Stark is known for being a playboy, so if you don't feel a real connection with the guy, he will move on to the next one. Plus he's a superhero, his job isn't exactly the safest in the world.

## **Contestant #2: Captain America-**

**Bio:** Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) used to be a skinny nobody back in the early years of World War II. But after a doctor saw potential in him, he received the Super Soldier Serum, which put him at the peak of human potential. However, he ended up getting frozen in ice and waking up again in the present. Tough break.

**Pros:** Steve Rogers is genuinely a great guy. He will fight for whatever he believes in no matter how trivial or potentially devastating it may be. He is also perhaps the most humble of the Avengers.

**Cons:** The guy knows nothing of the world we live in today. The way the world works has changed a lot since the 1940s, something that may be a bit frustrating when trying to [connect](#).

## **Contestant #3: The Hulk-**

**Bio:** Dr. Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo) became the Hulk after a freak accident involving Gamma radiation. Since then, he has had trouble controlling when he unleashes this horrific beast and remains in hiding from the government.

**Pros:** Banner is a pretty timid and overall nice guy. He could also defend you against just about anything.

**Cons:** You won't like him when he's angry. But seriously, your first fight could end in you getting crushed.

## **Contestant #4: Thor-**

**Bio:** Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is literally a god. From the Norse realm known as Asgard, Thor was sent down to Earth by his father to learn how to be anything but arrogant, which he did before returning to his realm.

**Pros:** Thor has learned to be humble and proved in his own movie that he can handle a [date](#) pretty well. He could also show you the beauty of the cosmos like no one has seen before.

**Cons:** Since he's a god, he can be a little arrogant, even after he learned his lesson. He is also a little intense at times and doesn't have much of a sense of humor. Oh, and his brother is an evil mastermind that tried to take over the universe.

#### **Contestant #5: Hawkeye-**

**Bio:** Clint Barton (Jeremy Renner) is an agent for S.H.I.E.L.D. and known as the world's greatest marksman, wielding a bow and arrow as his weapon of choice. Not too much is known about him otherwise since he only had a brief cameo in last summer's *Thor*.

**Pros:** Barton is a confident man, one who is aware of exactly what he is capable of, a good quality in any significant other. Also, since he has no superpowers, he may not be as cocky as, say, Tony Stark.

**Cons:** As a part of the secret agent organization S.H.I.E.L.D., he probably has very little free time where he isn't battling the forces of evil.

#### **Contestant #6: Black Widow-**

**Bio:** Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson) is also a spy working for the secret agent organization S.H.I.E.L.D. Previously appearing as a side character in *Iron Man 2*, Black Widow is known to be able to kick some butt, and looks great while doing it.



**Pros:** She is beautiful, and a good person to have in a tight spot. Personality wise, she is pretty relaxed and has a fun sense of humor.

**Cons:** Like Hawkeye, the secret agent thing probably leaves Black Widow with very little free time. Also, if you are a guy, she is way stronger than you, and in some cases that might not be okay with you.

**And the Winner is...Captain America!**

Steve Rogers is an absolute dream come true. He's hot, he's smart, but most of all, he has more heart than the rest of the Avengers combined. Who cares if he is still in a 1940s mindset? That leaves him room to discover this far more advanced world by your side.

*(Runner Up: Thor, just because much of his dialogue sounds like poetry.)*

**Disagree with our love for Captain America? Which Avenger would you want to date the most? Sound off below.**