

Zoe Kravitz and Penn Badgley Engage in Poolside PDA



Penn Bradley enjoyed a romantic getaway with his girlfriend Zoe Kravitz while hanging out by the pool in Miami. The *Gossip Girl* star, who last dated Blake Lively, began his new relationship with the beautiful daughter of rocker Lenny Kravitz in October reported [USmagazine](#). The couple enjoyed their vacation with a dip in the pool and some cuddling on their beach lounge chair.

What are some ways to make a vacation more romantic?

Cupid's Advice:

It doesn't get much more intimate than a vacation near the beach or at the poolside while sipping cocktails. Cupid has some tips to make sure you have fun in the sun.

1. Dress for the occasion: It's called a *romantic* getaway for a reason! Let loose and wear something sexy and a little more

revealing than you would if you were at home.

2. Stay Refreshed: A pina colada or a frozen margarita is the perfect drink to keep you cool under the sun's rays and get you in the mood for a little PDA.

3. Horseplay: You're on vacation so have fun! Go swimming or tease each other by splashing around in the water. Smiling and laughing will bring you closer together as a couple and make for some great memories.

What's your advice for having a loving vacation with your partner? Tell us below.

Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson Learn to Love in 'We Bought a Zoo'





Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon) is a single parent, journalist and widow. While attempting to balance school lunches, fight off single moms and deal with a lousy editor, Mee spontaneously quits his job. Instead of worrying about how to pay bills and get by raising his 14-year old son and 7-year old daughter, he buys an old house in the countryside with amenities like lions, tigers and bears. His zookeeper, Kelly (Scarlett Johansson) is often his saving grace. *We Bought a Zoo* highlights the fact that a small amount of courage and a lot of love can get people through any number of tough situations.

How do you support a loved one in tough times?

Cupid's Advice:

Stress on a relationship is like carrying a heavy weight on your shoulders. It slows you down, but the will to keep moving is the best way to survive. Here are some tips on how to do so:

1. Get involved: The best way to show your significant other support is to get involved with projects in which they are

involved. It will also give you both some time together.

2. Give an ear: Some days, your partner just needs to vent and have someone listen to them. Offer a shoulder for them to lean on.

3. Spin the cynicism: It's okay to have doubts and to share them. It's more important for a relationship to have no hidden truths.

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How do you support your significant other? Share your thoughts below.

Romance Resolutions for 2012



By Steven Zangrillo

With the New Year right around the corner, many of you may be starting to stress about those ten pounds you stacked on courtesy of Grandma Anna's sugar cookies; or how you'll manage to get those last minute gifts shipped to your beloved in-laws and cousins you don't know very well. Instead, take a deep breath.

Now is a great time to step back, look around and re-evaluate your relationships. Whether you're a wife, husband, boyfriend, girlfriend or in the throes of a fleeting fling, there's never been a better time to understand your tendencies (good or bad) as a lover and a partner.

Right under our noses lie some of the most common and simple adjustments we can make that will help get you started on the path of relationship improvement. Take to heart some of these "romantic resolutions" that you may want to put into practice as 2012 approaches:

1. "I will not expect the world of my partner."

To be clear, you should expect your partner to make the effort to give you the world. We all want our special someone to feel happy and satisfied at all times, and vice versa.

However, it's borderline lunacy to expect that person to actually deliver on all of your wildest dreams. Newsflash: this isn't an Old Spice commercial, and no, we're not going to bake you a triple chocolate mousse cake in your dream house kitchen while singing your favorite song. But we'll try, or at least give you a great foot massage.

Related: [Is Brad Pitt Ruining Your Love Life?](#)

2. "If they want to go to the movies, then take them to the movies."

Your significant other loves a hobby that you purely loathe. It could be going to cheesy romance movies or ridiculous

action flicks, blasting gangster rap at earth-shattering volumes from your apartment, or eating at a restaurant that triggers your gag reflex. If they know you hate these things, they probably shouldn't make you experience them. But that's selfish, wouldn't you agree? So stick it out... sit down and watch "The Notebook" with her. You'll reap the benefits later when she buys you those Eminem tickets next month.

3. "I will tolerate his or her friends, even if it doesn't go smoothly at first."

This is particularly difficult in new relationships where you may not have many mutual friends. Say you've moved to a new city with your flame and just met his friends. Because they are his or her friends, not yours, territoriality plays an integral role in this situation.

What's key to remember is that these people care for the person that you love, just like you do – albeit in different ways. Maybe they aren't your type of people, but if you treat each other with respect, the relationship with your significant other can grow. Integrating into each others' lives will be much smoother if you go into this with an open mind. And who knows, eventually you may grow to love them.

Related: [Plan a Party with Friends](#)

4. "I will allow myself to be present when I am away from you."

Ever have that friend who, whether it's at the club or in a study group, that is constantly and obnoxiously in contact with their significant other? You may even be guilty of it yourself. It's an all-around annoying disposition.

If you're always on your cell phone, shutting out the world around you, you are probably aggravating all of the other people that enjoy your company in the process. Don't be the guy leaning on the bar, texting his girl, while everyone else

is having a great time.

Furthermore, this could be a warning sign to you that you don't trust each other. Do you really want to be in a relationship where you find yourself having to give a detailed explanation of how dinner is going with your parents? If not, it's probably time to shed that relationship.

5. "I will put myself first, but not at the detriment of my partner. I'll support everything they are passionate about."

This rule speaks for itself. No one worth being in a relationship with would ever make you feel bad for pursuing your interests, on both professional and personal levels. If the dynamic of your partnership is that of mutual respect and support, your significant other will be your biggest cheerleader.

It is, indeed, easier to give the previous advice than it is to follow it. However, if you adapt an attitude that incorporates a little bit of everything discussed above, there's a good chance that you and your lover will have a relationship that will stand the test of time in the New Year!

Denise Richards and Charlie Sheen Bring Kids on a Winter Vacation





Charlie Sheen is spending the holiday season a little differently this year, reports [People](#). The actor and his ex, Denise Richards, are vacationing with their daughters at an unknown tropical location. Sheen posted a photo of the family on the social networking site WhoSay with the caption, "What's better than a modern family vacation!?! love spending winter break w/ @denise_richards & my kids!"

Is it unhealthy to take a vacation with your ex and the kids?

Cupid's Advice:

Though having the family together may seem beneficial, there are some downsides to a shared vacation. Here are a few things to consider before vacationing with your ex and the kids:

- 1. Payment:** Make sure that you and your ex come to an agreement about the cost of the trip. Decide if the two of you will split the cost of the hotel room, meals and outings ahead of time.
- 2. Living arrangements:** Before you invite your ex on vacation, make sure you review your living arrangements. If you are planning on staying in a hotel, make sure your room has enough beds for your whole family to sleep comfortably (and

separately).

3. Your feelings: If you and your ex still have a strained relationship, vacationing together is not the best idea. Your kids may love having the family together, but they will not enjoy it if you and your ex spend the getaway bickering.

Have you ever vacationed with your ex and the kids? Feel free to leave a comment below.

Rob Kardashian Says He Doesn't Want a Girlfriend for Christmas



Sorry, girls! Rob Kardashian is flying solo this holiday season. “I mean, I want a girlfriend. I’ve been single for a while, but I’m 24

years old and I feel like I have a lot of work to do on myself first and that's really what I've been focusing on. I'm focusing on my health and getting into shape and my career," he tells [People](#). What does Kardashian want exactly? Just time together with his family. The whole Kardashian crew spends Christmas Armenian style and, of course, together as a family. Kris Jenner gives out pjs every year for the whole crew, and they all sleep at the house, get up at about 6 a.m. and celebrate together. "My mom also throws an awesome Christmas party every year and at the end of the party – once everyone leaves – we all sit by the fire and talk as a family."

What if the man you like doesn't want to settle down?

Cupid's Advice:

So what do you do when you're ready to pick a wedding date, but your significant other doesn't even want to live with you yet? It's difficult, but it might be time to move on:

1. Talk about why he doesn't want to settle down: Maybe there is an underlying factor that is scaring your man from committing fully. It could be some pressure you place on him, or it could have to do with how his own family worked out. Either way, talk to him and try to understand on his level.

2. See if you can make any compromises: Could it be possible you are too controlling for his liking? If your man is nervous about living with you because of such issues, make compromises. You won't wake him up or 6 a.m. yoga on Saturdays if he will put the toilet seat down. Talking about issues like that might make your man excited about the whole idea, instead of trying to run from it.

3. Consider moving on: If all else fails and your man still doesn't want to settle down, you might have to find a new man. We all hate to hear this, but you and your lover have to

want the same thing for your relationship to succeed. There is sure to be someone out there who wants what you want.

How did you get your man to settle down? Share your stories below.

Date Idea: Volunteer Together this Holiday Season



The holiday season is filled with celebration, family time and giving. And, there's no better way to give than by volunteering to help the less fortunate. Find a cause that both you and your significant other think is important, and enrich the lives of others.

Rather than going out for a meal, serve meals together

instead. Volunteering at a soup kitchen is a selfless act that you'll later appreciate and if you do it with your partner, it'll definitely bring you closer together. Check out volunteer opportunities at soup kitchens near you.

Another way to volunteer is by visiting residents in retirement or old age homes. Family time is practically synonymous with holiday cheer and often families can't make it to see their loved ones. Take time to bring joy to others by playing cards, baking, reading or simply telling them stories.

If none of the above ideas work for you this holiday, try giving back to your community by making gift baskets with your mate. Gather non-perishable food items and donate them to the underprivileged. The two of you can also bond over cooking meals and delivering them to homeless shelters.

Acting selfless as a couple during a season of indulgences will help you work on your own relationship and appreciate the fact that you have one another at this time.

Let us know how you are giving back as a couple this holiday season and what your favorite volunteering activity is.

Lady Antebellum Singer Dave Haywood Is Engaged





Dave Haywood, 29, gave his girlfriend, Kelli Cashiola, 29, the holiday gift every girl wants: an engagement ring! A representative for Haywood confirmed to [People](#) that he proposed on Monday evening. He did so first by picking up his finance and blind folding her as he drove her to their home, which was converted into a winter wonderland. When the blindfold was removed “will you marry me” was spelled out in Christmas lights on the front of their house and Haywood slipped a ring onto Cashiola’s finger. Cashiola, of course, said yes. Haywood is the final Lady Antebellum band member to be engaged. A date has not been set, but it is said to be after the spring wedding of band mate Hillary Scott.

What are some unique ways to propose?

Cupid’s Advice:

Every girl dreams of the day a man will get down on one knee and ask her to spend her life with him. Guys, this is how to do it and make sure your girl says “yes”:

1. Return to the spot of your first date: What is more special than the spot of your first date, or even better, your first kiss? Nothing. Bringing back all those happy memories and first date jitters will be sure to make the moment romantic

and unforgettable.

2. Make it unexpected: Try not to let your honey know what you're up to. The more of a surprise it is the better! The look on your girlfriend's face will be priceless.

3. Tie in all of her favorite things: If you and your girlfriend love skiing take her on a ski trip and propose by the fireside after her favorite meal. Or maybe you love baking together... bake cupcakes and drop the ring into one and make sure that's the one she tastes first. No matter what you choose to do, make sure it's something special and unique to you as a couple.

How did you propose? Share your stories below.

Backstreet Boys Singer A.J. McLean Ties the Knot





Backstreet Boy, A.J.

McLean is married. The boy band cutie wed his longtime girlfriend at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles. The couple is all about putting a spin on tradition. According to UsMagazine.com, McLean proposed to Rochelle Karidis on stage at a live concert in Vegas, and Rochelle walked down the aisle to Guns N' Roses. Way to make it unique, you two!

What are some ways to incorporate your favorite things in your wedding?

Cupid's Advice:

Weddings are meant to be fun, but can sometimes become too traditional and you lose sight of who you are as a couple.

Here's how to celebrate your likes and dislikes, without being tacky:

1. Music: If Rochelle can do it, so can you. Walk down the aisle or make your reception playlist full of songs that you and your partner love groovin' out to.

2. Reception: Don't be afraid to mix in something you like with tradition or skip tradition all together. Love the idea of belly dancers? Go for it, because receptions are your time to shine.

3. Theme: Why not make your wedding all about you? Pick a theme that you love and incorporate it in everything, from decor to food.

How did you incorporate your style in your wedding? Share your experiences below.

Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag Lock Lips On a Ski Trip



It looks like Speidi is still going strong! Former *Hills* stars Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag were spotted loading on the PDA on top of a mountain in Mammoth, Calif. The duo were snowboarding and skiing, respectively. But they didn't stop there in the way

of winter activities, as they were also spotted sledding and snowmobiling on their affectionate trip, as well. "It was so much fun," Montag told UsMagazine.com. "There is no better way to get in the Christmas spirit than being out in the snow and skiing." The notoriously drama-ridden couple were on school vacation, as Pratt is studying political science at the University of Southern California. "It helped get us in the Christmas mode. It was the best trip ever," added Montag.

"This has been the best year of my life, and I'm very excited to see what 2012 is going to hold."

How do you make a ski trip romantic?

Cupid's Advice:

Ski trips can either be an intense sporting event or a relaxing romantic getaway, depending on your mood and actions.

Cupid has some way to get the romantic sparks flying:

1. Warm up by the fire: The best part about a couples ski trip is getting cozy by the fire after a long day of weathering the cold. Grab a blanket, and snuggle up next to your partner.

2. Hold hands on the way up: The chair lift ride is a great time to bond with your significant other. Hold hands and partake in the scenery below.

3. Share a kiss on top: Once you make it to the top of the mountain, share a quick smooch before heading back down. Take a look at the rolling hills beyond you, and briefly enjoy the moment together.

How did you make your ski trip more romantic? Share your experiences below.

How to Handle Your Crazy In-Laws Over the Holidays



By Evan Fischer

While Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries may no longer have to worry about dealing with the in-laws, there are plenty of newlyweds out there facing the first real test of their matrimonial commitment this holiday season: meeting their new family members. For Jerry O'Connell and Rebecca Romijn, who recently renewed their vows, this will be old hat. But celebrity couples like Wills and Kate and Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert will find themselves in the same boat as every other newly joined couple in the world; facing the uncertainty of several days trapped with their in-laws. The good news is that there's no need for stress. By following just a few simple guidelines, newlyweds everywhere can have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday, even if the in-laws are a little bit crazy. Here's how:

Related: [Ways To Impress Your In-Laws](#)

1. Offer to help: The best way to get in good with the in-laws is to offer assistance here and there. Your mother-in-law may not want you in the kitchen while she's cooking, but perhaps she'll let you watch her make her special recipe (no doubt she'll be flattered by your interest). And you can always offer to set the table, wash some dishes or otherwise make yourself useful. Don't be pushy, but offer frequently.

2. Clean up after yourself: Even if you're treated more like a guest than a member of the family, you need to be a responsible adult and try not to make more work for your hosts than necessary. This means picking up after yourself, doing your own laundry (towels included), washing dishes (or at least putting them in the dishwasher) and generally making an effort to leave a room just as neat as you found it.

3. Set aside "me" time: There's nothing wrong with taking a little time out for yourself, especially if it saves you from a meltdown. No matter what you do, there's going to be some pressure to perform for your new partner's family. So give yourself breaks here and there to decompress; take a bath, a nap or a walk to get away. And any time you can manage it, drag your new spouse along for some alone time.

Related: [Dealing With Difficult In-Laws](#)

4. Participate: You've joined a new group, but you'll always be an outsider unless you integrate yourself. Even if you don't want to play board games, sing carols or look at family photo albums, be a sport. It will help you become a family member a lot faster than opting out.

5. Delegate "handling" responsibilities: This is a biggie, and it could just save your holiday. Each spouse needs to handle their own family, including making arrangements and dealing with any issues that arise. The person that approaches in-laws in an aggressive manner is going to be seen as an

interloper, so don't try to be dominant. You handle your family, and let your spouse handle the in-laws. Less stress over the holidays will greatly reduce your chance of winding up in relationship counseling in the New Year.

Evan Fischer is a freelance writer and part-time student at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California.

Notoriously Private Couple Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard Have Split



Actress Jessica Lange and her partner of almost thirty years Sam Shepard kept ended their relationship. In fact, the couple, who kept their relationship very private, decided to split almost two years

ago, according to [People](#). “They both are pursuing independent lives,” says a source. A rep for Lange confirmed the split, but the *American Horror Story* actress has no further comment.

How do you keep your breakup from making a splash?

Cupid’s Advice:

Breakups can be dramatic, but if you can get out of a relationship without causing a scene, you’ll be better off in the long run and in the healing process. Cupid has some tips to keep your split low key:

1. Don’t tell everyone: Your business isn’t the world’s business. Once everyone knows, they’re going to want to put in their two cents, which will become overwhelming and annoying.

2. Wait: Take some time to figure out your own emotions and to face the reality of your new life without your partner, so that you’re ready to face family and friends once they find out.

3. Stay busy: Keep your routine as normal as possible, and get out of the house when you can. Don’t keep yourself cooped up wallowing, but instead embrace your new found independence.

How did you keep your breakup quiet? Share your comments below.

Russell Armstrong’s Exes

Accuse Taylor Armstrong of Being Heartless Post-Suicide



Taylor Armstrong, star of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, was recently widowed by the loss of her husband, Russell Armstrong, to suicide. After the fact, his ex-wife Barbara Fredrickson and his former fiancée Milette Fields say Taylor is being heartless and self-centered in the wake of his tragic death. Both women have children with Armstrong, and claim that Taylor was too busy to break the news to either of their families in person, who found out once the story hit the news. The reality star even failed to call Armstrong's mother to offer her sympathies. According to [RadarOnline](#), Barbara believes Taylor is hiding valuable belongings of Armstrong's on purpose, none of which she's offered as memoirs to his children, and is planning a tell-all about Armstrong's abuse.

How do you move on after you tragically lose your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

Dealing with a spouse's death is often one of life's challenges, but it can be especially difficult when their death is sudden or tragic. Cupid has some tips to help you move on:

- 1. Grieve:** You've just lost your best friend and companion, so don't feel guilty taking as much time as you need to cry it out. Go through their belongings and pack away old things yourself to help with the mourning process.
- 2. Keep busy:** Maintain your regular schedule, and get out of the house often. Lean on your family and friends for support.
- 3. Let go:** This person will forever be in your heart and a part of your life, but you need to accept that they're gone. They would want you to move on, and keep living your life.

How did you cope with the loss of a loved one? Share your comments below.

Brad Goreski Shares Breakup Drama Details After Split With Rachel Zoe





On his new Bravo show, *It's a Brad, Brad World*, Brad Goreski admits he and ex-girlfriend Rachel Zoe are no longer on speaking terms. "We don't speak to each other. I would love to be able to speak with her," he said. According to [People](#), he has yet to meet her nine-month old son, Skylar, because he has "not been invited." Goreski said he has an "idea" of why he and his stylist are on bad terms. "I think I have conducted myself with honesty, with dignity and with grace," Goreski said. "And I will continue to do so no matter what is said about me."

How do you cope when your ex refuses to speak with you post-split?

Cupid's Advice:

Breakups are tough and avoiding each other is an easy way to help with the healing process. Cupid has some suggestions to help you accept this situation:

1. Carry on: Just because you're not speaking with your ex, it doesn't mean your world stops. Take this time to prioritize your life and rebuild it.

2. Cut the cord: You don't have to delete your ex's number or defriend them on Facebook, but finding ways to distance

yourself makes things easier.

3. Time: Like a lot of issues in relationships and breakups, in time you'll be able to accept the situation. Just be patient.

What did you do when your ex shut you out post-split? Share your experiences below.

Author Discovers New Outlook about Love by Going on '31 Dates in 31 Days'



By Erika Mionis

After several bad breakups, it can be difficult to stay positive. Long-time television producer, Tamara Duricka

Johnson proves this in her new memoir, *31 Dates in 31 Days*, a heart-warming tale about Johnson's own experience with finding love. In celebration of her 31st birthday, the author decides to embark on a dating challenge to find romance by going on *31 dates in 31 days*. The last date culminates on Valentine's Day, and is marked with a second date with one of the 30 men. In this fun-filled memoir, Johnson puts her experience to paper and shares the lesson she learned along the way: if you want love, give it away.

Cupid had a chance to speak to Johnson about her project and book:

When you started your project, did you expect to actually find love? Or were you doing it as a learning opportunity?

No, I had no intention of finding love or faith that finding love with a carefully calculated project was even realistic.

I was in an extremely cynical mode about men and was self-aware enough to realize that I needed to change. I wasn't sure exactly what I needed to change. All I knew was that I needed to change something. So I figured the project would help me get back to the basics of dating, beginning with first dates.

Related: [Fall 2011 First Date Outfits](#)

Were you surprised at how much news coverage your project received?

Having been a news producer for so long, I could see the lure in a story like mine. I was nervous when the media began showing interest because the project began as a way to improve my poor dating skills and to get over my broken heart. It was a little embarrassing and humbling. But, by that time I had seen how much other people were gaining from my experience, so I knew it was important to share my story.

You had a fantastic attitude throughout the book. How important was optimism to your project?

Optimism was essential. Around ten dates through, I had a girlfriend tell me that she wanted to hear a little more drama. I told her that this project wasn't about drama or gossip. I figured if people only wanted to hear the bad stuff about the guys I was going out with then they were missing the point.

The book is very personal. Did you have any reservations about sharing the details?

OF COURSE! This book basically feels like I've published my diary for everyone to see. It shares my vulnerabilities, my insecurities, my embarrassing stories. I had many reservations about sharing my personal details, but I figured if I were going to tell the whole story of what I learned then I needed to share the truth about where I'd been.

Related: [Why Amazing, Confident Women Remain Single](#)

What inspired you to share your story?

Once I started writing the blog, I received some really interesting feedback from people, and not just single women like me. I heard from men, married women, people who weren't in relationships, heterosexuals and homosexuals. I started to realize that this project was way bigger than I was – and affected more than just me and my 31 dates. As people shared their feedback, it helped me change my outlook on others and life. Not necessarily because I ended up finding love in one man, but because I ended up finding love everywhere. That's when I started to realize that this was a story that needed to be told.

Cupid would like to give a big thanks to author Tamara Duricka Johnson for her time. Check out her new book on Amazon and for more information on Johnson, be sure to visit her website

Chaz Bono and Jennifer Elia Break Off Their Engagement



Despite news of their engagement earlier this year, Chaz Bono and his fiancée Jennifer Elia are no longer engaged or even together. Nevertheless, they appear to be amicable towards one another. According to [People](#), “They leave this relationship with great love, respect and affection towards one another,” and they ask that everyone “respect their privacy at this time.” Bono himself tweeted that he appreciated the fans concern and was doing “just fine” while remaining on “good terms” with his ex.

What are some ways to stay amicable after a split?

Cupid's Advice:

After a breakup, there are no doubt hurt feelings that can often times turn into drama. Here are some ways to keep your split amicable:

1. Give each other space: Allow your feelings a chance to solidify after the split. Give each other time and space before making any moves to continue a friendship.

2. Talk it out: Does your ex *want* to be friends with you after the break up? Talk about why you want to be friends with your ex. Articulate reasons for continuing a relationship after the breakup. You may end up deciding it's not a good idea after all.

3. Be there for each other: Spend time with each other, but not too much time. Be sure that you don't fall into the old habits of your relationship, because that could become sticky territory.

What are some ways you stay amicable with an ex? Share your ideas below.

Last Minute Holiday Shopping Guide for Your Partner





By Thomas Doane

With the holidays just around the corner, some people are starting to panic as they worry about what to buy for everyone. Of particular concern for many is what to buy for their significant others. Whether you are newly attached or longtime lovers, everyone wants to find a gift under the tree.

Believe it or not, even celebrities have these worries. After all, behind the fame and glamour, they are flesh and blood humans. Just like us, they have similar worries and doubts.

In that spirit, here's a guide to holiday shopping for your significant others, whether you're famous or not:

Related: [10 Holiday Gift Ideas For That Someone Special](#)

If you've just started dating, think small.

Not only will your new love not expect a large gift, but it may freak them out a little, which is definitely not what you want or need at this time of year. Try to find something small and meaningful for under \$50. This could be something simple like an item of clothing, or you could be a little more personal and plan a candlelit dinner at home. Whatever you choose, be sure to look for deals, and don't feel pressured to overspend.

George Clooney and Stacy Keibler should take this advice! The pair has only been together for a couple of months and shouldn't worry about lavishing each other with expensive gifts. In fact, due to George's infamously skittish nature, Stacy may want to go the dinner-at-home route, in order to appear appropriately aloof.

Related: [Simple Ways To Please Your Man](#)

If you have crossed the one-year threshold, then you can splurge...a little.

Still keep spending to a reasonable amount, but try to find a gift that reflects your feelings for one another. Once you have reached the one-year mark, it is likely that you are in love, so go for something romantic, if all else fails, like a weekend getaway for two, or a small piece of jewelry.

This would be a good guide for Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez, who recently celebrated their first year together. While this pair is awfully young to be worrying about jewelry, they obviously like vacationing together, and should feel comfortable expressing their feelings for one another. In doing so, they can be assured of one another's affections, and their budding love will continue to bloom.

If you are in it for the long haul, then go all out.

Whether you are married or in a long-term relationship, the holidays are the perfect time to show your devotion and hope for a bright future together. Accordingly, buy your loved one something that shows how much they mean to you, and emphasizes your familiarity with their likes and dislikes.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are preparing for yet another Christmas together, and despite repeated rumors of their demise, it looks like they are still going strong. Now would be a great time for them to travel to another country, away from their passel of children, and reaffirm their love to one

another so that next year will be even better than the last.

Regardless of where you stand in your relationship, the thing to remember is that the holidays are *not* about who gives the best gift or how many you receive. The true reason for the season is spending time with your loved ones and preparing for a great new year. So, just relax and spend the day with your sweetie. Happy holidays!

Thomas Stone is a freelance writer and frequent contributor at the SprightlyShopper.

J.R. Martinez Prepares to Welcome a Daughter With His Girlfriend



2011 has been an

exciting year for Iraq war veteran J.R. Martinez. Just last month he won the coveted mirror ball trophy on *Dancing with the Stars*. However, it looks like 2012 will come with excitement as well, as Martinez and his girlfriend Diana Gonzalez-Jones are expecting their first child in May. According to [People](#), Martinez says that the couple is “over the moon” about the pregnancy and consider it the “best gift we could get.” The idea of being a father is just hitting Martinez, but there’s no doubt he’s excited. Though he and Gonzalez-Jones are grateful for the blessings of 2011, they already know how 2012 is “going to top 2011” with a beautiful baby girl.

What are some ways to prepare yourself for fatherhood?

Cupid’s Advice:

It’s just as important for men to prepare themselves to be a father as it is for women to prepare for motherhood. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Help your partner stay healthy:** Adapting your eating habits will help your significant other stay healthy as well. If you also avoid the unhealthy foods that tempt her , she’ll find it easier to say “no.” Joining an exercise class together or going for walks together are also good options.
- 2. Be prepared:** Learn everything you can about what to expect during the upcoming pregnancy and after. It can’t hurt to read as much material as possible to help your partner.
- 3. Go shopping:** Not only could shopping be relaxing for the mom-to-be, but it’s also good to have everything you can for the baby’s arrival. Buy baby clothes, a crib, a stroller and even nursery decorations.

What are some ways your beau prepared for fatherhood? Share your comments below.

Jennifer Lopez Reportedly Brings Her New Man to 'Idol' Set



Friday was bring your boyfriend to work day, or at least it was for Jennifer Lopez. Lopez's new boy toy, Casper Smart, was seen arriving to the *American Idol* set in Lopez's Bentley as he stopped by to visit his new lady. The new couple have been inseparable, having recently spent Thanksgiving in Hawaii with Lopez's twins before jetting off to Morocco. While the singer seems to be wearing divorce well, her ex-husband Marc Anthony, isn't quite complimenting her style. According to various sources, not only does Anthony not want smart to drive his kids around due to his arrest for drag racing, but he apparently doesn't want Smart around his kids at all, according to [Hollyscoop](#).

In the meantime, Lopez and Anthony have continued working together in their Latin-American talent show venture, *Q'Viva!*

What do you do if your ex is upset with your new relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Unfortunately, when you move on from your last relationship, it's not always going to be a smooth transition. Cupid has some advice:

1. Give space and time: It's always best to allow both you and your ex time to heal and get your emotions together after a breakup.

2. Be understanding: Understand that while it may have been easy for you to let your previous relationship go, depending on the circumstances, it may not be as simple for your former love.

3. Minimize contact: While cutting off ties to a past relationship is an easy solution, it may not be a quick fix when you have kids, work or share the same friends. If this is the case, minimize contact to a speak-only-when-necessary basis until you can interact normally with each other again.

How did you handle your ex being upset with your new relationship? Share your comments below.

Engagement Rings of the Rich and Famous



By Nan Gibbons

If we're being honest with ourselves, we know that a 2 million dollar engagement ring probably isn't in our future. Although you may not be able to afford a multi-million dollar rock, you can still channel inspiration from celebrities to choose a quality, stylish ring for your upcoming engagement. Your personal taste and style mixed with the splendor of celebrity rings will result in the perfect look for you. Here are some styles to consider:

Related: [Rosie O'Donnell Proposes with a \\$100,000 Ring](#)

Classic Elegance

You can never go wrong with classic engagement rings. The timeless beauty of a studded band like Carrie Underwood's or a simple set of diamonds will always do the trick. Underwood's ring combines the style of a wedding ring with the sparkle of an engagement ring and makes for a pretty amazing result!

Standard rings with diamonds in the center of a plain band never fail to draw "oohs and aahs" from family and friends.

Vintage Charm

If you're drawn to the idea of a vintage ring, there are several ways you can work this angle. You can choose to go with an older style or base it off of family history. Prince William combined both of these tactics when he gave his then fiancé, Kate, the same ring his mother Diana wore when she was engaged. The gem had the splendor of an older style, plus the emotional value of family tradition. Going for an older style ring or re-purposing a family heirloom can be a great way to re-create the style of Kate's gorgeous ring.

Related: [Five Celebrity Couples Who Got Engaged During The Holidays](#)

Bright and Colorful

Thinking outside the box and considering a less traditional ring is great for couples who enjoy being one-of-a-kind. For her recent engagement, Jessica Simpson was given a stunning bright red ruby framed by two diamonds and set in a gold band.

It looks much more unique than the standard, but still incorporates the classic timelessness of diamonds.

No matter what your style preference, there is a great and affordable ring with your name on it. Whether you prefer sparkly diamonds or colorful gems, you can use celebrity styles to inspire you in order to find the perfect ring for your budget.

Kobe Bryant's Wife Files for

Divorce



NBA star Kobe Bryant is heading towards divorce, reports [People](#). Vanessa Laine, Bryant's wife of 10 years, filed for divorce on Friday, citing irreconcilable differences. Laine is also seeking spousal support and shared custody of daughters Natalia, 8, and Gianna, 5. Bryant's marriage was also tried in 2003, when he was accused of allegedly raping a 19-year-old hotel employee in Colorado. "I sit here in front of you guys, furious at myself, disgusted at myself for making the mistake of adultery," said Bryant at a press conference that year. "And I love my wife with all my heart."

What are some ways to regain trust in your relationship after a betrayal?

Cupid's Advice:

Betrayal shakes up a relationship, but it's possible to get back on track. Here are a few ways to regain trust after a

betrayal:

1. Spend time together: In order to rebuild trust in your relationship, you'll have to put in more effort than you usually do. Go on vacation or play hooky and spend the day at a park to get some quality time together.

2. Get counseling: If you feel that your relationship is troubled, but ultimately worth fixing, try counseling. It's expensive, but it could save your relationship.

3. Give it time: Sometimes the best medicine is time. After a while, the betrayal will fade and your trust in your partner will gradually return.

Have you ever been betrayed in a relationship? Feel free to leave a comment below.

The Holidays: 8 Ways to Ruin Your Relationship





By SMF Marcus

Osborne for GalTime.com

It's well documented that the holidays are the toughest time of the year for millions of people. Depression rates skyrocket because people confront various personal demons and/or a multitude of interpersonal crises.

This got me to thinking about the myriad of ways the holidays can be ruined when you're in a relationship. I sat down with one of my partners at StraightMaleFriend.com, Matt Staudt, and we came up with a pretty strong list of 8. Now, once we'd finished the list, with perhaps a couple of exceptions, it was clear that men and women probably aren't that different when it comes to this topic. You be the judge.

1. Not "Keeping It Real": Don't be coy about your excitement surrounding the holidays. Let's not pretend like it's not a big deal when it really is a big deal. Don't say, "Oh, the holidays don't really matter to me" and then when your guy decides to boycott the commercialism of the holidays by boycotting your gift – don't get mad!

2. Being shallow: Your guy has gotten you a gift. The correct and proper response is "Thank You." Don't be the woman whose holiday cheer is grounded in the price tag of said gift. Hey

look, the economy is in the tank. Remember it's the thought that counts (allegedly) so try to be appreciative. This shouldn't need to be said – but unfortunately this is one holiday tenet we often forget. Whether he got the gift off of Ebay, the clearance rack, or Tiffany's – he got it for you.

Of course if he spent 20 bucks on your gift but buys himself a two-thousand dollar flatscreen there may be reason to gripe.

3. Don't Take Him Shopping: This is cliché but absolutely on point. Shopping is mostly recreational for women. For guys not so much. There are few experiences less thrilling than standing around department stores for two hours. Although it seems that many stores have gotten hip to the man's waiting game dilemma by setting up "man areas" where there's mens magazines and a couch for the guys who happen to be in shopping purgatory.

4. Pulling Out The Baggage: We've all got our personal "stuff." The holidays sometimes dredges up old feelings about an ex or some other notable experience from your past. You may feel an intense urge to bring those issues up while we're decorating the Christmas tree. Please resist that urge.

Let's talk about it after New Year's Day. This is supposed to be the season of joy. Save the baggage for a trip.

5. Selfish Hint Gifts: Oh you don't know what "hint gifts" are? You've been telling me to lose weight for the last six months. Christmas morning you give me a gift card for one free round of liposuction. "Hint Gift." I've been out of work for 6 months, Christmas morning you hand me a ribbon-wrapped Starbucks application. Hint gift. Big no-no.

6: Don't Hate On Dinner: You may not like his mom's cooking. Suck it up and keep it in. There are no winners in that game. Unless you're planning a break up that night, let it go and keep that opinion to yourself at least until the holidays are over.

7. Holiday Break Up: Pretty self-explanatory.

8. Dying: Yeah, this is a pretty dark thought but also pretty self-explanatory. Actually, this particular one has been known to be a downer all year-round.

Ok, your turn....your worst holiday break up or near break up story. Share!

Britney Spears and Jason Trawick Get Engaged



Britney Spears has had a turbulent few years. This month, however, she has a lot to celebrate. Aside from celebrating her 30th birthday, recent

reports have confirmed that the pop princess is now engaged to Jason Trawick. According to [People](#), Trawick proposed on his birthday Thursday night in Los Angeles. After giving him tons of birthday gifts and having cake together, Spears was surprised to get a surprise of her own in the form of a Neil Lane sparkly engagement ring. According to sources close to the couple, the two are very happy and have been talking about marriage for a while now.

What are some unique ways to celebrate a recent engagement?

Cupid's Advice: The holidays may be a time to celebrate, but an engagement can be just as much if not even more exciting. No matter if you are getting your friends and family together for a big party or just having a private celebration. Here's how to make it a festive occasion:

- 1. Vegas trip:** You don't have to get married in Vegas to have fun there with your spouse-to-be. Stay at the Bellagio, and watch the fountains burst into the night air together.
- 2. Show off the ring:** Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites provide you with the means to share pictures of your ring with everyone in your network instantly. Make them jealous.
- 3. Pop champagne:** A celebratory bottle of bubbly is perfect of either a romantic dinner for two or a large celebration.

How do you plan on celebrating your engagement? Share your ideas below.

Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds Share Sexy Weekend in NYC



Although they have yet to comment, the tabloids are buzzing with news of new couple Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds. Last weekend, they spent almost all of their time together going on dates and just generally having a great time in NYC. The duo met up with Lively's sister, Robin, and her beau at the Stanton Social, where they shared a booth and cuddled throughout breakfast, according to UsMagazine.com. According to a source, the Lively sisters were "very sweet, polite and gave a generous tip." But the weekend activities didn't stop there. Lively and Reynolds were then spotted shopping for jeans and were seen holding hands and stealing a kiss. That night, the couple indulged in a romantic dinner and dessert at Serendipity. A source said, "Blake sat very close to Ryan and had her head on his shoulder the entire time."

How do you introduce your new partner to your friends and family?

Cupid's Advice:

Blake Lively seemed to have no problem introducing Ryan Reynolds to her sister, Robin, via a double date. Cupid has some tips:

1. Relaxed and social environment: When you decide to introduce your new mate to your friends and family, it's important to keep things informal. Your partner will feel less on the spot and will be more likely to open up. Invite them to a holiday party or plan a group bowling outing.

2. Short visits leading into longer ones: Consider an "easy does it" approach. Introduce your new partner in multiple steps by starting out with quick visits and moving into longer social occasions.

3. Don't announce the occasion: Sometimes it's better to just "pop in" when you're introducing your partner to your friends and family. If either party has too much time to think about it, anxiety may double. Spontaneity may be the answer in this case.

How did you introduce your partner to your family? Share your experiences below.

Real Housewife Taylor

Armstrong Will Release Tell-All Book



Taylor Armstrong from Bravo's *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* will be releasing a tell-all memoir through the publisher Simon & Schuster entitled *Hiding From Reality: My Story of Love, Loss and Finding the Courage Within*. The book is scheduled to be released Feb. 7 and will outline her relationship with her ex husband Russell Armstrong, who tragically committed suicide in August. According to [The Hollywood Reporter](#), the couple had filed for divorce only a month before the suicide.

What do you do if your ex “tells all” after a split?

Cupid's Advice:

If an ex decides to tell all after a split, there's really not much you can do to prevent them from doing so. All you can do is stay strong and move on:

1. Allow only positive influences: Surround yourself only with positive people and things. After all, it's your ex who is airing their dirty laundry and not you.

2. Don't answer questions: If someone asks you about something they heard from your ex, simply tell them that it's none of their business.

3. Let time work in your favor: Time cures all wounds and rids all rumors. When you are in bad place in your life, time always works in your favor.

When a relationship is over, should you tell all or keep the details to yourself? Share your thoughts below.