

Bachelor Pad 2: Jake Pavelka Asks for Help From Vienna Girardi



Reality star exes Jake Pavelka and Vienna Girardi may have been previously engaged after the 14th season of the *Bachelor*, but it turns out the two are definitely at odds when it comes to working together on the new season of *Bachelor Pad 2*. A preview shows an almost defeated Jake Pavelka asking to make an alliance with Girardi as a last resort to remain in the competition, according to UsMagazine.com. Girardi doesn't seem very keen on the idea, though, since she is still hurt and is finally happy and moving on with her new beau Kasey Kahl. The pair are rumored to be looking for an apartment in Los Angeles together.

What are some reasons to get rid of expectations of your ex-partner?

Cupid's Advice:

It's difficult to get over a prior romantic fling, especially an engagement like Jake and Vienna's, but Cupid has some advice on why you should get rid of the expectations of your ex:

1. You get hurt: If you're holding out hope that your ex will change his or her ways, you're going to have expectations that he or she won't be able to meet, and it will let you down. If you're trying to move on and not get hurt, don't look back.

2. It'll make it difficult to move on: If you continue to have expectations of your ex, it will make it very difficult to move on and become happy again. In order to move forward, you have to realize that you aren't with your ex for a reason and drop the expectations.

3. You second guess: Even if you're ready to move past your previous relationship and find someone new, if you hold on to expectations of your ex, you may second guess your new mate. This can lead to trust issues.

What are some reasons to get rid of expectations of your ex-partner? Share your thoughts below.

The Reason 'Bachelorette' Ali

Fedotowsky Delayed Her Nuptials to Roberto Martinez



Ali Fedotowsky is happy with her recent decision to delay her wedding to Roberto Martinez. According to UsMagazine.com, the couple was engaged in May of 2010 and one of the main reasons for putting off the nuptials was that her knee surgery in July, which made Fedotowsky unable to hit the gym. She wants to get in some good gym time before the big day ... and she'd also like to walk (instead of hobble) down the aisle. Though the couple aren't in a rush to get married, there could perhaps be a wedding next summer.

What are some good reasons to put off your wedding for the time being?

Cupid's Advice:

In our society, people often feel pressured to get married quickly, but that isn't always the best course of action. Here are some good reasons to postpone your wedding:

1. You're not ready: If you're really having doubts that go beyond cold feet, it's okay to wait to get married. Being absolutely sure is the most important thing.

2. The kids: If you have young children that don't fully understand what is going on and what the changes in your life mean for them, you might want to wait a little longer.

3. Money issues: If you find that you can't afford your original plans, which is very common in this economy, take a step back and regroup.

What are some other reasons to put off a wedding? Share your thoughts below.

Millionaire Matchmaker: Patti Stanger on Being Single, Celebrity Relationships and Love in NYC





By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Can't get enough of Patti Stanger and her millionaires? Here at Cupid's Pulse, we can't either. That's why we were excited to talk to her about the upcoming premiere of The Millionaire Matchmaker.

This season, Patti and her team (Chief Operating Officer, Destin Pfaff, and his fiancée, Vice President of Matchmaking, Rachel Federoff), are back in her hometown of Los Angeles, ready to put their matchmaking skills to work to find love for those millionaires and one millionairess. Newly-single and ready to step out into the dating world again, Patti not only is looking for love for her clients this season, but she is also on the prowl herself, looking for her very own "Mr. Right."

That's right! Patti is back and she's skinnier, nicer and single as ever! Cupid's Pulse participated in a recent media conference call where Patti offered some words of wisdom and insight on what we can expect to see this season:

This season, you're going to be featured on dates. Can you

tell us about your experience?

Yes. In the 13th episode, I actually date and do the mixer process. It was the scariest time of my life. When I'm dating, I am a totally different Patti. I'm soft, subdued, and submissive – completely different than business Patti. My ex used to ask, "Can we switch the business mode off and go back to sweet Patti?" My show-runner turned to me one day and said, "No one is going to believe you. They are going to think you are acting." I'm very quiet when I date – that's just how I am.

Related Link: [Find Out Why You're Single](#)

Is there something now you realize about dating on-camera that you didn't before?

Yes. I've realized that I usually tend to date down. I've never dated a rich guy. This guy I met on the show is probably one of the richest guys that I've dated, and he isn't even that rich. I think I would like to date a millionaire, but I think it would be nice if I did it off-camera. I'd like to date someone who makes equal or more money than me and romances me that way, but I haven't met anyone like that. I would still have to be sexually attracted to them. One question on my application is: "Would you rather have looks or money?" I'm a looks-person, whereas a money-person is someone who doesn't care about that. The reason that I say that is, getting looks *and* money together is *really* hard to find. It is never easy, especially at my age.

What are your thoughts about having a baby?

I would not have a baby without a man. It's not that I couldn't, but I wouldn't feel comfortable. I am adopted, and my mom was married three times. I had a lot of issues with that. I've wanted a kid forever, and I've wanted to adopt, but I want to have a partner when I do it.

How did guest stars Jenny McCarthy, Tori Spelling, and Perez Hilton impact your show this season?

Jenny is one of my closest friends. Actually, she was one of my first famous friends. She comes on the show to help a guy who is kind of a nerd in Silicon Valley find his sex appeal and figure out what to say on a date.

Tori is on the second episode. We have a multi-millionaire who believes that when you're pregnant, you have to stop working and never work again. He doesn't think that you can do both at the same time. So I wanted to show him that Tori didn't live off her family's money. She built her own career, and she didn't marry rich. Tori proves that you can work and also have babies – and chickens too (she has an animal farm in her house)!

I really wanted Perez to date, but he didn't want to do it on camera, so we met at his house. He is adorable and lost all that weight, so he looks hot and happening. He actually interviewed me for his online show and asked a lot of personal questions. He really has an ear for music and has been my source of music inspiration. It is going to be really fun – he is a really good interviewer, and a different person these days. Since he lost the weight, he is nicer. I think that's what happened to both of us – we both lost weight, and now we are nicer. At least, that's what people tell me. You tell me when you watch – do I still have the bitch in me?

Related Link: [Tori Spelling Calls Dean McDermott Her Soul Mate](#)

Last season, we interviewed Millionairess Beth Shak. She ended up surprising us all by bringing her “gay husband” on the date with her. What shockers can we expect to see this season?

We only have one millionairess this season. I wanted more, but Bravo didn't want it. They had a nightmare with the women last season. But, we do have one woman who is British and owns a

stripping facility. She probably makes Shawna look sane. When you see this girl, you'll have to tell me what you think. I give her the most amazing guy, and she doesn't see it.

Are there any celebrities out there who you'd like to help find love?

Well, I probably would put George Clooney in boot camp with Tiger Woods, Jesse James, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Although, I think George is a serial monogamous. He dates someone for two years, and then gives his woman a parting gift. He is like Simon Cowell – you get cash and a car. He is not as bad as Tiger, Jesse, and Arnold though. They are in a world of their own.

Other than that, I would probably want to help Sandra Bullock, because I feel so bad for her. I would set her up with someone outside of Hollywood.

In fact, there are a lot of girls in Hollywood that need to look for love off of the red carpet. J. Lo is going to be one of them. It's like I've said: no Hollywood husband is safe. She needs an entrepreneur, who lets her shine on the carpet; who has way more money that she does, like billionaire status; who gives her the world, but lets her walk the carpet alone. Because her life with Marc Anthony was like they were competing in the boardroom and in the bedroom. It's never going to work. I knew it wouldn't work. I mean, she was literally unengaged to Ben Affleck for five minutes, and then went straight to Marc Anthony and married him a week later. It was ridiculous.

What are your thoughts on Jennifer Aniston?

We don't know what goes on behind closed doors. But, the guy she is with now is pretty good for her. He produces and writes major movies, and he acts. He is a triple-play for her, which is a good fit for her right now. I'm hoping that they work out. And I hope his [Ex](#) finds someone, but if not, she can give

me a call.

What advice would you give to singles in New York City based on your experience last season?

The problem is that there are five women to one guy and the men in NYC know that they have the power, whereas in LA, it is much closer to 50/50. For women, it is a terrible thing to be in a city where you feel like you don't have power. Eventually, they get bitter. So one of the rules I would say to single girls in NYC is keep your appearances up – look good, hit the gym, put some lipstick on – and then be nice to the men. They might notice you more if you are sweet and not bitter towards them.

If you could share five tough dating rules that everyone should live by, what would they be?

- 1) TMI – too much information.
- 2) Two-drink maximum. Women tend to share too much information when they drink too much, and then the guy gets scared...and they are no longer dating.
- 3) Let the man lead, and if you are the man, lead!
- 4) No sex before monogamy is my fourth rule. Obviously, this one is a major rule. If you sleep with him too soon, you may feel like you are in love, even if he is a loser.
- 5) My last rule would probably be that if you're dating, but nothing is working for you, don't fret. The right man or woman is probably just around the corner. It's usually those down times that you have to give in to. Once you give in to it, the phone will start ringing. I learned that lesson the hard way.

Or, if you're still in doubt, refer to what the matchmaker often says, "It's all in the kiss!"

Keep your eye out for the Season Premiere of BRAVO's **The Millionaire Matchmaker 5**, Monday 8/15 @ 9/8c

Justin Bieber Plays Cupid for Kendall Jenner



It appears as if Justin Bieber is extending his talents outside of music and into the matchmaking industry. The 17-year-old singer has been trying to set up friend Kendall Jenner with his writer/producer buddy Julian Swirsky. Her response, "Only if you and Selena Gomez join us. Double date," she tweeted Tuesday. However, Jenner may not have time to date. The Kardashian 15 year-old kid-sister will be the new face of Leah Madden's summer 2012 swimwear campaign, Pirouette.

What are the advantages to trusting your friends to set you up

on dates?

Cupid's Advice:

It's always good to have faith in your friends, but how relevant is that in the dating realm? Cupid takes a look at the pros:

- 1. Trust the right friends:** You may want to ask your friend what their motives are for setting you up. If they seem less than admirable, then be cautious.
- 2. 'The Right Stuff':** The ideal friend sets you up with someone who compliments you very well or someone with which they see you having a good time.
- 3. Awkward turtle:** On your blind date, try to make it more of a social gathering, because it helps ease tension and should help prevent some awkward moments.

Have you ever had a friend set you up on a date that went terribly wrong? Share your experiences below.

Bachelor Pad 2: Kasey Kahl Says He'd Love Vienna With Any Size Nose





Reality TV lovebirds, Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl really seem to love each other inside and out, according to [People](#). Girardi may have felt she wasn't pretty because of the size of her nose, but boyfriend Kasey Kahl says, "I honestly think she's gorgeous and beautiful inside and out so it doesn't matter to me." So even though her beau feels she's perfect, he flew out to Houston to be with Girardi during her rhinoplasty in July. As if that wasn't sweet enough, Kahl also told Girardi, "I am here for you and I support you no matter what you want to do" after the surgery. That's true love right there.

How do you know when your partner loves you, for you?

Cupid's Pulse:

It's tough to know if your beau really loves you for you, but Cupid has some tips on how to tell if your partner is real with you and cares for you no matter what:

1. They don't try to change you: Yes, everyone tries to change their significant other a little bit, whether it be their wardrobe, their eating habits or even the TV shows they watch.

How you know the 'change' is going too far is if your partner is forcing you into changes you can live without.

2. They are honest with you: Kasey Kahl didn't feel that girlfriend Vienna Girardi needed a nose job, and he even told her he loved her inside and out despite any size nose she had. If your honey is honest with you and isn't afraid of sharing his or her opinion, that's a sign they are here for all the right reasons.

3. They support you: Even if you and your mate don't agree on something, he or she should always support you. Like Kahl said, he is there for Vienna Girardi no matter what. Simple things like that will show you that your boo is for real.

How do you know when your partner loves you, for you? Share your thoughts below!

Date Idea: Play Games
Amusement Park-Style





Going to the movies and dining in a nice restaurant can make for a great evening, but it can also make time pass by way too quickly. After all, the best types of dates are the ones that last for hours and involve a lot of excitement. Are you searching for a date idea that will consist of hours of fun? Then feel the thrill of love in your relationship by visiting an amusement park with your significant other this weekend.

The best amusement parks may not be located in your area, but it's definitely worth it to drive there. The live entertainments, expositions, game booths and rides will make your day unforgettable. And who better to share these memories with other than your partner?

Take some risks by riding on roller coasters. Not a fan of heights? Then take a journey on a train around the park or ride on the bumper cars. Nothing is more romantic than taking a spin on a carousel and riding on the Ferris wheel, while looking at the skyline.

Perhaps the most exciting part about theme parks are winning games. Excite your mate by trying your luck at playing a few and winning him or her a prize. If you plan on competing with

each other, make a deal at the booth – first to win will get a kiss! Of course, that would be a win for both of you.

As the day comes to an end, plan on grabbing a bite to eat before hitting the road home. Amusement parks have an abundance of great eateries, ranging from hot dog stands to five star restaurants. Maybe keeping it simple with some cotton candy or funnel cake will make for an oh-so-sweet ending.

Have a favorite date idea? Comment below and share with our readers. Until next time, have a great week!

Levi Johnston's Sister Says Her Brother and Bristol Planned Unplanned Pregnancy





Things are heating up again between the Palins and the Johnstons. According to [People](#), Mercede Johnston has been bashing the Palins. She accused Sarah Palin of using Levi Johnston as a “prop” for her 2008 presidential campaign. She called Bristol Palin a “sociopath,” who planned her pregnancy, which she strategically announced when her mother joined John McCain’s campaign. Mercede also claimed that Bristol’s and Levi’s engagement was part of the fabrication to prevent Levi from speaking out against the Palins.

What are some reasons *not* to have a child?

Cupid’s Advice:

Most of us probably don’t have a soap opera kind of ex-girlfriend who uses her pregnancy in a manipulative kind of way. But there are perhaps other reasons why you should not have a child. Cupid has some ideas:

1. Stability of relationship: If you’re considering whether or not to have a child with your partner, analyze the state of the relationship with that partner. If you’re in a fragile place, there’s no need to rush to be a parent. Take it easy

and wait until your relationship is more secure. You want your child to grow up in a nurturing, loving place.

2. Work: Have you considered the job situation? If you're in a not-so-stable place, either because you're looking for a solid position or because you're trying to work your way up a notch, you may want to hold off on the baby situation until your professional life gets a little more certain.

3. Doubts: If you or your partner feel uncertain when it comes to the idea of having a baby, you're probably not ready to be parents. Before you plan to conceive, you should both discuss whether you feel that parenthood is right for you. It's okay to not feel 100% ready, but this should be something you're both sure that you want.

Are there any other reasons someone may not be ready for parenthood? Share your thoughts below.

Bachelor Pad Stars Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl Are Moving In Together





The new season of *Bachelor Pad* recently premiered, and just as new reality stars are moving in for the cameras, reality TV stars Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl are looking for a pad to call their own. According to [People](#), the love birds are looking for a nest somewhere in Los Angeles. Girardi said, “We are looking at apartments and will take the next step in our relationship.” Sounds like love is truly in the air for these two, who started dating several months ago and have been going strong ever since.

What are some ways to tell it’s time to move in together?

Cupid’s Advice:

It was easy for *Bachelor Pad* stars Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl to figure out it was time to move in together because they knew they were ready to take their relationship to the next level. Cupid has some advice on how to know when the time is right to make the big move:

1. You love each other: As if this point wasn’t obvious enough, if the two of you truly love each other, the next step is to make sure you’re really compatible as a couple. Living

together is the ultimate test because it allows you to fully know your partner and his or her everyday quirks.

2. You're practically always together: If you and your beau are always together, the most rational thing to do would be to make the big move and see how things pan out. This can help bring the two of you closer together or show you that that two of you maybe aren't ready for such a serious commitment. Plus, you'll also save money on rent and/or household expenses.

3. You want to take it to the next level: A good way to know you're ready to move in together is to realize that you and your mate want to take your relationship to the next level. Take some advice from Vienna and Kasey: you know it's time when the two of you know you want things to go further.

What are some ways to tell it's time to move in together? Share your thoughts below!

Five Dates That Will Brutally Backfire





By Sam Greenspan

There's a fine line between thinking of innovative ideas for dates and ending up with disastrous thoughts for dates. About five years ago, I happened to see that a circus from Mexico was here in Los Angeles. I had a first date that night and took the girl to that circus, even though neither of us spoke Spanish. I thought it was brilliant and would help us bond. She got an "emergency call" from her "grandma" who had suddenly come down with "dying" and left after 45 minutes. That's a date backfire on a grandiose scale.

In my semi-bestselling book *11 Points Guide to Hooking Up*, I have a list of 11 Dates That Will Brutally Backfire. Because I blew through 25 percent of my allotted words for this guest post with that circus anecdote, I will only be able to relay abbreviated snippets of five of them:

1. Comedy club: Because somehow, every comedian on the planet has a built-in radar for a nervous couple on a first date. It must be a side effect of cheap beer and mild depression. Anyway, he'll joke you guys right into never seeing each other again.

2. Massages: The problem is, a good masseuse takes you to a place in a different realm than sex. Afterward, you and your date won't want to be physical with each other – it'll just ruin how good your neck and shoulders feel.

3. Your friend's party: You know everyone there. Your date doesn't. It'll be hard to get to know each other while you talk to your friends and he or she just kinda awkwardly hangs at your side like you're Tom Hanks and he or she is Rita Wilson.

4. Errands: Twice in my life (with about 10 years' separation in between), a girl ran errands while we were ostensibly on a date. And all I could think of both times was, "You think our date's going so poorly that *errands* are going to liven it up?" Especially the time the girl diverted us to a post office so she could mail her taxes. In January. She wasn't in that much of a rush.

5. An overnight trip: Save the overnight trips for when you actually know each other. There's nothing worse than realizing 20 minutes into a two-day trip that you really don't like each other. (Other than realizing it 20 minutes into a two-year relationship, like Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez.)

Sam Greenspan is the founder of the website 11Points.com (because top 10 lists are for cowards). His first book, the 11 Points Guide to Hooking Up, just came out in June.

Susan Sarandon Says Her Son-

in-Law To-Be Is 'Fabulous'



Susan Sarandon is excited about daughter Eva Amurri's engagement to the "fabulous" Kyle Martino. The proud almost mother-in-law is not taking part in the wedding planning, however. Sarandon told [People](#) that Amurri is "very smart and very organized" and that she "trust[s] her judgment." But that doesn't mean she's not assisting in other ways, from finding the right cake topper to advising Amurri on her gown.

What do you do if your parents don't like the person you're going to marry?

Cupid's Advice:

Not all of us have mothers who, like Sarandon, would use the

expression “fabulous” to describe our spouse-to-be. In fact, many of us have probably been in the situation in which our parents disapprove. It’s a difficult place to be in, but Cupid has some advice:

1. Get them to talk: First of all, you need to figure out why it is that your folks disapprove of your spouse-to-be. Is it because they don’t think he or she is good enough for you? Is it simply because they’re afraid of losing their child? If you sit down and have a word with them, at least you’ll have something to work with.

2. Talk to them: So you’ve given them their chance to explain themselves. The floor is now yours. Tell your parents that you love your partner and want to be with him or her. Show them that the relationship makes you happy and you hope that they can be happy for you. Talking about it directly will make it easier for them to accept the marriage.

3. Be patient: Your folks may be disapproving for the time being. That said, be patient. Allow them to get to know your partner better and find common points of interest. Often times, our parents may feel an overprotective instinct toward our suitors because they perceive them as potential threats. With time, they may become more welcoming and let your partner into their hearts.

Do your folks disapprove of your fiancé? Share your story below!

Emma Watson Is Caught With a

New Man



Emma Watson has cast her spell on a new man. The *Harry Potter* actress, 21, was spotted smooching actor Johnny Simmons outside a Santa Monica L.A. restaurant on Thursday afternoon, according to UsMagazine.com. Simmons, 24, is Watson's costar in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. According to an eyewitness, Simmons dropped Watson off at the restaurant to dine with friends, and they parted ways very cautiously. The pair "looked very loved up," the observer said. "Holding and hugging each other for awhile and playfully kissing. They seemed very open and not trying to hide their affection."

What are some things to consider when you're dating a co-worker?

Cupid's Advice:

You won't be able to keep dating a coworker a secret for long, so just expose yourself from the start. Here are three ways to do so:

1. Be open: We understand that relationships are only supposed to be between the two people involved. However, when you're dating a co-worker, that theory isn't going to hold up. Everybody always knows everybody's business at the workplace. It's best you tell everyone about it before somebody else gets the chance to.

2. Treat it like any other: Once step one is out of the way, there's no need to be secretive anymore. Treat your new relationship the same as you would any other. Let everyone else see you and your honey holding hands or even smooching on breaks. That's a sure way to make it known that it's official.

3. Be happy: Give your partner your all and love him or her completely. Don't let anyone's judgments get to you. Appreciate what you have while you have it.

What are some things you need to be cautious of when it comes to a workplace relationship? Share your thoughts below.

Tori Spelling Offers to Plan Shannen Doherty's Wedding





Tori Spelling has taken her wedding planning to the next level by offering a helping hand to former 90210 co-star Shannen Doherty, according to [People](#). Spelling, who has been keeping busy with her new show *Tori and Dean: sTORIbook Weddings*, would like to help Doherty plan as part of a yet-to-be-titled WE TV series next year. Spelling was approached by ET Canada about whether or not she would be interested in helping Doherty with her wedding, and Tori quickly replied “I’ll do the wedding” although she doesn’t know what kind of wedding she wants. Whatever her friend may want, Tori Spelling is up for the challenge!

How can you include your friends in wedding plans?

Cupid’s Advice:

Even though your wedding is your special day, it can also be a good idea to include your friends in your wedding plans in order to take some of the stress off of yourself and your family. Cupid has some ideas:

1. Theme suggestions: The theme of your wedding is something that everyone who attends will remember, and it sets your big

day apart from everyone else's. Have a brainstorming session with your friends, and make it into a party.

2. Opinions: Yes, your special day is "all about you", but if you don't want to be a birdezilla, let your friends share their thoughts on the wedding plans without totally shutting them down. Show that you care about what they have to say and actually listen.

3. Bridesmaids dress selection: The one thing every bridesmaid dreads is having to wear a hideous dress that gets stuck in the back of her closet, never to be seen again. So instead of forcing your friends to wear something just to make you happy, why not allow them to have some say in what they will wear?

Do you have any ideas on how you can include your friends in wedding plans? Share your thoughts below.

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez Show the Love at Teen Choice Awards





When it comes to celebrity couples and the media, the feuding couple is always more interesting than the happy pair. That's probably why there are so many rumors surrounding lovebirds like Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. The young couple decided to put these rumors to bed at the Teen Choice awards by arriving together and engaging in various public displays of affection, according to UsMagazine.com. Bieber even stated that he couldn't wait to see his girlfriend perform, "Because she's awesome!"

What are some ways to squash break-up rumors?

Cupid's Advice:

Sometimes rumors surrounding relationship problems can be lethal and can actually lead to a split. To make sure that doesn't happen, Cupid has some tips on how to stop the poisonous talk once and for all:

1. Utilize social networking: Use tools like Facebook or Twitter to post loving pictures of you and your beau to show everyone that you most definitely have not broken up and are in a good place.

2. Plan a trip together: When two people plan a trip in advance, it shows that you plan to be together for an extended period of time.

3. Ignore it: The best way to fight a rumor is to not buy into it at all. As long as the tall tale is not actually affecting your relationship, there's no reason to make yourself crazy trying to disprove it.

What are some rumors surrounding you and your relationship and how are you handling them? Share your experiences below.

8 Alternative Wedding Trends for 2011





By Cara Davis

Today's brides and grooms aren't settling for what has always been done. They're infusing creativity, personality, cultural trends and most of all, they're having fun. They're creating memorable experiences not just for themselves, but for friends and family who contribute to their big days.

Author and marketing guru Seth Godin recently spoke at a Chick-fil-A Leadercast about how the new normal is not normal at all. People are questioning why we do things the way we do, thereby turning tradition on its head. It's affecting all industries, including the wedding industry.

Here's a look at eight alternative wedding trends that are popping up in 2011:

1. Mini Wedding Dresses: Whether it's glammed up, vintage or breezy casual, knee-length wedding dresses are more practical and personalized for today's bride. As more stores roll out wedding boutiques like J.Crew and White House Black Market, brides can pick up a wedding dress from their favorite retail store. And let's not forget that for some, that's Etsy, where

they can pick up a custom hand-made gown for as little as \$40.

2. Fun with Color: From black accents to bold color blocks, color is king this year and it's not limited to the bride!

Non-matching bridesmaids are coordinating in patterns or complementary color combinations like this crafty DIY wedding of mega-blogger Elsie Larson. In addition to bold color palettes, shades of gray and stripes continue to be the big color trend for the year.

3. Alternative Gift Registries: Many couples are registering for gifts that will help them in a practical way. Travel agencies are starting to offer honeymoon gift certificates and some auto dealers are offering gift certificates toward the purchase of a new vehicle. CardAvenue.com allows couples to create a gift card registry for national retailers. Couples can get as creative as they want; they can request gift cards to home improvement stores to offset costs of home renovation or register for local restaurants so they can continue dating as newlyweds on a budget.

4. Punchy Personalization: While the structure of the wedding remains the same, (you've got a bride and groom, an officiant, a group of family and friends, a ceremony and reception) the look is anything but. The time may be different (think brunch), the seating may be smarter (seated at tables & staying put for reception), the furniture may be funky (varying size and shape or non-traditional choices) and forget the wedding favors – today's couples are giving personalized takeaways, like souvenir photo booth picture strips.

5. Eco-friendly Finds: Outdoor spaces, reclaimed furniture, flea market finds and even wooden rings are helping eco-conscious brides and grooms celebrate in a big way without the environmental impact. Green weddings can feature locally grown food and seed-lined wedding invitations that can be planted.

CarbonFund and Terrapass offer wedding carbon footprint calculators, where air travel is most likely to be the big offender. Couples can purchase carbon offsets to lessen the impact, or request contributions as gifts.

6. The Rustic South: There's been a rise in rustic weddings in the past several years and it mirrors a growing hunger in popular culture for all things Southern (think The Civil Wars, J.Crew fashion, artisan jeans and home-brewed beer). Today's vintage and rustic weddings are all about embracing simplicity and infusing new life into old things. From location (barns or old warehouses) to furniture & decor (antiques and flea market favorites) to apparel (vintage clothes and even brooch bouquets), many couples are going for the nostalgic feel of the old South.

7. Cultural Cues: Couples who are looking to add levity to their big day are incorporating pop culture trends. Food cart fare is showing up in pre-wedding cocktail hour and the after-party. Culturally significant themes like retro Asian flavors and ethnic icons like sushi, ninjas, geisha girls and Chinese lanterns are being used in inventive ways. Vintage board games are showing up as Monopoly pieces in bouquets and Scrabble letter tiles as signs for the buffet.

8. Death of the Wedding Cake: The exorbitant cost of traditional tiered wedding cakes has given way to nontraditional desserts like square mini-cakes and cupcake tiers. Furthermore, dessert buffets may feature pies, macaroons, Whoopie Pies, cake pops, color-coordinated candy and even ice cream sundae stations or cookies and milk bars.

Weddings expert Cara Davis is the author of Cheap Ways to Tie the Knot. She also blogs from her home in Orlando, FL about cheap ways to spend and save at CheapWaysTo.com.

Is Scott Disick Heading Back to His Partying Ways?



After going through rehab and alcohol counseling in 2010, Scott Disick claims he's been laying off the booze. But Kourtney Kardashian is worried that her baby daddy is reverting back to drinking. According to UsMagazine.com, in Sunday's episode of *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, Disick had to fly to Las Vegas and reassured his girlfriend that it was for business, but the hot mama was concerned when she dropped him off at the airport and saw Disick's friends drinking champagne.

How do you help your man with an addiction to partying?

Cupid's Advice:

If your partner has an addiction to partying, this may be a touchy issue. You're in a difficult position if you're trying to help your man with his problem, but he's pushing you away. Cupid has some tips:

1. Get help: You've probably already tried to get him to an AA meeting, but without much success. If he's reluctant toward seeking help, you can't physically drag him. You may not be able to control him, but you can control your own behavior. So start going to those Alc Anon meetings and get informed. You may get the advice you need to feel prepared to deliver an effective intervention.

2. Set limits: You may be afraid to offend him, but you have to be firm. Tell him that when he's drunk, you don't want to be around him ... and then stick to this rule. If he's thinking of calling in sick at the office, but you know he's actually suffering from a hangover, forbid him from taking the day off. He's gotta own up to his actions and you won't let him get away with it.

3. Confront him: Aside from delivering a formal intervention, you also want to communicate with him informally. He's probably in denial, and you'll have to shake him out of it. Keep emphasizing that his drinking is a disease and that it's unacceptable.

Is your partner a hard-core partier? Share your story below.

Jennifer Lopez Isn't Sitting Around Crying After Split



Jennifer Lopez could not be more relieved to be out of her seven-year marriage with Marc Anthony. According to [People](#), while Anthony called the split “painful,” J. Lo is at peace and moving on with her career. The singer/actress’ two current major projects are shooting the movie *What to Expect When You’re Expecting* and renewing her contract as a judge on *American Idol*.

How do you deal with going back to work after a tough break-up?

Cupid’s Advice:

After a break-up, you may not be ready to date again or even

have a night out on the town with friends, but you usually don't have a choice about going back to work. Here are some ways to make it through the work day post-break-up.

1. Focus on the task at hand: Going to work can actually be a positive thing after a split. Dive into your work. Not only will you be more productive than ever, but you'll forget all about your ex.

2. Get a new outfit: Break-ups may mark the end of a relationship, but they're really all about new beginnings. Show up to the office on Monday feeling fresh in a new outfit and hairstyle.

3. After-work drinks: Invite your co-workers out for drinks after work. Who knows? You may find your next love interest by getting out there.

How else can you manage life at the office after a break-up? Share your thoughts below.

Christina Applegate Says It's Been Rough to Work Post-Baby





Christina Applegate's new sitcom on NBC, *Up All Night*, mirrors that of her own life these days. The show centers around a couple with a new baby trying to balance parenting with their careers. Being a new mom herself, Applegate gave her thoughts on the topic to [People](#). "It's a really hard thing to do because you miss them. But I'm doing well," said the 39 year old new mother, admitting that its "been so rough" since giving birth to her daughter Sadie Grace. Though her career is important to her, Applegate admits, "Parenthood just changed me in the sense that nothing really matters but [Sadie]. None of it really matters. The importance I placed on things prior to this moment, they don't matter anymore. All that matters is I get to go in there in the morning and see her face. She smiles at me and my life is better."

How do you know when it's time to go back to work after having a baby?

Cupids Advice:

1. Evaluate: Giving birth doesn't mean that you have to throw away all other dreams and goals when it comes to your career.

Weigh the pros and cons of staying home and make an educated decision when deciding whether or not to go back to work.

2. Think about your happiness: Realize that being a stay-at-home mom may not be for you. While some women are natural housewives, giving up the career you worked so hard for may cause resentment toward your child or spouse.

3. Finances: Be realistic. Babies are expensive. If you can't afford to take years off to stay at home with your child, then don't do it. You'll be doing your baby a favor by having the money to give him or her a secure life.

How did you know you were ready to head back to work after giving birth? Share your experiences with a comment below.

‘The Change-Up’ Starring Ryan Reynolds and Jason Bateman





Family man Mitch (Jason Bateman) and his best friend Dave (Ryan Reynolds), a swinger with minimal responsibilities, head out for a typical night of drinking. When they wake up the next morning, instead of having a hangover, their lives became magically switched. After experiencing each other's day-to-day routines, they both work to find a way to switch back to their normal lives, attempting to cause as little damage as possible. *The Change-Up* should have its funny moments, if you enjoyed movies such as *The Hangover*, *Shanghai Knights* and *Wedding Crashers*. Expect a fair share of crude moments, causing a date night to be either successful or awkward, depending on your tastes.

Is it okay to be jealous of your single friends?

Cupid's Advice:

Ideally the answer would be “no”, but sometimes on bad days, it’s easy to lapse into jealousy. Cupid has some positive suggestions:

1. Count your blessings: Take a page from the Christmas movie, *It’s a Wonderful Life*. Try to recall all of the little blessings you take for granted and how your life would be different without them.

2. Hypothetically speaking: Take some time to really think about your alternative life if were were to trade places with your friends. Although it’s easier to look at the pros, ask yourself about the cons and possible consequences that come with being single again.

3. Love stories: If all else fails, try to vividly remember how you and your partner met and fell in love – then ask yourself if that’s really worth trading in for a life of debauchery.

Release Date: 08/05

Cupid’s Kiss Rating: 3 out of 5 kisses

Eddie Cibrian Defends Criticism Over Wife LeAnn Rimes’ Body





LeAnn Rimes is getting hit with the criticism that her weight loss may be the result of an eating disorder, even though she tweets every time she eats. “LOVE Thin Mint Cookies!” she said in one such tweet, according to [Hollyscoop](#). However, health expert Dr. Farid Zarif said that her weight drop could be due to stress. Regardless, her new hubby, *Playboy* actor Eddie Cibrian, defended her honor by calling her body “perfect.” “I think she looks wonderful,” he said. “She is very healthy, and to me—perfect.”

How do you know when to defend your partner’s decisions?

Cupid’s Advice:

Not all the time is everyone going to be estactic about a choice his or her partner makes. However, most of the time, we expect the ones we love to support us no matter what. But when is it OK to stick up for your significant other? Cupid has some thoughts:

1. Health conscious: Are you sure your partner’s decisions will leave his or her health in good shape? As long as your mates decision aren’t affecting his or her well-being, you

probably shouldn't step in.

2. The long run: Though it isn't always fun to think about the effects that decisions have long-term, you may as well get it over with sooner rather than later. It's the only way to know if a decision is truly a good one.

3. Eternal smile: Will this decision truly make your partner happy? If his or her smile will only be temporary as a result of this decision and will then turn to a permanent frown, then think a little harder about it.

Have you ever supported a partner's decision that you didn't agree with? Share your experiences below.

NBC New's Peter Alexander Will Marry ABC Anchor Alison Starling





The old adage “birds of a feather flock together” is coming true when it comes to NBC New’s Peter Alexander and ABC anchor Alison Starling. The two are thrilled about their recent engagement, according to [People](#). There were no teleprompters or cameras needed when Alexander popped the question to his future fiancée under the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Talk about a story book moment! He did admit that he “fumbled” on a couple of lines, but fortunately she said “yes”. The couple met in 2001 while working at competing news stations in Seattle, and it has been loving memories ever since. The couple is currently planning a spring wedding .

What are the benefits of dating someone with the same career as you?

Cupid’s Advice:

Dating someone with the same career as you can be difficult at times, especially if it involves long hours and traveling, but for every negative there is a positive. Cupid has some benefits on why dating someone with the same job is a good thing:

1. Common ground: By dating someone with the same job as you, you will automatically have a common thing to bond over. It can be a sign that the two of you are meant to be, since you both picked a similar field to pursue.

2. Makes you understanding: Without much explanation, you'll understand your partner's complaints and stress from the workplace. It'll make you a better confidant for your honey since he knows you go through the same things he does throughout the busy work day.

3. Similar patterns: Whether it be sleeping, eating or even relaxing, a job has an influence on your every day life, whether you like it or not. For example, instead of you wanting to go out early while he'd prefer to go out late, if the two of you are on similar schedules, coordinating times and plans will naturally be easier.

What do you feel are the benefits of dating someone with the same career as you? Share your thoughts below!

Date Idea: Get Wet and Wild on the Water





With this great summer weather, it's time to have some fun in the sun. What better way to do that than by getting wet and wild on the water?

Grab your boo and head out on the water for some great waves and fun. If you don't have your own boat, why not rent one for the day? Head out to Montauk or take a ride around New York City to see some memorable sites, and cherish the time you get to spend with your love. Bring along some lunch or dinner to make your own romantic meal on the water.

If you're up for more intense action, rent a jet ski and get crazy. It's sure to be an adventure! If you're on the West Coast and are ready to have some extreme fun, why not go white water rafting? This gives you an excuse to get close to your honey when you're going over steep falls or bumps.

If you don't feel ready to hop on a jet ski or go white water rafting, take a dip in the water and go for a nice swim with your beau. In the Midwest? The Great Lakes are a "great" option. Take a trip to Southwest Michigan and indulge in some beautiful lakeside beaches, like Silver Beach in St. Joseph.

No matter what you and your partner choose to do, you're bound to have tons of fun in the sun.

Do you have any tips on how to get wet and wild on the water this weekend? Share your thoughts below!

'The Bachelorette' Reality TV Star Ashley Hebert Says Her Sister's Reaction to J.P. Was Shocking



[Ashley Hebert](#) looked forward to introducing Ben Flajnik and

[J.P. Rosenbaum](#), the final two contenders on [The Bachelorette season 7](#), to her family. Her whole family loved Flajnik, but Rosenbaum didn't have the same luck. In fact, her sister was especially disapproving of her relationship and love with the contestant. *The Bachelorette* star told [People](#), "What bothered me the most was not that she didn't approve but how aggressive and unsupportive she was. All I needed at this point was someone to be supportive of whatever I was feeling...and she wasn't." Although she was crushed by her sister's reaction, Hebert decided to take her opinion with a grain of salt: "I used her uncertainty to make me ask the questions I was scared to ask but by no means did it change the way I felt about him." Hebert followed her heart and recently celebrated her celebrity engagement with Rosenbaum.

Hebert's sister wasn't thrilled about *Bachelorette* contestant Rosenbaum. What do you do if your family doesn't support your relationship and love?

Cupid's Advice:

You're torn inside. You love your partner, but your family doesn't think he or she is right for you. If you're really close to your family and value their opinion, it may be very difficult to be in this situation. Cupid has some love advice on what you can do to ease the tension:

1. Get to the heart of the issue: Talk to your family members. Find out exactly what bothers them about your boyfriend or girlfriend. Do they think your partner's not good enough for you? Do they think they are having a negative influence on you? Maybe they're simply afraid of losing you. It's important

to communicate!

Related Link: [Former 'Bachelorette' Desiree Hartsock Shares Celebrity Wedding Photos](#)

2. Be firm: In order to confront your family's prejudices, you need to be firm. Tell them that you hope that they can be happy for you. Instead of asking them if they approve of your relationship and love, assert that you would be grateful to receive their support for your decision.

Related Link: [Reality TV Host Chris Harrison Reveals Twist for New Season of 'The Bachelorette'](#)

3. Allow for bonding: You've tried convincing your folks that your significant other is a great person, and it turns out that words alone won't do the trick. Your next best bet is to have them spend time with your beau so that they can get to know each other better. Try to find some common ground between them.

Ever had a boyfriend or girlfriend your folks disliked? Share your story below!

Kim Kardashian Chooses Wedding Dress Designer Vera Wang





Bride-to-be Kim Kardashian has been in the media a lot lately, due to her recent engagement to Kris Humphries. Well, she's now being examined for what her wedding dress will look like. Kardashian revealed Monday that Vera Wang will be designing her wedding gown, according to UsMagazine.com. "Vera has been a close family friend for a long time and we had talked about this moment for years," Kardashian, 30, wrote on her blog. "So when it came to picking my wedding dress designer, she was the first person I thought of. No one designs gowns the way she does!"

How do you make choosing a wedding dress a special occasion?

Cupid's Advice:

Just have fun with it! Here are three ways to make shopping for your wedding gown an unforgettable experience:

1. Don't go by yourself: Everything always seems more fun if the ones you love are involved. Nothing is different about shopping for your wedding dress. You want the people that you cherish to come help you along the way. They don't necessarily have to make the ultimate decision for you, but if you value

them, you value their opinion.

2. Keep your big day in mind: It may get very stressful, but if you constantly keep your big day in mind, you have no choice but to smile. Think about the reason you're shopping, because the happiest day of your life is soon to come. Don't let minor things spoil this special occasion.

3. Take pictures: Take pictures? Of you in the dress shops making a decision? Yes! Memories last a lifetime, and if you can look back on those photos, you'll know that you made gown shopping an unforgettable experience.

How did you make choosing a wedding dress a special experience? Share below in a comment.

Alexis Knapp Gives Her Baby Ryan Phillippe's Last Name





Evidence is piling up! Alexis Knapp's baby girl just turned one month old, and the name of the child, born July 1st, is Kailani Merizalde Phillippe Knapp. Her middle name is the same as her mom's. Phillippe's last name is included on her birth certificate, suggesting the actor is most likely the father. That said, the father section on the certificate is left blank. According to [People](#), Phillippe was in the waiting room at the time of the delivery.

What are some ways to compromise with your partner on a baby name?

Cupid's Pulse:

One of the first sources of disagreements between you and your partner may be your first baby's name. It's okay to have disagreements in a relationship, but it's important to approach them in the right way. Cupid has some ideas on how to come to an agreement about your newborn child's name:

1. Pick a theme: Your partner loves the name Joseph. You

adore the name Adam. If you're having trouble agreeing on a baby name, try coming up with a theme that you both like. For example, you may find that both of you want a long name or a religious name. Once you've found a mutual theme, you can begin to narrow down your choices.

2. Use pen and paper: You may find it helpful for you and your spouse to write down all the names you would be willing to consider for your child and then share them with each other. Chances are that you will find common ground.

3. Combine: If you're both set on a name, why not be creative and combine the two? If they go well together, one can be the first name and the other can be the middle.

Do you have any advice on how to agree on a baby name? Don't be shy! Share your thoughts below.