

# Celebrity Interview: 'Famously Single' Dating Coach Dr. Darcy Sterling on Relationships, Communication & Her Own Marriage



Written By [Melissa Lee](#). Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#).

Relationship expert and dating coach Dr. Darcy Sterling is no stranger to training individuals on their communication skills. As the mentor on E!'s *Famously Single* and the co-owner of a group practice, Dr. Darcy has spent the past 21 years counseling those on their relationship skills. *Famously*

*Single* is only a sneak peek into the type of work Dr. Darcy does on a daily basis as a dating coach. As a clinical social worker, Dr. Darcy strives to help individuals open up and communicate in order to receive the most fulfilling romantic relationships possible. In our recent [celebrity interview](#), Dr. Darcy revealed some of the drama that went down on this season, key relationship issues, and how her show has helped her own marriage.

## Dr. Darcy Spills Some Drama on Season 2 of *Famously Single* in Celebrity Interview

Since the show essentially revolves around relationships, it's not a surprise that several co-stars ended up dating both during and after filming. Former *Jersey Shore* star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro and *DASH Dolls* alum Malika Haqq did not shy away from sharing details on their relationship on social media, but broke up shortly after filming ended. "I think they needed to learn how to have a fight. They had different communication styles, they needed to learn how to resolve conflict, and they needed to learn how to communicate effectively," Dr. Darcy says. She even confessed that her and wife Stephanie Koncicki offered to coach them after the show had ended, but Ronnie wasn't interested.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Interview: "The Cycle" Co-Host Aliya-Jasmine Sovani on Work, Life, Love and Balancing It All](#)

*Bachelorette* contestant Chad Johnson soon ended up revealing his love with model Zoe Baron. When asked whether or not Dr. Darcy thinks Chad has learned much from the show, she informed us that the couple had very recently broken up! "They broke up two nights ago, so you tell me," she says.

And when it comes down to Calum Best, who was also on the show

last season, Dr. Darcy explained that it was much easier to get deep down and solve his relationship conflicts. “The amazing thing with Calum is that I got to go so much deeper with him because I already had a relationship established with him, so I didn’t have to earn trust or build a foundation of a relationship,” Dr. Darcy says. “I’m a little rough on Calum this season.”

## The Advice Dr. Darcy Gives Is As Real As It Gets

As a licensed psychologist, Dr. Darcy also has her own group practice in addition to an advice column. At times, it can be up for debate whether or not the advice she gives is the same she’d give to her private clients – but she quickly shuts that down. “You have to start with the basic skills – communication skills, conflict skills, how to have a fight. Those are the biggest issues.”

She explains that regardless of whether she’s counseling in private or in the public eye on television, it is of great importance that individuals are working on their communication and conflict resolution. “We need them with all of our relationships. I need them with my friends, family, even my clients.”

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Break-Up: ‘Famously Single’ Stars Ronnie Magro & Malika Haqq Have Split](#)

Dr. Darcy further emphasized the fact that feelings get hurt in relationships, and it’s somehow inevitable. “We need to know how to have a fight, and how to communicate when someone’s hurt our feelings because in relationships, we hurt each other’s feelings,” she says. “Everyone does it.”

# ***Famously Single* Improved Her Marriage**

Dr. Darcy married her partner, Stephanie, in 2009. She mentioned that Stephanie also does relationship counseling, but coaches couples together, whereas Dr. Darcy prefers one-on-one. “We teach relationship skills all the time. We’re incredibly mindful of practicing what we preach, and it’s really enhanced our relationship,” Dr. Darcy disclosed.

The two even have an online course together called “Relationship Skills Bootcamp.” The workshop is designed to teach participants to improve skills within their relationship, similarly to the way their face-to-face counseling is.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Interview: Former ‘Bachelorette’ Ali Fedotowsky Shares Her Tips on Staying Fit as a New Mom](#)

It turns out that hosting *Famously Single* has actually been a huge positive influence on her marriage. “We’re much better to each other, we’re more careful, we’re on our toes with each other,” she says. “How many people say getting a television show actually enhanced the relationship?”

*Tune into Famously Single on Sundays on E! to see what relationship advice Dr. Darcy is giving this week!*

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## **Celebrity Interview: Dr. Darcy Sterling Reveals Chad**

# Johnson and Zoe Baron Split



By [Mallory McDonald](#)

Dr. Darcy Sterling, television personality and star of E! Network's hit show *Famously Single* hosted a Season Two viewing party at CRAVEN restaurant in New York City last night. Lori Bizzoco, the founder and executive editor of Cupidspulse.com, got an [exclusive interview](#) with Dr. Darcy onsite. When asked if the work former [Bachelorette](#) contestant Chad Johnson did on the show, led to the success of his relationship with model Zoe Baron, Dr. Darcy shocked us with the news that the [celebrity couple](#) broke up two days ago!

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couple News: 'Bachelorette' Villain Chad Johnson Is Dating Zoe Baron](#)



Tune into to E! on Sunday nights at 10/9c to watch Dr. Darcy work with Chad Johnson on *Famously Single*!!

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# Celebrity Interview: 'Famously Single' Star Dr. Darcy Reveals Her Favorite Cast Members & Those Who Surprised Her Most



By [Rebecca White](#)

Over a year ago, Dr. Darcy Sterling received an email inviting her to audition for a new reality TV series, *Famously Single*, which focuses on helping eight single celebrities work through their relationship problems. Having made her television debut on E! in 2011, the network was familiar with her, so she flew out, auditioned, and the rest is history. Her experience as a licensed clinical social worker and relationship expert facilitates her work to help individuals and couples who want more out of life. She hosts workshops focused on psychology and runs a Q&A blog. In our exclusive [celebrity interview](#), Dr. Darcy dishes on the *Famously Single* cast members, from who was her favorite to who surprised her the most, and shares her best [relationship advice](#).

## **Dr. Darcy Dishes On *Famously Single* Cast In This Celebrity Interview**

In the latest [celebrity news](#), before filming the show began, Dr. Darcy reveals that she was most concerned about working with *Jersey Shore* star Pauly D. “Based on what I knew of him, which was very little, he’s a big prankster always making wise cracks. I thought he was going to be the difficult, oppositional child in the classroom,” the social worker shares. “He actually turned out to be one of my favorites! Not that a mom really has favorites, but he was a delight to work with. He came in so earnest and really showed up with an openness to the process that made it so easy to work with him.” However, now that she’s finished filming the show, Dr. Darcy says that Somaya Reece surprised her the most. On the show, Reece shared her story of domestic abuse and became a poster child for resilience. “How she bounced back from that was mind-boggling,” Dr. Darcy says. “It speaks to human resilience and she is such an inspiration.”

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Interview: ‘RHOD’ Star Stephanie Hollman Says Her Life Is All About Her Family](#)

The main premise of the reality TV series is to teach relationship skills to celebrities who are infamous for being single. But since filming ended, the celebrities who have the best chance of finding love after this experience are those who were able to learn about themselves. "Those celebs that walked away learning about themselves, taking personal responsibility, recognizing that they've made mistakes in the past that having nothing to do with being famous are the ones who have the best chance at finding love," the therapist says. While being famous supersedes relationship problems, notoriety doesn't create problems that didn't pre-exist. With Dr. Darcy leading the group therapy sessions, these celebs can't use fame as the reason for their relationship issues. "The fact that they're famous is not justification for why they're single," the psychologist shares. After discussing their issues and teaching them relationship skills, the celebrities have had a chance to practice these skills through interacting with each other and mock dates.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Interview: 'RHOD' Star Cary Deuber Says Co-Star LeeAnne is "Loud and Obnoxious"](#)

The [celebrity couple](#) who made the biggest splash in the headlines was Brandi Glanville and Calum Best, who began dating on the show. Although their courtship has ended, Dr. Darcy says both celebrities have learned a lot about themselves from the experience. "Brandi is much more aware of certain things she's done and Calum has thrown himself into yoga, which is major progress for him," she adds. "The show wasn't meant to create long-term sustainable change, though. It was intended to provoke a level of awareness in everyone and ignite a desire in each individual to go on their own journey and do their own work." After working with the celebs, the therapist says that Glanville does tend to pick the wrong people for her, but that there is a reason she's attracted to certain types of people. "Brandi has done a lot of work on herself and her work's not done," she says. After all is said



and done, Dr. Darcy said filming *Famously Single* was an amazing and challenging experience, saying, “I would love a second season.”

## Reality TV Therapist Shares Best Relationship Advice

From filming a hit reality TV show to managing time with her clients, Dr. Darcy has a busy schedule. However, she knows that her relationship needs to be her top priority. “You cannot give everything you have away at work,” she says. “You have to come home with a little reserved. It’s unacceptable to come home on empty.” The reality TV therapist says that relationships require work every single day and that it’s a fallacy that relationships “shouldn’t feel like work.” If you’re struggling to manage your relationship and busy lifestyle, think back to what created your relationship. Think back to the beginning when you courted, seduced, supported, encouraged, and admired your partner. After the honeymoon phase, relationships are about self-discipline. “You have to incorporate it into your everyday life,” Dr. Darcy says. “This is the person you want to show up most for, not the least.” In her own relationship with her wife Stephanie, it is all about self-care. The duo makes sure they are highly involved with hobbies, such as yoga, dance, meditation, and CrossFit. “Steph and I try to walk the walk,” she shares. “There have been times when we haven’t engaged in the level of self-care we need to and our clients reflect that. They don’t absorb the information if we don’t walk the walk.”

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Interview: Reality TV Matchmaker Carmelia Ray Says, “Take Actions That Are Consistent With Your Commitments”](#)

The most important skill to maintaining a healthy relationship is communication. “You have to be willing to listen to your partner, even when you’re tired and feel like they’re picking

on you,” Dr. Darcy says. It is crucial that you actively listen, remain quiet, and control the impulse to be defensive. You have to mirror back and paraphrase what they said so they know you listened to them and you know you understood. Most of the time, your partner just wants to be heard. “If you can deliver that to your partner, you have a basis of a great relationship,” she says. Once you learn the basic relationship skills, all of your relationships will improve because you will use these same skills with your family and friends. “I really hope people are motivated to learn about relationship skills because the quality of our lives is predicated on the quality of our relationships,” Dr. Darcy reveals. “It’s the most important thing in our lives and nobody teaches us.” At the end of the day, the best love advice from Dr. Darcy is the metaphor: “Use the good china every night.” Relationships are about showing up for your partner the same way you would for a stranger or company that you’re trying to impress. Make every day a date and bring romance into everything you do.

*Famously Single* *airs on Tuesday’s at 10 p.m. on E!*

*You can keep up with Dr. Darcy on her [website](#) or [Twitter](#).*