

# Find Out Why Ellen Barkin Called Off Celebrity Engagement to Ben Emmerson



By Maggie Manfredi

No more wedding bells! According to [UsMagazine.com](http://UsMagazine.com), celebrity couple Ellen Barkin and Ben Emmerson have called it quits on their celebrity engagement. A source said, "Ellen got swept up in the whole idea of Ben – marrying a British lawyer, moving to London, living that life. Also, the idea of meeting him at George's wedding was so romantic." The celebrity engagement was only a few weeks at the end of a very quick relationship that started at George Clooney's celebrity wedding. The *Sea of Love* actress ended it and returned the ring to the human

rights lawyer.

## **Even celebrity engagements don't always end in a celebrity marriage. What are some ways to know it's time to call off your engagement?**

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

Celebrity couple Barkin and Emmerson got swept up in lust. But the only way for the ring to stay is if there is true love. Cupid has some tips on how to know it's time to call off the wedding plans:

**1. Picture your future:** The best way to know if this engagement is built to last is by looking to your future together. Do you see yourselves growing old together, possibly children, living the "what's mine is yours" life. If you can't see past the short term, it might be time to say goodbye.

**Related Link:** [Find Out Details Behind George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin's Wedding Prep](#)

**2. Understand your differences:** Your love will not be exactly the same as you; hopefully they challenge you, surprise you and excite you. But some differences are game changers. For example: do you both want to have kids? Do you plan on living in the same place? Asking these questions will help you know if it is meant to be.

**Related Link:** [George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin Have Civil Ceremony in Venice](#)

**3. Don't make excuses:** If something just doesn't feel right don't make excuses. There are going to be bumps along the road and every relationship has its ups and downs, but if you don't

see it working out move on like Barkin. Take the time you need then get back out there, Mr. Right is out there!

Who do you think the gorgeous Ellen Barkin will lust after next? Share your predictions below!

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## Is Brad Pitt Ruining Your Love Life?



We know how effective media is in shaping our perspective and even our values, including our self-image. We know that being bombarded with images of beautiful men and women molds our vision of attractiveness. As we mature, we know it's fantasy,

and that even Hollywood beauties don't look that stunning without professional hair, make-up, wardrobe and lighting.

By now, you've probably seen the Dove video called "Evolution." It shows how an attractive woman morphs into a fabulous knockout through professional hair, make-up, lighting, and yes, even Photoshop.

### **How do these unrealistic images affect your dating life?**

**1. They can influence your expectation of a man's looks.** Very few men, especially middle-aged men, look anything close to George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Colin Firth or Pearce Bronson. While we realize these men personify an unattainable ideal, some small part of many women want – and perhaps expect – their guys to look as yummy.

**2. The Photoshopped images of pencil-thin people on magazine covers and in movies exacerbates women's feelings of inadequacy.** Actresses like Cher, Teri Hatcher, Vanessa Williams, Julia Roberts, Helen Mirren, Glenn Close and Ellen Barkin are sparkling in their perfection – with personal trainers, private chefs, and perhaps a bit of nip-tuck. How many real-life middle-aged women do you see looking like that? Just as women have unrealistic expectations of a man's looks, so, too, men have an idealized expectation that women should look like these air-brushed fantasy females.

So it seems like a lose-lose for both genders.

We think (hope?) that as one matures, people realize that these movie star looks are really just fantasy. But unfortunately, I've found both men and women hold themselves and their potential dates to standards that nearly no one meets in real life.

### **So what can you do?**

**1. Play up your own physical attributes:** Got beautiful eyes?

Don't hide them behind glasses. Get a makeover if you haven't had one in years, or make an appointment with a free personal shopper at a department store to help you dress to look your best.

**2. Realize that there are many good people underneath a few bags, sags and extra pounds:** While we know that goodness has nothing to do with outer appearances, we sometimes get caught up or put off by what we see. I've gone out with many wonderful men who aren't gorgeous. The thing is, they got more attractive as I got to know their kind hearts, senses of humor and caring natures.

*Dating Goddess is the author of the 13-book Adventures in Delicious Dating After 40 series. For information on her books and her blog, go to <http://www.DatingGoddess.com>.*