

Date Idea: Carve Your Way Into His Heart



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

This [date idea](#) begins at your local pumpkin patch, farmer's market, or supermarket where you and your significant other can pick out the perfect pumpkins to decorate for Halloween. Don't buy only two pumpkins; grab a bunch of different sizes so you can make your very own pumpkin patch. To strengthen your relationship and love on this date idea, all you need are some pumpkins and a little creativity!

Get Creative With This Pumpkin-

Themed Date Idea

This date idea is a little messy but really fun. You can attempt all sorts of themes with your jack-o-lanterns. Try making scary and happy faces. If you're really artistic, pull out all the stops and carve your pumpkins into someone's likeness, like a celebrity or maybe even your beau. If you don't feel like making faces, you can dress up your pumpkin in fun patterns instead. You don't have to be skilled with a knife to make them look great! Consider decorating them with a little glue and glitter or paint to make a glitzy jack-o-lantern. It doesn't matter how they turn out; the main thing is to give it your best shot and enjoy the time with your partner.

Related Link: [Top 10 Halloween Treats For Your Mate That Won't Ruin Their Waistline](#)

You two may have so much fun that you'll want to keep going! Spread your happiness around by buying smaller pumpkins and carving or decorating them to give as gifts to your friends and family. Place yours around your house, inside and out, to really get your home ready for Halloween.

Related Link: [Best Celebrity Couple Costumes for Halloween](#)

Carving pumpkins is also the perfect time for you and honey to discuss your Halloween costume ideas. Consider this dating advice and think about choosing a couples costume this year. Get into the spirit of this weekend date idea by munching on Halloween snacks and treats and putting on a Halloween playlist or movie to entertain and inspire you.

After you're done with the carving and clean-up, you can even try your hand at making delicious dried pumpkin seeds from the leftovers. You and your partner will have plenty to talk about – like your favorite Halloween memory – as you express your

creative side!

Have you and your mate carved pumpkins together before? Tell us about it below!

Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Is there anything more romantic than staying up all night to spend some quality alone time with your partner? Cupid has some [dating advice](#) to deepen your relationship and love by connecting under the light of the moon. For this [date idea](#),

you need nothing, but each other...and maybe a little caffeine!

Be Playful with This Romantic Date Idea

Staying up past your bedtime will make you both feel like kids again. And there's so much you can do together as you waste the night away! Use this time to talk and get to know each other even better. Consider playing a game like Would You Rather or Truth or Dare to get the conversation flowing. Or get out your old family photos and learn more about each other's childhoods.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Spend an Intimate Night Indoors](#)

If you're in a playful mood, you may want to play a card game or pull out those board games from the back of your closet. You don't even have to follow the rules! Since you have all night, try combining two games and coming up with your own guidelines to create something new together. This weekend date idea should be light-hearted and fun. Make coffee, hot chocolate, or tea to keep those eyelids from drooping. And don't forget a midnight snack!

To make this date idea even more romantic, light candles around the house. Since the weather is nice this time of year, you can venture outside and star gaze while you snuggle together under a blanket. See how many constellations you can name – you can check your work with an app like SkyView. Don't forget to make a wish on any shooting stars you might see!

Related Link: [Date Idea: Slumber Party](#)

You'll be making memories you can cherish for years to come. Since the nighttime is often free of distractions (like work e-mails and texts to answers), your relationship and love will be stronger after taking this dating advice. Perhaps the moon

will allow you to see your partner in a totally new light. This could be a story to tell your grandkids!

Have you ever stayed up all night with your honey? Share with us in the comments below!

Love Advice: Get Your Country On



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Put on your cowboy boots, because this [date idea](#) will have y'all traveling to a dude ranch! You'll have a barrel of laughs as you ride horses, stop by the rodeo, and even learn

to square dance.

Pick Up New Skills with This Country-Themed Date Idea

For this date idea, you and your partner will head to a nearby dude ranch. They have a lot of fun weekend activities for you two to enjoy. Channel your inner cowgirl and boy as you're taught how to ride horses and use a lasso. You might even catch a rodeo. Whether you're horseback riding through mountain trails or hiking along a river, this is the perfect opportunity to connect with each other and with nature. Take this [dating advice](#) and make sure to snap lots of pictures so your friends and family can see how much fun you had.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Get Thrifty](#)

Some dude ranches offer a variety of sports activities, including archery and horseshoes. Why not turn it into a fun competition? You can even rope in (pun intended!) another couple and make some new friends. Ranches that are near lakes or rivers will often have canoeing and fishing too. If it's a hot day, take advantage of these water activities and cool off!

Next, it's time to get your country music on. You'll be sure to wrangle his heart as you spin each other around the dance floor and learn to square dance. Your relationship and love will grow as you and your significant other try to keep up with the quick pace of the tunes. You two will impress your friends next time you pull out your new moves; you might even have a secret talent for it.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Hunt for Love](#)

Don't forget to dress the part too! Because these are mostly

outdoor activities, you don't want to wear anything too nice. You'll be comfortable in jeans and boots or sneakers. If you plan on getting on a horse, make sure you're wearing long pants. Bring a cowboy hat if you have one!

You and your beau will have a blast on this country-themed weekend date idea. Doing something outside your comfort zone will help you connect on a totally new level. Not to mention, you'll have plenty of great pictures and lots of happy memories together after the day is done!

Have you and your honey ever visited a dude ranch? Tell us below!

Date Idea: Honoring 9/11





By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

[Date ideas](#) can't always be about romance, flowers, and fun. Some days, like September 11th, need to be spent in reflection and deference for spiritual renewal. The terrible events in American history on this day still have repercussions that reverberate in our society nearly 18 years later. September 11th is known as Patriot Day and is a national day of service. Cupid has some [dating advice](#) for a date night to mark this significant occasion.

Connect With Your Partner With This Volunteering Date Idea

The events of September 11, 2001 were undoubtedly damaging to our country in countless ways. On this day, pay homage by helping to fix some of the problems in your community. Visit your local homeless shelter or VA Hospital. Volunteer for a cause that matters to you, whether it be related to food, justice, education, the environment, or something else – as long as it's important to you. We can't change the events of

past, but we can do something to better our future.

Related Link: [Expert Dating Advice: 5 First Date Ideas to Get Past the Winter Blues](#)

Take pride in your country by visiting a 9/11 or veteran's memorial. Some cities have museum exhibits, and many places host non-denominational memorial services you can attend. You can also support the troops by working with one of the many organizations that collect cards and packages to send to soldiers overseas. You may consider signing up as a volunteer for a disaster preparedness group, such as FEMA or the Red Cross. You and your partner can research and make an emergency plan together if you don't already have one.

Related Link: [Expert Dating Advice: Tired of Online Dating Sites? 3 Ways to Get Off As Quick As Possible](#)

Another way to follow this dating advice is to watch a 9/11 documentary or read a book about the tragic day with your sweetheart. Two acclaimed films you can check out are *The Second Day* and *Project Rebirth*. Consider picking up a historical book about the events leading up to and including Patriot Day. If you are looking for a shorter read, check out *A Time of Gifts* by the late Stephen Jay Gould, published just days after the Twin Towers were hit.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Explore Love on a Road Trip](#)

Participating in these date idea activities with your significant other will deepen your relationship and love. Connecting over issues you both believe in will draw you together and make your partnership stronger. Seeing your partner interact with a young child, sick patient, or the elderly will give you a better understanding of their values. Before volunteering, make sure you and significant other are on the same page and have similar goals and expectations for the day.

How will you honor 9/11? Tell us below.

Date Idea: Kidnap Him!



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Of course, we don't mean that you should *actually* kidnap your sweetheart! But a faux kidnapping surprise is a great way to spice up your relationship and love. This [date idea](#) is about catching him off guard and showing off your spontaneous side.

Be Romantic and Exciting With This

Spontaneous Date Idea

Surprise your significant other in the morning by telling him you're kidnapping him for the day. He'll love how genuine and carefree you are. Just remember to stealthily check his schedule ahead of time and make sure that he doesn't have something important planned.

For this date idea, you should have a whole day filled with surprises for him. For starters, whisk him out of bed and take him to a big pancake breakfast for the two of you. Don't tell him ahead of time where else you're going; it's for you to know and him to find out!

Related Link: [Date Idea: Mid-Year Resolutions](#)

With this relationship advice, you'll be visiting some of your favorite past date spots. Think back on your relationship and the places you fell in love, then head out to the places that have significance for you as a couple. You can go to where you first met, where you had your first date or kiss, and where you first told each other "I love you." It will be very romantic to recall all those special moments together.

Related Link: [Date Idea: One, Two, Walk in My Shoes](#)

To make this weekend date idea even more exciting, consider adding a treasure hunt component. After you kidnap him in the morning, give him a set of clues that you and him will follow throughout the day. It's a great chance to test your riddle skills! Give the day some variety by not just visiting places but doing activities too. Stop at locations where you can do a project or play a game together.

Related Link: [Relationship Advice: How to Approach Social Media Post-Breakup](#)

This date idea is great for seeing how far you've come as a

couple as well as all of the possibilities you have for the future. After your spontaneous day, have a relaxed and romantic candlelight dinner waiting at home and end this date on the right note.

What kind of spontaneous date ideas have you planned? Tell us below!

Date Ideas: Make a Spooktacular Spectacle as a Couple



By Emma L. Wells. Updated by [Josh Ringler](#)

Make this Halloween extra special for you, your partner, and all of your neighbors by going all out with your decorations this year. For this [date idea](#), one of the many you'll find from Cupid, you and your partner can get busy hanging fake spider webs and spooky ghosts around the house in preparation for the trick-or-treaters.

Get ready for a great Halloween with this date idea.

Whether you're going full-out scary or want a playful Halloween look, you'll need to stock up on supplies. Grab your honey and set off for the local superstore. You'll want to fill your cart up with creepy ghouls, fake gravestones, and maybe a skeleton or two. One of the many fun pieces of [dating advice](#) for this idea is to have a competition for who can make the scariest component in your yard! If you want to freak out your trick-or-treaters, think about getting things that glow in the dark or are motion-sensored. Or, you can go the opposite route and create a more lighthearted, kid-friendly setting by making your own jack-o-lantern pumpkin patch. Just like a relationship, make sure to compromise! That is always a great piece of dating advice. You can buy fake ones at the store that will last for years, or you can carve your own to add a personal touch to the scene.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Haunted History](#)

After your trip to the Halloween store, you and your partner can get into the spooky spirit. It'll be fun to work together on this weekend date idea! You'll see how well your creative sides mesh as you plan your decorations. Bonus: You'll find out just how handy he can be while hanging skeletons and setting up lights. He might be more skilled with a toolkit

than you thought! Learning new things about your significant other can be very beneficial for your relationship, especially if it's a new one.

Don't forget the candy, too! After putting in so much effort to make your house perfect for Halloween, you'll want to make sure you're prepared for all the trick-or-treaters who will be ringing your doorbell. You can either buy an assortment of treats at the store, or you and your partner can have some fun in the kitchen making your own cookies, candied apples, and popcorn balls.

Related Link: [Best Celebrity-Inspired Halloween Candy Choices](#)

This date idea doesn't end with the decorations. Once you've made over your house, it's time to take a look in the mirror. You lovebirds will need great costumes to wear while passing out treats on Halloween. If you want more Halloween date ideas, costume shopping together always works! You might consider going as your favorite celebrity couple like [Kanye West](#) and [Kim Kardashian](#) or a well-known duo like ketchup and mustard. Whatever you choose, this weekend date idea is one the whole neighborhood will enjoy!

How are you and your sweetheart preparing for Halloween together? Can you think of any celebrity couples that go all out for Halloween? Tell us below!

Season 11 'Bachelorette' Contestants Revealed!



By Emma L. Wells

For the first time in [Bachelorette](#) history, the men have the power...at least for for the May 18th premiere. 25 lucky lads will get to vote on which two ladies – Kaitlyn Bristowe or Britt Nilsson – will be the *Bachelorette* for season 11. Both women made their reality TV debut on last season of *The Bachelor* and are back again on their search for a relationship and love. After the men make the decision, the power will transfer back to *The Bachelorette* who will pick 19 of them to move into the house. And who are these special guys? See the full list on [UsMagazine.com](#).

***Bachelorette* stars Kaitlyn Bristowe and Britt Nilsson will have their**

pick of well qualified men come May 18th. Why is it a good idea to consider your partner's occupation before starting a relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

There are many factors to consider when deciding whether someone is a good romantic match for you. While you might be inclined to think that occupation isn't important Cupid has some love advice on why this factor shouldn't be ignored:

1. Time is money: Can your significant other give you the time commitment you're looking for? If you're new beau has a high-powered career that probably means long hours and less time with you. If you're looking for a serious relationship, then this probably isn't an ideal situation.

Related Link: [Exclusive Celebrity Interview: 'The Bachelorette' Star Desiree Hartsock Says Confidence is Key to Finding Mr. Right](#)

2. Get down to business: No matter what the fairy tales say research shows that relationships between people with similar education levels usually have a higher rate of success. While there are always exceptions to the rule it can be prudent to look for a partner who has had a similar education and work path as you. This way you'll automatically have a better understanding of each other's situations.

Related Link: ['The Bachelorette' Celebrity Couple Desiree Hartsock & Chris Siegfried Get Married!](#)

3. Work hard, play hard: Knowing a potential suitor's career ambitions can be very important. Are they up for a promotion that's going to take them to an office out of state? Are they

looking for a job where they have to travel consistently? If you're looking to stay put then this isn't an ideal match. Minimize the possibility for heartbreak by making sure you and soon-to-be sweetheart have similar life goals and plans.

Is work a factor in determining your relationships? Tell us below!

Marc Allen Gives Simple Love Advice in 'Tantra for the West: A Direct Path to Living the Life of Your Dreams'





By Emma L. Wells

Marc Allen spent 30 years studying and practicing Tantra. Now, he has compiled everything he has learned into his new book, *Tantra for the West: A Direct Path to Living the Life of Your Dreams*. The relationship author explains that Tantra is a set of practical tools people can use on their path to happiness. His book is interspersed with expert relationship advice and anecdotes from his own journey to provide readers with a better understanding of Tantra and how it can help in so many different aspects of life. Not only is it a [self-help relationship book](#), but it also provides solutions to problems about work, money, aging, and so much more.

Marc Allen Provides Easy Love Advice in New Book

You say that Tantra is not the “yoga of sex,” like many people believe. Can you share a true definition of Tantra for our readers?

If you Google “Tantra” or study Tantric Buddhism or Tantric

Hinduism, like I did, it's a much broader definition that you could call the "Yoga of Every Moment" or the "Practice of Every Moment and Everything." It includes sex, but it includes every other moment of your life too. Don't get hung up on the word "Tantra." If it doesn't resonate with you, then pick another word. You can call it the "Magical Path" or "Creative Visualization." You can call it anything you want! The words don't matter, but when you look at every moment of your life as opportunity for growth and practice, everything changes. *That* is a direct path to real fulfillment and peace.

You touch on so many different aspects of life in your book: relationships and love, work, money, aging, politics, and more. Which subjects do you think are most important for people today?

I think it totally varies with the person and where they are in life. Certainly, romance is incredibly valuable. It's valuable to learn how to have relationships and love, and when you look at it through the lens of Tantra, you could say, "I'm on my own unique path through life, and I'm on a path that involves every moment of my life and therefore every relationship I have." Relationships are a key to fulfillment for peace, and if you work out your relationship, you work out the rest of your life.

Can you give specific love advice for our readers who are single and wanting to improve their love life through these teachings?

My best love advice is to learn how to work in partnership with everyone. Every relationship and love should be a win-win. So in intimate relationships, don't look for a lover. Instead, look for a partner; look for someone you can really support in realizing their dreams. That's what our intimate relationships are for. We're supporting each other in realizing our dreams, whatever they may be. The game in relationships is to embrace everyone you meet but especially

your intimate partners, saying “I want to support you in doing what you love – how can I do that?”

You’ll find when you do that, you get that back from them. If you’re in a relationship where your significant other is not understanding what effective partnership is all about or if you’re in a relationship with a person who’s trying to control you or, God forbid, abuse you in any way, those are the relationships to leave. If your partner doesn’t get that, then I would say you deserve someone better!

Relationship Author Teaches Readers Through His Own Experiences

You seem to draw a lot on your own experience when you are writing. Is it hard for you to put your own journey into the story, or does it just come naturally?

I sometimes think maybe I talk too much about my personal life, but people really seem to like it. My story is the path I know best. You observe other people, but by seeing them from the outside, you never really see the inner work that they’re doing. On the other hand, you know your own inner work – and it’s the inner work that’s important.

Once I did the inner work – by creating the life that I wanted and the company that I wanted and by becoming a writer, a composer, and a publisher – the outer work was simple and obvious. I often think at least 99 percent of the important work that I did was all internal.

If you had to sum up your book and what your trying to do with your work in just a few sentences, what would you say?

This book is filled with simple tools that lazy people, like me, can use. They don’t require discipline or getting up early. They don’t require anything daily. I’ve found that any practice that people have to do everyday never worked for me.

I gave up New Years' resolutions years ago – they never worked for me.

I spent four years at various Buddhist centers. At the Zen Center, we got up at 5:30 a.m., and at the Tibetan Center, we got up at 6:30 a.m. I left because they weren't working for me; I'm not a morning person. I need a lifestyle that recognizes who I am. The path to Tantra is all about looking at every moment and saying, "Every moment is my path." You could say, "Every moment is my spiritual path," or you could say, "Every moment is my analysis." The world is offering me all this wonderful free analysis if I just open myself up to it and see what is. You could call that the path to Tantra.

You can keep up with Marc on his website, <http://www.marcallen.com/>. Don't forget to pick up your copy of Tantra for the West: A Direct Path to Living the Life of Your Dreams!

New Photos: The Countdown to 'The Bachelorette' Begins With Britt and Kaitlyn





By Emma L. Wells

The countdown begins for [The Bachelorette](#) season 11 premiere and in order to get us even more pumped up for the reality TV show ABC released some stunning photos from a shoot with the two *Bachelorettes*, Kaitlyn Bristowe and Britt Nilsson. [People.com](#) reports that Bristowe and Nilsson have ditched the usually colorful gowns we're accustomed to seeing on *Bachelorettes* and opted for some silvery grey numbers which fit the season's tagline, '50 Shades of Cray.' The two girls, who battled for Chris Soules on season 19 of [The Bachelor](#), will once again face off for relationships and love in a two part premiere on May 18th.

Britt Nilsson and Kaitlyn Bristowe let their personalities shine through their grey dresses for 'The Bachelorette' promo shoot. How can

you make a good impression and pick the perfect first date outfit?

Cupid's Advice:

Most people don't like to admit it but we often judge others based on their appearance the first time we meet them. That's why a first date outfit can have a big impact on whether or not someone asks you out again. Have no fear, here is some love advice on how to put together the right ensemble...

1. Be appropriate: The first thing you should consider when picking your first date outfit is what you're going to be doing on the date. Different outfits are more appropriate for dinner and a movie versus a hike and a picnic. You may have a great pair of sparkly stilettos but you probably shouldn't wear them if you and your date are headed to a street fair. If you don't know where you're going then try to pick a neutral outfit such as a loose dress or jeans and a nice top.

2. Be yourself: If you're the type of girl who wears jeans and a t-shirt 99% of the time, you'll give the wrong impression of yourself if you show up to your date wearing your roommate's body-con dress. When you're picking your outfit select something that represents the "real" you. If the date you're going on doesn't really allow you to dress like yourself, consider asking him nicely if you can do possibly do something else.

Be on time: Being fashionably late is acceptable for a large party but not for a one-on-one date. It's easy to overthink a decision like this. Don't get anxious and wrapped up in your head. If you can't find the perfect first date outfit don't worry, just be sure to wow him with your personality!

What's your go-to first date outfit? Tell us below!

Will Chris Soules Be Tuning in to Watch His Celebrity Exes on 'The Bachelorette' Season 11?



By Emma L. Wells

The premiere of [The Bachelorette](#) season 11 is less than three weeks away. We know we'll be watching, but what about former *Bachelor* Chris Soules? It's understandable that he may not want to tune in to the reality TV show to watch two of his celebrity exes – [Kaitlyn Bristowe](#) and [Britt Nilsson](#) – search

for a relationship and love. “Kaitlyn and Britt were obviously a part of my life, and I’m interested to see how their journey goes,” Soules told People.com. “Honestly, right now, I’m okay with that part of my life being behind me.” Since *The Bachelor*, Soules certainly seems to have moved on to a happy celebrity engagement with his fiancé Whitney Biscoff. However, just because Prince Farming is busy with *Dancing with the Stars* doesn’t mean he’ll be able to avoid *The Bachelorette*. “Whitney will definitely be watching, so I’ll probably be watching,” he joked.

Former *Bachelor* Chris Soules says he still cares for his celebrity exes. What are some ways you can be friends with your ex after your relationship and love ends?

Cupid’s Advice:

When it comes to relationships and love, just because you have ended your romantic partnership doesn’t mean you don’t want to see your ex anymore. Being friends after a break-up isn’t easy, but Cupid has some tips on how you can make it work:

1. Don’t force it: You shouldn’t force a friendship on anyone, ex-lover or not. Similarly, forming a platonic relationship with your ex has to happen naturally. If romantic feelings or resentments remain, it won’t be possible. Give yourself time to grieve and move on. Once you’ve adjusted to life apart, then it may be time to offer your friendship. Don’t rush into this phase immediately following a split.

Related Link: [‘The Bachelorette’ Battle Begins as Season 11 Promo is Released!](#)

2. Think about your language: It'll be easier to be friends if you don't refer to them as your ex anymore; you're heading in the right direction once you can introduce them simply as your friend. You should be prepared for a bit of an awkward phase to start out. Recognize that it's an adjustment; eventually, you two will figure out how to act around each other.

Related Link: ['The Bachelor' Season 19 Contestant Britt Nilsson Faces Her Fear For Chris Soules](#)

3. Consider your new significant other's feelings: If you are able to form a friendship with your ex, keep in mind that your new partner may not understand. Be mindful of their feelings. Additionally, if you feel yourself getting jealous of your ex's new boyfriend or girlfriend, you might be harboring some residual romantic feelings. In this case, it's probably best to take a step back from the friendship until you can work through them.

Have you remained friends with any of your exes? Tell us your story below!

**Product Review: Check Out
Selfie Tan'n Go Instant
Bronzers – Just in Time for
Summer!**





This post is sponsored by Performance Brands.

By Emma L. Wells

Summer is around the corner, and Selfie Tan'n Go Instant Bronzers are just what you need to be ready for some fun in the sun with your honey! This amazing [beauty product](#) will give your skin that perfect golden glow without damaging UV rays or harsh chemicals. Check out our product review below!

Product Review: Use This Beauty Product for an Instant Glow!

Selfie Tan'n Go Instant Body Bronzer from Performance Brand is alcohol-, paraben-, DHA-, and fragrance-free, so it's moisturizing for your skin and doesn't have that weird smell that so many other body bronzers have. And unlike other fake tanners, Selfie Tan'n Go uses bursting bronzing beads to eliminate streaks and make application flawless. It even has skin firming and toning properties that help reduce the visibility of fine lines and wrinkles.

Just because the weather's warmer doesn't mean we all have time to relax and catch some rays. Thanks to this instant body bronzer, you can get that beautiful sun-kissed glow in just a few minutes. It's a perfect last-minute product to use while prepping for a dinner date with your man or a pool party with your pals. Not only does Selfie Tan'n Go dry instantly, but it washes off easily with just soap and water.

With this beauty product, you're in charge of your color. Use a thin layer to get a lightly bronzed look, or try multiple applications to get a darker tan.

You'll want to complete your look with Selfie Tan'n Go Instant Face Bronzer. It can be used alone or under makeup. Similar to the Body Bronzer, it's non-comedogenic and fragrance-free and uses revolutionary bronzing beads for a swift, streak-free glow. Plus, you can easily wash it off whenever you want. Use this set of bronzers to quickly get a perfect tan from head to toe!

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** One lucky reader will receive a prize package of Selfie Tan'n Go Instant Bronzers to help them look instantly flawless for a summer date! To enter our giveaway, complete the form on our [Contact Page](#) BEFORE 5 p.m. EST on Monday, June 1st. Pick "Giveaways" in the dropdown box and include your address as well as "Selfie Tan'n Go Instant Bronzers Giveaway" in the message field. You may enter the contest only once. Good luck!~~

Open to US residents only.

This giveaway is now closed. Thank you to all who participated!

Dating Advice: Film a Documentary During Black Friday



By Emma L. Wells

Black Friday shopping isn't for everyone. However, while stores can be hectic and crazy, if you've got a lot of holiday gifts to buy, it *is* nice to get it all done at once, especially while so many items are discounted. This year, brave the crowds with your beau! It may not be a romantic [date idea](#), but it can certainly be a fun one.

Have Fun While Being Productive on This Weekend Date Idea

It's important to stick together on this holiday weekend date idea. Combine your shopping lists and hit the stores at midnight. Instead of just running errands, make this date idea more entertaining by bringing along a camera. You can shoot all the action around you as you go from store to store. Make sure you record the craziest things you see on your Black Friday adventure.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Take a Holiday from the Holidays](#)

Take turns manning the camera as you search for gifts for everyone on your list. Try to stay out of other people's way as you frame your shot – you don't want to bother the other shoppers! Maybe you'll even find some good deals on new camera equipment that you can use for your next documentary!

Later, you can edit the film as a team and show your friends this mini-documentary. Have a "premiere party" for your video after you open holiday presents; that way, your loved ones can see how much fun you had – and how much trouble you went through! – picking out their gifts. The morning and evening news almost always showcases footage from Black Friday too. Send your local station some of the most outrageous things you saw. You never know: Maybe you two lovebirds will wind up as local celebrities!

Related Link: [Date Idea: Escape Black Friday](#)

Discover a New Passion with This Dating Advice

This experience will make for a great story to tell in the future. Consider this dating advice and think of the date idea as an opportunity to record a special moment in your

relationship and love. Perhaps you'll even discover a new mutual hobby! You budding filmmakers may want to enroll in a documentary making class after the holidays are over.

Cupid wants to know: Will you go Black Friday shopping with your honey this year?

'The Bachelorette' Battle Begins as Season 11 Promo is Released!



By Emma L. Wells

The Bachelorette season 11 promo was released this week with the tagline “50 Shades of Cray,” and judging from the commercial, the hit reality TV show will certainly be exciting. According to the [HollywoodReporter.com](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com), there will be two *Bachelorettes* – Britt Nilsson and Kaitlyn Bristowe, both former contestants from [The Bachelor](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com) season 19 – 25 contestants (one of which arrives wearing a giant cupcake costume), and lots of drama. It now appears that, in the premiere episode, the men will have to vote on which *Bachelorette* remains for the season. The promo also shows Bristowe crying and saying, “I just don’t feel like this is how I should have to do it.” We can’t wait to tune in on May 18th!

***The Bachelorette* season 11 contestants have to make a quick decision about their feelings for the two leading ladies. How can you make good split-second judgments when it comes to relationships and love?**

Cupid’s Advice:

There’s something to be said for following your heart. When it comes to big decisions about relationships and love, we can easily get wrapped up and make the choice more complicated than it needs to be. Cupid has some love advice on how to make these quick decisions easier:

1. Basic instincts: Our instincts are part of our biology and shouldn’t be ignored. If you’re on a blind date and have a bad feeling, then you should listen to it. Similarly, when you

meet a great potential match, you should pay attention to your first instinct and go for it. Follow your heart and don't waste time second guessing yourself.

Related Link: [‘The Bachelor’ Season 19 Contestant Britt Faces Her Fear For Chris Soules](#)

2. Pros and cons: It's easy for our heads to get muddled in a time crunch, making us fall into analysis paralysis. You might have to be a little brutal when scrutinizing your choices quickly. If you have to make a decision fast, then logically think about the pros and cons of your choices. Don't let the ticking clock trip you up!

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

3. Que sera, sera: Unless you have a crystal ball or a time machine, you won't be able to see into the future. This thought should actually take some of the pressure off your decision. Remember that you're making the best choice you can with the information you have and that nothing's permanent. Whatever will be, will be!

How do you make fast decisions when it comes to a relationship and love? Tell us below!

Celebrity Couple Chris Soules and Whitney Bischoff Discuss Their Plans For a ‘Bachelor’

Baby



By Emma L. Wells

This celebrity couple is revealing their plans for the future, and it includes more than just the two of them. “Dancing, the move to Iowa, the wedding, and eventually a family,” *The Bachelor* winner Whitney Biscoff told *Us Weekly*. “[We] definitely [want kids], so one step at a time.” Since their celebrity engagement, she’s been by fiancé Chris Soules’ side during his run on *Dancing with the Stars*. So what’s next on Soules’ agenda? According to OkMagazine.com, he said, “We’re just looking forward to getting into our normal lives. Then, we can talk about wedding planning.” But his celebrity love is way ahead of him: In a *Good Morning America* interview, Biscoff said she was ready for a [celebrity pregnancy](#) and admitted that she had frozen her eggs so she can have “multiple kids.”

There's no doubt in Bischoff's mind that parenthood is in the future for this celebrity couple. What are some ways to pick out a name for your baby?

Cupid's Advice:

There are so many big decisions that come up after you get pregnant, but picking out a name for your little bundle of joy is perhaps the one with the longest impact. Your name says so much about you, and parents should put careful thought into it before settling on one. Cupid has some tips on how to make the best baby name choice:

1. Ignore the trends: Everything goes out of style eventually. Right now, it's a fad among celebrity couples to use really unique names for their kids – think Apple Martin or North West. Instead of thinking way outside the box, consider looking into the past. Check out the social security website of popular baby names that goes back over 100 years. There are many names in the list that, although they aren't common right now, are beautiful and timeless.

Related Link: [Justin Timberlake Gives Shout Out to Pregnant Celebrity Love Jessica Biel at iHeart Radio Awards](#)

2. Honor someone: It can be a great idea to name your baby after someone you love. Not only is it a wonderful gift to give that person, but it provides a legacy your child will appreciate when they grow up. It's always special to pick a name of a family member or friend. If you can't find one that you like, then consider the name of your favorite book character or a historical figure you admire.

Related Link: [Famous Couple Brandon and Leah Jenner Announce Celebrity Pregnancy with Cute Instagram Photo](#)

3. Try it out: Before you and your partner decide on a name, think about how your child will grow up with it. Ask yourselves these questions: Does it sound good with their last name? What will their nickname be? Is this a name that will be relatively easy for your kid to learn to spell? These questions should help you narrow down your list.

What are some other ways to find baby name inspiration? Tell us below!

Weekend Date Idea: Celebrate a Week of Thanks





By Emma L. Wells

Get into the Thanksgiving spirit early this year! On this [weekend date idea](#), come up with a list of all the things and, more importantly, the people you're thankful for in life. If you're in the early stages of your relationship and love, this conversation can be a great way to get to know each other better.

Give Thanks on This Weekend Date Idea

It's a wonderful Thanksgiving tradition to give thanks for everything in your life. Why not take it a step further this year and not just say thanks but show your appreciation too? After you and your beau have made your lists, start thinking of ways that you can give back to the people in your life.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Give Thanks for Your Health](#)

If you're feeling creative, you can make some fall-themed gift

baskets. You can bake some lovely Thanksgiving treats or, if you're not that confident in the kitchen, buy some high quality ingredients and make a DIY basket. Many speciality cooking stores also sell pre-packaged cookie, pie, or cake mixes that you can include. Add some Thanksgiving decorations, like a few gourds or pumpkins from a farmers market, a serving tray, or utensils to help make their dinner extra special!

Put Some Love Into This Date Idea

Don't forget to personalize your baskets by including a handwritten and heartfelt note telling them what they mean to you. Your loved ones will be touched that you put so much thought and care into this gift! Pass out your baskets to your family and friends throughout the week leading up to Thanksgiving.

Related Link: [Date Idea: "Fall" in Love](#)

After this weekend date idea is over, consider this relationship advice and make an additional basket to give to your sweetheart! Instead of a Thanksgiving theme, make this basket more personal. Fill it with fun activities you two will enjoy doing together this winter, or find items that remind you of great memories from your relationship and love so far.

How will you and your honey give thanks this year? Tell us below!

Date Idea: Around the World

in 80 Minutes



By Emma L. Wells

This weekend date idea will have you and your sweetheart traveling the world without ever leaving your couch. It's perfect for a night when you might be a little tired but still want to spend some quality, fun time together. All you need is a good appetite and some takeout menus!

Travel the World Without Leaving Your Couch on This Date Idea

Find some tasty, authentic cuisine in your neighborhood that you and your honey can order in. If you don't know your area that well, check out Yelp for some suggestions and reviews. You'll be able to get a taste of China, Italy, Mexico, and

more – all in the same night. Order a small dish or two from every restaurant and set up a buffet at home so you both get to try a bit of everything.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Have a Dinner Date at Three Different Venues](#)

At the end of the night, vote on your favorites. Follow this dating and [relationship advice](#) to find out how well your tastes match. You might even come up with a new favorite restaurant for your next date night. If he mentions a particular dish that he likes, make a mental note to make a home-cooked version in the future; you should be able to find the recipe you need on Pinterest.

Make this a date idea a themed night by renting movies to enjoy with dinner. You can pick out some travel-themed rom-coms like *The Holiday*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Eat Pray Love*, *French Kiss*, or *Roman Holiday*. Or watch food-themed movies like *Ratatouille*, *Chocolat*, *Chef*, *The Hundred Foot Journey*, or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Related Link: [Mexican Cooking Classes: Spice Up Date Night](#)

After having a blast on this weekend date idea, you and your partner might consider doing the night all over again for a party with your friends. They'll be bound to notice how close and cute you two look while playing host together. Plus, takeout is really easy for a party set-up and clean-up! Or if one of you is a particular good cook, try recreating some of these yummy dishes for your pals. Spending time together in the kitchen can certainly add some spice to your relationship and love.

Have you ever had a cultural food extravaganza with your significant other? Tell us about it below!

'Snap Strategies for Couples' Offers Efficient Relationship Advice for Busy Pairs



By Emma L. Wells

Relationship experts Dr. Lana Staheli and Dr. Pepper Schwartz are taking their dating advice to a new level of efficiency in *Snap Strategies for Couples: 40 Fast Fixes for Everyday Relationship Pitfalls*. In their new book about love, they offer quick, clear, practical fixes – or snaps – that couples can use to improve the day-to-day problems that often occur in relationships and love. The authors have identified 40

different situations that many couples face and 40 specific strategies for dealing with them. It's the do-it-yourself marriage counseling book that we've all been waiting for! This relationship advice covers issues ranging from small, everyday squabbles to larger disputes that emerge over the course of a long-term love, offering couples an alternative to expensive discussion-based therapy.

Helpful Relationship Advice in New Book About Love

Being that you both are seasoned writers, what relationship trends made you realize that this book needed to be written?

In our experience, couples often get stuck on small issues that become the focal point of their relationships and love. They will have the same argument repeatedly with the same outcome...and still they continue. This circular banter undermines the trust and intimacy between them. Lengthy therapy is often simply not an option; it can be costly and time-consuming. We are offering simple strategies that we have both tested and found effective and efficient.

Related Link: [Dr. Karl Pillemer Interviews Hundreds of Americans for '30 Lessons on Loving'](#)

You write about everyday relationship pitfalls. Can you give us some examples?

Some pitfalls include: not keeping the relationship front and center in your life; letting the relationship become "routine"; giving your partner advice that comes off as criticism and is unwanted; forgetting good manners; and believing you can say anything to your significant other because that's what you are feeling. These are all damaging behaviors and attitudes.

Out of the 40 fixes you offer in your book about love, what is

your favorite one?

We think the first chapter, “Redundant Conversations,” is the most important because it is a widespread pattern and couples don’t realize how damaging it can be. Consider the snap: “If there is no new news, why are we talking about this again?” Rehashing old wounds and wars will only create more stress and teach your partner to tune you out. If you think you are going to change your their mind by repeating old conversations, think again.

Experts Discuss Common Problems and Solutions in Relationships and Love

What are the biggest difficulties that newlyweds face in their relationships and love?

Many of the newlywed issues are the same ones that couples will encounter throughout their relationship – primarily keeping the relationship fresh and lively. Sex drops 25 percent in the first year of marriage, and as the relationship ages, it can decline even further. We think an annual upgrade is important; it is easy to fall into patterns over time that make the relationship nothing special.

Putting your relationship ahead of other responsibilities and obligations is difficult, but it needs to happen. Sharing new experiences, planning regular sex dates, and creating new memories together keep a relationship fresh and dynamic. Another great resource for couples of all ages is Dr. Schwartz’s recent book, *Places for Passion: The 75 Most Romantic Destinations in the World*.

Related Link: [‘Messy Beautiful Love’ Author Darlene Schacht: “True Love Doesn’t Happen By Accident”](#)

As people who give a lot of relationship advice, what is the best relationship advice you have ever been given?

My mother-in-law once told me, “The things that drive you crazy about him are the same qualities you admire in him. He is focused, intense, creative, and independent, and he likes change. That’s who he is and always will be.”

Can you give us an example of a celebrity couples that seems to have it all figured out? What about a famous couple that could benefit from *Snap Strategies*?

Brad Pitt and [Angelina Jolie](#) are a great couple. Obviously, they have passion for each other, and they treat their relationship and love with respect. Perhaps equally important is a shared passion: to help others. They use their fame to draw attention to world issues; they have shared values, and they walk the walk.

Recently divorced pair Mandy Moore and Ryan Adams just didn’t seem to have enough time for each other. The more couples have in common, the easier it is to find a common path. We can imagine that this Hollywood couple could have benefitted from our chapter, “Neglecting ‘US’,” and the snap, “Think of it as a threesome: you, me, and us.” An intimate relationship between partners is something bigger than each of you as individuals. Who you are, what you do, and the things you say—all of this changes when you commit to someone.

It is no longer just your own beliefs and experiences or just your partner’s. Now there is an “us” that has to be bigger than you or me. As Aristotle wrote, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” and that concept applies here. Together, you are more than you are separately. That is what the “us” does; it creates synergy or the increased effectiveness that results when two (or more) people work together. As you’ve probably guessed, creating the “us” is neither quick nor simple.

Related Link: [Mandy Moore and Ryan Adams File for Celebrity Divorce](#)

Do you have any other upcoming projects you'd like to share with our readers?

We would like to explore alternatives to traditional marriage, considering that more than 50 percent of new marriages end in divorce and nearly 70 percent of remarriages do. In my practice, couples have sometimes decided not to live together full-time, especially if they are over 50 and have been married before. Women say they don't want to take care of a man, and men want to do their "thing" and don't want someone to take care of them. They want someone to have fun with, travel with, and share enjoyable experiences – not a housemate. Others have decided not to marry, especially women who have enough economic resources on their own and value independence more than marriage.

Pick up your copy of Snap Strategies for Couples: 40 Fast Fixes for Everyday Relationship Pitfalls today!