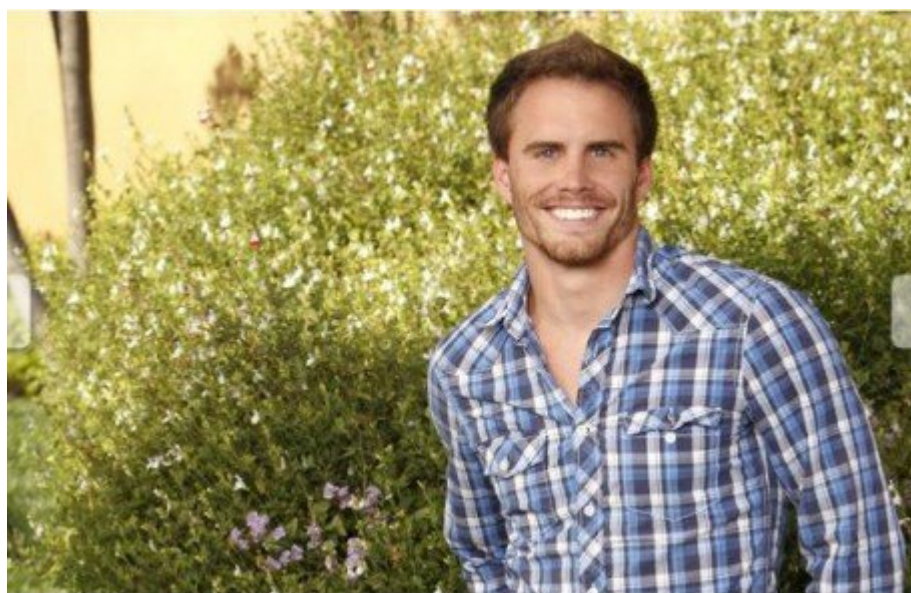


'Bachelor Pad 2' Winner: Michael Stagliano says "I've Never Been Happier"



By [Lori Bizzoco](#) and Melissa Caballero

It was exactly one month ago today that Michael Stagliano and his ex-fiance, Holly Durst had their victory win on the season finale of ABC's 'Bachelor Pad 2.' Despite the uncomfortable (and surprising) public announcement on the show that Holly was engaged to contestant Blake Julian, Michael took the high road and chose to share the winnings with her. But now, that's all behind him and it's his turn to smile. "Right now my job, my music and my life outside the *Bachelor Pad* are good. I've never been happier," he says.

Related Link: [Bachelor Pad's Michael Stagliano Reacts to Ex's Engagement](#)

Grabbing life by the reigns, this *Bachelor Pad 2* winner is keeping his chin up and learning from his past experiences.

When it comes to finding love, Michael is definitely an optimist. "I am so ridiculously in love with love. I'm such a lover. Don't get me wrong, I was down and out for a bit. But, I'm back!" he says.

Yes, single ladies you heard that correctly: Michael Stagliano is on the prowl. "I like the hunt. I love the idea of finding love naturally; in the grocery store or just walking down the street." And, it's safe to say that if you do see this talented musician strolling around town or parading in the produce aisle, his mind is grooving to the beat of a song, preferably one of his own.

This former break-dance instructor is taking his energy and passion and putting it straight into singing and song writing.

"I can talk about my music for days and days. I think there's nothing in the world like music," he says.

Related Link: [What Your Favorite Summer Song Says About Your Relationship Style](#)

Michael has always been in love with music and emphasizes the importance of his lyrics. When asked where he finds his inspiration, he says, "I think what I appreciate the most about my songwriting is that it comes from everywhere. I literally try to use everything. It sounds broad, but I mean it specifically. It's events, it's things in life, it's things I see and things I hear. I feel that songs write me rather than me writing songs."

For example, he tells us the story of how he recently bumped into his ex-girlfriend from college and there was a rush of nostalgia so big that he wrote his newest single, 'College Love,' on the car ride home. Michael's other two songs, 'Everything You Do' and 'Take Me To Her' were inspired by his relationship with Holly and a quote that his grandmother once

said to him: "I lived my life. Now go live yours." As if there wasn't reason enough to fall in love with this former *Bachelorette* contestant, add "soulfully romantic musician" to the list.

Speaking of falling in love, when we asked Michael to name his celebrity crush, he didn't hesitate. "**Rachel McAdams. So hot. Call me!**" he chuckled.

If you're not Rachel McAdams, there's still hope. We asked Michael what he looks for in a woman, and he kindly shared his top three (more like 15) list of qualities and features:

1. Physical characteristics: He says this one is the most fun to talk about, but not the most important. "I'm a sucker for blondes. Always have been, always will be. Not *Playboy* bunny blonde; naturally blonde. I like shorter girls, 5'2 to 5'7. And, blue or green eyes, that would be great," he adds.

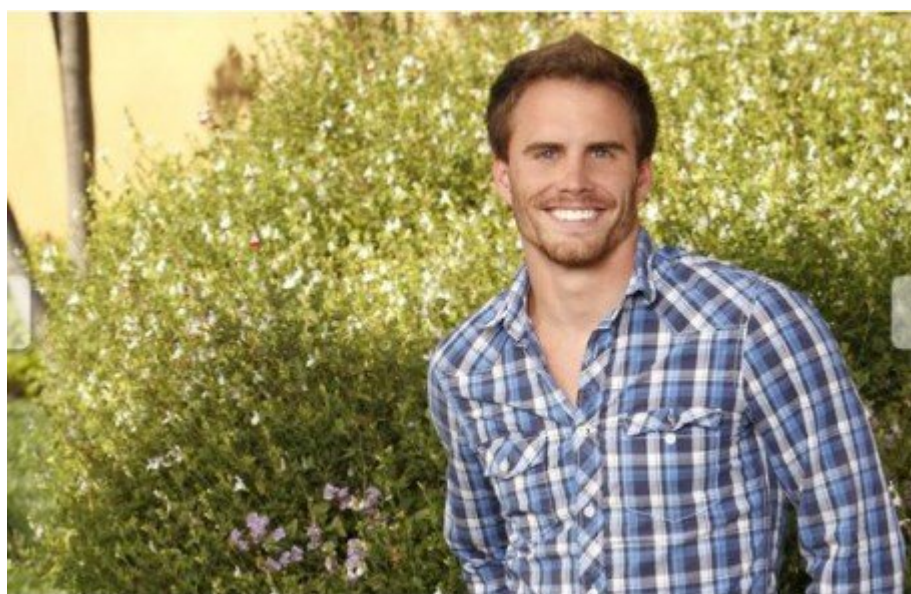
2. Showing love: "I really have that down. I know how to treat a woman, but still be the man. I know how to make them feel special and let them know that I'm not looking at anybody else. I just want someone who reciprocates that. I haven't had that yet."

3. Fruits of the Spirit: Michael says there's nine qualities he looks for that come from the biblical term called, 'Fruits of the Spirit.' "I'm totally going to misquote this, but basically I mean patience, kind, caring, forgiving, someone who is slow to anger and quick to forgive," he says. For those of you who are unfamiliar we thought we'd help out. The nine fruits are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Open and honest, you have to admire this reality star's take on life and love. After such a painful public experience, it's nice to see a renewed man coming out on top. We have a feeling that this hopeless romantic will meet someone very special and that his music will be around for a long time.

To purchase Michael's singles, head to iTunes. Or, for more information on his show dates and appearances you can follow him on Facebook or Twitter.

Edward Bass on the Importance of Relationships – In the Movies and In Real Life



By [Whitney Baker](#)

and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

The mind of a serial killer is something that is both intriguing, and at the same time, disturbing. With motives that are primarily based on psychological gratification, these types of killers usually have a method to their madness, one that drives their actions and limits their inhibitions. Belle Gunness, America's most prolific female serial killer, is no

exception.

Director, writer, producer, and Golden Globe nominee, Edward Bass, is producing a film that captures Belle's story in the most deep, dark, and irresistible way. His past films have all been accepted into major film festivals and have included talents such as Sir Anthony Hopkins, Ashley Judd and Kevin Spacey. His extraordinary yet challenging life contributes to every project that he tackles, adding a complex and unique angle. His directional debut of *Belle* is sure to reflect his personal history, sharing the story of Belle Gunness and portraying the practice of serial killing more intimately than ever before.

The story came to life for Bass when his friend, actor, and directing coach, Bjorn Johnson, introduced him to novelist Eva Mayer, whose family bought the Gunness estate. "Eva had all this information about the family. She had been working on the story for twenty years. In fact, her great-great uncle was probably one of Belle's victims," he says. Bass spent three years speaking with both serial killers and forensic experts in an effort to try and understand the emotional profile of this character.

The captivating story of Belle examines the life of a woman who kills over 100 men, and eventually falls in love with one of her victims. Bass explains, "All the reasons for a deep, true love are there for her: she likes him because he's good-looking, not very powerful, and younger than her. She can dominate him." Belle's love interest soon realizes that she is a serial killer and obviously wants to leave and call the police. Instead, Belle locks him in her basement and continues to kill older, greedy men. "But, she can't kill him," Bass explains.

It is for this reason that Bass believes *Belle* is a relationship film. "It's a classic theme about a woman looking for love and never quite finding it," he says. "And

when she finally does find love, it eludes her. As they say, you can't live with him, and you can't live without him," Bass jokes, referencing a famous saying. Bass is still in the casting stage of production but hopes to begin shooting the film in early 2012. He has yet to determine who will play Belle, but he has a very clear idea of what type of actress it should be. "It needs to be a strong woman, a woman who can kill men," he explains.

Of course, one cannot help but wonder: Why did Belle do it? And Bass is quick to answer. "She was a nasty pig. She was greedy and killed for money. She got away with it. Maybe she enjoyed it, but it doesn't matter," he explains. "You can have all sorts of urges, but you have to control them."

Belle is a challenging character. She's a woman who kills men, women, and even her own children. Bass describes her as a one-woman crime wave, and the most prolific serial killer in American history. What makes Belle even more interesting is the fact that's she's virtually unknown. Despite her character flaws, he says the audience will feel empathy for her because of the multiple dimensions in which the story is told. As Bass says, "You won't really love her, but you will find her fascinating and hate yourself for it."

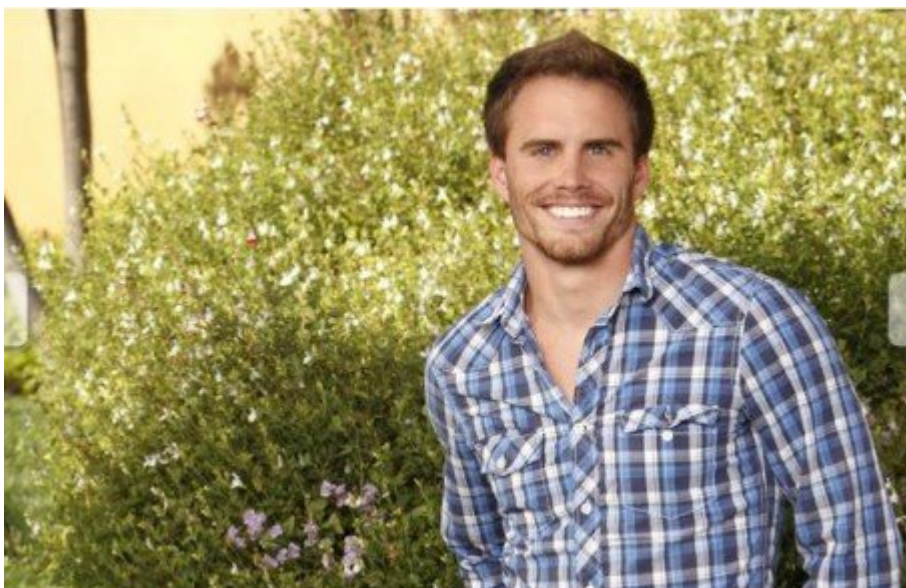
When asked if his past influences what he chooses to write and produce, Bass again focuses on the importance of relationships. "I have interesting relationships with people, and I bring them to each film," he says. "I think the most important thing in a relationship – which is the easiest thing to do – is honesty. Most men aren't honest, but you have so much power if you are."

Addressing his rumored dalliances with actresses in past films, he says in jest, "That's not true. Only Anthony Hopkins and I dated, and we were drunk." A little laughter and sarcasm are probably necessary given the darkness of the film. However, to defend the question on a more serious note,

he adds, "It's not that I look to date actresses – I really don't. It's just that you spend every day on set, and you become attached to the people that you work with. I think it is proximity and opportunity."

When asked if he learned anything about women through Belle's story, he ironically says, "Women are so much brighter than men in every way. There would be no war if women were in charge."

Relationship Expert, Andrea Syrtash, Teaches You How to "Cheat on Your Husband (with Your Husband)"



By Diamon Hall

To outsiders looking in, marriage is a sign that your life is complete, and both people are still “head-over-heels” in love. Privately, however, the husband may be thinking, ‘my has she changed,’ while the wife is often silently wondering, ‘is this really what I signed up for?’ Andrea Syrtash is a dating and relationship expert, on-air personality and author. With her new book, *Cheat on Your Husband (with Your Husband)* ready to hit the stands in September, she gives women solutions and advice that will help their marriage prosper for years to come.

Although she is married herself, Syrtash says the book isn’t only from personal experience (although there are some personal lessons shared), but also from interviews she conducted with other women and by citing the latest research on marriage, giving her readers a wide variety of opinions. Syrtash didn’t want the book to come off as a desperate attempt to save your relationship, but rather as a source of tips and advice to rekindle the romance. This book is ideal for anyone who feels they’ve lost track of why they’re married and don’t know where to go from here.

Recently, Cupid had a chance to chat with Ms. Syrtash, and here’s what she had to say:

How did you come up with the title of your new book?

The original title was *How to Date Your Husband* and that became the subtitle to *Cheat On Your Husband (With Your Husband)*. I chose the word ‘cheat’ because too often we feel guilty when we focus on ourselves and our marriage when we have so many other competing demands; but cheating in this case is a good thing! I wanted a title that was fun, playful, and a little provocative. I didn’t want it to be a relationship rescue book, but rather a relationship renewal book.

What made you choose this career field?

I actually went into it undecided, but I knew I loved journalism and connecting with people about their experiences. I was always the advice-giver amongst friends and family, but didn't know that I would eventually do that professionally. After journalism school, I earned a certificate in life coaching. Over the last decade, I've interviewed hundreds of people and spent thousands of hours focused on relationship research. I love it.

Is the book more so you speaking from experience, or is it mostly advice?

The book opens by telling the readers that I'm not just interested in lecturing them, but I do want to inspire them into action. It's not a memoir, but I do share my marriage experience so that I can have a little more intimacy with my readers. My advice is driven by my journalism and coaching background. I know the best advice I can share comes from interviewing real women in different situations.

What is the best piece of advice you give to couples in the book?

Marriage is a choice that you have to make every day. People need to realize they can't just be complacent because that's the easiest option. Another theme in the book came from an 80-year-old woman I interviewed. She said, "The most important thing you can offer in a relationship is your presence." One of the big elements of my book is "Small steps will create big changes."

How does being a dating and relationship expert come into play in your own life?

The irony is that sometimes I'm not taking my own advice! As I'm writing about a topic and researching it, sometimes I get a wake-up call, because I'm immersed in the material. In my last book *He's Just Not Your Type (And That's a Good Thing)*, I talked about how I was writing advice columns to follow your

heart, and I discovered I wasn't. I don't wanna be a hypocrite. I definitely want to practice what I preach.

I know you interviewed our founder, [Lori Bizzoco](#). What type of advice did she give, and what was it about her story that interested you?

I love that Lori is a mother of two and has her own business. She strikes me as a person who's loyal to her passion. She models advice in my book very well: You can't be passionate in your marriage if you're not passionate in your own life, and I saw that in Lori. She's featured in my "Sweat the Small Stuff" chapter, and that's because I see her and her husband doing small things for each other all the time, just to show their appreciation. I dedicated the book to jugglers (women who are juggling a lot of different responsibilities). Lori is definitely a juggler.

Do you think women need a book like this, and why?

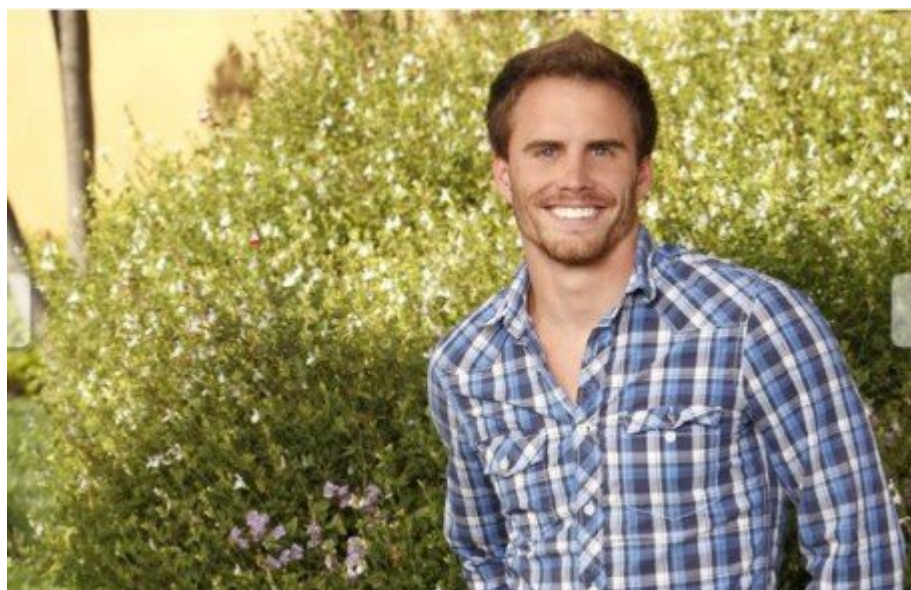
I hope that people see my brand of advice as upbeat and inspiring. My advice isn't driven from a place of fear or scarcity. I try to focus on what is there already – and how to make it better. This is intentional because I want to inspire my readers to try new things...not because things will be doomed if she doesn't, but because her life will be great if she does.

In addition to the release of the upcoming book, Syrtash has also been a regular advice columnist and contributor to numerous popular sites, including Yahoo, The Huffington Post, and Oprah.com, as well as being the on-air host of 'On Dating', produced by NBC Digital Studios. She has shared advice in various media outlets across the country, including *The Today Show*, *USA Today*, VH1 and NPR, among others. Syrtash also speaks regularly about effective relationships at conferences and workshops across the country. For her upcoming schedule, refer to www.andreasyrtash.com.

Syrtash feels the book will give readers' marriages a boost! She stresses the fact that this isn't heavy relationship self-help; but a positive, encouraging tool full of keys to a successful (and fun!) marriage.

Cupid wants to give a big thanks to author, Andrea Syrtash for giving us some of her time. Be sure to check out her new book *Cheat on Your Husband (with Your Husband)* at Amazon..

'Bachelor Pad 2' Recap Episode 2: Ames Brown Trumps them All



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Usually when a former *Bachelor* or *Bachelorette* leaves the show voluntarily, like two-time 'Bachelor Pad' contestant and

swimsuit model, Gia Allemand did last night, it becomes the episode news headliner the next day. But last night's storybook ending even knocked out coverage of the attention-seeking love triangle usually reserved for Jake Pavelka, Vienna Girardi and Kasey Kahl. It was a scene that leaves us understanding why even bad reality shows are beating out long-standing soap operas. You can't make this stuff up!

Last night there were two scenes that made single women everywhere believe in love again. First was the closing scene with Ivy-League, world-traveling, portfolio manager, Ames Brown. After he said a heartfelt good-bye to his newfound love and eliminated housemate, Jackie Gordon he turned around to head back towards the house. What happened next made hearts stop everywhere. Instead of continuing his walk toward the contestants, Ames slowly stopped, raised his hand and waved good-bye to them. Giving up the \$250,000 prize, he sprinted back towards the limousine with Jackie inside. That fairy-tale exit trumped everything else on the show and gives romance fanatics a reason to believe that Mr. Right is a possibility, especially if you go after the awkwardly smart, rich guy wearing the hot pink pants. In Ames' own words, "This is the happiest limo ride in Bachelor history."

The second love scene comes with ex's, Michael Stagliano and children's book author, Holly Durst. They just ended their engagement two months before the show taped and haven't had the chance to talk it out. During last night's episode, they finally get some one-on-one time and share their thoughts with one another, but their emotional exchange and gripping embrace is almost impossible to watch without your heart feeling heavy or rooting for them to get back together. Watching them express their feelings and Michael telling Holly he still loves her with tears in his eyes is enough to make you want to jump through the television and slap them silly for being so blind. Get back together, already!

Mysterious Monday

There was an odd, eerie undertone on last night's Bachelor Pad 2, with egg fights, haunted hospital tours and a masked man creeping around the kitchen at the end. Yes, mysterious Monday came with love, drama and a fairy tale ending but it makes you wonder for a minute if the show is preparing for Halloween a little too soon.

Egg Toss Challenge:

Let's begin with the Bachelor Pad 2 challenge. The women were asked a handful of questions relating to the men on the show (Who are you least attracted to? Who do you want to see go home?) and with colored paint-filled eggs in hand the women threw their responses directly at the backs (or shoulder, legs and head) of their intended target.

Thanks to Vienna's campaigning, Jake displayed a colorful array of red, yellow and blue on his body when the ladies were asked who they wanted to see go home next. Then the reverse scenario happened and the men targeted the women with eggs. However, the pain ran deeper than the physical impact as Erica was selected as the least attractive in the house. That definitely stung in more ways than one, especially when Michael Stigliano forgot that he wasn't on the field and pitched a fast ball at Erica. The objective of the challenge was to be the person who hit the most targets.

Challenge Winners: Melissa Schreiber and Michael Stigliano ended up winning the challenge.

Immunity and Dates:

Instead of taking one person on a date, Melissa and Michael were granted the chance to each take three members of the opposite sex, with one of them being given the rose at the end. Without surprise, Michael chose Holly (his ex-fiancé), Michelle Money (who is our fan favorite) and Erica (sympathy

choice). As if it wasn't awkward enough having two former lovers on a date together, the group was taken by limousine to Linda Vista, a haunted hospital. Didn't Michael win (not lose) the challenge? It seemed like a strange reward. I guess it's all about staying on the show and with that, Michael gave Holly the immunity rose.

When it came to Melissa's date, she got the luxury of going on a yacht date with her chosen three: Kirk Dewindt, Blake Julien and Kasey Kahl. Kasey was a bit of a shocker pick at first but Melissa did have a strategy in place. Her plan, she explained to Kasey, was to align with him promising to give him the rose and save him if he saved her next time. Unfortunately, that was before two-timing dentist, Blake (who has a thing for Holly), played into Melissa's weakness by flirting, touching, sweet-talking and going in for a kiss during their one-on-one time. Melissa reneged on her promise to Kasey and gave Blake the rose instead.

Back at 'The Pad':

Jake, Vienna and Kasey:

Tension was high as Jake did what he could to stay in the house, offering not once, but twice to speak to Vienna. Whether he's really sincere or just trying to redeem himself for the cameras is yet to be seen, but Vienna wasn't having any of it. She continued to escalate the drama and complain about Jake being in the house. That is until Chris Harrison put her in her place, showing her the exit doors and letting her know that she wasn't being forced to be there. Could it possibly be that he's had enough of her drama, too? He even called out how nicely previously engaged Michael and Holly got along. Oh, Vienna!

Melissa, Blake and Holly:

Talk about another messed up love triangle. Blake likes Holly (or so it seems) and he's been ignoring Melissa. This is all

after Melissa spent a romantic evening with Blake on the yacht and gave him a rose instead of Kasey who she promised. We're not sure how long Blake will be around, or can keep it up but someone's about to have a meltdown.

Gia and Graham:

First she got duped by Jake when he didn't save her last week and gave a rose to Vienna instead. Now, her friend Graham stabs her in the back by disclosing her plan to break-up the power couples. He went to Kasey and told him. Although Gia has been on the 'Bachelor Pad' before and she knows how the game is played, she decides to leave the mansion voluntarily. Why risk her dignity of being kicked off by the contestants or her integrity of being deceitful to friends for the mere chance at \$250,000? Or, at least that was her reason for leaving. Will she be back next summer? We doubt it. Maybe the next Bachelorette, now that would be fun.

Predictions:

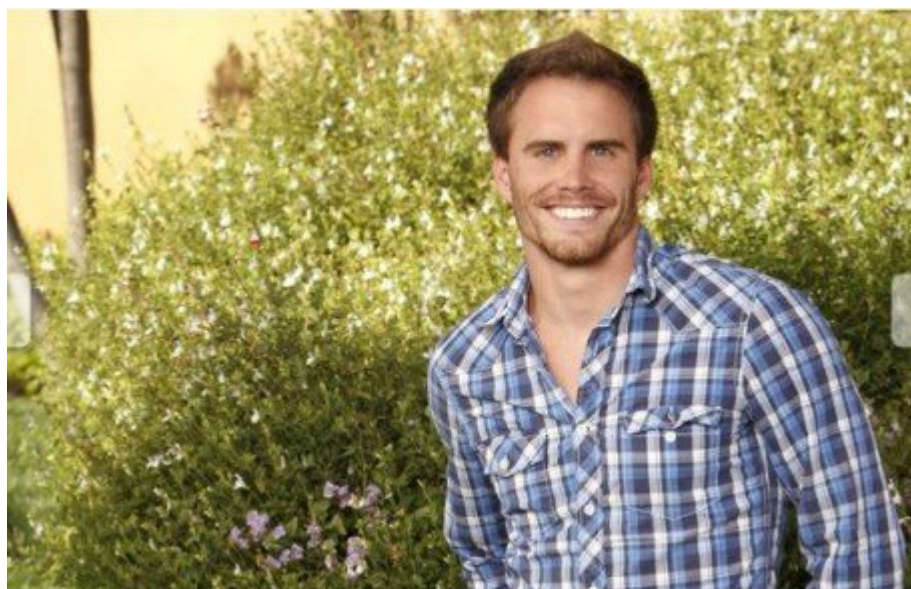
I guess we can cancel Ames out for our early prediction, although he's a winner in our eyes.

We're still going strong with Michelle Money, Michael Stagliano and Ella Nolan.

If you're looking for more insight on the Bachelor Pad 2, check out our weekly He Said/She Said with former winners, Natalie Getz and David Good.

So, there you have it. All in a week's work!

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?

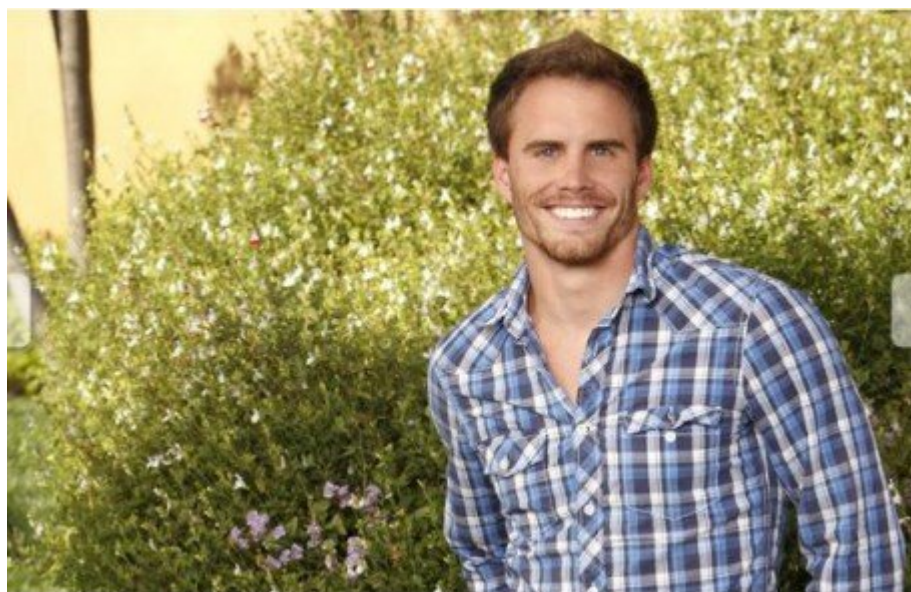
- 1) TMI – too much information.
- 2) Two-drink maximum. Women tend to share too much information when they drink too much, and then the guy gets scared...and they are no longer dating.
- 3) Let the man lead, and if you are the man, lead!
- 4) No sex before monogamy is my fourth rule. Obviously, this 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

'Bachelor Pad 2' Recap Episode 1: Jake Pavelka Gives Vienna Girardi a Rose



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Broken engagements, boyfriend stealing and love triangles galore. Welcome to this summer's most anticipated show,

Bachelor Pad 2. ABC pulled out all the stops when collecting the current list of castoffs from seasons past. We watched like animals in heat tonight, glued to the television witnessing one of the most talked about and controversial casts this summer. Is it a coincidence that all the references noted above point back to one person: Vienna Girardi? Hmmm, it leaves us wondering if the show would even be worth the three hours it premiered if it wasn't for her and Jake Pavelka's drama-induced past.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Vienna and Jake, it's safe to say that they'll probably go down in *The Bachelor* history as the most remembered (not in a good way) contestants. She won the love and proposal of Bachelor, Jake Pavelka, Season 14 and broke his heart when she sold their break-up story for \$90,000, according to reports. Then, they trashed one another on Primetime television when the relationship ended, and it was so brutal that Vienna stormed out of the interview. They haven't talked since that fight took place a year ago. Now, they're both back in the house, under the same roof, competing for the \$250,000 grand prize.

Last night we witnessed the first challenge of the season which included each of the 18 contestants partnering up with someone in the house. The men were ousted into the air by harness with the women hanging on to them wherever and however they could. The prize for the couple who lasted longest was full immunity and a rose. With those stakes on the line, it's no surprise that the challenge came down to Jake and Vienna being the remaining two. Partnering up with Vienna was her new beau and "guard and protect" tattoo-man from Ali Fedotowsky's season, Kasey Kahl. While Jake partnered with understated Jackie Gordon from Brad Womack's season.

It came down to the final four and after thirty minutes, Kasey couldn't hold on to Vienna any longer. She begged him to hold on so that Jake wouldn't get immunity, but he couldn't. Jake

and Jackie not only win a rose, but they also have a one-on-one date and get an additional rose to save one other person in the house. Guess who gets the rose and a free ride? Surprise, surprise! Jake convinces Jackie (although it looks like her idea) that he must give the rose to Vienna as a truce; to put closure on his wound that obviously hasn't healed. Strategic or stupid? It's most likely stupid, as Vienna laughs about it behind-the-scenes.

One person who clearly states the stupidity of Jake's rose decision is Vienna's ex-best friend, and the only two-time *Bachelor Pad* contestant, Gia Allemand. Gia can't stand Vienna after finding out that she hooked up with her ex-boyfriend, Wes Hayden. Gia (also on Jake's season) is good friends with Jake and feels betrayed by his decision to give the rose to Vienna instead of protecting her. Worried that she may now be eliminated, she confronts Kasey in a one-on-one scheme and talks him into an alliance with her. As she's doing that, Blake is trying to get Jackie to vote off Kasey.

All of this makes for good television, but we can't forget the other contestants in the house who also have interesting stories:

First, there's Michael Stagliano and ex-fiance, Holly Durst. We didn't see too much of their relationship drama tonight, which leads us to believe that producers are saving the best for last. We can't wait to watch how that plays out. We would love to see them back together, but Holly has admitted to being a commitment-phobe and from the first evening in the house she's had her eyes on last season's resident dentist, Blake Julian. It's a shame for Holly, because the promos clearly highlight that Blake is also caught hooking up in the house with former Brad Womack contestant, Melissa Schreibner. There will be tears.

It also looks like last season's boxing champ (joke) and nice boy, Ames Brown, has already formed an alliance (and possibly

a relationship) with lonely heart, spider-hater (she called Michelle Money a spider), Jackie Gordon. Both Jackie and Ames are New Yorkers, and you can hear them mumbling on last night's episode about spending time together when they get back to the city. "We should go to Central Park," Jackie says to Ames. Being the Ivy League-educated gent that Ames is, he's probably wondering why she couldn't have thought of anything more unique and original to do.

Then, there's one of our fan favorites, Utah hairstylist and accredited crazy lady, Michelle Money. For the record, we don't think Michelle is crazy. We think she's a witty, smartass, and we love it (yes, we're a bit biased). We also hear that southern philanthropist, Graham Belle hooks up with Money (that's Michelle Money, not the greenback kind, if you know what we mean).

Other contestants that haven't raised the drama meter too high yet are Erica Rose from Lorenzo Borghese's season who creates her own fanfare by wearing a tiara and claiming she's a princess. Kirk DeWindt from Ali Fedotowsky's season and the too-truthful comedian, William, from Ashley Hebert's season are both under the radar right now, as well.

Then there's Ella Nolan, the Tennessee mom who was dumped by Jake Pavelka. Talk about a back story- her own mother was murdered by her stepfather right in front of her when she was three-years old. She's doing this all for her son so that she can give him the life she never had when she was young. I feel like I am watching *Lifetime Television*.

Lastly, we have Justin "Rated R" Rego (should be 'ego'). He's the professional wrestler who appeared on Ali Fedotowsky's season and bragged to the men about having a girlfriend back home. Interestingly, he's like a G-rated version of what Bentley did to Ashley Hebert this past season. And last, but not least, we have apparel buyer, Alli Travis from Brad Womack's season.

In a nutshell, the rest of the night was based on forming alliances, with both Gia and Kasey coming to a close call on being eliminated. They'd probably be gone if Justin didn't betray his alliance by telling Alli that Graham is going to "work on her," meaning he is going to get her to come to their side. Alli confronted Graham, which made Justin look two-faced. No time to waste. He's Gone.

Alli also seems to be playing two sides and not making a decision where her alliance is resting. The other contestants are in it to win it. Alli's eliminated, too.

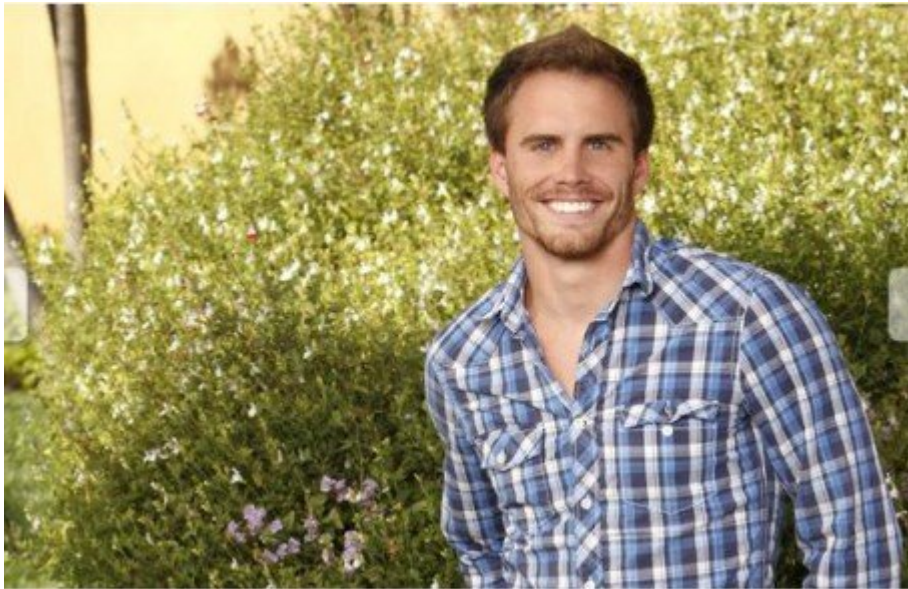
There you have it. Two down and 16 people to go. This should be an interesting summer.

Our early predictions: Michelle Money, Michael Stagliano, with close calls to Ella Nolan and Ames Brown.

Stay tune for next week's recap. In the meantime, if you have questions about the *Bachelor Pad 2*, send them in. We will have former winners, Natalie Getz and David Good with us all season to answer them.

'Bachelor Pad 2': David Good and Natalie Getz Share their Views and Predictions for the New Season





By Jennifer

Harrington and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Last summer, *Bachelor/Bachelorette* alums Natalie Getz and David Good teamed up, strategized and became the co-winners of \$250,000 on the first season of ABC's spinoff series, *Bachelor Pad*. Now, with the drama meter boiling over from this summer's most intense cast of characters, ABC just might have a winner on its hands with *Bachelor Pad 2*. I mean, who isn't anxiously waiting for Vienna and Jake to go at it again or to see how Michelle Money is planning to play the game?

No matter what your motivation is for watching *Bachelor Pad 2*, if you want some insight and perspective on the cast, you've definitely come to the right place. We spoke to the former *Bachelor Pad* winners, Natalie Getz and David Good, to find out their thoughts on the new season and what it takes to win.

We love their candidness and you will too. In fact, you'll be hearing a lot more from them this season as they join us every Monday evening to answer your burning *Bachelor Pad 2* questions. So, if you're curious about the season, or maybe what goes on behind-the-scenes, send us your questions or Tweet them to @cupidspulse. We will choose a few to feature the very next day on our site.

Now, here's Natalie and David's take on what's in store:

Who are you most excited to see in the mansion this season?

Natalie: When David and I were on the show, we had strong, unintentional friendships with several of the cast mates.

Bachelor Pad wasn't even in existence when we all became friends with each other; our friendships were pure and innocent. Now that the show is in a second season, all of these "friendships" were made out of pure strategy for *Bachelor Pad 2*. I was shocked when I found out Jake agreed to do the show. I'm most excited to see the drama unfold between the Kasey/Vienna/Jake triangle. *Days Of Our Lives* couldn't come up with a storyline this dramatic and intense. This season is going to be hilariously dramatic.

David: I like all of the couples and former couples. There are a few in there with screws loose, which is going to make for great TV. I can't wait to see how Michelle Money does. She is so sweet in real life and I want to see it come through on this show.

Any early predictions for couples hooking up or – in the case of Vienna and Kasey- breaking up?

Natalie: I don't think Vienna and Kasey will break up. They are so in love it's exhausting. They'll stick by each other's sides no matter what. I'm sure they will be fighting due to the nature of the game, but no break up. I bet there will be a ton of hook-ups based on knowing the cast's history. We already read that Ames and Jackie are a couple. I can also see Graham Bunn and Michelle Money hitting it off.

David: Oh yeah! I would say a lot of hooking up, and with all the pressure it's sure to put a strain on Vienna and Kasey's relationship.

Everyone's wondering what it will be like having Jake and Vienna in the same house. Do you think there's any chance that they'll be able to co-exist?

Natalie: It will be very interesting to watch this play out. My guess is that Jake will take the fake road, I mean high road, and instantly apologize to Kasey and Vienna. I'm sure he will play the victim and I can guarantee you that Vienna will not fall for it. Be prepared to see Jake pull out all of the stops to regain the love of the fans and cast.

David: I really don't see that going well. Neither of them will be able to hold back their emotions and they'll probably end up crying and yelling at each other.

Some people are saying Ames may have a good chance at advancing far because he is so extremely polite. In your experience, does being polite get you anywhere in this game?

Natalie: Being polite gets you further than most people think. People would feel bad voting off someone who is not on one side or the other. In the beginning of the game, staying neutral is the safest place to be. The third episode is a good time to choose a side. He is in the perfect position, taking the stealth approach and choosing a side towards the middle. That's what Peyton did, and it got her far without knowing anyone prior to moving into the *Pad*.

David: Being polite will get you only so far. You still have to play the game and step on some toes every now and then.

We know Michelle Money was a member of the *Bachelorette Beatdown* with the both of you, how do you think she'll do on Bachelor Pad 2? She was very sneaky and strategic on *The Bachelor*, will she change up her game or play the same way?

Natalie: In real life, Michelle is very kind-hearted and a great friend. She is a go-getter and will definitely play this game as hard as she can. She won't be sneaky, but she will be very strategic by sticking to her word and alliances. I predict her going very far.

David: I think she'll do great! She is smart, witty and can

play the game very well. She can be a top contender.

What advice would you give those entering the Mansion? Any tips for finding love and money?

Natalie: My advice is to do exactly what I did during my time in the house. I love meeting new people, so I befriended all of the new comers right away. I found “temporary” love with Jesse Beck and nearly forgot about the game aspect, because I was having so much fun and being myself. I quickly realized by keeping this approach, I would keep myself safe to the end. No one ever had a reason to kick me out. Don’t make enemies, don’t lie, don’t back stab or talk behind anyone’s back, because it will all come out. This game is not about winning competitions and being strategic, it’s about forming friendships. The winner is the one who has the most sincere friendships in the house.

David: Don’t look for love here. It’s a shady place, but do play the game with honesty and integrity – even if others aren’t. Because if people know they can trust you, you will get far!

Do you think the rules will be the same this season or do you think the producers will change it up since everyone knows how the game works after watching Season 1?

Natalie: I think we’ll see better competitions and maybe a couple tiny changes to dates and rose ceremonies, but I don’t think they’ll make drastic changes. But, I hope they change the ending. I want one person to walk away with the money. It would make for such better TV to watch the final couple battle it out. They can’t repeat the “share or keep” game that David and I played in the end, because it wouldn’t be a surprise.

David: I would have to say they are going to change some things up. They are really smart when it comes to that stuff.

What's your early prediction for a winner this season?

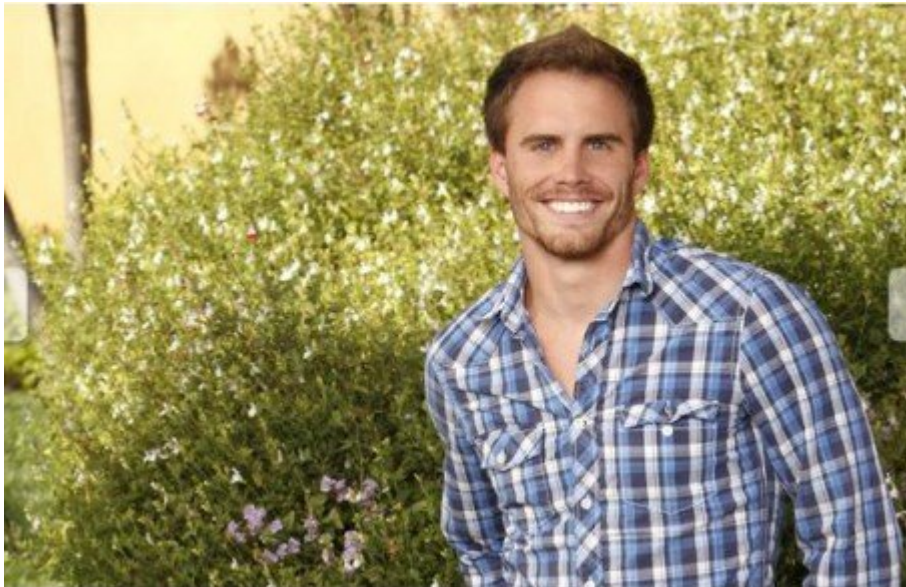
Natalie: Michael Stagliano. He is something else! His heart is made of gold. He is not only genuine, lovable, endearing and cute; he is also hands down one of the funniest people I know. No one will ever want to kick him out. When I saw his name on the cast list I thought to myself, "there is no competition." They may as well hand Stagliano the money! Now it will be interesting to see who rides his coattails to the finish line.

David: Michelle Money or my boy Mike Stagliano.

Be sure to tune into the **premiere of *Bachelor Pad 2* tonight on ABC**, and each week, we'll be checking in with David and Natalie to get their thoughts on the episode. As you're watching, send us your questions for them. You never know...it could be answered on our site the following day.

Jersey Shore Creator SallyAnn Salsano Dishes about Love in Italy and Her New Weight Loss Show, "Love Handles"





By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

When it comes to the topic of love, ABC's *The Bachelor*, MTV's *Disaster Date*, and *Shot of Love with Tila Tequila* certainly have that in common. But, finding your amore isn't the only thing that bonds these shows together. They've also had the fortune of being produced by SallyAnn Salsano, a 37-year-old, fist-pumping dynamo, who is best known for creating the pop culture phenomenon, *Jersey Shore*.

SallyAnn's newest reality television endeavor, *Love Handles* airs on Lifetime Television this weekend. The show is an hour-long docu-series featuring a dual transformation of overweight couples as they attempt to save their lives and relationships by confronting what lies at the core of the emotional, dietary and physical issues deeply affecting their well-being. Think *Biggest Loser* meets *Dr. Phil*. Whether it's a couple who gained weight together and are trying to get the spice back in their love life, or the woman who feels overly self-conscious because her man is thinner than her.

We had the chance to catch up with SallyAnn and she gave us the scoop on what we can expect to see this season:

What can you tell us about *Love Handles*? What makes the show different from other shows of its type?

It's about couples who feel like they're stuck, and we show their transformation. I mean, you have to go to work, raise your kids, go to the gym, cook for yourself, and deal with your life. That's the situation most people are in when they have to lose weight. Some people are granted the opportunity to shut down their life and dedicate themselves to losing weight, but in *Love Handles* people have to fend for themselves and just do it.

The other thing about *Love Handles* is that it's not just about losing the weight. It's a show about therapy, and what's really going on inside. It gives you a rare look at couples that are in complete, raw therapy sessions. For most of these people, they have never been to individual therapy, so forget about couple's therapy. For the first time, they talk about what's bothering them, not only about themselves, but about the person they love the most. So sometimes they're just like, "Well, I don't know if I love this guy. I don't know if I could see myself with him." You should see their partner's reactions; it looks like their eyeballs pop right out of their heads because it's the first time they've ever heard that.

What are the relationships like on the show? Is everyone married?

They're all in different stages. Some of them are in a relationship, but will not get married until they lose weight. Others won't get married to their partner because they don't want a fat bride or groom. Some of the contestants are engaged, but can't buy the wedding dress because they're overweight. There are also newlyweds who are in the first year of marriage and gained 80 pounds. Some couples have been married for ten years and gained hundreds of pounds along the way and lost the intimacy they once had with each other. Every couple has their own unique story. Or, it could be that he's skinny and she's fat -it's all stuff everyone deals with and it's not only women who are self-conscious about their weight, it is men too. So you put that together – two people

who are not feeling good about themselves – and the word toxic doesn't even do it justice. They're in a position where they don't even love themselves. They need to figure out what's going on inside before they can figure out if they want to be with this other person.

How does *Love Handles* parallel your own life?

Well, I'm 37, in a relationship, and I'm really happy. But, I was in a previous relationship for seven years. We had a great time, a great house, and all the bullshit. He loved me, I loved him. But, I just wasn't happy. I was so overweight, and I think that I blamed my unhappiness on anything but that. It wasn't until I got my stuff together and lost the weight that I realized I had to move on. I threw out everything I owned and gutted my house. I did a drastic, crazy person clean out, and started over. I've never been happier. I won't say that the relationship was bad, because it wasn't bad at all. It was really me and that's kind of where *Love Handles* came from.

I think a lot of girls want to get married and have a family. And, they're looking for one guy who says yes. It doesn't even have to be the right person. For me, it's not the first person you find to say, "yes." It's the person you want to grow old with, rich or poor, the person you want next to you.

What is it about love that makes these shows so popular?

Well, I think everyone is on the endless search for love. I think even if you find someone, and you get married, you're always wondering if this is the greatest love of your life. Is this what love is supposed to feel like? I think it's all anyone ever wants. Everyone equates love with happiness. Every girl, every guy, every adult, even if you're married or single, it doesn't matter. You watch these shows, and you fantasize right along with them. Everyone wants a fairy tale.

Before we go, we need to ask some Jersey Shore "LOVE" questions! First, will we see a good love story in Italy?

Well, there are people falling in and out of love in Italy. I would say that it's hot and cold in that house. I love this season. Every season I do the same thing. I come back, and I'm like, "What if nothing happens? What if nothing goes on?"

Let me tell you something. I got all the way to Italy, and I was like, "Are you guys kidding me?" I was sitting there and would not leave the control room for 20 hours a day. That's when you know it's good. This particular season is interesting, because they were away. They didn't have all the comforts of home, and all the interactions with their friends and family that they usually do, so there was a bit more conflict than you've seen before.

What's the status of Sammi and Ronnie this season? Can you give us a little hint?

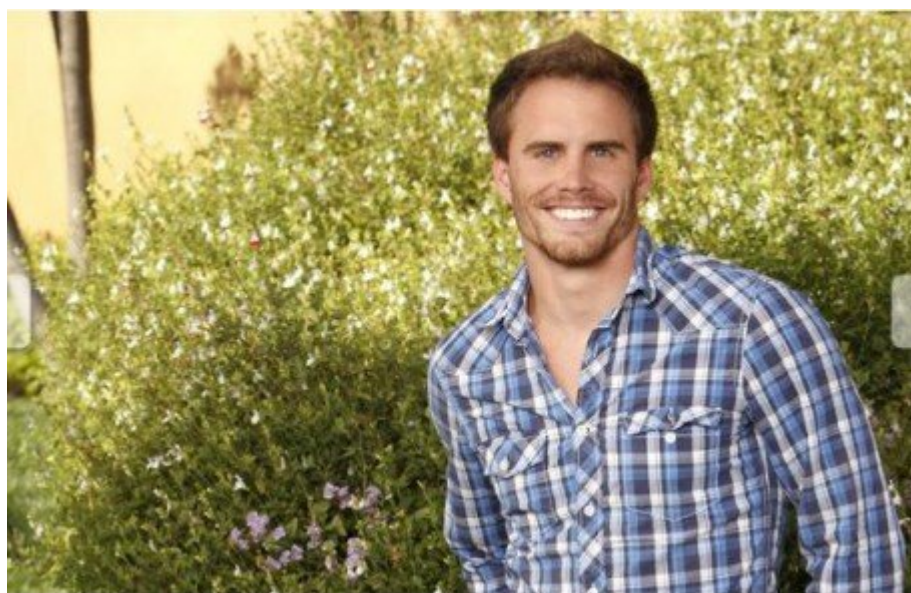
Well, the status depends on what episode (chuckle)! You're going to see a little bit of the Sammi and Ron you knew before, and then the Sammi and Ron who takes a turn. It's really interesting. I think they finally come into their own. Sometimes, I think you grow up when you're apart.

Whether it is the crazy, fist-pumping nights out at Karma, the quacking duck phone or Snooki's ridiculous antics that have you hooked, everyone loves to watch the drama. Jersey Shore Season 4 will premiere August 4th t at 10pm ET/PT on MTV.

And, don't forget to tune into *Love Handles* on Lifetime Television August 6th at 7pm and August 7th at 3PM & 4PM.

Cupid's Pulse sends a thankful fist-pump to Sally Ann for taking the time to talk with us.

Jennifer Grisanti Talks 'Story Line: Finding Your Gold in Your Life Story'



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Protégé to the great executive Aaron Spelling, Jennifer Grisanti learned the ins-and-outs of one of the most competitive businesses in America – entertainment. During her time with Spelling, she worked on shows like *90210* and *Melrose Place*, moving on years later to become Vice President of Current Programming at CBS Paramount Network Television. In 2007, she left Tinseltown's lustrous world behind and established her own consultancy for aspiring writers, mentoring them on how to dig deep, find their truth and put it into words. In her new book, *Story Line: Finding Gold in Your Life Story*, Grisanti offers advice on how to make your story the best it can be, while drawing from her own experiences in life, love and the workplace. As she notes, her book "is a

writing book for television and feature writers, but also a business, life and spiritual book for anyone who has a desire to learn how to add fiction to their truth and bring it to the page."

We had the privilege of interviewing Jennifer last month. Here's what she had to say:

What was it like to have Aaron Spelling as a boss?

Mr. Spelling was old fashioned. We called him Mr. Spelling and his nickname was Mister. He was very into perfection and you respected it because he expected perfection from himself, so it made you want to deliver. Working in his office was in some ways so glamorous. You got to attend all of these Hollywood parties and hob knob with stars. There are elements of that to the business, but you worked your rear off. I mean, I would work until eight o'clock at night and then I would go home and read scripts for three hours.

I was really blessed in the sense that I came in at a very good time in his career. He was 67 when I was 24. When I came in, he was on the rise again with *90210*. Actually, the first day I started, *Melrose Place* was being cast so I really entered at an opportune time.

You speak about your own personal challenge going through divorce. Many of our readers are single and trying to balance their career with maintaining the perfect romance. What advice can you give them?

What I would have done differently and what I would recommend to younger executives is don't make your career such a priority that you don't have the space or energy to let something else in. That's so important for women (and men), because as much as there is a gift in achieving an accomplishment in the work world, you need to make it work at home also. It's fascinating because my ex-husband was an

actor. The whole limelight, fairy tale and painting the picture is definitely something that I did. However, the paints in my picture started to change color. I was thinking about what a relationship is supposed to be versus the reality of what it actually is. Had I done things differently, I wouldn't have been so threatened by the age of 30. I would have spent as much time on my relationship as I did my career.

You discuss 'adding fiction to your truth,' a lot in your book. What does that mean?

My feeling is that there is fiction in non-fiction and non-fiction in fiction. I am a believer that you are a part of every story you tell. When I say 'adding fiction to your truth,' I am talking about using the imagination and the fantasy of what we want something to be versus what it actually is. There is fiction to that. It's mainly the idea that life is not that interesting. The sequence of events isn't the same as the dramatic points that you need to hit in your story.

What can you tell us about your consultancy?

I have worked with 350 writers since I opened my business in 2008. Anyone can contact me – whether they're writing television features or a novel. What I've learned most about in my career is how to develop a story. I want to help others. That's what I did all day every day and I saw my notes made on five shows a week, every week. There was no better training ground to know how to make a story the best it can be.

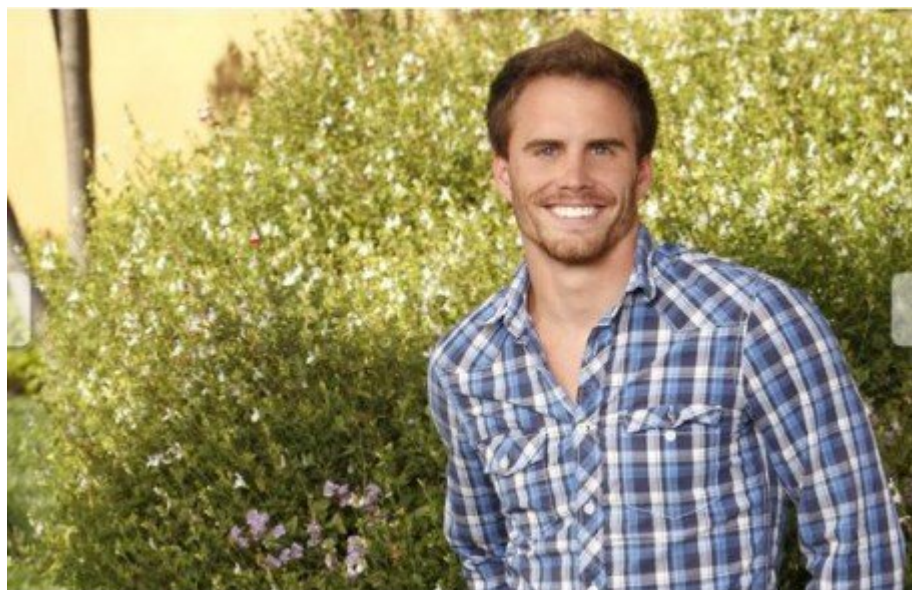
strong>Given your history, we are anxious to know how you feel about reality TV?

I have to be honest. I like reality TV. I think there's room for everyone to succeed. I think that scripted writers can learn from reality TV. For example, when you see certain characters that are more popular than other characters, you

might ask yourself why people are responding more to that person. There are lessons that can be carried over. There really is so much to learn.

Cupid thanks Jennifer Grisanti for her time! To purchase your own copy of *Story Line*, visit Amazon. For more information on Grisanti's consultancy, visit www.JenGrisantiConsultancy.com. You can also find her on Facebook or follow her on Twitter.

Exclusive Giveaway: 'Shark Tank's' Barbara Corcoran Talks Business, Relationships and 'Shark Tales'



This post is

sponsored by Barbara Corcoran.

By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

If you're from New York or a fan of ABC's reality show *Shark Tank*, there's no denying that you've heard of Barbara Corcoran, the savvy real estate mogul who started her business with only \$1,000 (given to her by an ex-boyfriend) and parlayed it into a billion dollar company. She now sits among a panel of business tycoons (all men) as they battle it out to invest their hard earned money into the next big idea or product pitched to them by starving entrepreneurs. For Corcoran, a woman who has been building a business all of her life, she says the show was perfect for her. More than a successful entrepreneur, she is a wife and mother, something she proudly speaks about. She says that most of what she learned about business was by watching her mother helm a household of 10 kids. Her inspiring story is chronicled in her latest book, *Shark Tales: How I Turned \$1,000 into a Billion Dollar Business*.

We had the privilege of speaking with Corcoran, who offered advice to single women who are interested in starting their own career. She also shared what she's looking for when choosing a new business. The answers may surprise you; it's not all about the numbers. Take a look at what she had to say:

What's it like being the only woman on the panel?

It's a HUGE advantage as much as it is a huge disadvantage. The advantage is that no cast remembers my name; they say "Oh, you're the girl on the show." So since I'm the only girl there they can't mix me up with any of the guys who are in suits because my legs are hanging out.

The disadvantage I find that during the actual taping of it is that I have a woman's voice, and they have a camera on each of the sharks for a full 12-hour day. If you were to get a hold of my unedited tape, it would be mostly me saying, "Uh, huh, ah," trying to get attention, and the men mull right over me.

Not that I'm a shrinking violet, but they have bigger voices. So I have to work twice as hard as the guys there.

For the entrepreneurs, I think it's an advantage because they are quicker to trust a woman and believe what I have to say over a man regarding what I am promising to them. So there is a huge trust card there that I can leverage from being a female.

What type of products are you looking to invest in on the show and what are your goals?

The things that would interest me have more to do with the individual and less to do with the product:

1. Handles Pressure: We watch people on the show unravel; they're nervous. When this happens, I immediately know if I am interested in the entrepreneur without even knowing what their business is or what they are going to say because I am watching them under pressure. You have to be really good in the bad times or you're not going to make it.

2. Salesperson: The entrepreneur must be a salesperson. There are so many people with great business ideas, and very often, the reason that they don't have success is because they can't sell their own product. If they can't sell, then I am not in, period – because they're my salesman.

3. Thankful: I'm watching to see if they're a thankful person. In many situations in my adult life, if someone isn't thankful for their family, parents, kids and their lucky breaks, then those people can become ugly partners when there are a lot of chips on the table. I want to partner with a nice person.

4. Hustler: A tremendous trait that must be there is hustle. There is no way to build a business with just having the right product. Even with the right investors on your back, and if you're on prime-time television with a national platform to

sell your product, if you don't have the long-term hustle, you won't make it through the finish line.

So, what I am really focusing on is the individual. If all of those things aren't clicking in my head then I want to get out as quickly as I can. So it's less to do with the product and more to do with the entrepreneur.

What advice do you have for single women who want to start their own business?

I watch people who have saved for years and years to start their business, and they either lose the fire or they get into a position where they have too many bills, family responsibilities, etc. The advice I would give is to start early; begin as quickly as you can and as young as you can. Also, a great thing happens when you're young – you're not afraid. The lack of fear is such powerful ammunition, because the older you get and the more experience you get you're more aware of where you may fail, and that can stop you from trying.

Many women report that they have trouble finding a man who can handle a successful woman. Are there any particular characteristics of the type of men they should be looking for?

Yes – a secure ego. This is true whether it's your marriage partner, a boyfriend for 10 years or a business partner. What's important is that the person needs to be secure enough in what they've got, versus envying what you've got. That's when the trouble starts.

You cut ties with your business partner/boyfriend in the beginning of your career. Is there any advice you can share with women who are attached to the purse strings of a man and don't feel they make it on their own?

I think this quietly erodes your own self confidence and it's a dangerous position to be in. You don't know how much

confidence or ability you have until you take that leap of faith. Like anything else that you do in life, it's hard to cut the strings that aren't working for you because you don't know what you are going to replace them with. But trust me – it's worth taking the jump, because you are wasting valuable minutes of your life.

How do you balance a relationship, motherhood and career?

The truth is that I haven't done it well; I gave up on it a while ago, and simply by admitting the defeat of that it became much easier. One technique I use is that I definitely separate my business from my family and my family from my business. One day a week is Barbara's day, one day is Kate's day (my five-year-old), another day is *Shark Tank* day, and so on. Separating my life into these compartments takes a lot of stress out of being a bouncing ball.

In your book, *Shark Tank*, you outline your mother's life lessons by chapter. Do you think any of these can apply to love and relationships?

One that should apply is No. 3: If the Sofa is Ripped, Cover it with Laughter. Lesson No. 16: Sweep the Corners and the Whole House Stays Clean. Why this applies at home in addition to work is that it means whatever is bothering you, get it out right away. If it sits in the corner, it rots. You need to communicate. That lesson is key to keeping your relationship going. Lesson No. 18: Moms Can't Quit. I can't tell you how many times I was ready in my marriage to call it quits, but you need to figure out a way to make it work. Moms can't quit.

How do you apply to be on ABC's *Shark Tank*?

It's a simple process; you go to ABC.com and fill out the form. Pictures are optional, but television is a visual medium so I would suggest making sure you send one in.

Any last tips on *Shark Tank* or what you are looking for in an entrepreneur?

The only thing I can say is that I am looking for someone who is flexible and open. That's the most important thing to me. People that aren't open to new ideas and are resistant to change rarely work out. At this point in my life, I want to work with someone who is pleasurable.

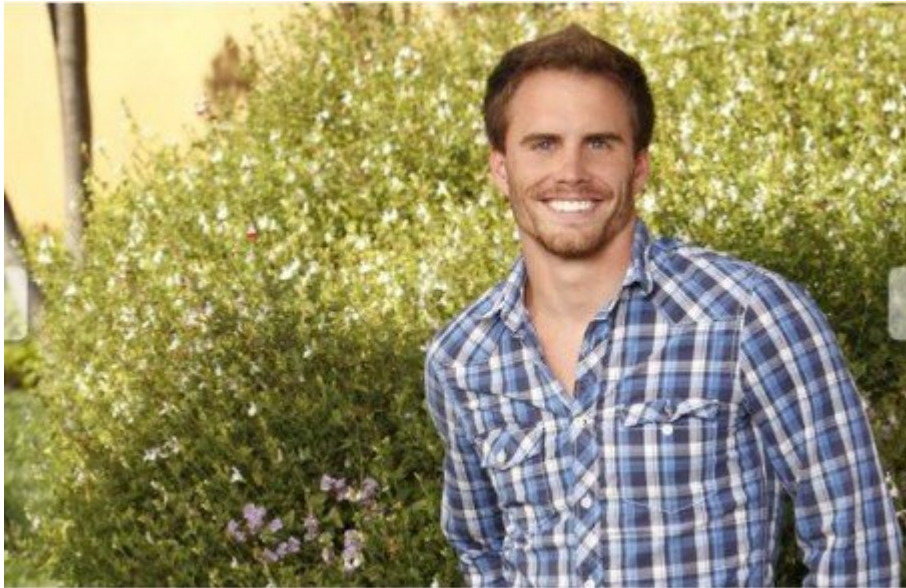
Cupid thanks Barbara Corcoran for her time! For more, visit her website at www.BarbaraCorcoran.com, check out her Facebook page and follow her on Twitter: @BarbaraCorcoran. And of course, don't forget to pick up her book, *Shark Tales: How I Turned \$1,000 into a Billion Dollar Business* and watch her every Friday night at 8 PM EST on ABC's *Shark Tank*.

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** Cupid's Pulse has teamed up with Barbara Corcoran to give a copy of *Shark Tank* to five lucky readers! To enter, tell us what invention or product you'd pitch to the sharks in a comment below. Please be sure to use your real email address so we have a way of contacting you if you've won — don't worry, your address won't be shown. If your email is not included you will automatically be ineligible to win. This giveaway will run until **11:59 PM EST on Thursday, May 19.** Good luck!~~

This giveaway is now closed.

Cupid Exclusive: 'Divorce Court' Judge Lynn Toler Talks

Divorce, Domestic Violence and Hollywood Couples



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

The celebrity lens can make relationships look frivolous. Two year courtships disintegrate as easily as a pair of worn-out running shoes, and headlines of “Betrayed,” “Cheating,” and the big “D” – Divorce – along with paparazzi shots of miserable stars fill the newsstands daily. Divorce is an issue Cupid’s Pulse takes seriously, and who better to talk about it than Judge Lynn Toler from the popular TV series *Divorce Court*? As a celebrity divorce expert, she has more than enough experience to offer solid, real-world advice for our readers.

For the past five years, Judge Toler has been the host of television’s longest running court program. A Harvard graduate, she has written two books, including *My Mother’s Rules* – which not only shares the wisdom of her mother, but takes an honest look at her childhood as the daughter of a man

who struggled with both mental illness and alcoholism. She has seen divorce firsthand countless times and has been part of the messy situations that can arise when two people who took vows of love are now each other's worst enemies. We asked Judge Toler for her perspective on divorce, relationships and Hollywood couples. Take a look at what she had to say:

What's the number one reason people get divorced?

It's hard to say, but people who marry young have the most number of divorces. They don't know how to manage the marriage. You think if you get married the relationship will just handle itself. You need to decide how to argue, you need to make plans about the money, or that mother-in-law that you don't like. You need to manage your relationship, and I think most people don't end up doing that.

How can people who marry young sustain their relationship when divorce statistics are so high?

Marriage counseling before marriage. Don't wait until the boat is swamped. Get somebody who is older, who has been there and done that. You don't have to have any problems, but problems will arise. You have to be mature and in a position to respond appropriately. The first thing I would do is get marriage counseling.

Are there signs that suggest a relationship is heading for a breakup or divorce?

Yes, there are signs:

1. Withdrawal: When somebody is non-responsive, not engaging. When the fighting has stopped, and this person is like, "whatever." That's usually what they call one of The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

2. Globalizing: When "You don't take the garbage out,"

becomes, “You never do anything I want you to do.” You’re adding pieces to the “I’m getting ready to go” pie.

You can tell when people make that shift. It’s either everything or nothing bothers them. Of course, infidelity is always a big one too.

Are there red flags that women should be aware of before heading into marriage with the wrong man?

Yes, I think this is important for women who are attracted to controlling men. I call this the “Widdled Away Women” and I see them on *Divorce Court* a lot. These are the folks who really want to get married and tend to overlook stuff. Some of the things you cannot overlook:

1. Needs you too much too soon: If he met you on Tuesday and can’t live without you on Friday. That’s a possessive personality; it’s not romance.

2. Gets angry easily: If he gets mad easily with other people, or about other things, it’s only a matter of time before he’s comfortable enough to get angry with you.

3. Always check out the family: How do the women in the family get treated? What is the script that he is reading off of? Is his pops mean to his mom?

These are some of the signs that this guy may not be the guy that you want. When speaking in general when you are talking non-gender, always remember that this is as good as it gets. Don’t get married and think that your problems will be over. If it’s not good now, imagine it half as good – and can you live that way? Remember: In the beginning, everyone is looking good and compromising. So if it’s not good now, don’t even bother.

Who would you say had the messiest Hollywood divorce?

I think the LA Dodgers McCourt divorce in my opinion right now

is the messiest. Others would include Alec Baldwin because of the children, and of course, Britney Spears and Kevin Federline.

Do you think that celebrity couples in some way contribute or play a factor in real-life relationships?

Yes, absolutely. The quintessential example of that is the royal wedding: "Some day your prince will come." It's the dream of all women to find their soul mate. Kate (Middleton) and Prince William are on every cover, and this news feeds the fairy tale that so many women want.

What are some lessons we can learn from reading about celebrity relationships?

Again, it's a fairy tale. Celebrities have a lot of problems with the fairy tale belief of love. They are used to getting what they need and want. They have the elaborate wedding, the vacation, and then they are off for six months making a movie and they don't see one another. Their partner is lonely and temptation sets in. Or, they wake up next to a spouse and the fantasy is over when they realize someone has to take out the garbage. They realize it's not the person they thought they married.

Which celebrity couple has surprised you most?

I would have to say Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt really surprised me, even more so that they have stayed together. It was concerning when they started having all of these kids, but they are doing so well. Raising these kids is probably keeping them together.

So many single women feel at a loss because they haven't found someone. Is there a message that you can share with them?

Our primitive minds or emotions want us to hook up with a guy, because in the prehistoric times, your chances for survival

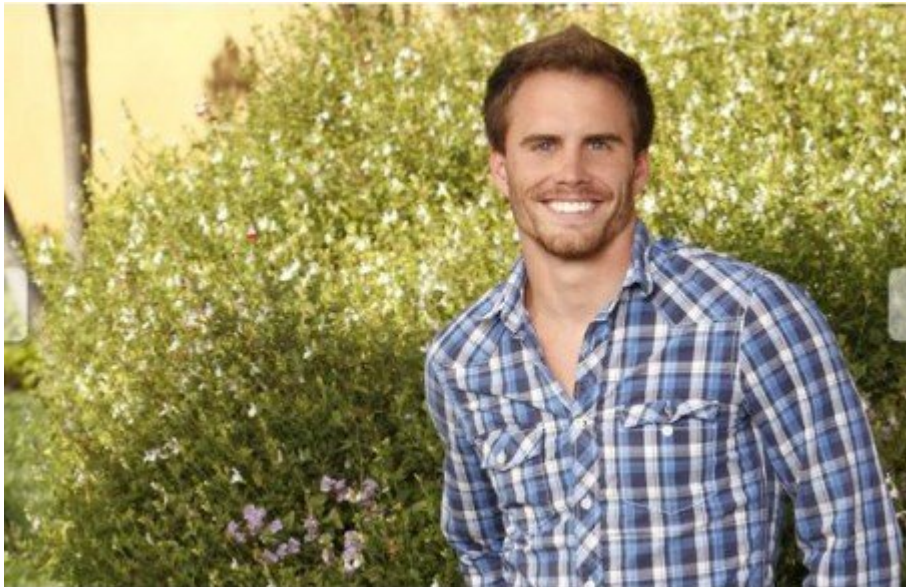
increased dramatically when you were with a guy. Don't let that hereditary desire define how you feel about wherever your life is; it's not as necessary as you may think it is, even if you might feel that way. Single is OK. If you just live fully, and not in anticipation and not looking for someone, you actually become more desirable, and half the time that's when you end up finding someone.

Judge Toler also raised the issue of domestic violence and how that issue weighs deep in her heart. It's something that she sees far too often, and even among the famous, she says love can blind you, as she noted with successful women like Marlee Matlin or Tina Turner. For more information on domestic violence, check out her appearance in Rock the Purple Campaign 2011's Public Service Announcement.

Cupid thanks Judge Toler for her time! For more information, you can visit her Facebook pages, Judge Lynn Toler of "Divorce Court" and Divorce Court, or follow her Twitter handles, @judgelynnntoler and @divorcecourt.

Cupid Event: Finding Mr. Bright at Bloomingdale's





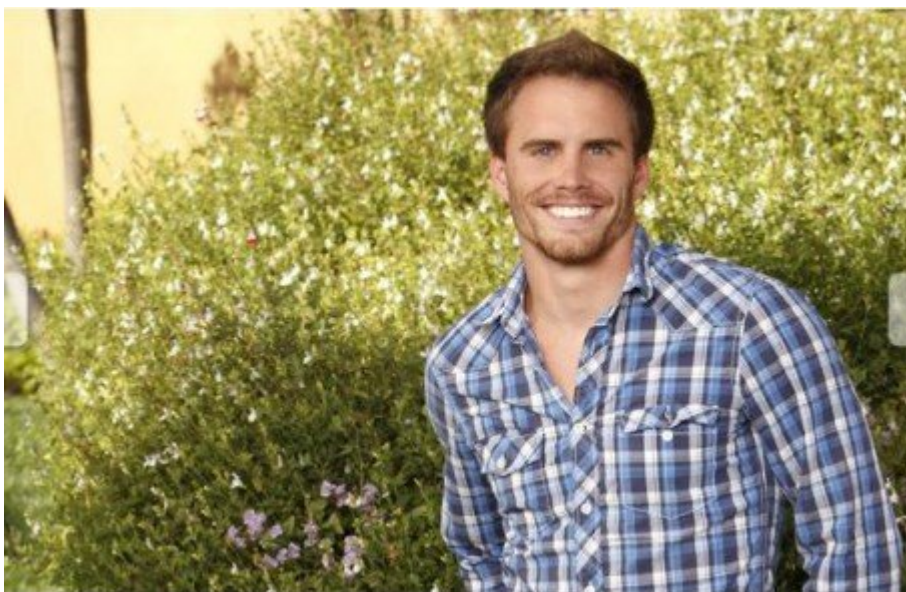
By Vicky Sullivan

of Aspiring Socialite

I fell in love with Bloomingdale's long ago. However, over the weekend, I got to experience love in an entirely new way during the Cupid's Pulse Finding Mr. Bright event in the cosmetics department. As I have grown to know all too well, New Yorkers never have enough time. Therefore, multitasking is a must. Getting both makeup and dating advice in one session is just what any social or corporate ladder climber needs. The fabulous [Lori Bizzoco](#) (pictured left,) founder and editor-in-chief of **Cupid's Pulse**, opened the program with a star-studded presentation on how to find love based on lessons learned from celebrity romances and heartbreaks. As a blogger and Aspiring New York Socialite looking for love, Lori has been an excellent mentor and complete inspiration to me.

Stylish representatives from Benefit Cosmetics, a makeup brand founded in San Francisco based on the principles of fast and fabulous, demonstrated how a few brightening tricks can actively enhance your natural beauty. While "That Gal" brightening face primer can give you that Kim Kardashian glow, BADgal Lash Mascara can make your eyes pop like Scarlett Johansson. As a blue eyed girl, I have my eyes on the Smokin' Eyes Sexy Eye & Brow Makeover Kit.

A Cupid Event: Finding Mr. Bright at Bloomingdale's



Need a little something to get your dating life back into the “spring” of things? Take a trip to Bloomingdale’s in New York City and let Benefit introduce you to Mr. Bright, a brightening kit that is quite a catch! Makeup experts will clue you in on all the essentials for a luminous complexion, while Cupid’s Pulse founder and editor-in-chief [Lori Bizzoco](#) will offer advice and insight on dating in today’s celebrity centered world – just like the site does every day! Space is limited, so call 212-705-3483 to book your appointment. Hope to see you there!

Who: Benefit and Cupid’s Pulse

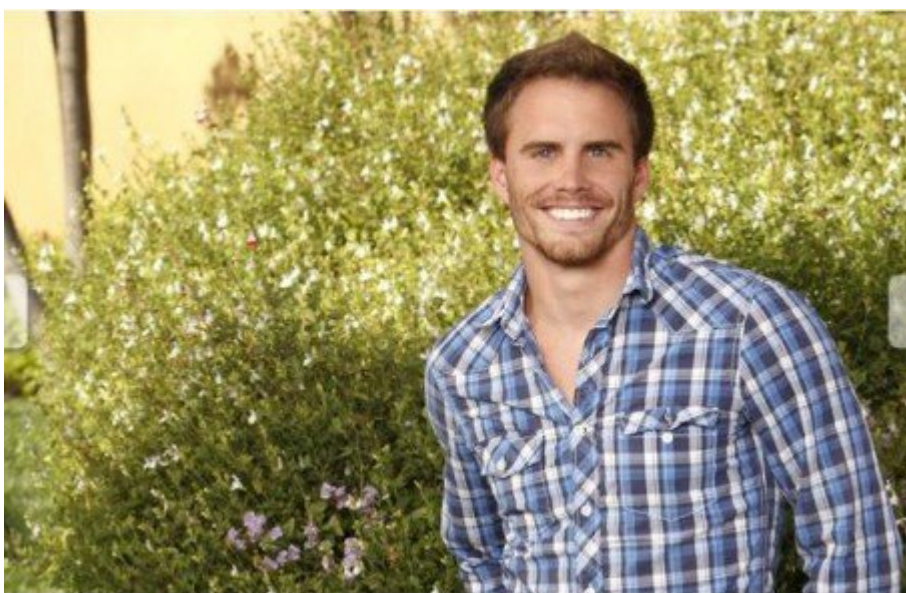
What: Finding Mr. Bright

Where: Bloomingdale’s, 59th St. & Lexington Ave.

1000 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Main floor, Cosmetics

When: Saturday, March 19 at 1 PM and 3 PM.

Miss America 2011: Harvard Graduate and Miss Massachusetts Loren Galler-Rabinowitz is Much More than Just a Pretty Face



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

The women of ABC's *The Bachelor* may be competing for a man's

heart, but the only thing Loren Galler-Rabinowitz wants to win is this year's Miss America crown! But don't think that the Miss Massachusetts contestant is just another pretty face. The 2010 graduate from Harvard University has a degree in English and just finished a 10-year figure skating career as a U.S. Champion ice dancer. In addition to her dreams of becoming a published poet, the Brookline, Mass. native received an \$8,000 scholarship from the Miss America Organization as Miss Massachusetts, which she will put towards pursuing a medical degree. If all this wasn't enough, the 24-year-old won an additional \$250 for winning the talent portion of the competition (nope, not for ice dancing – she's a classically-trained pianist). And this Saturday on ABC, Galler-Rabinowitz will show the country just why she deserves to win not only the Miss America title, but the \$50,000 academic scholarship that goes along with it.

One reason is her devotion to her philanthropic cause, fighting childhood hunger. In fact, Galler-Rabinowitz, who spent a lot of her childhood in Barbados where her mother runs the center for malnourished children, was awarded the Harvard's English department's Le Baron Briggs Traveling Prize for her humanitarian work. Her goal is to work in the area of pediatrics.

How does this non-stop woman find time to accomplish all this – and manage a happy and healthy relationship with her boyfriend of three years? Cupid was lucky enough to speak with her and find out:

After all that you have accomplished, what encouraged you to participate in the Miss America Competition now?

I knew that I wanted to take a year off between undergrad and medical school and I wanted to use that time to give a year of service. I figured that this was the last opportunity in my life where I don't have financial obligations to anyone other

than myself. I wanted to do something that would encourage people to help others and Miss America gives me the platform to do that.

In what ways has your title of Miss Massachusetts already started to impact people?

One advantage of being Miss Massachusetts is that I get to go to schools and give talks. Sometimes people think kids don't listen, but they do. I've received hundreds of email responses. Whether it's someone saying, "Because of you I started a UNICEF chapter at my school," or, "This weekend I am going to be nicer to my little sister."

Miss America is a beauty contest, no doubt about that. There is an aesthetic element to it, but it's not girl who is the most beautiful girl on the outside who wins – it's the one who is most beautiful on the inside. As Miss Massachusetts, I've put in up to something like 70 hours a week of public service. I'm not paid to do this. Being Miss America is even more intensive, but I think that I have the heart to do this job.

What do you say to inspire people?

I usually talk to people about what's *not* on my resume. I worked for 10 years to make an Olympic team, and unfortunately, it didn't turn out the way that I wanted it to and I was really disappointed. I started to volunteer in a hospital as a way to observe how *other* people were dealing with loss, and see if I could learn how to get through a tough time in my life. Also, my grandmother, who I was very close to, passed away around that same time. So I dedicated time each week to caring for others and it was so unbelievably rewarding. Now, I get to talk about the fact that you can take a bad situation and make the best of it by helping others who may be in an even worse situation. Doing the littlest things for someone can brighten their day.

How important do you think beauty is in a relationship?

I think that I would use the word “attraction” rather than “beauty,” because everyone finds something different to be beautiful. In my own life, I have always looked for someone who has the same passion for giving back and doing good. Ultimately, we all end up with wrinkles and gray hair, and saggy in places that we wish we weren’t. But at the end of the day, you want to make sure that you are actually in love with the person – and not what they look like.

How did you and your boyfriend meet and what keeps you together?

We met at school and we’ve been dating for three years. He has a similar commitment to being in public service and that’s the thing that we have really bonded over. It’s that feeling that your life just isn’t complete unless you are doing something good for someone else every single day.

How do you make time for a relationship when you’re so busy? And what can you say to others in the same situation?

I think that’s the challenge in today’s world. As women, for the first time in history, we are as busy, if not busier, than our spouses, husbands, or boyfriends. How do you make a relationship function with two working people? I am in awe of my parents and feel lucky that I grew up in a household where my parents were both incredibly busy, but were able to build this incredibly strong bond and love for one another. Even with three children, they still managed to find the time to communicate. They were engaged after only 24 hours and they just celebrated their 40th anniversary.

I think for anyone to feel fulfilled, you want to have a personal life, too. Work is wonderful, but there’s nothing like having time for relationships and family. You have to schedule time, even if it’s 10 minutes, just to make sure that you’re in sync and on the same page.

You are celebrating a birthday only a few days after the competition. Would winning the crown be the best birthday present ever?

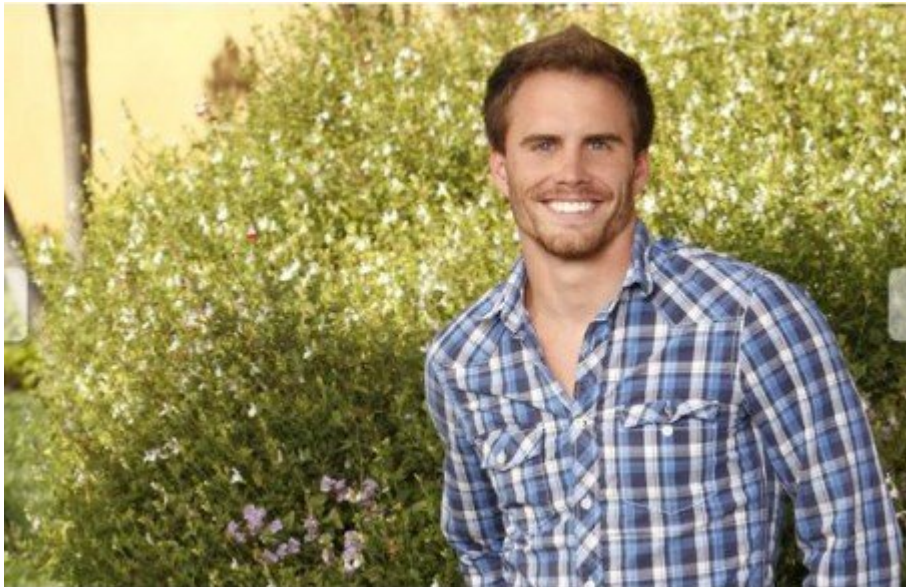
Yes (laughing). I can't really think of anything better – except for maybe a cheesecake and a fork!

Cupid thanks Ms. Massachusetts for her time! And remember to watch her this Saturday, Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. EST on ABC at the 2011 Miss America Pageant – you can even vote for her to be a finalist! Text MAMA (which stands of Massachusetts for Miss America) to 24470. Voting ends at 11:59 p.m. PST tonight, Jan. 13. And for more on the Miss Massachusetts contestant, you can follow her on Twitter: @missmass2010.

Good luck!

ABC's Bachelor Pad Winner David Good Gives Dating Advice to Women in his New Book 'The Man Code'





**“Women have the power to control how men treat them,
how we act and how we are in society.”**

By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

David Good got a bad rap when he appeared on *The Bachelorette: Season 5* ([Jillian Harris](#)’ Season) in 2009. Most infamous for his altercation with former contestant Juan Barbieri and the negative way he used the phrase ‘Man Code’, Good had the opportunity to redeem himself earlier this year on the all-star, spin-off competition Bachelor Pad. Not only did Good surface from the show as the house favorite (and leader), he won the grand prize of \$250,000 with partner Natalie Getz. Now, the 29-year-old first-time author is using a portion of his winnings to set the record straight about the true meaning of “Man Code” in his new book, *The Man Code: A Woman’s Guide to Cracking the Tough Guy*.

Good gave Cupid a view of his softer side, while opening up about his country boy roots in West Alexandria, Ohio, and the importance of bringing back more of what he calls the “John Wayne” types. Of course the interview wouldn’t be complete if we didn’t ask about his relationship status, too. So, here’s what he had to say:

What was your objective for writing “The Man Code”?

The whole point of the book is for women to realize how much power they have over how men in our country act. We conform to act the way you want us to in order to get your attention.

Think about this: 80% of women get the children after a divorce, so there is a high percentage of single women raising sons. Women have control right from the beginning.

What is one way a woman can tell if she's with a “Man Code” man?

Honesty and truth. A Man Code man will start out a relationship with nothing, but honesty. He won't lie about anything. Nothing. There's no reason to. If a guy's lying to you from the beginning, ditch him. It's fine not to disclose your deepest thoughts and secrets right away. But when those things do come up, it's important to be honest.

How can a woman break down the wall of a tough guy?

Don't break his trust. If a guy opens up to you and he confides in you and you run and tell your friend that he shed a tear or got emotional about something and it gets back to his buddies and they laugh at him, he's going to emotionally shut down from you for a long time. Once he confides in you, you don't want to embarrass him or break his trust. If your guy is finally opening up to you and showing his sensitive side and you run and tell your friends that he was crying in your bedroom and he hears that, he will not open up to you for years to come.

When you used the term “Man Code” on the show, what did the other men think?

A lot of them thought I meant the whole “Bros before Ho's” thing. That's the other side of it. I did use it in that way when Juan was changing his clothes and being fake and not doing a shot. But, when they made a mockery of it, that's when I was like, that's not what Man Code is really about.

Where I'm from in the heartland of America, it's a very

serious subject. Men take their work and the way they treat women seriously. They take pride in what they do. That's what provoked me to write the book, because it was taken all out of proportion.

How did the "Man Code" originate?

It started when I was 23 and working with my father. I was in a grocery store in a small town where I'm from. I saw a guy who was manhandling his wife out loud and in front of other men in the store. Nobody was doing anything. So, I walked over to this guy and just decleated the guy right off his feet. The lady that he had pushed down on the ground got up and started screaming at ME. I was so surprised, I didn't know what was going on. So, I left my groceries because I didn't want to get in trouble, and I walked out. I told my dad what had happened, and somehow we started talking about Man Code. And that's kind of how it all originated. We would always kid around about writing a book about it.

We understand that some of the proceeds from the book are going to cancer research. Is there a reason you chose that cause?

Yes. Last year, I was at my best (girl) friend's house on vacation, and I was asleep when she woke me up because her doctor just called saying that she had cancer. She was only 29 (she's 30 now), and to go through that experience with her really hit home. Then a few weeks ago, my grandfather was diagnosed with stage III cancer. A percentage of every book sold will go to cancer research.

The question we all want to know David is are you with Natalie? Were you ever with Natalie?

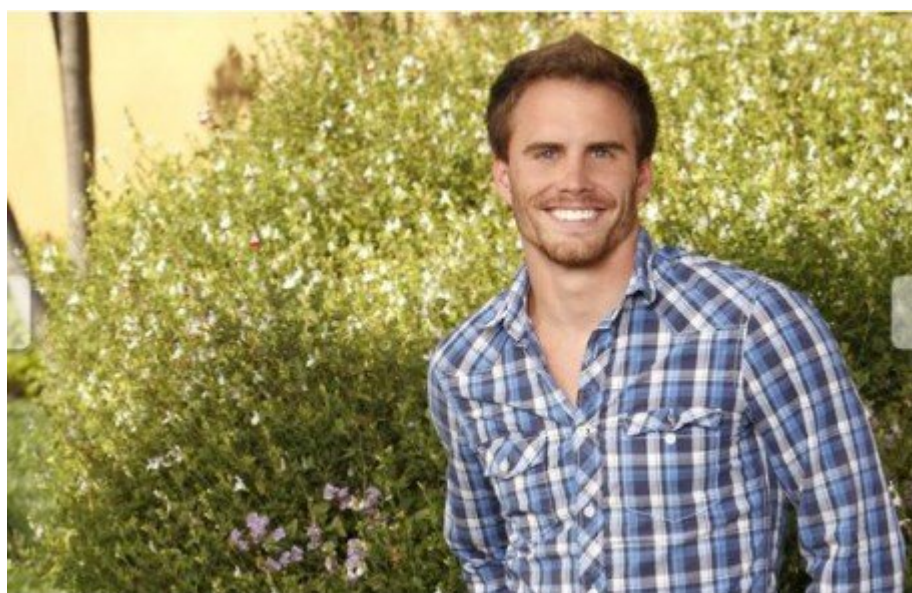
Natalie and I had a great run on the show, and we were good friends before the show, but no, we aren't together. I would never say that we were necessarily boyfriend/girlfriend, but we were put in a very unique situation. It's reality TV, but there's not a lot of reality about flying in private jets, staying in villas and driving Lamborgini's around. It's hard

not to fall into all of that. I really like and respect her.

Obviously, she's beautiful, but I live 2,000 miles away from her. We're great friends still, and we still talk, but "no" we're not in a relationship.

Good is about to embark on a 120+ city tour. Dates and locations are still being determined.

Hard Sell Author Jamie Reidy Cooks Up Recipes in New Book, Bachelor 101



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

From representing pharma to cooking chicken parma, there's no telling what best-selling author Jamie Reidy will do next. One thing that remains consistent is that his books are results-

oriented and focus on sealing the deal, whether it's in pharmaceutical sales or winning over a new love interest. Reidy's new book, *Bachelor 101: Cooking + Cleaning = Closing*, is a cookbook and lifestyle guide for "idiot single guys like me," he told Cupid in a recent interview.

A former pharmaceutical salesman, Reidy is best known for writing *Hard Sell: The Evolution of a Viagra Salesman*, the basis for today's movie release, *Love and Other Drugs* starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway. Cupid had the wonderful opportunity of speaking with Reidy last month, and he filled us in on his new book, which boasts 30 idiot-proof recipes for men who want to wow" that special someone:

What's the premise of Bachelor 101?

The premise is that single guys aren't just going to get off their butts and stop ordering in Domino's, or learn how to clean their apartment without some sort of an incentive. The incentive is that your odds on a successful date go way up if you take the time and put in some effort that cooking requires. Women know how much work goes into cooking, so if a guy actually cooks for them instead of making a reservation, that should make a nice impression.

Why do you think most men don't like to cook?

I think first of all, because it seems like a huge deal. "Oh man, I'm cooking." It seems like an entire process, and it's just scary, and that's because we are totally unfamiliar. It's just like anything else – if you don't know how to work the remote of your TV, you sit down for a while and you look through the directions and you figure it out. Then, you look back and say I can't believe that I didn't know how to do that.

Being in the kitchen is the same thing, knowing how to chop and dice and that sort of thing. I was terrified of the

broiler. You couldn't get me near the broiler, but I had to do it for a few meals and it's pretty easy. Sauté seems like a scary, fancy word, but it means to heat up in butter or oil, so why is that such a fancy word? It's primarily the fear of the unknown.

After how many dates would you say that a man should cook for a woman?

Well, that all depends. It depends on how old the people involved are. I would say that for people in their late 30s, they're a lot faster to do things like that, whereas if you are in your 20s, a woman may be gun-shy about going over to a guy's house. Who knows – if you met someone at a bar or grocery shopping or something and got a good vibe, and the guy said, "Why don't I make you dinner sometime?" the spontaneity could really wow you.

Where did you get the recipes for your book?

A majority of the recipes I tested out came from women, but a couple of them came from some buddies of mine. I learned a couple of great lessons there. Every recipe is basically a paragraph that women give to each another. So I would read these paragraphs, and even though my friend who gave it to me would say, "it's the easiest recipe ever," I would be cooking and invariably I would miss something. My eyes would glaze over the items in the middle of the paragraph. I figured out that it must be something in our DNA. Guys need a list, a step-by-step list. My book literally has 1. Open oven door; 2. Slide out bottom rack. This way I can say, "Check, I did that. Yes, I did that." I can check things off as I go.

Were there any lessons that you learned while writing *Hard Sell* that helped when writing *Bachelor 101*?

Yes, I guess there are two things; one is a personal encouragement thing and the other is as a writer. What I learned from *Hard Sell* is that I have a voice that people

respond to – it's tongue-in-cheek, self-deprecating, with pop culture references. So when I started writing *Bachelor 101*, my voice was very clear and I didn't have any doubt that if people would only get their hands on it they would laugh and find it informative and entertaining. *Hard Sell* gave me the encouragement and validation to do that.

As a writer, what writing *Hard Sell* taught me is that you can't be half-assed about it. It took me a little over a year-and-a-half to write it, but I would walk away from it for a month or two. It wasn't like I was writing every day, or every week. My mom had a great point years ago. She said, "Ya know what? I think writers, I think they write...like everyday." It cut right through me. I realized that if you aren't writing everyday then you probably aren't serious. So I knew with *Bachelor 101*, I knew that I had to be doing something everyday, whether it was writing, cooking, or taking notes throughout the process. I had to be much more disciplined, which I learned through writing *Hard Sell*.

What is your favorite recipe in the book?

My favorite recipe is not the one that's gotten the most rave reviews. The crab cakes have been cooked the most often and have gotten just absolute rave reviews. My favorite recipe is chicken breast dipped in ranch dressing, dropped into a huge zip-lock bag full of cornflakes. There is another variation of that, with crumbled up Ritz crackers. It's a tremendous comfort food, but it's not the healthiest thing in the world.

What's on the horizon?

I'm currently writing screen plays. Right now, I am doing a couple of different things, including a romantic comedy. I am also writing a collection of humorous essays about me and my dad.

Cupid thanks Jamie Reidy for his time! Check out *Bachelor 101: Cooking + Cleaning = Closing* on Amazon.com and see *Love and*

Other Drugs today!