

Celebrity Tell-All Authors





Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi

Both of these lovely ladies have written books that give insight into the struggles they've had to face. The funny lady wrote about coming out in Hollywood and her career as an actress, host, and comedian, while her wife wrote about her journey to overcome anorexia and bulimia. Photo: Andrew Evans / PR Photos

**‘RH00C’ Reality TV Newbie
Lizzie Rovsek on How the Show
Helped Her Celebrity
Marriage: “You’ve Got to Keep
the Passion and the Fire**

Alive”



By Brittany Stubbs

Our favorite Bravo ladies are back in the *Real Housewives of Orange County*. You may have thought you met all the bombshells this season, but joining the reality TV cast on tonight's episode is the much-anticipated wife, mother, and former pageant star Lizzie Rovsek. As any *Housewives* fan knows, with new women, we can expect new drama. And Rovsek makes it clear her debut will be no exception to the rule.

Related Link: [‘RH0A’ Star Phaedra Parks Talks New Book and Marriage: “Remember What Made You Fall in Love”](#)

Celebrity Interview with *RHOC* Reality TV Star

Not only does she fall down at her first filmed party, but she also has to defend herself from the very beginning. "Vicki and I definitely had a rocky start," the newly-minted reality TV star admits. "I didn't feel welcomed by her and felt like I was a burden because she doesn't like new people. I don't think she likes what I do for a living or even my name."

As the only veteran OC housewife still remaining from the first season, Vicki Gunvalson has had issues with newbies in the past. But between Rovsek and Shannon Beador, the other rookie housewife joining the cast this season, Rovsek definitely believes she was in the firing line the most. While she was judged and picked on from the very beginning, Beador seems to have had an easier welcoming from the legendary veteran. "It might be because Shannon and Vicki have a lot more in common than Vicki and I do. They're the same age, and they've been married for a long time."

Despite her roller coaster of drama with Gunvalson, she still manages to make friends this season. "I was warned a little bit and told to be careful of Tamra, but she was actually very nice when I met her," she candidly shares in our celebrity interview. "She's very fun, and we have that in common."

Related Link: [Relationship Taglines for the Ladies of 'The Real Housewives of New York'](#)

Besides Tamra Judge (formerly Tamra Barney), the mother of two also forms alliances with fellow brunette Heather Dubrow. "She is so classy, and I truly look up to her. Throughout the season, Heather is someone I find myself going to for advice, and she's been my friend basically through the whole thing."

With beauty queen and model on her resume, it's no surprise people have a lot of misconceptions when it comes to Rovsek's

looks, brains, and personality. “There was an article that I had a nose job, but I’ve never had plastic surgery on my face,” she explains. Valedictorian in high school and graduating college Cum Laude, the housewife assures us that she has much more to offer than just her looks. “I’m actually a big science geek,” she says with a laugh. “I’m definitely not just a bimbo or pretty face.”

Despite some false judgements, she faces a lot of the same challenges as other working mothers. Between taking care of two young boys and a husband who loves home cooked meals and running a swimwear company, she’s just trying to juggle it all. On top of that, she still wants more children. “We’re definitely talking about having another baby and thinking that will happen by the end of this year or beginning of next year,” the celebrity mom says, making it clear that viewers can expect to see some of these discussions on the show.

Related Link: [Gary and Cassie Chapman from ‘Nashville Wives’ Talk Marriage and Adoption](#)

Lizzie Rovsek Talks About Her Celebrity Marriage

While the *Housewives* franchise has shown the destruction of several [celebrity marriages](#) in the past, especially in the OC, this pageant queen feels like doing the show with her husband Christian has actually brought them closer. “This experience has made us stronger and made us take a closer look at our relationship and love life. Marriage is hard work! You’ve got to keep the passion and the fire alive, and it’s not always easy. We’re working at it all the time.”

For other parents of young children struggling to fit in romance, Rovsek encourages setting aside time to be alone together. “Go on a trip, even if it’s just a two-day drive somewhere. You need to spend time alone – away from your kids,

away from your work – and really make time for each other.”

Besides strengthening her celebrity marriage and getting closer to her husband, she also hopes her appearance on the show will inspire viewers who look up to her. “I hope they get to see my loving nature, and I hope they learn that it’s okay to make mistakes. Sometimes, you learn the most valuable lessons by messing up,” she shares. “Life is a gift, and we’re all in this together.”

To learn more about Rovsek and the Real Housewives of Orange County, tune into Bravo every Monday at 9/8c. You can keep up with Rovsek on Twitter @LizzieRovsek.

‘American Idol’ Contestant C.J. Harris Says Family’s Support “Puts Me at Peace”





By Liz Kim

C.J. Harris, 23, is wise beyond his years. He resonated with *American Idol* fans because the honesty and emotion in his voice was so apparent. The singer traveled all the way to Salt Lake City, Utah to audition for the show, and while he had previously tried out for *The Voice* and *X-Factor*, the third time proved to be the charm.

It's no secret that the ousted contestant is all about his family, who came to support him on several occasions. "It puts me at peace, and it's kind of like singing for people on the couch at home," he shares. "It helps to have someone out there in the audience that, you know. It made me proud to have my mom and my sister there."

With that said, Harris cannot wait to go home to his biggest fan: his 2-year-old son, Jordan. "He motivated me so much. Having him in the audience was so much fun, and we'll have a lot of great memories."

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Contestant Dexter Roberts on](#)

Relationships: “Keep Pushing Each Other to Become Stronger”

He wasn't too far from home on the show, though, because both Jessica Meuse and Dexter Roberts are also from Alabama. In fact, Roberts and Harris were friends long before *Idol*. They met while on spring break in Panama City. “I remember Dexter walking up to me on the beach, and I was playing the acoustic guitar,” he reminisces. “He asked if he could play with me, and there was just something about him that I really liked. We started playing there at the beach and then went back home and realized that we only live about 30 minutes from each other, so we played some places and became really good friends.”

Roberts went home last week, but Harris can definitely see them working together in the future. “I'd love to do a duet with Dexter,” he says. “Me and him have a bond. We've played together before, and it doesn't feel forced.”

Given his big heart and charming voice, fans were disappointed to see the country singer get sent home this week. Despite being in the bottom several times, he never let it get him down. “I got a little frustrated, but it made me want to keep working harder,” he explains. “I believe everything happens for a reason.”

The judges' critiques are not only harsh at times but can also be confusing. Harris, however, was thankful for their honesty. “I never knew that I had pitch problems. I played for people I knew, so I never got the straight answer. I was glad that I got the criticism because now I know what I need to work on.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Contestant Malaya Watson Says, “I’m Not Afraid to Be Myself”](#)

And despite Harry Connick Jr. telling him to “stick to songs you can kill,” the performer believes you shouldn't play it safe. “Always stick to who you are and prepare a lot of songs,” he shares. “Don't stick to just one genre. And don't bring all your good songs out in the beginning. Save some good

songs for later in the competition.” He has no regrets and is looking forward to reuniting with his fellow contestants once more on the summer tour.

Still, adjusting to life after *Idol* will be tough. “My brain is still going 100 miles per hour, and I’m off a couple of hours of sleep. But I’m grateful and happy that I made it this far.”

You can catch C.J. Harris on the American Idol summer tour. Until then, you can keep up with him on www.facebook.com/teamcjharris.

‘American Idol’ Contestant Dexter Roberts on Relationships: “Keep Pushing Each Other to Become Stronger”





By Liz Kim

Dexter Roberts, 22, stood out on this season of *American Idol*, not just because of his smooth country crooning but because of his easygoing demeanor and always present smile. Nothing seemed to shake him, and even after landing in the bottom two this week, he took it all in stride. “I just don’t know what happened this week,” he shares. “I had a great time on the show, and I know I’ll have a great time on tour.”

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Contestant Malaya Watson on Her Ideal Boyfriend](#)

For Wednesday night’s performances, the contestants picked out each other’s songs, and despite the preconceived notion that competition brings out the worst in people, all of the singers looked out for each other. “It was easy to pick songs for each other because we know what kind of artists we want to be and we didn’t want to jeopardize each other.” C.J. Harris picked “Muckalee Creek Water” by Luke Bryan for Roberts, and although he got generally positive reviews, he was ultimately eliminated.

The Fayette, Alabama native won fans over with his Southern twang, and despite getting some criticism about diction and pronunciation, the singer says that's just who he is – but he'll work on it. Ever the perfectionist, he actually wishes he had gotten tougher criticism. "I wanted the judges to be harsh on me because criticism helps you become a better artist," he says. "I told C.J. that I love criticism because it drives me more. It puts fuel onto my fire and makes me want to do better each week."

Roberts got particularly close to fellow contestants Caleb Johnson and Harris, but Harris and Roberts had already been friends for over five years before *Idol*. They met during spring break in Panama City and bonded over music. Neither friend told the other that he was auditioning for the show because both assumed the other would be there. Roberts made it through first, and after lending Harris his guitar, the good luck must have rubbed off because both friends went on to Hollywood. "It's just a great experience to get closer and to make it this far."

Being southern gentlemen, they never let competition get in the way of their friendship. "We've always had a great chemistry with each other; he's like a brother to me. We try to help each other out and fix each other's technique."

Not only did Roberts get to go on his *Idol* journey with a close friend, but he also met his girlfriend Savannah Coker at auditions. Coker, part of the country music band Sweet Tea Trio, didn't make it to Hollywood but showed her love by being in the audience with Roberts's mother. "She's been nothing but great support, and she's been behind me the whole way," he gushes. "Along with my family, her family has also supported me so much."

Related Link: [‘American Idol’ Contestant Ben Briley Sings For His Family’s Future](#)

When two people in a relationship are chasing the same dream, jealousy and hurt feelings can get in the way, but this couple only wants the best for each other. "Any relationship takes work. Just go in and keep standing by each other and pushing each other to become stronger. Have fun and enjoy life!"

Although he may be done performing on the *Idol* stage this season, don't count Roberts out just yet. He has special plans for the *Idol* finale and the upcoming summer tour. "I'm gonna try to come out and do something different. I'm going to surprise you!"

You can catch Dexter Roberts on the American Idol summer tour. Until then, you can keep up with him on www.facebook.com/IdolDexterRoberts.

Celebrity Interview: 'Cheaters' Detective Daniel Gomez Says, "Cheating Doesn't Discriminate Against Anyone"





By Brittany Stubbs

Although infidelity is no longer classified as a criminal act, the consequences of cheating can ruin marriages, families, and lives. For 14 seasons, the reality TV show *Cheaters* has invited viewers to watch real relationships and love unravel as private investigators are hired to help spouses catch their partners cheating. Having served 16 years as the Chief Detective on the show, Daniel Gomez has a lot of knowledge when it comes to infidelity.

Celebrity Interview with Reality TV Star Daniel Gomez

Not all of Gomez's wisdom comes from his experience in the field though. The tough detective from Texas began our celebrity interview by sharing how infidelity has influenced his personal life: "I've been a victim of cheating. It's more common than you think, and you can't always judge a book by its cover. So after going through it myself, I realized there

was something I could do to help others who may be experiencing a similar pain.”

Related Link: [Jason Aldean is Dating Mistress Brittany Kerr Post-Divorce](#)

While hiring a private detective is helpful in determining if your partner is cheating, it doesn't always take a professional to notice some of the clues of infidelity. There are many signs that Gomez encourages victims to look out for in his book *Play to Win*, but here are the five main ones.

- You have difficulty reaching your partner.
- Your partner is paying more attention to his or her appearance.
- Your significant other is preoccupied and less attentive.
- They're working overtimes or out of town on business trips.
- You experience decreased sexual activity, intimacy, and affection from your partner.

After noticing one or more of these signs, many people make the mistake of immediately confronting their partner of their suspicions. While this approach may seem tempting, the detective believes there are a few questions you must ask yourself. First, you must determine how you define cheating. “Definitions of cheating vary,” he explains. “I'll have one client tell me that, unless they're caught having sex with someone else, it's not cheating. And then I'll have another client decide that if they're sending or receiving consistent messages from the opposite sex, they consider that cheating.”

Related Link: [Dean McDermott Is Accused of Cheating on Tori Spelling](#)

After figuring out what behaviors are considered unfaithful, you must decide how much evidence of your partner cheating

that it'll take to satisfy you. "I always ask my clients how much they want to know." While some victims are only seeking one action to determine they've been betrayed, others aren't satisfied until they've obtained every last detail.

Once you have gathered everything you need to build your case, it's time to make the decision: Will you stay, or will you go? "The question is simple; it's the answer that becomes challenging," Gomez says in our celebrity interview. No matter how many apologies and excuses your partner makes, only you can choose what's best for you.

***Cheaters* Detective Talks Celebrity Infidelity and Scandals**

The author believes it's important for everyone to remember that "cheating doesn't discriminate against anyone." No matter who you are, how much money you make, or what you look like, you can be affected by this vicious game, so don't be naive. We're reminded of this truth every time the media alerts us of another celebrity couple's relationship that has been rocked by infidelity. Although it seems surprising that such high-profile people still risk everything by cheating, Gomez reminds us, "Celebrities are human beings just like everyone else."

Related Link: [Michael Morris Steps Out with Wife Post-Katharine McPhee Cheating Scandal](#)

He says that Arnold Schwarzenegger first comes to mind when asked what celebrity infidelity society can learn from. "He cheated and had a child with his nanny, which shows that it doesn't always take someone necessarily attractive to make a person cheat on their spouse." The Tiger Woods case – one of the biggest celebrity scandals in the world of professional sports – is another classic case because it was all confirmed by his wife simply doing some digging on his cell phone.

In the end, while every relationship and love is different, you must remember to always stay in control and protect yourself when dealing with a cheating partner.

To learn more about Detective Gomez and modern day cheating, check out his book Play To Win. Want to be on his weekly radio show? Email your questions and thoughts to dgshowradio@gmail.com.

**‘Blood, Sweat and Heels’
Reality TV Star Brie
Bythewood Says, “I Don’t Know
How to Be Anyone Other Than
Me”**





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Video by Rob O'Haire.

CupidsPulse.com Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco recently met up with *Blood, Sweat and Heels* reality TV star Brie Bythewood at the New Yorker Suite at the Carlton hotel, located at 88 Madison Avenue between 28th and 29th. The gorgeous 1,050 square foot penthouse includes a separate bedroom and living spaces with beautiful decor, as shown in the celebrity video interview above.

Related Link: [Blair Late from Bravo's 'Newlyweds' Chats About Divorce and Gay Marriage](#)

"I think we have a really great platform for a show," Bythewood said of Bravo's popular reality show. "We have an interesting and unique group of women. Whatever the formula, it worked, and it's been a success!"

Celebrity Video Interview with Reality TV Star Brie Bythewood

Given her crazy schedule, we had to ask: How does she manage it all? "In terms of balancing my relationship and love life

with work and the show and everything that comes with it, I would be lying to say it's easy – because it's not," she explains. "It's challenging. It varies day to day." For her, though, her job is her number one focus. "That's always my priority – my work – because that provides me with the life I'm able to lead."

Yes, that's right – Bythewood is in a very happy relationship! While she stayed mum on details about the lucky guy, she divulged that they've known each other for over a decade and that she believes that best relationships are built on strong friendships. As for whether or not he'll be on future episodes of the reality TV show, we'll just have to wait and see. "I wonder that too! I don't know. I'll have to see if I can talk him up to actually making an appearance," she reveals in our celebrity video interview.

Related Link: [Tabatha Coffey Says It's Important to "Connect and Continue to Get to Know Your Partner"](#)

Having finished filming the first season last June (the finale aired this past Sunday, Mar. 16), the real estate mogul shares that she's had time "to make amends of sorts" with the other cast members (Mica included) and cites Demetria and Geneva as her closest friends on the show. Of this Sunday's reunion episode, she says, "It's as true to this season as it can be. There are ups and downs, but at the end of the day, I think we can all survive together."

Be sure to tune in for the Blood, Sweat and Heels reunion show on Sunday, March 23rd on Bravo at 9/8c. You can follow Bythewood on Twitter @briebythewood. For more information about the Carlton hotel, check them out on Twitter @thecarltonny and www.facebook.com/TheCarltonHotel.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

Our Relationship Taglines for the Ladies of 'Real Housewives of New York'



By Brittany Stubbs

Some of our favorite ladies are back in season 6 of Bravo's popular show *The Real Housewives of New York City*, which premieres tonight! Returning to the small screen are Aviva Drescher, Carole Radziwill, Ramona Singer, Sonja Morgan, and Heather Thomson, joined by the newest housewife Kristen Taekman, a model and businesswoman.

The series follows these six women as they manage their hectic social calendars, careers, children, and love lives in the Big Apple. Outside of relaxing in the Hamptons and surviving the occasional catfight, if there's one thing these women know, it's relationships. From married to widowed to divorced and dating with kids, CupidsPulse.com thought it'd be fun to explore their diverse relationships. While the ladies each have their own witty taglines that describe their personalities in the show's intro, we couldn't help but think they deserved ones for their love lives too. If these women had relationship taglines, here's what they'd be:

Aviva Drescher – You Can Find Love When You Least Expect It:

The way that this housewife met *The One* goes to show that you never know where you're going to find your soulmate. The couple had a chance meeting at Bed Bath & Beyond. Drescher, a single mother at the time, and now-husband Reid, a Wall Street investment banker, began talking as their young children played together in the aisles.

It was only a matter of time after that shopping trip that the two got married and began growing their family together. While the blonde beauty has an impressive education, including a Bachelors of Arts from Vassar College, a Masters degree in French from New York University, and a JD from The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, she devotes her time to her husband and taking care of their four children.

Related Link: [How to Date When You're a Single Parent](#)

Carole Radziwill – Love Stories Can Be Epic, No Matter Their Length: Before Radziwill took on the titles of best-selling author, award-winning journalist, and Princess, she was just a girl from Suffern, New York, pursuing her dreams of writing. Working with ABC News, she was assigned to all kinds of stories that kept her traveling and writing around the world. One day, she was sent to work on a story that Anthony

Radziwill was producing. While Anthony was as passionate about news as Carole, there was something that made them different: He had a royal lineage going back four hundred years. Lucky for her, this real-life prince soon became her Prince Charming.

The couple fell in love quickly, passionate about their careers and each other. In 1994, the two were happily married, unaware they were living anything but a fairytale. Tragically, Anthony was diagnosed with cancer and passed away on August 10, 1999. Through her pain, the reality star began to write about the devastating battle of cancer and loss of her husband, eventually leading to her first book *What Remains: A Memoir of Fate, Friendship, and Love*. The memoir spent over 20 weeks on *The New York Times* Bestseller List and was nominated for the "Books for a Better Life" award.

Radziwill split from her rocker boyfriend Russ Irwin who we met during Season 5, but she continues to date. We might even get a look at her latest love interest this season!

Ramona Singer – Leaving is Sometimes Easier Said Than Done: Singer, best known for her go-getter attitude and opinionated speech, is suffering from what is one of the most devastating issues in a relationship: infidelity. After being married to Mario for over two decades, she discovered that her husband was unfaithful. It was reported that he had been having an affair with a younger woman named Kasey Dexter for eight months. As if that's not heartbreaking enough, the housewife had to witness the affair first-hand when she walked in on them in the Singer's Hamptons home. The encounter led to Ramona calling 911 for a domestic dispute.

Although Singer has filed for divorce, it remains unclear if the couple will go through with it or not. Just weeks after separating, the couple was spotted on a date together at Bowlmor Lanes in New York City. Although the reality star has always preached the importance of being independent and able

to provide for herself, completely moving on from a marriage of 25 years – despite her husband's betrayal – might be tougher than she thinks.

Related Link: [Celebrity Couples That Are Better Off Single](#)

Sonja Morgan – When It Comes to Love, Age Is Nothing But a Number: Morgan has always been open about her love for men of all ages...and rarely are these men her own age. The housewife was married to John A. Morgan for ten years. Not only are many fans surprised to discover that he proposed after the first date but also that he was 33 years older than her.

The couple's divorce was finalized in 2008, and since then, Morgan hasn't given up on her search for true love. In the season 6 teaser, she says, "I'm going below 30 years old," in regards to some of the men she's been seeing. Fellow *RHONY* cast member Heather Thomson claims, "Sonja has as many men as she has interns...and some of them are the same age."

Related Link: [Dating with an Age Gap](#)

Heather Thomson – You Can Be the Wife AND the Boss: Thomson is married to Jonathen Schindler, and unlike many women, Thomson decided to keep her own name after she got married. While the happy couple have two children together, wife and mother are only part of this housewife's description: She's also the creator of "Yummie by Heather Thomson," the popular and innovative shapewear line. Plus, she's designed for and styled some of the biggest names in entertainment, including Jennifer Lopez, Beyoncé, Tina Knowles, and Sean "Diddy" Combs. She was the founding Design Director for his Sean John line and is credited as a major force behind multiple CFDA award nominations.

Although this season reveals that some women refer to Thomson's powerful presence as bossy, her husband shows that men do like women who take charge and are not intimidated by their success.

Kristin Taekman – Relationships Are a Balancing Act: Taekman is the newest member of the gang. She's been married to her husband Josh for a decade, and they have two beautiful children together. The couple met and fell in love in NYC, and Josh ended up proposing on Kristin's favorite holiday, Halloween, in Central Park. While she loves being a wife and mother, she's trying to balance her family life with her modeling career – a challenge that many married career women understand!

Can you relate to any of these women's love lives? Share with us what your relationship tagline would be and why!

To see more of these ladies and their relationships, tune into The Real Housewives of New York premiere tonight at 9/8c on Bravo!

'The Bachelorette' Contestant and Hopeless Romantic Chris Bukowski Wants His "Fairytale Ending"





Interview by [Whitney Johnson](#). Written by Liz Kim.

The Bachelorette season 8 contestant Chris Bukowski might seem like he has everything – great looks, a booming restaurant, and the kind of job that allows him to travel all over the country – but he admits that there’s still something missing in his life. “I’m the most single person in America,” he laments. Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, the reality TV star boasts a pretty impressive resume, including senior sales executive for the New York Islanders, V.I.P. Concierge at the Wynn Las Vegas, and currently owner of The Bracket Room in Arlington, Virginia (with plans to open future locations). But at the end of the day, he misses the magic of a *real* first date with someone special.

Related Link: [Former ‘Bachelorette’ Desiree Hartsock on Finding Mr. Right](#)

Reality TV Star Talks About

Experiences on *The Bachelorette* and *Bachelor Pad*

Fans first got to know Bukowski when he was cast on Emily Maynard's season of [The Bachelorette](#). He initially didn't have any interest in the show. "One of my friends I grew up with in Chicago wrote a letter to ABC about why I should be the next *Bachelor*. And you know how it works – you pretty much have to be on *The Bachelorette* in order to be the star of *The Bachelor*," he explains. He got some emails from ABC casting but brushed it off as a prank.

A change of jobs brought him back to Chicago, and he decided to take a chance and audition at a casting call by his condo. Ultimately, it was Maynard's photo that convinced him to give it a shot. "I never watched the show before, so I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. Once they showed me who the girl might be, though, I thought she was right up my alley," the reality TV star says. "Physically, Emily was really hot! I decided then that, if they cast me, I would do it."

Bukowski didn't expect to fall for Maynard as hard as he did, but as their relationship and love progressed from week to week, he quickly became a fan favorite. After making it to the final four, fans were shocked when Maynard let him go, especially because she couldn't give him a reason as to why he wasn't getting a rose. "After *The Bachelorette*, I left my job. I was alone in my thoughts, and I was a little heartbroken," he candidly shares.

Related Link: [Chris Bukowski Says He Still Has Feelings for Emily Maynard](#)

Instead of wallowing for too long, he agreed to compete on *Bachelor Pad*, a show that featured contestants from *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* who play for a cash prize.

“It was an outlet where I could go to escape, just have some fun, and maybe win some money,” he reveals. “I did it for the experience, and I’m glad I did.”

While he didn’t win the big prize, the handsome Chicago native left quite a different impression on fans than he did during his time on *The Bachelorette*. Previously, viewers knew him as a hopeless romantic who just wanted to find a relationship and love, but on *The Bachelor Pad*, he hooked up with multiple castmates (he attributes this to crafty editing), lied, and exuded a cockiness that turned off a lot of people. Bukowski defends his behavior as a necessary tactic to win the game. “They are two completely different shows,” he explains. “One is a show where you’re putting yourself out there to potentially fall in love and find a wife. The other is a game show. It’s funny because they made me seem so terrible, and I really wasn’t that bad.”

He also shares that his motivations were different than those of his competitors. “I’m very competitive, and no one else on the show had that mindset,” he admits. “I wasn’t sure what they were concerned about. I wasn’t into falling in love with anybody, and I just wanted to have fun.” No matter how he was portrayed, he says that he had the most fun out of anyone in the house and felt that he left a winner.

Chris Bukowski on Finding a Relationship and Love in the Real World

While the restaurant owner is thankful for his time on reality TV, he also believes that this exposure is keeping him from meeting the right person. “I would say I’m definitely looking to settle down,” he divulges. “It’s just tough. People learned a lot about me really quickly because I was on the shows. So when I go out with a girl, they already know about me, and it

kind of takes away from the whole first date experience and getting to know somebody.”

Simply put, “it really does suck. To be honest, I would say my dating life is almost zero right now.”

Related Link: [Dating Advice: How to Approach a Spring Fling](#)

He also admits that the hopeless romantic who fans met on *The Bachelorette* is his true self. He dreams of meeting his future wife by chance at the airport and admits that this desire is fueled by his love for chick flicks. He adds, “I love the fairytale endings. Sure, these things only happen in the movies, but you still get that little hope that it can happen in real life too.”

Ever the foodie, it’s no surprise that Bukowski’s perfect date idea is a nice lunch, an even better dinner, and fine wine. “I may not seem like it, but I’m a really laid-back person,” he says. “I’m happy with enjoying great food, catching a movie, or just hanging out at my place.”

While it remains to be seen if Bukowski will be a future *Bachelor*, he has some opinions about the current leading man, Juan Pablo Galavis. Although he’s picking Nikki Ferrell as his favorite to win, “it seems like Juan Pablo is definitely having fun, but I’m not convinced that any of those girls are going to be his future wife,” he shares. “I think he’s using the show as a way to enjoy himself and probably get himself out in the public eye.”

You can keep up with Bracket Room on the website <http://www.bracketroom.com/>. You can also keep up with Chris on Twitter @chrisjbukowski. Be sure to tune in to The Bachelor finale tonight on ABC at 8/7c.

'Online Dating Rituals of the American Male' Reality TV Star Marcus Pierce Says Being Yourself is Key to Finding a Relationship and Love



Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#). Written by Louisa Gonzales and [Whitney Johnson](#).

Marcus Pierce is no stranger to the online dating world, having been active on sites like OkCupid since 2006. The

celebrity trainer and Artist Muse creative director also isn't one to shy away from fun opportunities, so deciding to appear on the premiere episode of Bravo's new reality TV show *Online Dating Rituals of the American Male* was an easy choice to make.

Related Link: [‘A Million First Dates’ Offers New Insights About Online Dating](#)

Marcus Pierce Talks Reality TV and Online Dating

The Los Angeles resident feels like the docu-series came along at just “the right time in my life. I’m kind of at the point where I’ve run out of options. Plus, I’m so busy with work and everything else,” he explains in our [exclusive celebrity interview](#). “And I’m always up for new experiences – especially when it has to do with a relationship and love. I feel like you can find it anywhere if you’re open to it.” Along these lines, *Bachelorette* fans may recognize Pierce from the second season of the show, where he was one of 25 contestants vying for Meredith Phillips’s heart.

Despite his personal beliefs, the handsome trainer understands the doubt surrounding online dating. In fact, he hasn’t always been on board with the concept. When he first joined the online dating scene, it was more of a “joke” to him. And he wasn’t the only one with that mindset: “Back then, I think people automatically assumed that, if you were online dating, you were desperate.”

Of course, his opinions have changed since then. “At the time, I was younger and wasn’t working as much as I am now. I had a lot more free time to actually go out and meet women. So, here we are, eight years later,” he says with a laugh. “Now that I’m busier, online dating just makes it easier for me to look

for a relationship and love.”

So what can viewers expect when they tune into *Online Dating Rituals of the American Male*? Pierce assures fans that he’s always true to himself as he reveals “the good, the bad, and the ugly” of online dating. “I know who I am, and I know I have to be vulnerable, so I’m always just going to be Marcus,” he shares. “I’m a pretty loving guy. I’m very personable. I’m a communicator. No matter what I get from a girl, I’m still going to be me.”

Related Link: [Celebrity Blogger Perez Hilton Talks Online Dating](#)

Bravo Star Shares Online Dating Advice

The reality TV star also hopes that the show will allow people to learn from his experiences. He wants to help both men and women gain a better understanding of online dating, especially when it comes to developing their profiles. “You need to put your best representation forward. You know everybody’s got their weirdness and their issues, but you don’t want to put that all out there!”

Continuing with this advice, Pierce encourages online daters to show off their best qualities in the beginning and not worry about how you think a potential match will perceive your profile. “Always put up your best pictures. Don’t put anything that’s unflattering about yourself; let somebody naturally find out those things about you when they take you on a date. You don’t need to lay it all out on the table. Include the things that will interest people and make them want to learn more about you.”

Just like in real life, online dating matches don’t always work out. Still, he doesn’t let himself get too affected by

rejection – and he advises others to do the same. “Don’t think about what the other person is trying to get from you. Just be yourself, be vulnerable, and be open to love. And that person who truly belongs with you, who truly wants you for who you are, will find you.”

Related Link: [How to Deal with Online Dating Rejection](#)

While he’s dealt with heartbreak in the past, Pierce *may* be happily coupled up now. When asked if he was currently single, the reality TV star played coy. It looks like you’ll have to tune into the show to find out about his current relationship status!

You can follow Pierce onTwitter @thefitartist. Be sure to tune into the premiere of Online Dating Rituals of the American Male on Bravo this Sunday, March 9th, at 10/9c!

Cassie Piersol Chapman on Her Celebrity Marriage: “You Can’t Help Who You Fall in Love With”





By Brittany Stubbs

Set in and around the capital of the high-stakes country music business, *Private Lives of Nashville Wives* follows a group of driven women as they navigate their lives through professional challenges, family issues, and social relationships in the South. Award-winning singer-songwriter Gary Chapman and his wife Cassie Piersol Chapman are two stars of TNT's new reality TV series. With a 23-year age difference, there has been some speculation about the couple's celebrity marriage, but they're here to prove that their relationship and love is the real deal.

Cassie Piersol Chapman Opens Up About Celebrity Marriage

The twosome first met on a tiny island in the Bahamas. "I had no idea who he was," Cassie explains. "Without Internet or cell service on the island, it's not like I had Google to look him up! I knew he was older than me, but I wasn't aware that he was 23 years older. At that point though, I didn't care."

Cassie then moved to Nashville in order to be with her man. "You can't help who you fall in love with."

Related Link: [Dating with an Age Gap](#)

In Gary, she found a partner who is patient and kind and loves her unconditionally, something she had never felt before. People have given looks and made remarks about her being a gold digger and a trophy wife, but she never lets negative comments phase her. "I don't care what people say. They can call me whatever they want."

Despite some criticism from others, the famous couple have truly found more advantages than challenges to their age gap. Gary claims that the reason their relationship and love works so well is because of their personalities and constant support for one another. "We genuinely have met in the middle," he says of their celebrity marriage. "My life experience is deeper than hers at this point, just because of the calendar, and while I believe she appreciates and enjoys the wisdom I've accumulated, she keeps me young and reminds me that if you want to live a happy life, you can't take everything so seriously."

One thing that the [celebrity couple](#) does take seriously is their desire to have children, something that viewers will see throughout the season. While other *Housewives* series tend to focus on the drama between women (although we'll see a little of that too), *Nashville Wives* shines more light on family dynamics. "The husbands and kids are more involved," Cassie says in our celebrity interview. "I think it makes the show more relatable and interesting."

Reality TV Celebrity Couple on Their Adoption

For the Chapman's, the cameras will capture the emotional and

stressful process of adopting their baby girl. Through this life-changing experience, Cassie became an advocate for private adoption. "I want to start a non-profit organization to help birth mothers find adoptive families. It'll be a private adoption service rather than an agency, because I don't think a lot of birth mothers know that's a possibility." The couple agrees that the private adoption path is a much better process for both the child and the parents. "We have a very open adoption with the birth mother," Cassie shares. "She visits all the time, within reason, and I love that our daughter will know where she came from."

Related Link: [Hugh Jackman on the Joys of Adoption](#)

Although they are busy being new parents, the duo understands the importance of making time for just the two of them. Making their relationship and love a priority doesn't always mean having to go out for a date night though. "When we go out, we inevitably end up running into people we know and talking to them, and then suddenly, we're just waving to one another across the room," Gary says with a laugh. "We don't actually end up getting to spend that much time together!" For this reason, they often have more fun just being home. After the baby falls asleep, they enjoy cooking dinner, having a glass of wine, and hanging out on the couch.

It's not hard to tell these two lovebirds are crazy about each other. Although Gary endured two painful celebrity divorces before meeting Cassie, he didn't let past wounds keep him from falling in love again. "You have to decide if the experience of falling for someone and having a beautiful relationship is worth the risk of the pain that you know is potentially out there. I made the choice to take that risk, and I'm so glad I did."

While Gary knows that this marriage will be his last, he definitely hasn't had his last wedding. The couple, now married for six years, have had four celebrity weddings: a

small ceremony that Gary's father performed, a mountaintop wedding in Breckenridge, Colorado, a ceremony at a Renaissance fair with Cassie's grandmother, and of course, one in Las Vegas.

Despite all of these ceremonies, the couple is making plans for at least one more. "We've yet to have a big, fancy wedding here in town where all of our friends can come," Gary explains. Though a date hasn't been set yet, it will be a traditional ceremony. "I want my dad to walk me down the aisle, and my mom to button me up – that kind of thing," Cassie shares. "I also want our daughter and Gary's children, my bonus kids, to be a part of the celebration as well."

Be sure to tune into Private Lives of Nashville Wives every Monday on TNT at 10/9c!

'Mob Wives' Executive Producer Jenn Graziano Says, "I'm Not Anti-Marriage; I'm Anti-Ball and Chain!"





Interview by [Lori Bizzoco](#).

From VH1's *Mob Wives* to *Miami Monkey*, Executive Producer Jennifer Graziano transformed the realm of [reality TV](#). She now continues to expand her resume with exciting new projects like releasing a classic, family-inspired Italian cookbook and continuing the recent launch of reality TV star Big Ang's new wine line.

Related Link: ["Bigger is Better": Mob Wives "Big Ang" Launches New Wine Line in NYC!](#)

Celebrity Video Interview with *Mob Wives* Producer

Graziano recently sat down with CupidsPulse.com's Executive Editor Lori Bizzoco to talk about the *Mob Wives* franchise and how the series impacted her family and the rest of her career. And, of course, they talked relationships and love: Despite her hectic schedule, this accomplished bachelorette is open to the idea of getting married one day to someone who's willing to support her ambitions as a thriving businesswoman. As she

told us in our celebrity video interview, “I’m not anti-marriage; I’m anti-ball and chain!”

To learn more about Graziano, follow her on Twitter @jenngraziano. Don’t forget to tune in on Thursday, December 5th at 10 PM ET/PT for the new season of Mob Wives: New Blood on VH1!

Video by Erik Erikson.

For more videos from CupidsPulse.com, check out our [YouTube channel](#).

“Bigger is Better”: Mob Wives “Big Ang” Launches New Wine Line in NYC!





By Priyanka Singh

“Bigger is better” is the motto this vivacious star lives by, and she’s certainly living up to that reputation! Angela Raiola, otherwise known as “Big Ang” from the popular reality television series *Mob Wives*, had an official launch party for her new product, BigAngWines on October 24th at Tello’s NYC. The authentic Italian restaurant was an intimate gathering of friends and family celebrating her newest liquor venture, which included Cabernet, Chardonnay, and Prosecco. Attendees were invited to taste samples from her collection, check out the elegant wine bottle design, and enjoy a customized cake made to replicate the bottle design itself!



Big Ang poses with her customized wine bottle cake at her official launch party.

When asked what inspired her to create her own variety of wine, the VH1 star said, "I do own two bars; my family was in the bar business; and my mother and father were bartenders too. I just thought, 'Bars, bartenders, wine – it all went together.'"

Between launching her new product and shooting for her new reality series *Miami Monkey*, this lady is pretty busy. So we wanted to know how she finds time to balance her work and her relationship while keeping things so young and fresh. "It's hard. As you know, I have a husband, and he just comes along with whatever we do. He's there for me. I also have a family who stands behind me, and someone needs to make the money! It's all about the money," the star says with laughter. "I'm not home much, but it works! The less you're with the husband or wife, the better. When you're with each other constantly, you get under each other's skin."



Big Ang and her husband, Neil pose for the camera at her official launch party.

'Big Ang' adds that, when it comes to the dynamic between a couple, "the husband should always love you more than you love him." And for all of you singles out there looking for some premium dating advice, the reality star herself suggests, "Don't ask any questions and don't tell them anything. Just enjoy the dinner and the drinks!"

To purchase any one of the three varieties of her new collection, check out BigAngWines.com! Don't forget to follow her on Twitter @BigAngWines and 'Like' Miami Monkey on Facebook.

Jennifer Lopez's Backup Dancer, Tera Perez Talks Relationships, JLo, Casper,

and New Docu-series, 'A Step Away'



By Priyanka Singh

“Every superstar needs backup”, and that’s exactly what world-class superstar Jennifer Lopez gets as she begins her tour with the hottest, most talented group of dancers, one of which happens to be JLo’s stand-in dance captain, Tera Perez. This vibrant and driven dancer spoke with CupidsPulse.com about the new docu-series, *A Step Away*, which airs on Thursday, October 3rd on NUV0tv at 10/9c. The show gives us an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the lives of these backup dancers on the road as they balance love, relationships, work, family, and so much more.

Touring across the globe, rehearsing for several hours a day, being far away from home...how do these dancers handle this hectic lifestyle? Perez reveals that, on the show, viewers will see a mix of everything since they are such a dynamic group of people outside of all the glitz and glamour. She also opens up about her own experiences of touring while being in a relationship with backup dancer, Lake Smits, who is also part of the group. "I have to say, I'm really lucky. I've gotten to experience being on the road with Lake and travel the world, spending every minute possibly with him for the past year and a half." Perez considers herself fortunate for not having to deal with the struggles of a long-distance relationship on tour, but she still deals with the obstacles of being surrounded by each other all the time.

Related Link: [Is Your Career Killing Your Relationship?](#)

One of the biggest challenges they face as a couple is keeping work separate from home. "Sometimes, you're stressed out. You're tired and frustrated, and you're in pain from doing all these numbers. Your body is aching, and you're with each other 24/7, doing the same thing. Not bringing that work home was definitely our biggest obstacle." However, the couple is still going strong: They plan to live together after the tour.

Of course, we had to ask Perez what it was like working with Lopez, one of the biggest global superstars in the entertainment business. "She doesn't let anything slide. You always have to be on your A-game with her because she notices everything! That's probably the biggest challenge, but she pushes you to be a better person."

Related Link: [J. Lo and Casper Smart: What Their Body Language Says About Their Love](#)

JLo's love life comes up in discussion too since her boo, Beau Casper Smart, happens to be the choreographer. Of their relationship, Perez says, "They're really great. They have great chemistry and a great creative partnership." She went on to parallel their two love lives and how it's unique to see their two relationships play out together on tour. "They have

their's, and we have our's. You see it for exactly what it is, and it's just this great chemistry and love for each other."

Be sure to tune in for A Step Away tonight on NUV0tv at 10/9c!

How do you balance work and love under a tight schedule? Share your thoughts below.

HGTV Realtor Steven Aaron Talks 'Selling LA' and Love: "You Can't Be Everything To One Person All The Time"





By Kerri Sheehan

From the Hollywood Hills to the Sunset Strip, Los Angeles is home to the rich and famous. Landing a real estate job in the area is like swimming in a shark tank with blood in the water. Steven Aaron, one of the stars of HGTV's reality show *Selling LA*, can attest to that. The cameras follow Aaron and two other real estate firms as they attempt to book millionaire clients, tour breathtaking properties, and network their way to the top of the high-end real estate ladder.

Related Link: ['Love It or List It, Too' Star Jillian Harris Chats About Doing It All](#)

Aaron started his career as an interior designer before discovering his talent in real estate. He urges others to follow their gut when it comes to a career choice. "I followed my attraction to real estate, and it's the best decision I've ever made." Still, his interior design background helps him when it comes to staging a house and preparing a property for sale, as he's able to create a space that potential buyers can see themselves living in and making their own.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Aaron is among the rare, as many people move to the area later in life. He's enjoyed watching the city transform and mature during his years of living there. Due to the region's "traffic problems, so many areas have become walking communities and have their own vibe. That never existed years ago." Each area of L.A. is as unique as the last, from the hills to the ocean to the urban grit.

When working with a client to help them find their dream home in the bustling city, the real estate agent always tries to connect in a personal and understanding way. This method has helped him build a loyal clientele and a reputation for providing results and being as direct and tenacious as necessary.

For couples looking to buy a home together without input from this house hunting expert, consider the following advice: Agreement is key to keeping both people happy. "You have to respect each other's differences in taste," says Aaron. "If you don't agree on something, you can always move onto another choice that you can both agree on."

Speaking of couples, Aaron will soon be marrying his long-time partner in a beautiful backyard ceremony. Their wedding is taking place in the garden of a close friend who has "a lovely, informal, country-style ranch house with lots of flowers and greenery." As far as wedding planning goes, they've been using the divide and conquer method. "I am in charge of the party. I have always been the one who handles the entertaining."

Related Link: [8 Things Your Wedding Can Do Without](#)

Aaron and his fiancé have been together since first meeting at a Mexican restaurant in West Hollywood back in 1987. For them, their big day is about celebrating a milestone with their loved ones. "We have so much history together. Since we're so established, it's a very different planning process than a

younger, new couple.”

According to the real estate tycoon, the two have made their relationship last so long by sharing the same values. “We both love family. We are very close with our families, cousins, and nephews.” They also each have their own interests as well. As he explains, “You can’t be everything to one person all the time.”

Currently, Aaron is working with several investors on fixer homes that they’re flipping. You can catch Aaron in action on Selling LA on Thursdays at 9/8c on HGTV. Be sure to follow him on www.facebook.com/StevenAaronLA or Twitter @StevenAaronRltr for more updates!

‘Tough Love: Co-Ed’ Star Kyle Keller Says, “Listen to Your Heart and Be Truthful to Yourself”





By Kristin Mattern

Kyle Keller and her lovely personality are no stranger to the media circuit: progressing from a sports broadcaster to host of MAXIM radio to executive producer for MediaKillers.com, Keller's charm has brought her from into the spotlight. Her outgoing persona, stylish wardrobe, and sex appeal have even landed her two shows of her own, *Style with Kyle* and *Kyle's Ultimate Challenge*. "Everything I have done in my career is connected," she explains. "It's all personality-based, whether I'm in front of or behind the camera. I think the most challenging part is getting people to take me seriously, but it's been a fun ride."

Expanding her resume, the blonde bombshell is now a member of VH1's popular show, *Tough Love: Co-Ed*. "I felt like the only way I was going to find love was by going on television," she candidly admits. "I knew it would force me to be true to myself. I couldn't lie if I was on TV." Coached by dating and relationship expert Steve Ward, Keller recalls how the tough love guru used honesty to break down the celebrities and show them that even though they're amazing people, they, like

everyone else, have flaws. "I was true to myself and found my own way, and I'm hoping that viewers will take something away from my journey."

Related Link: [Celebrities Who Dated Out of Their League](#)

In a twist, this season of *Tough Love* features not only the famous Steve Ward but also his sister Monica, who provides a feminine view on dating. "Steve is really tough and no nonsense when it comes to giving advice. He's honest to the point where it can break you," the contestant remarks. "Monica is great. She's really tough too. You just have to watch the show to really see them in action!"

Of the other seven cast members, Keller notes, "Everyone has different personalities, and we sometimes clash because of it. We all went on the show for different reasons. I think viewers will see that and will really love it." It isn't easy living in such a full house, but they all learned to improve not only their relationships with love interests but with family and friends as well. When asked about the number one lesson she learned, Keller refers to Steve's book *The Crash Course in Love* and says, "Don't be weird."

The broadcaster begins the show with the title "Miss Disconnected" due to her penchant for long-distance relationships and magical ability to talk her way into the friend zone. "Steve and Monica really honed in on my hang-ups and helped me figure out who I am as a person and who I want to be in a relationship. The question is: Did I listen to their advice? Did the other housemates?"

When it comes to her personal life, the vivacious blonde is seeking the same spark she sees between her parents, who have been married for 41 years. "They have the best relationship. They're best friends, and they really love each other." Getting more specific, she adds, "I'm looking for someone who is kind and who loves his family. I want kids, so a deal

breaker is somebody who doesn't." The star's ideal type is a guy with kind eyes and a great smile, someone who is tall, dark, and handsome.

Related Link: [Dating Deal Breakers](#)

Keller has learned a lot from her past dating experiences and, of course, from *Tough Love: Co-Ed*. For others looking for love, she says to "listen to your heart and be truthful to yourself. And remember that exes are exes for a reason, but they're not a mistake because you learn from them. They're a good thing to have."

The host also advises against plastering your relationship status all over social media: "Unless you're engaged or married, don't do it. Social media ruins relationships. Your love life should be personal."

See more of Kyle Keller and what she learns about love on VH1's Tough Love: Co-Ed, which premieres tonight at 10 p.m. ET! You can also connect with her on her personal site www.mskylekeller.com/, Twitter [@MsKyleKeller](https://twitter.com/MsKyleKeller), [instagram.com/mskylekeller/](https://www.instagram.com/mskylekeller/), and [facebook.com/MsKyleKeller](https://www.facebook.com/MsKyleKeller)

**'Bachelorette' Desiree
Hartsock Says 'Love Can Be
Unpredictable'**





By April Littleton

Desiree Hartsock took to her blog on [People](#) to thank everyone who watched her journey to find love on the latest season of *The Bachelorette*. " I appreciate the encouraging words from many and the understanding that love can be unpredictable." Ultimately, Hartsock chose Chris over Drew because she felt her relationship with him "didn't move forward" after their date in Antigua.

How do you roll with the ups and downs of a relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Dealing with the ups and downs of a relationship can be complicated, but love isn't perfect. In order for you and your partner to be happy you must learn how to properly handle any bumps in the roads that you're bound to hit. Cupid has some tips:

1. Don't ignore the issue: When you realize that you may have a problem, confront it head on. Some couples choose to neglect the problem, but this will only make matters worse. You may

even end up breaking up because of it. Take the time to sort out why the two of you may be having issues. The sooner you talk about what's bothering you, the quicker you can find a way to solve the problem and get back to being the happy couple you once were.

2. Don't bring up the past: Once you decide to forgive each other for whatever wrongdoing may have occurred, leave that issue in the past. Constantly bringing up problems that aren't relevant to your relationship anymore is immature. Of course, couples fight, but that doesn't mean you have to bring up conflicts that occurred months ago. Let the past be the past.

3. Stay positive: When you and your honey are on the outs, think about all of the positive things the two of you have done together and how much the both of you have overcome. Don't focus on the negative. Rather than obsessing over the things your partner may do wrong, draw your attention to all of the things he/she does right. Your relationship will be better for it.

**How do you roll with the ups and down of your relationship?
Comment below.**

**“We Have Each Other”:
Celebrity Couple Joy Enriquez
and Rodney “Darkchild”
Jerkins On Their New Show,**

'House of Joy'



By [Whitney Johnson](#) and Kristin Mattern

Pop singer Joy Enriquez and Grammy award-winning music producer Rodney “Darkchild” Jerkins have been married for nearly a decade and have been blessed with three beautiful children: RJ, Heavenly and baby Hannah. In their new show *House of Joy* for NUV0tv, they bring their family into the spotlight as they work together to make Enriquez’s dream of having a hit single come true. “Nine years later, I still want a hit!” exclaims Enriquez. “I still want a song, and now I can say, ‘I gave you the kids, Rodney. We got married, and we’re working together as a family, but I still want to sing.’ That dream is still inside of me.”

House of Joy was not the first reality series that the twosome were approached about doing. “Rodney and I were asked to do a show when we first got married in 2004,” recalls Enriquez, “when *Newlyweds* came out with Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey.” They chose to say no, however, deciding collectively with their parents that it wasn’t the best idea to have a reality show in the beginning of their marriage. “Rodney’s dad told us that we should take the first year to just spend time together. Now that we’ve been married for so long, three kids later, we felt like we were ready to show our family to the world.”

Related Link: [Blair Late from Bravo’s ‘Newlyweds’ Chats About Divorce and Gay Marriage](#)

The show features the whole family, including Enriquez’s parents, brother and sister, but Enriquez explains that it centers on music and her career “because that’s how Rodney and I met.” The star couple was first introduced in 1999 when the singer was sent to work with the legendary Jerkins, who was collaborating with Michael Jackson at the time. “We need you to get her a hit song just like you gave J. Lo,” she recalls the executives telling Jerkins. She jokes, “I spent two weeks in New Jersey trying to get a hit. Instead, Rodney took me to the movies, to his parent’s house, to parties – everything *but* a hit!”

Of course, working so closely with your partner is never easy. When they’re in the recording studio, as Jerkins explains, “If I say, ‘Do this over,’ she gets really offended. And if she tells me she doesn’t like a certain track, I get really offended. But we’re learning – we have a rhythm going now.”

The producer adds, “2014 is going to be our breakout album. It’ll be the breakout year for Joy!”

Knowing that Enriquez and Jerkins both have busy careers, it’s no surprise that balancing their professional lives and

personal lives – especially since their new show merges the two – can certainly be challenging. Luckily, one of the executive producers of *House of Joy* is Patti Stanger, star of *Millionaire Matchmaker*. “She told us that we need to date! You don’t usually need a matchmaker to tell you that, but sometimes, when you have three kids, time gets away from you,” says Enriquez. “It’s so important that you spend quality time together – even if it’s just a few minutes looking into each other’s eyes and asking about each other’s day. We’re learning to communicate better.”

Related Link: [Patti Stanger Discusses Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel’s ‘Lasting’ Marriage](#)

The experience has also reminded them to hold their special family close to their hearts. “I sing to my children at the end of every episode,” explains Enriquez. “I talk with them and let them know that life can be crazy and have its ups and downs. But no matter what, we have each other.”

To find out more about the musically-talented couple, tune in to tonight’s premiere of House of Joy on NUV0tv at 10/9c!

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West Reveal Gender of Baby-to-Be





By Kerri Sheehan

On the Sunday premiere of the new season of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, reality television star Kim Kardashian announced that her baby bump is housing a little girl. Her and baby daddy Kanye West will be expecting their bundle of pink joy sometime in July. While out shopping for baby clothes the two have employed stealthy moves to keep the baby's gender a secret. According to [People](#), Kardashian said, "We buy all white, or we'll go and buy both [girl and boy clothing], and then no one will know!"

What are some ways to prepare for a daughter versus a son?

Cupid's Advice:

Preparing for a baby is often an overwhelming task. Cupid has some advice about how to stay on top of things:

1. General supplies: For the first 12 or so weeks you probably won't be able to tell the gender of your baby. This is the perfect time to gather the bare essentials that you would need gender regardless. Some gender-neutral furniture for the

baby's room can be purchased as well as a changing table. You can also take this time to read up about the general birthing process as this will help understand what you will be in for in a few months' time.

2. Getting specific: After the three month mark is generally when you will be able to find out the sex of your child. This is when you can go crazy picking out all sorts of outfits for your baby girl. Clothes in the pink and purple color family will save you from having to answer the question of whether or not your child is a boy or a girl. Also think about purchasing some cute and comfortable headbands for your baby. Who doesn't love a baby with a bow?!

3. Finishing touches: The third trimester is really when you should start making sure you've done everything you meant to up to this point. Your partner can assemble the crib while you make sure you have sheets for the crib as well as a mobile for above the crib. Patterns with butterflies and flowers are perfect for any baby girl.

How did you prepare for your baby girl? Share below.

Ready For Love, Episode 7: Meeting the Family





By [Angela Zatopek](#)

One of the biggest steps in a relationship is when you meet your partner's family for the first time. I believe there is truth to the saying "you not only marry the person but also into their family." This week on *Ready For Love*, Ben's family visited from Texas to meet all of us, and I couldn't have been more impressed with how sweet and genuine they were. Being the first girl to meet them, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but I felt like I would have a lot in common with them based on my conversations with Ben.

We spoke a lot about both of us being from Texas since that is a huge factor in having something real after this process. I joked saying Ben was "geographically desirable" since Houston and Dallas aren't far apart. I immediately clicked with his sister JoJo and his mother Soroya; they reminded me a lot of my own mother and sister.

I've obviously shared my choice to wait until marriage for sex, and I feel it's something primarily focused on during the show. I've never told someone's family about my decision, but

it was almost as if his mom was indirectly asking me about my beliefs. I thought it was important to be real with them, to show my intentions and how much I value an honest relationship. All things aside, though, there is so much more that defines me as a woman. That's a choice I made, not a characteristic, and I definitely want to make that clear to viewers. In my real life, I barely even talk about it.

Another thing: Has anyone else noticed I seem pretty serious on stage nights? Editing certainly has a way of portraying me as a bit stiff, and all the girls on the cast, my family and my friends would definitely attest to that not being true. With so many different scenarios going on, I guess the more serious content is making the cut!

Related Link: [Ready For Love, Episode 6: Finding Love in Paradise](#)

Back to this week's episode. Ben told me he was very close with his mother, and I too am extremely close with mine. My mom is from New York originally, and she's a strong woman with a cut-to-the-chase attitude. Right away, I could tell that Ben's mother had those same qualities. I knew it was important to convey to her and JoJo that I was there for the right reasons. Given that my own mother is so important to me, I had a lot of respect for Soroya. I was definitely missing my family after this date, but as you'll see next week, I'm finally reunited with them in Houston.

At this point on *Ready for Love*, our huge mansion in the hills seemed even bigger since there were only four of us left. It was a tough week for me when the girls brought up Allie not being there for the right reasons. I was in between a rock and a hard place since Allie was one of my closest friends. She was the very first girl I talked to – before I even knew that she was there for Ben and we were competing against each other. In a weird way, we were each other's biggest support since we were away from our family and friends. Trust me, you

need someone to talk to all day!

I tried to stay out of the drama, but feelings were also rising for Ben at the point, and as I previously said about Keri, I had to ask myself: Was I there to make best friends or see if I had something with Ben? When Giuliana asked me my opinion, I didn't want to lie and say I disagreed with Renae and Tarryn. I knew it was the matchmakers decision, so I wanted to leave it at that. Things clearly escalated, and that was probably one of the most awkward car rides back to the house after stage night. After that, I felt like the middle man because I got along great with both Tarryn and Allie.

Related Link: [Ready For Love, Episode 5: Angela Zatopek Discusses the Drama in Vegas](#)

Ready to get away from the drama, I was excited to finally go back to Texas and introduce Ben to my family. Here's a rundown of the gang you'll meet on next week's episode: My mom is an amazing mother to me and my siblings. I'm basically her clone, and she's more like my best friend than my mom. John is my Italian stepfather. He loves Roman history and has a collection of swords and shields – he isn't afraid to bring them out if someone messes with his daughters! My dad is a spiritual leader in my life; he's a great man of God who is always so supportive. Still, he definitely had a hard time understanding why I was going through this process. Audrey is my younger sister who has artistic talents like you wouldn't believe. She taught herself how to play three instruments (guitar, mandolin and ukulele); she sings; she's fluent in Spanish – and she's only 21 years old! My identical twin brothers, Josh and Chris, are 20 years old and absolute studs. They're athletic and smart and have bright futures ahead of them. I should add that they're heartbreakers, but I get the final say on who gets by since I am the protective older sister.

Hope everyone can tune in to see my amazing family! Until

then...

‘Bad Girls All-Star Battle’ Host Ray J Says a Bad Girl Is “Confident, Sassy and Independent”



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

He may be notorious for being a bad boy, but now, Ray J is hanging out with a bunch of bad girls. The singer, actor and

reality television star will be hosting Oxygen's *Bad Girls All-Star Battle*, which takes 14 of the most popular ladies from [Bad Girls Club](#) and pits them against each other, competing for 100,000 dollars and the title of "Baddest Bad Girl of All Time."

After appearing on his own show *For the Love of Ray J*, he is once again surrounded by girls – but this time, he says it's all professional. "Being on a dating show with all these girls trying to be with you is a whole different concept from being on a show with the baddest bad girls on the planet," he says. "So I looked at it as a new challenge. It's a step up to me from anything I've done so far."

Of course, it's no secret that Ray J knows all about bad girls. His history with Kim Kardashian – and their sex tape – is still a big identifier for the singer. His newest single "I Hit It First" is a definite shout-out to Kardashian and her new beau Kanye West.

Related Link: [Kim Kardashian Wears Floral Dress at Punk-Themed Met Gala with Kanye West](#)

One thing has changed though: Ray J can now tell who's a bad girl and who isn't. According to the musician, a bad girl is "a girl who never gives up, who is confident in herself, who has been through things. Maybe she's been knocked down and got right back up. She keeps fighting and keeps moving forward. And a true bad girl has been through some tough things but is still a winner and continues to go on with her life as a champion."

His new gig on *Bad Girls All-Star Battle* has even shown him that every bad girl has a good side too. "Some of these girls are coming on this show to win this money for real positive reasons. There is a single mom trying to win the money to help her daughter have a better life. Another bad girl is trying to help her brother get out of foster care. It's a great show

with challenges, but there's also some real substance."

It's this substance, he says, that helped him become a good host: "You want to know certain things about somebody that you trust and care about. For the show, I had to go deep with the questions. I had to really get inside of the girls' minds and understand their angle, their plan, their emotions."

Ray J has also grown on a personal level and adds, "It has helped me become more honest with the people around me, so as far as control and authority, I stepped up my game a thousand percent."

Related Link: [The Pros and Cons of Taming a Bad Boy](#)

Because of this new truth, he has a lot of respect for his "bad girls." He believes it takes strength to be bad and that being bad doesn't mean, well, being *bad*. "I think a bad girl comes from within," the host explains. "I don't think a bad girl is a bad thing. I think it's just a girl that's confident, sassy and independent. If you're a good girl or even a great girl, you can still be strong. You can still believe in yourself and stand up for what you believe in."

Oxygen's Bad Girls All-Star Battle premieres on Tuesday, May 21st at 9/8c. You can keep up with Ray J on [Twitter](#) and his personal site www.rayj.com.

'Ready for Love' Stars Ernesto Arguello and Ben

Patton Discuss Reality Dating



By Andrea Surujnauth

These reality dating shows are not as simple as they look. According to Ernesto Arguello and Ben Patton from [Ready for Love](#), it actually entails a lot more heartache than television networks let on. "It is more stressful going to that garden than anything else," Arguello tells [People](#). Both him and Patton agree that letting women go is a difficult experience. "The garden is unreal," says Patton. "You're essentially breaking up with someone. You're not just saying, 'Hey, here's a rose for you. And you guys didn't get a rose,' and walk off." They also have to deal with the challenges of the kissing scenes. "It's like hearing your own voice on voicemail," says Patton.

What are some non-traditional ways to find love?

Cupid's Advice:

It's not easy to find love. Going out and meeting people is getting more and more difficult to do. What are some other ways that we can find love? Cupid has some suggestions for you:

1. Online: Some people don't have time to go out and meet people, and others may be too shy. Online dating sites are a great resource and sigles are starting to use them much more often. There are so many types of dating sites to choose from that you are bound to find someone who meets your criteria.

2. Social Media: While Facebook and social media sites are a great way to keep in contact with friends, some use it as a way to meet people and start new relationships. Technology has become such a big part in our everyday lives that meeting your future spouse on Facebook is as casual as meeting them in a coffee shop.

3. Speed dating: By attending a speed dating session, you are able to meet different people in a matter of minutes to see if they are worth going out with on a (second) date. This is helpful if you are normally too busy to be able to go out and meet people.

What are some non-traditional ways that you found love? Comment below and let us know.

Cancelled: Why NBC's "Ready For Love" Fueled America's

Hatred



By Marni Battista, Founder of Dating with Dignity

Let's face it: while Disney, RomCom's and The Bachelor have consistently fueled American women's desire to be swept off their feet by the dashing handsome, successful, and sensitive man, they are, simply put, not stupid.

As a dignity dating and relationship expert who works with thousands and thousands of single women around the globe, I can tell you that women are, in fact, ready for love. However, just as NBC has promptly cancelled its newest reality dating show Friday, with the same title, women are taking a stand for their dignity and what they really want to experience when it comes to finding love.

Related Link: [Guiliana and Bill Rancic Talk About Marriage, Parenthood and Hosting NBC's New Dating Reality Show 'Ready for Love'](#)

My clients (who posted hundreds of comments in a private Facebook group on Wednesday morning, the day after *Ready for Love's* second episode aired) became disheartened by the message the show was sending to single women just like them, reinforcing the beliefs they are desperately trying to shake.

Amy posts...

...after watching last night, there was a part of me that feels as though the show reinforced some of my limiting beliefs that in order to find love you have to be America's version of perfect (two of the women were runners-up in the Miss Universe pageant).

Luckily, Amy has the benefit of being in a community of women who have drawn a line in the sand and are beginning to understand how important it is to, in Amy's words, "really know and believe in oneself to combat subtle messages the media relentlessly broadcasts that impact my thoughts."

So, does NBC's cancellation of the show as result of dismal ratings mean that they are ready to finally admit that American women no longer want to watch flawless looking women with low self-esteem throw themselves at men they don't know?

And, while having the matchmakers on the show was brilliant in that it pointed out that pretty women actually do not necessarily have any sort of advantage when it comes to surviving in the dating jungle (FACT: when gorgeous blondes talk about farting on a first date or share that they have a list of 50 characteristics a man has to have in order to be her partner, looks become insignificant), it quite frankly isn't enough.

Related Link: [Matthew Hussey Helps Women "Get the Guy" as One](#)

of Three Coaches on NBC's 'Ready for Love'

If television executives want to produce dating shows, perhaps they ought to create programming that real women want. They want advice. They want direction. They want tips and strategies they can apply now, in real life. They want to know how to love themselves even when Disney, RomCom's and *The Bachelor* say that pretty girls always finish first and that love doesn't last. They want hope. And they want inspiration.

Perhaps, it's time for something akin to *The Biggest Loser* meets *The Bachelor*, except that there aren't three men himbos whining about wanting to find their "best friend," and the women have, in fact transformed, realizing that THEY have the power to choose their partner, and that getting "rejected" means it wasn't the right match, and that they are still valuable, loving and love-able humans with or without a man in their life.

I believe it is time for a new era in the television dating arena. Perhaps my mission to help women love themselves so that they can then find someone to love is actually taking hold.

Bravo to the viewers who said "no," and thank you to NBC for listening.

*As the founder of **Dating with Dignity** and with more than 25 years of personal relationship and dating experience, Marni Battista dated, was married for 17 years and divorced, and then successfully dated again in the 21st century. She has undergone professional training in dating and relationship coaching as well as training in the Core Energy Coaching Process from the Institute of Professional Excellence in Coaching (IPEC). Marni also has extensive training as a Facilitator with the Hoffman Institute, one of the world's foremost organizations in personal development. More importantly, as a divorcee for more than five years, Marni*

truly understands what it feels like to be lonely and sick of wasting time on dates with men that go nowhere. A woman who is not your mother, best friend, or therapist, Marni is the professional relationship and dating expert who will stand behind you to provide love, compassion, support and honest guidance as you embark on one of the most important, fulfilling adventures in your life.

Matthew Hussey Talks NBC's 'Ready for Love,' 'Get the Guy' and Being a Life Coach



By Rachael Moore and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

It's spring time now, and love is in the air. So much so, that NBC's new dating competition show, *Ready For Love*, premiering Tuesday, April 9th, is already getting tons of buzz. The innovative series, with Executive Producer Eva Longoria and hosts Giuliana and Bill Rancic, follows three eligible men looking to find their soulmates. With twelve women vying for each man's heart, three matchmakers provide their expertise and advice to guide them in their search for love.

Matthew Hussey, a life coach, speaker and new author, is the only male matchmaker on the show and admits that he has a more direct approach than his female colleagues on the show, Amber Kelleher-Andrews and Tracy McMillan. "We all come from different places," he says. 'Amber is a matchmaker; Tracy is a writer; and I am a life coach.'

Related Link: [Ready for Love: Three Extraordinary Men](#)

Hussey grew up in England and claims that he was never good with the girls, so he started observing people to try to understand them better. He learned some techniques to help people with their confidence, and at age 17, he realized that he wanted to be a life coach. He knew it would be hard for people to take him seriously given his young age, so he started out small, coaching three people per week before moving up to five and then ten.

Originally, he set out to help men better understand general life lessons, but it wasn't long before they started asking for advice on their love lives. 'I knew coaching a room full of guys wouldn't be practical. They needed to get out there and talk to women. When doing so, some men got rejected, but others got wins.'

Related Link: [How to Behave Like a Gentleman](#)

He became very popular in the United Kingdom, coaching 10,000 guys in the span of two years and doing seminars with 300 men in attendance. With his reputation growing, Hussey was approached by many women wanting to know his secrets. 'I was terrified,' he shares. 'I knew how to work with men, but I didn't understand women. Then, it hit me: that was exactly how I could help them. I didn't need to tell women about themselves. I needed to tell women about men and why they do the things that frustrate them.'

When it comes to guiding the three bachelors on *Ready for Love*, Hussey explains that Kelleher-Andrews and McMillan use a different method. 'I was more direct because I believe in giving people tools so they aren't dependent on anyone. I'm not prepping them for dates; I'm prepping them for life," he says. 'I don't care if the women in my group end up with the guy. I care about them gaining an understanding of who they are and what they want and having the strategies they need in the real world.'

Related Link: [Why Amazing Confident Women Remain Single](#)

When speaking about the difference between his coaching techniques in his seminars and on the show, he shares, 'In my seminars, I can't watch what happens after the women leave. For the first time, I was able to see every change that was made in this nine-week period.'

When the show airs on April 9th, not only will Hussey make his debut as a reality star, but he will also add published author to his list of credits. His new book, *Get The Guy: Learn Secrets of the Male Mind to Find the Man You Want and the Love You Deserve*, will be released from HarperCollins that same day. The book focuses on three main ideas: find the guy, attract the guy and keep the guy. With his intelligence and eye-opening words of wisdom, there's no doubt that women will quickly realize that Hussey's process truly works.

Hussey's advice boils down to the idea that 'attraction is only a snapshot of any moment of time. It's not a black-and-white thing. Just because a guy isn't attracted to you now doesn't mean he never will be. So, just like they say...timing is everything.

*Don't miss the two-hour series premiere of [Ready for Love](#) on Tuesday, April 9th at 9/8c NBC. To order a copy of Hussey's new book *Get the Guy: Learn Secrets of the Male Mind to Find the Man You Want and the Love You Deserve*, click [here](#). For more information about the life coach, check out one of his sites, [Get the Guy](#) and [Matthew Hussey](#). You can also follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

'Bachelorette' Reality TV Stars Ashley Hebert and J.P. Rosenbaum Speak Out About Waiting for Marriage





By Jessica Conigliaro

According to [People](#), the newest reality TV couple Sean Lowe and Catherine Giudici are saving sleeping together for their celebrity wedding night...unlike famous couple Ashley Hebert and her *Bachelorette* winner hubby, J.P. Rosenbaum, who chose not to wait for marriage. “Those are their own personal beliefs, and we’re not going to judge them,” Rosenbaum says. “We do our thing; they do their thing.”

Two reality TV couples have different opinions when it comes to waiting for marriage. What do you do if you and your partner have conflicting beliefs?

Cupid's Advice:

Your boyfriend seems to have differing beliefs from you.

However, you don't want them to damage your relationship and love in any way. Cupid offers some love advice on how to work through your differences:

1. Compromise: You and your love have different religious beliefs. Your man wants to go to church, and you want to go to temple – what now? Make a compromise: Go to church with your man one week and have him come to temple with you the next. You will both appreciate each other's support.

Related Link: [Reality TV Stars Ashley Hebert and J.P. Rosenbaum Celebrate Holiday Traditions](#)

2. Try new things: Your partner has always wanted to move to a different state before settling down. You, on the other hand, have no interest in leaving. Try going on an extended vacation over the summer and travel from state to state for a few months. You never know what you will end up enjoying, so don't be afraid to try something new!

Related Link: [Famous Couple Sean Lowe and Catherine Giudici Speak Out Against the New 'Bachelorette' Twist](#)

3. Pick your battles: Your boyfriend has been dead set on getting a dog for the past few months. He has been nagging you about it, but you say no, knowing you'll end up taking care of the pet instead of him. If he continues to bug you about it, perhaps it's time to cave. He clearly won't give up until he gets his furry friend. Sometimes, you have to do things you'd rather not do – like cleaning up dog poop! – for the one you love. He'll surely take notice of your kindness and will some day return the favor.

How do you deal with conflicting beliefs between you and your partner? Share below.