

Maci Bookout & Ryan Edwards in a Parenting Battle



Ouch! If being a teenage mom wasn't hard enough, things just got harder for the MTV's *16 and Pregnant* star, Maci Bookout. After splitting up with her baby daddy Ryan Edwards, the devoted *Teen Mom* star tells [US Weekly](#) that she and her ex-beau have a hard time agreeing on how their son Bentley should be raised. She talks about how she struggled to ween her 22-month-old son off his pacifier, and learned that Edwards gives Bentley his pacifier whenever the child is with him. Bookout says, "I think Ryan spoils Bentley and really has no boundaries as far as discipline. With me, I don't want Bentley to grow up and be a brat when he's 4 years old."

What do you do when you and your ex can't agree on how to raise your child?

Cupid's Advice:

Raising a child can be very difficult. Co-parenting with different views can make things even worse. Cupid has some tips to make things easier:

1. Compromise: If you and your ex can't agree on something, then it's best if both parties relinquish a little control and find middle ground that will ultimately benefit your child.

2. Communicate: It's important that both parents put their differences aside and talk things out with one another. Poor communication opens the door for children to manipulate situations to his or her benefit. If your child can't have dessert this week, then your ex needs to know that, too! Worst-case scenarios can lead to a child not being picked up after school or missing important medical treatments.

3. Equality: Don't throw all responsibility at one parent. It makes for a more civil atmosphere and better upbringing for your child if you and your ex share an equal amount of the responsibility.

Favored 'Bachelor' Turns Down Gig





Chris Lambton, the most recent runner-up on *The Bachelorette*, has reportedly turned down ABC's offer to become the *The Bachelor*'s main man, according to [E! Online](#) and [Entertainment Weekly](#). Fans of the show may be disappointed, as Lambton was the clear favorite among those being considered for the reality gig.

How do you know when you're ready for a new relationship?

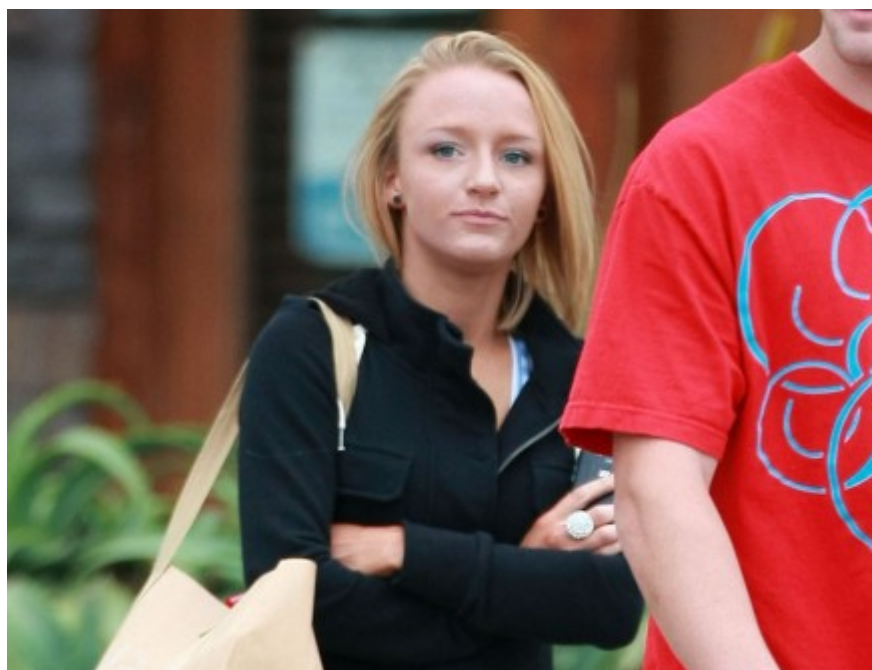
Cupid's Advice:

When you come out of a serious relationship, it can be difficult to know when you're ready to give it your all in a new relationship. Cupid has some things to consider when making the decision to start dating again or stay single:

- 1. Fully recover:** Breaking up is rarely easy, and brings with it emotional stress. It's important to allow yourself time to fully recover before putting yourself out there again.
- 2. Deal with the truth:** Sometimes the truth behind why a relationship didn't work out is hard to take, so we continue to live in a false reality. Until you can confront the truth and deal with it, it's not time to move on.
- 3. Don't be afraid:** Easier said than done, right? The main

thing that keeps us from moving on is fear, but you can't get anywhere in life without taking risks. If you've dealt with your past breakups and are interested in meeting a new partner, it may be time to take the leap and see what happens!

Kristin Cavallari Dating Doug Reinhardt



The Hills star Kristin Cavallari was spotted out and about this weekend with another alum of the show, Doug Reinhardt, reports RadarOnline.com. Reinhardt was briefly featured on *The Hills* when he dated long-time Cavallari rival Lauren Conrad. Conrad has since left the show and is currently dating actor Kyle Howard. **How do you deal when your ex dates your enemy for revenge?**

Cupid's Advice:

Though Reinhardt and Conrad were not the first castmates to find love on the show, drama always seems to follow love on the MTV hit. However, the Conrad versus Cavallari rivalry was well documented in the press, so Conrad needs to be careful about any comments she makes regarding the Cavallari-Reinhardt romance. It's key to find a balance between being uninvolved but still supportive in this situation.

1. Don't butt in: Unless your ex tries to get you involved in his or her new relationship, it's important to remain aloof. If your ex is trying to send you a message by getting with your rival, getting involved only makes the situation stickier.

2. See their side: No matter how you feel about your enemy, if your ex is genuinely happy and not just looking for revenge, then keep your opinions to yourself. See how their relationship progresses before you pass judgment.

3. Concentrate on you: No matter what other drama is going on around your ex or your enemy, you need to work on yourself first. Focus on you and your relationships, and try not to let your ex put a damper on your life.

'Bachelorette' Star Ali Fedotowsky Ignores Rumors



Former Bachelorette

Ali Fedotowsky is glad to have fiancé Roberto Martinez by her side. [E! Online](#) reports that Fedotowsky “[doesn’t] pay attention to” rumors pertaining to past partying and racy photographs. Swirling rumors have bothered the blonde bachelorette in the past, but with a new attitude (and a new support system), Fedotowsky finds it easy to keep her head held high. Fedotowsky reveals that her new fiancé is extremely supportive and “always says, ‘Who cares, babe? It’s just us. It’s just about us. None of that stuff matters.’” Fedotowsky says she counts herself “lucky to have a man like that to give me balance and keep me focused on what’s important.” **How can you help your partner deal with a stressful problem?**

Cupid’s Advice:

1. Be a good listener: If your partner is having a problem at work or with friends, chances are they’re going to want to vent. It is important to sit quietly and listen carefully to their worries. When they are done venting and you fully

understand their insecurities about the problem at hand, offer your input.

2. Don't be overbearing: When a loved one is stressed, it's natural to want to help as much as possible. You can give them advice and offer your point of view, but you have to be careful. This is their problem and their decision, and you have to respect their opinion, even if you don't agree with it.

3. Honesty: When you must intervene in your partners decision-making process, you have to be supportive, polite, and honest. Gently remind them to consider all of their options before making a decision. Your honesty will help your partner resolve their problem effectively and without any resentment.

Ronnie & Sammi Still Struggling at the 'Shore'





And the drama continues! After drunkenly carrying on with countless girls at a Miami nightclub in season two's first episode, *Jersey Shore* reality star Ronnie returned home to cuddle up with ex-girlfriend, Sammi. When Sammi asked if he had been with any girls that night, he lied, answering no. The two seemed to rekindle their romance during last week's episode when Sammi held Ronnie's hand as he got a tattoo.

Is it possible to fully restore trust to a relationship after lies are uncovered?

Cupid's Advice:

Lying and cheating most often marks the end of a relationship. However, if the guilty party is truly sorry, and shows it through their actions, then the relationship may still succeed:

1. Repeat offenders: Past behavior is always the best predictor of future behavior. In a case like this, one does not apologize with words, but with actions. Those who mean their apologies won't make the same mistake twice.

2. Don't be too trusting: Sometimes, one party wants so bad to

trust the other that they ignore the obvious. When it comes to being in a healthy relationship, one should always keep in mind the saying, "Fool me once, shame you; fool me twice, shame on me."

3. Getting past it: If the cheater shows true remorse and bends over backwards to make things right again, their partner shouldn't continue to hold their mistake over their head. If they want the relationship to work, both people need to leave the past where it belongs.

Jersey Shore Boyfriends Strike Out



Got a fever for *Jersey Shore* cast? You're in luck – they're single! Snooki,

Sammi Sweetheart and JWoww have broken up with their respective partners, [E! Online](#) reported last week. Despite Snooki's dumping her "Gorilla Juicehead" beau, Emilio Masella plans to win her back. "I've been doing everything crazy to that you can think of to get MTV's attention," he told E!. JWoww's manager boyfriend, Tom Lippolis, won't speak on their issues, but commented, "I've been better." Lastly, *Jersey Shore*'s favorite couple from season one, Ronnie Magro and Sammi, have been in an on-again, off-again relationship for a while. They're currently off-again.

How can you survive the summer while being single?

Cupid's Advice:

Summer promises warm days, long nights, beaches, parties, and even that summer fling. But if everyone is hooking up and you're left in the dust, it can get a little lonely. Cupid has some ways to deal when you're not getting your fair share of the summer hook-up:

- 1. Enjoy it:** Summer is the time to bear it all. From bikinis and daisy dukes to shirtless pecs, say hello to some well-deserved eye-candy! There are plenty of fish in the sea, but they're all crowding the beach while the weather is still warm. Head to your closest shore and feel free to ogle the goods.
- 2. Friends:** You can never have too many friends. If your buds are spending more time with their significant other, find some new people to kill time with. Who knows – you may end up meeting someone to spend those long summer days with.
- 3. Family:** No one knows you better than your family, so spend your time with them. It's less awkward than being the third wheel. Going to barbecues and family picnics will take your mind off of things.

Jake Pavelka Remains a “Bachelor” for Now



In the wake of his public breakup with Vienna Girardi after his stint on *The Bachelor*, Jake Pavelka is taking a break from dating, [People](#) reported last week. Though Pavelka has not ruled out any future love, he said he needed more “me time” after being in the limelight before getting back in the dating game.

How do you bounce back after a break up?

Cupid’s Advice:

Breakups are hard enough for any person, but even more so in the case of a public and nasty breakup. Pavelka is doing the right thing in going at his own pace. Every person is

different though, so act accordingly to *your* needs post-breakup:

1. Take time: Many people feel the need to rush back into the dating game, but it's perfectly all right to take some time off for yourself. It will take a bit to find your stride again, so you shouldn't rush.

2. Be open: Post-breakup is the perfect time to re-evaluate and try new things, in both dating and in general. Take a risk and be bold. Get a new look, or date someone you never would have before. There's no better time to open up and start fresh.

3. Reconnect: When you're in a serious relationship, it's common to lose contact with other people in your life. With new opportunities and more time, go ahead and reconnect with an old friend, or with those in your life that have taken a backseat.

Lamar Odom on Kids with Khloé – “We Would Love To”





Lamar Odom is definitely interested in having with with wife Khloé Kardashian, [People](#) reported last week. “Hopefully it’ll happen soon,” he told the magazine. The NBA star has two children from a previous relationship, which definitely helps provide great parenting tips – as does baby Mason, Kardashian’s nephew.

How do you know when your relationship is ready to take on parenting?

Cupid’s Advice:

Being a parent is a lifelong commitment – it’s best to plan ahead. Even if you have a surprise pregnancy, you have enough time to get ready before the big day arrives. Cupid shares some important tips:

1. Evaluate your relationship: If you’re considering an addition to your family, determine the strength of your bond with each other first. Are you both mentally, emotionally, and financially ready to take care of another life? Consider these questions before going ahead.
2. Parent plans: Pregnant or not, couples don’t always share the same goals when it comes to parenting. Discuss your

approaches to raising children to find a common ground you can both agree to.

3. Go with the flow: Keep in mind that all the planning in the world can never fully prepare you for becoming a parent. Learn to accommodate – to both your partner and yourself – as new issues arise.

‘Bachelorette’ Ali Fedotowsky Engaged to Roberto Martinez!



This season's *Bachelorette* ended with an unconventional bang! Ali Fedotowsky chose to not have her second last date with Chris Lambdton, and instead, sent him home early on Monday's finale. It turns out that Roberto Martinez had already won

Fedotowsky's heart, [E! Online](#) reported Monday, despite rumors that she hadn't chosen anyone, as Ryan Seacrest predicted in his podcast earlier that day. Other unexpected surprises of this season included Frank Neuschaefer's early departure to return to his ex on the July 19 episode. Cupid wishes reality TV's newest couple luck!

How do you know if the one you love is Mr. or Mrs. Right?

Cupid's Advice:

Reality TV sometimes gets a bad rap for being predictable, or staged. However, this season's *Bachelorette* got to the heart of everyone's true feelings, whether it was Frank leaving the show early, or Ali already knowing who the right man for her was. Cupid wants to help, and has some ways to help *you* decide if you've found the perfect mate:

- 1. It's all about honesty:** Infatuation can disguise itself as love by providing the surface feelings of the real deal. In order to be sure, dig into your heart and see how far down your lover is before making a lasting commitment.
 - 2. Let's talk about love:** In order to determine true love, don't just trust your gut. Talk it out together, and make sure you're both on the same page.
 - 3. Step back:** If you need to know if your feelings are what they seem, take a solo trip away from your partner for a week or two, and avoid or limit contact as much as possible. If true feelings are there, your love will remain when you return.
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Jersey Shore 2: Gym, Tan, & Seaside Hookups



MTV's hit series *Jersey Shore* premiered its second season last Thursday, and it's already seen its share of hookups. The cast uses the term "creeping," which basically means picking up girls with the intention of a late night hook-up – and nothing else. In reference to his desire to leave New Jersey for the winter in favor of sunny Miami, Pauly D said, "You can't creep in this weather. You can't do anything. Girls don't come out in this weather. They stay in the house." Later in the episode, Vinny vowed that he would hook up with 60 different girls in 60 days, telling the camera that if he misses one day, he'll simply double up on the next. The newly single Ronnie took creeping to the next level, letting loose in a nightclub upon arriving in Miami.

The casual hookup is not for everyone. But if no one gets hurt, should people get it out of their system while they are

still young?

Cupid's Advice:

Be responsible. Enjoy it for what it is, but never forget about the possibility of true love entering your life. Here are some of Cupid's ways to hook up safe:

1. It takes two to tango: If one party wants a relationship while the other purely wants a hookup, someone is bound to get burned. Be absolutely clear about your intentions, and those of your partner. The casual hookup only works if both of you are on the same page.

2. Be safe: If you happen to go all the way, use protection – always! Use condoms every time – no excuses – and consider taking the Pill, or other forms of contraceptive.

3. Be respectful: People with roommates like those on the *Jersey Shore* should think about their roommates before taking someone home. Be considerate!

Financial Woes Strike Teresa & Joe Giudice





Reality star Teresa Giudice and her husband Joe are facing the reality that they have money problems. According to [OK! Magazine](#), the *Real Housewives of New Jersey* couple is planning to sell their personal belongings in a public auction on August 22. The two filed for bankruptcy last October. A recent article in the [New York Post](#) claims the couple owes nearly \$11 million in debts, including over \$100,000 in credit cards.

What should you do if money problems are weighing on your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Relationships can be hard enough without the added stress of financial failure. In fact, several studies say money is the number one reason couples fight. While handling this situation is often easier said than done, Cupid has some advice to help ease the burden:

1. Money talks: Money is often a subject couples shy away from. While we all know the saying "money talks," it's important that you and your partner actually talk about it. Understand the numbers you are dealing with so you can spend responsibly and make financial decisions together.

2. Watch the spending: This step may sound like the most obvious, but it's often the most difficult. Make decisions on how much you can allocate each month to daily expenses and towards non-essential spending. Here are some interesting stats from a 2004 study commissioned by *SmartMoney* and *Redbook* to help put things in perspective.

3. Turn to a financial planner: It never hurts to talk to a professional who can lay out your expenses and help set up a spending plan. Speak to friends and family for references, or contact the Financial Planning Association to find a qualified planner.

Jessie Sulidis Dating Former 'Bachelorette' Contestant, Kirk DeWindt





It seems like a new reality TV relationship is in the works! Jessie Sulidis (from *Bachelor* spinoff [The Bachelor Pad](#)) is rumored to be dating recent *Bachelorette* reject, Kirk DeWindt, [People](#) reported last week. Last season on *The Bachelor*, both Ali Fedotowsky and Sulidis were contestants trying to win Jake Pavelka's heart, and became friends in the process. DeWindt was recently rejected by Fedotowsky on *The Bachelorette* after he brought her to meet his parents. He then met Sulidis while taping the *Men Tell All* special, and exchanged numbers, as well as a kiss, a source told *People*. "Everything is hush-hush right now because they don't know what will come of it. But he is definitely over Ali!" the source added.

Is it ever OK to date a friend's ex?

Cupid's Advice:

The jury is still out on etiquette for dating a friend's ex. If you find yourself in this type of situation (on either end), follow Cupid's advice to help keep the peace:

1. Sparks may fly: If you're introduced to a friend's ex and you find an immediate connection with him or her, discuss your feelings with your friend before thinking of taking your

attraction to the next level.

2. Be honest: Unfortunately, if an ex is attracted to a current friend of yours, you may feel compelled to accept the situation, instead of speaking up if it bothers you. Hurt feelings will likely result from your lack of honesty, so be truthful with yourself, your friend, and your ex.

3. Learn the difference: Determine whether or not your friend's initial intrigue is simply physical attraction, as opposed to a strong emotional connection that can't be fought. Understanding the difference may prevent confusion between the three of you later.

'The Bachelorette' Star Ali Fedotowsky Picks Her Man





Ali Fedotowsky began her stint on ABC's *The Bachelorette* with 20 eligible men vying for her love. Last week, [US Weekly](#) reported that she says she's confident she chose the right man as her future husband during the season finale. Fedotowsky narrowed down her contenders to three in last week's episode, and her final choice will be revealed during the ABC finale on August 2. Though the lucky guy has not been revealed, Fedotowsky told *US* that a 2011 wedding is in the works.

How do you know if you've chosen the right partner?

Cupid's Advice:

Most of us aren't lucky enough to have a slew of suitors at our door, but it's important that we weed out the good partners from the bad when potential lovers do come around.

1. Stranger danger: When you begin dating, you can't possibly know all of your partners' dirty little secrets, but remember that more times than not, the past has a way of presenting itself. Keep your ears and eyes open, and take the time to get to know someone before settling down.

2. Ask for directions: When choosing a long term partner, it's important that both people are heading in a similar direction,

or are willing to compromise to make things work. For example, if you want a commitment and he or she doesn't, or you want to live in the suburbs and they won't move out of the city, these differences could be a relationship deal-breaker.

3. Love and trust: The most important traits in a future mate is that they love you and treat you well. If you don't feel love, trust, or respect, then you should move on and wait for someone better.

Ali Fedotowsky: Stay-At-Home-Mom Not in Future Plans



(Spoiler alert!)

Last week on ABC's *The Bachelorette*, a competitive reality dating game show, Ali Fedotowsky, had a one-on-one date with

contestant Ty. She found out he ended his previous marriage because his ex-wife worked, and he was looking for a traditional stay-at-home mom. Traditional is something that Ali is certainly not. “I imagine a lot of the women cringed when they heard Ty make the comment about women being presidents of companies,” Fedotowsky told Reality TV Calender last week. “Ha ha. Trust me, I cringed too.” Ty ended up being eliminated last night – Ali was still concerned about his traditional values.

What should you do if you’re dating a man who expects a “traditional” wife, and you are anything but?

Cupid’s Advice:

While more women opt to work and pursue a career than be a stay-at-home mom, many men still expect a 1950’s housewife. Here’s Cupid’s take on dealing with this outdated stereotype:

1. Talk before you walk: Make sure you’re both clear with what you are looking for from the other person. Also, consider that some men look at women working as a loss of power. In the book *Choices in Relationships: An Introduction to Marriage and the Family*, the author says many men who want a traditional wife think that a woman earning more money threatens their masculinity, and their status as head of the household.

2. Think of the kids: According to family therapist Gayle Peterson, studies show that children who have working mothers tend to have higher self-esteem, since working mothers feel happier with themselves, and those good feelings spread to family members. Also, some families might need that two person income to provide for the children.

3. Figure out work/life balance: Talk with your partner to figure out the best way to balance work and house duties. Map out schedules and share responsibility.