

# Date Idea: Build a Fort



By Amanda Boyer and [Mara Miller](#)

If it's too rainy for outdoor camping or if you're just not the nature-loving type, you can still enjoy a day in a fort, thanks to this weekend [date idea](#)! It's time to bring back some childhood memories and create an indoor hideaway for you and your honey.

## Indulge in this date idea, and built a fort!

First, make sure you have an area large enough to build your fort. Try the basement or family room and make sure there aren't huge pieces of furniture that may impede your progress.

After all, you won't want to be crammed in a small space and be uncomfortable! If available, you could make your tent on a screened-in porch or patio for a little bit of fresh air.

**Related Link:** [Rent a Cabin in the Snow](#)

After you select your location for this date idea, gather the items you need to build your hideaway. Using chairs and tables, you can create a sturdy base to structure your masterpiece around. For the cover of your fort, use sheets and blankets. Grab some chip clips from the kitchen to keep them secured to the chairs and tables. You may even need weights to hold them in place. Now, take a step back and admire your handy work!

**Related Link:** [Go Camping or Glamping](#)

To continue following this dating advice, fill the inside with blankets and pillows. If there's enough room, add a blow-up mattress too. To give your secret spot a romantic feel, you can spray your favorite perfume and add some rose petals as a finishing touch. Stay away from candles, though, since your sheets could potentially fall at any time.

Finally, you need to grab the essentials to keep you entertained throughout the day: snacks, your iPad, a deck of cards, your favorite book, magazines, etc. Leave your phone in another room and just focus on your relationship. Enjoy bonding with your partner and relaxing in your new spot.

**Have you ever made a secret hideaway with your love? Share your relationship advice below!**

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# Relationship Advice: Could Your Partner Be Spying?



We've become dependent on our cell phones, as they store everything from that text message with new directions to your friend's house to ideas for your next date with your beau. But, did you know your partner can spy on you even if they've never touched your phone? If you have a jealous partner who wants to keep tabs on you at all times because they're paranoid you're cheating, you should be on the lookout.

**In this relationship advice, check out some spying apps of which you**

# need to be aware.

These apps can be used to read [someone's text messages without installing software on their phone](#).

Sometimes you'll need to spy on your loved ones if they [get into trouble or indulge in dangerous activities](#). And, sometimes, you have to be careful that you're not the one being spied on because your spouse is constantly jealous. Here are some apps/programs that can be used to spy:

**1. MySpyLite:** MySpyLite is an app that can be used by your partner to receive your text messages. They only ask a few questions about your mobile device and don't ask for any personal information. In less than 24 hours, your partner can receive information from your texts, e-mails, call log, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram. They can also SpyChat messages as you receive them on your phone. And it's all done without touching the device.

**2. TeenSafe:** This is an app that is commonly used by parents to spy on their teenagers—but could also be employed for other reasons. It allows tracking of not only the movement of the device, texts, call history, and web browsing history, all the way down to the contacts that are on your phone. Facebook, WhatsApp, and Kik Messenger can also be monitored. And yes, this can be done without your consent.

**3. SPYERA:** This is another way your jealous partner might watch your every move. They can read messages sent and received on social media and will have access to your call logs.

**4. GeoZilla:** This is a robust app that tracks the GPS of a mobile phone to monitor someone's location. The spy can tell where you are on a real-time basis. This is software that is used most often for tracking the whereabouts of a cheating

spouse *if* they're suspicious. But not all apps are bad, this one can also be used to monitor your children if you feel the need to keep track of them for their safety.

**5. FlexiSPY:** This software is used for spying on anyone without them knowing about it. If your partner is spying with this program, they can read all messages and see who you have called. It will also give them access to everything you do on social media like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

**Share your experiences below.**

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## **Parenting Advice: 7 Ways to Help Your Partner Cope with Postpartum**







By [Mara Miller](#)

It's normal for a woman to feel sad, anxious, lonely, or tired after her new bundle of joy has been delivered, but usually those feelings go away fairly quickly. For some mothers, it becomes much more severe, affecting one out of seven women. Postpartum depression can take affect months after the baby is born. It also doesn't affect only new mothers; it can affect someone who already has children. The disease can be so serious that some mothers have taken their lives because they couldn't get the help they needed.

**Parenting Advice: Postpartum depression can be a scary, frustrating time for the whole family. Here are 7 ways you can help your partner cope.**

It can be hard to know what to do in this situation when you

don't know how your partner will feel from day to day. Here are some ways you can help make your partner's life easier:

**1. Listen to her:** Her anxiety is sky high right now. She might feel like her ability to be a good mom isn't there and that you and the baby would be better off without her. You don't have to give her resolutions or ways to do better; you just need to listen.

**Related Link:** [Parenting Trend: Weighted Blankets](#)

**2. Make sure she rests:** It's easy to lose sleep when there is a new baby in the house, especially for the mother. Make her stay in bed a little longer while you take over for the midnight feedings or in the middle of the day if she needs to recharge.

**Related Link:** [Parenting Advice: How to Decide What TV Shows & Movies to Allow Your Kids to Watch](#)

**3. Seek help elsewhere:** Asking for help from a trusted friend or family member isn't wrong. If your partner needs help taking care of the baby, making sure she has a support system besides yourself is important. Friends can also be a good motivator to get her up and out of the house to shop, have lunch, and feel normal while you bond with the baby at home.

**Related Link:** [Parenting Advice: Make Your Own Fresh Baby Food](#)

**4. Help around the house:** It can be easy to let the household chores all fall on your partner. Do not do this to her. Get a baby sling, attach your little one to your chest, and cook some dinner for Mom while she fits in a nap. Take the dogs for a walk. If you have older children, some extra time watching TV or playing outside while she relaxes won't hurt either.

**5. Don't forget to spend time alone:** Get a babysitter when the baby is old enough, and take her out on a date. She might feel fat and want to wallow in her own misery right now, but don't

let her. She needs time alone with you so she can feel like the beautiful human you fell in love with again.

**6. Make her feel supported and safe:** The experience of postpartum can be lonely for the mother because she devalues her self-worth. Tell her she's doing a good job with a baby. If she gets angry, ask her why she feels angry.

**7. Do research:** The more you know about postpartum depression, the more you can help your partner. You can also find support groups and hotlines to help. And yes, this includes finding a therapist who can prescribe medication to help if necessary.

**What are some other ways you can help your partner through postpartum depression? Share your tips below.**

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## Date Idea: Play All Day







By Ann Luther and [Mara Miller](#)

This weekend, get outside and romp around! Embrace the simple pleasures of childhood with your partner by spending this date idea outside, playing all the games you used to enjoy when you were a kid. Enjoy the weather and your relationship and love with this easy, fun, and cheap date al fresco.

## **Embrace Your Inner Kid to Improve Your Relationship and Love with this Date Idea**

There are a ton of childhood games that can be just as entertaining for adults when we play them with our significant others. Grab a basketball, head to a local court, and play a game of Horse. Try to create and match wild shots; shoot it from around the back, through your legs, or maybe from half-court with your eyes closed. The loser can buy Slurpees later.

Don't leave the blacktop before you draw out an insane pattern for Hopscotch in chalk. Throw a pebble and see how balanced

and agile your partner really is. You'll both be sure to get a laugh out of each game. The silly fun on this weekend date idea may be exactly what you need after a long week at work.

On your walk to get your Slurpee reward, speed it up with some Tag. You can run through yards, weave through buildings, and dash across parking lots. When you're out of breath, you'll have the consolation prize of being caught up in your favorite person's arms. You will, however, be It. Thanks to this expert [relationship advice](#) and all of that mad running around, you might discover places in your town you never knew existed, places you can go back to for your next date.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Be a "Cheap" Date](#)

When evening hits and you're back at home, you can pull out some speakers and dance in the cool, spring air. Move and shake as the sun sets, and then slow it down for a romantic song or two. When it's finally dark, it's time for some old-fashioned Marco Polo. You don't need a pool to play this game. Under the cover of night, with your eyes closed, call out and feel around for your beau.

You don't always need to behave like an adult to be in an adult relationship and love. Mixing it up with some kiddish antics can be just the kind of fun you're looking for, if only for this weekend.

**Have you played around on an outdoor date? Share your stories below.**

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# Date Idea: Bookworms



By Ann Luther and [Mara Miller](#)

This weekend, get lost in the romantic words of others and embrace the tender sentiments of the great writers with your great relationship and love. With this date idea, you and your partner can get out and explore your favorite authors, your city, and your passion for one another.

## Enjoy Books About Love With This Literary Date Idea

Take a walk to your local bookstore with your beau, a stack of Post-it notes, and a pen. Write notes of love, encouragement, or dating advice until your hands cramp up. While you're

writing, exchange ideas with each other – you might learn something new about your man's perspective on adoration. Then, hide these notes in your favorite books about love for a future reader to find later. You might even sneak into the teen section of the store and place them in books for the next generation of lovers.

While the pair of you are scanning the rows, try to find a romantic novel that neither of you has read yet. A few of the best so far in 2019 include: *Meet Cute* by Helena Hunting, *Verity* by Colleen Hoover, and *The Kiss Thief* by L.J. Shen. This will keep the date going long after the day is done. You might buy one copy and read it to each other, or you can buy two copies to read separately with the other person in mind. Whichever you choose, you'll have something new to talk about and share.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Plan A Walk Around Town](#)

Few things go better with reading than coffee. Delocator.net is a fabulously easy way to find independently owned and run businesses in your area. Once you've settled into your seats in an intimate coffee shop, pull out a book of sweet love poems. Grab your darling's hand and read those poems aloud. Your honey will love to hear all of those romantic notions straight from your lips! You can check this list of the top 10 love poem books before you go and choose a few that speak to you.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Write A Book](#)

If you'd prefer to stay in, you don't have to leave the comfort of your home for this date idea! You can make a pot of coffee or tea, and while it brews, hide love notes in every room for your partner to find. Then, the two of you can cuddle up on the couch with your mugs and poems and start the readings. It would be a perfect way to heat up a rainy day.

Sometimes, we get too afraid to let all of the emotion in the



books we read to take over our own relationships and love. This weekend, let go of all apprehension and have fun with romance!

Have you ever been on a bookstore date? Share your stories below.

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## Date Idea: Plant Some Roots



By Ann Luther and [Mara Miller](#)

Spring has sprung! Flowers are blooming everywhere – and so are your feelings for your partner. Take advantage of this beautiful season with this weekend date idea. You can plant



seeds in the ground *and* each other's hearts!

## Plant a Garden for This Weekend Date Idea

Go for a drive with the windows down and hunt the neighborhood for inspiration for your garden to follow this [relationship advice](#). You can check out the lawn of other residents, hanging baskets in front of local storefronts, and the wild vegetation peeking out everywhere you turn. You might even try going to a nearby park and taking a stroll. The park will be full of blossoming flowers, native grasses, and intricate landscaping. Before you leave, stop and pick up a dandelion, make a wish for you and your lovebird, and blow!

**Related Link:** [First Date Outfit Ideas: Outdoor Festivals](#)

On this date idea, you can pick out plants based on their meanings and what you want your garden to convey. Jasmine signifies eternal love, and agrimony flowers stand for thankfulness. Coriander is a sign of lust, while sweet peas smell fantastic and symbolize gratitude. Oxeye daisies are lovely representations of patience. With a little research and the right intentions, you can create a garden that ushers in much more than beauty into your lives.

Once you and your beau are fully inspired, learn which plants grow best in your area. Provenwinner.com is a great resource for area-determinant gardening. Then, it's off to the local gardening store for you two! Stock up on all the supplies you'll need— like shovels, gloves, potting soil, and, of course, whatever seeds or plants you picked out. Be sure to pick up some pretty pots to add a bit of color to your front porch too!

**Related Link:** [10 End-of-Summer Date Ideas](#)

If none of the pots fit your fancy, purchase normal clay pots and make a quick trip to the craft store for some acrylic paint and a few paint brushes on the way home. Get to gardening, but before you start on the potted plants, take your paint and brushes and decorate the pots! You can paint hearts or design something more abstract. It doesn't have to be precise; it just has to be colorful. On the bottom of the pots, paint the date to make sure you'll never forget.

Take your time today. Enjoy the sun, the breeze, and your relationship and love. Winter felt like it lasted forever, and summer will be here in no time, so bask in the beautiful weather of the spring. As the seasons roll on, you'll have your sweet garden to remind you of this weekend date idea.

**Have you ever planned a gardening date? Share your stories below!**

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## **Date Idea: Explore Love on a Road Trip**





By [Sarah Batcheller](#) and [Mara Miller](#)

After a stressful week, you just want to unwind and spend quality time with your partner. So pack a light bag, jump in the car, and head out on a road trip! Taking to the open road is bound to be an experience to remember; it's a great way to spend quality time together and explore your relationship and love. It shouldn't take too much planning, but in order to enjoy your journey, there are a few things you need to keep in mind.

## Road Trip Your Way to a Stronger Relationship and Love

The first step is to choose a few destinations. For this date idea, you and your partner should select places not too far or too close to home. One great idea is to visit a popular city in your state or a neighboring state. If you don't have any preferences, ask friends who have been on road trips. It's always a great idea to get dating advice and personal recommendations from your loved ones – that way, you can also

get information on the best places to eat, lodge, and just have a good time!

**Related Link:** [Bring the Beach to You](#)

Deciding where to go has a lot to do with you and your boo's personalities. If you're music junkies, you might want to hit up Nashville, Tennessee. Or maybe you're history buffs, and you want to see the marvelous Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Your chosen spot depends on the kind of romance you want to stir up as well. You may want to pick a place that's known for its party scene or somewhere with a beautiful, breathtakingly-silent landscape.

Once the destination has been chosen, it's time to get your suitcase out. Several items you should take with you on this weekend date idea are music you both enjoy, a GPS or map, books, snacks, drinks, a first aid kit, some clothes (be sure to check the weather!), and cash or credit card.

**Related Link:** [Rent a Cabin for the Weekend](#)

In order to enjoy the road trip and make the most of your relationship and love, give yourself sufficient time to check out your destination spot as well as places you pass through. Take pictures and keep receipts as souvenirs. With these tips and the right planning, you'll be ready to take another road trip next weekend!

**Do you have any suggestions about road tripping with your sweetheart? Share with our readers by commenting below.**

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# Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum



By [Sarah Batcheller](#) and [Mara Miller](#)

Searching for an exciting date idea this weekend? Plan a trip to a local museum! You can spend the entire day with your significant other and get an educational and entertaining experience at the same time.

## Head to a Museum for a Culturally-Influenced Date Idea

When choosing which museum to visit, think about your interests. If you want to learn more about a specific event in



history, such as the Holocaust, find a museum that has a section for that. Do you live in Washington, D.C.? The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is one of the best Holocaust museums in America. If your man is a space or aviation fanatic, follow this [love advice](#) and take him to the National Air and Space Museum, also in D.C., on your next weekend date idea.

**Related Link:** [Tour a Chocolate Factory](#)

If you're more fascinated with contemporary art, the New Museum in New York is the best place to go. It even has a Sky Room that provides a stunning view of Manhattan's skyline. If you live in Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art is also on the list of top ten museums in America.

Planetariums and aquariums make for great date ideas too. The American Museum of Natural History in New York exhibits a variety of shows in their planetarium, ranging from outer space to the function of the brain. The New York Aquarium is also popular. From sea lions to sharks, you'll certainly stay busy!

Museums are great because of all the opportunity for conversation, especially if you're going on a first date. Still, whether it's your first or fifty-first outing together, there's always something fun to enjoy. Strolling down various corridors and stumbling upon new exhibits will give you and your partner time to bond over your mutual fascination for the museum's focus. The quietness of a museum makes for good romance too, and it'll cause you to feel closer to your partner. While immersed in a century-old Greek oil painting, the two of you will feel like you're the only ones in the room, like you're in an entirely different world.

**Related Link:** [How to Date Outside the Box in NYC](#)

Once you're tired of hushed voices and "Do Not Touch" signs, you can head over to the cafe or bakery that many museums

typically offer their guests. There, you'll be able to discuss all the wonders you've seen and continue your conversation. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop on your way out and pick up a memento of your day!

**Do you have any great museums, planetariums or aquariums in mind? Share your date idea with us!**

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## **Date Idea: Romance at a Resort**



By [Sarah Batcheller](#) and [Mara Miller](#)

It's time to escape your everyday burdens and have a romantic

getaway with your beau. Pamper yourselves and enjoy time away from the office and with each other by venturing off to a resort. This [weekend date idea](#) will allow you to retreat to a relaxing place and rejuvenate your relationship and love for one another.

## **Find out how to indulge fully in a resort weekend with these date ideas!**

Heat things up in this cold weather! Why not head to a fun spot like the Hamptons or Montauk and spend the days and nights on the beach with the one who makes you happy? Check out sites like LivingSocial or Groupon for deals on weekend getaways. You *can* have a vacation that won't break the bank. If you literally want to heat things up, travel somewhere with a warmer climate, like The Keys, for this date idea.

**Related Link:** [Valentine's Day Date Ideas](#)

Once you arrive at your destination, make a bonfire on the beach, melt some s'mores, and snuggle up. Soak in all there is about where you are. One morning, be sure to order breakfast in bed – there's nothing better than being comfy with your boo while sipping your morning coffee and watching the sunrise from the sheets. Talk about a great start to the day! After all, the point of this [dating advice](#) is to do what you can't do when you're tied down with work and other responsibilities. Take some time to do nothing except appreciate the company of your significant other.

Many resort locations offer a variety of romantic activities for couples, like dance lessons, horseback riding, couples massages, or private yoga. Any of these will add some edge and spark to this weekend date idea. If you'd rather follow the

trail of spontaneity, just explore your destination. If you prefer a laid-back day, head to the pool to soak up some rays. There's bound to be poolside service at any spa resort, so the two of you could comfortably spend all day basking in each other's arms.

**Related Link:** [Take a Virtual Vacation](#)

Afterward, have a candlelight dinner for two on your balcony. Talk about your trip so far and what you've enjoyed most about your time away. No matter where you go, having a romantic resort getaway is a great way to spend some quality time with the one you love.

**Tell Cupid about your favorite resort spots in the comments below!**

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## Relationship Advice: Should You Elope?







By Dr. Jane Greer

Planning a wedding can be exciting, but it can also be an enormous undertaking once you become immersed in all the details. From choosing a maid of honor and whatever number of bridesmaids you have agreed upon (and trying not to offend anyone with your choices), to the flowers and the cake, not to mention the seating arrangements, it can be a lot to deal with. That's why, in the midst of it all, people often begin to wonder if they should elope. For some, it is just a joke, something to say when all they really want to do is get a break from thinking about the dress and the photographer and where Aunt Fran is going to sit. For others it can be the right choice. Actress Gina Rodriguez said she almost married her fiancé Joe LoCicero after this year's Golden Globes, gushing about getting caught up in the excitement and the beauty of the dress she had on, and saying it could have happened that night if she hadn't had to work the next day.



# In this relationship advice, find out if eloping is the right choice for you.

Of course, that is a perfect example of how eloping can happen if you get swept away by a moment of love and romance. To those who just met or consider getting married after a drunken night in Las Vegas, caught up in the passion and spontaneity, waiting a bit to get to know each other may be a better idea. But many people who are deep into a relationship and are sure they want to spend the rest of their lives together also consider eloping for a variety of reasons. There is a certain practicality to avoiding a big wedding, especially if people don't have the money to spend on a lavish reception. Or, they might not want to burden their family with a huge bill. Along the same lines, a couple might decide they would rather spend the money on something else, such as a honeymoon or to use as the down payment for a house. Finally, since so much family history and baggage can come along with the elements of a big wedding, the future bride and groom may simply want to avoid possible criticism, judgement, or blame for the particular choices they might make, and thereby not have to feel guilty because of the disapproval. While the two options have their merits and cons, it's important that both partners are on the same page about when and how to tie the knot. So how can you know if eloping is the right choice for you?

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Can You Cheat Jealousy?](#)

The most important question to ask yourself as you make this decision is will you or your partner be disappointed in any way if you forgo the traditional route? Some people fantasize about a big white wedding for their entire lives – a time when they might feel like a princess or a prince – and imagine having pictures documenting it to look at for decades to come.

Others have been leafing through bridal magazines for years and have already chosen the style of dress they want to wear down the aisle. And still others may have imagined it as a time to gather all their fraternity brothers for a reunion. If this is the case for either one of you, eloping might not be the best choice. Talk about it and try to make sure there won't be one single regret looming out there, but only happiness for what lies ahead.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: The Afterlife Connection](#)

The bride and groom are not the only ones who have emotions wrapped up in the monumental event. With that in mind, consider also if there are family members who might be let down if you decide to have a small, private ceremony at City Hall. Did your mother always dream of this moment? Did your uncle for whom you are named always imagine what he would say during the speech he hoped to give one day? Think about what is most important to you as far as keeping the peace or having your life start together on your own terms, and how much you are willing to deal with to achieve that. If you do choose to elope, keep those family members in mind and see what you can do to appease them and make them understand that for you this is a gain and not a loss of any kind. Even if you elope and choose to make the ceremony your own, you can still throw a celebratory party and invite everyone at any time.

If in the end it feels like there would be no regrets, nothing that you imagine you might wish you had done down the road, and you are eager to begin your life together and not spend a lot of time or money getting to that point, then eloping might be the perfect choice for you. Who knows how Gina and Joe will end up tying the knot in the end, but they certainly aren't alone if at times they think they could just elope.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](#) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays*

are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](http://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

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## Date Idea: Dance the Night Away



By [Courtney Shapiro](#) and Sarah Batcheller

Sure, going to the movies and grabbing burgers is a relaxing and tasty [date night](#)...or it's just plain boring. But don't worry! Better nights are just around the corner. Prove to your sweetheart that you can go the extra mile for them by scheduling dance lessons this week. With this [date idea](#), you get to shake and show off while fitting in your daily exercise. Plus, you get to be close and personal with your significant other. Take this [relationship advice](#) and go dancing with your partner.

## Use This Date Idea to Reconnect With Your Beau

If you're searching for something romantic with this date idea, try ballroom or Argentine tango. Not sure what the differences are? A ballroom tango is a type of dance that you've seen on *Dancing with the Stars*. There are certain moves you must learn – from underarm turns to alternating hand holds to side-by-side choreography. If you and your partner prove to be particularly talented on the dance floor, you can even enter competitions.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Ice Skating Adventure](#)

The Argentine tango is a social dance, and because there aren't any steps involved, it relies on improvisation. In short, it means that you and your mate can learn how to dance it quickly. You can go out that night and display your new moves at a nearby nightclub or bar!

If you follow this relationship advice and want to do something that's fun and sexy, try salsa. Although couples don't embrace as much as they do in a tango, dancers hold hands most of the time and remain in one spot, often swapping back and forth. If this idea appeals to you, then get ready for all the hip wiggling and spins you'll face! Salsa is a

great style for those who just want to be eye-to-eye while dancing with their honey.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Warm Up By Exercising This Winter](#)

If you still aren't sure which dancing lessons to take for this weekend date idea, see these dances in action. Check out videos on Youtube.com, or you may consider taking a beginners class for all three dances. That way, you can compare the pros and cons of each style and pick out which one is best for you and your beau.

**Have you and your special someone taken dance lessons before? Let us know by commenting below!**

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## Movie Review: Night School







By [Lauren Burczyk](#)

If you're looking for a fresh, witty comedy, then you're in luck! *Night School* is the perfect movie to watch when you're looking for a "pick me up." This fun, original flick stars Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish. Teddy, played by Hart, is a high school dropout desperate for a good job so that he can continue to impress his fiancée, an architect, who is unaware of his actual situation. His good friend promises him a position as a financial analyst if he goes back to school and completes his GED. The fun starts when Teddy meets his night school teacher, Carrie, played by Haddish, who's determined to get Teddy to pass his exam. Teddy finds out that keeping night school a secret from his fiancée is much harder than he could have imagined. Read Cupid's [movie review](#) to find out just how funny this film is!

***Night School* is the perfect comedy**

# that shows what not to do in a relationship.

## Should you see it:

If you're in the mood for a good comedy, there are just enough laughs to make this movie well worth it!

## Who to take:

This would be a great movie to see with your partner, best friend, or family member. This comedy has a softer rating so you can bring your teenager along with you!

## Cupid's Advice:

Do you agree with Teddy that a secret is unavoidable in certain circumstances during a relationship? Cupid has some reasons to avoid keeping secrets from your partner and why secrets, even if they're harmless, can ruin your relationship.

**1. Keeping a secret from your partner proves you're being dishonest:** In a relationship, honesty is always the best policy. Keeping a secret from your significant other is very similar to lying and can break the trust in a relationship.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Movie 'Home Sweet Hell' Features Katherine Heigl as a Killer Wife](#)

**2. You can end up becoming deceitful:** The more time that passes, the harder it will become to reveal your secret to your partner. It's important to tell the truth right from the start so that you avoid turning your secret into a real problem.

**Related Link:** [It's Friends vs. Relationship in 'The Wedding Ringer'](#)

**3. Deceit quickly multiplies into mistrust:** Once you've let

your secret lead to deceit, the more it will affect your relationship. Deceit can often lead to breaking the trust in your relationship.

**4. Keeping secrets is a breeding ground for betrayal:** Avoiding to mention important facts to your partner can lead to further deception or betrayal. Being open and honest with your partner will encourage trust and open communication.

**5. Relationships are often ruined by lies:** Secrets and lies cause couples to grow apart. It's difficult to forgive your partner once you've found out that they've lied to you and kept a secret from you.

Can you think of any other reasons why keeping secrets from your partner could ultimately ruin your relationship? Comment below.

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## Date Idea: Spend an Intimate Night Indoors





By [Sarah Batcheller](#) and Ché Blackwood

If you're craving a romantic [date night](#) but don't want to spend a fortune or you're tired of the same-old restaurant scene, then get creative and bring the excitement of a night out into your own home! There's no reason you and your partner can't share an intimate evening dancing and dining together without breaking the bank. With this weekend [date idea](#), your dining room can rival even the fanciest of dinners.

## How to Plan a Date Idea at Home

**Pick out something sexy to wear for your beau:** Just because you're at home doesn't mean you shouldn't get dolled up. In fact, staying in means you can actually dress a little nicer than usual. This is one time when you can feel free to overdress (or under dress) for the occasion. No matter what, you want to feel beautiful and comfortable!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Be a Cheap Date](#)

**Share a drink to kick the night off:** Stop by your local winery



or liquor store and ask the manager to choose a good bottle of red for the best value. When you buy wine directly from the store rather than at a restaurant, the prices are drastically reduced, leaving you with a higher-priced bottle for a lesser cost. If you really want to go all out, purchase a few different bottles and have your own wine tasting. Just pop the cork, swirl your glass, and pretend your kitchen table is the most coveted spot in the house.

Cupid's [dating advice](#): take the night to the next level and plan a special menu to cook together. Choose a unique recipe to really test your culinary talents or remake the first meal the two of you ever shared together. Be sure that your dinner pairs well with your wine of choice. Red meat and pasta taste great with a full-bodied Merlot!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea:Hometown Hotel](#)

**After you've wined and dined, relax:** Fortunately, you don't have to go very far! Run a bubble bath for two if you really want to get the romance flowing, or curl up on the couch with popcorn and watch a movie with your sweetie. The comforts of being home mixed with the luxuries of a passionate date will leave you feeling refreshed and swept off your feet, without any looming stress over next month's credit card bill!

**How do you like to spice up a night at home? Tell us in the comments below!**

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## **Ask The Guy's Guy: How Do I**

# Get Through The Holiday Season Being Single?



By [Robert Manni](#)

*Question from Meghan G from Babylon, NY: "It's hard being single during the holidays, what are some tips to help me get through being single? Or how can I find someone during this time?"*

This is a great question, Meghan. With all the hustle and bustle and last minute shopping during this time of year, it's easy to forget the true meaning of the holidays. Regardless of your spiritual beliefs, I think we can agree that this is a time for giving, gratitude, and love. Granted, this can be tough when you're single and see couples holding hands (some people still do that) walking along the bright and colorfully lit city streets.

**Related Link:** [Ask The Guy's Guy: If He Isn't Ready To Date, What Should I Do?](#)

Do your best to be grateful for what you have, especially if you are in good health. Then focus on your friends and loved ones. I believe that when we maintain a selfless mindset, good things come our way. Of course, there are no guarantees that you'll wake up on Christmas morning and find Mr. Right perched under your tree, but it's a good start for shifting your thoughts into a love-based mindset. I found find that love comes our way when our heart is open. Use the holiday season to practice making room in your heart for others, including a new partner. Finding love can often be that simple, and it has nothing to do with the time of year.

**Related Link:** [Ask The Guy's Guy: How to Win](#) a First Date After Meeting Online

Cherish your family and friends and be social. Attend parties you're invited to and spread the love you have in your heart. I believe when we radiate love, we receive love in return. And remember to be kind. What can be the most wonderful time of the year for many can also be a very stressful time for others less fortunate.

Happy holidays and good luck!

*If you would like relationship expert Robert Manni to answer your online dating/relationship questions, please email [gillian@nvmediainc.com](mailto:gillian@nvmediainc.com)*

**More about the Guy's Guy:**



Robert is the host of Guy's Guy Radio, featured on Blog Talk Radio and available on iTunes, Stitcher, and TuneIn. The weekly podcast features interviews with relationship coaches, entertainers, authors, wellness experts, spiritual teachers, sports personalities, and a weekly "Guys' Guy's Guide"

exploring current guy-focused topics.

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## **Relationship Advice: 5 Romantic Wedding Ideas That Won't Break the Bank**





Everyone wants to create the wedding of their dreams, but you don't have to spend tens of thousands to make that happen. The cost of a wedding is often the number one stressor, which is why couples across the world are opting for [frugal and more sentimental options](#).

**Here are five beautifully romantic ideas that will help keep your finances in check.**

### **1. Invitations**

Like all wedding-themed products, invitation cards can quickly rack up an expensive tab. Creating a romantic invitation, however, costs a lot less than you might think. You could pen down a favorite verse, make use of elegant flower designs, or create beautiful sweeping hearts. The more DIY you make the

invitation, the more sentimental (and less expensive) they become.

## **2. The Vows**

While weddings are generally expensive, expressing your love to one another is absolutely free. One of the most romantic things you can do is write your own vows and recite them to one another on your wedding day. While it might sound a little cliché, nothing will make your guests tear up more.

## **3. The “Buffet”**

Food is a must at any wedding. If you don’t feel like dishing out hundreds for New York strip but don’t want to settle for a venue’s cheap chicken, the smart alternative is to create a table of hors d’oeuvres. Not only does this allow guests to enjoy small bites throughout the night, but it gives you an added level of freedom when selecting the food you serve.

You could create a cheese and meat selection, offer the ability to create tiny sandwiches or tacos, or create a candy table with [Sweet Services](#). Nothing says romance quite like the sweet taste of heart-shaped candy. This buffet-style food option also lets you add color to the room with the foods you choose.

## **4. Staying Unique**

A new trend popping up across the wedding community is to skip the open bar in lieu of a signature drink. Couples create the drink together, using their imaginations to craft a delicious concoction, then give it a sentimental name. It’s a unique way to celebrate your love for one another that everyone can enjoy.

Keep in mind that this is your big day. Don’t feel constrained by magazines and websites, make it your own! Incorporate unique designs and ideas into every aspect of your wedding you can think of. When it comes to romance, nothing says “I love you” like flaunting what you both enjoy.

## 5. Bridal Wear

Saving money on tuxedos and suits is a little easier than bridesmaids dresses. Thankfully, the world of online shopping brings decadent styles to your doorstep at cheaper prices. Ask your bridal party about the best places to shop for [romantic bridesmaid dresses](#). They'll be able to help you out.

## Romantic and Frugal

Planning a romantic wedding doesn't have to break the bank. These are just five examples of how you can save money while making your big day one the two of you will remember forever. Frugal wedding planning doesn't stop here, though. There are endless ways to save money while still going big on your special day.

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# Relationship Advice: How To Get Over A Break Up With Someone You Were Never Dating?





By [Megan Weks](#)

We are afraid to say we want something real. We ease into the relationship secretly hoping it will turn into something of substance. We keep quiet. We don't want to "scare him away" by getting serious all of a sudden. Maybe you tried that before and nothing changed. Maybe you still went along with it trying to be "cool" and telling yourself, "I can handle it." Meanwhile, you're busy quietly nursing a dull heartache behind the scenes. You weren't even dating but it's fading away. You know it's ending. You try to reignite it. You were hoping for more. He wasn't even your boyfriend. Why does this hurt so badly? The answer may surprise you.

## **Getting over someone you weren't with**

It hurts so much because you are breaking your own heart.

The time is now to figure out what you truly want in your heart. It's not shameful or embarrassing to want love by using



dating services such as [The Love Personals Dating Website](#). We are born to love and be loved. The sooner you can look in the mirror and say, "I want love," without feeling any tightness, heat, or other emotional reaction related to a bit of judgment you have for yourself, the sooner you can look him in his eyes and softly declare that you're looking for something of substance. You are looking for an incredible human to share your life with. The sooner you can put this out into the world with the current of love behind it, the sooner the universe and men will respond with the same.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: How To Put Yourself Out There After a Break-up](#)

Wishy-washy intentions get wishy-washy results.

When you're out there accepting crumbs from men, the universe is watching.

When you're holding something in and he can feel it, he is watching.

It actually lowers your value in his eyes when he can tell you're accepting less than you want and deserve.

He knows.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: How to Handle A Heartbreak](#)

It's your job to get in touch with your true desires and start communicating that upfront before you end up in another unfulfilling or imaginary relationship where you're breaking your own heart.

**Exercise:** Design your relationship on paper in a paragraph that is colorful with how it feels to be in the relationship you want. What do you do for fun? How do you communicate with one another? How do you feel in this relationship? What to accept in this relationship and what do you not accept. Write it all in the present tense.



**Related Link:** [Expert Relationship Advice: How To Move On After Being Ghosted](#)

Set your intention and stand by what you want. Don't allow yourself to get tangled up in something that doesn't serve you. It's the epitome of self-love to follow your heart and speak your truth in order to line yourself up with the relationship you want.

For more information about dating expert Megan Weks, visit her website at [www.meganweks.com](http://www.meganweks.com). For more expert relationship advice articles from Megan, click [here](#).

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## Celebrity News: Find Out Why Kristin Cavallari Keeps Finances Separate from Jay Cutler





By [Courtney Shapiro](#)

In [celebrity news](#), Kristin Cavallari shared that she has a separate bank account from her husband Jay Cutler. She shares [relationship advice](#) saying that women should learn to be independent with their finances, and be with their partner because they love them, not because they need to be supported. According to *UsMagazine.com*, Cavallari said, “I have my own bank account ... I just think it’s important for the woman to have a little independence.”

**In celebrity news, Kristin Cavallari keeps her own bank account to retain some independence. What are some reasons keeping separate finances from your significant other is a good idea?**

## **Cupid's Advice:**

How is having separate finances from your significant other a good idea? Cupid has some thoughts:

**1. You want to buy things with the money you make:** You should be able to make your own purchases with the money you earned yourself. You don't have to share every single small purchase you make with your partner.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couple News: Find Out Why Kanye West Surprised Wife Kim Kardashian With a \\$1 Million Check](#)

**2.You want to buy gifts for your partner:** If you're buying something special for your partner, you want to keep it a secret. If you don't have separate accounts, your partner will be able to see the purchases made therefore making the gift less special.

**Related Link:** [Celeb News: How Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth Beat the Odds to Become One of Hollywood's Most Solid Couples](#)

**3.You get to learn independence:** You and your partner can take responsibility for various expenses. Having separate accounts for certain bills can help you keep track of what you need to contribute.

**How did you benefit from keeping your finances separate from your partner? Let us know below!**

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# **Ask The Guy's Guy: If He**

# Isn't Ready To Date, What Should I Do?



By [Robert Manni](#)

*Question from Olivia MacBeth (Binghamton, NY): "What should I do if the guy I really like isn't ready to date yet? Should I keep waiting or should I move on?"*

## Keep waiting or move on?

When a guy says he "isn't ready to date yet" there are usually only two reasons for his hesitancy to go out with with a great woman like you. The first consideration is that he's coming out of a painful break up and needs time to lick his wounds before jumping back into shark-infested dating waters. If this is the case, I suggest you give him some time.



Maybe let him heal for a month or so, but that's it. You both need to get on with your lives. If he needs a little time, make sure he's being truthful, then clock his behavior while his heart "heals" and watch how he handles the situation. Every guy gets dumped, but what often separates one man from another is how they handle challenging matters of the heart. Of course you want to date guy who's in touch with his feelings, but if he's still pining for his ex after a certain period of time, that a signal that it's time for you to move on.

**Related Link:** [Ask The Guy's Guy: What to do if You Find Your Partner Using Online Dating Sites](#)

On the other hand, if a guy has not recently come out of a break up but is still hesitant about dating you, that's another story which does not have happy ending. When a guy is single and available, yet remains non-committal about dating you, that means one of two things. He's either interested in someone else or he's just not that into you. If either is the case, take a deep breath, exhale, hold your head high, and move on.

After all, do you really want to wait around for a guy who is not jumping at the chance to date you? I doubt it.

Hope this helps. Good luck.

**Related Link:** [Ask The Guy's Guy: How to Win a First Date After Meeting Online](#)

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***More about the Guy's Guy:***



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## **Expert Dating Advice: Are You Ready To Move-In Together?**



By [Megan Weks](#)

Thinking about moving in with him? Read some [expert relationship advice](#) to see if you are ready to make this move.

## Making the next big step in the relationship!

Before you move in with him, consider this: Rent is expensive and you'd LOVE to share it with him... You're sick of living out of a suitcase every weekend when you're at his house. You're practically there all the time. His dog is starting to call you "Mom." Is it time to move in? Think about this from a Man's perspective. What generally is a man seeking out of a relationship with you? Warmth. Encouragement. Admiration. Love. Sex. He gets it all nearly all of the time when you move in with him. We have all heard the old adage, why buy the cow

when you can get the milk for free? Well, it's something to seriously consider when you are looking to move in with him.

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When the conversation of moving in arises, it's an opportunity. It's your chance to create a moment to have a man face some real-life questions. Basically, what are his intentions here? Otherwise, I guarantee it's not on the top of his mind. He is probably focused on his career or other important things like his fantasy league or latest fall micro-brew. He's not going to be sitting there thinking about his intentions with you. It may not cross his mind at all how this move could benefit you or not benefit you a year later when he's about ready to pick his fantasy team, again...

Use this moment to discuss intentions rather than going with the flow or "hoping." A tactic I see women using all the time. I also see it blowing up in their face where it's a year later, they are a year older, and they have nothing more but a year more of memories with a dude who just "wasn't ready" for what she wanted.

**Related Link:** [How I Used a Manfunnel to Meet My Dream Husband](#)

Now realize I don't know you or your relationship so I'm simply asking you to consider this before proceeding. If you're looking for a formal commitment to A.K. A. engagement or marriage, don't allow a man to have you in his place all cozy while he decides what he wants to do with you. He gets to play house. He gets to have it all. You can spend plenty of time together to experience what living with one another might be like. You don't have to actually take that plunge to learn what you need to learn.

**Related Link:** [Should I Drop All The Other People I'm Interested In?](#)

Here is another thinking point. Are you considering moving in because it's an inconvenience to you? You're tired of going back and forth. You're tired of living out of a bag when you're at his place? Why is it that we women tend to travel to the man's house? Why are we spending more time over there rather than him spending time at our place? I've heard answers many reasons to this question. He doesn't have a roommate and you do. He has a bigger bed, a bigger place or better TV. I've heard that the man isn't comfortable there and can't sleep well over at your place, and many more excuses.

Sometimes it starts to feel like a girlfriend delivery service. You're so cozy at this point, he barely has to take you out anymore on dates. I've seen men stay in relationships for years because they have all that they need but they also don't intend on proceeding with a formal commitment. After seven years, you move out and he marries the next woman who comes along who he dated for seven months! I'm pretty sure we have all heard some version of a similar story.

I see way too many women jumping through hoops to be the girlfriend. Let him jump through hoops to have you in his life at all. Did you know that a man will appreciate you about 100 times or more if you are very certain in your value and your deservingness to be appreciated? Women are so afraid to lose a man that they seem to hardly take this approach of making him work hard to have her in his life. A man wants to do this work. He wants to cherish you and go out of his way for you. If you make everything too easy on him, he will view the relationship as less valuable.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: How To Handle a Heartbreak](#)

Before moving in, you need to truly figure out what's best for you. I'm not asking you to take a fear-based approach but I am suggesting to be smart about this decision. It's a big one. Don't do it out of convenience. Don't do it if you don't know where the relationship is headed. Discuss both of your



intentions and a timeline of expectations before you take the relationship to the next level.

For more information about dating expert Megan Weks, visit her website at [www.meganweks.com](http://www.meganweks.com). For more relationship advice articles from Megan, click [here](#).

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## Relationship Advice: 4 Types of Men You'll Meet Online



By [Gillian Lee](#)

In this week's Single In Stiletto's [dating advice video](#), founder and [relationship expert](#) Suzanne Oshima talk to [Robert](#)



[Manni](#) about 4 types of men you'll meet online. Watch the video above and the article below for good dating tips in your life!

## Different Types of Men You Meet Online

**1. Newbies:** The first type of people you would run into are the "newbies." These men have just recently started online dating, and aren't positive what they are looking for in a woman. Manni explains to us women, "I would recommend to all ladies as a first question when you're with a guy to ask them what they think about online dating." He explains to us to beware of the newbies because it's an idea of "window shopping" for them. Don't forget these guys completely, but instead, keep seeing guys who have experience.

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**2. Jugglers:** These type of men or women are people who are using various dating sites, and who are "dating up a storm." These people are overbooking dates, and what usually happens is that they would cancel last minute, or ghost you. When you are dating this type of guy, make sure to look out for your heart because they would be balancing multiple people at once.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: You're Scaring Men Off!](#)

**3. Lonelies:** These type of people are the ones who have been dumped a bunch of times, or their wife have just left them. They seek a companion through online dating, but they haven't yet managed their feelings. "These people might be a little needy, and might not know how to manage online dating...starting over can be really difficult for some people..." Manni says to us.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: 3 Things Men Wished You Knew](#)

**4. Realist:** These are the type of guys that you want to meet because “they have confidence in their own skin, like to meet people offline...” This man will be able to show you a good time and be the type of guy you want to date. These men will have more relationship potential for women. But, you have to be careful if somebody is that comfortable in their own skin and have their game together that they won't turn into players, because it's pretty easy. Find a guy that has a cool head, and knows who he is and is respectable to women.

*For more dating advice videos and additional information about the Single in Stilettos shows, click [here](#).*

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

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## Relationship Advice: The Afterlife Connection





By Dr. Jane Greer

There is nothing more shattering than dealing with the death of a loved one. It turns you inside out, and it can feel like you might never recover. The magnitude of the loss can be overwhelming. However, one of the most inexplicable, profound, and powerful avenues for not just coping with the death itself, but also moving forward with your life is experiencing signs from your loved one that they are still with you and sending you love. I call these signs transcommunication. Television personality and entrepreneur Bethenny Frankel had an experience with this when she accidentally texted her late boyfriend Dennis Shields, and at another point received a text that nobody claimed to write. She acknowledged after that she thought it was, "weird."

I talk about this exact situation in my book *The Afterlife Connection: A Therapist Reveals How to Communicate with Departed Loved Ones*. I actually wrote the book because of my own experiences after I lost my mother. She gave me, and continues to give me twenty years later, such clear signs that she is still with me that I felt compelled to learn more and

explore what was happening.

**Opening myself up to the possibility of transcommunication transformed my life, and continues to today. It can do the same for you once you begin to know what to look for.**

Many people have a hard time understanding or accepting this possibility, or might even be frightened by it. But numerous scientists are now devoted to research and a better understanding of this phenomenon, including the work being done at The Afterlife Research and Education Institute. The big question is, how can you bring this to a personal level? To begin with, in the same way Bethenny said her experiences were “weird,” one indication that you are receiving a sign is that you say, “I know this sounds crazy but,” when you talk about it. That’s because you know something important happened, but you don’t have the means to explain it rationally. Another clue is when you get goosebumps or chills. How, then, can you begin to learn to read the signs that are sent your way? In my book I refer to another book written by Louis E. LaGrand, Ph.D. called After Death Communication. In his preface, he describes the various ways people might become aware of communications from deceased loved ones.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Will Your Perfect Partner Vision Become Reality?](#)

ADCs (after-death communications) include sensing the presence of the deceased, feeling a touch, smelling a fragrance, hearing the voice or seeing the deceased, and meeting the loved one in a vision or dream. Messages are also received in

symbolic ways, such as finding an object associated with the deceased, unusual appearances or behavior of birds and animals, or other unexplainable happenings which occur at or shortly after the moment of death. Several combinations of the above phenomena may occur within weeks of death or over a period of years.

Along the same lines, Bill and Judy Guggenheim, in their seminal book *Hello from Heaven*, have categorized and provided anecdotal evidence for the innumerable methods – from visual to olfactory to auditory to symbolic – those in spirit have used to communicate with the living. Those they categorize as symbolic include the appearance of birds, butterflies, rainbows, animals of all kinds and a variety of inanimate objects such as seashells, coins, and pictures.

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When coincidence comes calling, consider instead that you are really dealing with a message of love from the other side. Here are three important things to keep in mind as you search for your own answers. The first is, be open to its occurring. If you accept it can happen to you, it will. The second is to debunk the notion that something huge has to happen, which is not the case. The signs can be subtle and small. They do not have to be big, sweeping gestures. For example, you might think about your mother and her favorite song comes on the radio, or you think about your father and a picture falls over. And the third is to be aware that some of the signs might come through energetically and might affect your computer, your car, your television, or any other machine or device by interfering with their function and disrupting what you are doing. Instead of being annoyed when these things break or malfunction, shift your way of thinking to see it as a sign and embrace that.

In my book I also talk about dream visits, in which the



deceased is present in your dreams but not dead. The feeling is so powerful that I call these dreams, “the your still alive, you’re not dead dreams.” There might be a particular interactive quality to the dream – different from others – where you feel you are right there with the person. It is defined by an intense reality that other dreams don’t possess, and after you experience one you wake up with a profound sense of well-being.

The most important takeaway here with all of this is that seeing is believing. It seems Bethenny had this experience, and if you, too, are able to open your heart and mind to this, you make room for your loved one to stay connected with you in a way that is remarkable.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](http://HealthyLife.net) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let’s Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](http://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.*

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## **Relationship Advice: Will Your Perfect Partner Vision**

# Become Reality?



By Dr. Jane Greer

Some people refer to it as the Soulmate List, others as the Love List. Whatever you call it, there is a popular trend being used by many hopeful romantics in which people write down the traits they hope to find in a mate – anything from handsome to well-read to empathetic – with the belief that putting it out there will allow the universe, or whatever entity might grant true love, to conjure it up. In fact, Tiffany Haddish dished about her “dream guy” having everything from cooking skills to excellent credit to beautiful hands. While it’s nice to fantasize about the ideal companion, the reality is we all have flaws and imperfections. And the later in life you meet, the more likely each person has baggage from former relationships and life experiences, which can sometimes include previous marriages or even children.

# So, the question becomes, is the practice of creating a perfect partner on paper leading you closer to or further from your goal?

Can this idea of putting a vision out there make it become a reality and energetically bring him or her into your life? Or does creating a dream person end up actually stifling your dreams because there can't possibly be anyone out there who fits every aspect of what you are looking for?

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We all know there is no perfect person, and waiting for one will mean you might continue to be alone until you feel ready to compromise. If you keep searching for your dream person, you might be dreaming for a long time while remaining single. It's important to leave room for the reality of who a person is, since nobody can live up to a fantasy. If you are not willing to consider someone beyond your list – for example, you want your future partner to be six feet tall and you rule out anyone who isn't – then you are limiting yourself in your search for love. How, then, can you have a dream list that can work for you and not against you? First of all, it is important to have a sense of what you are looking for in a partner so you can place a premium on and appreciate what you like – creativity, hardworking, smart – whatever it might be. But so often someone simply looks to what the other person brings to the equation, are they tall? Beautiful? Wealthy? Do they have an exciting job? Do they have a great social life? And while these details can certainly enhance your life and your relationship, there is something else even more important to consider. That is – how they make you feel when you are with them. Do they make you believe you are special? Can you

be real, be yourself, and not worry that you are being constantly judged? Do you laugh a lot when you are together? Do they have a sense of humor, and do they understand and appreciate yours? Are they interested in meeting your family? Do they take care of you when you are sick? These are the details that trump someone's height, or someone's job title, or how much someone's annual salary is.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Get the Birthday Gift Right](#)

It is so easy to get hung up on the external details, but very often it is these other ingredients, the personal ones, that can be on the back burner and eventually lead to a high flame if you are open to it, as was the case in the movie *When Harry Met Sally*. If you can keep your eyes and heart open, and not rule someone out because they don't match one of the items on your dream list, you are more likely to find love. Those items – such as being a good cook in *Tiffany's* case – should be considered to be the bonus prizes, the perks, but not the essentials. So when you sit down to write that dream list of yours, include yourself, what you hope your partner will be able to give to you emotionally, and what they might bring out in you. After all, the search for true love is a journey for two.

Hopefully Tiffany will find everything she thinks she wants in her dream guy, and so much more.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](http://HealthyLife.net) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](https://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](#) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer,*



visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.

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# Relationship Advice: Tips and Tricks for Successful Internet Dating



Despite the horror stories you may hear, a recent study showed that upward of 84-percent of people who use online dating apps do so with the intention of developing a romantic relationship, rather than a casual hookup. What does this mean for those looking for love? You're in luck.

**Still, there are ways to make the task easier for yourself when trying to find that special someone. Here are some of the best relationship advice tips and tricks for internet dating to help you find “the one”.**

### **Define Your Goals**

First and foremost, you need to do some self-reflection to determine exactly what it is you want out of this experience. Are you sure that you want to look for a serious relationship, or are you looking for something casual? What's important to you in a mate? What are some compromises you're willing to make and some that you aren't? Perhaps you'll date someone with kids, but you won't date a smoker. Maybe you need a [christian dating](#) site to stay aligned with your beliefs and values. It doesn't matter what your guidelines are, as long as they are authentic to you.

Ideally, you should define your goals before diving into the online dating world. If that ship has sailed, however, it's never too late to take a step back and re-evaluate your situation, especially if you've had a few negative experiences.

### **Portray Yourself Authentically**

While it can be tempting to choose a photograph of yourself from six years ago or one from the rare occasion when you're dressed to the nines for a special event, refrain from doing so. Why? Because this approach doesn't show the real you and it leads to possibly starting a relationship on a bad note.

If you're a woman who spends most of your time outdoors, hiking through the woods and camping under the stars, then perhaps the photo booth picture of you as a bridesmaid with your hair and makeup done isn't the right choice. Alternatively, if you're a man who loves sports and has no interest in fine dining, don't hype up your profile in attempts to tell women what they want to hear. You're trying to find someone who will love you as a person, not as a picture. Keep that in mind when crafting a profile.

### **Think About Your First Message**

The first message you send to someone will act as your first impression, so give it careful consideration. Messaging someone and saying "hi" is unlikely to get you far. Look at their profile and make a connection based on their interests to show that you went beyond the picture to learn more about them.

On the other side of things, consider your response carefully if someone reaches out to you and you are interested in pursuing something. Keeping things simple and friendly is the best way to go. If, by chance, you are exposed to someone rude, block them and move on without engaging.

### **Set up a Safe Meeting**

When you feel ready to meet someone, take precautions to ensure that the person is who they say they are and that they have good intentions. Start by looking past the profile picture and seeing that the person has an online presence beyond that. Next, schedule a long phone call or video chat so you can talk for real before making the agreement to meet. Anyone can be sitting behind a keyboard typing and sending photos. Verify their identity so there are no surprises.

When everything checks out, plan to meet in a neutral place where there are lots of other people around. Tell a close friend or relative about your plans and the person you are

going to meet. If you ever feel as though something is amiss, don't feel obligated to stay out of politeness.

To have success in online dating, remember these three key takeaways: be kind, be truthful, and be safe. There's someone out there for everyone; you'll find your person soon enough.

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## Relationship Advice: Get the Birthday Gift Right



By Dr. Jane Greer

Birthdays are generally synonymous with hopes, cakes, and, of course, presents, but they can also be tinged with



disappointment since there are so many expectations wrapped into this one special day, and emotions can run high. Sometimes the gift is perfect. For example, Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrated his 26th birthday together this past week at a baseball game which, according to social media, seemed to be exactly what he wanted. A misstep with the all-important gift, however, can sometimes be the very thing that sinks the ship, and can not only ruin the day, but can also breed resentment for a long time afterward.

**Whether you're dating someone, or you've been married for years, getting the birthday present right can be a challenge. Your partner has wishes you may not be aware of, and you might not be sure what to get. How can you live up to meeting their desires, and where do you start?**

There are a few things that can lead you down the wrong path while you are contemplating that purchase. To begin with, if you have not paid attention to what they have appeared to be interested in over the past few weeks or months, like the scarf she stopped to look at in the store window, or if you have missed their hints, like the massage he always says he would like to get, then you may have no idea where to begin. If that's the case, when they tear away the tissue paper, hoping to find something specific looking back at them but find something out of left field, your gift might be met with disappointment. Along the same lines, it is never a great idea

to simply buy what you like or want with no consideration to whether or not your partner might feel the same way. Just because it is your taste does not mean it is theirs. If they say they want a sweater, before choosing the one you would buy for yourself, instead think about their preferences and previous choices. Similarly, you might see this as a good time to get something practical, why not? You really need that better coffee maker or expensive knife. Here is another way you can go awry, though, since your partner might not appreciate that, and may be hoping for something more personal and indulgent. Finally, while some do like a joint activity to be the gift, as was the case with Nick Jonas, not everyone falls into that camp. Make sure that is okay before you take the plunge, since some might see it as encroaching on their birthday, which they don't want to share, since they want it to be only about them.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: How to Cope with a Loved One Who Is an Addict](#)

For any and all of these reasons, browsing online or in a store can feel like a minefield that could blow up in your face at any moment. So, what can you do to avoid that? Begin by asking what they want in advance, even going as far as requesting that they make up a birthday list. Think about suggesting that the list have three or four items that fall into different price ranges. That way you can have options, and you will know that whatever you choose will be well received. Another possibility might be to take them to a favorite store and have them try on a few things. You can go back later and choose one or more of those items, and it will still be a surprise, but you know it is something they will enjoy. Finally, you can simply get a gift card to a store or spa you know they like so they can select what they want, going back at a later date either by themselves or together to make an outing out of it.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Is It Too Soon to Get](#)

## Engaged?

Sometimes people are reluctant to make a present list because they think it spoils the surprise of the gift, which can be nice but not necessary. They also may think they are making it too easy for their partner by telling them what they want. But the truth is it is more about the pleasure and the good feelings a great gift will generate over time. By helping your partner out so they know precisely how to please you, you guarantee a happy outcome, which is what matters most. The goal is to get what you want, it isn't a contest to see if your partner can figure it out.

It is likely that the way you give gifts comes from the way the family you grew up with gave gifts – in other words, that is what you know, and naturally you continue that pattern. The trick is to be open and aware of your partner's ways and preferences, so you can develop your own gift-giving protocol together. It sounds like Priyanka and Nick have been able to do just that.

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