## Jamie Foxx Denies Rumors Dating Katie Holmes





By Kristyn Schwiep

Is Jamie Foxx keeping his relationship with Katie Holmes a secret? Jamie Foxx denies all rumors of dating Katie Holmes. "The rumors are 100 percent not true," Foxx told <u>Entertainment Tonight</u>. Holmes has remained single since her separation from Tom Cruise in 2012. According to <u>People</u>, Foxx simply laughed at the rumors saying the two just simply dance at a charity event.

What are some ways to keep your relationship under wraps at first?

#### Cupid's Advice:

If you are in a new relationship and trying to keep it on the down low there are a few things you can do so people don't

question your relationship. So what are some ways you can keep your new relationship under wraps? Cupid has some advice for you:

- 1. No PDA: If people see you holding hands, hugging and kissing in pubic there is no fooling anyone. If you are trying to keep your relationship under wraps at first try steering away from excessive PDA.
- 2. Spend time apart: It's definitely okay to spend time with your new partner, but also remember to spend time with friends and family. If people start seeing you two together more often than not people are going to start thinking that things are getting more serious than just being friends.
- 3. Hang out in groups: Hanging out with your new partner with your other friends or with your family is a good way to take the attention off of you and your relationship. Hanging out with your new partner in a group setting will make it harder for people to suggest that you are dating each other.

What are some ways you can keep your relationship under wraps at first? Share your thoughts below.

# Family Source Says Prince Harry Is 'Very Serious' with Cressida Bonas





By Kristyn Schwiep

Prince Harry and Cressida Bonas are becoming very serious, a family source told <u>People</u>. The couple has been together for a year and has recently taken their relationship into the spotlight. "They are quite perfect for each other," a family source tells People.

How do you know when to get serious with a new partner?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Beginning a new relationship can be an exciting time in your life. But how do you know when it is time to get serious with your new partner? Cupid has some advice for you:

- 1. Time together: If you're almost always together and enjoy spending most of your time with your partner, then its time to get serious and put a label on your relationship.
- 2. Family: Have your families met yet? If they have its pretty safe to say that things are starting to get serious in your relationship. Meeting the parents is a big sign that you are in this relationship for the long haul.
- 3. The future: If you've talked about the future and where you two see yourself in the future, your relationship is getting

serious. If you've spoken about marriage, moving in together, or kids that is a sign that it is time to get serious with your partner.

When did you know it was time to get serious with a new partner? Share your stories below.

# 5 Simple Ways to Turn Your Relationship Around





By Elliot Connie

No one likes to talk about problems with their love partner. That's not surprising, because problem-focused talk starts with a negative statement and assumption: We have a problem.

For many years, I've been working with couples and training

couples' therapists using a different approach. It's called solution-focused communication. When we turn problem-focused talk on its head and look to find a solution instead, the results are dramatic, positive and surprisingly quick.

The next time your partner says, "Honey, we need to talk," see if you can steer the conversation in an upbeat, solution-focused direction. Here are five ways to do it:

1. Discuss it as a goal, not a challenge: When you partner says, "I'm not happy when you do XYZ," gently suggest to him or her that you could talk about ways to make things better. Discuss the issue in terms of a goal—what you both like, what makes you happy. When you begin the conversation with goals, it gets both partners thinking about solutions, possibilities and opportunities for change.

Related: Five Secrets Truly Happy Couples Know

- 2. Notice "did wells" and "did rights": Sometimes when we get into a negative pattern with our partners, it's too easy to notice all the things we don't like—pet peeves, annoying habits, even his or her tone of voice. See if you can think back over the last few days and name some things your partner did well and got right. Maybe he reminded you about your doctor's appointment, or she took the time to fix you breakfast. Share these observations with each other. Doing so helps each partner feel noticed, valued and appreciated.
- 3. Establish a true partnership: In business, people are assigned to the specific jobs for which they are best qualified. Couples who divide their roles in terms of who is equipped to do the job better have fewer problems in their relationships. Talk to your partner about what you're each good at (your strengths) and what you're not so good at (your weaknesses). Then match the household jobs with your respective strengths. This will create an effective and high-functioning relationship dynamic that brings out the best in

both people—and minimizes conflict.

4. Recall your honeymoon phase: Couples spend a lot more time talking about conflicts and problems than they do about all the qualities that made them fall in love with each other in the first place. Sit down with each other and retell the story of how you first met. Try to remember details from those first few months—everything that surprised and delighted you. Having this conversation will stimulate many good ideas and feelings.

Related: 7 Ways to Know If It's Really Love

5. Continue to date: Remember what it was like to date your partner? Maybe he brought you your favorite take-out. Or she wore that dress you loved. When you were dating, both of you said and did things to make each other happy. It's simple to get out of a relationship rut by reintroducing some of those early behaviors, from kissing each other when you leave for work in the morning, to sending the occasional love text, to surprising your partner with a night out. The key is to do these romantic things daily and regularly.

Elliott Connie is a best-selling author, well-known relationship therapist, and an internationally known speaker and teacher who trains clinicians in Solution-Focused Brief Therapy around the world. His newest book is **The Solution-Focused Marriage** (2013). Learn more at www.elliottspeaks.com.

# Robert Pattinson Says He's 'Quite Sensitive' in

### Relationships





By April Littleton

<u>UsMagazine.com</u> has the inside scoop on an interview Robert Pattinson did with <u>Sunday Style</u>. He opened up about his anxiety on the red carpet, forgiveness and relationships."I'm quite sensitive, and I do like a bit of grand gesturing, but that's just my ego," Pattinson told the Australian magazine. "I like to give people presents and I think of myself as the best gift giver, but only because I get stuff for myself and then make it work for the other person."

What are some factors that go into your relationship style?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Every relationship works differently and each individual in a romance has their own way of doing things. The more experience you have with the dating scene, the more you'll be able to identify what you like and dislike when it comes to connecting

with another person. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Affection: Some people crave a lot of attention and affection, while others can do without it. How you express yourself with your significant other can determine what kind of "dater" you are. How many times do you say 'I love you'? Do you constantly hug or touch your partner? Intimacy can keep a couple's bond strong and makes up for a long-lasting relationship.
- 2. Sense of humor: Having a great sense of humor can keep a relationship fresh and exciting. Also, if you ever find yourself in an awkward dating situation, you can always lighten things up with a joke or two.
- **3. Honesty:** Let's face it, no relationship can go too far without honesty and trust. Being honest with your partner will help build communication and the level of trust you need in order to make the romance between the two of you last.

Are there any more factors that should go into your relationship style? Comment below.

## Holly Madison Says 'It Feels Wonderful' to Be Married





By April Littleton

According to <u>People</u>, Holly Madison is in love with the married life even though her marriage is less than a week old. "Feels wonderful to finally be married," she tweeted Saturday, along with pictures of her husband, Pasquale Rotella. The newlyweds are parents to daughter, Rainbow, 6 months, and tied the knot at California's Disneyland September 10.

## What are some differences to being married versus in a relationship?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Many people don't see the difference between being in a relationship versus a marriage. Yes, both deal with commitment, but once you choose to marry someone, you're telling the whole world you're willing to give your all to make the special connection the two of you have together last forever. Cupid has advice:

1. Dedication: Once you're married, you're committing to a lifelong relationship. When you're just dating around, the bond you have with another individual can easily be broken or simply fade away. There's no escape routes with marriage. (besides divorce, but who wants that?) Exchanging vows with

someone takes maturity and dedication, while dating only requires a physical attraction to someone.

- 2. Benefits: One of the more obvious reasons is based on what you can and can't get out of your romantic situation. When you're married, you can indulge in some special privileges such as joint bank accounts, tax benefits etc. If something were ever to happen to your boyfriend/girlfriend, you would have no legal authority over anything. It might feel like the two of you are already married, but the law says otherwise.
- 3. Living together instead of shacking up: Depending on who you talk to, an unmarried couple living under the same roof isn't exactly socially accepted. More and more couples are "shacking up" before they decide to tie the knot, but that doesn't mean the old-fashioned crowd isn't frowning down upon it.

What are some other differences between being married and being in a relationship? Comment below.

# How to Support a Partner Whose Ex Passed Away





By April Littleton

Dating someone who has lost a significant other can prove to be challenging. It'll be hard for them to let someone else into their heart after such a tragedy, but if you're willing to be patient and show them there's love after loss, the relationship you might be able to build will prove to be worth it. Cupid has some advice:

1. Be understanding: During the grieving period, don't take anything your significant other may say or do personally. It's natural for him/her to reminisce about his/her late partner. Be patient with your honey and give them the space they need.

Related: How to Deal with Your Partner's Professional Failure

- 2. Time: Consider how long it's been since your honey's ex passed away. If it's a fairly recent death, expect more hardships and hurdles to overcome in your relationship versus being with someone who's had time to accept the situation and move on from it.
- 3. Don't be something you're not: The last thing your significant other needs is someone trying to be exactly like their former lover. Your partner fell in love with you, not a copy of what he/she lost. You need to stay guarded if you

notice him/her intentionally looking for similarities between you and their ex. Let him/her know that you're not a replacement and you can't make up for the person they lost. This might be a sign that he/she isn't ready for anything serious yet.

- 4. Don't bring up the past: Don't bring it upon yourself to talk about your partner's deceased ex. It's not your place to discuss such a sensitive topic unless your honey wants to talk about it. In that case, let him/her start the conversation and listen to what they have to say. Put yourself in their shoes. How would you feel if the person you were currently dating kept bringing up a subject you'd like to move on from? Think about what you're going to say before you say it.
- 5. Be honest: You need to be upfront and honest about your feelings. If you don't feel like the relationship is progressing in the way it should be, let your partner know. Yes, you want to be there for them, but your needs and desires are important too. It takes time to get over a death of a loved one, so your significant other may not be emotionally ready for someone new in his or her life. You can give it as much time as you'd like to see if things improve, if not, stop the relationship before you end up getting hurt too.

Related: Absence Shouldn't Make the Heart Grow Fonder

6. See a counselor: Dating someone whose ex has recently died will be tough and you won't be able to solve all of the complications on your own. When the relationship starts to get serious, talk with your partner about seeing a professional therapist. Your significant other might find it easier to open up to a third party about their unresolved feelings.

How did you support a partner whose ex passed away? Share your experience below.

# How to Deal with Your Partner's Professional Failure





By Courtney Allen

It is said that "a woman's loyalty is tested when her man has nothing, and a man's loyalty is tested when he has everything." And let's face it; every guy and gal is bound to face these crucial tests in their relationship.

That is because in this complicated and unpredictable life, failure and success go hand in hand; whether it is at your first D1 college soccer game after your coach unexpectedly declares you goalie or your first, real job out of college as a local reporter at your hometown television station. But it's not failure that defines you; it's how you recover from the

seemingly life-ending experience that determines just how bright your future will be. Believe it or not, your partner can make all the difference in getting you back on the path to success. For better, but in this case, for worse, every great partner will do these exact things to get the one they love through the hardest of times:

1. Express empathy: When your partner's world is crashing down around them, all they want to know is that you understand. Everyone has been in the professional "hot" seat and it is important to remind your honey that it is a typical experience. Take powerful stories of basketball god, Michael Jordan, Apple mastermind, Steve Jobs, and talk show host turned Forbes Most Powerful Woman in the World, Oprah Winfrey, who experienced some of the biggest failures before reaching their ultimate success. Even though failure is common, be sure to make your love feel special by showing that their particular situation is especially important to you. Be extremely attentive and respond to their feelings with sensitivity, taking into account the type of person they are.

Related: How to Master Being in a Relationship

2. Be a source of encouragement and support: Bouncing back after a failure is the toughest part of the experience. Constantly reassure your partner of their full potential. Failure creates a world full of doubts that can often be very hard to go up against. Help build up the confidence of the one you love after it has been stripped away by vocalizing their strengths and engaging in activities that they feel confident in. Express your 100 percent commitment to their happiness and let your honey know you are in it together.

Related: <u>5 Ways Your Relationship Can Overcome his Loss of Ambition</u>

3. Help look toward the future: Moving forward is essential after a failure and can determine what comes next. Create a

positive atmosphere for your partner so that they can leave the negativity in the past. It is impossible to visualize a better future if the past is clouding your vision. Lend a hand in the tiresome search for a new job or the discovery of methods of improvement. Help come up with an ambitious plan that includes dreams, goals and means of reaching them. Your love's future is in their hands. Be a continuous reminder of this, as it will lead their life in the exact direction they want it to go.

What are some ways you've helped out your partner after a failure? Share your ideas with us!

## Five Secrets Truly Happy Couples Know





By Lesli Doares

Reality shows focus on hooking up, finding a spouse and the wedding. Movies and books end at the beginning of a couples' life together or as the relationship is ending in divorce. There is very little focus on the time married. Ben Affleck got in trouble at the Oscars when he publicly thanked his wife, Jennifer Garner, and the work their marriage has been for the last ten years. Wow, who wants to sign up for that? So, how does any couple keep their marriage healthy and happy over the years?

#### Five simple rules to keep you in love through the years:

1. Give at least one genuine compliment each day to your partner about something that matters to them. It will make them feel noticed, appreciated and loved. Having it be important to them really lets them know you are paying attention.

Related: <u>Top 3 Things a Couple Can Do to Combat the Top Risk</u>
<u>Factors and Save a Marriage</u>

2. Spend at least 30 minutes of quality, one on one, time together each day. This allows you to get past the relationship killing exchange of information and tune in to

what is happening in each other's lives at a more intimate level.

- 3. Continue to date. The two of you fell in love by spending time together and having fun. Once the routine of day-to-day life with work, kids and chores goes on for a few years, it's easy to lose track of that. Having regular dates, where the purpose is to have fun and reconnect, not analyze the relationship or discuss issues, keeps the spark alive.
- 4. Go to bed at the same time. Shut down the technology, turn off the television, forget about the never finished housework and spend some quiet time together. Keeping different schedules makes connecting physically much more difficult and that is not good for long term happiness.
- 5. Change up your sex life. Get out of the "it's Tuesday, you know what that means" routine. Spice things up by trying different times, places and activities. Have fun figuring out how to outsmart the kids in finding private time. Don't make it so hard that you just give up.

Related: The New Dating Game

Each of these rules builds from the one above and each one deals with an aspect of intimacy. Truly successful couples follow them diligently and that's how they stay out of the headlines.

Lesli Doares is a marriage consultant/coach and the author of "Blueprint for a Lasting Marriage: How to Create Your Happily Ever After with More Intention, Less Work". Find her real and practical relationship advice at www.afearlessmarriage.com. She tweets @LesliDoares.

## 7 Ways to Know If It's Really Love





By LaKesha Womack,

Author of "Is She The ONE?"

Love... What is it? How do you know when you have found it? For some it is easy to determine but for most of us, we need a sign, a couple of clues...

Love is a choice. When you love someone, you have to remind yourself, sometimes daily, that this is the person that you choose to be with. No one is perfect so they will make you mad, make you feel like breaking down but if it is really love, you would rather be with them than without them. The temptation to escape your situation, even temporarily, will come at every turn. You will have a choice to stay or to go, if it's really love you will choose to stay.

Related: 7 Signs You Might Be in Love

Love requires time. Always remember quality over quantity. Sometimes people get confused and think that you have to spend every free moment with another person; however, you want to be sure that you are giving the best of yourself to that person instead of the most. You need to be present and living in the moment when you are with them. Focus on creating meaningful conversations and moments that build a solid foundation for your relationship.

Love is a priority. You make time for what's important to you. Just as you should choose to spend time with the person you love, that person should be priority in your life and not an afterthought. This does not mean that you must center your life around another person but if you find that you are not considering how your decisions will affect him or her, you probably aren't in love.

Love is unconditional. When you really love someone, you don't try to change them. You love them "because of" who they are and not "in spite of" what you see. You don't look at their flaws and think of ways to change them rather you realize that their assets and flaws combined create the person you love. Love should be inspiring and uplifting.

Love makes you vulnerable. When you love someone, you let down your guard and let them in. You make yourself emotionally available to share with the other person. You talk about feelings, your past, your present and your future. Most importantly, you are honest. Effective communication requires trust because once you let your guard down and begin sharing, you trust this person to take care of the information you are sharing and to accept you as you are.

Love requires compromise. You will not always be right nor will the other person always be right but you must be willing to meet each other in the middle. You will know its love when you willingly give in to make the person happy and they do the same for you.

Related: 10 Steps to a Remarkable Relationship

Love requires commitment. When you love someone, you don't want anyone else. When you love someone, you give it your all. You leave nothing on the table. You don't hold back. There is no Plan B.

LaKesha Womack is the author of "Is She The ONE?" a relationship book written for men who think they are ready to get married but want to be sure. It provides ten exercises for a couple to use and determine whether they truly know each other well enough to commit the rest of their lives to each other. Network with LaKesha on Twitter (@LaKeshaWomack), Facebook (MsLaKeshaWomack) and LinkedIn (WomackCG) after you visit her personal blog (LaKeshaWomack.com).

# Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson Have 'Intense' Talk During Reunion





By Kristyn Schwiep

Is there still hope for Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart? The couple that officially split in May are hanging out again. According to <u>UsMagazine.com</u>, the two Twilight starts got together at her L.A. house on August 4<sup>th</sup> for a "very intense conversation." The pair will probably pick up where they left off. "Rob is obsessed with her and she can't seem to get over him," said a source.

What are some ways to remain civil with an ex after a breakup?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Remaining civil with an ex is a tough challenge. But staying civil with an ex is healthy and helps you get over the breakup. So what are some ways to remain civil with an ex after you breakup? Cupid has some advice for you:

- 1. Don't compete: Don't compete for attention of your ex with new relationships. This will only cause unnecessary drama and make your ex resent you and try to compete back making things more complicated than they need to be.
- 2. Bad talk: It might seem like a good way to vent, but do not

start bad talking your ex. If you want to remain civil with your ex avoid saying negative comments to mutual friends. Be the bigger person and try to think of all the things you liked about them in the first place.

**3. End on good terms:** Ending on good terms is a great way to remain civil. Leaving with no hard feelings will make the break up easier for both of you and keep you two connected.

What are some ways you have remained civil with an ex? Share your stories below.

# 10 Relationship Behaviors You Think Are Odd... That Are Totally Normal!





By Laura Seldon for

GalTime.com

What's "normal" and what's not when it comes to dating, love and relationships? Think you and your partner align with the average couple? Or are your relationship behaviors totally out there? We've asked several therapists, marriage counselors and relationship experts from around the country to shed some light on relationship behaviors that seem odd at first, but are actually quite normal. Take a seat and see how you and your mate compare!

#### 1. Changing feelings

Once upon a time you loved rocking the highest of high heels. These days, however, you're much more apt to throw on a pair of flats. It may sound simple, but your ever-evolving feelings on shoes can help to serve as a reminder that feelings come and go — and that's OK.

"Love is a living entity," explains Karen Sherman, Ph.D. "And just like people have good days and bad — so will there be periods where the lovin' feelings just won't be there. Hang in, focus on the positive and the feelings will come back."

#### 2. Going through "adjustment periods"

"If you decide to marry, even if you've lived together, the first year is likely to be bumpy," warns Sherman. "You are now in a legally committed relationship, the dynamics change and there is a period of adjustment. Having lived together doesn't prevent this adjustment period."

So, if you and your better half are not in a state of bliss at every moment, if doesn't mean your relationship is doomed — it just means you're normal.

Related: <u>Must Love Dogs: More Singles Getting Pets</u>

#### 3. Enjoying different hobbies

He's into fantasy football and you're into shopping? Better yet, you're into fantasy football and he's into shopping? Either way, it's totally normal for you and your main squeeze to have different interests.

"You don't have to like all the same things to have a healthy relationship," notes Sherman. "What matters is having the same values." So go ahead and enjoy your fantasy football draft, and then swoon over the new shoes your man just bought online. You both deserve to enjoy your hobbies without feeling guilty.

#### 4. Needing alone time

Are you the kind of person who would take yourself out for a date night for one? If so, you are not alone.

"Washing a car, walking a dog or exercising alone are signs of a healthy relationship with a secure attachment," says Lanada Williams, a licensed counselor in Washington DC and Maryland. "Remind yourself, the individual you met still needs time to breathe and thrive."

#### 5. Being slow to compliment

When is the last time you told your partner how hot they looked? We're all guilty of holding back compliments, and, according to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Holly Cox, it may even be something you're doing on purpose!

"When you give a compliment to anyone, but particularly someone you like a whole lot, you're putting yourself on the line," explains Cox. "Clients tell me they are often afraid their partners will reject the compliment — or worse, say something along the lines of, 'Wow, you're finally noticing everything I do around here. Uh-huh. What do you want?'"

Although this may be normal behavior, that doesn't mean it's OK. Remember to compliment your partner and accept the praise they give you!

#### 6. Having trouble getting in the mood

Every married couple has experienced one of those nights (or mornings) where one member of the duo is ready for a racy romp, but the other is ready for a mellow nap!

"Virtually all couples have sexual desire problems sooner or later," says Licensed Psychologist Dr. Kate Roberts. "Couples often go long periods of time without having sex and then once they start up again, their sex life continues on its own."

Related: Dating Advice: 10 Great Date Ideas Under \$50

#### 7. Withholding information

Sure you told your partner about that expensive purse you just bought — you just chose not reveal how much you dropped on it!

"Couples often have different priorities for discretionary income and it's not uncommon for them to keep their secret stashes of clothes, toys, candy or other discretionary items," says Dr. Roberts.

Just remember it's never healthy to lie about how much you spend. If your partner asks how much you blew on that new pair of Jimmy Choos, keep it real. Lying to your partner — especially about money — is never going to lead you anywhere good.

#### 8. Sparring, bickering & fighting

As two different people with two different philosophies on life, you're bound to disagree at one point or another.

"Fighting is normal," explains Therapist Dana Ward. "While some couples may think fighting is the sign of a bad relationship, it actually is very important. The key is fighting with a purpose."

So, whether you are fighting about something as trivial as how to fold socks, or as significant as a job transition, make sure to fight the topic — not each other.

#### 9. Finding other people attractive

You may be utterly in love with your partner, but that doesn't mean you can't admire a hottie with a great set of legs.

"You can and should appreciate all the beauty and dashing good looks all around you," shares Ward. However, she notes, "Attractive and attraction is different. Find other people attractive, but stop short of allowing yourself to be attracted to them."

#### 10. Getting scared and pulling away

Pulling away, taking a time out, going on a break — we're all human, and being vulnerable with someone else can at times be scary enough to make you run for the hills!

"Sometimes when things are getting very serious men, in particular, may pull away while they decided to move forward," explains Relationship Coach Stef Safran.

However, just because one person in the relationship needs a breather, it doesn't mean your relationship is in desperate need of an SOS. It just means you're human!

Now that you've read through these 10 strange relationship behaviors that aren't actually weird at all, hopefully you feel a little better about your own relationship. If you still think you're odd, though, then embrace the quirks that make your relationship special and take a line from Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* — "It may be normal, darling; but I'd rather be natural."

## Does It Matter If You Have A Lot In Common?





By Matty Staudt for

GalTime.com

Whenever anyone starts a relationship or meets someone, the first thing people want to know is, "What do you have in common?" On the surface this seems like a good question and one that warrants serious thought. The more I think about it, though, and think about my wife and I, it seems to me that what you have in common is not the most important thing. In fact, having things not in common makes for a more interesting life in the long run.

Here are some things I DO NOT have in common with my wife… and I believe add to our relationship rather than take away from it.

#### Music

Yes, we can agree that the Beach Boys were awesome and everyone loves the 80's, but when I really want to crank up my tunes, my wife is not around. I like to pump metal, rap and even country from time to time. And when I do, I like it full blast. My wife does not. So, on car trips we have to find alternatives to music, or just have conversations while driving. We have amazing talks and love our road trips because we are not just zoning out to music, but rather talking about

things we don't talk about in our daily lives. I still pump my music too loud, I just do it alone in traffic.

Related: Absence Shouldn't Make the Heart Grow Fonder

#### **Food**

We love to eat. Let me repeat, we LOVE to eat! Going out to dinner is one of our favorite things. But when it comes to our favorite foods, we are total opposites. I love sushi, she can't stand it. She likes SPAM, yes, SPAM. How can two polar opposites in the food department find common ground? We find new places that have food we both have never tried and on occasion she lets me go to sushi while she gets whatever hot food they offer on the menu. Food is important in relationships, but it is not a dealbreaker. That is unless they are vegan.

#### **Sports**

I love them, she can't stand them. I thought this would be hard to make work, but after pushing her to go to a few baseball games, we have found that she actually enjoys going to the ballpark. Sure it's for the beer and dogs, but still we do it together and we are both happy about it. If I need to watch sports, that is a good time for me to do my own thing with friends and let her do something for herself. (That usually means shopping.)

Related: Why You Should Hold 'Marriage Meetings'

#### **Friends**

I am a person who needs to have a lot of friends around and hates to do anything alone. My wife would be fine to keep her own company 90% of the time. We make it work because we are each other's friends. She fills that gap I need and when she needs her alone time, I head out with my boys. Happy, Happy, Happy.

My bottom line is that not having things in common is not always a bad thing. It opens doors for both people to explore new options and new ways of thinking. Not having the same interests makes life so much more interesting for you in the long run. Let's face it, agreeing on everything is boring and having someone who challenges you and your comfort zone makes for a much more interesting long-term life.

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





By April Littleton

Desiree Hartsock took to her blog on <u>People</u> to thank everyone who watched her journey to find love on the latest season of

The Bachelorette. " I appreciate the encouraging words from many and the understanding that love can be unpredictable." Ultimately, Hartsock chose Chris over Drew because she felt her relationship with him "didn't move forward" after their date in Antiqua.

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

#### Cupid's Advice:

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

- 1. Don't ignore the issue: When you realize that you may have a problem, confront it head on. Some couples choose to neglect the problem, but this will only make matters worse. You may even end up breaking up because of it. Take the time to sort out why the two of you may be having issues. The sooner you talk about what's bothering you, the quicker you can find a way to solve the problem and get back to being the happy couple you once were.
- 2. Don't bring up the past: Once you decide to forgive each other for whatever wrongdoing may have occurred, leave that issue in the past. Constantly bringing up problems that aren't relevant to your relationship anymore is immature. Of course, couples fight, but that doesn't mean you have to bring up conflicts that occurred months ago. Let the past be the past.
- 3. Stay positive: When you and your honey are on the outs, think about all of the positive things the two of you have done together and how much the both of you have overcome. Don't focus on the negative. Rather than obsessing over the things your partner may do wrong, draw your attention to all of the things he/she does right. Your relationship will be

better for it.

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

### Absence Shouldn't Make the Heart Grow Fonder





By Matty Staudt for

GalTime.com

Recently I took a job that will require me to be gone 5 days a week and I will only see my wife on the weekends. Luckily it's only for a few weeks because I'm on day 3 and I can tell you it already sucks. I truly enjoy being with my wife and being apart is really tough on both of us.

I bring this up because I was thinking about that expression, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." I've realized that that's not the way it should be. I appreciate all my time with my wife and all absence is doing is making us both sad. Heck, even our dogs are bummed I am gone. (At least that's what she tells me.)

I think too many couples take for granted the time they spend together, and to be honest, most guys I know can't wait to do stuff without their wives. It's not that they don't love their wives, they just like to have that individual time away. I think society, in general, has kind of ingrained in people that it's an acceptable thought for men. I don't think it is.

Related: Why You Should Hold 'Marriage Meetings'

Now don't get me wrong, I think some time apart is healthy and I know my wife and I are that annoying couple that likes to do everything together. We do it for a few reasons that I'm going to share with you.

### She's my best friend.

I know it's cliché that your wife should be your best friend, but I see a lot of couples that don't feel this way or have forgotten with time. Remind yourself that your mate is and should be the person you enjoy having fun with. Whether we are simply sitting together, watching TV, talking or out on the town, she is the person I want to do all of those activities with.

## I am a better person with her around.

I know I am a better person with my wife by my side. If ever I don't think so, my friends are quick to remind me. Especially when I put on my jerk hat when I'm out by myself. If you are

not a better person with your mate, think about why you aren't and whether or not it's something you can improve on.

Related: Does It Matter If You Have A Lot In Common?

#### We make each other laugh.

Laughing together is KEY. If you meet a couple that doesn't make each other laugh, then I will guarantee you it's not a healthy relationship. Whether it's doing my underwear dance for her or sharing an inside joke, we laugh a lot. Are you laughing a lot with your partner?

So absence may make the heart grow fonder, but it shouldn't. You should enjoy every day and minute with the one you love. If this is not the case, then maybe you are not with the right person. Treat every day as if it were the last day you will see your mate for a very long time. Make each other laugh, be best friends and strive to bring out the best in one another.

What do you think? Do you travel or does your spouse? How do you keep the closeness?

## Amber Heard Talks Johnny Depp: 'Not Part of My Professional Life'





By April Littleton

Amber Heard has finally opened up about her relationship with Johnny Depp. The 27-year-old actress told <u>Flare</u> magazine that she wanted to keep her love life private and out of the spotlight. In 2012, a source told <u>UsMagazine.com</u> that the pair are "100 percent dating" and that Depp "treats her very well." The couple were recently spotted holding hands while walking the red carpet together at Depp's latest film <u>The Lone Ranger</u> in June.

#### When is the right time to go public with a new relationship?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Dating someone new is fun and exciting, especially when there's no one around to tell you how you should act in your relationship. It's OK to keep your love life private, but there will come a time when you need to fill in a few key people in your life. Cupid has some tips:

1. It's getting serious: If you're just casual dating, there's no need to inform your friends and family, especially if you're seeing more than one person. Your loved ones should only get involved when the situation starts to get serious. It takes more than a few dates to know if who you're seeing is

someone you want in your life long-term. Take your time and continue to have fun getting to know each other before you tell the whole world about a flame that may fizzle out in a few days.

- 2. You've defined the relationship: A lot of the time, people don't like to talk about their relationship because they don't even know if they're actually in one. Get ready to have "the talk" if your partner is playing hot and cold with you. You need to know where you stand as a couple, if you even are a couple. If you both agree that you want to try something more exclusive, then it's OK to share the good news with a few close friends.
- 3. The L-word: You definitely need to go public if you're in love! There's nothing stopping you from going public with your significant other if the two of you are in a committed, loving relationship. That doesn't mean you have to tell everyone you know via Facebook or Twitter, but it would be nice to be able to share some details about who said the L word first with your best friend or your mom.

When did you know it was the right time to go public with your relationship? Comment below.

# Top 3 Questions about Open Relationships





By Natalie Vartanian

The way I see it is there are so many models for being in a relationship. Some people are naturally monogamous. Some people are not. Some people need variety. Some don't.

Instead of assuming a closed relationship is for you, or an open relationship is for you, really ask yourself the questions and be honest about your feelings. To help with that, here are the top three questions asked about open relationships:

#### 1. How do you classify a relationship as Open?

Open simply means you are choosing to open up the physical part of the relationship. If you want to flirt, kiss, go on a date or have sex with someone besides your primary partner, that is totally fine. With your partner or alone. You may even choose to have multiple partners (relationships) that are equally weighted in commitment and energy/connection.

What people love about open relationships is the freedom to talk to other people. Pursue them romantically if they want. It is a belief in the idea that you can love more than one person and have an intimate relationship with more than one person. Without feeling bad or wrong about it.

#### Related: Is He In It for the Long Haul?

## 2. What about fear of getting emotionally attached to someone or jealousy?

That may very likely happen: the attachment, care and love you feel when you are intimate with multiple people. Doesn't mean you won't encounter confusion or doubting your feelings for your primary partner (or any of your partners).

Being unemotional and detached is not the point. The point is enjoying the freedom, ability to love without definition and being open to the range of emotions. It is all part of the journey and self-exploration.

An open relationship requires a lot of communication and honesty, and self analysis. Jealousy is a natural part of open relationships. Identify the jealousy and deal with it appropriately.

Ignoring jealousy will inevitably lead to resentment and eventually heartache. There is a great article on jealousy as part of the list of resources included at the end of this post.

# 3. Any tips or lessons learned for someone contemplating an open relationship?

There are so many pieces to a relationships besides physical, such as emotional, mental, spiritual, etc. So while the physical part of your relationship is important, it is not the end all be all either.

You have got to be clear about your level of desire and comfort up front and throughout the relationship. Open relationships are fluid. Once decided/agreed upon, it does not set it in stone. They can open, close, shift, expand, etc depending on where each other partners are in their level of comfort.

#### Related: Return to the Dating World

Remember to continually keep the lines of communication open and that will alleviate unnecessary stress on the relationship and allow it to be a thoroughly enriching experience.

Natalie Vartanian, CPCC, ACC, is a certified life coach, talented writer, speaker, workshop facilitator and an expert when it comes to sex and relationships. She knows it's possible to have amazing love in an unconventional way. She works with individuals and couples to build better relationships and help them amplify the communication and intimacy, which always results in better sex. She has also worked in organizations such as Google to develop personal development curriculum and present around the importance of designing relationships in the classroom to educators, as well as personal leadership for education outreach professionals. Her work has been featured in Forbes.com, Good Men Project, Your Life Your Way and CTI's Transforum Blog. You can find her at http://nataliethecoach.com.

# Mastering the Art of the 'Plus One'





By Sarah Gooding for

GalTime.com

The summer is upon us, and it has brought a new love interest with it! Your mind is drifting off to clear skies, beaches and breezy summer dates — we know. However, if you're in your late 20s or early 30s, you may have found the summer months becoming suspiciously less and less about lazing in the sun and spending endless afternoons on your favorite patio. Your coveted weekends out of the office are becoming increasingly filled with wedding showers, bachelorettes and of course, the big day itself. Luckily your invite to the next wedding includes a Plus One, but there are also some major unknowns that come along with the first wedding you and your new guy attend together. Will he have fun? Will you have to babysit him the whole night? Will your friends and family like him? What if you're the Plus One? Will he be attentive? Will his friends and family be inclusive? Will he feel he needs to be by your side all night?

As the Dating Coach for PlentyOfFish, I receive many letters from our female users asking for dating advice; particularly when a relationship is first taking off. In light of wedding season, here are some tips that will ensure your first wedding together won't be your last:

#### If he's the Plus One:

Introduce him to your friends before the wedding. A wedding shouldn't be the first time your new beau is meeting all of your friends and family members. The focus of the day will be on the bride and groom, not getting to know new people. Plan a casual get-together before the big day and use it as an opportunity for your friends to get to know your new guy and vice versa. If a wedding is not the first introduction, it's still a nice gesture to host a dinner party for all your friends and their significant others who will also be attending the wedding. This is simply another opportunity for your date to get acquainted with your friends and feel like he's part of your close-knit group.

Related: Dating Advice: Are You Dating a 'Mad Man'?

Ask your best friend's boyfriend or husband for help. The last thing you want to do is look after your date all night. He likely won't be a fan of this either. An easy way to ensure you're not babysitting your date but also not leaving him alone for too long is to enlist the help of one of your guy friends, preferably the significant other of one of your close friends. They'll likely be spending time together in the future (if things work out) so they'll have an incentive to get to know each other, too. While you're enjoying yourself on the dance floor with all your best girlfriends, your date can engage in some needed guy talk while bonding over drinks with a cool, new dude.

Don't force your date to dance (or do anything for that matter). If your date doesn't suggest a dance, don't force it. You want him to feel comfortable and he may not be the time to show his moves until at least a few months in. Aside from dancing, be careful not to force anything on your date at a wedding. Try to avoid asking 10 different people to take your picture or suggesting he try to catch the garter if you can sense he isn't into it. You don't want him feeling pressured

to be the perfect Plus One or that you are much more serious about the relationship than he is.

**Related:** Relationship Advice: Making Marriage Work Like Beyonce

#### If you're the Plus One:

Offer to contribute to the gift. According to etiquette, unless your name is on the invite, you don't technically need to contribute to the gift. That said, it's a nice touch to at least offer. You are getting a nice dinner and a beautiful night out of the deal. If he declines, offer to pick out a nice card instead.

Mingle. The last thing you want is for your date to feel that he needs to stay by your side all night. This is likely an exciting night for your date and a chance for him to catch up with all of his close friends. Don't sulk in the corner or attach yourself to his hip. Show him you're outgoing, independent and can make friends with anyone. All it takes is a 'Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_\_. How do you know the groom?' A little liquid courage also doesn't hurt.

Blend in with the crowd. You want to be on your best behavior at wedding, particularly when you don't know the bride and groom very well. For one night only, do your best not to stick out from the crowd or embarrass your date. When it comes to attire, stay away from pants and anything white. Also, while drinking is usually part of most weddings, be careful not to drink too much. You wouldn't want to have to cut your night short.

# Handling the "Kids" Question On a Date





By Sheila Blagg for

GalTime.com

The kids-or-no-kids debate is an issue for many couples. But, bring a child into a new dating relationship and the issue becomes even more complex. As people move from one relationship into the dating realm, they often wonder, "Does he want kids?," Will she still want to date me?"

When both parties are on the same page in regard to the kids question (either in favor of kids or not), the new relationship experiences fewer bumps. But if one wants kids and the other doesn't, the debate may result in a huge rift that not many couples survive.

#### When to talk about kids

It is my opinion that the do-you-want-(more)-children question should be tackled within the first couple of dates. Why continue to date someone who doesn't have the same goals and desires as you do? Sure, there are some cases where, along the way, someone changes his or her mind, and everyone lives happily ever after, but there are more cases that end in heartbreak and anger.

**Related:** Relationship Advice: Can You Have a Friendly Meeting with Your Ex?

Are you willing to take that chance? Does it make sense to invest so much time in a relationship that may never work?

Most people know whether or not they want children by the time they reach adulthood. Personally, I have five children, and three of them already know that they definitely want to have kids of their own. One of my kids is a no go, and one is still on the fence (which is fine since he's only 14!). My point is that, even though my kids are still relatively young, they already have a picture of what they want their family lives to look like.

#### I can change his/her mind

I've heard so many stories of heartbreak resulting from one person trying to change a potential partner's mind about having or not having children. The bottom line is, if someone you're dating does not want children (and vice versa), don't try to talk him/her into it. It's important to respect the vision of what that individual has in mind for his/her future.

Stop trying to change the other person and accept that you may need to change how you deal with the situation.

When I began dating after my divorce, I decided that I wanted to date only men who wanted children. I felt that the desire

for kids was one common ground on which we could relate to one another.

But, one of my very best friends approached the kid debate in a completely different way. She decided that she had no interest in dating a man with kids. She didn't feel that she was cut out to manage someone else's kids and the ex-wife that would inevitably come as part of the package.

Related: Relationship Advice: Why We Are Insecure About Relationships

#### Know what you want

What it boils down to is that you must first decide what your goals are for the future. Do you want (more) kids? Do you want to date someone who already has kids? Know your limits, set boundaries and stick to them. It has been my experience — and the research will back me up — that it's never a good idea to try to "change his/her mind" on something as important as having a family.

Although there are always exceptions to every rule, dating someone who is like-minded — especially when it comes to children — makes for a less complicated relationship.

### What Women Don't Know About Men





By Robert Manni for

GalTime.com

Ladies, we're all human, but the similarities stop there.

How many times have you heard from a guy, who was just dumped by his long time partner, that he had no clue there were problems? A lot. Right? There's a reason for that. Remember the time when you bought a birthday card for his mother, and he just grunted before asking you to sign it from the both of you? The point is that men and women approach life and experience relationships differently. That does not mean that men and women cannot evolve or improve their relationships. It means that there are things that men and women need to know about each other before any real progress can be made. I'm a Guy's Guy, so let's focus on men first. Here are a few pointers to help you understand how men think and what you can do about it.

1. Men are not complicated. You're probably already aware of this, but you might need a reminder. Sure, dudes have layers, but for the most part it's "what you see is what you get". Guys are straightforward and lay things on the line, especially with each other. We don't dance around with our feelings. And if we are having a problem with our

relationship, we say so. If we don't bring anything up, consider us happy. If that black bustier and thong ensemble turns your guy on, he'll probably expect you to wear it every Saturday night until hell freezes over. But if you can top it, he's game. Men can be that simple. I'm not saying that this is necessarily a good thing, but at least we're predictable and we've got to start the conversation somewhere.

Related: Dating Advice Q&A: How Can You Know If Someone is Being Honest Online?

- 2. Men don't pay attention. You might think and secretly hope that we're paying attention to the little things the way you are, but unfortunately we're not. So when he brings home a bouquet of fresh flowers because you mentioned liking daisies, it's a small act but at the same time a big deal for a guy. It means he's paying attention and you acknowledge it, which is really cool. Unfortunately guys suck at paying attention, so these tender moments can be far too rare. But don't abandon hope. He did bring you those flowers.
- 3. Men can't read your mind. This one is my personal pet peeve. I can't tell you how many times I've dealt with women in relationships and business where all of a sudden (at least it seemed that way to me) they just picked up and walked. And they seemed pissed about it. As a result, like other dudes, I've come close to having abandonment issues. It's this passive aggressive behavior that bugs me. Unlike women, men don't hold their feelings in, solemnly fuming or grousing to our friends about the relationship, prior to finally breaking up two years later. If we're no longer interested, we'll most likely say something to that effect and hear you out even if we're set on dumping you. We're just wired that way and it's much cleaner. You might want to give it a try. Of course there are guys who keep a broken relationship going for the sex, but they always end up being the one that gets dumped.

Related: Dating Advice Q&A: How Harmless Is Sending Pictures

#### Via Text?

So what can we do? Just being aware of our differences is a good place to start. Men need to shape up quickly if they plan on keeping up with all of the strides women are making and their long overdue recognition. The best thing men can do is pay attention a lot more closely to their partner's needs. Women are amazing at this, but they can't expect men to just lock in and get it. Guys need a little prodding now and then. Try to be as clear to your guy as he is with his friends. Put your guns on the table. No secret pouting or carping about him with your girlfriends. Be crystal clear and talk it out. Guys will get the message if you communicate with them the way they talk to each other.

Do you think you know everything you need to know about men?

# Celebrities That Lost Their Fame But Not Their Love





y Jennifer

#### Harrington

For many celebrities, fame can be short-lived. It's easy to quickly list those one-hit wonder stars who quickly vanished from the spotlight. But, have you ever wondered about celebrities who managed to hold onto their romance after they disappeared from the A-List? Cupid did some investigation to figure out which stars lost their fame, but not their love:

#### Mike Tyson

During the 1980s and 1990s, Mike Tyson was one of the biggest sports stars, and was frequently the topic of news because of both his numerous successes in the boxing ring, and the controversies that plagued him outside of the ring. Tyson's been legally married three times, fathered eight children and endured the loss of his child Exodus. He also faced a rape conviction, domestic abuse allegations, a bipolar diagnosis and bankruptcy. Despite Tyson losing the fame and star power he enjoyed in his early career days, he is currently a happily married man. In 2009, he married his longtime girlfriend, Lakina Spicer. Tyson told *The View*, "I have an awesome life...I'm very grateful. I don't deserve to have the wife that I have; I don't deserve the kids that I have, but I do, and

I'm very grateful."

Related: 10 New Celebrity Dads

#### Jennifer Grey

Her role in *Dirty Dancing* solidified Jennifer Grey as a movie star in the 1980s. However, after this iconic role, Grey underwent plastic surgery, which drastically changed her appearance and negatively impacted her career. During the 1990s and 2000s, Grey vanished from the Hollywood spotlight and faced long-term survivor guilt tied to a 1987 car accident she was involved in, which resulted in the death of two other people. In 2001, Grey married actor Clark Gregg and became a mother that year. Her marriage to Gregg remains strong, and in 2010, Grey won *Dancing with the Stars*.

#### **Andrew Shue**

Andrew Shue became a major heartthrob when he played Billy Campbell on *Melrose Place* in the 1990s. This was Shue's first and last major acting role. When the popular nighttime soap opera concluded, Shue quit acting and decided to pursue new ventures off-screen. While Shue is no longer acting or in the limelight, he is a happily married man to ABC news anchor Amy Robach.

#### Lea Thompson

Lea Thompson burst onto the Hollywood scene with several signature parts, including roles in the *Back to the Future* trilogy and *Caroline in the City*, a popular 1990s sitcom. As the 1990s concluded, Thompson's star power faded. Most recently, she has been seen on the ABC Family series, *Switched at Birth*, but otherwise, Thompson has been absent from the Hollywood scene. Married since 1989 to Howard Deutch, Thompson has acknowledged she took a break from acting in order to raise the couple's two daughters. After a quarter-century of marriage, Thompson and Deutch's romance remains intact!

#### Ice-T

Ice-T is a rapper and actor who held the most star power during the 1990s when gangster rap was the music of choice for teenagers across the country. He became a household name because of the controversy surrounding his 1992 song "Cop Killer". Today, Ice-T is absent from the radio airwaves, but he still is married to his wife, Coco. Coco is a swimsuit model who Ice-T married in 2001, and the couple's relationship has been featured on the E! television series *Ice Loves Coco*.

Related: Celebrity Couples in Interracial Relationships

Looking at the life stories of Tyson, Grey, Shue, Thompson and Ice-T, it's apparent that life doesn't always turn out the way we expect. While these celebrities may not currently have the fame or fortune they used to have, they are obviously successful in the love department.

Who else belongs on this list? Which celebrities have disappeared from news, but have gone on to be successful in other ventures or love? Comment below.

# Celebrity Couples Where Opposites Attracted





By Meghan Fitzgerald

It's true — opposites do attract, but it's odd for outsiders to look in at these partners because it seems so…strange. Although it's unknown for others, the ones involved in these types of relationships are usually the couples who have it all together. Opposite attraction is new, exciting and can result in a strong and healthy relationships. Cupid takes a look at a few cases where opposites attracted in popular celebrity couples:

Related: Famous Women Dating Non-Celebs

#### Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green:

Once *Transformers* hit theaters and Megan Fox began to be known as the hot it girl, Brian Austin Green was just that *90210* guy who had a kid with Vanessa Marcil. Even though she became one of the world's biggest sex symbols, they have still managed to keep their relationship going strong. In fact, the couple has been married since 2010 and have a son, Noah Shannon Green, together.

#### Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon:

Mariah Carey has had quite the extensive dating record, from

her first marriage, to record executive, Mottola, to a Latin pop singer and briefly to Derek Jeter. The bold and bodacious singer settled down to a small, lanky rapper, Nick Cannon. The duo has been married for five years now. They are also parents to fraternal twins, Monroe Cannon and Moroccan Scott Cannon.

#### **Brody Jenner and Avril Lavigne:**

The born Californian *Hills* star, Brody Jenner didn't seem to fit right with punk rocker Avril Lavigne. Although others thought they wouldn't mesh, they dated from February 2010 through 2012.

#### Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher:

Golden Globe and Emmy nominee Demi Moore found an unlikely match in *That '70s Show* star Ashton Kutcher. Despite the 16-year age difference, the pair began dating in 2003. They married on September 24, 2005, but the happiness didn't last for long. Kutcher filed for divorce in December 2012 after a year of separation and rumors of his infidelity hit the newsstands.

#### Hayden Panettiere and Wladimir Klitschko:

The 23-year-old petite blonde known for her breakout role in *Heroes* settled down with the 37-year-old, 6'6" heavyweight boxing world-champion Wladimir Klitschko from Ukraine. Despite the 1'4" height difference, the odd duo make it work with their relationship.

#### Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes:

The ex tomboy from *Dawson's Creek* was interviewed to be Tom Cruise's real life girlfriend after her engagement with Chris Klein ended. Holmes seems to be the more down- to-earth type while Cruise stars in super thrillers and actions films.

#### Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson:

The *Mean Girls* actress dated DJ Samantha Ronson in 2008 and 2009. When questioned about her sexuality, Lohan said, "I don't want to classify myself." Since the brief romance the couple shared together, Lohan has been recently linked to Avi Snow.

#### David Cross and Amber Tamblyn:

The 26-year-old actress best known for her parts in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Joan of Arcadia* tied knots with now-hubby David Cross in 2012. The 43-year-old comedian has quite the ego boost with dating a woman 19 years younger than him.

Related: Finding Your True Destiny

#### Rachel McAdams and Michael Sheen:

The *Midnight in Paris* co-stars were rumored to be a couple far before they announced their relationship. Sheen has a past relationship with Kate Beckinsale. The two have a daughter, Lily Sheen, together.

Who are some other celebrity couples with opposite personalities? Share your thoughts below.

## 'Between Us' Tests the Boundaries of Old Relationships





By April Littleton

In this comedy drama directed by Dan Mirvish, two couples reunite over two evenings. Grace and Carlo (played by Julia Stiles and Taye Diggs) are newlywed New Yorkers who decide to visit their old friends Sharyl and Joel (played by Melissa George and David Harbour) in their Midwestern home. Behind closed doors, the hosts are in a disastrous marriage, but an unlikely meeting between the couples years later, shows the roles have reversed.

#### Should you see it:

If you're a fan of Hollywood actresses like Julia Stiles and Melissa George, then this is the movie for you. Let's not forget to mention the eye candy that comes in the form of Taye Diggs. If you're familiar with David Harbour and some of his previous roles in films such as *W.E.* and and *Kinsey*, you won't be disappointed with his performance in *Between Us*.

#### Who to take:

This film will be perfect to see with a best friend, family member or spouse. Don't feel left out if you're in the early stages of a new relationship, you and your new boo will be able to relate to some aspects of this movie as well. Between Us isn't just your typical "chick flick." Considered a dark comedy, this film is sure to have intense moments and plenty of comedic scenes, so the fellas won't be sitting in the back of the movie theater bored out of their minds.

Related: Katy Perry and John Mayer Hang with Friends

#### How do you turn a failing marriage around?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Marriages begin to self-destruct for many reasons — whether it be from lack of trust, intimacy or communication. When your marriage reaches a certain point, it's time for you to decide whether you're going to fight to save the relationship or let it go. If you choose to take the steps toward reconciliation, you have to know where to start first. Cupid has some advice:

- 1. No fighting: When you and your partner have an issue to address, don't resort to verbal abuse. Think about what you say before you say it, no matter how emotional you may be feeling at the time. If you feel yourself reaching your boiling point, take a step back and cool off. Don't let your rash decisions and emotions ruin a relationship you considered perfection not so long ago.
- 2. Get to know each other: Sometimes you have to start all over to get back to the relationship you used to have with someone. You've probably been out of touch with your partner for so long that you don't even remember the little things that make him or her smile. Start from scratch. Let go of all the bad memories and try to rebuild from the good ones. Talking to each other again even if it's just about the basics (like your spouse's new favorite song) is taking a step

in the right direction.

Related: Second (and Third) Marriages: Destined For Divorce?

3. Be patient: Don't assume your marriage will be fixed overnight and don't give up at the first sign of struggle. It's going to take some time to gain back the love and trust the two of you once had in each other. When you do finally bounce back, the two of you, as a couple, will be stronger than ever.

Are you in a marriage that almost didn't last? How did you turn the failing relationship around? Share your experience below.

# Celebrity News: Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth Step Out for First Time in 5 Months





By Petra Halbur

Miley Cyrus and Chris Hemsworth were photographed together for the first time in 5 months on Monday, June 17. The two were making their way to Arclight Theaters. An onlooker told <code>UsMagazine.com</code> that the on-again-off-again couple were "talkative, smiling and affectionate" on their movie date. Most significant of all: Cyrus was wearing her engagement ring again! There may be hope for Cyrus and Hemsworth's relationship after all.

## What are some ways to keep rumors from affecting your relationship?

#### Cupid's Advice:

Perhaps nothing disproves the old saying, "Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me" quite like the impact that rumors can have on a relationship. Cupid has some advice to help get you and your partner through it:

1. Get away: Running from your troubles is never a long-term solution but in this case it might be beneficial if you and your beau take some for just each other. Rent out a rustic cabin or check into a bed and breakfast and reaffirm your love for each other.

- **2. Talk about it:** There's only one way to differentiate between rumors and truth: ask! Maintain an open line of communication with your partner and make sure that you are both comfortable addressing the gossip circulation about you two.
- **3. Clear the air:** Confrontation may not be fun but sometimes it's necessary. Go ahead and address those who are spreading rumors about your relationship and set the record straight. As long as you're calm and respectful, there should be no problem.

How have you kept rumors from affecting your relationship? Tell us below.

## Dating Advice: Top 10 Things to Know About Hiring a Matchmaker





By Melanie Mar

A matchmaker works on behalf of a client to set that person up on dates and ultimately find them a happy and healthy relationship. In today's society, more and more people are turning to matchmakers as they look for a qualified mate for a long-term, committed relationship that may eventually lead to marriage. Below are ten things that you should know about hiring a matchmaker:

1. Your time is premium. A matchmaker acts as a personal agent for your love life. You can go on with your busy day-to-day schedule, while matchmakers like myself are working behind-the-scene to find your other half. It's an effective, timesaving approach.

#### Related Link: What Does Unconditional Love Look Like?

- 2. A professional matchmaker has the intention to orchestrate quality, not quantity, introductions. They only select matches that offer you the maximum chance of success. Identifying mutual compatibility in important areas such as religion and children help them decide who your potential matches are.
- 3. Your safety is of paramount importance. Matchmakers' clientele are screened for your security, allowing you to feel

confident meeting the individuals selected for you.

- 4. Matchmaking is offline and highly personal. Matchmakers get to know you and find out what you think is most important in an ideal mate. All potential candidates are interviewed in person too. After all, you are hiring a professional to handpick someone who is perfect for you.
- 5. Matchmakers elicit feedback from both parties after each date, allowing them to better understand what you are looking for and to refine their search. They'll also gain insight into behavior patterns that you may not be aware of.
- 6. They keep your privacy in mind. Most matchmakers do not post your photographs or personal information on the Internet. Unlike online dating websites, it is a discreet way to handle your private life.
- 7. Matchmakers generally have a higher caliber of clientele. People who pay to enroll a matchmaker's services are serious about relationships and not interested in wasting anyone's time.

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- 8. A matchmaker will coach you through the whole first date process, from what to wear to breaking the news to your match if you didn't feel that crucial connection necessary for a relationship. Chemistry is the only thing a matchmaker cannot guarantee.
- 9. Matchmakers specialize in the different needs of you, the client. Whether you are retired, religious or gay, find a matchmaker who caters to your very specific requirements.
- 10. Matchmaking services, especially those designed to be boutique or elite like mine, do not necessarily take every paying client who is interested in working with them. They have to feel that they will be able to match you and that you

will meet the high standards of their current clients.

Once you have made the decision to hire a matchmaker, choose someone that you can truly trust and be honest with when it comes to what you want. Finding true love is one of the most important things in life, and emotions will be involved. Therefore, you must feel safe enough to share your feelings. Open your heart and mind and let your matchmaker guide you, even if they sometimes lead you down the road less traveled. Most importantly, remember that love is waiting for you; you might just need a little help finding it.

Melanie Mar is a celebrity relationship specialist, matchmaker and life coach. For more on Melanie, you can follow her on Twitter.