

# Six Celebrity Couples We Never Imagined Together



By Abbi Comphef and [Whitney Johnson](#)

There are plenty of pairings that just make sense: peanut butter and jelly; flip-flops and the beach; bright red lipstick and that little black dress, to name a few. That's not to say that unexpected matches don't make their mark: bacon and chocolate (seriously); navy and black; cowboy boots in the summertime. This idea holds true for relationships, too. Sometimes, a couple just seems right, and other times, it takes a bit more convincing to understand why they're a good fit.

**If nothing else, the celebrity couples below prove that love can pop up in the most unexpected places and that opposites *do* attract. As for bacon and chocolate, the jury is still out.**

**1. Johnny Depp and Amber Heard:** In latest [celebrity news](#), this A-list actor married the *Magic Mike XXL* star in February 2015. The celebrity couple have been together for quite some time now. With a 23-year age difference, the pair have definitely made headlines. Heard doesn't want to be known as Depp's wife. She wants to make a strong name for herself in the acting world. This is one beautiful power couple!

**2. Heidi Klum and Seal:** For Klum, it was love at first sight: she saw Seal in a New York City hotel lobby and knew that he was "the whole package." They were together for quite some time and were madly in love. The celebrity couple sadly did not make it like everyone thought they would, and the relationship ended up [celebrity divorce](#). But they are still very good friends and enjoy raising their four children together.

**Related Link:** [Heidi Klum & Seal Shoot Revealing Music Video](#)

**3. Lady Gaga and Taylor Kinney:** Everyone was shocked when they heard Lady Gaga was dating someone and even more surprised when they found out it was actor Taylor Kinney. The two are talked about in the media because they keep their relationship very private. They have been together for about four years now and seem very happy together. They were first introduced when Gaga was filming her music video for "You and I."

**4. Isla Fisher and Sacha Baron Cohen:** This petite, fiery redhead and tall funnyman wed in a private ceremony in Paris in 2010 after eight years together. The couple are now raising their three children in Los Angeles. Keeping in line with the secrecy of their [celebrity wedding](#), the couple waited quite a while to reveal the names of their celebrity kids: Olive, Elula Lottie Miriam, and Montgomery Moses Brian Baron Cohen.

**5. AnnaLynne McCord and Dominic Purcell:** The *90210* starlet and *Prison Break* actor were first spotted together in June 2011 and the two were very in love. With a 17-year age difference this celebrity relationship had a few struggles. But it seems the two are back together and still in love. McCord celebrated her 28th birthday this summer and Purcell was there to celebrate.

**Related Link:** [Isla Fisher Vacations with Sacha Baron Cohen, Kids](#)

**6. Ellen Pompeo and Chris Ivery:** Viewers are used to seeing Pompeo, who is best known for playing the title character of Meredith Grey on ABC's medical drama, *Grey's Anatomy*. On the show she was courted by and now married to McDreamy, the lead neurosurgeon at Seattle Grace Hospital played by Patrick Dempsey. However, in the real world, she has found her own McDreamy in record producer Chris Ivery, who she married on November 9, 2007.

**Who are some other unlikely celebrity couples? Share your thoughts below.**

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# Fame, Fortune and Love: The World's Wealthiest Celebrity Couples



By Whitney Baker

Hollywood's It Couples outshine us regular folks in more ways than one: they're happily in love; they live extravagant and fame-filled lives; and they have more money than they can possibly spend. With a total of over \$535 million divided among them, the celebrity couples on our list better have some shopping to do – or they're going to be carrying around quite a few hefty wallets. Here they are:

**1. Beyoncé and Jay-Z:** This celebrity couple is not only the wealthiest couple on our list – raking in nearly double the

next-richest duo – but perhaps the busiest as well. Pocketing nearly \$124 million, they earned their paychecks from music sales and singing gigs, as well as endorsement deals and clothing lines.

**Related:** [Celebrity Couples You Just Might See at a Sporting Game](#)

**2. Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart:** Ford owes Indiana Jones a big thank you: the most recent installment, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, earned the action star over \$66 million. Flockhart starred in the ABC drama *Brothers & Sisters* (cancelled earlier this year after five seasons), bringing their collective income to over \$70 million.

**3. Gisele Bundchen and Tom Brady:** These pretty faces earned a combined \$63 million last year. *Forbes* ranked Bundchen the world's highest-paid model for the third-consecutive year, stating that her runway work and cover photos earned her \$45 million. During football season, Brady receives his \$18-million-a-year paycheck.

**4. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie:** Reports from *The Sun* reveal that this famous couple spends \$10 million a year on their six children alone, accounting for only a fraction of their combined yearly salary of \$55 million. Another big chunk of their paycheck? They are currently renovating the \$56 million French Chateau that they call home.

**5. Will and Jada Pinkett Smith:** With wife Pinkett Smith focusing her efforts on behind-the-scenes work (both writing and producing), there's no doubt that Smith makes his mark on the big screen. Grossing over \$5.8 billion at worldwide box offices and commanding \$20 million per film, Smith is the primary contributor to the couple's joint \$50 million a year income. With a paycheck like that, it's no wonder the couple is raising their family in a 25,000 square foot mega-mansion



in Calabasas, Calif.

And now for the runner-ups:

**6. David and Victoria Beckham:** It looks like their 2007 move from London to Los Angeles is paying off, with the couple earning \$46.5 million in 2010. David's soccer career is supplemented with a few highly lucrative product endorsements, such as Armani and the after-shave and fragrance line called David Beckham Instinct, and Victoria has found chic success through her self-titled fashion line.

**Related:** [Celebrity Couples Who've Made the World a Better Place](#)

**7. Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi:** With Oprah running her own television network instead of hosting her show, DeGeneres is sitting pretty as the queen of daytime talk shows. De Rossi has been busy with her recent acting on *Better Off Ted* and sales from her memoir, *Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain*, making the couple's combined income \$36 million.

**8. Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin:** Currently raising their two children in London, this overseas couple brings in a joint paycheck of \$33.5 million per year. While Martin depends on the worldwide success of Coldplay, the Oscar-winning actress's recent accomplishments include her performance in *Country Strong* and her guest appearances on *Glee*, as well as her family-focused cookbook, *My Father's Daughter: Delicious, Easy Recipes Celebrating Family & Togetherness*.

**9. Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick:** The New York City-based couple brings in over \$29 million a year, with Parker as the unequivocal breadwinner. She recently left her position as chief creative officer of Halston Heritage, but has plenty of other lucrative projects to fall back on, including that of movie star, perfumer and spokeswoman, not to mention her starring and producing roles in the *Sex & the City*

television series and movies. Broderick has switched gears since his teen heartthrob days (circa *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*) and now focuses his acting efforts on Broadway.

**10. Tim McGraw and Faith Hill:** Thanks to the talents of these two country superstars, they brought in a combined income of nearly \$28.5 million. McGraw has enjoyed 21 number one singles on the Billboard Hot Country 100 charts and recently ventured into acting, appearing in hit movies such as *The Blind Side* and *Country Strong*. Meanwhile, Hill's musical prowess has earned her a Grammy Award, American Music Award and the People's Choice Award.

Who is your favorite wealthy celebrity couple? Share your thoughts with us below.

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## RH00C: Fernanda Rocha Speaks Out About Fitness, Love and Being the First Lesbian Housewife





By Whitney Baker

Many reality television viewers know Fernanda Rocha as a new addition to season six of *The Real Housewives of Orange County* (RH00C) – and the first lesbian housewife to boot. But Rocha’s story begins far away from the O.C. and long before her television debut. Before moving to Los Angeles, Rocha received her degree in kinesiology and worked as a personal trainer and gym manager in Brazil.

“I grew up in Brazil in a small and simple family filled with love. They always supported my crazy mind,” she says. “And the freedom that they gave me to follow what I wanted to do was very important – it made me who I am.”

That type of support led Rocha to land a spot on Bravo’s wildly popular reality television show. It all began after a photo shoot for a line of fitness clothing when Rocha went to a restaurant in Laguna Beach, where Bravo happened to be filming. The “Housewives” began talking to her about her clothing line, and shortly after, Tamra Barney, and two friends came to one of her Brazilian Booty classes at a local



gym. Last year, when Bravo called to see if she wanted to join the show, she was ready to take a risk and try a new experience. And, based on the response from her fans, it appears that the risk has paid off.

"I get a positive answer from people – very nice and very loving. The show put a good message out there about me," she says.

**Related Link:** [RHOBH Life Coach Talks About Working with Taylor Armstrong Before Her Husband's Death](#)

As for her status as the first lesbian housewife, for Rocha, the message is simple: equality. She strives to show that there is no difference between her and the other girls, saying "I'm not this way. I'm like you! It's so important to stop labeling."

When asked what she's looking for in a partner, it's no surprise that Rocha knows exactly what she wants. "I want someone who is sexy and fun. I look for chemistry, attraction, honesty, someone who knows what they want sexually," she says. "I want someone who is happy with herself and with what she does. I want someone who is positive about life and believes that we are here to dream big and be happy."

Rocha adds, "There are a lot of bisexual people out there, but I don't want that for me. I had to go through my own process of knowing the difference between being with a woman and a man, and I know who I am."

With that thought in mind, Rocha has certainly done her part in the fight for gay rights. She supports the NOH8 Campaign as well as It Gets Better Project (TM), a project to give hope to LGBT youth. Most recently, she served as the grand marshal of Chicago's Gay Pride Parade 2011. "It was so exciting, just being there and being Fernanda. Any opportunity that I have to go and support [LGBT causes], I'm 100% there."

Of course, it wasn't always an easy road of self-discovery.

Keeping her own experiences in mind, she encourages young people to be honest with themselves. "Don't expect people to accept your choice; be happy with yourself and embrace it.

Focus on that, and don't worry about acceptance," she continues. "If you know who you are and you're happy and proud of yourself, [acceptance from others] doesn't matter."

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Fit Together](#)

Rocha uses her interest in fitness to promote her beliefs on self-assurance. In order for her workout routine to reach people outside of Orange County, she is currently working on a series of Brazilian Booty workouts, set for release at the end of the year and available on seven DVDs and also OnDemand.

Additionally, she is creating Fernanda's Weekly Body Transformation, an online program that includes nutritional supplements. This fitness guru is also a supporter of Let's Move, a program developed by First Lady Michelle Obama to solve the epidemic of childhood obesity.

Rocha's positive outlook and joie de vivre shines through all aspects of her life, whether it be her role as a reality television star or her fitness empire. Even when it comes to finding the one, her energy is contagious, "I have hope. I don't want to settle; I want everything. I am open to love!"

You can follow Fernanda on Twitter or find her on Facebook.

And be sure to stay tuned for the next season of *The Real Housewives of Orange County*!

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# Best Celebrity-Couple Costumes for Halloween



By Whitney Baker

There are so many fun factors about Halloween. First, there are the pumpkins: pumpkin carving, pumpkin patches, pumpkin pie – and an annual viewing of the TV show, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. Next, you can't forget candy, like Brach's candy corn, which are only available seasonally in the autumn, making them a particularly delicious and coveted treat. Then, there's all that scary stuff: haunted houses, witches, goblins and ghouls – boo! And finally, perhaps the best part is the costumes – for one day out of the year, you get to be anyone you want to be, celebrities included.

For anyone looking for a little romance on a holiday that's

typically filled with fright, you're in luck! Here's a list of celebrity couples whose looks can be transformed into costumes. One of them may be the perfect fit for you and your partner.

**1. Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez:** For the teeny-boppers out there – or anyone hoping to feel a bit younger for an evening – the prince and princess of pop make a very suitable duo. For Bieber, any guy with longer locks can sweep his bangs to the side, and any boy with a shorter 'do can simply throw on a sideways Yankees hat. Add a pair of Ray-Ban Wayfarers (dark lenses not necessary), jeans, and a hoodie, and you're set! For Gomez, you can rock a casual but glam look: skinny jeans, a flowing tank top, flats, hoop earrings, and wavy hair. If you really want to channel these two lovebirds, PDA is highly encouraged.

**Related Link:** [Justin Bieber Plans 'Titantic' Date For Girlfriend Selena Gomez](#)

**2. Katy Perry and Russell Brand:** This eccentric and oh-so-in-love couple is an ideal choice for anyone looking to get a little crazy this Halloween. Perry has donned a number of hair colors and styles over the years, so take your pick: bubble-gum pink or bright blue, jet black, or her most recent, honey-hued blonde. As for outfits, anything is fair game, even that sassy and sparkly Smurfette dress that's hiding in your closet. For Brand, the look is quite low-key: a pair of skinny jeans and a tight (and low-cut) t-shirt, along with unbrushed and knotted hair, some stubble, and a bit of guyliner. Oh, and don't forget the British accent.

**3. Prince William and Princess Catherine:** Their wedding may have been months ago, but people are still talking about these newlyweds, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Princess Catherine has taken the fashion world by storm with her chic and totally relatable style, making her the ultimate princess

to emulate on this costume-filled holiday. To truly stand out, opt for their wedding look: your man can wear an outfit that resembles Prince William's Irish Guards' red military uniform, while you can get glamorous in a lacy and flowing white gown, a beautiful sapphire (faux) engagement ring, and a bouquet of flowers. Complete the look with a tiara, of course.

**Related Link:** [Prince William Discusses Queen Elizabeth's Wedding Advice](#)

**4. Blair Waldorf and Chuck Bass:** Okay, okay – so they may not be a *real* celebrity couple, but they've certainly made their mark as the "it couple" in the *Gossip Girl*-*World* of the Upper East Side. To imitate this high-society pair, girls should pull together their most designer-drenched look. Choose from high school Waldorf, who wouldn't have been caught dead without her preppy headband, or the now college-aged fashionista, who has adopted a more grown-up dress code – just be sure to accessorize accordingly. As for Bass, a guy only needs a three-piece suit, bow tie, pocket square, and all the charm that he can muster.

**Cupid wants to know: Who do you want to be for Halloween?**

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## NBC 'Chuck' Star Vik Sahay Shares 10 Love Lessons for Men (Lester Patel Style)







By Whitney Baker

With the fifth and final season of NBC's television series, *'Chuck'*, set to premiere this month, fans of the show are anxiously awaiting its return. When we last left the gang, Chuck (Zachary Levi) had to lead a team to fight against a deadly plot by Vivian Volkoff (Lauren Cohan) to save his [bride](#), Sarah (Yvonne Strahovski) – all the while planning the beginning stages of his freelance spy agency.

**Related Link:** ['Chuck' Star Sarah Lancaster is Married and Pregnant](#)

Canadian actor, Vik Sahay, who has been a series regular since the second season, plays Lester Patel, a "Nerd Herd" member and vocalist of Buy More's resident rock band, Jeffster. When asked about his relationships for the upcoming season, he reveals that he wants his character to find the right girl, and "to be made a better man by a big, bad love." Of course, it'll take more than your average woman to capture Lester's heart. "She must be beautiful, smart, daring, and powerful," explains Sahay. "I don't think he'd settle for anyone who didn't scare him a little."

Before diving into his personal perspective on romance, Sahay gives us a peek into the inner thoughts of his character. Here are a few lessons in love according to Lester:

1. Don't ask her to pick you up. If you can't get your hands on a car, spring for a cab.
2. No arm wrestling.
3. Don't take calls from your mother at the table.
4. Beer is not a good kissing drink. Vodka is.
5. Smile. No frowning, grimacing, or raging.
6. Laugh at her jokes.
7. Know her name. Remember it throughout the night. Sprinkle it in conversation liberally, but not aggressively.
8. Don't expect a woman to pay for your dinner.
9. If you intend to bring her back to your place, pack up any cosmetics, including hair products, moisturizers, and fake eyelashes. A woman does not want to know you have more beauty products than her.
10. Music is great for setting the mood...on a stereo. Save the serenades for anniversaries down the road, if you can get there.

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

For Sahay, there is one piece of romantic advice that rises above the rest: be funny. "There are well-sculpted hunks of male beef in gyms all over the planet. You look good, so then what?" he says. "Laughter is sexy and emotional. It gets you in your body and opens your heart. I can't think of anything more conducive to falling in love."

Fortunately, Sahay's relationship history has yet to mirror Lester's romantic troubles – although he adds, "I have been told that my energy can be exhausting, as I'm sure his would be."

Even so, dating in Hollywood comes with its own unique challenges. According to Sahay, the most challenging part is "the fact that everyone is constantly 'on' in this town – constantly working, constantly career-building, etc." He expands, "Plus, with distances across the city (and insane working hours), it's a major commitment to hook up for a drink, making it tough to be casual about it."

That's not to say that it doesn't have its benefits too. The biggest perk? Sahay says, "Many romantic restaurants have patios year-round. Coming from Toronto, that's a major plus."

And if humor and romantic restaurants fail to impress a date, Sahay has one more trick up his sleeve: dancing. When asked if he's ever used his dancing skills to win over a woman, he responds, "Oh yes. Many a move has been busted on dates."

*Tune into the season premiere of Chuck on NBC on Friday, October 28 at 8/7 c.*

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## Celebrity Couples You Just Might See at a Sporting Game





By Whitney Baker

Spending a lazy afternoon at a ball game can be the perfect casual date – and celebrity couples seem to think so, too. Sometimes, celeb sightings at a sporting event can be as entertaining at the game itself. There may even be as much action off the court as there is on it.

So the next time you attend a sporting event – whether it be hockey, basketball or baseball – keep your eyes open for the famous duos below:

**1. Carrie Underwood and Mike Fisher:** In February, Underwood's hockey-playing hubby was traded from the Ottawa Senators to the Nashville Predators. Shortly after, Fisher moved into his wife's Brentwood, CA, home (and into her closet), and for the first time during their marriage, the newlyweds settled in the same city. Fans can rest assured that, once the hockey season starts up again in October, Underwood will be at as many home games as her hectic schedule allows.

**2. Beyoncé and Jay-Z:** This musical duo share more than just

their choice of career: they also share a love of basketball. The glamorous couple – with Beyoncé wearing heels, no less – is often on hand to cheer for the New Jersey Nets. Spotted at home and away games in cities such as Newark, Dallas, and Los Angeles, their frequent sightings make perfect sense; after all, Jay-Z is a part-owner of the team.

**3. Minka Kelly and Derek Jeter:** Kelly is a fixture at Yankee Stadium, cheering on her boyfriend of three years from a luxury box, along with his family and friends. Recently, she was on-hand to celebrate Jeter's 3,000<sup>th</sup> career hit. Beyond attending his games, Kelly and her New York Yankees captain-beau often work out together, proving that the couple that stays fit together, stays together.

**4. Hilary Duff and Mike Comrie:** Duff has followed Comrie's hockey career as he has been transferred from the New York Islanders to the Edmonton Oilers to the Ottawa Senators. Comrie is now playing for the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the couple has settled into a newlywed life filled with a lot of cross-country traveling between their homes in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. With her husband in the rink, she may bring along another celebrity couple to keep her company: sister Haylie Duff and her longtime beau, Nick Zano.

**5. Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries:** This reality star can often be found sitting courtside as she roots for her love, New Jersey Nets forward, Kris Humphries. With the couple house-hunting in New Jersey and New York, chances are high that Kardashian will be making her mark as one of the team's celebrity fans. Kardashian is following in her younger sister's footsteps in more ways than one: after Khloé Kardashian's own whirlwind romance, she wed Los Angeles Lakers forward, Lamar Odom, in 2009.

**Who is your favorite sporty celebrity couple? Share your thoughts below!**



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



By [Whitney Baker](#) and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

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

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

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

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

It is for this reason that Bass believes *Belle* is a relationship film. "It's a classic theme about a woman looking for love and never quite finding it," he says. "And when she finally does find love, it eludes her. As they say, you can't live with him, and you can't live without him," Bass

jokes, referencing a famous saying. Bass is still in the casting stage of production but hopes to begin shooting the film in early 2012. He has yet to determine who will play Belle, but he has a very clear idea of what type of actress it should be. "It needs to be a strong woman, a woman who can kill men," he explains.

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

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

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

Addressing his rumored dalliances with actresses in past films, he says in jest, "That's not true. Only Anthony Hopkins and I dated, and we were drunk." A little laughter and sarcasm are probably necessary given the darkness of the film. However, to defend the question on a more serious note, he adds, "It's not that I look to date actresses – I really don't. It's just that you spend every day on set, and you

become attached to the people that you work with. I think it is proximity and opportunity.”

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

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## Celebrity Lighting Designer, Bentley Meeker Offers Advice for the Perfect Date



By Whitney Baker and Krissy Dolor

You spent hours preparing tonight's meal. You carefully selected the background music. You even pulled out the "special occasion" dishes. With your date set to arrive at any moment, you quickly – and without any real thought – set the lighting: you turn off the overhead lights and ignite a beautiful scented candle in the center of your table. You step back to admire your efforts; everything's perfect, right? Not quite. With help from lighting expert, Bentley Meeker, a little bit of tweaking can add just the right touch.

"If you're going to use candles, use them sparingly and keep them out of the direct line of you and your partner's vision," advises Meeker, event lighting extraordinaire and president of Bentley Meeker Lighting & Staging, Inc. "I do recommend using candles because of the quality of light and how flattering they can be, [but] a little thought needs to be put into the placement."

If you haven't heard of Meeker, no doubt you've heard of the places and events that he's touched. He's staged designs for a multitude of soirées, ranging from Chelsea Clinton's wedding, concerts for Kanye West and Elton John, runway shows for Victoria's Secret, birthday parties for celebrities like P. Diddy to events and dinners at The Plaza, and The White House. This man is one of the top, if not *the top*, lighting designers in the country. His new book, *Light X Design: 20 Years of Lighting*, is a compilation of all his work, in which he shares his inspirations and motives for the wonderful illuminations he produces.

It's no surprise, then, that he also knows just the right kind of effect to make your date a splendid success. "Lighting that is too bright and uncomfortable can kill the mood very easily and quickly. Even if it's the street light shining in through the window," he says.



If you're having trouble setting the room just right for that special date, you're not alone. It can take a little trial and error to figure out how to make things perfect. Meeker has had his own dating experiences where the lighting was just not right.

"I've been in situations where bad lighting kills the mood, and I've been in situations where great lighting just makes you feel so good that anything can happen."

Fortunately, Meeker has some suggestions for couples who want those sparks to fly. He recommends Blue Hill and Erminia, both in New York City. In his own words, Blue Hill "nailed it!" and Erminia "is an amazing Italian restaurant [in which the] lighting is so conducive to the environment, it actually makes the whole place and the experience romantic."

Lighting is more than just a switch flicked on and off. It's about creativity; it's about romance; and it's about achieving the mood that you desire. "You'll know when the lighting is right," Meeker says. "It just feels unbelievable, and there's a feeling of resonation that you can't find anywhere else!"

His Website beckons visitors to enter with a simple thought in mind: "Light is the energy of truth." Meeker's work truly embodies this idea, with his past projects ranging from The Museum of Modern Art to the ravishing wedding of Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas. He is a creator of more than just romance, and his book will tell you so; he is a man of innovation.

*To learn more about Meeker, you can check out his website at [www.BentleyMeeker.com](http://www.BentleyMeeker.com) or purchase his illuminating book on Amazon.*

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# Rebecca Friedman, Exclusive Hair Colorist to Kim Kardashian, Unveils Her Client's "Big Day" Look – Will It Be Light or Dark?



By Whitney Baker

Before her big day, a bride-to-be has so many details to consider: location, music selection, flower arrangements, seating chart, menu choices, and, of course, her personal style. She needs to pick out a dress and jewelry, as well as decide how to do her make-up and hair. When it comes to her hair, she not only needs to choose a style – keeping in mind

her choice of veil – but also a color.

That's where Rebecca Friedman can help. Co-owner of Goodform Salon in Hollywood, and a celebrity colorist expert, Friedman knows just how critical it is to achieve that perfect hair color – and most recently, as the exclusive colorist to Kim Kardashian, she's helped one bride-to-be do just that.

With Kardashian's wedding to New Jersey Nets' basketball star, Kris Humphries, only two days away, Friedman reveals, "I just saw her the other day. I took her lighter chocolate brown color back down to a dark, minky sable, closer to her natural hue."

In light of these upcoming Hollywood nuptials – a wedding that's expected to be as grand as the royal wedding – this celebrity hair colorist offers a bit of advice to future brides. "Unless it's in your personality to make bold decisions with your look, I wouldn't recommend a shocking change before your big day," she says. "You want to look at your pictures and feel timeless. I think most brides want to look like the most polished version of themselves."

Of course, other factors, like season and location, impact a bride's choice of hair color, as well. According to Friedman, "If you're getting married in the summer time, or on the beach, beautiful, hand-painted highlights on slightly deconstructed waves seems fitting. On the other hand, for a winter wedding in the city, you may want to opt for a deeper, richer shade styled into a more-textured low bun."

While a bride-to-be should stick with what she knows, single girls have the flexibility to be a bit more playful. "You are single and want to look your best – you never know who you will run into! Lightening up your color, or using multiple tones to add sparkle and dimension, is sure to make you feel flirty," she says.

But remember: you should never change your hair color for a

man. Friedman regards this reasoning as a big no-no and says, "The attraction should be there regardless of your hair color."

A broken-hearted girl, however, should be a bit more cautious. "Wait until you're less emotional or start slowly by adding a few face framing highlights or a gloss," recommends Friedman. "You can always go more drastic later."

After all, "in the throes of a heart ache, what seems like a good idea, sometimes is not – like eating a whole container of ice cream!" Friedman cautions.

At the end of the day, whether you're a bride-to-be, a single girl ready to jump back into the dating world, or a girl with a broken heart, there is a "golden rule" when it comes to changing your hair color: "Honor your personal style."

Before making a color change, Friedman advises all girls to do their homework. "Find a very capable hair professional to [make the color change] for you. Be realistic about how achievable the target color is for your complexion and your hair," she says.

Since the right hair color is different for every girl, Friedman believes that you should "play up what you have," offering this advice to girls of every shade: "If you're a redhead, add a fiery, copper gloss. Blondes can try painted-on, surfer-girl highlights with a few random low-lights. As for brunettes, they can stay multi-tonal by adding some sparkly toffee and toasted-walnut strands around their hairline and tips."

According to Friedman, regardless of your base color, there are six important questions to ask your stylist before making a major color change:

1. What is a realistic level of lightness for me to achieve given my current hair color?

2. Will previous chemical treatments on my hair affect how light I can go?
3. What tones will best suit my complexion?
4. Will the texture of my hair change after I lighten it?
5. How often will I have to come in for touch-ups?
6. Do styling products for color-treated hair really work?

While the answers to these questions will provide you with invaluable information before making the big decision, the most important question to ask yourself is: Will my color change make me feel like my *most* confident self? Friedman says, "Wearing your hair color with confidence, no matter what color it is, really is key."

We couldn't resist asking Friedman one last question – something everyone wants to know: Do blondes really have more fun? She shows off her own confidence and answers unabashedly, "Well, as a natural and currently very blonde girl, I must be biased and say yes!"

*To make an appointment with Friedman at Goodform Salon, please call 323.658.8585.*

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## **Do-It-Yourself Date Night Advice from HGTV Host Monica Pedersen**





By **Krissy Dolor** and **Whitney Baker**

In the summer, spending time with your partner may give you the desire to take a vacation or book a weekend at one of those posh beach houses, but, if you're on a budget or simply nervous about fluctuating gas prices, you'll need to find other ways to keep your relationship exciting without breaking the bank. A do-it-yourself (DIY) date night is the perfect solution.

Monica Pedersen, lifestyle expert and television co-host of *HGTV Dream Home Giveaway 2011*, recently dished with us about her own relationship with husband, Erik and five ways to plan a romantic evening that won't break the bank.

"Everything I do is under budget, real do-it-yourself," explained Pedersen, who taped *Bang for Your Buck* this summer, a show where she works with a realtor to evaluate newly-renovated houses and help people figure out how to redecorate

their home on a smart budget.

This fashion-model-turned-design-student always had an interest in interior decorating, perhaps because of her parents: her father was a handyman, and her mother enjoyed to sew. But what caught HGTV's eye in hiring Pedersen was her ability to put together a room that would sell, without spending a fortune.

It's no surprise, then, that this TV personality enjoys the simpler pleasures in life when it comes to creating intimacy with her husband. "We've always had a chalkboard in our kitchen, and my husband writes me love notes on it, says Pedersen. It can be anything like, 'Welcome home,' or 'Good luck on your shoot.'" She even takes pictures so she can cherish the sweetest messages forever. "It's silly, but it's a romantic little thing that means a lot."

Writing a message to your partner doesn't cost a thing, and it can really increase the intimacy in a relationship. If you're tight on money, start thinking outside the box for ways to spice things up!

Here are five tips from Pedersen to make your very own at-home date night feel like a special occasion:

**1. Light the scene:** Create a romantic atmosphere with candles. If large pillars or candelabras are out of your budget, purchase some inexpensive tea light candles and place them in small glass votives on a table, around a room, or by the bathtub! In the world of design, nothing sets the tone faster than lighting.

**2. Make it a tradition:** Uncork a great bottle of wine and toast your partner. Pedersen is a fan of Rutherford Hill Merlot from Napa Valley, CA, which was served at her wedding. She advises writing your toast ahead of time so you can read it to your date. It shows that you put thought into the evening. To start a new tradition, date the cork from that

night and tuck it away. Pedersen has a collection of corks marking special date nights in a glass box on her coffee table.

**3. Create the perfect pair:** If dinner is part of your date night, make a dish that you know your partner will love, bring out the fancy table settings (using the “good stuff” is a great way to turn a typical evening into a special occasion) and turn on some “mood” music.

**4. Add a thoughtful touch:** Save money and time with inexpensive take-out and a mixed bouquet of fresh flowers. These two items can make a simple date at home feel unique. Bouquets usually cost under \$10 at most grocery stores; if you’re near a Costco, pick up a bouquet of their fresh-cut roses for a bargain price. Remember, it’s making the effort that counts.

**5. Invite the crew:** If getting a babysitter is a problem, include the kids in your plans. For instance, let them each create a list of all the reasons why Mom loves Dad and Dad loves Mom. Or have them choose a romantic comedy DVD that you can all watch together.

“Never apologize for having a small budget,” Pedersen emphasizes. “It pushes your creativity!”

Pedersen adds that her father gave her the most important piece of relationship advice. “He said, ‘You know kid, you need to find a hobby, something that you guys can do together.’” So what do the Pedersen’s do during their time off? Golf!

“When we got married, I said, ‘I want you to teach me to play golf.’ Now, it’s something we do together; we’ve traveled all over the world to different courses,” said Pedersen. The couple plays every Saturday afternoon and then enjoys takeout for dinner at the same place each week. “His friends always say, ‘You want to play golf with your wife?’ But it’s our

thing that we do together – cell phones off, no Blackberries – it's just him and I, spending time together in nature."

Pedersen recommends that all couples pick something that they can enjoy with their partner – whether it's fly-fishing, wine-tasting or simply grabbing take-out from your favorite restaurant – make a tradition out of it.

*Monica Pedersen is an interior decorator, lifestyle expert and television host. This summer, she will be working on a book about home entertainment, due in bookstores early next year. She can be seen regularly on HGTV's Designed to Sell, Bang for Your Buck, Showdown, and the HGTV Dream Home as well as on appearances on Live with Regis and Kelly and The Today Show.*

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## Amy Winehouse Unexpectedly and Sadly Joins the 27 Club





By [Whitney Baker](#) and Imani Brammer

Lady Gaga said it best: “Amy changed pop music forever, I remember knowing there was hope, and feeling not alone because of her. She lived jazz, she lived the blues.” With her soulful voice, peculiar demeanor and unruly habits, Amy Winehouse wowed audiences despite sometimes tripping on stage, throwing her shoes at people and struggling to stand up straight. Her fans still loved her. Now, with her music still echoing in their ears, they’re left with an all-too-obvious reminder that life is short.

At 3:54 pm on Saturday, July 23, 2011, 27-year-old jazz-influenced soul singer Winehouse was reported dead. She was found in her London home, and a police source confirms that there were no sign of drugs near her body. A toxicology report may take weeks to complete, and until then, the cause of her death is unclear. Even so, Winehouse battled with a long-term – and well-known – drug addiction. Suspicions are in the air as to whether her addiction to crack cocaine, heroin, alcohol, ecstasy, ketamine and cigarettes may have played a part in her untimely death. Although she checked

into rehabilitation centers at various times throughout her career, she believed that her illness was manic depression rather than alcohol or drug dependency.

As she was off-and-on with checking into rehab, she was similarly off-and-on with her marriage to Blake Fielder-Civil. With their shared drug abuse and Winehouse's penchant for adultery and violent, drunken moments, the marriage was severely damaged. In January 2009, Fielder-Civil divorced Winehouse after she admitted to adultery in court papers.

Her failed marriage may have caused Winehouse to sink deeper into depression. However, it seems like she tried to reinvigorate her love life through her most recent relationship with Reg Traviss, a film director. Their love was still going strong as recent as April, but took a downward spiral last month when Traviss ended their relationship. Heartbroken and inconsolable, Winehouse briefly checked into Priory Rehab Clinic in London and then proceeded to cancel her European tour. Traviss wanted to play a positive role in her life, but realized that he couldn't make her stand strong against her drunken demons, reported Celebs.

According to Drug Addiction Treatment, Traviss did the right thing:

"... your reasons for leaving must be based on the best interests of all concerned. The decision should come after all other options have been thoroughly explored, and/or you've come to the realization that by staying, you're doing more harm than good – harm to you, your spouse and your family."

Revealing how important love was to Winehouse, many of her songs were dedicated to her relationships – both the good and bad parts of romance. For instance, in her ballad "Love is a Losing Game," she sang about how she lost to love and laments the trouble that it has caused:



“Love is a losing game  
One I wish I never played  
Oh what a mess we made”

In addition to using her music as an outlet for her pain, Winehouse may have used her drug addiction to wipe away her sorrows and regrets. But can addiction really cure a broken heart? Perhaps she should've looked to love as the ultimate reason to overcome her addiction. Just as both of these forces made their mark in Winehouse's life, this uniquely talented artist unequivocally impacted the lives of her fans. There will surely be a gaping hole in the world of music.

Sadly, with her early and unexpected death, Winehouse joins the 27 Club, an ironic club of deceased, influential rock artists who died at age 27, generally with some sort of controversy surrounding their death. Winehouse was aware of this group, also known as the Forever 27 Club or Club 27, and sometimes referenced its existence in interviews. Now, her name will be remembered along side legends like Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Kurt Cobain. May their souls rest in peace.

**In light of Winehouse's death, what celebrity passing has most affected you and why? Share your thoughts below.**