

MHC

MAKING HAPPY COUPLES

COMFORT IS SLOWLY
REPLACING ATTRACTION
(AND YOU DON'T EVEN
NOTICE)

MOVING IN
TOGETHER—
HOW TO
SURVIVE THE
TRANSITION

WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?
THE MONEY
CONVERSATION EVERY
COUPLE AVOIDS



THE FIRST 3
DATES: WHAT TO
DO, SAY, AND
AVOID

WHY DON'T WE

*Commit
to the bit?*

MEET BRITTANY & MICHAEL





EDITORS' NOTE

Are We Still Choosing Each Other... or Just Used to Each Other?

We've been talking a lot about something lately. That moment you notice in a relationship where life is happening, and relationships start running on autopilot. You still love each other, you still spend time together, everything looks... fine.

But conversations get shorter, effort gets lighter. Intimacy feels routine. And the truth is—autopilot doesn't feel like a problem.

It feels like you are very comfortable, but comfortable slowly shifts to a point where you start losing connection.

This issue is about noticing that shift.

Not to fix everything—but to bring intention back. Because the difference between a relationship that feels alive...and one that feels flat? Isn't love. It's intention.

*With love,
Daniel & Daniella*



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Comfort Is Slowly Replacing Attraction

Attraction doesn't disappear. It just stops being created.

There's a version of your relationship that felt... different. More energy, more effort, more awareness of each other. You got ready, you paid attention, you noticed things.

And then—somewhere along the way—it shifted. Not dramatically, but subtly. You got comfortable.

The part no one says out loud

Comfort is great for stability, but it's not what creates attraction.

The slow shift

This doesn't happen overnight. It looks like you stop trying to impress each other, you choose convenience over effort, you default to the same plans and routines, and you assume "they already know how I feel." And again—nothing is wrong, but something is missing.

Why it changes everything

Comfort removes friction. And friction—believe it or not—is part of attraction. Not drama. Not conflict. But: Effort. Attention. Presence. That feeling of: "I still want to show up for you."

What actually kills attraction

It's not comfort. It's what replaces it: predictability, low effort, and "we'll do something later." That's when things start to feel... flat. Not because love is gone, but because intention is.

What actually keeps it alive

Not grand gestures. Not doing more. Just doing things with intention again. Getting ready—even when you don't have to. Planning something instead of defaulting. Being present instead of distracted. Flirting, even when you already "have them."

Real talk

Attraction doesn't disappear. It just stops being created.

The only question that matters

Not "Do we still love each other?" but: "Do we still show up for each other?" Because the difference between "we're comfortable" and "we're connected" is effort. And effort isn't something you lose—it's something you stop choosing.

Are you
having

Sex

or just going
through the

motion?



If you already know exactly how it's going to go before it starts... this article is for you.

Let's be honest for a second. You're in bed, the lights are off, and there's a sequence—kiss, touch, same move, same rhythm, same ending. It's not bad... but it's not great either.

And somewhere in the middle of it, a quiet thought pops up: "Wait... are we actually enjoying this, or **just doing it because we're supposed to?**"

If that hits a little too close to home—you're not alone.

When Sex Becomes a Routine (Instead of an Experience)

In the beginning, everything feels electric. You're curious, playful, fully present. But over time, life happens—work, stress, routines, responsibilities. And suddenly, sex starts to feel like just another checkbox. Not something you crave, but something you get through. And here's the tricky part: you can still be having sex regularly... and still feel completely disconnected.

The Moment You Know You're on Autopilot

This is where it gets real. You're not wondering if you're in a routine—you feel it. You already know exactly how it's going to go before it starts. Your mind drifts to tomorrow halfway through. It feels rushed, like you're trying to "finish." You're doing what usually works instead of what you actually want. You're present physically... but not mentally. **That's not bad sex. That's autopilot intimacy.**

Why It Happens (Even in Great Relationships)

This isn't about lack of love, attraction, or something being wrong. It's about lack of intention. When couples stop being curious about each other, everything becomes predictable. And when it's predictable, it slowly loses its spark.

Add stress, mismatched energy, or unspoken needs... and suddenly you're not connecting—you're just repeating.

The Biggest Lie About "Good Sex"

We've been sold this idea: "If you're having sex, you're fine." Not true. Frequency doesn't equal fulfillment. You can be having sex three times a week and still feel unsatisfied, or once a week and feel completely connected.

How to Break Out of the Motions

You don't need to fix your relationship—you just need to wake it up.

Change the pattern

Try a different time, setting, or pace. Even small shifts can interrupt the routine and bring you back into the moment.

Bring curiosity back. Instead of assuming you know your partner, ask: "What's something you've been wanting more of lately?" You'd be surprised what comes up.

Slow it down. When everything feels rushed, connection disappears. Take your time and let the experience build instead of racing to the end.

Talk about it—yes, really. Not in the moment, but outside of it. "I feel like we've been in a bit of a routine lately... I want us to enjoy it more." No blame, just honesty.

Focus on feeling, not performance. Sex isn't something you complete—it's something you experience. The moment you stop performing and start feeling, everything changes.

The Shift That Changes Everything

Great sex isn't about doing more. It's about being more present in what you're already doing.

When you move from "Let's just do it" to "Let's actually experience this," that's when things start to feel different again.

Ask: "What's something you've been wanting more of lately?" You'd be surprised what comes up.



Be Honest With Yourself

No pressure, no judgment—just awareness.

Ask yourself: Am I excited about my sex life... or just maintaining it? Do I feel connected... or distracted? Am I choosing this... or just going along with it?

Because the goal isn't just to have sex. It's to feel something when you do.

And the good news? You're always one honest conversation—and a little intention—away from getting that spark back.

Things couples do that make zero sense

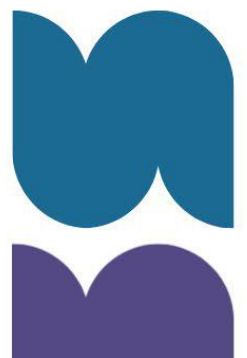


Every couple has their thing—the weird habits, the unspoken rules, the routines that would make absolutely no sense to anyone else. And somehow... they just work.

You ask, “What do you want to eat?” like it’s a high-stakes life decision. You start a show together... but one of you is mysteriously always ahead. You say “we should go out more,” and then immediately order food.

You fake-argue about the same thing every single week—and somehow already know how it ends. You each have a “side” of the bed that is basically law. You text each other from different rooms instead of walking ten steps.

One of you thrives in chaos, the other needs a plan for everything. You both know exactly what the other is about to say... and still let them say it anyway.



The little things no one admits

You have completely different definitions of “five minutes.” One of you is always ready first—and emotionally exhausted about it. You’ve had the same argument in at least twelve slightly different versions.

Silence feels comfortable. You’ve created your own language that would confuse anyone else. “I’m not hungry” still means sharing food. And one of you steals the covers every single night.

Sometimes you pretend to listen... and still know what’s going on. You send each other things all day instead of having full conversations. You say “we need to be better” at least once a week. And you both accept certain habits—even if they make zero sense.

It’s easy to think relationships should always feel exciting. Most of the time, they look like this—routine, familiar, slightly chaotic... and honestly, kind of funny.

The weird habits aren’t the issue. The real shift happens when the connection behind them fades.

A healthy relationship isn’t perfect. It’s two people who know each other’s weird, don’t take everything so seriously, and choose to stay anyway.





WHY DON'T WE

Commit to the bit?

MEET BRITTANY & MICHAEL

GET READY TO MEET BRITTANY AND MICHAEL — A COUPLE PROVING THAT LAUGHTER MIGHT JUST BE THE MOST UNDERRATED LOVE LANGUAGE.

@OFFICIAL.HOMESWEETHOME





Get ready to meet Brittany and Michael—a couple proving that laughter might just be the most underrated love language.

Based in Los Angeles, this comedic duo has built a massive following by turning everyday relationship moments into wildly entertaining, slightly chaotic, and painfully relatable content. With backgrounds in live sketch and improv in New York, their chemistry goes far beyond the screen—it’s the foundation of everything they create.

But behind the wigs, costumes, and viral videos is something real: a partnership built on mutual admiration, humor, and being each other’s biggest fan.

From committing to the bit (no matter how unhinged) to embracing the awkward, Brittany and Michael remind us that relationships don’t have to be perfect—they just have to be fun, honest, and a little ridiculous.



RELATIONSHIP RECEIPT

7 YEARS TOGETHER

NO KIDS

LOCATION: LOS ANGELES

JOBS: ACTORS + COMEDIANS

SIDE HUSTLE: ANIMAL WATCHING

FIRST KISS: ON CAMERA (COMEDY SKETCH)

MORE COMMITTED TO THE BIT: BRITTANY

DREAM COSTUME: LADY GAGA MEAT DRESS

CHAOTIC TRAIT: TOO MANY WIGS (MULTIPLE BINS)

CORE MEMORY: TIED 1ST PLACE IN AN UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

ENERGY AS A COUPLE: “THAT’S SO YOU GUYS”

TOTAL:

ALL FREE

INSTAGRAM: @OFFICIAL.HOMESWEETHOME

TIKTOK: @OFFICIAL.HOMESWEETHOME

FACEBOOK: OFF.HOMESWEETHOME

YOUTUBE: @OFFICIALHOMESWEETHOME



MAKING HAPPY COUPLES





Let's start at the beginning—what makes you say “this is my person”?

Aside from Brittany being naturally funny, she is the kindest and sweetest person I've ever met. She's gracious to anyone and everyone around her. She makes me want to be a more caring person.

Michael is a comedic savant. He's alluring, intriguing, and a mystery to most—and I feel lucky that I get to know the guy behind the curtain. I love a person who has healthy obsessions and drive. I just love him and his level-headedness.

If someone followed you around for a full week without editing, what would surprise them most about your relationship?

I think people would be surprised at how chill we are in everyday life. Brittany likes to busy herself with random crafts (crochet, painting, cross-stitch, etc.), and Michael likes to watch TV or read a book. Together, we binge shows while farting on the couch. Because yes, we believe in equal farting in a relationship.

Your content lives in that space between effort and spontaneity. How much of what you do is planned... and how much is “this would be funny right now”?

We plan everything, but always leave room for improv and spontaneity because that often ends up being the most fun part of our videos.

There's a level of commitment in your videos that most people wouldn't dare attempt. Where does that “let's just go for it” mentality come from?

It's just what we find funny. We both came up doing live sketch and improv comedy in New York City, where you learn to commit to the bit no matter what you do.

Every couple has a default dynamic—one plans, one reacts, one escalates, one regrets it later. How would you describe yours?

We're pretty good at balancing each other out. When one person is anxious, the other calms them down. If one of us is reacting too big, the other brings them back down to earth.



“We constantly do bits with each other and joke around all day. As for pranks, a classic jump scare from behind the couch is done occasionally.”

In terms of planning, Michael tends to plan out our day-to-day, while Brittany usually plans bigger life decisions.

What’s a moment where one of you thought, “This has gone too far”... and the other was just getting started?

For one of our videos, we put thick yellow face paint on Michael’s face to be a minion and went out into a very busy area on a very hot day. That honestly mortified us both, and we both wondered if we’d gone too far.

A lot of couples slowly become more predictable over time. Do you think unpredictability is something couples should actively create?

Absolutely! Habits are healthy, but they’re boring as hell. It’s a great idea to switch things up once in a while. Go on that trip! Try that damn restaurant you guys are always talking about! Smack his little butt! You get it.

What’s something your audience probably assumes about your relationship that isn’t actually true?

People may assume that Michael gets grumpy or annoyed with me, but he’s a sweet guy, and we both think each other is hilarious.



What role does surprise play in a relationship beyond content? Do you think it actually changes how connected you feel?

Yeah! A surprise gift here and there is always an awesome uplifter and is a good way to know your person is paying attention to your needs.

Have you ever had an idea you loved... but didn’t post because it felt like too much?

No—if we love it, we’ll post it. But there were some ideas we didn’t pursue because they felt too mean. Our humor is best when it’s just funny for funny’s sake. Even when we’re parodying social media trends, we don’t want to take swings at any specific person or couple.

What’s something small your partner does that instantly breaks you out of a bad mood?

We talk it out. If one of us is down, the other gives reasons why we should feel good. If that doesn’t work, then we usually just order a fat, greasy, juicy pizza.



Why don't we... get on each other's shoulders...

Brittany and Michael's relationship is proof that fun isn't something you stumble into—it's something you choose.

Between the chaos, the creativity, and the commitment to never taking themselves too seriously, **they've built a relationship that feels alive.** Not because everything is perfect — but because they keep showing up, making each other laugh, and leaning into the weird. So if things ever start to feel a little too routine, take a page from Brittany and Michael: Commit to the bit.

If your relationship had a "formula," what would the ingredients be?

30% awareness, 40% patience, 80% humor, 30% chill time, 30% work time, 2% milk, 10% we're both not good at math.

Do you think fun in a relationship fades naturally—or do couples just stop prioritizing it?

I think a relationship ebbs and flows, just like we do as people. I feel like it's a conscious effort from both people to balance their relationship. For instance, being aware if things are getting too serious—or on the flip side, recognizing that there's been all play and no work being done. I think specifically for us, because we work together, we have to make sure we set aside time to just celebrate us.

If someone wanted to bring more fun into their relationship but felt "awkward" trying, what would you tell them?

We'd say, "It's okay to be awkward!" But also, if you feel uncomfortable introducing the "fun," then your best bet is to tell them that you want more fun in the relationship. You should be able to communicate anything with your partner. It's a cliché, but communication really is key.

If you had to remove all the costumes, pranks, and content tomorrow—what would still make your relationship feel like you?

Our relationship is built on being each other's biggest fan. We've got each other's back, no matter what. If all the content went away tomorrow, we'd still have that.

And finally... if you could change the world one happy couple at a time, how would you finish this phrase: Why Don't We...?

Get on each other's shoulders, put on a really big trench coat, and see if we can buy one movie ticket to an R-rated movie.?

Cosmic attachment

By: Mariamely Leoni
@mariamelyleoniccoach

Style

How Your Zodiac Sign Bonds, Clings, or Runs from Love

I used to think love problems came from choosing the wrong person, but that idea didn't hold up for long. After years of exploring astrology, relationships, and my own patterns, something became clear: we don't just fall in love—we attach in very specific ways.

Attachment styles are learned, not something you're born with. They're shaped in childhood through your caregivers, your environment, and the emotional safety—or lack of it—you experienced growing up. So no, this isn't something written in the stars.

Your zodiac energy doesn't create your attachment style—it shapes how you express it. Two people can have the same attachment style and still behave completely differently.

One might chase loudly, while the other stays quiet and internalizes everything.

The wound may be the same, but the expression isn't—and that expression is where astrology speaks.

If you've ever wondered why you react a certain way in love, why your partner shuts down while you give more, or why you trigger each other so differently, you're looking at the intersection of psychology and astrology. Understanding both doesn't just create awareness—it gives you more choice in how you respond.

Think of it like this: attachment style is the wound, and zodiac energy is the personality of that wound. The fear can be the same, but the behavior looks different—and that difference is often what fuels both attraction and conflict.



Aries learned early on that love isn't always consistent—so they move fast to secure it... or escape it. They attach quickly, intensely, impulsively.

But the moment things feel uncertain or too vulnerable, their instinct is to take control or pull away before they get hurt.

Core Wound: Inconsistent emotional safety
Healing: Slow is not rejection. Let love unfold without rushing to protect yourself.



Cancer learned to feel everything—and often, to take responsibility for others' emotions too.

They attach deeply and quickly, offering nurturing, care, and emotional availability... sometimes before trust is fully built.

Core Wound: Fear of abandonment
Healing: Love is not something you have to earn by over giving



Taurus learned that stability equals safety. So they don't open easily—but when they do, they root deeply.

They attach through consistency, physical presence, and loyalty. Change, emotional unpredictability, or pressure can make them shut down.

Core Wound: Fear of instability or loss
Healing: Love can evolve without breaking. Flexibility is not danger.



Leo learned that love is tied to recognition—being seen, valued, and appreciated.

They love generously and openly, but when that energy isn't mirrored back, they can feel invisible or unworthy.

Core Wound: Feeling unseen or unappreciated
Healing: You are worthy—even in the quiet moments where no one is clapping.



Gemini often learned that emotions were overwhelming, inconsistent, or not fully understood—so they turned to the mind.

They attach through conversation, humor, and curiosity, but when emotions deepen, they may disconnect or deflect.

Core Wound: Emotional unpredictability
Healing: You don't have to escape depth. You can learn to stay.



Virgo often learned that love is conditional—based on being "good," helpful, or doing things right.

They attach through service, care, and attention to detail—but struggle to fully relax into being loved.

Core Wound: "I am not enough"
Healing: You don't need to perfect yourself to be loved.



Libra learned that love is about keeping the peace—even if it means losing themselves.

They attach through connection and partnership, often adapting to their partner's needs to avoid conflict.

Core Wound: Fear of rejection or disconnection
Healing: Conflict doesn't destroy love—avoidance does.



Capricorn learned that emotions must be controlled, managed, or earned.

They attach slowly and intentionally, building trust over time—but can struggle to express vulnerability.

Core Wound: Emotional suppression or high expectations
Healing: You don't have to have it all together to be loved.



Scorpio learned that trust can be broken—so they protect themselves at all costs.

They crave deep, transformative love, but vulnerability feels dangerous. So they test, observe, and control before fully opening.

Core Wound: Betrayal
Healing: Trust grows through openness—not control.



Aquarius learned to rely on themselves—emotionally and mentally.

They connect through ideas, vision, and friendship, but can detach when emotions become intense or demanding.

Core Wound: Emotional disconnection
Healing: Feeling deeply doesn't take away your independence.



Gemini often learned that emotions were overwhelming, inconsistent, or not fully understood—so they turned to the mind.

They attach through conversation, humor, and curiosity, but when emotions deepen, they may disconnect or deflect.

Core Wound: Emotional unpredictability
Healing: You don't have to escape depth. You can learn to stay.



Pisces learned to blur boundaries in order to feel love and connection.

They attach deeply, intuitively, and spiritually—but can lose themselves in others.

Core Wound: Fear of abandonment and disconnection
Healing: Love is strongest when you don't disappear in it.

the first 3 dates

What to Do, Say, and Avoid

The first three dates? They're not just about sparks. They're about signals. This is where attraction meets reality, where chemistry either builds... or quietly falls apart over one weird comment and a slightly off vibe. No pressure.

But here's the mistake most people make: they use the first three dates to be liked. The ones who get it right use them to decide.

Think of it like this: Date 1 = Vibe. Date 2 = Alignment. Date 3 = Decision. Let's break it down.



1st date

Do We Even Like Each Other? (The Vibe Check)

This is not an interview, and it's definitely not a performance. It's a vibe check.

What to do: keep it short and low-pressure (coffee > full dinner commitment). Focus on energy, not perfection. Are you relaxed? Are they? Pay attention to how easy it feels to be yourself.

What to say: skip the resume questions and go for curiosity. "What's something you've been into lately?" "What does your ideal 'do nothing' day look like?" You're not gathering data—you're creating a moment.

What to avoid: oversharing your entire life story, trying to be "perfect," or mentally planning your future together halfway through the date.

Green light to look for: you leave thinking, "That was easy. I'd do that again."



2nd date

This is where things get interesting, because attraction is easy, alignment is not. Now you're looking beyond the vibe and into who they actually are.

What to do: choose something interactive (this reveals personality fast). Start noticing patterns, not just moments. How do they communicate, show up, follow through? Pay attention to consistency from date 1 to date 2.

What to say: lean into values without making it heavy. "What does a really good life look like to you?" "What's something you've changed your mind about recently?" This is where attraction meets compatibility.

What to avoid: ignoring subtle red flags because "the vibe is good," projecting potential instead of seeing reality, or getting swept up too fast.

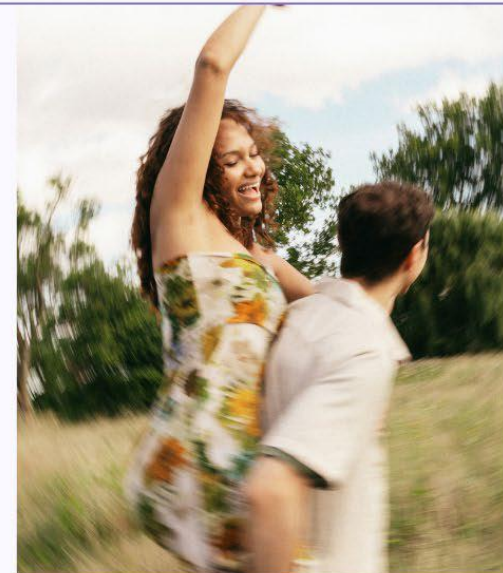
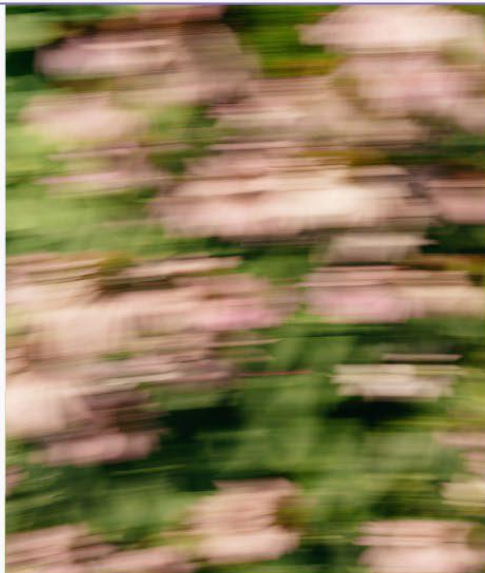
Red flag to watch: they're charming, but inconsistent, vague, or slightly off. Trust that.



3rd date

This is where most people get it backwards. You're not asking "Do they like me?" You're asking "Do I actually like them?" This is where clarity beats chemistry.

What to do: check in with yourself before and after the date. Notice how your body feels around them (calm vs anxious = everything). Look at effort—are they showing up consistently?



What to say: clarity > playing it cool. "I've been enjoying this—would love to keep seeing where it goes." Or: "I don't think this is a match, but I'm glad we met." Confidence is attractive. Clarity is even more.

What to avoid: continuing just because "they're nice," forcing something that isn't naturally building, or ignoring your intuition because you want it to work.

The real test: you feel like yourself. Not smaller, not confused, not overthinking. Just... you.

The Pattern Most People Miss

A great first date can trick you, because chemistry is instant and compatibility is revealed. And the longer you ignore what doesn't feel right, the harder it becomes to walk away.

The golden rule

The Golden Rule of the First 3 Dates

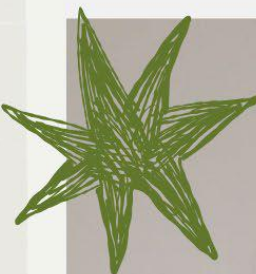
Don't rush to define it. Don't ignore what you feel. And don't settle just because it's "good enough."

The first three dates aren't about locking someone down. They're about tuning in—to them, to the dynamic, and most importantly, to yourself. Because the right connection won't feel like a performance. It'll feel like a conversation you don't want to end.



DRESS TO BE ASKED OUT

again



Everyone talks about the first date outfit. There are entire corners of the internet dedicated to it – what to wear, what not to wear, heels vs. flats, red vs. black. And sure, first impressions matter.

But here's what nobody tells you: the second date outfit is where the real game is played.

The first date, you're being evaluated. The second date? You're being chosen. They already like you. Now they want to know who you actually are. And what you wear on date two sends a very specific message – either "I was trying before and this is still me" or "the first one was a performance and now I've relaxed into mediocrity."

One of those is hot. One is not. You already know which.





FOR HER

The second date wardrobe for her walks a very specific tightrope: elevated enough to show you care, relaxed enough to look like this is just how you live. Below, three editorial looks mapped to three moods — pick the one that fits the moment.

The Effortless Afternoon

For the coffee date that turns into a walk that turns into dinner. This is the look that appears to require zero effort — which is exactly why it takes the most thought.

This is quiet luxury done right. Ivory wide-leg trousers with a sharp pleat, tucked into a fitted ribbed sleeveless top in the same tonal family. The entire palette stays within cream, ivory and cognac — nothing competes, everything connects. Two or three fine gold chains do the accessory work without trying too hard. Cat-eye sunglasses add an edge of personality. The cognac mini bag and matching flats tie it together with a warmth that feels intentional but never overdone.

The Evening Edit

For dinner with low lighting, somewhere with a wine list. This is where you remind them exactly why they asked you out again.

A champagne satin cowl-neck slip dress in a fluid bias cut that moves with every step. The slip dress alone would be beautiful — but the oversized ivory blazer, draped off one shoulder with complete nonchalance, is what elevates this into something unforgettable. Bold gold geometric earrings catch the light.

A deep red lip does exactly one job and does it flawlessly. Black block-heel mules ground the look with an edge that stops it from feeling too delicate. This is the outfit that makes someone go quiet for a second when you walk in.



The Weekend Energy

Brunch, a market, a museum, a walk somewhere with good light. Relaxed with serious attention to detail.

A matching linen striped co-ord set — relaxed shirt and easy shorts — in a warm natural stripe. The kind of outfit that looks thrown on but photographs like a campaign. A structured cognac crossbody bag adds warmth and polish without overcomplicating things.

Clean white sneakers keep it grounded and young. The tiny detail that makes the whole look: a delicate gold anklet catching the sun. This is the outfit that says she showed up — and she did it entirely on her own terms.



FOR HIM

The male second date formula is deceptively simple: fit, condition, and one detail that proves you thought about it. Not one more thing than that. Here are three looks that execute it without breaking a sweat.



The Smart Casual Standard

The most universally applicable second date look for men. Works for 90% of occasions, reads well in any setting, and never tries too hard.

A clean white polo — fitted, no loose fabric anywhere — tucked into slate grey slim chinos with a sharp break at the ankle. A cognac leather belt bridges the two halves of the outfit with a warmth that keeps it from feeling too cold or corporate.

White leather sneakers, pristine. A slim white-faced watch on his wrist. That's the entire formula. No layers, no accessories competing for attention. Just a man who clearly knows how he wants to look and made it happen without making it a whole thing.

The Dinner Look

When the reservation is somewhere with a name, and the setting does half the work – this is the look that meets it in the middle.

A sandy beige trucker jacket worn open over a crisp white fitted tee. Light wash straight-leg jeans – clean, no distressing, sitting perfectly at the hip. A thin silver chain just visible at the collar. Small round sunglasses that say he has a point of view without announcing it. Chunky white sneakers that bridge the gap between street and dinner perfectly.

Standing outside the kind of place that has warm light spilling through the windows behind him – he looks like he belongs anywhere. The genius of this look is that nothing is trying to be formal, yet the whole thing reads as completely intentional.



The Relaxed Weekend

When the date is deliberately low-key – and that's exactly what makes it great. A white fitted crewneck tee – the kind that fits like it was made for him specifically, no bagginess anywhere. Olive tapered joggers with a clean ankle – not gym wear, the fabric has drape and structure. New Balance grey sneakers, worn enough to look real.

This is the casual look done with such precision that it stops being casual and becomes a whole aesthetic. The effortless is entirely manufactured. And that's the point.



Who's paying for what?

The Money Conversation Every Couple Avoids

At some point in every relationship, this question shows up: **who's paying for what?**

At first, it's easy. One person grabs dinner, the other gets the Uber. No one's keeping track (or at least... not openly). But as things get more serious—traveling together, moving in, sharing real expenses—that casual system starts to break down. And instead of talking about it, most couples... avoid it. The problem is, avoiding the conversation doesn't make things fair. It just makes things confusing.

Where This Actually Goes Wrong

This isn't really about money. It's about how money feels. Here's what starts happening under the surface: one person feels like they're paying more but doesn't say anything, the other assumes everything is fine, someone starts keeping score, and small frustrations turn into quiet resentment.

And then one day, it comes out in the worst way possible: "This isn't fair." Not because of the amount, but because of the feeling behind it.

Tip 1: Stop Assuming—Start Defining

One of the biggest mistakes couples make is assuming you're both on the same page. One person thinks, "We split everything evenly." The other thinks, "We just kind of take turns." That's where tension starts.



50/50 isn't always fair

Tip 2: 50/50 Isn't Always Fair

Splitting everything down the middle sounds fair... until it isn't. If one partner earns significantly more, a strict 50/50 split can quietly create pressure. And over time, that turns into resentment.

What to do instead: think proportional, not equal. If one partner earns 60% of the income, they contribute 60% of shared expenses. It's about fairness.

Tip 3: Decide What's "Shared" vs "Personal"

Not everything needs to be split. Rent? Yes. Groceries? Probably. Your partner's late-night online shopping spiral? Not your problem.

What to do instead: create two clear categories. Shared expenses like rent, bills, groceries, and travel. Personal expenses like shopping, hobbies, and personal treats. This shift avoids the classic "Why am I paying for that?"

Tip 4: Your System Should Evolve

What works when you're dating doesn't work when you're living together. But most couples never update the system—they just stretch it until it breaks.

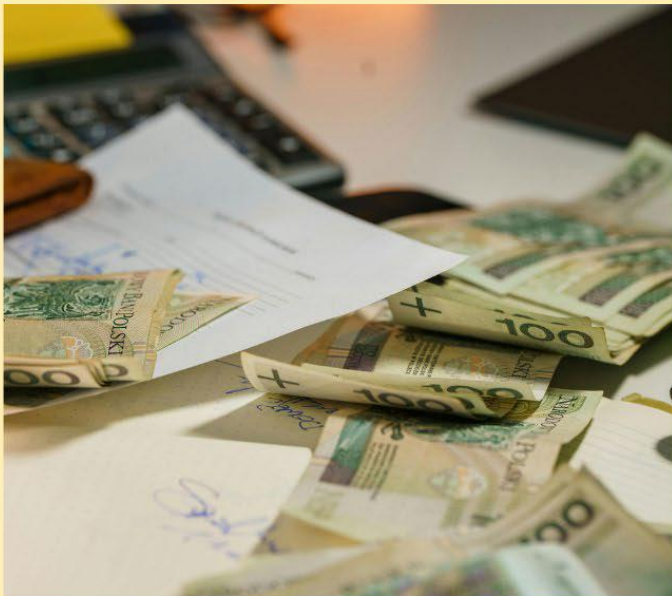
Think of it like this: early dating is flexible and casual, serious relationships need more structure, and living together requires a clear system. Don't lock into something too early, but don't avoid structure forever either.



Tip 5: Make It a Conversation—Not a Confrontation

This is where most couples mess it up. Money conversations get tense when they feel like accusations. “This isn’t fair” hits very differently than “I just want us to feel good and clear about how we handle money.” Same topic, very different outcome.

What to do instead: lead with intention, not frustration. Because the goal isn’t to win the conversation. It’s to feel aligned after it.



Real talk!

If you can’t talk about money, you’re not ready to share a life. Splitting rent is easy. Talking about why something doesn’t feel fair is the real relationship test. Most couples wait until it becomes a problem, then wonder why it turns into a fight.

Clarity early beats resentment later.

One of you says, “I paid last time.” The other says, “Yeah, but I got the groceries.” Both of you... keeping score.

If you’re tracking everything, it’s about fairness.

final thoughts

There’s no perfect way to split money in a relationship. But there is a way that feels fair, clear, and stress-free for both of you. The couples who get this right aren’t the ones who never disagree—they’re the ones who actually talk about it.

Because at the end of the day, it’s about feeling like you’re building something together.



Moving in Together

How to Survive (and Actually Enjoy) the Transition

So... you did it. You went from “text me when you get home” to “why are your socks everywhere?” Moving in together is one of the biggest relationship upgrades. It’s also one of the fastest ways to realize: love is easy... living together is not.

Welcome to Lily’s Love Lounge—where we talk about how to keep the spark alive when your relationship starts looking a little too much like a shared Google calendar.

The Shift No One Warns You About

Before living together, everything is intentional. You plan dates, you get ready for each other, you miss each other. Then suddenly, you see each other all the time, romance competes with laundry, conversations turn into logistics, and “quality time” becomes sitting next to each other on your phones.

And just like that, the relationship doesn’t end—it quietly shifts into autopilot.



Roommate Mode vs. Romantic Partnership

Roommate mode looks like splitting chores like a business deal, talking mostly about logistics, minimal physical affection, and feeling comfortable but not excited.

Romantic partnership looks like intentional time together, physical touch that isn't routine, emotional check-ins, and still choosing each other—even when you don't have to. The goal isn't to avoid comfort. It's to not let comfort replace connection.

You don't need a dramatic reset—you need small, intentional shifts. Don't stop dating each other. Living together isn't the end of dating, it's where most couples stop trying. Plan nights out, flirt, do something that isn't sitting on the couch. Living together should feel like bonus time—not a replacement for effort.

Divide responsibilities, but don't weaponize them. Yes, you need structure. No, you don't need a scoreboard. "I cook, you clean" works. "I always do more than you" turns into resentment. This isn't a competition—it's a partnership.

Protect your individual space. Being together all the time sounds romantic until it isn't. You still need time alone, your own routines, and time with friends. Missing each other a little is part of the solution.

Call out the small things early. Small annoyances don't stay small—they stack. And suddenly you're arguing about dishes, but it's not about the dishes. Say it early and calmly: "Hey, this bothers me—can we figure out a better way?" Resentment grows in silence.



Protect your individual space. Being together all the time sounds romantic until it isn't.

Keep physical intimacy alive. When you live together, it's easy to think "we have time," and then suddenly you don't. Connection is built in small moments—a kiss in the kitchen, a hug from behind, a random touch while passing by. Small things make a big difference.



The real problem isn't living together

Moving in doesn't kill the spark—autopilot does. When you stop being intentional, everything starts to feel predictable. And predictable, left unchecked, turns into boring.

Dr. Lovegood's Challenge of the Month

Try this for one week: act like you don't live together. Text each other during the day, plan a date night like you're meeting up, get ready for each other—even if you're already home. It sounds simple, but it brings back energy fast.

Living together isn't the end of the honeymoon phase—it's the start of a new one. But this version doesn't run on excitement alone—it runs on intention.

You're not just sharing a space—you're building a dynamic. So keep the flirting alive, keep the effort visible, and keep choosing each other on purpose.

Because the goal isn't just to live together... it's to actually love living together.

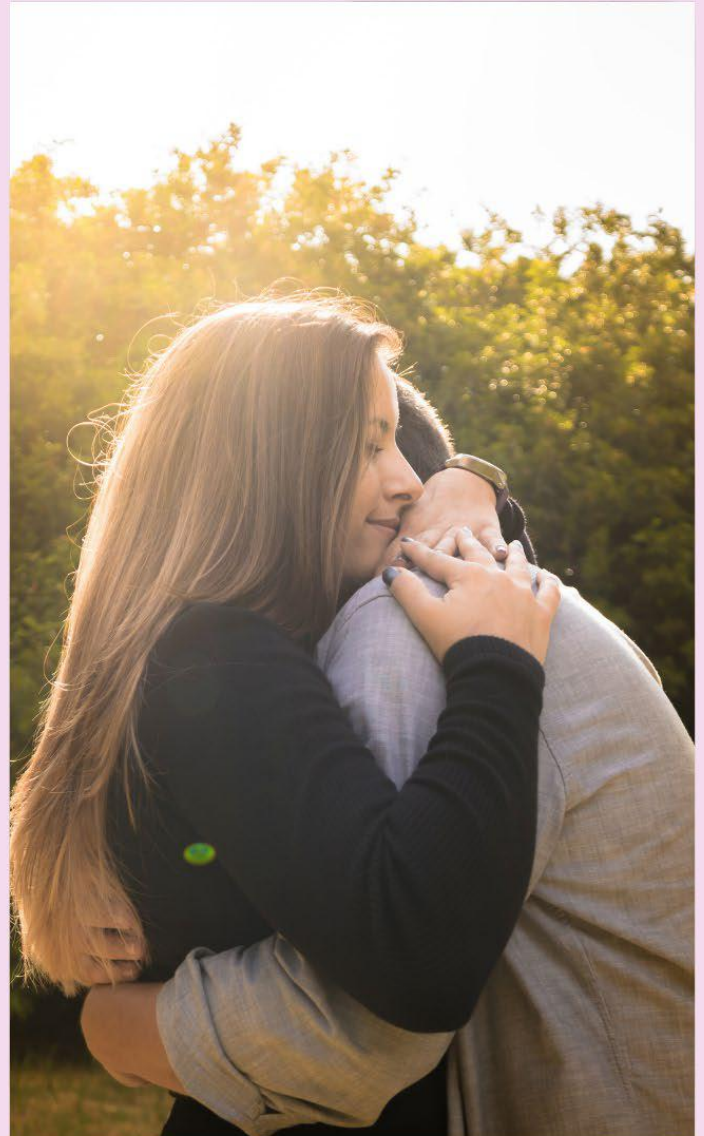
THE LOVE LANGUAGE EXPERIMENT

What happens when you step into your partner's world and love them the *way they want* to be loved? That's exactly what this love language experiment is all about. It's playful, eye-opening, and surprisingly effective for deepening your connection.

Take the quiz on the next page (if you haven't already) and discuss your top love languages. Understanding each other's needs is the foundation for this experiment.

For seven days, focus on expressing love in your partner's primary language—even if it's not your natural go-to, check in daily: What felt good? What was awkward? Did anything surprise you? These insights deepen understanding and connection.

Pay attention to how your partner responds when you "speak their language." You might be surprised at how much it shifts the vibe between you.



01. The perfect date night for you is:

- A. Deep conversation, no distractions
- B. A thoughtful surprise or small gift
- C. Them helping you with something you've been stressed about
- D. Holding hands, cuddling, lots of physical closeness
- E. Hearing how much they appreciate you

02. When you're upset, what helps the most?

- A. Sitting together and talking it out
- B. A little "I got you this" gesture
- C. Them taking something off your plate
- D. A hug (like... a real one)
- E. Reassuring words like "I'm here for you"



3. What makes you feel most appreciated?

- A. Undivided attention
- B. Receiving something thoughtful
- C. When they do something for you without being asked
- D. Physical affection
- E. Compliments and kind words

4. Your partner forgets something important... what hurts most?

- A. They didn't make time for you
- B. No thoughtful gesture or effort
- C. They didn't follow through
- D. They feel distant physically
- E. They didn't say anything meaningful

5. You feel closest to your partner when:

- A. You're fully present together
- B. They surprise you with something small but meaningful
- C. They make your life easier
- D. You're physically close
- E. They express their feelings openly

6. What kind of effort stands out most to you?

- A. Planning time together
- B. Picking something out just for you
- C. Doing something helpful without being asked
- D. Initiating touch or affection
- E. Saying something heartfelt

7. If your partner had ONE free hour, you'd want them to:

- A. Spend it fully with you
- B. Bring you something they thought of
- C. Help you with something
- D. Cuddle or be physically close
- E. Talk and connect emotionally

8. What makes you feel neglected fastest?

- A. Lack of time together
- B. No thoughtful gestures
- C. Lack of effort/actions
- D. Lack of physical touch
- E. Silence or emotional distance

RESULTS

A

Mostly A's → Quality Time

You feel loved through presence. Not just being around each other—but being with each other. Phones down, attention up.

B

Mostly B's → Receiving Gifts

It's not about price—it's about thought. You feel loved when someone sees you, thinks of you, and shows it through meaningful gestures.

E

Mostly E's → Words of Affirmation

What they say matters. Compliments, encouragement, and emotional expression make you feel seen and valued.

C

Mostly C's → Acts of Service

Actions > words. When someone makes your life easier, shows up, and follows through—you feel deeply cared for.

D

Mostly D's → Physical Touch

Connection for you is felt physically—hugs, kisses, closeness. Touch = reassurance, safety, and love.



perfect cozy spots for a date

A hand with red-painted nails holds a martini glass filled with a clear liquid, garnished with olives and a metal stirrer. The background is a deep red, textured surface, possibly a curtain or wall. In the lower right, there are some blurred bowls containing food items like chips and olives.

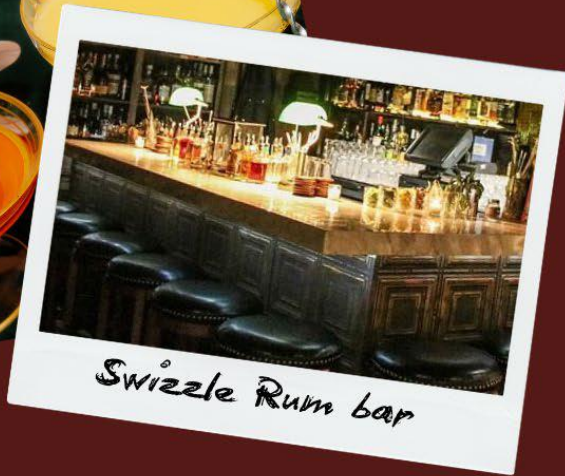
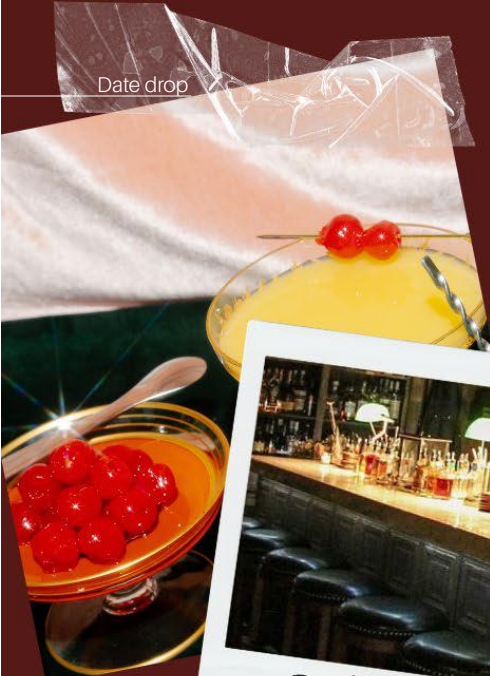
10 BARS WORTH GETTING CLOSE FOR

Some places are loud. Some are trendy. Some are... trying too hard.

These aren't those places

These are the bars where the lighting hits right, the music stays in the background, and somehow you end up leaning in a little closer without even realizing it. If the goal is connection—start here.

Date drop



Swizzle Rum bar

Miami

Swizzle Rum Bar & Drinkery

A hidden rum bar that feels like an escape

The vibe: Warm, tropical, dimly lit

Close seating + strong cocktails = instant chemistry

Pro move: Sit at the bar and let the night unfold

1120 Collins Ave, Miami Beach

Nashville

Old glory

A moody, cinematic underground bar

The vibe: Industrial, dramatic, unforgettable, the space does the flirting for you.

Pro move: Take your time—this is not a quick drink spot.

1200 Villa Pl UNIT 103, Nashville



New York

Please Don't Tell (PDT)

The speakeasy behind a phone booth

The vibe: Playful, secretive, iconic

Built-in conversation starter from the second you walk in.

Pro move: Let your date "discover" the entrance.

113 St Marks Pl, New York

Los Angeles

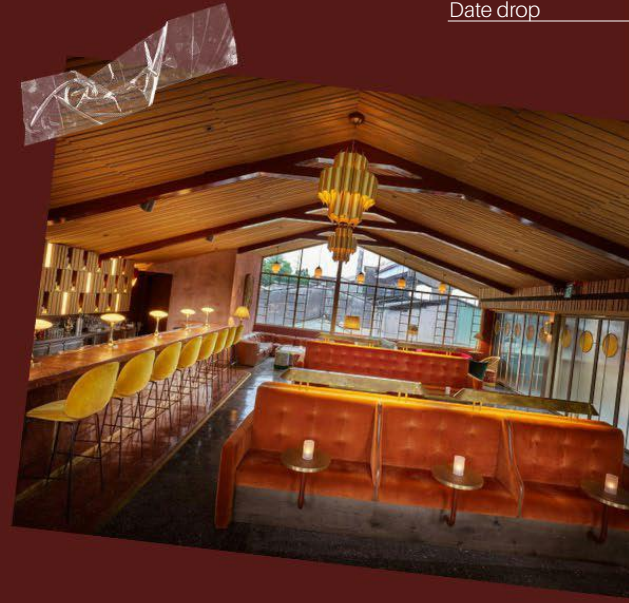
Employees Only

A late-night speakeasy with edge

The vibe: Vintage, sexy, slightly chaotic (in a good way)
Perfect when the date is going really well

Pro move: Go late—it gets better as the night goes on.

7953 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood



San Francisco

Bourbon & Branch

A true Prohibition-style speakeasy

The vibe: Classic, quiet, intentional
You can actually hear each other talk

Pro move: Book ahead—this one's planned, not random

501 Jones St, San Francisco

Chicago

The Violet Hour

Cozy sophistication without trying too hard

The vibe: Soft lighting, velvet energy, low-key luxe,
feels private even when it's full

Pro move: Lean into the quiet—it's part of the charm.

1520 N Damen Ave, Chicago





Austin

Midnight Cowboy

Dark, cozy, and just the right amount of weird

The vibe: Intimate, slightly mysterious, very Austin.

Private booths = instant closeness

Pro move: Make a reservation—this one fills up fast

313 E 6th St, Austin, TX

San Diego

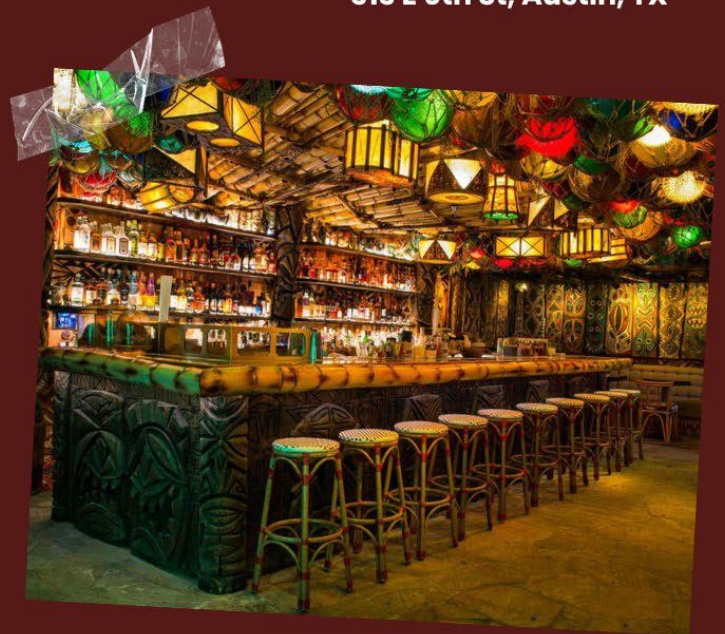
False Idol

Tiki drinks, low lighting, zero stress

The vibe: Escapist, immersive, playful, you forget about everything outside

Pro move: Share drinks—it's more fun

675 W Beech St, San Diego



Seattle

Canon

A hidden bar with library energy

The vibe: Warm, intellectual, slightly romantic, feels like a quiet escape from the city.

Pro move: Let the bartender guide your drink

928 12th Ave, Seattle

Washington

Allegory

Elegant, cozy, and a little hidden

The vibe: Artistic, intimate, quietly cool, feels unique without being overwhelming

Pro move: Take in the space—it's part of the experience

1201 K St NW #1, Washington



Complete your date night

For better conversations

Talk For Hours (Why Don't We?)

The easiest way to skip small talk without forcing anything. Pull a few cards when the drinks hit, or save it for when you get home.

For a night you'll actually remember

Fujifilm QuickSnap

A few photos. Just something real you'll look back on later.

To keep the night going

Cocktail Kit (at-home set or travel kit)

Because sometimes one more drink at home hits better than another bar.

For when you just want to have fun

Laugh Together (Why Don't We?)

Not every date needs to be deep. Sometimes the best connection comes from just laughing way too hard.



build your own taco night



If your date nights have been feeling a little... predictable, tacos are here to save the day. This is not a sit-down-and-be-polite kind of meal—this is hands-on, flavor-packed, slightly chaotic fun (aka the best kind of date).

Because it's not just dinner—it's an experience. You're moving around, tasting, laughing, maybe overloading a taco to the point of collapse... and honestly, that's kind of the point.

Why don't we...

Turn dinner into something we actually look forward to?



The base

- Soft flour tortillas (cozy and foldable)
- Crunchy taco shells (for chaos lovers)
- Or both... because balance

Warm them up—this is a non-negotiable glow-up.

Protein (Pick one or mix it up)

Option 1: Classic Ground Beef

- 1/2 lb ground beef
- 1 tbsp taco seasoning
- 1/4 cup water

Cook beef, drain excess fat, add seasoning + water, simmer until juicy and flavorful.

Option 2: Garlic Lime Chicken

- 1 chicken breast (sliced)
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 cloves garlic
- Salt, pepper, paprika
- Cook until golden and slightly crispy on the edges.

Option 3: Chili-Lime Shrimp

- 1/2 lb shrimp
- Chili powder + lime juice + olive oil

Quick sauté—takes like 3 minutes and feels very impressive.

Option 4: Veggie Black Bean Mix

- 1 cup black beans
- Corn, peppers, onions
- Sauté with cumin + garlic = underrated star of the night.

Topping Bar

- Shredded cheese
- Lettuce
- Pico de gallo
- Guacamole
- Sour cream or Greek yogurt
- Jalapeños
- Hot sauce



Pair with it

- Margaritas (classic, spicy, or frozen)
- Mexican soda or sparkling lime drinks
- Or a simple tequila + lime + soda situation.

MAKE IT A GAME!

Each of you builds a taco for the other person. Then rate the: creativity, flavor and ask "Would you order this again?". Loser does the dishes...



Skin, sleep & stress



When stress rises, so does cortisol. This can weaken your skin barrier, increase oil production, trigger inflammation, and accelerate visible aging.

Great skin isn't just about what you put on your face; it's about what's happening in your life.

Sleep, stress, and nutrition form a quiet triangle that affects not only how your skin looks... but also how you show up in your relationship. Because when your body is out of balance, your skin reflects it, and so does your mood.

Your skin is listening to your lifestyle

Your skin is deeply connected to your nervous system, hormones, and emotional state. When stress rises, so does cortisol. This can weaken your skin barrier, increase oil production, trigger inflammation, and accelerate visible aging. That's why breakouts before a big moment or dullness during stressful weeks aren't random; they're signals.

And in a relationship? High stress often means low patience. The glow fades and so does the vibe.

Sleep: your most powerful (and free) beauty ritual

During sleep, your skin goes into repair mode: it regenerates cells, produces collagen, and restores hydration. When you don't sleep well, your skin shows it: dull tone, dark circles, and sensitivity. And emotionally? You're more reactive, less present, and more likely to disconnect.

Better sleep = better skin + better communication.

Nutrition: the glow you can actually eat

What you eat doesn't just fuel your body; it builds your skin.

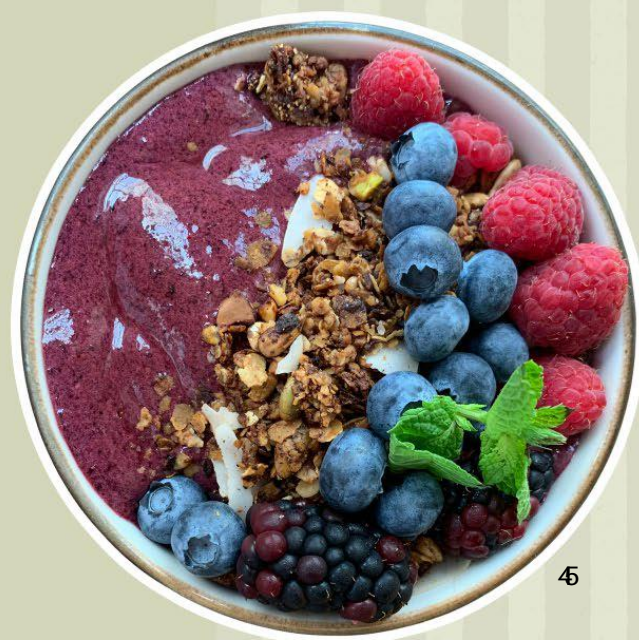
Here's what makes a real difference:

- Antioxidant-rich foods: Leafy greens, berries, colorful veggies → help hydration and a natural glow.
- Omega-3 fatty acids: Salmon, flaxseed, walnuts → reduce inflammation and strengthen the skin barrier.
- Micronutrients that matter: Vitamin C, E, zinc, selenium → support collagen and skin repair.
- Hydration: Water helps transport nutrients and maintain elasticity.
- Less sugar, better skin: High sugar intake can increase inflammation and lead to breakouts

Think of it as a daily investment: every meal either feeds your glow... or works against it.



Every meal either feeds your glow... or works against it.





Skin essentials you both can share

Good news: you don't need separate routines. Healthy skin basics work for everyone.

1. **Gentle cleanser:** Removes impurities without stripping the skin.

2. **Lightweight hydrating serum:** Look for formulas like a Multi-Molecular Hyaluronic Complex—it combines multiple forms of hyaluronic acid to deeply hydrate and support your skin's natural moisture levels.

3. **Moisturizer:** Locks in hydration and protects the skin barrier.

4. **Sunscreen** (non-negotiable): Prevents premature aging and protects overall skin health.

Simple, effective, and you both will love it.

The real glow

You don't need perfection. Just intention:

- Go to bed earlier (together).
- Drink more water (yes, it matters).
- Cook one healthy meal a day.
- Create small rituals (skincare nights, walks, no-phone time).

Glowing skin isn't just about products; it's about balance, habits, and how you live your life every day. Because when you feel great inside, it shows outside.

And when you build those habits together... You don't just look better. You connect better.

The couple effect: habits are contagious

Here's the plot twist: your habits don't stay individual; they become shared energy.

- One person sleeping better → both feel more balanced
- Cooking healthier meals → both glow more
- Lower stress → fewer conflicts

Small shifts turn into a different dynamic.

LeBron & Savannah

James

Built Together, Not Just Celebrated Together

Long before the championships, the billion-dollar empire, and the global spotlight, there was a high school hallway in Akron, Ohio—where LeBron James met Savannah Brinson. Their story didn't start with fame. It started with something much simpler: two young people figuring life out side by side, long before the world was watching.

Today, they're one of the most respected power couples in the world—not just because of what they've achieved, but because of how they've done it: **together**.

Before the world knew his name

When LeBron met Savannah, he wasn't yet the global icon we know today—just a teenager with undeniable talent and big dreams. Savannah, grounded and quietly confident, became a steady presence in his life early on.



Their relationship grew through the uncertainty of what came next. Moving from high school life to the NBA spotlight isn't a typical transition for any couple—but they navigated it together. Savannah once reflected on those early days, saying: "I was with him before he was LeBron James... I knew who he was before everyone else did."

That foundation—knowing each other before the fame—became one of their greatest strengths.

Growing Through the Pressure

As LeBron's career skyrocketed, so did the pressure. Fame, expectations, constant movement—it could have easily pulled them apart. Instead, it forced them to grow.

Savannah chose to stay rooted, focusing on family and creating stability behind the scenes. LeBron has never shied away from acknowledging her role in his life: "Savannah is the backbone of my family. She holds everything down."

Their dynamic isn't about one overshadowing the other—it's about balance. While LeBron dominated on the court, Savannah built a life off it: raising their children, managing their home, and eventually stepping into her own entrepreneurial and philanthropic ventures.

From Partnership to Legacy

They married in 2013, years after already building a life together—proof that their relationship was never rushed or defined by external timelines.

Today, with three children and multiple business ventures, their relationship has evolved into something bigger than romance—it's a shared legacy.

Savannah has grown into a force of her own, leading initiatives in education and community empowerment, while LeBron continues to expand his influence beyond basketball. Through it all, their priorities remain clear: family first, always.



The key to their bond

Their relationship isn't built on perfection—it's built on consistency, trust, and knowing when to show up for each other.

- They grew together, not apart – From teenagers to global figures, they evolved side by side.
- They protect their foundation – Family has always been their anchor, not an afterthought.
- They respect each other's roles – Different strengths, same team.
- They never forgot where they started – Akron isn't just a memory—it's part of who they are.

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