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Stupid Reasons Why You'll End Up Divorced

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Many Americans couldn't even fathom the divorce of Al and Tipper Gore's 30 year marriage until sexual harassment claims surfaced after years of being brushed under the rug. How about when Morgan Freeman split from his wife after 24 years because [his step-granddaughter's lovin'](#) was way more interesting than his wife's? Sh-t happens, right? Maybe not.

Ever since Elin divorced Tiger Woods for his salacious romps with various mistresses, researchers have been coming out of the wood work with their "scientific findings" on divorce issues. These studies are now claiming to have reasons for why the divorce rate in the United States is at 50%. Take the scientists at Brown University for example. They claim that their data reveals how contagious divorce can be if a friends, co-workers, or family member opts for divorce. Their divorce causes the couple to question their own relationship.



If your best friend's marriage goes belly up, the chances of yours ending goes up 75%, scientists at Brown University say after analyzing data from a study of 12,000 Americans living in Framingham, Mass., since 1948. And what they call "divorce clustering" even extends to friends of friends; if they split up, your chances go up by a third.

"These results go beyond previous work intimating a person-to-person effect to suggest a person-to-person-to-person effect," says one researcher.

Having kids won't halt the speeding train of divorce, either.



The fun doesn't stop there. [TheDailyBeast](#) has listed 15 reasons why married couples will opt for divorce [[click here to read 'em all](#)]. They are quite interesting, to say the least. If you're a child who experienced their parent's divorce, the reason is probably your fault.

3. If you have two sons, you face a 36.9 percent likelihood of divorce, but if you have two daughters, the likelihood rises to 43.1 percent.

These findings by Columbia University economist Kristin Mammen echo other studies linking the births of girls with elevated divorce rates. A bright spot in Mammen's research, however, is that after parents divorce, child-support payments show no gender disparity—girls receive no less child support than boys.

5. If your child has been diagnosed with ADHD, you are 22.7 percent more likely to divorce before that child turns eight years old than parents of a child without ADHD.

"ADHD is a very challenging diagnosis," says The Complete Divorce Handbook author Brette Sember, "and raising a child with this disorder is expensive, stressful, and emotionally consuming. It's definitely going to put a huge stress on a marriage."



And sorry to say, a few of these reasons listed are because men aren't as loyal as women:

15. If you're a woman serving actively in the military, your marriage is 250 percent more likely to end in divorce than that of a man serving actively in the military.

A Rand Corporation study found that while 6.6 percent of military women's marriages dissolved, only 2.6 percent of military men's did. In every branch of the service and consistently over time, "rates of marital dissolution are substantially higher for women than for men," write the study's authors, who speculate that perhaps "the military selects for women whose marriages would be at increased risk regardless of their service."

9. If you're a woman who has recently been diagnosed with cancer or multiple sclerosis, your marriage is six times more likely to end in divorce than if your husband had been diagnosed with those diseases instead.

A study of "partner abandonment" revealed that husbands are six times more likely to leave sick wives than wives are to leave sick husbands. "Men have a much harder time being caretakers than women do," Sember observes. "Men find it hard to juggle that kind of responsibility, particularly if the wife has always been the one to fill that role." Moreover, "often women are more able to take time off from work to care for an ill spouse than men are."



Some reasons are comparatively geared towards race:

10. If you're a Caucasian woman and you're separated from your spouse, there's a 98 percent chance that you'll be divorced within six years of that separation; if you're a Hispanic woman, the likelihood is 80 percent; if you're an African-American woman, the likelihood is 72 percent.

This doesn't surprise Coontz. "Unfortunately, women tend to let their anger and disappointment build up for too long before expressing it. They hint at what's bothering them rather than being direct. By the time they're mad enough to separate, something has died." This gloomy news about separations, Coontz says, "tells women to be very direct about what they want and need to change, and tells men to listen to them."

14. If you're an African-American woman, your first marriage has a 47 percent likelihood of ending in divorce within ten years; for Hispanic women, the likelihood is 34 percent; for Caucasian women, it's 32 percent; for Asian women, it's 20 percent.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services study that produced these findings, one-fifth of first marriages end within five years and one-third end within ten years, across the board.



Other reasons are just plain out stupid:

1. If you're a woman who got married before the age of eighteen, your marriage faces a 48 percent likelihood of divorce within ten years.

Age matters. Study after study shows that the younger the married couple, the riskier the bond. The risk drops to 40 percent for women who married at age eighteen or nineteen, drops further to 29 percent for women who married at age 20 to 24, and drops even further to 24 percent for women who married at age 25 or older.

7. If you didn't smile for photographs early in life, your marriage is five times more likely to end in divorce than if you smiled intensely in early photographs.

*Two tests, the first involving college yearbook photos and the second involving miscellaneous photos taken during participants' youths, yielded this finding. "People who are optimistic— and that's what smiles tend to show in childhood—find it easier to get along with people," including the people they're married to, asserts Coontz, who is also the author of *Marriage: A History*. Optimistic types "also find it easier to put up with periods in life that might be difficult." Nonetheless, she warns: "Optimism is certainly not going to protect you from everything, so it's no guarantee."*

Moral of the story: Getting married is like jumping out the window without a parachute. Don't risk everything unless you really, really, really want to do it.

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