



Katrina Kaif



Anjalee (left) and Arjun Kapoor (right) with Mallika Sherawat

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## The cost of love

I WRITE this on a Sunday morning while I sit in my local coffee shop, sipping on a strong cortado and indulging in an all-butter croissant and strawberry jam. I'm flipping through the Sunday papers and come across an article about how it is more expensive to be in a married/committed relationship.

Initially I think, no way – being single is hard work. Paying for dating websites, new outfits when going out on four first dates a month or just being out and meeting someone costs money, but as I think more about the subject, it begins to dawn on me that yes, it may well be more expensive to be in a relationship than to be single.

The first part of being in a relationship is the food. When I was with someone, I was more likely to shop in nicer supermarkets, buy nicer things and spend more on a fine bottle of wine rather than now when I'm single and my weekly shop is around £15. I'll skimp on the scallops and buy a £5 bottle of wine than a nice French vintage. You're more likely to go to fancier restaurants with a partner than with your friends, when it is cool to just go somewhere like the popular chicken restaurant.

Probably the most extravagant cost of being in a relationship is the holiday. When you're going away with your girls, it's about fun, chilling, cocktails and having a luxurious holiday is less important. When you're in a relationship (not all the time) but it's more about far-away locations, fancy hotels and basically making your single friends jealous!

Also, when it comes to gifts, all my friends in committed relationships receive trinkets from their partners from places like Tiffany's, so enough said.

Then it comes to buying a home. This is something I'm completely not envious about – buying a house with your husband is ridiculously expensive. Even if you both have great jobs, there are certain things you have to take into consideration when moving on to the next step in your life. How many children you're going to have, whether you both have cars, which area you want to live in so that you are close to a school of your choice and then paying for your kid's education, after-school activities, saving for their university and wedding. All this costs a lot of moolah.

So there you go, guys and girls, the benefits of being single definitely outweigh the disadvantages from a financial point of view. Next time you get asked why you're single, just say 'to save money.'

Of course, I'm probably only being bitter about my singleness and it is amazing to be able to share things with your life-partner. Yes, of course, you're more likely to share and if you're single and have your own flat, it is still very expensive. But just think, if you didn't all the above to consider, how much money would you save.

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