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Flings of the Famous

Unless you've been living on Mars, you've been inundated by news of the sudden split of Hollywood "It" couple **Jennifer Lopez** and **Ben Affleck** just days before their lavish wedding at a Santa Barbara, Calif. estate last month. While no one knows whether the "Bennifer" nuptials are permanently off, one thing is for sure: Celeb relationships -- the sudden splits, the rocky reconciliations -- are as full of drama as any Hollywood movie.

So why is Hollywood famous for fab romances that fade fast?

According to **Jenn Berman, Psy.D**, a licensed clinical psychologist who appeared on TV's "Married by America," "the attributes that it takes to be a great performer include a certain intensity [and] an ability to access deep emotions and act them out." Meaning, stars tend to be impulsive and flamboyant when it comes to their lives -- and their loves. "[Hollywood] is a dramatic world," says the Beverly Hills, CA.-based expert.

Take the tumultuous relationship between "Tomb Raider's" **Angelina Jolie**, 28, and **Billy Bob Thornton**, 48. The opposites-attract couple, who wed in 2000 -- **Angie's** second marriage and **Billy Bob's** fifth -- were known for keeping vials of each other's blood, owning a pet rat and getting tattooed with the others' name!

Legend has it they bought his-her burial plots to signal their undying love before divorcing last year! While **Angelina** is now happy playing adopted mom to **Maddox**, 2, **Billy Bob** says he still doesn't know why the love died.

For some celebrity couples, demanding filming schedules that send actors halfway across the world for months on end take their toll. **Brad Pitt** and wife **Jennifer Aniston** juggle their schedules so they have "us" time -- which wasn't that easy this summer when **Brad** filmed his next movie in Mexico and **Jennifer** was stuck in L.A. taping "Friends."

After **Ethan Hawke**, 32, relocated to Montreal to shoot "Taking Lives" with **Angelina**, **Kiefer Sutherland** and **Olivier Martinez**, **Ethan** and wife **Uma Thurman**, 33, separated.

"When you have people traveling to movie sets, it's like Club Med," explains **Dr. Jenn**. "You're in a different universe." And leading such a separate life from your significant other is a common celeb dating mistake, add **Dr. Jenn**. "Relationships take work and the only way it will work is if you're willing to put the time in," she declares.

Another Hollywood relationship-buster? Professional jealousy. When the guy and the girls are both performers -- but one becomes a bigger star than the other - it's hard not to feel overshadowed. Such a dynamic might have behind the breakup of "Alias" and "Daredevil" star **Jennifer Garner** and **Scott Foley**, both 31. The former sweethearts met on the set of "Felicity" in 1998 when an unknown **Jen** guest-starred as **Scott's** girl.

Cut to a few years later: **Jen's** career exploded just as **Scott's** sitcom, "A.U.S.A.," got canceled. **Jennifer** is now seeing "Alias" co-star **Michael Vartan**, 34, while her ex's career is back on track with a role this fall on NBC's hit, "Scrubs."

Although it's fun to follow along as the famous fall in and out of love, the Hollywood dating drama reminds you not to compare yourself to your fave star. Even mansions, movies and moolah are no substitute for happiness and self-esteem! "Celebrities are not perfect," **Dr. Jenn** reminds us. "Every one has his or her own difficulties."