



"I wanted to find another best friend to marry," says Ted (with Diana and their roosters at their Temecula, Calif., ranch). "I have."

Long Live Love

Widowed Ted and Diana Wentworth share their secrets and strategies for securing soulmate No. 2

In July 1989, Ted Wentworth, a 50-year-old widower, attended a picnic in Westminster, Calif. "I scanned the crowd and thought, 'I don't know what she looks like, but my future wife is here,'" he recalls. "She's going to have to show herself in some way." Suddenly a woman wielding a giant water gun squirted him in the face. "I had

never done anything like that before," says Diana von Welanetz, then 48 and four months a widow. "It was totally out of character."

Wentworth wrestled the weapon out of her hands and invited her to dinner. Another man might have shouted "Check, please!" when Von Welanetz told him that evening that she had brought the toy gun to the

picnic because her late husband told her to. Another woman might have bolted when Wentworth described how he kept computer records on the 130 women he had dated since his wife's death two years earlier. Instead, the two were so smitten they married that December.

Twelve blissful years later each has written a book to inspire and assist other bereaved, befuddled middle-aged daters. In his just published *Build a Better Spouse Trap: A Street-Smart Dating Strategy for Men Who Have Lost A Love*, Ted, now 63, offers tips on finding, assessing and keeping a potential mate. Examples: "Stay within your generation—no trophies!" and "Learn to fight fair."