

Woman's World

God Bless America

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Why you may just need a *banana!*



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delicious
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6 amazing organizers you *already* own!

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The secret to finding true love

After breaking up with her fiancé, Jill Secord worried: What if I never find anyone to truly love? Then, one day, she stumbled upon the secret—10 of them, actually—to finding Mr. Right!

Her heart was breaking. And yet, Jill Secord knew she and her fiancé were doing the right thing—the only thing.

After three years as a couple, they loved each other. But now, as they made wedding plans, it forced them both to admit something that, deep down, each already knew . . .

They weren't in love with each other.

"We can't get married," they agreed.

Jill couldn't imagine spending the rest of her life with a man who wasn't right for her. But what if I never meet "the one"? The Commerce City, Colorado, real estate appraiser worried.

Jill had first met the man who'd become her fiancé at a church group. And as calendar pages flipped, things grew so comfortable between them that when he proposed, she accepted.

But when Jill dreamed about their future, a lump formed in her throat. It wasn't that he wasn't a nice guy; he genuinely was, always there to listen or make her laugh. And it wasn't that she

was unhappy—not really. But her whole life, she'd heard how when you meet "the one," you just know. Yet whenever she thought of her fiancé, it struck Jill: We're good buddies. But we're not soulmates.

The passion just wasn't there. And, with a sinking feeling, they realized it wasn't fair—not to

Jill, and not to him, either—to merely settle when they both deserved more.

So, with heavy hearts and the promise to always remain friends, they ended their relationship.

Still, the thought of being alone again terrified Jill. All I want is someone with a good heart—who makes my heart race, too, she thought. But where do I even begin to look?

The book of love

Then, one day, while shopping, the title of a book by Victorya Rogers seemed to jump off the shelf and grab her: *Finding a Man Worth Keeping: 10 Dating Secrets That Work*.

I've got to find out what they are, Jill thought,

buying it. So the moment she arrived home, she started reading . . .

Secret #1: Find out what you really want.

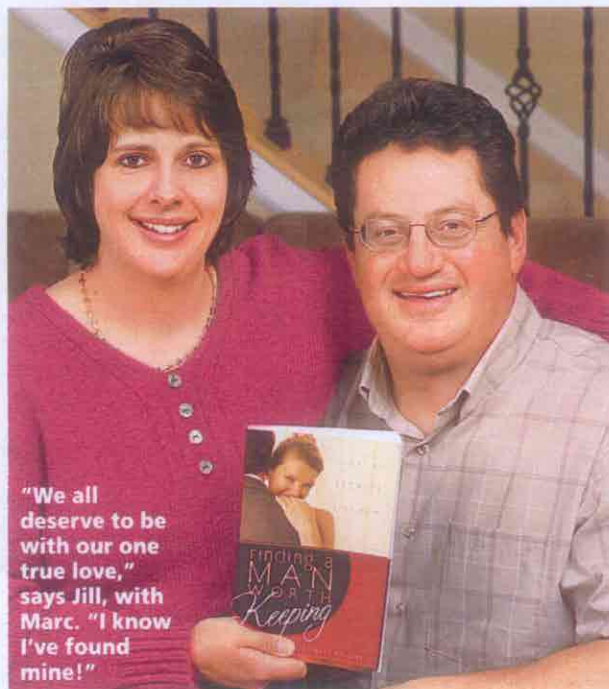
Who is the man you're looking for? Victorya asked. You need to have a clear picture so you'll recognize him—and know who not to waste time dating. So Victorya suggested writing a personal ad—not to actually print, but to zero in on her "wish list" of what she found important.

Searching her heart, Jill began writing. *A good man with strong family values. Someone outgoing. Affectionate. Romantic . . .* She included some basics (like not being more than 10 years her senior) and then added, *It's what's inside that really matters the most.*

Next, Jill moved on to . . . *Secret #2: Uncover your heart's desires.*

What makes you happy? Whatever it is, do it! Too many women put off living their lives waiting for a man, Victorya explained.

Suddenly, Jill realized that's exactly what she'd been doing: sitting home each weekend since the breakup. But not only would getting out increase her odds of meet-



"We all deserve to be with our one true love," says Jill, with Marc. "I know I've found mine!"

ing a man, Victorya insisted, but men also find women who enjoy life more interesting.

So Jill began making plans with friends and spending Saturday afternoons—a time she used to find lonely—volunteering at a local senior center.

One by one, Jill devoured the secrets. Like *#4: Let the world know you're free!*

"If you know anyone single . . ." Jill told friends and co-workers, mentioning she'd be interested in being introduced. And just a month after Jill first picked up Victorya's book . . .

"My stepdad has this friend," a colleague of hers began.

Love at last!

And when Marc called, they had so much in common—like the fact that he'd grown up not far from Jill's hometown in Michigan!—that they chatted for more than two hours!

It's like he stepped out of that ad I wrote! Jill marveled. Marc also vol-

unteered—as a firefighter. And he played the Easter Bunny at the department's annual egg hunt, too.

He must have a good heart, Jill smiled. And when they met for dinner . . . there were instant fireworks, too!

But it was more than that. Because as she and Marc continued dating, Jill felt beautiful. And complete.

"He brings me flowers for no reason, and he takes me on surprise picnics at the park," she gushed to her mother.

"He's a keeper!" her mom agreed.

Marc felt the same way about Jill. So one day on a romantic gondola ride, he asked, "Will you marry me?"

"Yes!" she cried. Today, nearly a year after marrying, they're more in love than ever.

"When you find the right one, it's so worth the wait," Jill beams. "Marc and I were meant to be together, but I never would've found him without Victorya's secrets. We're proof that they really do work!"

—Kathy Fitzpatrick

Did you know? Pet-lovers can meet prospective dates (and their cats and dogs!) at animalattraction.com.

Find your true love! Victorya Rogers, author of *The Automatic 2nd Date*, shares more tips:

✓ Tap into your inner geek!

A computer store is an ideal place to meet men. "You don't have to feel self-conscious about being alone, with all the interactive displays—and talking about the latest gadgets is a great conversation starter!"

✓ Go in a group!

Men are more nervous approaching a pair of women than one who's sitting in a larger group, says Rogers. "When there are just two of you, he feels like he's interrupting—and has to entertain both of you."

✓ Try niche dating sites!

Forget the big online dating sites, says Rogers. "You'll have better luck at a site that's targeted to you. If you love food and wine, for example, consider grapedates.com, or log on to jdate.com to meet Jewish singles."

