

# FINDING LOVE LATER IN LIFE

Brunch at the  
Crooked Oak Café

Ron Crawford

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## About the Author

Ron Crawford lives on three and a half acres of paradise in Powhatan County, Virginia, with his wife Melanie. Ron stays busy with keeping up the property, woodworking, family, travel, and writing. His latest adventure is scuba diving. In his previous life before retirement, Ron was a pastor and seminary president. In Powhatan, he is mostly known as Melanie's husband; she is deeply involved in the Powhatan Free Clinic and is a vocal advocate for those who could use a little help.

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# Introduction

It is possible to find vibrant love in the seventh decade of life. Two couples shared brunch and the joy of a surprise wedding at the Crooked Oak Restaurant. This book describes the encounter and the back stories that made the event so memorable and hopeful. This is an honest book affirming that many people find themselves unpaired in their sixties either through divorce or the death of a spouse. Yet it also affirms the adage, “Once in a while, in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale.”

Disappointment, hardship, and even tragedy set the stage for every fairy tale. The four characters in this book share a legacy of struggle though they come from different backgrounds: Puerto Rican American, Armenian American and Anglo-American. They were all also surprised by finding enduring love in a later chapter of life.

These four characters are real people with distinct family and national heritages, and the historical details are true. As with all good stories, however, some of the events in this book are embellishments. Some happenings are contemporaneous with the characters and “artistically” interwoven into their lives in the style of *Forrest Gump*. Some stories were imported from the life experience of other people and placed in the saga of our four characters. And, of course, the names of the four characters have been changed, else they would be swarmed by adoring fans when this book becomes a best seller.

Ultimately, this is a hopeful book. Finding yourself unpaired in a later chapter of life can be desperately unsettling. When you have had a partner for most, if not all, of your adult life, finding yourself alone is disconcerting and disorientating. Many people choose to remain unattached in later life, as being with someone is exceedingly complex. When you are young, you fall in love and grow up together. When you are old, you have adult children with opinions, a tax advisor, property, financial accounts, and long memories of being with another person.

There are plenty of good reasons to remain unpaired in later life. Even so, sometimes “love gives us a fairy tale.”