

# Expecting Magic... and Elvis!

## The Diana Wentworth Interview

by Jessica Sheehan | Photography by Mary Ann Halpin

**A**re you driven, or are you drawn? This is one of the essential questions in life and a topic of this exclusive interview with Diana von Welanetz Wentworth. Ms. Wentworth shares the path of her life and the magic that has unfolded. Speaking with Diana, she is gorgeous; poised, glamorous, and beautiful, in a way that comes from within and erupts into an irresistible glow. Diana is a New York Times bestselling author and author of the romantic memoir *Send Me Someone: A True Story of Love Here and Hereafter* (Renaissance Books, 2001).

Diana's career has been impressive thus far, but even into her 80s, she is still going full steam ahead. In true Diana-fashion, it's in multiple endeavors at once and with magic always expected. In fact, Diana says that she follows her own promptings and the stepping stones that appear for her. In a world where people are either driven or drawn, Diana says she is drawn; drawn to light, to asking quintessential questions. These questions, she reveals, are: "How can I spark the most joy today? How can I most effectively light up the world?"

Diana shares, "I just want to be surrounded by light and joy and beauty and grace and wonderful romance and wonderful, wonderful feelings."

In the recent Love Event, Diana gave a talk about expecting magic. We wanted to hear more about how this focus on magic came about for her.

### Magic exists

She speaks first of her uncle Lewis, and how he would delight her as a child with his sleight of hand, lighting her up. But even then, she says, "I sensed that there was magic, the real magic."

Diana was never discouraged in her path to seek out magic and guide herself with intuition. Her family environment was supportive of her quest for knowledge.

"There wasn't anybody that was a naysayer." Regarding her parents, Diana shares, "My father was into Science of Mind and bought the chairs for the Los Angeles Church. Ernest Holmes was the founder of Science of Mind, and he came to our house for breakfast. So, I'd say my parents were fairly metaphysical."

Diana has had many examples of following her intuition and trusting herself. This was her way even as a young woman. She shares about an experience at age 17, saying "I saw in the Beverly Hills paper that there was going to be an Easter parade and that there was going to be a queen contest. I remember reading this article, and I thought, 'I can win that contest.' It just came out. And sure enough, I did. So, I was the queen of the only Beverly Hills Easter parade."

In the bestselling book, *Women Gone Wild: Wealth Edition*, Diana wrote a chapter called "Expect Magic!" In it, she talks about how she has guided her life by the motto, "Expecting magic, we trust when it appears."

### Lucky in Love

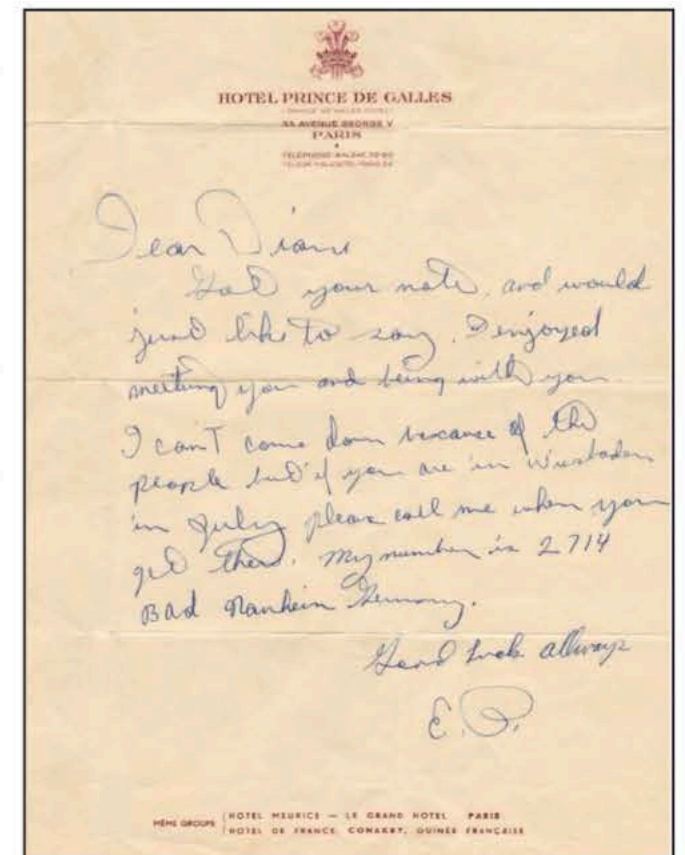
Diana talks about the magic and intuition that guided her to both of her husbands, Paul von Welanetz, and Ted Wentworth. Both cherished partners were encouraging and spiritual, deeply devoted, and loving, each with different energy. But before either of those perfect love matches, was another man she dated: Elvis. She recalls how she was on the porch with her sorority sisters in the spring of 1959 and an Elvis song was playing loudly. She asked them to turn

the radio down, and they exclaimed how she must not like Elvis, but she said, "I do like Elvis, and one day I'm going to date him!"

Diana says this was "Like a frog jumped out of my mouth! Honestly, I thought, 'what the hell? What was that all about?'"

### Meeting Elvis

It began in Paris, when Diana was on a tour with her mother. It was about two months after Diana had announced she was going to date him. It was at Hotel Prince de Galles, and there he was!



Diana explains how she met him in the dining room, fearlessly going up to him with a busboy who was too shy to ask for the autograph he desperately wanted. Elvis was at the Moulin Rouge show her tour group went to, and later that night he asked her mother if he could take her to another late show. "He was holding my hand and they sat us by the stage. And it was weird because all these topless girls were coming right up to the table and everything. It was just crazy. We went back to the hotel, and he invited me to his room where he played the song, "Fascination", which was the theme song of the first Moulin Rouge movie.



### A village gathered

Ms. Wentworth goes on to share about the next time she had been taken out by Elvis, "He had been smoking a cigar and he had on a turquoise sweater that was cut out down here [gestures to the chest] with black laces across it, which was pretty extreme for those days. And he had been smoking a cigar and so he was kind of perspiring." She explains how she was looking up at the balcony to her mother, feeling a little freaked out, and thinking, "Don't let me go!" But she went, and they rode for an hour to where he was living.

She arrived with Elvis in this little village and saw a crowd of people all gathered around, as if for a festival. She asked him what was going on, and Diana recalls how Elvis answered her in his drawl, "This is where I live, Darlin'."

Diana continues, "We go to the house and the bodyguards make us dinner and he starts playing all these different instruments and singing. I mean, it just went on forever. And I was smiling you know how it gets like this" Diana gestures to her mouth making a huge grin across her lovely face, "You don't know what to always say, how to react. But then he went over to the window, and it had these blinds that you pull down, and he pulled one down and it went flying up and there's like 40 faces— all these people wrapping around the house, listening to this concert.

Wow, it was so fun!"

### Elvis back in the states

They continued to see one another back in the states as well. "I came back and went to school and we stayed in touch because I would call him or he would call me once in a while. I think it's just about the same time that he met Priscilla, who was considerably younger. She was only 14, the daughter of his commanding officer. So, I guess he always had her in his life after that."

"One day, my friend Lynn and I were turning into my driveway where I lived off Sunset Boulevard and this limousine goes by and it was Elvis leaning out the window, saying hi to me! I didn't know he was back or anything. Then at home, the phone rang and he asked if he could come and get me and take me to his house. So that was comical, because how many parents are delighted that their daughter is going out with him?!" The King of Rock n' Roll had a reputation back then that maybe made upstanding parents a little nervous. When asked about how her parents felt, Diana explains how his actions shaped the public impressions of him, as well as her own father's reaction. "My father was from Memphis. He was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, so he was a Southerner." She continues, "And I think that when Elvis went in the army, that was very strategic. That made him a good guy, that made him a gentleman."

### Elvis came to call

"It was so funny because my mother wanted to orchestrate how we opened the door. My brother opened the door and took him in to meet my mother, who gave him some lemonade and introduced him to my father. And then I came down and made my entrance and off we went up to a house that he was renting, and his father was there."

By this time Diana had gotten to know the bodyguards well. She talks about watching television with Elvis and his father. Then she shares another precious memory from that visit, how one guard said, "Diana, this gold record just came in today for Elvis, so you can give it to him." She recalls how there were other gold records on the walls already and laments the fact that she didn't have a camera ready at that moment.

However, Diana was never interested in the fame and status of Elvis. Ms. Wentworth reminisces, "I think one of the reasons that he trusted me was I told him I

didn't want any photographs in the newspapers with him because, in those days, we were part of society in Beverly Hills. It just wouldn't have been okay. So, I think he kind of liked that I wasn't using him for any kind of fame."

### Elvis: the movie, the man

According to Diana, the actor who plays Elvis in the recent movie deserves an Oscar! She confirms, "It is a masterpiece. This kid, Austin Butler, was brilliant. He practiced for two years; he was Elvis. His movements, his voice... just fabulous."

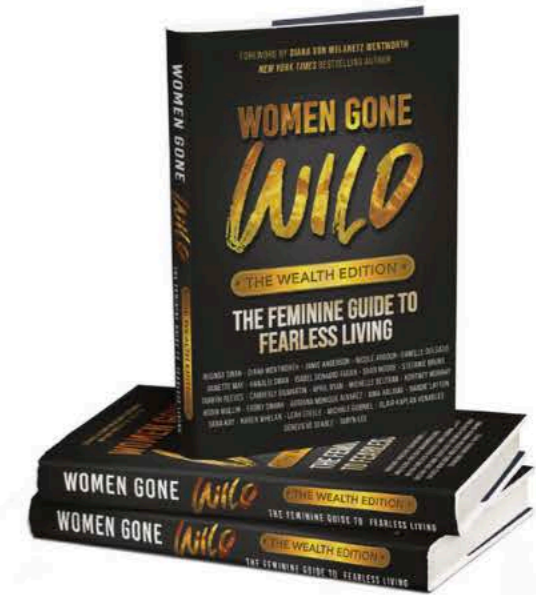
Regarding what she liked best about Elvis, the man, Diana confides, "He was gentlemanly. He was spiritual, and always treated me like a lady, which I think was fabulous... There was always a deep kindness and respect." Diana wrote a chapter about her time with Elvis in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul Cookbook*, which gives more details about their time together.

### Spiritual Alchemy

Besides seemingly manifesting her relationship with Elvis, Ms. Wentworth has had many experiences of calling opportunities into reality. This applied to how she demanded into reality the TV shows she and Paul had waited for. She describes, "I remember there was just this intensity of the request. I was really tired of waiting!" Diana describes how she exclaimed "Give it to me NOW!" and then, "It was like something exploded, and then they both came in the next day. I began to call that *spiritual alchemy*; that the intensity of the request is directly tied to the way the thing shows up."

"I remember David Fagan calling me and saying he wanted me to write the Foreword for a book called *Women Gone Wild*. And I had, oddly enough, just bought a domain called Women Writing Wild. Things like that just don't happen!"

About securing this domain name, she goes on, "It was like this sense there was a trapped exuberance in women that we had a lid on us for so many years that needed to come out."



### Quintessential Questions

With such an incredible legacy of light, of seeking, of making magic happen, we wanted to find out what advice Diana had to give young women, or anyone, trying to create a beautiful life.

"I think forming questions that are the most important questions. I call them quintessential questions. I think that there's an energy to expectation, that it's part trust, it's part surrender, it's part knowing. And that's been the magic for me. That's where it lives, in that energy."

