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When Max Covery met Andy Traynor for a first date. He has high hopes. They went surfing on a California beach early in the morning and had a great time. Exhausted and happy then couple left the ocean then out of the blue 56 years old Max collapsed. He lay on the sand silent and still. Fortunately, Andy was a doctor whose years of training kicked in. She immediately began perform CPR. It was the first time her lips had touched his. You could say it was their first kiss. It safe Max’s life. Max came to in the ambulance. His first emotion was one of an embarrassment. He said he felt ashamed. He has ruined a perfect date. At a hospital doctors diagnosed Max with a heart attack. He got on the horn to tell Andy the news. He also wanted to apologize for ruining their date together. Andy broke down in tears when she heard his voice. She said: I was so relieved because I was so upset that I had met this amazing person and now he could be gone. Max went into the surgery the next day. After his operation he told Andy he understands if she didn’t want a second date. Max explained: who wants to date someone who just has a heart attack. Andy said she did. She said the whole experience made her appreciate who Max really is. A few weeks after surgery the two had another date. They were strolling along the beach when Andy says you can kiss me for real now. Max did exactly that. He claimed at that moment his heart felt healed inside and out. Some say finding true love is rare. In a world with 7 billion people what are the chance you’ll ever bump into your soulmate. Former neuro Rando has studied the mathematical medical possibility of such a question. He believes the odds are stacked against us finding our soulmate. If we assume our soulmate is of the opposite gender and within a few years of our age, we would still have to find them in a pool of 5 hundred million potential soulmates. It’s like finding a needle in a haystack. Perhaps Andy and Max would beg to differ. They might say that finding a soulmate defies numbers. As John Steinbeck once wrote: “If it is right, it happens. Nothing good gets away”.

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Every August, Klepatan says goodbye to his lover Malena before going to South Africa where he spent the spring and summer. Every March like clockwork, he flies back to Croatia to be with his partner. Klepatan and the love of his life Malena are birds, storks to be more specific and they have been continuing their long distance romance for the past 16 years. Klepatan is one of millions of birds that travel thousands of kilometers between South Africa and Croatia as the weather warms. But his relationship with Malena is one of the kind. In 1993, Malena was shot by a hunter in Croatia. A school caretaker named Stephon Vanke found the wounded bird and took her home. He cared for the bird until she was healthy and named her Malena which means little one. Stephon nursed Malena back to health, but she still cannot fly probably. He wanted to make sure that Malena didn’t miss out on the joy of motherhood. To help her find her mate, Stephon build her a nest on top of his house. In that nest, Malena and Klepatan first met, fell in love and have raised many baby storks. The local media celebrated Klepatan yearly visits. There is a twenty four hours live video feed of Malena nest playing in the capital of Croatia. Klepatan not only arrived on the same days but often the same hour. In 2016, he broke the pattern and arrived 6 days late. It was so out of characters that people panic that something terrible must have happened to him. When another shooter arrived in this place, Malena would accept no substitute for Klepatan. She attacked the new bird until he flew off.

Klepatan and Malena had four to five baby storks every year. Since Malena can only fly short distances. Clapathon handle the fly training of the children. In March, Klepatan departs again on his thirteen thousand kilometer fly home leaving Malena behind. This is when Stephon steps in again to keep Malena from getting lonely. He said after Klepatan leaves Malena, she mourns for 10 days. Then I take her in the car to the meadow for fishing to take her mind off it. During the cold winter months, he bring Malena into his house to live with him. The ever caring Stephon feeds her fish and the unlikely pairs watch the nature documentaries together on TV.