

On the Job

The love hypnotist is in

Collin Rosati can help you find your heart's desire. Careful what you wish for

LAURALIND

Hypnotist Collin Rosati is walking down the street, talking on his cellphone. He's just put an offer in on a house today. I ask him how much he bid. It's in the mid 300s, but he tells me: "I could go in, scramble their brains and let them give it to me for free." Now that's a more useful skill than the usual hypnotist's gimmick of getting people to quack like ducks. He wouldn't "scramble their brains," he says, because it's unethical. "I would lose my licence to practise hypnotism so fast." Funny about that, since no one issues hypnosis licences in Ontario, according to Dr. Georgina Cannon, the director of the Ontario Hypnosis Centre where Rosati studied. "Hypnotism isn't regulated in Ontario," she says. "There's no governing body or anyone keeping tabs on who is practising."

As far as using hypnosis to convince someone to give you a house for free, Cannon says, "That's nonsense. You can't take over someone's brains — otherwise I'd take over Johnny Depp's and he'd live with me."

Then she reconsiders. "Unless he was talking about neuro linguistic programming. That can confuse people."

Sure enough, on Rosati's press release, it says he does NLP. I suspect what Rosati or Cannon aren't willing to reveal is that hypnotists are controlling the real estate market in Toronto and that half the people living in Bridle Path mansions are disciples of Rasputin. That's why the prices are so screwy.

But we are not here to discuss real estate (my true love). It's a scant five days until Valentine's and Rosati, The Love Hypnotist, is here to promote his upcoming appearance in Toronto. He will help audience members "bring their romantic dreams to life" by demonstrating "how to unite the separate desires of the mind, body and soul into a powerful force that will unleash the magic hidden in the subconscious mind."

He has 10 tips for finding romance. I'll give you the first three: 1. The journey begins in your heart — open yourself to the possibility of love.

2. Love is blind — close your eyes to your own faults

3. Love is personal — clear your mind of subconscious sabotage and past baggage. Etc., etc. If you want more, you can buy his CD.

But it's basically the same type of stuff you can read in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, Kahlil Gibran or Seventeen magazine. What's compelling about Rosati is the way he delivers these age-old adages.

It's his Bambi eyes. I asked him how he got into hypnosis, figuring that he must have just looked in the bathroom mirror one day, nodded off and realized he was born to put people to sleep. I imagined it was much the same way that someone like Shaquille O'Neil might look in the bathroom mirror, see his belly button where his face ought to be, and realize the NBA was his destiny.

But Rosati came to hypnosis by teaching music to children and working as an economist. "It's very similar," he tells me, because he made CDs to help children learn music, and he did presentations as an economist. Therapeutic hypnotists do both of these things.

Further, you don't have to have eyes like Bambi or the snake from The Jungle Book to become a hypnotist. Cannon says you just need a great voice (she has a great voice). Also, she says, you have to be a very good listener, you don't let your mental baggage transfer to the students, you have to be non-judgmental and you have to move at the client's pace. "It's like shining a light in a theatre to help someone find their seat."

In her view, if people are having problems with relationships or finding partners, that's not the only place it will show up. They'll have problems in other places in their lives as well.

You mean they're just losers?

"No, no, no! I do not mean that at all. They might not be able to do it because they haven't been taught. If they've been brought up in homes without loving, how do they know?"

According to Rosati, the key to fulfilling your dreams — romantic or otherwise — is to remove the stumbling blocks and low standards we set for ourselves.

Then we can have anything we want.

I absolutely agree with the man. My brother, for example, has always known exactly what he wanted. When he was in his early 20s, our oil-magnate cousin gave him a Mercedes 190 SL convertible. He married a Playboy bunny, who's now a U.S. television star. They live in an oceanfront house with an elevator. He's gone drinking with Brad Pitt.

I drive a smashed-up old Buick, my cousin (the one that gave my brother a 190 SL) gave me a scarf, my house is 15 feet wide, and I can't go drinking because I have a nervous stomach. I am a loser.

But Rosati says he can change all this. Before he puts me in a hypnotic trance, he says I can ask for anything, including winning the lottery, but it has to be my heart's desire. I go through a grocery list of wants and narrow it down to three: My dream house, 47 Wanless Crescent (MLS #C599174, mls.ca), a \$500,000 book advance or winning lottery numbers. But in my state of hypnosis, which I remember perfectly as a time of real clarity, my heart's desire is that my husband, daughter and I are in a field wrapped in this golden light, reaching up toward a golden orb of love, sort of like we're playing ultimate Frisbee.

What a stupid wish.

I could have had anything. But I picked happiness and I'm miserable about that.

If you have any better or more tangible wishes, romantic or otherwise, Rosati's seminar will be held in Toronto on Sunday, at 3:30 p.m. At the Omega Centre Bookstore, 29 Yorkville Ave., 416-975-9086. Admission \$10. If you win the lottery as a result of attending, I'd like a 10% cut.

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