

Real Biography
Oct 27-89 MW

Klar, Estee

Tale of a successful young woman

Art lover finds happiness in the gallery

If I were about to author a romance novel, I would tell the tale of a young princess who ran off to a far away kingdom with her foreign prince.

She would be the daughter of a successful, sophisticated gentleman; a champion breadwinner and patron of the fine arts whose love for his daughter and concern for her future well being and happiness was exceeded only by his respect for his wife.

Like her father, she would be a lover of culture and the arts; indeed, from the time she was old enough to untie her own designer bib, she would spend countless hours rehearsing her piano playing, her sleek young fingers gliding relentlessly across the ivory keys of the family Steinway.

Too much, eh? Well, I guess it all depends on your perspective.

Estee Klar, the Mississauga Civic Centre Art Gallery's 24-year-old assistant curator, doesn't deny that she's been dealt a winning hand in the poker game of life. (That was her life story, by the way). She has all the cards; it's now really just a matter of how she chooses to play them.

She's an only child from a comfortable home. No, make that a wealthy home. Dad, Michael Klar, is president and CEO at Northern Technologies.

And while beauty may be only skin deep, life has a tendency to unfold more favorably for someone who appears to be a cross between Michelle Pfeiffer and Sally Field.

Good looks, and a dowry the size of the Erin Mills Town Centre. What more could a man want?

To love Estee for her mind,



Gerry Timbers

means that you have come to appreciate the best part.

"Just the fact that I'm an only child is probably enough to make you think I'm spoiled, but that's not the case here," Estee confided recently, with just a trace of a girlish giggle to accent her sincerity.

"I mean, I realize it's a luxury for me that I can decide to go into this field. The arts isn't a business in which you are likely to make a lot of money. That's why you have

to do several things at once; to satisfy all your interests, and to make some money."

You have to be good to be lucky, and Estee seems to make her own luck.

A graduate of Mississauga's Holy Name Of Mary, Estee eventually graduated from the University Of Toronto with a degree in Fine Art History. Prior to that, though, she managed to secure a four-month work placement at the City's new Civic Centre Gallery.

She made her debut in local art circles, as did the gallery, in June of 1987. Both were a hit. Gallery director/curator Valerie Greenfield, a woman who has built a career from her ability to recognize real talent, promptly brought Estee back for an encore.

Estee currently works under Greenfield's tutelage, arranging

and co-ordinating exhibits. She also researches the artist and his works for the media, acting as a liaison between the gallery and its patrons.

"This job is absolutely perfect for me," Estee admits. "It's directly related to everything I like doing."

Perfect, perhaps, but hardly the end of the rainbow. Not in my romance story.

Estee plans to wed a 28-year-old Czech ex-patriot, who upon graduating from university, will join the federal government's foreign service. He and his young bride will likely spend the next decade globe trotting from one exotic, far off port of call, to another.

"My father, he pretends he's happy to finally be rid of me," Estee says. "My mother? She loves me. I know she'll miss me."

How could she not?

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