

THE MINK COAT

A client of mine recently made an admirably gutsy, maybe even overzealous run at unabashedly putting himself out there. He did so by giving a woman that he adored but had dated for only a few months a full-length mink coat. Now, I've got to tell you, this gentleman is well heeled, but he's not rolling in dough, and lest you think otherwise, he's not weak-minded. He thought about what he was doing. He's a very, very loving man and he knows himself quite well. He knows himself well enough to know that he derives a lot of pleasure from giving. So he described to me in detail how much he enjoyed planning the purchase, picking the coat out, and picturing it on the lovely lady of his dreams.

When he surprised her with the coat, she was overwhelmed with excitement and she did exactly what you would imagine. Through her enthusiasm, she stuttered and stammered about not knowing if she should keep the coat. Well the gentleman did something, which I think showed a great deal of clarity on his part. He just looked at her and was enjoying the glee and the pleasure of giving the coat to her and the excitement inherent in the unpredictability of the moment, and loved watching how pleased she was. Then it occurred to him that she wanted him to resolve her discomfort by insisting that she either keep the coat, or by suggesting that she give it back to him.

But I'll tell you, this man is a clear thinker. He knows where his responsibility ends and others' responsibility for themselves begins. So he just kept smiling and said, "Oh, that part about deciding

whether or not to keep the coat - that's your part. My part was to give it to you.” I think this event illustrates how you can embellish your life with clarity and simplicity by creatively giving honest expression to your feelings, and then letting others select and take responsibility for their responses. Their response is not your part.

Thanks for listening. This is Rick Carson, The Gremlin Tamer, inviting you to join me again when I'll do my best to go from my heart to the Heart of the Matter.

©COPYRIGHT The Gremlin Taming Institute™ 2002

Close