



AUTUMN LOVE

She was one of the prettiest young women in Israel. He dreamed of her and secretly composed love songs for her. And then, at age of 60 they finally met. Former Israel's beauty queen Ronit Rinat and the Psychologist Dr. Moti Peleg. The wedding bells are ringing...

By Tzipora Roman

Translated from Hebrew

On January 1964, Ronit Rinat was crowned as Israel's Miss Beauty Queen. Moti Peleg, a country boy, age 17 from Ganei Yochanan, a small village in the south of Israel was a student in the Air Force Academy in Haifa, when watching Ronit's striking beauty on a magazine cover, Moti related feeling unexplainable pressure in his stomach. "I dreamed then that some day I'll be an accomplished man, well recognized and sought after and I'll marry the most beautiful woman on Earth, Ronit. "Her Eyes hypnotized me," said Moti. He kept her image in his heart and soul and through the years composed songs inspired by her image.

Ronit had no clue who Moti was, and never knew he existed.

42 years later, on July 13th, this year Ronit and Moti both at their 60s are going to get married.

Ronit is a widow, mother of three kids, and a grandmother to eight grandchildren, who all live in Los Angeles, USA. Ronit spent most of her years in LA.

Dr. Peleg is a divorced man, who lives in Jew Jersey for many years having a son and daughter from his ex wife Toni. Both children are in their 20th.

The first time Ronit and Moti met was a year ago. But the spiritual connection was set off the first time he saw her. "I never bothered her all these years, I was a secret admirer, romantic and shy" Dr. Peleg said. "She was always in my thoughts, deep in my heart. I believed that some day against all odds, destiny will get us together."

Thirty six years ago Moti came to America to study Psychology (with broken English, little money and with an unstoppable determination.). To support himself economically, Moti performed and sung accompanying himself with his guitar in local Israeli Midwestern clubs and pubs and Jewish community centers. He became a successful Psychologist, married an American woman he loved and respected and built a family.

"Yet through the years, Ronit's idealized image was somewhere in my mind as I kept being reminded of her whereabouts by Israeli tabloids and magazines.

"Did your wife know about it?"

Dr. Peleg: "My wife knew I was nuts about Israel and about my Jewish heritage. She was aware of my continuous longing to my family of origin in Israel and to the country. Even my Doctorate thesis focused on Israeli Immigrants whose hearts where torn between Israel and America. My wife had no clue about Ronit's existence or about my idealized image of her. I myself wasn't aware of her existence in my soul. Eight years ago our marriage ended. I'm divorced now".

Six months ago, Dr. Peleg asked an acquaintance of his to find out about Ronit's whereabouts, He found out that two years earlier Ronit lost her husband to a long battle with cancer. He also said to Moti that Ronit moved back to Israel and now she is the director and founder of "Council" a non profit organization whose goal is to facilitate a compassionate, none judgmental listening and communicating practice. "She is still a knock out with a compelling beauty! You have no chance..." said his friend.

Moti said "I had to go after my dream. I dared calling her. Within minutes after introducing myself I felt a connection with her. We were like two soul-mates who were lost in space and found one another. There was a feeling of being at home with her." Moti said and smiled.

Ronit: "When he first called me and told me how much he idealized my image through the years, I thought what a nudge, but he kept calling and calling and I

gave him the opportunity to open up more and listen to what he wanted to express. Within a few months, the communication between us got stronger as it felt comfortable to talk to him. I felt mesmerized with a growing pull towards him. A year later Ronit went to visit her family in L.A. and decided also to make a stop in the East Coast and Visit Moti. She was moved by a CD Moti sent her with a song he wrote, composed and recorded especially for her. While on her way to the airport she listened to the song's lyrics: "Where are you the woman, where are you the girl, where are you the soul I was looking for..."

"The lyrics were compelling" said Ronit." I had Goosebumps all over my body" Ronit recalled.

"The Woman-Child-Soul was exactly what I was exploring in my workshops and what I always missed connecting to. How did he know it?" Ronit related that she remembered telling Moti over the phone after he revealed to her of his affection and warm feelings which he harbored for her for 42 years, I told him: "you are in love with an image, a pretty young girl from the past .You don't really know me, you never met me, you have no idea who I really am. When I heard this song I felt he knew me. I knew I had to see him."

"He was a successful psychologist, a singer and a simple person full of charm and with superficiality, but at my age I look for something deeper than that. I also felt that it was important for me to let Moti see the real me, the woman the child the soul and not necessary to focus on the exterior look of the beauty queen. I asked him to join me in Council.

He agreed. In the process of talking we got closer to one another and were able to quickly remove many layers of ourselves. We began to learn about ourselves with no judgment.

Since this first Council, our relationship grew stronger and stronger. Moti joined the Council as he became inspired by the guidance of my spiritual teacher Dr. Jack Zimmerman, the founder of this organization. When I'm in New Jersey, I bring my Council tools to Dr. Peleg for those few patients that might be interested in building new communication skills. We intend to strengthen our skills and spread them in Israel as well.

And now you are getting married?

Ronit: All my life I was looking for a man who can see my soul and connect with me spiritually. Unfortunately my first husband had reached this goal only after he got sick. With Moti my connection is very real and exciting. Our story is a gift we would like to share with others and through our workshops we wish to give them the tools to learn more about their inner selves, to let them touch their soul, listen to themselves and to the people who surround them.

Where will you live?

Ronit: Our home base will be located in Israel. Moti will go back to New Jersey every few weeks and will direct the operation of his clinic, then I'll join him for a few more weeks and from there I'll fly to L.A. to visit my children and grandchildren. So basically the emphasis will be on Israel, as we coordinate workshops in the USA as well.