

The power of **love**

- Swedish teacher sells house, land, car and thriving family business for life in TnT

By *Cecily Asson* email: cecilyasson@tntmirror.com

The power of rapso not only brought two hearts together, but also caused a 54-year-old Swedish teacher to sell house, land, car, among other personal belongings, folded up the family's thriving business, and influence her Trini husband to join her as she comes home to live in the land of his birth.

"I couldn't resist Trinidad," confessed blushing brand-new grandmother, Anna Romany, of her husband of 13 years Everard Romany.

"After all, rapso music had me totally bowled over, and I figured the only way to deal with that jumbie was to pack up shop and move to Trinidad and be part of this whole rapso movement."

Anna met and fell in love with Everard while he was on a sojourn in Sweden.

Everard had been given a free ride to Sweden by a Swedish woman whom he met one J'Ouvert morning.

He was heartbroken at the time, and so seized the opportunity to get away as far as possible from his troubles. It was during that time he met Anna.

And although she never visited Trinidad, what she heard and learnt from Everard was enough at the time to convince her that this is where she wanted to spend the rest of her life.



ANNA ROMANY and her husband EVERARD ... back home for Carnival 2K5.

She told Sunday Punch her husband, who is known in the rapso world as Brother Shortman and who, back in the 70s, along with Brother Resistance brought rapso music to the fore, now thinks she is mad for wanting to come to Trinidad to live.

"He never wanted to come back home, but I am the one who wanted to, because I felt, together, we have work to do here."

It's Anna's first time ever in Trinidad.

She said ever since she learnt rapso from her husband, she has been begging him to move back home just so that she could become more involved in the music.

"I just decided to make it happen this year and here I am just loving the experience."

An excited Anna, who is also an artist and has travelled extensively across the world, has collaborated with her husband, Everard, on a CD for C2K5 The Awakening, Volume 1.

The mother of three grown sons from her first marriage and now a grandmother, hails from a very conservative middle-class Swedish family.

Romany, a father of two from a previous relationship, on the other hand, hails from Laventille and calls himself "a true ghetto man" who grew up in poverty.

The couple has no children between them.

"I didn't want to return," the father of two chipped in.

"The truth is I didn't want to remember my past, I was doing well in Sweden and that was important.

"My wife actually dragged me back home ..."

It's only been seven weeks since they are Trinidad.

Everard has chosen not to settle in his hometown of Laventille but now lives with his wife in Petit Valley instead.

"She wants to spread rapso and here I am with her," he ended.