

IGNITE/YOUTH



Business in Bed

Turning on the Red Light With a Gay Male Escort

BY MATT ALDERTON

Adam lives a double life. By day he studies mathematics at a prestigious and private Chicago-area university. By night, he closes his books and goes to work. When the sun goes down the red light turns on, Adam is a gay male escort.

At 21, Adam, as he's known at work, is an attractive man—tall and athletic. When he speaks, his hands do as much talking as his mouth. He oozes animation and he drips energy. And on the first day in May he took a few moments to turn down the techno music that rattles his college dorm room in order to speak with me about drugs, money and, of course, sex.

Matt: How did you break into escorting?

Adam: It happened like two years ago when I was home for the summer. I was probably in an Internet chatroom, and those chat sites are filled with people who are

either escorts or looking to hire escorts. So I started talking to this guy who was looking for an escort and he said, "Do you wanna come out?" ... I drove 80 miles to this guy's place and I did it and it ended up working out that that summer I worked for him and he hired me three nights a week and I think I got paid \$600 a week. I think that was when I realized that escorting's not just about having sex with somebody. What they're looking for is some sort of relationship. And that's what this guy was looking for too, some sort of companionship which he wasn't able to have pretty much because he had a horrible personality and was ugly. ... So that was my first experience and I came back here and started doing it here and I've been doing it ever since.

Matt: Were you thinking "Oh my god, I'm a prostitute?"

Adam: No, not really because I've never been a truly judgmental person with regards

to sex. I guess that some people would say that I'm morally degenerate or whatever with regards to my views on sex. When I got done with it I was like "God, that wasn't too horrible and I have \$150 in my pocket." And moreover, how better can you boost your own self-esteem than by thinking "Oh my god, somebody just paid to have sex with me?" Somebody's willing to give you \$200 to spend an hour with you. Not only does that confirm that you're a wanted person, but that you're personality may not be half bad.

Matt: What's the worst part?

Adam: Having to always put on this air that clients are important to me. It is a business transaction and you don't want some sort of involved emotional relationship. But at the same time if it's just about money then what good is that?

Matt: How much do you get paid? Are there different rates for different things?

Adam: There aren't different rates for different activities. That's the whole legality of it. I'm not paid for sex and I would never commit to any sort of activity with a person. It's \$150 an hour if I work independently and if I go through an agency \$200 an hour. Independent work is done mostly through

the Internet, and there are a lot of sites devoted to it. An agency is under a pimp.

Matt: What's your pimp like?

Adam: He's amazing. That's really the only reason I keep working for the agency. He grew up on the North Shore, his parents are pretty wealthy, and was in an ad exec position for 10 or 15 years and said, "This isn't what I want to do." So he got out of it and bummed around for a year and decided, "What would be better than driving around in a car and smoking pot all day and having young boys be around you all the time?" He's so nice and so respectful. You don't find many genuine people and he is.

Matt: What's your average appointment like?

Adam: It's usually like an hour, sometimes two. Overnights are rare. Generally you get there and you'll talk at first, then you'll sort of fool around, then you just sort of lie around in bed and chat. I would say that out of an hour's worth of time that there's probably 15 or 20 minutes devoted to sex. The other 40 minutes is just sort of bullshitting.

Matt: What are your clients like?

Turn to page 48

YOUTH FROM 22

Adam: There's such a wide range of clients. I've had sex with people that are top political figures in Chicago or industry leaders nationwide to people that have been saving up for a month to spend \$200 to hire me.

Matt: What do you use your escorting money for?

Adam: Last week I probably made \$2,400 and I don't know where it goes. A lot of it goes for drugs. I don't buy any sort of durable goods because then my parents would know. Everything I buy has to be something I can get rid of very quickly, and it just so happens that things I get rid of quickly go up my nose. If you are young and gay and you have money what else are you gonna spend it on aside from drugs and alcohol? But other people have concerns like paying rent or buying groceries, which aren't things I'm concerned with.

Matt: Are there any rules for escorting? Lines that you can't or won't cross?

Adam: I would never allow myself to be tied up. I won't be on the receiving end of anal sex. My only grovel is that people have to have respect for me and if they aren't gonna have respect for me then I'll tell them immediately that they can go eat a dick.

Matt: Have you had any really bad experiences?

Adam: One of my worst experiences was with this guy who was older and much dirtier than most of my clients. He was telling me about his most recent trip to Costa Rica and how he was able to hire 15-year-old boys to have sex with him. And immediately I was just like "Oh my god I have no interest in this. I just wanna get out of here."

Matt: What's the strangest thing you've

ever been asked to do?

Adam: I had this client who had some sort of issue with the Catholic Church. Essentially what he asked me to do was—he brings a chalice and communion wafers and he likes to sit on the floor and hold the chalice and you have to pee into the chalice. Then he dips the communion bread into the chalice and he eats it. Then he finishes the evening by asking you to take the communion bread that's been dipped in the chalice of your own urine and then insert it into his ass.

Matt: Do people close to you know you're an escort? How have they reacted?

Adam: Most of my friends back home know. Some people here know. I think my sister has her suspicions. Everybody has reacted extremely well to the situation and I think that has something to do with the type of people I choose to be around. People that have had a hard time with it I think is because they don't understand why I would do it. It's not really about money and I think sometimes it's difficult for my friends to understand that there are psychological services involved that can be provided through escorting.

Matt: Do you ever feel like you're leading a double life? How do you balance being a male escort and being a student at a prestigious private university?

Adam: I like it. I do feel like I'm leading a double life and I think one of the best things about escorting is that I can live this fantasy life. I'm so far removed from all the nastiness that's involved with going to [my school], all the arrogance and pompousness that goes with the students here. And to be able to get away from that is so wonderful because I hate it so much. It's such a release for me.