

LEAVING LAS VEGAS

SERA

I'm from the East. I went to college, did an arts course. I now live in Vegas. I think of it as home. I came here deliberately to carve out a life. I was in LA before, but I'll come back to that later.

(pause)

The tough times are behind me now. I can deal with the bad things that happen. There will always be dark characters. But my life is good. It is as I would want it to be. So, why are you a drunk?

BEN

Is that really what you want to ask me?

SERA

Yes.

BEN

(worried)

Well, then I guess this is our first date... or our last. Until now, I wasn't sure it was either.

SERA

Very clever.

Sera thinks for a while and decides to give in to him on this.

SERA

First. It's our first. I'm just concerned. So... why are

you killing yourself?

BEN

Interesting choice of words.
I don't remember. I just know
that I want to.

SERA

Want to kill yourself? Are
you saying that you're
drinking as a way to kill
yourself?

And she leans across the table to be close to him, listening
intently. Ben becomes uncomfortable and tries to joke it off.

BEN

Or killing myself as a way to
drink.

Sera continues to stare at him, wanting to know the real
answer. He takes a slug from his drink. She sits back.

BEN

We'll talk about it some
other time maybe. OK?

Sera relaxes and continues with her food. We hear her
thoughts for a moment.

SERA (v.o)

It wasn't so important to me.
I mean, he never asked me why
I was a hooker, and that was
impressive. I really liked
him. So I decided to just
play my part. I mean... it's
good to help someone once in
a while., it's a bonus to
being alive, and that was my
plan... to stay alive. I
suddenly came to a decision.

BEN

What are you thinking? Are
you angry with me?

SERA

(decides something)

Ben, why don't you stay at my place tonight? I mean... look, you're so drunk. I like you. I trust you.

BEN

That's astonishing. Sera, look...

SERA

I hate to think of you in that cheesy motel. I mean... And she folds her arms and grins at him.

SERA

Let's face it, what the fuck are you doing in Las Vegas?

BEN

(overwhelmed by her)
I'm going to move to a smart hotel, tomorrow if it'll make you feel better.
(looks at her)
Let's talk about tomorrow.
Wanna do something?

SERA

(warmly)
Sure... tonight. Then please stay at my place.

BEN

Sera... you know I'm not much good in the sack.

SERA

It's not about sex, Ben. I'll make you up a bed on the sofa. Do it for me. We can

talk till late and then sleep
till late. As you know, I am
my own boss.

Ben laughs loud, the most animated we've seen him, and his
laugh as infectious, and Sera join in. Other diners turn to
stare at them. They seem like a couple.