

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

SERA

I have some presents for you.

BEN

Sorry, I was miles away.

SERA presents a bag to BEN.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ahhh, the gifts. Sera... I love that name. S-E-R-A. Before we proceed onwards, there's something I have to say, okay?

SERA

Okay.

BEN

I've come this far. Here I am, in your house. I want you to let me pay this month's rent, all right?

SERA

No. Why?

BEN

Because... Because it's better for me that way, okay?

SERA

Okay.

BEN

I'll tell you, right now. I'm in love with you. But, be that as it may, I am not here to force my twisted soul into your life.

SERA

I know that.

BEN

We both know I'm a drunk. And I know you're a hooker. I hope you understand that I'm a person who is totally at ease with this. Which is not to say that I'm indifferent, or I don't care. I do. It simply means I trust and accept your judgment.

SERA

I was really worried about how that would be. But, now I'm not. But you should know that included with the rent around here is a complimentary blowjob.

BEN

Oh, yes. I suppose sooner or later we ought to fuck.

SERA

Whatever that means.

(Beat)

Open your presents.

BEN

Presents!!

SERA

Okay. All right.

(Pulls a box out of the bag and hands to BEN)

Open this one first.

BEN opens GIFT BOX containing a new shirt.

BEN

Very nice. This should go very nicely with my suit, which, by the way, is the only item of clothing I brought over from the motel with me.

SERA

Oh, right, the suitcase was clinking. What did you do with your clothes?

BEN

I threw them out. Which was, perhaps, immoral, but I wanted to come to you clean, so to speak. I thought we'd go shopping, pick out a pair of jeans and 45 pairs of underwear and just throw one out each day.

SERA

That's nice talk, Ben, keep drinking. Between the 101-proof breath and the occasional drool, some interesting words fall from your mouth.

SERA hands BEN another gift. BEN unwraps it to find a flask. He takes it in.

BEN

Well, it looks like I'm with the right girl. I must say I'm very impressed you would buy this for me. I'm gonna fill it right now.

SERA

Hey, do you wanna go gambling tonight? I was thinking maybe we could go and just play for a few hours.

BEN

(Pulling out a wad of cash)

I hadn't planned to gamble, but if you could keep the bulk of my money, I could safely blow a couple hundred bucks.

(Hands cash to SERA)

Giving you money makes me want to come.

SERA

Then come.