

PEACE: Sherry's immigrant joke

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 29 Oct 2002, 01:36

Sherry tells Weer that joke about the immigrant who writes back to his cousin about how on the first day in the new country a person eats free in the best restaurant, sleeps in the most luxurious hotel, and gets a hatful of money and jewels.

The cousin writes back and says "This happened to you?"

And the first guy says, "Not to me, no; but to my _sister_."

At the first glancing and most innocent level, this joke has the form of urban legends -- i.e., the wonderful is always a step removed yet still at some believable relation ("it didn't happen to me but to a friend of my friend").

The more realistic level of the joke is that the sister has prostituted herself (a native has wined, dined, bedded, and paid her) and the immigrants are too naive to understand such prostitution, for any variety of reasons (for example, they always got the same in the old country and were still treated like dirt).

This is a curious joke to come from a girl who has just prostituted herself for purposes of blackmail!

But it also matches well with what we know about Doris: as a pretty yet mundane girl in the carny world, her roles are limited to using her body for titilation or outright prostitution, and she is treated like dirt. But if she were a freak, she would be an aristocrat among the carnies.

I make this parallel not to link Sherry and Doris as being the same person, or even related, but being both young women feeling pressure to prostitute themselves.

=mantis=