

PEACE: Sherry vs. Doris

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 31 Oct 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3531>

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Roy C. Lackey — 31 Oct 2002, 00:51

mantis (no capital; likewise alga and hartshorn) wrote:

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.

Other than age, I don't see that the two girls have much in common. Doris is ostensibly an orphan; Sherry is not. Doris has "victim" written all over her, whereas Sherry is anything but. Judging by Charlie's account, Doris is naive, not only sexually (Charlie said that someone would have to tell her how she could show she was grateful for Tom Lavine's failed gallantry), but she didn't know better than to wear her new clothes "with the labels still on". Sherry is, by her own mother's account, a very "forward" girl (as demonstrated by her blowing Weer a kiss while on the stairs of her home, to say nothing of her seduction of Weer), fully prepared to use her "magic ring" to make all her wishes come true. In Doris's place, Sherry would have soon been queen of the midway, had she wanted to be, or, more likely, been on the first bus out of town, and with money in her pocket, to boot.

-Roy

Michael Andre-Driussi — 31 Oct 2002, 01:53 · follows Roy C. Lackey

I wrote about Sherry's joke. Roy quoted and wrote:

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demonstrated by her blowing Weer a kiss while on the stairs of her home, to say nothing of her seduction of Weer), fully prepared to use her "magic ring" to make all her wishes come true. In Doris's place, Sherry would have soon been queen of the midway, had she wanted to be, or, more likely, been on the first bus out of town, and with money in her pocket, to boot.

And here I thought we might have different interpretations of the joke (in light of the Jonas joke)!

But wait -- you think they are the same age? Hmmm. I thought we had agreed that Doris is younger than 16.

As for the differences in character between Doris and Sherry, I agree. Their situations at those two moments might be similar, but their characters are different. One is an orphan; one often thinks of leaving home before she finishes high school. All of which is another strike against Doris = Sherry.

Doris is presented as a "good" girl who comes to a bad end; as opposed to "bad" girl Olivia who comes to a bad end, and "bad" girl Sherry who comes to not as bad an ending (as far as we can tell she lives into her late 30s, does not commit suicide, is not murdered). Maybe this is what is depressing to Weer, the way that she is pecked at by the others, and she doesn't have the strength and whatall to escape.

If Weer somehow did arrange for that fairy godmother routine, I'm sure he would be depressed at how that worked out.

=mantis=

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