

AUTHENTIC TOURS

Episode Two

"The Tourist"

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OVER BLACK

The AMBIENT NOISE from within a lift as it ASCENDS.

SALLY (V.O.)
I've met a lot of Normans in my
time and they only want one thing.

WOMAN (V.O.)
What?

SALLY (V.O.)
Power. Control. Domination.
Subjugation. Tyranny.

The lift PINGS as it arrives at the requested floor. We hear
the lift doors OPEN.

SALLY (V.O.)
I could go on...

The NOISE of Sally and the WOMAN leaving the lift.

INT. SALLY'S HOTEL ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Sally's hotel room is SMALL and TYPICAL. We see her lying on
a DOUBLE BED, watching a popular COOKING SHOW with a FEMALE
PRESENTER on the TELEVISION. Sally sips COFFEE from a MUG.

SALLY (V.O.)
I would call myself a feminist,
yeah... but sex positive, and
definitely not a victim.

Sally watches as the presenter EATS a mouthful of a newly-
prepared and hearty looking DISH WITH CHEESE.

SALLY
(of the TV)
See, what is this here - like a
domestic goddess of perfection?
We're held to her standard.

CUT TO:

Sally making a NOTE of something on her PHONE - her eyes
flick back and forth between it and the TV.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(of the DISH)
I might try that actually, but with
a substitute for the cheese.

Sally GETS UP from the bed and picks up a TOWEL that had been covering a tall, thin STRUCTURE and walks into the BATHROOM.

SALLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (calling)
 Hey, the hotel didn't send you,
 right? The maids think that I'm -
 like - up to no good in here.

We see now that the STRUCTURE is a WEBCAM mounted on a TRIPOD and connected to a HALF-OPEN LAPTOP nearby on the floor. A PINK FEATHER BOA is tangled around one of the tripod legs.

SALLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (calling)
 You tell them: they can look up the
 laws - all of them - all unbroken.

CLOSE ON: a SMALL PADLOCK locking shut her CLOSED SUITCASE.

INT. SALLY'S SMALL HOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sally washes her face and looks at herself in the MIRROR. We see a SMALL COLLECTION OF BOTTLE CAPS on the CISTERN.

SALLY (V.O.)
 I do all the right things for my
 baby. Eat right. Make money. I
 exercise. Sometimes two or three
 tours when I'm not real busy.

Sally dries her face with the TOWEL she looks EXHAUSTED - maybe even DEFEATED. She notices the WOMAN filming:

SALLY
 (perkier)
 I'm trying to do new things as
 well. Study, maybe. Like, new
 skills for the baby...

Sally cracks a little with EMOTION - tries to laugh it off:

SALLY (CONT'D)
 Ah, the hormones - the bloody
 hormones! Sorry, I'm also just
 tired. Hungry too - hangry!

The WOMAN moves to allow Sally to leave the SMALL BATHROOM.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - RECEPTION

We see Sally is making an enquiry at the RECEPTION:

SALLY
Yeah, the wifi - is there any way
that we can rev it up a bit?

The smartly-dressed MALE RECEPTIONIST is friendly, but WARY
of the camera - he speaks with a light BULGARIAN ACCENT:

MALE RECEPTIONIST
No.
(politely)
Your wifi is working?

Disappointed, Sally NODS and heads for the EXIT.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE HOTEL - MINUTES LATER

The weather has improved since earlier - it is not raining.

SALLY
(to the WOMAN)
So, I know this great little
Canadian place downtown?

The WOMAN is SILENT.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(mocking her)
Calm down! I'm kidding. There is -
like - one in the city, but it's
way central and they don't even
serve whale blubber. Boo...

Sally starts to lead them off down the STREET.

EXT. BRICK LANE CURRY HOUSE - NIGHT

A WAITER, 37, male, south-Asian, pushes open the door to the
CURRY HOUSE and comes out to greet Sally:

WAITER
All right, Sally!

SALLY
Hey, guy!

The waiter ushers her inside.

WAITER
Come, come - bring your friend.

INT. BRICK LANE CURRY HOUSE - NIGHT

The CURRY HOUSE is half filled - Sally is seated at a table opposite the WOMAN and CAMERA - a group of FOUR MEN are sitting nearby - they are LAUGHING and JOKING rowdily.

In front of Sally, the WAITER places a SMALL BOTTLE OF BEER - he is about to open it, but stops as he remembers:

WAITER

Ah, no - for later - of course.

The waiter departs to attend to some other business. Sally surreptitiously puts the unopened bottle down by her feet.

SALLY

You're allowed one unit every other day - that was my mom's rule. Anyway, the legal age in this country is - like - 24 weeks, eh?

(beat)

We can't have it here though - you Brits are way judgy. In Alberta - in the winter - babies drink.

The waiter returns with a MENU, he jokes with Sally:

WAITER

(cheery)

She is... vegan food - one dish.

(holding up a DIGIT)

One. Menu is one-hundred-forty-seven - we now call "Sally's Dish".

(nodding)

The chef - he cooks for Sally.

Sally BLUSHES awkwardly, but affectionately.

SALLY

(to WOMAN)

I feel bad - what is your name?

WAITER

(misunderstanding)

Tamim. Same as big cricket star in Bangladesh. Batsman - left hand...

SALLY

Oh, right...

WAITER

He is named after me, but I am right-handed - very different.

Tamim mimes a CRICKET STROKE. Sally NODS, slightly bemused.

SALLY

Super.

Tamim takes out a PEN and ORDER PAD and turns to the WOMAN behind the camera:

TAMIM

To special friends of Sally we offer special deal: one Sally's Dish, one naan, one pilau, one small bottle beer - ten pound.

WOMAN (O.S.)

I've already eaten, thank you - perhaps a very small beer?

Tamim shapes to leave.

SALLY

(to Tamim)

Extra spicy - yeah - real hot?

TAMIM

The beer is not spicy, Sally - and we keep it in the fridge.

Tamim CHUCKLES WARMLY to communicate that he understands what she really means and then leaves to attend to the order.

One of the FOUR MEN leans over DRUNKENLY to Sally:

MAN

You her special friend, love?

Sally FREEZES UP.

SALLY

(to WOMAN)

I told you. You're filming, right?

MAN

What's the matter, are you too special to talk to me?

Sally turns to address him:

SALLY

No, sir - but it's our anniversary. You should come and join us. We used your sperm to make the baby.

MAN
(aggressive)
What are you talking about?

The MAN stands his ground, but is clearly thrown by Sally.

Unaware of all this, Tamim comes back and places a SMALL BOTTLE OF BEER and POPPADOMS on the women's table.