

HANDSOME MAN

INT. A BAR - LATER

POV of someone watching DERE who's at the bar, nursing a cocktail. She glances around the room watching people milling around, dancing, talking, etc. We follow this person as they approach DERE. Reveal a handsome, well-groomed (perhaps too well-groomed) man, with a drink in his hand. It's obviously something expensive. He motions to the empty seat next to DERE.

HANDSOME MAN
Excuse me - is this seat free?

DERE
Yes.

HANDSOME MAN motions to the empty seat.

HANDSOME MAN
May I?

DERE
It's a free country.

HANDSOME MAN
Indeed.
(beat)
Are you waiting for someone?

DERE
No -

HANDSOME MAN
Just - people-watching?

DERE
(clocking him)
You'll be surprised what you can
learn about people by just -
looking.

HANDSOME MAN
Really?

DERE looks him over again, then continues to people-watch.

HANDSOME MAN (CONT'D)
Can I buy you a drink, and you can
tutor me in the art of people-
watching...

DERE turns to him, studies him, then makes a decision.

DERE
Are you sure you want to do this?

HANDSOME MAN
(nodding, confident)
Pretty much.

DERE
You can see that I've still got a
drink, right?

HANDSOME MAN
And there's nothing wrong with
having another.

He indicates to the BAR-PERSON.

HANDSOME MAN (CONT'D)
Let's have another one of those for
the lady and some peppered meat...

BAR-PERSON nods respectfully and walks quickly away. He turns to DERE who's studying him thoughtfully. She glances over his shoulder, then back at him.

HANDSOME MAN (CONT'D)
See anything you like?

DERE
This is a transaction, right?

HANDSOME MAN
(puzzled)
What'd you mean?

DERE
You've bought me an unsolicited
drink, which, if I accept, implies
that preliminary talks are agreed.

HANDSOME MAN
(frowns)
Preliminary talks?

DERE
(simply)
Small talk. You ask me my name,
what I do and where I live. You'll
be discreetly trying to gauge my
economic status.

(MORE)

DERE (CONT'D)

If you have a good eye, you'd have discerned whether or not I'm sporting designer labels...

HANDSOME MAN

(impressed)

Wow, you're good. But you're wrong. This is not a transaction. It's an exploration.