

## Driving Miss Sadie: My Brief Adventure into the Sex Industry; or "There's No Business like Ho Business"

By James Lippold

### THE CONTEXT:

Early retirement had left me thinking about finding some type of meaningful activity while earning a few supplemental dollars. Driving as work has appealed to me since childhood, but at this stage I was not interested in the work involved in getting a commercial driver's license nor did I want to do any heavy lifting and loading of trucks. Not working also allowed my body to return to its natural wake/sleep cycle which means I'm up late and sleep late. When I found the following ad, you can see that it looked like a perfect fit for what I had been thinking but with a whole bonus element of prurient interest that exceeded my highest expectations.

Now hiring pt driver.

Private dance company is now looking to hire a part time on call driver. Must be dependable and drama free. Must have a current driver's license, insurance, and an economical vehicle. No vans or trucks please. Must be able to pass a background check and must be a team player who is honest and trustworthy. You must be able to be on call seven days a week from 7pm until 2am. No drugs, alcohol, or drama! Must be located in Spokane only no surrounding areas such as Cheney, Elk, Newman Lake or Idaho.. Please send resume with first and last name with a current number to reach you. Interviewing immediately.

Salary/Wage: 20+ Education: Any Status: Part-time Shift: Nights

• Location: Spokane, Spokane/Id

Hmmm... "Private Dance Company" perhaps a ballerina understudy needing rides to evening performances at the local opera house on nights when the lead is sick? Or, maybe a small modern dance troupe traveling to local venues for impromptu performances?

Most likely, however, I thought it was a job to deliver exotic dancers to bachelor parties or for strip-o-grams hired by "friends" wanting to embarrass some guy or girl on a special occasion. It sounded intriguing enough for me to send off a modified, brief overview version of my work history that deemphasized my Catholic Mission Leadership background.

After a brief phone interview I was hired by a woman only identified as Tara (you know, like the Gone with the Wind plantation name), to start the next Saturday

night for weekends only at first with the possibility for future growth. The sketchy verbal job description seemed to include providing pick-up and delivery service for one or two girls at a time when a dance job came up, and then waiting in the car while the girl[s] performed.

My first disappointment was the first rule from Tara that she was quick to let me know, "Absolutely no hitting-on the girls." Bummer, but I persevered and continued forward. There was also an expectation of providing some type of a "security" function for the dancers. At that point in the interview process Tara obviously didn't know who she was dealing with. I wondered if they would fire me after learning that I was a fat old man who might have limited value in an ass-kicking role as security person. I was told that there had been a disturbing recent trend toward more dangerous clients and unpleasant incidents in their line of work. The bad news just kept coming.

My better judgment, which told me to cut and run, was soundly overruled by combination of simple base male drives, a strong curiosity and admitted excitement regarding learning about this unfamiliar and alluring world. I felt compelled to proceed, however, but only because I consider myself to be a "life-long learner." (:^ ) Then, finally, there was the even weaker reason of wanting to have a paying job. So, I said, "Hell yeah!"

#### THE FIRST SHIFT

Saturday, 6 p.m.: My instructions were to call a phone number Tara gave me at 6 p.m. on each Saturday and Sunday as I went on duty and say, "I am available for work." I made the call and then tried not to be too anxious for the rest of the night wondering if and when I might get a call to go out. I got involved in all kinds of distractions like watching TV, working on the computer to keep my obsessive worries under control. Finally, the 2 a.m. 'quitting time' came without a single call. No ballerinas were needed this night, bullet dodged?

#### THE SECOND SHIFT

Sunday 5:40 pm: My second shift began early when I got a call from Tara who said, what turned out to be the standard phrase "I've got work" which meant that I was to jump in the car, pick her up from wherever she was, and drive her to wherever she needed to go.

She called from the middle of the downtown Spokane area at the central city bus plaza and needed to be picked up there. She doesn't have a car & takes the bus almost everywhere. I described the make/model and color of my car and went out into the cold, snowy night to get my first taste of life on the fringe of the sex industry. At that point I did not realize just how deep into the sex industry I was

about to penetrate.

I arrived at the bus station which is also a community gathering spot for all types of fringe young people hanging out, transients, those making drug deals or who are homeless or even some folks just needing to use the public transportation. When I pulled up to the curb a young woman emerged from the pretty large gathering of people and approached the car, opened the passenger door, stuck her head in and asked if I was Jim. With an affirmative response, she jumped in the car. It was cold out and lightly snowing. She expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the heated seats in my Mercedes.

She was Caucasian, her hair color was brunette and pulled up on the top of her head. She wore jeans with fashionable holes in them, black boots, and an almost little-girl like winter coat with a faux-fur bordered hood. I guessed she was in her later twenties, and moderately good looking. With the winter coat I couldn't tell too much about her figure, except that it did seem as if "Baby Got Back."

Tara needed a ride first to her home on the northern side of town so she could change her clothes and get into her blonde wig. I assumed that tonight's customer had specifically requested a blonde ballerina.

During the en-route chit-chat she confirmed my suspicion that she was not a ballerina, but was pretty vague about exactly what her business was. She did suggest that she was a private exotic dancer and tried to assure me that she was not engaged in anything illegal. She also talked about her "boss," Alexis, who ran the show.

Among other things, Tara said that she does not get along with her roommate at their rental home and hoped to move closer to downtown in the near future as that is where most of her work happened. She said that she & Alexis work most of each of the 7 evenings a week whenever there was work. They are averaging about 5 appointments a week lately, but were much busier when the economy was better. They have been hit hard by the recession. Summers are also much busier than winters and this was December. Alexis has owned this "independent" business for 12 years. Tara has worked for her about 8 years, so a well-established, stable small business. I also assumed that their names were "stage names." I didn't press for too much information too quickly and some topics were felt to be off-limits. When Tara finally emerged from her home to come back out to the car, her appearance had not changed much except for more makeup and the transformation to long, wavy blonde hair.

During car conversations she volunteered that she enjoyed drinking vodka quite a bit. Her plan for Christmas day was to have a fresh bottle on hand at home,

apparently alone. Since she said that she grew up in Spokane, I deduced from this that she was not on the best of terms with whatever family that she had in the area. She also talked glowingly about a neighborhood tavern that she liked to frequent. She said that she has gotten to know the regulars and staff enough to feel comfortable going in by herself. She felt that the folks there would be protective and she felt safe there.

Her appointment tonight was back downtown at a hotel there that I had never heard of. She was to meet a guy named Steve who was in town on business and staying at the hotel. It was pitch black out and a wet snow was steadily falling. When we got close to the hotel, she flipped into a different state of mind. She suddenly became highly focused and gave detailed and very specific directions to me on where to park and where not to park. She was now all business. I was absolutely not to park on the street where the old, turn of the century hotel was located. I was not to park in a spot that might even be visible from the lobby or front door area of the hotel. She did not want to be seen getting out of the car to enter the hotel. We quickly discovered an open parking spot that met all her criteria. We parked around the corner from the hotel on a one-way side street and in the middle of the block.

Before she got out of the car, Tara let me know that she did not expect to be gone very long. She said that an appointment rarely lasted even a full hour. She also gave me further, important instructions about what I was to do if she found herself in some kind of trouble with the customer. We both had our cell phones and if she called me that meant she was in some kind of trouble. Her code words would be, "I have upset this customer, please send another girl." At that point I was to leave the car and go as quickly as possible into the hotel and up to the room she was in, this time it was room #339. Upon arrival, I was then to loudly pound on the door. When the door opened, she would exit and depending on what the status of the problem was, she would either walk out and leave with me or she would make a sudden dash out in full escape mode.

Tara said that the theory was that most guys are so shocked to have a man show up and the loudly banging on the door that they just do nothing. She did, however, relate a recent incident where the customer was not so stunned as to be immobilized, but rather he was very angry and wildly chased her down the hall and out the door running after her. She apparently got away relatively unscathed. She told this story with a bit too much glee for my liking, as if she might enjoy at least some of the drama and adrenalin a bit too much so that it might cause me to unnecessarily end up in a difficult spot.

At this point I am getting much more of a feel for what I have gotten myself into and my anxiety level was rising. It is dawning on me just how I was engaging in highly clandestine activities at an underworld level that is outside of the usual norms and rules that govern civilized society. In this work there is a fairly high risk for danger, including physically and from several fronts. That would be danger from the client, the law, the hotel establishments, and the business owners themselves, especially if they had some connection to gang activities. It was looking like there was some "good" potential for significant dramatic scenes where I could be suddenly cast in a major role as the drama unfolded. Acting and Improvisation have never been my strong suit, to say the least. This is especially true when it comes to playing the role of a street-wise enforcer or the role of the "pimpheavy" who is taking care of his stable.

I also learned that her standard practice upon arrival to the customer's location was to:

1. Continue the safety and risk assessment and ongoing screening process that had begun with the customer's first call. As owner, boss, it is usually up to Alexis to handle the advertising and take the initial calls and then dispatch the girls if she deems it a legitimate customer situation. They get many crank calls. In theory, at any step of the screening process the provider may call a halt to the appointment.
2. Pick up the negotiations with the customer that also began with Alexis about what specific services that the customer wanted and, therefore, what the total cost would be. If the negotiations fail the appointment is immediately terminated. Their negotiation success rate is many times higher than the federal congress's track record.
3. Then to collect the payment for the service. The payment would be absolutely on a cash-only basis. The total payment for the requested service must happen prior to the delivery of any service to the client. If the screening service worker would happen up-front only and prior to providing any services. If additional services are requested in midappointment, then again the cash must be paid before service continues.

4. What I later learned is that if the provider on site determines that the risk is too high to continue even if the client has made full or partial payment and the service has not begun, the provider may choose to terminate the session and keep the money. This is common enough to have a name, the "Cash & Dash." As you might imagine the customer might feel that his money has been stolen or that he's been ripped off resulting in him being quite upset. These are the situations where the provider must make a fast exit and the client might be inclined to try to recoup

their money.

If any of these steps did not go as expected or if the strict criteria were not met the deal was off and the worker left. Alexis later told me that the customer must assure her that they have the cash in-hand or they are required to go to an ATM or somehow get the cash and then call her back.

This non-traditional business is so "spontaneous" or develops on the spot as it is happening there are many ways that things can happen at any stage in the process of service delivery. I was very impressed with the unique and demanding set of skills these women must have to be still alive, but also to be successful in this business for the long-term as well.

The provider asserts what they believe to be their right to set up the criteria for the exchange, the rules of engagement, and attempt to maintain as much discretion and control as possible. It is my impression that difficult customers will push, and test limits, and manipulate the provider at any and every step of the transaction. It seemed as if Alexis, and to a lesser extent Tara, had a whole bag of tricks and tools available to deal with difficult customers. These tools included: seduction, tease, deceit, manipulation, making clear, authoritative demands, and even bullying. Some agencies may use violence or the threat of violence to deal with difficult customers.

I'm sure that the customers run the gamut of civility, sophistication, social skills, and what they think is an appropriate way to behave with a worker from the sex industry. I suspect that some tend to be abusive, degrading, intoxicated, and in some state of heightened arousal. Therefore, I'm sure that they get more than their share of difficult customers.

A major concern is how the customer deals with their dissatisfaction should that happens. If the situation gets to the place where Tara would call me in the car, then clearly the situation has turned south. At that point it is reasonable to assume that the customer is likely going to feel pretty dissatisfied. So, when I show up banging on their door, this would be a total shock and surprise to the customer. The ladies count on this element of surprise to successfully extricate themselves from a potentially bad or dangerous situation. How might their customers who are already unhappy respond to the added shock of fat old man showing up to collect the girl? This might lead in any of a number of directions and scenarios.

She got out of the car & disappeared around the corner. There was no doubt that she and I were embarked on a highly clandestine, edgy, underworld adventure I'll call "operation-Ballerina."

The time passed slowly while I waited anxiously in the dark. The windows steamed

up from my overly-nervous body heat and the lack of visibility of my surroundings made me even more uncomfortable so I turned the car on ran the defogging blower a few times. The wet snow continued to fall blocking my view of the street ahead, so periodic window-wiping was necessary too. There were a few people out in downtown Spokane on a wintery Sunday evening. Some couples who may have been to a movie or bar or whatever. Some single individuals were seen and out for unknown reasons. I thought about how this world is always happening while I'm at quiet home sitting in my easy chair working on the computer or watching TV in my own little world.

After some time in the car, I noticed that Tara had left her purse in the car, on purpose I am sure. But I was also surprised that she felt that it was ok to leave with me since we had just met an hour earlier. I resisted the temptation to go exploring and wanted to be worthy of her trust or whatever motivated her to bring it and leave it with me in the "getaway car."

I tried not to imagine myself racing up to the third floor to confront this guy although a little bit of mental preparation might prove useful if the worst-case-scenario happened. Time was passing, ten minutes, twenty minutes, thirty minutes and no sign of Tara. What would I do if she never showed up - maybe she had been abducted or murdered? I tried to put some of the worst-case scenarios out of my mind. What in the world was I doing in this situation?

Finally, about 45 minutes after leaving the car, Tara came around the street corner from the hotel and walked casually toward the car. The fact that she was not running I took to be a good sign. Once back in the car, Tara said that when she first got to the room she thought there was going to be trouble right away because Steve was black. She said that they usually do not serve blacks because of how often they become difficult to deal with. I made no comment. Tonight, as she talked with Steve, he turned out to be a good customer. Tara handed me a \$20 bill from the cash she had just made which was my payment for driving her to this appointment.

Tara then instructed me to drive her to Alexis's nearby home. This post appointment trip was to be a standard routine. When we arrived at the destination, it was an old, turn-of-the-century two-story house whose exterior was in need of some attention. This was a Bohemian-type neighborhood called Brown's Addition. The area was a real mix of extreme people and homes. There were a number of trendy restaurants, one of which was featured on the TV show "Dives, Diners & Drive-Ins." There are a few big old mansions from Spokane's heyday of railroad and mining tycoons. There are also many good sized apartment complexes. The

contrasts of being the location of drug dealing and prostitution, there is also the Museum of Arts and Culture and several major attorney offices and a yoga center. Tara told me to park in the driveway while she got out and went up to the front door. The door opened slightly & Tara handed something to a hidden person inside, then turned around and returned to the car. I assumed that Tara was paying Alexis her cut of the receipts just as she had just paid me my cut.

Once Tara was back in the car she said that she needed to stop at a store on the way back to her home. The stop was to convert her cash to a visa cash card. The card would be used to pay several of her personal bill, like her phone bill. After we stopped and she finished her business at the store, Tara handed me a \$10 dollar bill as a tip for the extra stop. She seemed very comfortable for the pay-as-you-go practice for services rendered. On the way back to her house, Tara talked more about her neighborhood tavern where she spent a fair amount of time. It seemed to be an important part of her life and she bragged about how, at the most, she would have to buy only one, first drink and then she could drink free for the rest of the night thanks to the generosity of the various men in the bar. She knew that some of them were buying because they were coming on to her and expected some eventual pay-off. She said that she felt absolutely no obligation to any of them just because they bought her a few drinks. . When we arrived back at her house, she expressed the hope that we'd get one more appointment that night and then left with the salutation, "I hope to see you later tonight Hon." She would continue to call me "Hon" which she probably habitually does with everyone. When I returned home, about two and one-half hours had passed and I was \$30 dollars better off than I had been, minus the overhead of car expenses. Therefore, this job paid, after expenses, about \$18 per hour.

#### INTERIM INTERNET RESEARCH

OK, so I want to learn more about the business that I was working in, being an advocate of life-long learning and all. But I had become a bit concerned for my well-being and safety, so gathering more information was definitely in order. I did a little internet research during the week and before my next work shift to try to find something out about what I had gotten myself into. My caller ID said that I was getting calls from a business called "Calendar Girls." The only web information on any business with that name was listed under a category called "Personal Escort Service." Not, in fact, a dancing or ballet company at all! Imagine my surprise. Although I admit that I was already skeptical that a Ballet company would go by the name of Calendar Girls. In some ways I'm quite naive, but even I was suspicious of this.

I understood an escort service to be a straight-up prostitution delivery system.



What this meant is that I had become a participant in the illegal business of prostitution.

This means that I was basically involved in delivering "Whores" to "Johns." This could lead to a good motto for a new business for me. Jim's Transportation Service: "Delivering Hos to Johns, on time and under budget."

I further discovered that there are generally 3 business models in the prostitution business. The first and most visible one is streetwalking. For this there is no overhead, just step off the curb. Most girls do, however, work for a 'pimp' who does involve a significant overhead, often 40% of the proceeds.

Again from Wikipedia:

Statue of a young 19th-century prostitute with her pimp

1. A pimp is an agent for prostitutes who collects part of their earnings. This act is called procuring or pandering. The pimp may receive this money in return for advertising services, physical protection, or for providing, and possibly monopolizing, a location where she may engage clients. A woman who runs a brothel is known as a madam rather than a pimp. 2. Like prostitution, the legality of certain actions of a madam or a pimp vary from one region to the next. Pimps may punish johns for physical abuse or failure to pay, advertise services to potential clients without alerting police, and enforce exclusive rights to 'turf' where their prostitutes may advertise and operate with less competition.[1] In the many places where prostitution is outlawed, sex workers have decreased incentive to report abuse for fear of self-incrimination, and increased motivation to seek any physical protection from clients and law enforcement that a pimp might provide. 3. The pimp-prostitute relationship can be abusive and possessive, with the pimp/madam using techniques such as psychological intimidation, manipulation, starvation, rape and/or gang rape, beating, confinement, threats of violence toward the victim's family, forced drug use and the shame from these acts.[2][3] Pimps can be arrested and charged with pandering and are legally known as procurers.[4] A large percentage of pimps in the United States are also documented gang members, which causes concerns for police agencies in jurisdictions where prostitution is a significant problem. Pimping rivals narcotic sales as a major source of funding for many gangs, this is particularly true with African American gangs. Gangs need money to survive, and money equates to power and respect. While selling drugs may be lucrative for a gang, this activity often carries significant risk as stiff legal penalties and harsh mandatory minimum sentencing laws exist. However, with pimping, gang members still make money while the prostitutes themselves bear the majority of the risk. Since the Internet became widely

available, it has become the preferred medium for prostitution. Prostitutes increasingly use websites to solicit sexual encounters. In turn, pimps have used these sites to broker their women.[22]

However, the use of the Internet for prostitution as well as other changes in the sex industry have resulted in the disintermediation of prostitution, allowing prostitutes to deal with clients directly. This has rendered pimps largely superfluous, at least in the United States.

In spite of the last sentence in the above information, it seems that escort service owners like Alexis may serve some of the same functions as the traditional pimp. That is, initial phone "John Screening," to try to ensure the safety of the prostitutes, and assessing the ability of the John to meet his financial end of the contract, decide on a service location (usually a hotel or the clients' private home which is known as "outcall"), advertise services to potential clients without alerting police, physical protection [although this was more my job]. She also used skills in negotiation, manipulation and verbal bullying and abuse when necessary.

The second prostitution business model is that of a Brothel, bordello, whore house, or a house of prostitution. Locally in Spokane such establishments are called massage agencies or spas, often with Asian or Oriental theme. The Spokane area police are always arresting streetwalkers but recently have also targeted and busted all of the local spas-brothels simultaneously. The greater enforcement against streetwalkers and brothels locally has probably been a boon to the escort business model in Spokane which tends to be more hidden and more difficult to prosecute.

The third business model is called Personal Escort Service. "Escort agencies are companies that provide escorts for the agency's clients. The agency typically arranges a meeting between one of its escorts and the client at the customer's house or hotel room (outcall), or at the escort's residence (in call). Some agencies also provide escorts for longer durations, who may stay with the client or travel along on a holiday or business trip.[1] While the escort agency is paid a fee for this booking and dispatch service, the customer must negotiate any additional fees or arrangements directly with the escort for any other services that are not provided by the agency involved, such as providing sexual services (regardless of the legality of these services)."

"Technically, it seems that escorts, whether independent or the ones from escort agencies, are legal. They are careful to not acknowledge any practice of providing sexual services, though the girls or guys would do it, either of their own will, or because it is part of the implied service you're paying for. In which case, it

becomes illegal, though hard to prove: the agency won't acknowledge it, the escort can just say it was from her own will and has nothing to do with the service providing as a host or guest. The customer was just paying for their time and companionship."

A common disclaimer that I found with many local ads for an escort says: Donations/money exchanged is for legal adult personal services (modelling, dancing, and companionship) and for the time expended in the delivery of lawful entertainment. Services discussed do not in any way include or relate to engagement/solicitation/offer/agreement in any or lewd act for money or other consideration. Fees are for time only. By contacting the companion or (name of company here), you agree to these terms, and all terms stated on any websites and declare and agree that you are a lawful consenting adult and not part of or working in cooperation with any law enforcement agency using this advertisement for entrapment, investigation, or arrest. Any agreements for time/rates are between you as a legal consenting adult and the companion, and you freely enter into any agreements either by your contact with the companion or (name of company).

Again, the ever wonderful information source Wikipedia says:

Call girl: A call girl or female escort is a sex worker who (unlike a street walker) is not visible to the general public; nor does she usually work in an institution like a brothel, although she may be employed by an escort agency.[1] The client must make an appointment, usually by calling a telephone number. Call girls often advertise their services in small ads in magazines and via the Internet, although an intermediary advertiser, such as an escort agency, may be involved in promoting escorts, while, less often, some may be handled by a pimp.[2] Call girls may work either in call, where the client comes to them, or outcall, where they go to the client.

I ran across a very funny phrase that deserves repeating here. It is about men who seek sex outside of the marriage relationship with an escort agency. It is called marital outsourcing. Outsourcing is farming work out to an external entity that can do it cheaper or more effectively. Marital outsourcing is the same concept applied to marital relations. Numerous service providers are able to perform services on demand often more effectively and at a lower "total cost." Here is a conversation that illustrates the concept: David: What was Eliot Spitzer thinking? Mark: Marital Outsourcing. Better service, lower cost. David: Lower cost? He spent thousands of dollars! Mark: You ever calculate how much us married guys pay on a per event basis? David: Touché.

A quick search turned up over 45 local Spokane escort agencies for this conservative community of about 200,000. The agency names included: College Hottie, Anything Goes, Sweet and Discrete, Pair-A-Dice, College Co-eds, A Memorable Evening, and one of my favourites, Bored Housewives.

By comparing phone numbers for each business, I discovered that my employer, Calendar Girls also operated under two additional names, A College Cutie, and Barely 18. That may be a common practice where one business uses the same phone number for multiple ads and monikers, but employ the same women. Some businesses actually have a physical street address listed and two even listed the owners - in both cases the owners were female. The whole trend away from streetwalkers and brothels and pimps and women owned escort agencies may be a form of empowerment for women who gain more control and ownership of themselves and their businesses in the sex industry.

I also found out that there is a world-class escort business in isolated Stehekin village on Lake Chelan in Washington. There's a concept called "Stefreakinhekin." More details from the Internet: "The raging party town located in the middle of the North Cascades in Washington State. To get to Stehekin one must go on an epic odyssey through a time warping black hole. The term 'Stefreakinheken' originates from the lost language of the Roanoke Park Gangsters located in 2000 blocks of Seattle. Stefreakinheken is known to be a destination for all party peoples alike. The people of Stefreakinheken are largely environmentalist radicals who take offense to most vegetarians and mostly live off what nature provides them; endless vodka and sweet potato fries. One of the most enticing amenities offered at Stehekin is the underground prostitution/escort service for those who have an hour layover after riding on "the Lady of the Like" from Chelan. The service is top rated globally and is acknowledge to be the best in the world by know sex addict and long-time adult performer Ron Jeremy. Stehekin is for everyone and offers copious amounts of fun. Remember when you go to Stehekin don't forget to get on your Stefreakinhekin On!"

Several summers ago I made the "epic journey" to Stehekin but it was a trip with my mom and in total ignorance about this other side of this isolated, peaceful resort nestled among the beautiful Cascade Mountains.

These are some of the examples of local escort ads on the internet and at "Craigslist" or "Backpage.com."

Sweet, sexy and discrete - 35

I'm classy , sweet and hot "I mean HOT"!!! My specialty is providing the experience you need and im always willing for new experiences. People call me serria and im 5'1

130lbs i have slender build with curves in all the right places. availability is most evenings and days weekends and holidays are a plus. In and outbound calls, only serious need apply and NO BLOCKED NUMBERS!!! And dont forget to inquire about new year specials.

Poster's age: 35

Seductive .Succulent body, With Amazing Skills!!! - 34 I Promise if you make the effort to see me you wont be disapointed.Come experience something REAL AND UNIQUE !!Donation Request 200 < Incall on northside and outcalls also SATISFACTION GUARANTED



♡ EROTIC BRUNETTE BOMBSHELL



100% Pure



Pleasure Just For You ♡ AVAILABLE NOW!!!



- 25 Hey

it's Rylee I'm a independent seductive beautiful, exotic, Super sexy bomb-shell. I have a captivating smile, and gorgeous sparkling eyes. I'm sexy, and classy. I have a fun and flirtatious personality and I'd love very much to have some one-on-one fun. No rush, just you and me. My personality is easy going and friendly... Don't miss this unforgettable experience..

Hope to see you soon...

**BACK TO WORK: THIRD SHIFT, SATURDAY**

6 p.m. call-in "I'm available for work." For the first time Alexis answered the phone instead of Tara, so this was our first contact. She said that Tara liked me, thought I was a nice man that was good to work with. I may be in luck and end up with a good reference for other jobs out of this!

10 p.m. Alexis calls, "We have work." This time I was to pick Alexis up at her house in Brown's Addition and then go pick up Tara. Was this going to be a 2-girl event? Alexis turned out to be a thin, petit black woman who appeared to be in her early thirties. She was dressed pretty normal and was polite and talkative. She talked about being from New Orleans and that she's worked in this business for 12 years. Remember that neither woman acknowledged that they were engaged in any work

other than dancing, so there was always a parallel conversation or meaning to each conversation about what they and we were doing. She talked about going to a big bar in a last vestige of a small wild and wooly ID town that was the last place that ran brothels fairly openly. In the early 1990's they finally got shut down, I assume for good. There is still one of the only 2 strip clubs in the area located there. That's why Tara is "on her own" so much on the weekends and I think Alexis usually goes on calls with her during the week. Alexis was directionally challenged so she relied on me to remember how to get to Tara's place - but we were to pick her up at the local tavern where Tara often goes. We parked in the parking lot, but again, even there, we were not to park near the door. Stealth is the name of the game. When Tara didn't come out in a few minutes, we pulled out to go to her home a block away. As we passed by the edge of the mostly abandoned strip mall where the bar was, Tara emerged from a dark alley area next to the building with another person and she walked to approach the car that she recognized and got into the back seat. God only knows what they were doing in the dark alley before we arrived. Tara was already in her blond wig and ready for action.

The job tonight was on the extreme eastern edge of town in an industrial district. Although not snowing tonight, the roads had been wet and were now freezing, so it was slow going. We pulled off the interstate and passed by a truck stop or two and turned on a street a block or so beyond the motel that was our destination. When I started to slow down in front of the motel, I was quickly told to keep my speed up and to keep driving past the motel. Again, I was reminded and instructed to avoid going into the motel parking lot or driving anywhere at all visible from the office or to appear that we were slowing to find a particular room. I'm sure it is this kind of attention to detail that keeps these folks in business and that everything that they know is from hard-won lessons learned from mistakes. We should do nothing to attract any attention. I keep forgetting that we are not just going to pull up in front of the particular hotel room like 'normal people.' We ended up going down two blocks past the motel office and parking on a street behind a separate motel annex building and behind a fence. Alexis knew exactly where I should go and I realized that they had been to every motel and hotel in the area many times over the years and intimately knew the layout and places to park or avoid at each one. Just like the downtown hotel that Tara and I had gone to last weekend.

Before I even had the car turned off, Tara was out of the door without a word and disappeared into the night. Alexis was not a ballerina herself tonight, just being there to do what a boss or a pimp does. Alexis suddenly got all business and was

not interested in any conversation. She had a cell phone that she was intensely focused on and had the earpiece plugged in her ear. I wasn't sure if she was connected to Tara's phone and was listening to the conversation unbeknownst to the customer or if she was waiting to get a call from Tara. I thinking she was monitoring the whole conversation. After a few minutes Alexis did acknowledge whatever Tara said into the phone, which I assume meant that the deal was negotiated, the money exchanged and the dance was about to begin.

I'm on edge and scanning the streets and surrounding buildings for any movement or person or anything that might pose a threat. I saw a man came out of a back door of the motel and stand outside holding the door open while he looked around. Without saying anything I pointed to him so Alexis was sure to see him also. After a minute or so the man turned around and went back into the building. While parked waiting for Tara to return, I looked at the paper on a clipboard that Alexis had in her lap. There was enough light from a streetlamp to see what appeared to be notes she took during the initial phone call with this customer. The guy's name, room #, and \$200 were scrawled on the tablet.

Tara returned to the car after being gone about 15 to 20 minutes. She handed me money and handed Alexis money. Now that we each got our take of the prostitution proceeds, I drove off. On the ride back Alexis told Tara that the customer did not initially have the cash necessary for the appointment and that Alexis guided him on how to get the money - like at an ATM and to call her back when he had the money in hand. He did call back and assured her he went out and got the cash and wanted an appointment now. Tara said that in the initial negotiation the customer tried to renegotiate for a lower price and was reluctant to pay the agreed upon price. Tara did finally get the full price. She also said there was a baggie on the motel room floor that appeared to be drugs. When she left he said "It was good to see you again," although she said she had never met him before. I wouldn't be surprised that this type of renegeing happened all the time.

Logistically it was easier for me to take Alexis home first and then take Tara home and that turned out to be ok with everyone. Alexis and I shook hands when she got out of the car at her home, I said that it was good to meet her and she said "I hope that I will see you again." Tara switched to the front seat and requested to stop at a 7-11 on the way so she could get more visa cash cards.

There were some nefarious looking folks at the store and I again felt the need to be extra vigilant. Tara returned to the car and offered me \$5.00 as a tip for stopping. I declined, saying that she didn't need to do that, that the stop was short and right on the way. It seemed to me that she might need it more than I, but I

could be wrong. Alexis had said that before the economy crashed and during the busy summer months she was making \$12,000 a month.

Tara was much more relaxed and chatty when Alexis was not around. She excitedly related a story of her previous night's drunken exploits. During the day she had been dealing with the phone company that had cut her phone service off. Tara felt that was done inappropriately and she was very angry with them and frustrated. She said that that experience had led to her drinking and partying more heavily than usual at her neighborhood tavern that evening. She said that everybody was buying her drinks and she ended up blacking out part of the later part of the evening. She woke up the next morning in a male friend's couch but was fully dressed so didn't think that she was taken advantage of by her friend. She said that she was very worried because she had a vague image or memory of getting up on the tops of tables and dancing. But not just dancing, but stripping, and taking everything off at least to the topless stage. Maybe she was just a dancer, a ballerina-for-hire after all. She said that she hoped it wasn't true and that she would be embarrassed to return to the tavern again. After hearing this, for some reason, I started to think about if I should consider making that tavern my favorite drinking hole too.

#### SUNDAY, FORTH SHIFT

During the day I spoke with an attorney friend about my new job and he wanted to be sure that I understood that I might be construed to have some criminal liability for my involvement in what seems to be a prostitution business. I had not fully considered that possibility, so I did a little more research into that after our conversation. Not good news.

"Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both." [Title 18 Part I Ch. 117 Sec. 2421]

The evidence is clearly mounting that this was a fun and interesting adventure for the short run, but one that held a real and significant risk in several forms, including legal. I decided that I was probably going to quit after tonight's shift. 6 p.m. I called in per usual & spoke briefly with Alexis who answered the phone. By midnight I figured we were done for the evening, but that turned out to be wrong. 12:45 a.m. Alexis phoned, "We've got work." I was to go to call Tara to get



instructions. Tara said that the customer was about 3 or 4 blocks from where Tara lived and from her infamous favorite tavern. It was snowing like 60 out and there was already about 3 or 4 inches of accumulation on the roads, but too soon for plows to hit most streets. With much slipping and sliding, I made it to Tara's house. She was nervous about the close proximity of this customer and the prospect of running in to him sometime.

We found the customer's house in a normal middle-class neighborhood and I started to slow down as we approached the front of the house, at which time Tara quickly repeated to instruction to not slow down in front of the customer's location. Again, I was to go around a corner, out of line-of-site of the house and preferably not in front of a residence, especially if the lights were on. They definitely want their work to be as invisible as possible and to avoid any attention.

When Tara started to get out of the car, I asked her the house # address was & the name of the guy. I was also surprised that she forgot to tell me that important information in the event that she ended up needing help. She gave me the information, I wrote it down and she added that her name was "Sadie" tonight. For a number of reasons, including that I had made the decision to quit this work, I had a bad feeling about how this appointment was going to go.

In less than 10 minutes Sadie came running around the corner and towards the car. She literally jumped in and said, "Just drive, drive!" I pushed the electronic door locks, started the car and took off, in fact because of the slick roads it took extra time to get going. I didn't look back to see if anyone was on our tail either running or in a vehicle.

Needless to say, this appointment was all screwed up. In spite of Alexis's screening process, it turned out that the customer was obviously (to Sadie) high on crystal meth and wacked-out. Sadie said, "Trust me, I know when someone is high on meth" and I believed her. When she approached the house, there were no lights on. A guy did answer the door and his first words were to ask if she had any meth. She did collect some cash from him, but not the full agreed upon amount. During that initial conversation, the guy's mother peeked out of a door and asked what was going on and she was yelling at him over something. The guy was acting very bizarre and she felt really threatened, so she made a run for it out the door & back to the car. This was an unplanned "Cash & Dash" event. Sadie was breathing heavy and all worked up over the incident and it took her a while to settle back down. She paid me, and then requested the usual trip back to the downtown area to deliver her pimp's portion. I was not happy about the prospect of driving back downtown, back north to Sadie's house and then back downtown to my home in the middle of this

blizzard.

The weather and the scary customer incident, including the "Cash & Dash" larceny, solidified my decision to quit.

On the way downtown, Sadie told me that earlier in the evening she had returned to her corner tavern where her worst fears were confirmed. The regulars and the staff confirmed that she had indeed stripped on the tables, and not just once, but twice. Somehow, she and everyone else seemed to take it in stride, but she did receive a lot of ribbing and jokes about the whole incident.

## I QUIT

I got a taste of the other, enforcer side of business owner Alexis when I quit my prostitute driving job. She literally went into a "pimp-ballistic" rage. She was verbally abusive, engaged in name calling, and was personally berating and belittling. I am sure these are skills that she feels that she has to have and use when dealing with some of the difficult people she sees in her business. She has no real legal recourse options or other 'normal' tools of society at her disposal, so she must rely on aggressiveness, use of profanity, intimidation, and bullying behavior must have their place in her world in order to achieve any level of success. I just hope that she is not connected with a gang who might carry out a vendetta on her behalf. So far, so good, but if I disappear in the next several weeks... see, I'm not so drama-free myself!

## LESSONS LEARNED

The women I worked with have some very well-developed business and interpersonal skills.

1. Some say that prostitution is "fast-money." While it may pay well in some respects, it is very difficult work and with often very unsavory and difficult people. This would be a very difficult type of way to earn a living and would have to leave most of us pretty worse for the wear psychologically and maybe physically afterward.

2. I never liked "on-call" work; I don't deal with the anxiety of maybe being called at any moment to do something. I much prefer a regular, predictable schedule.

3. I never felt the need to try to therapies anyone. That was not what I was hired for and actually I respected their choices. It felt like it would have been arrogant of me to presume I knew what was right for them.

4. The night shift was not too bad except for after 12 or 1 I was done for the day.

5. It is very dangerous for girls and women to sell sexual behaviors. • There is danger from law enforcement. • There is danger from customers. • There is danger from business locations where they conduct their business. • There is danger of disease. • There is danger from their pimps. • There is danger from society who is highly judgmental and holds strong negative and low opinions of prostitutes.

6. You can have any kind of sex delivered to your door and it is about as easy as ordering a pizza.

7. These women are experts at conducting phone screening interviews and making risk assessments and in engaging in risk management.

8. These women are adept at keeping a low business profile and to be as invisible to the general public as possible. 9. There is the potential to make a significant income from prostitution. Just like any other business, the profits are greater when the overhead is lower. 10. These women have excellent business skills, including: a. negotiation skills, b. crafting specific and clear contractual agreements (verbal) c. Limit setting d. Fee setting e. The art of handling difficult people f. De-escalation of highly emotionally charged situations g. Being able to be convincingly charming and seductive, even if not genuinely felt, that is, to act "as if." h. Customer service skills i. Highly motivated j. Reliable and able to work on an on-call basis k. Able to confront unwanted behavior or failure to meet contractual obligations using whatever means necessary

The End