

FOREVER WITH US

By Olivia Arieti

EXCERPT

SYNOPSIS: Nothing can keep Ginger from working, not even the death of her beloved husband, which she refuses to accept. This complicates her business and confuses her clients who rather have their sensuality kindled than chilled.

CHARACTERS

GINGER In her 30s. A hooker.

SHARLENE In her 20s. Ginger's sister. A hooker.

ED In his 30s.

Setting: A bar.

Time: The present. Evening.

Props: Glasses, bills.

Production notes: Ginger's dead husband, Paul is an invisible character.

AT RISE:

(GINGER enters talking to PAUL. She has two glasses.)

GINGER

Gosh, this place's always so crowded, honey.... Hey, there's a table over there. Hurry, Paul, let's get it.

(Sits down.)

Whew, we made it. Now let's enjoy our drinks,

(Puts a glass in front of the empty seat.)

your Martini, dear. No better place for aperitifs and business than this, you've always said so *(Smiles.)* and I totally agree. *(Smiles at him.)*

(ED enters. Sees GINGER)

No longer? Come on, sweetie, we both know you've never left me.

ED

Mind if I sit down, Miss?

GINGER

Mrs, love.

ED

Oh, I'm sorry... Do you already have some company?

GINGER

Sure, but you can sit down all the same. We love meeting new guys, *(Smiles.)* We're here for that, aren't we?

(Looks at the empty seat.)

ED

(Looks around.)

I really wouldn't want to intrude...

GINGER

So you're looking for some fun tonight?

ED

(Chuckles.)

I'm on fire, lady. I've noticed you here yesterday too.

GINGER

We come every evening. We work here... *(Low.)* One of our most remunerative spots.

ED

Oh, I see...

GINGER

Well, what are you waiting for? Sit down, Paul says it's alright.

ED

Paul?

GINGER

Yeah, my husband. Oh, how careless, I forgot to introduce ourselves, I'm Ginger and he's *(Hints at the empty place.)* Paul. You are-

ED

(Dismayed.)

Ed, just call me, Ed.

GINGER

Well, pleased to meet you, Ed, same for Paul, even if he isn't too talkative at the moment.

ED

I can see that.

GINGER

You must excuse him, he recently suffered from a severe blow, (*Low.*) got run over by a car, smashed his head, (*Sighs.*) really never recovered... Neither of us has.

ED

You hit your head too, sugar?

GINGER

Luckily, I was already on the other side of the road, but my husband has always been such a slowpoke. I never stopped telling him, got to hurry when you cross the street.

ED

That's it...

GINGER

Isn't that true, Paul? See, he doesn't say anything 'cause he knows I'm right. He's never left me though... Always by my side to keep watch on me. He wouldn't want to see me with some weird fellow for sure.

ED

That's not me, lady.

GINGER

Absolutely, otherwise Paul wouldn't have let you sit at our table.

ED

(*Gets up.*)

I'm afraid I need a drink badly. Can I get you another one, Ginger?

GINGER

It would be great... also one for Paul, if you don't mind.

ED

For Paul? Oh yes, of course... What will the... *two* of you have?

GINGER

He's already had a Martini so a beer could do. For me another Bloody Mary, please.

ED

I'll be right back.

GINGER

I'll finish your Martini, Paul, too many drinks are bad for your health that isn't too good at all.

(Drains the drink.)

Already back, Ed?

ED

No crowd at the counter, luckily. Here's your drink, sweetie, and this is for ... for Paul.

(Sits down.)

Do you think he'd mind if we got a bit closer... you know, I had in mind something pretty hot tonight...

GINGER

Sounds great. Paul will love it.

ED

(Gasps.)

Paul?

GINGER

He loves watching. *(Sighs.)* Can't do anything else now.

ED

Indeed.

GINGER

He won't intrude, you can be sure of that; he's become so reserved lately.

ED

I really can't understand what the heck-

GINGER

What we do, you mean? Mainly, we do switching... *(Low.)* It's more profitable.

ED

Switching?

GINGER

I rather call it *sharing*, actually.... Sharing your partner is such a great proof of generosity today. That's why we always come here together... waiting for other folks like us. It's also great fun, trust me.

