

WHAT
HAPPENS
in
VEGAS!

SHOULD IT
STAY THERE?

10

EXERCISES in ETHICS
VEGAS STYLE!

PATTY ANN

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS!

**10 Exercises for Group Discussions
to Evaluate Ethically Moral Decisions**

By PATTY ANN

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WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS!

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WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS? > BOYS WEEKEND!

You and several friends are having a BOYS Weekend in Vegas! The trip was at prom... including the... included airfare, hotel, meals, airport taxi, plus other gratuities. The first night, you and your friends go to a casino and sit at a blackjack table. Your closest friend, John, came with a limited gambling budget. His wife knows his limit, as she gave John \$200.00 for playing with the instructions of NO MORE. And John loses his \$200 while John loses his \$200 at the blackjack table. You and your other friends play on. John gets up and leaves the table. As you continue to play blackjack you see John watching another table nearby. A woman gets up from her seat and leaves her wallet behind. John looks around and takes the wallet. Then walks off. John later comes back to your blackjack table right when your buddies have decided to call it quits. John saw you looking at him, and knows you saw him take the wallet.

During the weekend, when you are with John, he buys a bracelet for \$359.00 for his stay-at-home-with-their-kids wife. You don't say anything. But you know where the money was to buy this prize. By the time the weekend is over John has bought \$2200.00 worth of gifts for his wife and kids. Nothing for himself.

SHOULD THIS STAY IN VEGAS?

What are you going to say, if John's wife asks YOU in private how John could afford all these gifts? And you presume, knowing John, that he told her the \$200 gambling money brought him a windfall. How are you going to handle this situation or communicate about it? Will you confront John?



GUILT is
The Gift that
Keeps On
GIVING.

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS? > FULL DISCLOSURE?

You are on a company sponsored business trip that lands you and 12 peers in Vegas! This 5-day corporate gathering is a team building event with the theme topic of *Truth Telling in Awkward Situations*. Although, your group comes from the same company, nobody really knows the other attendees. You are all division managers with little interaction.

You have bonded with one of the other department managers. On the last evening, after “Truth Telling” training, you have dinner together. Then go out for social drinking. Your new friend, Mark, gets into some self introspection resulting from the last few days of training sessions.

He discloses that 2 years ago he had an affair with a woman, who was married to another guy in a few weeks. Although affairs were not Mark's style, this one night stand was a really UNenjoyable event he had committed in his life. He was very married at the time, and this event was coming at him. So he was divulging his indiscretion to you for some feedback.

After Mark laid out the circumstances, you realized he had a *one night stand* with your now wife! Everything he said fit what you had sort of suspected a long time ago. You didn't want to confront it.

SHOULD THIS STAY IN VEGAS?

Your current life with your wife, Maryann, is pretty darn cohesive. You have an honest, respectful relationship with open communication lines. You both believe in full disclosure and live by the principle of 'No Secrets'. But, now you are questioning, confused, and befuddled. You believe Mark. He has no motive—and no clue your wife was ever his fling. So, now that you have this new information how are you going to handle your feelings around this situation?

Are you going to confront Mark about it? Will you bring it up to your wife? Or, will you absorb this information to address in another way? Because your life is going so well with your wife, just keep quiet? What are you thinking about that decision and what actions will you take? Explain.

HONESTY
Is NOT the
Same as Full
DISCLOSURE.

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS? > TEXTING ACCIDENT


You are alone in Vegas! This is your last day and you are driving your rental car back to return it before catching the shuttle to the airport. On the way there you are texting and run into the bumper of another car. Clearly this is your fault. The car in front of you pulls over and you do too.

The driver of the car you hit sees the dent in her car. She says she is not going to report it. Nor does she show you her driver's license or insurance card. She says she doesn't want any trouble and to forget about it. She says strongly to you, "This never happened." She gets back in her car and drives off. You suspect that she is in the country illegally. You also believe that her car has been borrowed from a relative that was also in the car. So you presume the driver will never file a claim.

There is a bumper scrap/scar on your rental car. Enough to notice, but not enough to imagine. You did not take out extra insurance on the rental car. You cannot remember what your own insurance covers without some checking. You have just enough time to drop the car off and catch your plane.

SHOULD THIS STAY IN VEGAS?

What are your choices and what is your decision for reporting—or not—this incident to the car rental agency? Explain your motives, reasoning, and conclusions. What actions you will take. Will you share this incident with friends back home if you decide to not report to the car rental company? Explain your motives and rationale.



There is NO
Such Thing
As an
ACCIDENT.

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS? > EYE WITNESS

You are outside on the strip in Vegas in broad daylight. You witness a couple bend over and pick up a roll of dollar bills. You cannot see that the bills are 100s, but you can hear them talk and giggle. As they talk and giggle say, “Finders keepers.”

About the same time a distressed appearing young woman in the same area is looking around at the ground. She then over hears this couple too. She approaches the couple claiming she just dropped a roll of \$100 dollar bills, in hopes they will hand it over to her. The couple looks at the young lady in contemplation. They casually mention in question to this gal if she is taking advantage of their good fortune. There is clearly a problem brewing over the ownership of this money.

The couple spots you looking on. They were aware of your presence initially. They ask you to verify that you saw them pick up the money—and it is theirs fair and square.

SHOULD THIS STAY IN VEGAS?

What are you going to do? Get involved? Use your problem-resolution skills to mediate? From what you observed the young woman had been looking around for a missing something at the same time. However, you do not know if she was missing this or something else. Based on what you did—and did not see, what are you going to contribute to this incident? What would you suggest to the parties since they are looking for a third party eye witness? And all sides have their own expectations.

One EYE Witness
Is Better Than
100 Hearsayers.
But ViDEOs Rock!

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS? > WOMEN'S INTENTION

You are in a women's bathroom in Vegas! When you come out of the toilet stall you see two unknown ladies making a drug deal. Clearly money is being exchanged for drugs. They look at you, but you are thinking they were alone. They study you; scanning you from top to bottom in scrutiny. You are aware of their paranoia and feel their edge. You nonchalantly nod your head without eye contact, wash your hands, and leave. Before you exit one of these women blatantly take a photo of you. You wonder for what purpose, but have no intent on asking, or making an issue. This is clearly their *territory*.

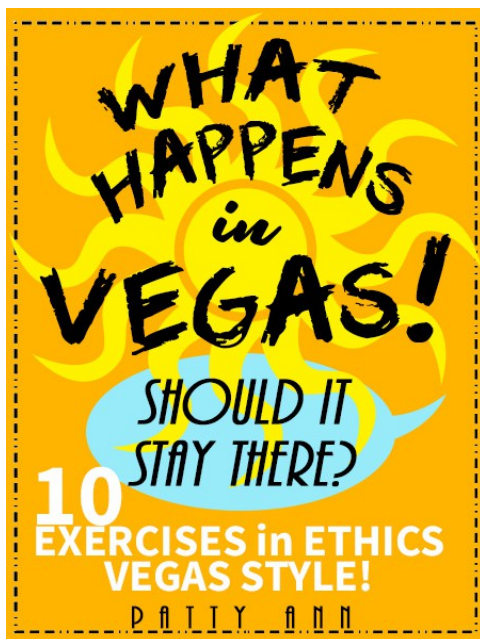
When you exit the restroom you see two men waiting in the hall outside. They are alone and looking you over in assessment as well. You did hear them discussing a 'drug deal' as you abruptly came out of the restroom. Your strong hunch is that they *could* be undercover cops/dealers. As you walk away you can hear them walk behind and summon you, saying, "Excuse me, Miss."

SHOULD THIS STAY IN VEGAS?

What are you going to do? Keep walking away? Stop, turn around and talk to them? If they are other dealers, what are you going to say? If they are cops, how much are you willing to tell them? And what about the cell phone photo ID of you? Are you concerned for your safety? What verbal or non-verbal actions will you take? Explain your thinking that leads to your decisions.

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