

INT. CHURCH - DAY

It's empty except for Ash praying near the altar. He is speaking in mumbled whispers. A voice interrupts Ash's prayer.

GLORIA

Ash?

Ash turns to find GLORIA, a twenty-something, very pretty transvestite, Filipino and wearing a blonde wig.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Is your name Ash Walker?

He nods.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I'm here because I believe your brother was murdered.

Shock on Ash's face.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I knew Alex. The people he worked with are very dangerous. I need to warn you-

In the back of the Church, Cook appears; and he looks like he's on a mission. Gloria suddenly starts to walk out the back of the church.

Before she exits, she whispers:

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Meet me back here tomorrow, the same time.

ASH

Wait!

Gloria escapes out the back, Cook dashes out the front again.

Angle On: Jesus hanging on the cross.

19

INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - ASH'S BEDROOM - DAY

19

Ash lies awake in bed. He checks the clock - 6:00AM.

20 INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - DAY 20

We see Ash in the shower, thoughtful, grieving.

We see Ash pouring himself some coffee- dark circles under his eyes. We'll notice these circles getting deeper and deeper throughout the series, as Ash gets less and less sleep.

Ash sets the coffee cup down on the counter, then marches to where Alex's things are; still a mess from when he emptied the plastic baggy. He rummages and finds nothing of interest but that matchbook. He stares at the name "LAUREN".

JUMP CUT TO:

21 INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - DAY 21

Ash gets out his laptop computer and turns it on. He quickly searches for "Archers Bistro", and clicks through to their website: A picture of Lauren standing in front of the restaurant, "WE AIM TO PLEASE".

22 EXT. BISTRO - DAY 22

Ash approaches while a couple of girls with Archer's T-shirts are setting up tables on the patio.

One woman, CHERRY, a bright, fun Southern Red-head in her thirties smiles sweetly at Ash.

CHERRY
Can I help you, darlin'?

ASH
I'm looking for Lauren.

CHERRY
Oh; he won't be here till this
afternoon, but I can help you out.
We're co-owners.

Cherry puts her hand out.

CHERRY (CONT'D)
Cherry Cromwell.

Ash shakes her hand, then produces a photo out of his pocket. It's a photo of Alex folded in half.

Cherry suddenly hesitates.

ASH

Have you seen him around here? Or do you recognize him?

CHERRY

No. No, sorry. I don't think so.

Cherry awkwardly goes back to her work. Ash approaches her again.

ASH

Please, Cherry. If you know anything - I'm his older brother.

Ash produces the photo again, but unfolds it to show both him and Alex with their arms around each other. Cherry sees the photo, then looks back to Ash.

CHERRY

Ash?

Ash nods. Off of Cherry's look, we...

CUT TO:

23 EXT. SILVERLAKE STREET - NIGHT

23

It's dark. An SUV pulls over to the side of the road where Alex is standing with his thumb out.

The passenger window rolls down. It's cherry, all dolled up; she addresses Alex.

CHERRY

You look like you've had a tough night, sweetie. Hop in.

24 EXT. BISTRO - DAY

24

Ash and Cherry are now seated at a table on the patio, talking over coffee.

CHERRY

He told me he lived with his older brother, and couldn't afford his rent, even though, he said, you covered most of it.

25 INT. SUV - NIGHT

25

We see Alex in the back, Lauren driving, and Cherry writing a number down in the matchbook.

CHERRY (V.O.)

We felt for him. My husband even offered to take him on as a bus boy. He was supposed to call us the following morning.

26 EXT. BISTRO - DAY

26

CHERRY

We'd still be glad to have him. You can let him know when you find him.

ASH

A bus boy? Alex already had a serving job across town.

CHERRY

Really? That's strange.

(thinks)

He told me he hadn't found a job since he came to the city.

Off of Ash's look, we...

CUT TO:

27 EXT. BUSY RESTAURANT - DAY

27

PAULA, the restaurant hostess, stands behind a podium looking bored. She's suddenly all smiles when Ash approaches her.

PAULA

Welcome.

ASH

Hey, I was wondering- do you know an Alex that works here?

PAULA

Of course! Cutie with brown hair? Looks sort of- well sort of like you.

ASH

Yes. He's my younger brother. Um. I guess you haven't heard. He died last Friday night.

Ash stumbles with words as he walks away. Paula's face contorts.

ASH (CONT'D)

So if you could just pass that along...

Ash begins to walk away. Paula stops him.

PAULA

Wait!

Ash stops.

PAULA (CONT'D)

Did you see the body?

ASH

No. Why?

PAULA

Oh my God. Oh my God. I think you've made a terrible mistake.

ASH

What?

PAULA

Your brother's not dead. He came in to work this morning.

CUT TO:

INT. BUSY RESTAURANT - DAY

Paula approaches a man with dark hair from behind, followed by Ash.

PAULA

Alex! Your brother's here!