

Ep. 7014-15  
106 CONTINUED:

MILES THORNTON

It's a bi-level set and action is taking place on top, where an INSPECTOR CHARACTER (remember this for later) searches for the Ripper played by an actor named CHRISTOPHER LAMBERTH, who together sing the bombastic rock-opera like titular number of the show...

LAMBERTH  
(as Ripper)  
*In the dark of your shade...*

INSPECTOR  
*You're the one who should be afraid...*  
(chorus)  
*I. Will. Find. You---  
Rip-per!!*

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On the stage floor, an ACTRESS (ELISA, we'll meet her in a second) dressed as a STREET WALKER moves into position on the street level of the set by a lamp post to respond...

The Director, BEN SIEBOLD (likeable but frazzled, like Ben Stiller, see how I named him Ben?) stops the number.

BEN  
That was nice, Chris, but the timing's just wrong...

As he's speaking, we find Z in the corner, lurking, watching the action on stage, frazzled. He does not look well.

Z (V.O.)  
I guess I took it harder than the others.

Everyone here is stressed but he seems to be a little more unglued than the others. He jumps into the action, pulls Ben aside.

Z  
I can't fix it.

BEN  
We ARE fixing it, bit by bit.  
(looks at Z, worried)  
Did you sleep at all?

Z  
There's no time for sleep. I have revisions for you.

BEN  
We'll get there during previews. I promise. Just take care of yourself.

He looks to the backstage door. The producer, MILES THORNTON, rushes in.

START  
→

(CONTINUED)

PRODUCER (THORNTON)  
Who let Andrew Scheck in?

BEN  
Nobody. We wouldn't let a critic in before we open. Especially Scheck.

PRODUCER (THORNTON)  
Apparently, he saw the entire run-through yesterday and is writing a piece--

BEN  
Off a run-through? He can't.

THORNTON  
He did. We're done.

Z overhears this. Rushes over.

Z  
Done?

EXT. PARK - DAY (D2)

The loner is listening intently.

LONER  
This Scheck is an important person?

Z  
Powerful, sure. Not exactly kind. To any of us. Ever. Bottom feeder. Always crossing lines. He shouldn't have been there. He shouldn't...

Z drifts off a little bit.

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The rehearsal is in a full swing. Lighting and smoke effects are tweaked. A gas torch is inspected by the actor, Lamberth. A little bit of chaos. Z is clearly going a little mad.

He finds the lead actress, ELISA. She is in the wings waiting for her cue. A SHADOWED MAN (we'll meet him in a while, spoiler alert, his name is Roland Armitage) with her quickly departs upon seeing Z approach.

Z  
I'm hearing it's over.

ELISA  
Over? No. Z, you're getting paranoid. It'll be okay.

2/2

END  
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