

ASA & LAUREN
SIDES
"SHADOWS OF SILENCE"

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the audition for the roles of Asa and Lauren in "Shadows of Silence." This scene delves into deep emotions, requiring actors who can authentically portray intense grief, vulnerability, and the complexities of loss.

Asa: Asa is consumed by grief and struggling to cope with the loss of Khari, his partner. In this scene, you will explore the depths of his sorrow, his anger, and his desperate need for solace. Asa turns to alcohol as a way to numb the pain, but it only seems to intensify his emotions. You must convey the rawness of his grief, his anger at the unfairness of it all, and the deep longing for comfort. Show Asa's vulnerability, his desperation for connection, and the guilt he feels for even considering moving on.

Lauren: Lauren, Khari's best friend, steps into a delicate role of support and comfort for Asa. Your portrayal should reflect Lauren's sympathy and concern for Asa's well-being, while also navigating her own grief. As she tries to reason with Asa and prevent a situation from escalating, Lauren must show her strength, her love for Khari, and her fear of losing herself in this moment of vulnerability. You'll need to convey her discomfort, her struggle to maintain boundaries, and the deep sadness she feels for Asa's pain.

This scene demands actors who can tap into a range of emotions, from sorrow and despair to fear and longing. You'll need to show the characters' inner turmoil, their conflicting desires, and the tension between them. Asa's desperation for comfort and Lauren's attempt to navigate a delicate situation require actors who can bring depth, authenticity, and believability to these roles.

Be prepared to delve into the raw, emotional core of this scene. Show us your ability to convey the heartache, the fear, and the longing for connection that these characters are experiencing. This is a powerful moment in the story, and we look forward to seeing your interpretation.

GOOD LUCK!

ASA AND LAUREN SIDES

1 INT. ASA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

1

Asa stands in the center of the living room disheveled amidst the remnants of Khari's life.

Scattered boxes and belongings litter the room, a tangible reminder of her absence.

As he clutches a half-empty bottle of liquor, his eyes betraying the weight of his grief, the camera pans to a nearby coffee table.

There, a stark tableau unfolds - lines of cocaine laid out in meticulous rows, a mirror smeared with residue, and a scattered collection of photographs capturing happier times between Asa and Khari.

The juxtaposition is jarring, the chaotic aftermath of loss intermingled with the numbing escape of substance abuse.

Lauren enters from the bedroom cautiously, holding the final box, her expression a mix of sympathy and concern as to not let on that she knows anything about Asa's true nature to Khari.

LAUREN

Thank you, Asa for letting me have some of Khari's things to remember her by.

Asa stumbles over to the sofa, his movements heavy with grief. He sinks down onto the cushions, clutching the bottle of liquor tightly.

ASA

I just...I can't believe she's gone, Lauren. I can't do this thing called life this without her....I miss her.

Lauren puts the box down on the nearby table and moves to sit next to Asa on the sofa. She keeps a respectful distance, but her presence is a comfort to him.

LAUREN

I know it's hard Asa. She was my best friend and I miss her too. But you have to try to take care of yourself.

ASA

How can I take care of myself when she's not here? She took care of me... she was everything to me.

LAUREN

I understand. I really do. But drowning yourself in alcohol and drugs... is not the answer.

ASA

(angry, defensive)

What else am I supposed to do, Lauren? How else am I supposed to numb this pain?

LAUREN

Pray.

ASA

Pray?

(takes a drink)

I ain't talked to God in years...and considering all this...I don't think he wanna hear from me right now.

LAUREN

(placing a hand on his shoulder)

It's in these moments, God wants to hear from you most.

(beat)

Besides...this isn't what Khari would want for you. God will give you the strength to heal and move on.

Asa looks up at Lauren, his eyes pleading for understanding.

ASA

(drinking)

I'm not ready...I don't think I'll ever be ready to go on without her.

LAUREN

(sympathetic, understanding)

You don't have to do it alone, Asa. Your family, colleagues, and friends are all there for you.

(a gripping swallow)

I'm here for you.

ASA
(desperate)
You mean that Lauren, Because I miss
her so much... I need someone.

Asa starts crying.

Asa looks into her eyes with desperation and an unpleasant longing as he makes a move on Lauren.

ASA
I need you. You were so close to her.
I need to feel something...anything
other than this pain.

Lauren feeling uncomfortable and uneasy tries to gently pull away without triggering Asa's abusive side.

LAUREN
Whoa Asa... No! I didn't mean "here
for you" like that.

ASA
(aggressive)
Please, Lauren. Just hold me. I need
to be with you to feel you close to
Khari...Just for tonight. Please.

LAUREN
Asa no... I can't do this. Khari was
my best friend...

ASA
(pleading)
I know she was. But she's gone. Now
you can be my Khari.

Asa's hand caresses Lauren's face, his touch soft at first, but as his hands move towards her neck, he lands with a firm grip. As his grip becomes tighter, Lauren tenses up, her discomfort evident.

LAUREN
(struggling)
No. That's crazy. Asa, stop! You're
drunk! And you're hurting me!

Asa aggressively continues to try kissing and forcing himself onto Lauren.

ASA

But you're the closest thing to her
that I have...

Lauren continues to push Asa away, her fear growing. In a last attempt to diffuse the situation, she brings up Khari's love for Asa.

LAUREN

Okay Asa, wait. Listen to me!...Khari loved you more than anything! She wouldn't want this! She wouldn't want you to do this! Just please, remember Khari's love for you.

Finally realizing the extent of the situation and how Lauren could report his behavior, breathless, Asa backs off of Lauren.

Freed, Lauren instantly stands and moves towards the boxes, her steps hurried.

ASA

I...I don't know what I was
thinking...I didn't mean to...

She gathers her box quickly from the table then swiftly moves towards the front door.

Asa stands unbalanced and drunk.

ASA

(deflated and ashamed)
I'm sorry, Lauren. I didn't mean to...

LAUREN

No-no. It's okay. Thank you again for these. I'll keep them dear to my heart.

Lauren quickly dashes out of the door escaping the demons that lie within Asa.

Asa staggering goes to pick up a photo of Khari.

ASA

(to the picture)
I could kill you again for dying on me.

FADE OUT