

Hands in Prayer

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Lela stands behind a pillar as we see a car pull into a space. She is nervous, but watches with anticipation.

CHARLES PRINCETON gets out of the driver side of the car and begins walking. Lela comes out from behind the pillar and stands before Charles with an intense stare.

CHARLES

Yes? Is there something I can do for you, miss?

LELA

You don't recognize me, do you?

CHARLES

You do look a little familiar.

LELA

Do you remember Anna Johanson?

CHARLES

Anna ...yes, she worked for me a long time ago. What's this about?

LELA

She was my mother.

CHARLES

Oh, yes. You must be ...Lela. I heard she met an untimely death.

LELA

(angrily)

Untimely? Yeah, she was way too young to die.

CHARLES

I'm sorry for your loss. Is there something I can do for you? Some thing you want...

Lela pulls out a gun from her purse and points it at Charles.

LELA

I want you to tell me why you killed her!

CHARLES

Whoa! I don't know what you're talking about. I had nothing to...

(CONTINUED)

Hands in Prayer

LELA

Don't lie to me! I know you did it.
I know all about you.

Lela moves closer to Charles.

CHARLES

Lela, relax. Your mother and I used
to date, that's all. The last I saw
her was when we broke it off ...and
that was months before she ...she
was...

LELA

Murdered? You cut her throat.

(beat)

I remember that night. I couldn't
for a long time. But I remember
now. I remembered the blood. I was
hiding under the sink, and I could
see her face as she hit the floor.
The blood just poured out of her.

CHARLES

I'm sorry Lela. That must have been
a horrible thing to see.

LELA

That's not all I remember seeing.

CHARLES

You need to relax. You're confused.
You got things jumbled up in your
mind.

LELA

I want you to get on your knees
...now!

CHARLES

Lela. You're making a mistake.

LELA

On your knees, now!

Charles slowly complies.

CHARLES

Look, you got this all wrong.

LELA

Put your hands together in prayer.

(CONTINUED)

Hands in prayer

CHARLES

What?

LELA

Put your hands together ...like
you're praying.

Charles does it. Lela walks around to his backside and puts
the gun to his head.

LELA

Say her name.

CHARLES

Lela, please...

LELA

Say it!

CHARLES

Anna.

LELA

Say it again!

CHARLES

Anna

LELA

Again and again.

CHARLES

(he begins to cry)
Anna. Anna. Anna.

Lela cocks the gun hammer.

LELA

Why? Why did you kill her?

CHARLES

She threatened to go to the F.B.I.
I had to make it look like a random
killing. I didn't know you were
there.

(pleading)

Please you don't have to do this.

Lela pulls the trigger, but the gun's empty. She backs off
and lowers her gun.

Lela begins to walk away. We hear sirens as police approach.
She stops and turns back toward Charles.

(CONTINUED)

Hands in Prayer

LELA

I found that file my mother had
hidden. I gave it to the Feds.
They're on their way, now.

She disappears as several black sedans drive up with sirens blaring. Federal agents pour out of the car and see Charles sitting with his hands together, they assume he has already surrendered.