

A B A R C A E N T E R T A I N M E N T L L C

L I M I T E D S E R I E S · P R O O F O F C O N C E P T I N S E R T

THE ACTION PAINTER

Added Scene 10A · "Ruth · Coffee Shop"

A R C H I T E C T T I M E L I N E · 1 9 4 4 · M O N O C H R O M E

W R I T T E N & D I R E C T E D B Y R A U L A B A R C A

PLACEMENT: The 1944 confidant scene. Lee and Ruth. Shoot July 8 if
time permits. Sides for Carly Durrer (Ruth) and Kristine (The Architect).

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INT. A COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON (1944)

Lee and RUTH, thirty, sit across from each other at a small table. Ruth is a painter. The person Lee talks to when she cannot talk to Pollock. Not famous and doesn't expect to be. This has made her perceptive about people who are.

RUTH

How is he?

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

He's working.

RUTH

That's not what I asked.

Lee looks at her coffee.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

He's drinking. He's working. The same as always except the work is getting better and the drinking is getting worse and I don't know which one is driving the other.

RUTH

Does he know how good it is?

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

He knows. That's part of the problem.

RUTH

What's the rest of it?

A beat.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

Peggy. The contract. The mural. He's becoming something and the becoming is very loud and I'm not sure he knows how to be inside it.

RUTH

What about you?

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

What about me.

RUTH

Lee. Your work.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

My work is fine.

RUTH

Is it being shown?

Pause.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

Not this season.

RUTH

Not last season either.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

I know that, Ruth.

RUTH

I'm asking if you do.

Lee looks out the window at the street.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

What I know is that there are
two of us and one show and I'm
not going to compete with him
for the same inch of wall.
That's not strategy. That's just
how things are.

RUTH

He wouldn't see it as
competition.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

I know he wouldn't. That's not
the point.

Ruth says nothing. Lee turns back from the window.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

The work is good, Ruth. I know
the work is good. That's enough
for now.

RUTH

Is it?

Lee picks up her coffee. Drinks it. Sets it down.

LEE (THE ARCHITECT)

It has to be.