

SIDE #2

Third Try/St. Francis of Assisi

NARRATOR:

REUBEN, clad in the traditional wear of a monk. Brown robe, rosary belt, bare feet. It's all a bit plain for him, until we watch him take a tube of ruby red lipstick out of a pocket.

He makes beautiful red Xs on the palms of his hands and the tops of his feet: cosmetic stigmata. Maybe at the end he gives himself a little red for his lips. He sets down the lipstick next to his syringe and his cup.

When REUBEN touches the syringe and the cup to prepare them for insemination, their glow dies away. He preps them with quick, thoughtful movements. The syringe sits, full, on top of the cup. REUBEN parts the top of his monkish robes and takes the lipstick. He draws stigmata across the top of his ribs--where the soldiers pierced Christ's side.

He touches it. He slowly slides his hand inside.

Maybe he keeps his hand in there. Maybe he slides the syringe inside the wound. We fade into darkness before we're sure what's real and what isn't.