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INT. "THE MORBID CAFE" - DAY - IN FOCUS (TV-DAY 3)

42*

Moments later. Inside the Morbid Cafe- a cheesy-looking theme restaurant. It's cluttered with cheap, touristy MONSTER and HAUNTED HOUSE decorations.

It's mid-afternoon. The place is quiet, nearly empty. Monk and Natalie are waiting by the bar. Again, all HAND HELD

MONK

People eat here?

NATALIE

It's a theme restaurant. These are all props from famous horror movies. It's fun.

MONK

I don't get it.

NATALIE

I know you don't.

THE RESTAURANT MANAGER steps up. He's in a DRACULA COSTUME- fangs, hair, cape, the whole bit. And he's talking and gesturing like Dracula.

He's a frustrated actor, which means: he plays to the camera more than most.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

(big, morbidly)

Weeeelcome. I have been... expecting you. You are from the Poleeece Department, is that correct?

MONK

That's right. Are you Paul Gleckson?

VAMPIRE MANAGER

That is my name by day.

(spooookily)

But when the sun has set, or on a grey and ghoulish afternoon such as this, I am Count Dracula. You may call me Noseferatu.

MONK

Okay.

(then)

I'm Adrian Monk. This is Natalie Teeger.

"MONK"

VAMPIRE MANAGER

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(CONTINUED)

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The "Vampire" takes Natalie's hand... and dramatically kisses it.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

Natalie? What a... delicious name.

MONK

Why are you talking like that?

VAMPIRE MANAGER

I don't know what you mean.
(indicates Monk's
clothes)

I see we go to the same tailor.
Ooooooh!

NATALIE

Mr. Gleckson. We'd like to ask you
about a woman named Victoria Barrett.
I believe she worked here.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

(still in character)
Yees. Victoria Barrett. A
delectable young girl. I remember
drinking her blood. It was a most
exquisite aperitif.

NATALIE

She was killed two days ago. Somebody
strangled her.

Killed?! The Manager instantly drops his vampire persona.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

(as himself)
What? Are you serious? Aw hell.
Oh my God. You must've thought-
(explaining)
You understand, this is just a job.
(indicates his shirt)
This isn't real blood. It's all
makeup. Aw hell. And that thing
about drinking her blood? Aw man.

MONK

When did she work here?

VAMPIRE MANAGER

About a year ago. She was only here
for a month. I think she got a part
in a play or something, and split.
Nobody stays here very long.

(CONTINUED)

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VAMPIRE

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NATALIE

What about a woman named Barbara McFarland? She worked here too, didn't she?

The Manager can't resist; he resumes his "vampire character".

VAMPIRE MANAGER

(again, as Dracula)

Yeeees. Barbara McFarland. I remember her well. One of my many undead slaves. Her neck was quite delectable. I'm sure of that. In fact, I am "O Positive" about it.

NATALIE

She was killed, too.

Again, the Manager instantly drops his persona.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

Aw hell. Why didn't you just say that?

(indicates camera)

I must look like a monster. I mean, a real monster. Which I'm not. Aw hell.

(then)

I barely knew her. She was only here for three months.

NATALIE

Did they know each other? Vicki and Barbara?

VAMPIRE MANAGER

I don't think so. I don't think they ever met. Vicki left a year before Barbara showed up.

MONK

Did they have any enemies? Any fights with anyone?

VAMPIRE MANAGER

No. They were both kinda quiet. Normal people.

(pointedly, to camera)

Like me. I swear to Christ.

(CONTINUED)

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VAMPIRE

42 CONTINUED: (3)

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MONK

We're going to need a list of all your employees. Anyone who was here when they were.

VAMPIRE MANAGER

Yeah. Sure. No problem.
(then, to camera)
Can we do this again? Like, I could walk in- ?

JAMES CURRY (O.S.)

Sorry. That's not how it works.

// END

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EXT. MONTAGE - SAN FRANCISCO STREETS - NIGHT - IN FOCUS (TV NIGHT 3) 43*

That night. Monk walks the city streets. Alone. Deep in thought. (Perhaps we could use some LEFTOVER FOOTAGE FROM OUR CREDIT SEQUENCE, processed to look like video).

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INTERVIEW- NATALIE - IN FOCUS

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ANOTHER INTERVIEW- Natalie.

NATALIE

Mr. Monk takes all of his cases very seriously. But when a woman is killed... it's different. It hits him pretty hard.

JAMES CURRY (O.S.)

Because of Trudy?

Natalie nods, sadly.

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MONTAGE OF TRUDY PHOTOS - IN FOCUS

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Another MONTAGE OF PHOTOS. These feature Trudy. In some, Trudy is alone. In others, she's with Monk.

JAMES CURRY (V.O.)

Trudy Monk. The love of Adrian Monk's life... and the only case he hasn't been able to solve.

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HOME MOVIES- MONK'S WEDDING - IN FOCUS

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GRAINY FOOTAGE: Monk and Trudy at their wedding, cutting the cake.

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