

Chris Korkos - (excerpt) In Bruges

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Shots of old European churches, fading to black between each, show sculptures: a gargoyle, a child, an old bearded man. In the background a melancholic piano piece plays.

RAY'S VOICE (v.o.)

After I killed him, I dropped the gun in the Thames, washed the residue off my hands in the bathroom of a Burger King, and walked home to await instructions. Shortly thereafter the instructions came through: "Get the fuck out of London, you's dumb fucks. Get to Bruges." I didn't even know where Bruges fucking was...It's in Belgium.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY - DAY

The title, "In Bruges", hovers on a black background while the characters talk.

RAY

(Matter-of-factly) Bruges is a shithole.

KEN

Bruges is NOT a shithole.

RAY

Bruges IS a shithole.

KEN

Ray, we've only just gotten off the fucking train
- could we reserve judgment on Bruges until we've
seen the fucking place.

RAY

I know it's gonna be a shithole!

Camera opens on RAY and KEN walking. They stop at a
canal and look across. KEN turns and gives RAY an "I
told you so" face, then walks off screen. RAY sighs.

RAY

(Under breath) Shithole.

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FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

RAY sits on a bench looking glum. Three overweight TOURISTS approach him, looking up at the tower (o.s.) behind him. Camera switches to face RAY as he looks up at them.

TOURIST #1 (o.s.)

Been to the top of the tower?

RAY

Yeah, yeah (shakes head). It's rubbish.

TOURIST #1

It is? Guidebook says it's a must-see.

RAY

Well, you lot ain't going up there.

TOURIST #1

Pardon me? Why?

RAY

I mean, it's all windy stairs. I'm not being funny.

TOURIST #1

What exactly are you trying to say?

RAY

(Annoyed) What exactly am I trying to say? Is you're a bunch of fuckin elephants!

TOURIST #1

Why you -

TOURIST #1 begins to chase after RAY, who awkwardly avoids him.

RAY

Come on, leave it, fatty!

The chase continues until TOURIST #1 tires out and leans over. TOURIST #2 and TOURIST #3 go over to help him walk, consoling him. They enter the tower as KEN exits the building.

TOURIST #2

You know, you're just the rudest man! The rudest man!

KEN (to RAY)

What's all that about? They're not going up there.

RAY shrugs innocently. KEN turns towards the TOURISTS.

KEN (to TOURISTS, kindly)

Hey, guys! I wouldn't go up there, it's really narrow.

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TOURIST #2

Screw you, motherfucker!

KEN looks back at RAY, shocked.

RAY

Americans, isn't it?

KEN looks back at the TOURISTS, then back to RAY. His eyes narrow as he gives RAY a knowing look.