

River of Dreams
Season 1 Episode 1 - Destiny

Directed By Abdul Ghannam
Produced By Sumedh Balan
Written By Sumedh Balan & Graeme Comrie

Synopsis

Jack Smith leads a dull existence. If he's not getting the sack from one more minimum wage job, he's avoiding fights with his needy girlfriend, and now he's just about had enough. One day - after yet another vodka-filled night on the sofa – he receives a phone call for a job interview at the local ASDA. Uninspired but broke, he grudgingly accepts a position behind the complaints desk and very soon his unique talent is revealed:

Jack can read people. He picks up the visual cues that normal people miss. He can instantly surmise if a customer is telling the truth or if they are a fraud. He would thus be the perfect employee – if he could only bring himself to care. Eventually, when catching out another lying complainant, Jack lets his mouth get the better of him and tells the nondescript, middle-aged Greg a lot more than he wishes to hear about his own life. Jack is resigned to the fact that he will be sacked, but Greg is not as angry as expected, rather Greg sees potential in the young Jack, a hidden talent that could be put to good use, he offers Jack a chance a chance to live out his destiny by offering him an opportunity of a lifetime.

Jack is sceptical, but his consequent unemployment, girlfriend leaving him, and mounting rent problems force his hand, and before he knows it he is walking the steps down to Greg's basement. Greg too has a secret: he was a master poker player, and now he wants to make Jack his protégé for an unknown reason. With the assistance of his right-hand man Francis, Greg takes Jack through the basics of poker: the hands, the chip values, the etiquette. But Jack is a quick and impatient learner and is soon desperate for a game. At first he struggles, but when Greg instructs him to use his ability and keep his head, it becomes clear that Jack is a natural.

The next evening, Greg decides to throw Jack in the deep end. With Francis as protection, they head to an exclusive casino floor where the stakes are high and the tension is palpable. Jack is bristling with excitement, but Greg is careful to take him aside and remind him to keep his head. They take up a game with a high rolling American gambler, a glamorous vixen and a swarthy Italian man in a slick black suit. To everyone's astonishment, Jack soon starts winning. But he is almost too good, and before he realises what is happening, he is feeling the back end of Antonio Moretti's Glock and tasting the bitterness of his own blood.