{h1}'NY Ink' season 2 premiere 'Kings of NY' recap: Busy shop, tensions continue{/h1}

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NY Ink returned to TLC, channel 52 in Queens, Thursday night with the second season premiere, "Kings of NY." The same faces from the first season were back, though Chris wasn't working at Wooster Social.

The artists

The shop has been really busy, meaning they've not only called in a B-team, but they also need their A-team fully in place. Ami gave Tim a call to get him back, but he said he had prior commitments he needed to take care of first. However, that didn't stop him from showing up early to help out his friend.

One theme that was prominent in the season premiere was the tattoo artists' families. Billy, who had turned down Chris' offer to be his apprentice because he couldn't leave Ami, wanted to tattoo to make more to support his, while Tommy and Ami lamented over being apart from theirs. Because of the busy shop, Ami couldn't make it down to Miami like he had planned for the weekend, and though his wife and daughter were going to come up to NY, those plans fell through. The episode did end with a touching scene of Ami talking to his daughter via video

chat.

Billy did get a chance to tattoo, but there was still tension between Ami and his apprentice when he told Billy It could've been better and Billy asked for constructive criticism.

Megan and Chris broke up between seasons, but she was in contact with him and visited him at his shop to see how he was after a fight. His eye was pretty bad, and he did have to have surgery. Because of that, he couldn't get into a fight for a few months, and that wouldn't be easy for Chris. She did tell him people were calling Wooster Social for him and asked if he would talk to the guys. However, when he called the shop (and mentioned Jessica's request to be his apprentice), she told him she wouldn't give him his client list. Ami told her to let her know if he called again. Even in two different shops, the tension between the two is still there.

The tattoos

Sarah had Ami tattoo 69 butterflies on her back as a tribute piece to her father, who died at age 69. Whenever she saw a butterfly after he passed, she thought of him. It went across her back diagonally, and she loved it.

Alan Robert from the band Life of Agony had Megan tattoo the cover of his comic book, *Crawl to Me* , on his leg. It showed the main character, Ryan, of the comic, and the story revolved around him, whom Alan put a lot of himself into. Like Alan said, Megan "really brought it to life."

Billy tattooed "Baron" on Katie, and it was her first tattoo. She was very specific about what she wanted—for it to look like spray paint—since it was her husband's tag. He died three years ago from ALS. Billy did go to Tommy for some quick advice, and Tommy told him to trust himself. Katie did love how it turned out, looking just like a tag.

The most touching story of the episode had to be Sarah, who had Tim tattoo a pinup girl on her ribcage. She was getting it to celebrate a new beginning, as she recently had surgery to restore her hearing. Her husband had recorded the moment she had the devices turned on. Especially touching was the story of her hearing her daughters' voices. Sarah also had Tim tattoo a heart onto the scar behind her ear.

The final tattoo of the episode was Joe's. He had Tommy tattoo a mountain, bell, and river on his arm in memory of his younger brother, who was hiking and slipped off the side of a mountain. Though they looked for his body in the river below, it was never recovered. Joe was using the tattoo to make permanent an oath with his brother that he would attack each day.

NY Ink continues Thursdays at 9PM on TLC, channel 52 in Queens. What did you think of the season 2 premiere, "Kings of NY"?

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