

Scene from: SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION  
For Steve Blackwood Masterclass 12-14-2013

OUISA: Hello

PAUL: (frightened) Hello

OUISA: Paul?

PAUL: I saw the story in the paper. I didn't know the boy killed himself. He gave me the money.

OUISA: You have to turn yourself in. The boy committed suicide. You stole the money. The girl is pressing charges. They're going to get you. Why not turn yourself in and you can get off easier. You can strike a bargain. Learn when you're trapped. You're so brilliant. You have such promise. You need help.

PAUL: Would you help me?

OUISA: What would you want me to do?

PAUL: Stay with you.

OUISA: That's impossible.

PAUL: Why?

OUISA: My husband feels you betrayed him.

PAUL: Do you?

OUISA: You were lunatic! And picking that drek off the street. Are you suicidal? Do you have AIDS? Are you infected?

PAUL: I do not have it. It's a miracle. But I don't. Do you feel I betrayed you? If you do, I'll hang up and never bother you again----

OUISA: Where have you been?

PAUL: Traveling.

OUIA: You're not in trouble? I mean more trouble?

PAUL: I only visited you. You and your husband. We all stayed together.

OUIA: What did you want from us?

PAUL: Everlasting friendship.

OUIA: Nobody has that.

PAUL: You do.

OUIA: What do you think we are?

PAUL: You're going to tell me secrets? You're not what you appear to be? You have no secrets. Trent Conway told me what your kids have told him over the years.

OUIA: What have the kids told him about us?

PAUL: I don't tell that. I save that for blackmail.

OUIA: Then perhaps I'd better hang up.

PAUL: No! I went to a museum! I liked Toulouse-Lautrec!

OUIA: As well you should.

PAUL: I read the Andy Warhol Diaries.

OUIA: Ahh, you've become an aesthete.

PAUL: Are you laughing at me?

OUIA: No. I read them, too.

PAUL: I read *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, by Irving Stone, about Michelangelo painting the Sistine Chapel.

OUIA: You're ahead of me there.

PAUL: Have you seen the Sistine Chapel?

OUIA: Oh yes. Even gone up to the top on a rickety elevator to watch the men clean it.

PAUL: You've been to the top of the Sistine Chapel?

OUIA: Absolutely. Stood right under the hand of God touching the hand of man. The workman said "Hit it. Hit it. It's only a fresco." I did. I slapped God's hand.

PAUL: Take me to see it?

OUIA: Take you to see it? Paul, they think you might have murdered someone! You stole money! // There's so much you don't know. You are so smart and so stupid----

PAUL: Never say I'm stupid----

OUIA: Have some flexibility. You're stupid not to recognize what you could be.

PAUL: What could I be?

OUIA: So much!

PAUL: I'll tell you my name.

OUIA: Please?

PAUL: It's Paul Poitier-Kittredge. It's a hyphenated name.

OUIA: Paul, you need help. Go to the police. Turn yourself in. You'll be over it all the sooner. You can start.

PAUL: Start what?

OUIA: Your life. // I'll give you the name of the detective to see---

PAUL: I'll be treated with care if you take me to the police. If they don't know you're special, they kill you.

OUIA: I don't think they kill you.

PAUL: Mrs. Louisa Kittredge, I am black.

OUIA: I will deliver you to the police with kindness and affection.

PAUL: And I'll plead guilty and go to prison and serve a few months.

OUISA: A few months tops.

PAUL: All I have to do is go to the police.

OUISA: Make it all history. Put it behind you.

PAUL: Tonight.

OUISA: It can't be tonight. I will take you tomorrow. We have an auction tonight at Sotherby's---

PAUL: You're just like my father.

OUISA: Which father?

PAUL: Sidney!

OUISA: Paul. He is not your father. And Flanders is not your father. // We will come right now and get you. Where are you? Tell me. I'll take you to the police. They will treat you with dignity.

PAUL: I'm in the lobby of the Waverly movie theatre on Sixth Avenue and Third Street.

OUISA: We'll be there in half an hour.

PAUL: I'll give you fifteen minutes grace time.

OUISA: We'll be there. Paul. We love you.

PAUL: Ouisa. I love you. Ouisa Kittredge.