

PINKY: Ah. Of course. But no...impression thus far?
Of Royce?

NEW MERRITT: Not really. Should I—?

PINKY: No. Good. Wouldn't want you forming any
premature opinions. Growing up, did you often ride
the streetcar named Desire?

NEW MERRITT: I'm sorry...?

PINKY: In New Orleans.

NEW MERRITT: You mean the play? By what's-his-
name? Arthur Miller?

PINKY: You didn't grow up in New Orleans?

NEW MERRITT: No. Oklahoma. I went to New Orleans
once for Mardi Gras. Got some beads.

PINKY: Do you find Royce attractive?

NEW MERRITT: I...suppose. In a very general way.
Not the kind of person I'm specifically attracted to,
but attractive to some people, I'm sure.

PINKY: To what kind of people?

NEW MERRITT: I'm sorry. I think I'm missing
something—

PINKY: Never mind. Do you travel to New York on
museum business?

NEW MERRITT: Now and then.

PINKY: Do you know anyone at the— (*Affected accent*)
Metropoooooolitan Museum of Art?

NEW MERRITT: No, not really. I've been there, but, no.

PINKY: I love saying it that way—Metropoooooolitan
Museum of Art. They all talk that way there, especially
the outgoing director. Can you say it?

PINKY & NEW MERRITT: Metropoooooolitan.

PINKY: Very good.

NEW MERRITT: I'll listen for it next time I'm there.

PINKY: Did you know their director was leaving?

NEW MERRITT: No, I hadn't heard. That's big news.

PINKY: Yes, indeed. (*Stares intently at NEW MERRITT for a
moment.*)

NEW MERRITT: It something wrong? Food on my teeth?

PINKY: Why don't you have an Oklahoma accent?

NEW MERRITT: Oh, you know. It makes a person sound
stupid. Hicky.

PINKY: Aha!

NEW MERRITT: I'm sorry. You have relatives there?
No offense.

PINKY: What's the gene pool like there in Oklahoma? Is
that how everybody is? Hicky? Married to their cousins?

NEW MERRITT: It's very conservative, but not exactly
Dogpatch.

PINKY: So you don't worry about the gene pool? It's our
future after all—we should guard it carefully, shouldn't
we?

NEW MERRITT: I don't have a strong opinion about the
gene pool one way or the other.

PINKY: Oh. Good. (*Puts a hand behind back so NEW
MERRITT can't see.*) How many fingers am I holding up?

NEW MERRITT: Um...three?

PINKY: Wrong. 'Four. How many now?

NEW MERRITT: Two?

PINKY: Wrong! Four again. What color am I thinking of?

NEW MERRITT: Green?

PINKY: No, red! Now?

NEW MERRITT: Red?

PINKY: No, green! Does that color mean anything to you?

NEW MERRITT: Green?

PINKY: Yes, green—dark, forest green? Does it conjure up any images in your mind?

NEW MERRITT: Trees? Grass? Algae?

PINKY: It doesn't make you want to go for a ride in a car?

NEW MERRITT: No!

PINKY: My car? My forest green Mercedes?!

NEW MERRITT: No, no, I'm sorry—I don't want to go for a ride in your car!

CHRIS: (*Appearing.*) Sorry to interrupt, but our schedule's kind of foreshortened.

NEW MERRITT: Excellent. (*Standing to go*) Is your trustee next?

CHRIS: Pinky?

PINKY: (*Distractedly*) Fine, fine.

CHRIS: (*Sotto voce to PINKY.*) I called Randy Kanschat to get a physical description, but haven't heard back yet.

PINKY: Good, good. Keep us on track, Chris.

NEW MERRITT: (*On the way out*) Shall we go?

CHRIS: I'll take you to Sidney if you can wait outside just a minute.

(NEW MERRITT *leaves.*)

CHRIS: Thanks for rearranging your schedule for us, Pinky.

PINKY: This one knows nothing.

CHRIS: You prefer the other Merritt?

PINKY: Tell Royce I much prefer *this one*.

(*Lights fade out on PINKY and CHRIS. Up on NEW MERRITT waiting in a chair. After a moment SIDNEY comes in.*)

NEW MERRITT: (*Jumping up, holds out hand.*) Hello, I'm Merritt.

SIDNEY: (*Holds up hand for high five.*) Sidney.

(*Awkwardly, NEW MERRITT slaps SIDNEY's hand.*)

NEW MERRITT: Oh, my.

SIDNEY: What? Did I do it wrong?

NEW MERRITT: You're—the One.

SIDNEY: I'm a trustee, if that's what you mean.

NEW MERRITT: I'm sorry. Never mind. I'll just have to—(*Composes self*) I'm fine. How are you?

SIDNEY: Quite well. Now before we start, I'd like to clarify that I understand about discrimination.

NEW MERRITT: (*After a moment*) Oh. Good. In the sense of circumspection and taste or—

SIDNEY: Ethnic discrimination. Prejudice. First hand experience.

NEW MERRITT: It's all around us, after all. Religious persecution, especially.

SIDNEY: I'm glad you understand.

NEW MERRITT: (*Nodding*) Underdog.

SIDNEY: Underdog?

NEW MERRITT: It's almost too painful to discuss. Incredibly anti-Semitic.

SIDNEY: What is?