

Beat.

HYNEK
It is, actually.

RUPPELT
So how long you been doing the teaching thing?

HYNEK
Thing? 11 years. Not counting the 4 while I earned my doctorate.

RUPPELT
Wow... I hated school. No offense.

HYNEK
Why would I be offended?

RUPPELT
You just look like that kind of guy, I guess.

A beat between them before Ruppelt reaches over, grabs a briefcase and places it between them, opens it.

RUPPELT
Well, Teach. Whaddya say we do some homework then?

As he starts to pull out all sorts of files/books, we CUT TO

EXT. DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS - DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Mimi moves down the block, slows when she sees a MOM MANIKIN in a storefront window gripping a new vacuum. "Moms Love the Hoover Upright!" It's a scene meant to convey domestic bliss. But for Mimi, it's more like coming upon a car accident. She looks away, moves into:

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Mimi enters the BEAUTY AISLE, slowing to take in the polish, blush and perfume before pausing at the lipsticks. Her eye catches a glossy red one, "Raspberry Passion." She grabs it then spots another shade, "China Red". As she debates her choice, a STYLISH WOMAN with a blonde bob and an eye-catching dress strolls up to ponder the same selection. Mimi looks her over, clearly envying her style right now. And could use an opinion.

Scene 1 cont

Role: SUSIE

BLUE BOOK - O'Leary - 08.23.17

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START →

MIMI

Could I ask you something?

The woman turns -- *yes?*

MIMI (CONT'D)

Which shade do you think works best?

She holds up her two choices.

STYLISH WOMAN

Depends on who it's working for. But, honestly? With your complexion? Neither.

Ouch. Stylish Woman comes closer to clarify.

STYLISH WOMAN (CONT'D)

It's just with delicate features like yours, reds can be overwhelming. Something a bit softer suits you...

She reaches past Mimi into the pink shades, finds "Tea Rose", a tasteful peachy hue. She uncaps it and very matter of factly turns Mimi toward her.

STYLISH WOMAN (CONT'D)

Stay still...

Mimi's taken slightly off guard as Stylish Woman slowly coats her lips, then turns her to face the MIRROR.

STYLISH WOMAN (CONT'D)

What do you think?

MIMI

...I love it.

STYLISH WOMAN

Now your boyfriend's gonna owe me.

MIMI

You mean my husband.

STYLISH WOMAN

Oh, I should've known. I'm a newlywed myself.

MIMI

Oh, congratulations.

Susie smiles. She likes Mimi. Holds out her hand.

STYLISH WOMAN

I'm Susie.

MIMI

Mimi.

SUSIE

Mimi. What do you know about men's ties?

← END

INT. TRAIN - SAME TIME

Documents (including newspapers, files and photos) are spread between the two as Hynek inspects an actual BLUE BOOKLET, the signature of the BLUE BOOK program.

HYNEK

Blue Book. Blue booklets. Guess the Air Force isn't prone to metaphor.

RUPPELT

You were never in the service. Subtlety's never been Uncle Sam's strong suit.

(off a file he's reading)

So, we have three witnesses. All with the same account...

HYNEK

Can I see that?

Ruppelt hands him a copy of a West Virginia newspaper where we read the headline: "POTENTIAL SAUCER CRASH CAUSES STRANGE FIRE". REAL 'FLATWOODS MONSTER' CASE IMAGES FLICKER: Witnesses, sketches of a fiery light, burnt woods, etc.

HYNEK

Mother and her two kids come upon a quote "fiery hell" in the middle of the woods after seeing a strange object crash down.

RUPPELT

Can probably rule out geese, huh?

HYNEK

I think until we see the actual site, we rule out nothing.

Ruppelt studies Hynek for a beat.

BLUE BOOK

Scene 2 of 3

Role: SUSIE

BLUE BOOK - O'Leary - 08.23.17

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~~HYNEK
See what we can find. Captain?
Without waiting for a reply, Hynek heads down into the
ravine. Off Ruppelt, a little more tentative, we PRE-LAP:~~

START →

~~SUSIE (V.O.)~~

My Lord, this is an aphrodisiac!

INT. CAFE/DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Mimi and Susie sit in the store cafe, eating apple pies.

~~SUSIE~~

I'm getting flushed it's so good.

Mimi laughs aloud, embarrassed as patrons give them looks.

MIMI

Do you miss living in New York?

~~SUSIE~~

Oh, only every day. Ohio's been an adjustment.

MIMI

So's marriage...

Mimi suddenly looks down. *Did she just say too much?*

~~SUSIE~~

Mimi... Where are the fun spots in this town? And if you say the roller-rink, I'm'a squeal.

MIMI

I'm not the best one to ask. Allen and I don't get out that much anymore. We used to Rumba down at the Rec Center...

~~SUSIE~~

Oh, I love to dance.

MIMI

It's been harder to go. He works so much. He actually just took on another job.

~~SUSIE MILLER~~

You're kidding. Doing what?

BLUE BOOK

MIMI

I can't really talk about it.

Susie studies Mimi intently, an idea forming.

SUSIE

Know the best thing about dining with a stranger? No need for niceties.

(stands)

I have an idea...c'mon.

← END

INT. WEST VIRGINIA WOODS - DAY

Hynek and Ruppelt are moving slowly through the charred woods, scanning, taking notes when Hynek stops suddenly

HYNEK

You smell that? Sulfur.

Ruppelt sniffs, not sure he smells anything. He turns to follow a long stain of black ash, but freezes when he sees

A FIGURE IN A FEDORA

Maybe a hundred yards away on a distant road, standing outside his car, watching them. Let's call him MR. UNSEEN.

Ruppelt squints, between the trees, trying to make him out. But when moves to get a better look, Mr. Unseen is suddenly not there. That's odd.

HYNEK (O.S.)

Captain...?

Ruppelt turns back.

HYNEK

Look at this.

Ruppelt walks over to where Hynek is studying a tree.

HYNEK

Tree bark's usually a natural insulator in a fire. But see how deep these singe marks go?

He follows them down to the base of the tree, gears turning. He then picks up a stick, starts to prod the soil.

HYNEK (CONT'D)

Surface soil's loose. This entire area was jolted somehow...

BLUE BOOK

Scene 3 of 3

Role: SUSIE

BLUE BOOK - O'Leary - 08.23.17

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JOEL

Whoa. Far out, Dad. Pretty far out.

Mimi joins Hynek. As they watch their son discovering, for the first time, part of what makes Dad tick we HEAR a CLICK! Their family moment FREEZES like a photo before we REVEAL

INT. PINK CADILLAC - UP THE STREET

Susie snaps a few more shots before lowering a CAMERA with a telephoto lens; She'd been spying on them. *The hell?* She finally puts her car in gear, drives off, no headlights.

EXT. VACANT PARKING LOT/DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS - NIGHT

Cadillac pulls to a stop by a pay phone. Using her rearview, Susie applies lipstick before BRiiiiing! Susie steps out into the cold wind, picks up the receiver, speaks with a heavy Russian accent.

SUSIE MILLER

Mikhail... Ya svyazalsya. **** Continue to ad lib details in Russian to your superiors ****

TRANSLATED: 'I've made contact.' ~~Off Susie, we SHAM TO.~~

EXT. TARMAC/AIR FORCE BASE - NIGHT

FOOTFALLS. Vandenberg and Twining walk with purpose.

VANDENBERG
I think the Captain will perform his part rather well, don't you?

TWINING
He'll suffice. It's that doctor I'm not so sure about now...

INT. BATHROOM/HYNEK HOME - SAME TIME

Hynek blots cold water on his face. It soothes him. Drying off, he gazes long at the CROSS OF JESUS on his wall.

TWINING (V.O.)
There was something off about him.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM/HYNEK HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Mimi's already in bed as Hynek emerges from the bathroom.

BLUE BOOK