

But there is also pleasure and friendship and a splash of my custom fragrance, created solely for me by a convent of elderly Belgian nuns, from a blend of citrus, lilac and their own joyful tears. It's called Eau de Vionnet...

Elyot applies this cologne with two quick, almost violent slaps; then he shuts his eyes and inhales, intoxicated by the fragrance.

EXT. GRAMERCY PARK APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Elyot emerges from the building, wearing a houndstooth-check three-piece suit. He inhales, enjoying the beautiful morning and the fresh air.

ELYOT (V.O.)

I have known a goodness so radiantly pure that it has literally transported me

Elyot raises his hand to hail a cab.

ELYOT (V.O.)

And I have known an evil so malignant that it can only be called Susan Marie Henkleman. My neighbor.

SUSAN MARIE HENKLEMAN comes flying out of the building. She's in her thirties or early forties, and extremely unpleasant. She's very self-righteous and thinks very highly of herself. She's carrying a baby on her chest in a Snugli. As a cab pulls up, she waves her hand frantically, shoving herself in front of Mr. Vionnet:

SUSAN

Excuse me! That's my cab! I have a sick baby! I'm taking her to the doctor!

ELYOT

That's not a baby. That's a loaf of French bread.

ANGLE on the Snugli: we see that it does hold not a baby, but a loaf of bread.

**START**

SUSAN  
I'm bringing it to my sick baby! My  
sick French baby!

ELYOT  
And what is this baby's name?

SUSAN  
Jean-Pierre!

ELYOT  
I thought it was a girl.

SUSAN  
I hate labels!

ELYOT  
You are Satan's mistress.

SUSAN  
With a taxi!

Susan jumps into the cab, which roars off. Mr. Vionnet takes  
a deep breath, composing himself.

**END**

But happily...

We hear a siren, and an AMBULANCE pulls up.

ELYOT  
(delighted)  
Lucy!

LUCY WAINSCOTT, a completely delightful, fresh-faced woman,  
is driving the ambulance. Lucy is great at her job, and up  
for anything. She's from a rich, well-bred family, but she's  
much happier driving her ambulance, and meeting all sorts of  
people, and lending a hand.

LUCY  
Darling, do you need a lift?

ELYOT  
Are you talking me?

LUCY  
Do you mind?

ELYOT  
In my entire life, I have only  
pursued two romantic dreams. First,

(MORE)

I just have to be careful, if I see my parents. They think I'm on anti-depressants, but I sold them.

ELYOT

To whom?

STELLA

One of the teachers.

ELYOT

Bless you.

Susan Marie Henkleman appears, from her nearby apartment, pushing a stroller.

SUSAN

Stella! Why are you talking to that man?

STELLA

Because he's my neighbor.

SUSAN

But he's a very strange person, a danger to our community, and a menace to this building.

(leaning down, to speak to her baby)

And we don't speak to people like that, do we, Jasper?

ELYOT

That's not a baby.

SUSAN

Jasper is a beautiful, innocent child!

ELYOT

He's a box of cheap, department store wine, which you're going to drink all by yourself, through a plastic straw.

SUSAN

How dare you!

STELLA

May I hold him?

SUSAN

You may not!

## START

By now Susan has pushed the stroller into the elevator. As the doors close:

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
(very haughty)  
He's a Chablis!

**END**

The elevator doors close, and Susan is gone.

Mr. Vionnet?

ELYOT  
Stella?

STELLA  
You have to keep trying, to help people, because it's really important. It's the most important thing of all. It's the most important thing that anyone can do.

ELYOT  
I know. And over the past few hours, as I've been walking all over this magnificent city, I've come to realize something. Something extraordinary.

STELLA  
Yes?

ELYOT  
I have a mission. I'm calling. I mustn't be selfish. So starting right now, in Hellie's honor, I'm not only going to help a chosen few. I'm going to help everyone. All over the world.

STELLA  
You can do it! I know you can!

ELYOT  
Do you really think so?

STELLA  
We need you!

ELYOT  
Oh Stella, I know that we've only just met, but - will you help me?  
On my mission?