

# THE MASTER ACTOR

## AUGUST

### WEEK 3

A TEN-FOOT ELECTRIC-BLUE ITALIAN LEATHER COUCH

slides smoothly down the ramp. On the couch sits DELIA DEETZ.

The couch CRASHES into the base of the staircase, smashing the newel post and several of the balusters. Barbara cringes. One of the balusters falls at Delia's side. She grasps it like a scepter.

Delia is relentlessly New York, relentlessly fashionable, relentlessly thin -- totally self assured.

She is also a woman with a mission -- to gut Barbara and Adam's house and remake it in her own very upscale image.

DELIA

(continuing)

Jesus. Who lived here? The  
Waltons.

OTHO (O.S.)

Help! Oh help!

OTHO'S MASSIVE BODY

Wedge in the window frame. The short, stubby legs, dressed in the world's largest pair of Georgia Armani slacks, protrude into the living room, waving frantically. Expensive Italian loafers are kicked off the feet, revealing a pair of expensive patterned socks. By their feet shall ye know them.

DELIA

It's Otho!

CHARLES

Otho, why didn't you just come in  
the door?

Otho's voice comes as if from a great distance.

OTHO (O.S.)

It's bad luck. And I believe  
hugely in luck.

DELIA

Hold your breath and we'll pull.

Delia turns to Charles and Lydia for help -- doesn't  
get it -- and at last pulls Otho into the living room  
single-handedly.

Otho is Robert Morley at his most obscenely fat and  
gay. But he's not all fat and fun -- this customer  
carries nasty emotional weight as well. OTHO

holds onto the curtains for support as he is pulled  
through the window. And when he is at last all the way  
through, and upright on his feet, he suddenly gives a  
tremendous yank. The whole drapery apparatus,  
including valences, crashes to the floor.

OTHO

That was the single most  
unattractive window treatment I  
have ever seen in the entire of my  
existence.

DELIA

(starry eyed)

I'm so glad you could leave the  
city to consult me, Otho.

Otho is looking around the room with an eye of quiet  
horror.

OTHO

Yes, of course you are. Well,

Otho had an intuition. Call it a hunch -- that it was going to be a fabled monstrosity of a house. And it certainly is. Charles, you're lucky the yuppies are buying condos, so you can afford what I'm going to have to do to this place. We are talking from the ground ups'ville!

CHARLES

That's fine, Otho. Just keep me out of it. I am here to relax and clip coupons. And goddamnit, I mean to do it.

He exits to find solace in a quiet corner of his house. During this speech, Otho has been surreptitiously posing for Lydia's camera. She clicks the shutter.

OTHO

(ignoring her)

Is the rest of the house as bad as this?

DELIA

The rest of the house is probably worse. When can you and I get started?

OTHO

No time like the present, as my wicked stepmother used to say.

Out of the pockets of his size 56 Georgia Armani jacket, Otho takes two cans of spray paint -- the kind the graffiti artists use -- and shakes them as if they were castanets. They certainly sound like it.

OTHO

Delia, let's get this show on the road.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Otho and Delia come up the stairs at the end of the hallway.

OTHO

We're dealing with negative entertainment potential here. I mean, there's absolutely no organic walking flow-through.

Otho looks down the hallway. It's empty. Adam and Barbara are no longer there.

DELIA

What's wrong?

OTHO

I thought I saw something.

DeLia turns and spray-paints on the wall -- in luminous orange -- the word MAUVE.

DELIA

Okay?

OTHO

(screaming with delight)  
You read my mind! I love clients who can read my mind. I don't think people realize how strong a connection there is between interior design and the supernatural.

DELIA

(fawning)  
I know... I read your book, The Haunted Tapestries of the Waldorf.

OTHO

Gooood!

Delia opens the door and they step inside another room.

DELIA

This will be Lydia's room.

INT. LYDIA'S ROOM - DAY

It's not Lydia's room yet, of course, because it still has the Maitlands' furniture in it. Barbara had partly wallpapered it before the accident. Her tools are still there.

DELIA

What do you think?

OTHO

Viridian?

DELIA

Viridian? What is...?

Otho spray-paints the word VIRIDIAN on the wall -- plus the word BLUE GREEN -- and Cr2 O3, right over a picture of Adam and Barbara as kids.

OTHO

Blue-green! Hydrated chromic oxide! Remember I'm schooled in chemistry. I was a hair analyst! Briefly. Interior design is a science, Delia! Think of me as Doctor Otho.

(looking at wall)

And this patient is truly sick!

DELIA

Of course, her favorite color!  
How beautiful!