

"Infinite  
Potential"

ELAINE

Listen to me. Your charm does not work on me. I'm onto you. Of course you like him.

He worships you people and that's fine with you, as long as he helps make you rich.

RUSSELL

(a nerve is struck)

Rich? I don't think so -

ELAINE

Listen to me. He's a smart, good-hearted, 15 year-old kid, with infinite potential.

Russell looks over at the kid. He's 15?

ELAINE (cont'd)

This is not some apron-wearing mother you're talking to. I know about your Valhalla of Decadence, and I shouldn't have let him go. He is not ready for your world of compromised values, and diminished brain cells that you throw away like confetti. Am I speaking clearly to you?

RUSSELL

Yes, ma'am.

ELAINE

If you break his spirit, harm him in any way, keep him from his chosen profession -- which is law, something you may not value but I do -- you will meet the voice on the other end of this telephone. And it will not be pretty. Do we understand each other?

RUSSELL

Yes... yes...

ELAINE

(always the teacher)

I didn't ask for this role, but I'll play it. Now go do your best. "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aide!" Goethe said that. It's not too late for you to be a person of substance. Get my son home safely, I'm glad we spoke.

M/W

RUSSELL  
ELAINE