

Script Video	Text
01:00:46	<p>OCTAVIO: So do you know what the documentary I'm doing is about?</p> <p>HARRIET: Nope. It's about Ohio; it's about your grandmother.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: Well, it's going to be about us, really.</p> <p>HARRIET: Okay.</p> <p>What am I supposed to say?</p>
01:01:08	<p>OCTAVIO: I mean, you're telling me that...you're telling me that all the lies that you told was to protect me?</p> <p>HARRIET: No.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: There was nothing else besides that?</p> <p>HARRIET: It was just shut out any conversation. There were things and people and issues that needed to stay out of my house, and the only way to keep them out was to shut it out.</p>
01:01:37	<p>In the summer of 1969, my mother was alone, pregnant, and unmarried in a Washington D.C. hospital. She tells a story that I love – the story about how getting pregnant with me saved her life, saved her from spinning completely out of control. She worked in a small theater, but on weekends would take me to protest marches and peace rallies strapped to her back. And those early days make me feel like she and I have a bond that no one else in my family has.</p>
01:02:06	<p>But over the years, her silence about that time has driven a wedge between the two of us.</p>
01:02:17	<p>FEMALE: You know, with mom, I don't think any of us really appreciates where she came from and what she had to deal with, you know, and how shut out she was. Four brothers, the captain of the basketball team mother...</p> <p>OCTAVIO: Right.</p> <p>FEMALE: ...and then the dad who's</p>

	<p>basically disappeared. It was her against everyone, where the person in charge was completely against her.</p>
01:02:40	<p>FRANNY: I was upset, and I'd heard that she might be pregnant. And I got down on my hands and knees in this house – we had already bought this house – and I got on my hands and knees and said, “God, I need help. I have a good person in Harriet; I have a good daughter. I think you...she would come home. She will turn out fine.”</p>
01:03:04	<p>CLARK: Mom wanted to help; Dad wanted to keep her, like, at arm's length. Dad was not one for confusion. There were certain ways things were supposed to happen, and this wasn't happening correctly.</p> <p>FRANNY: He went ahead and he said, “Now, you got a little one, and we're willing to go along with this and we will accept him as ours. If you come home and obey the rules and go back to TU and show your worth, we'll help you.</p>
01:03:32	<p>FRANNY: And if you don't, we're going to kick you out and you're not going to have a second chance.”</p> <p>ERIC: And Harriet finished her college, and away she went. The best thing that happened was she actually met David – two wayward souls. Two wayward souls.</p>
01:03:58	<p>DAVID: We both had returned to Toledo from circumstances that weren't the most comfortable for us. And returned to Toledo a little disappointed and distracted, and not sure what I was doing or where I was going. And Harriet was pretty much in the same circumstance. She returned with you from Washington to raise you in Toledo in a circumstance she had felt was more healthy for you.</p>
01:04:26	<p>DAVID: And our mothers both made us</p>

	<p>go to a de-mythologizing the bible workshop at the Presbyterian Church. Maybe she wanted to go, but my mother kind of made me go. So I did, and we hit it off, and I fell in love with you as well as her.</p>
01:04:55	<p>I can't remember a time when David Graham wasn't my dad. He can tell a thousand stories, and his favorite one involves a brick of firecrackers and the local police precinct. But the story I need, my mother won't tell.</p>
01:05:18	<p>FRANNY: Yeah, this is Tav. This is one of my favorite grandsons. I love him dearly, and we get along just fine.</p>
01:06:15	<p>OCTAVIO: When did Harriet tell you I was black? FRANNY: Harriet didn't tell me ever you were black because you're not black. You've got that on your... I don't know why you got an... I have no idea. You might be 20 percent, like one man said, you know? The problem is you have Dutch, you have Scottish, Irish. You have German, and you have about...you might have maybe 15 or 20 percent black, and that's all. So you're not considered black. You're considered a mixture.</p>
01:06:47	<p>OCTAVIO: I know, but don't you think it's interesting that nobody talks about it?</p>
01:07:19	<p>I think Maumee has a...it's a close-knit community. It's a Little League town. If you didn't play Little League here, you definitely played soccer – one of the two. I mean, you mow your lawn here once a week. If you don't mow your lawn here once a week, then you get...you know, the neighbors are talking about you.</p>
01:07:53	<p>COP: Driver's license. OCTAVIO: Yeah, my dad has the</p>

	<p>insurance papers for the vehicle.  COP: Any registration for the vehicle?  OCTAVIO: Yeah, my dad has it.  COP: Where's your dad at?  OCTAVIO: He's not here.  COP: What are you doing with the camera?</p>
01:08:06	<p>COP: Now, just so you guys know, we got a call of a suspicious motor vehicle driving around. It's a big, blue van with a Kerry Edwards sticker on the rear bumper.  MALE: That was...  COP: The side door was open.  MALE: That would be us.  COP: Obviously, it was you. You want to explain to me what you guys were doing that would lead people to believe that you guys were suspicious?</p>
01:08:24	<p>MALE: You know, I heard this the other day. Someone said, "Well, I'm glad our taxes went up because I don't want this to be the first jumping...hopping stone out of Toledo. We don't want to be the first suburb that's affordable to live in because we don't want those kinds moving in."</p>
01:08:54	<p>ADRIAN: Well, this...that's nice. Why do we have a sign on our house? ____.</p>
01:09:05	<p>ADRIAN: This small town – there are only two black people in my class. And anything that was different – anything that was different, whether it be black or personality or intellectual prowess – anything that's different is beat up on, and it's subject to hostility.</p>
01:09:36	<p>OCTAVIO: Can you believe that's you?  ADRIAN: Yes. Yes.  OCTAVIO: Really?  ADRIAN: In fact, I can. I reconciled myself with my early childhood, Tav.</p>
01:09:57	<p>You probably knew someone like me. I'm that kid that shows up to class with his t-</p>

	<p>shirt on inside-out and backwards, shoelaces untied. On a really bad day, my hair is matted flat on one side of my head, but shooting out all crazy on the other, and it still might have spitballs in it from first period math. And when you see someone torturing me, you think, “Yeah, he probably deserves it.” Mom had absolutely no idea how angry I was, and I had no way of telling her</p>
<p>01:10:38</p>	<p>OCTAVIO: I think that I took out a lot of hostility on you because I was getting it in school, and it was really the only place to channel that energy.</p> <p>FEMALE: I, however, I think, had a revelation because it was, I think, a particularly difficult year for you. Maybe you’d joined the wrestling team or something like that, and I was like, “Why is he joining the wrestling team? Those people hate him.” And I was like, “He’s trying. Like, he’s trying hard to be one of those people.”</p>
<p>01:11:13</p>	<p>My freshman year of high school, I was in the Boy Scouts. One night, after a troop meeting, as we waited for our parents to pick us up, these three seniors formed a half-circle around me. And the one in the center, he had one of those pink dodge balls with the little snowflake patterns on it. Now, in my town, when someone throws something really hard, it’s called ‘winging it’, and this guy started winging the ball at me. And each time he threw the ball, he missed on purpose.</p>
<p>01:11:40</p>	<p>And each time he missed, he ordered: “Say you’re a nigger. Say you’re a nigger. Say you’re a nigger.” And each time I refused, he got a little closer to hitting me, ‘til, finally, I said, “I’m a nigger.” And then he hit me with the ball. Even though I wasn’t sure what I had done to deserve getting hit, I knew, in the back of my head, I had just</p>

	admitted to something that wasn't true.
01:12:16	<p>ERIC: Darker-colored hair, curly hair – no big deal. But I would say, from day one, there was...I would say...I won't say suspicions, but I think everybody just assumed.</p> <p>ROGER: To this day, I still really do not know exactly what your race is, and I'm not sure that I cared.</p>
01:12:36	<p>MALE: It really didn't matter. You were a beautiful child. I loved you, so it didn't really matter. You know, why would I bring this up 'cause maybe it's something that...well, it just didn't need to be discussed, as far as I was concerned.</p> <p>ERIC: I didn't ask 'cause it didn't matter. But then again, that's...I don't know. What did Clark say?</p> <p>CLARK: I mean, you're one of ours. It doesn't matter whether you're black, white, Puerto Rican. You could be yellow – that wouldn't really matter.</p> <p>ERIC: See? Same thing? It didn't matter to us.</p>
01:13:09	<p>ROGER: Harriet never discussed it with us. She was very sound. She's sound to this day with us, but we don't...we don't ask. We don't talk about it.</p> <p>FRANNY: She wouldn't talk about it. She still won't talk about it. She told me it was...in fact, she also said – she said, "Do you love your grandson?" I said, "One of my favorites." And I said, "He isn't black." And she said, "No, he isn't." And she said, "It really is none of your business." And that's what I get out of your mother.</p>
01:13:35	<p>MALE: And then I think somebody nudged me because I may have thought you were Puerto Rican.</p> <p>MALE: Harriet told us, originally, it was, like, a Puerto Rican dancer. She didn't</p>

	want to out and out say black, but it was a Puerto Rican dancer, which was more of a Spanish descent.
01:14:00	MALE: Was he a dancer? Do you know anything about your father?
01:14:21	OCTAVIO: You told Dad's side of the family that my father was... HARRIET: An actor. OCTAVIO: Native American. HARRIET: Yeah, I did.
01:14:41	OCTAVIO: You told your side of the family that he was Puerto Rican. HARRIET: Puerto Rican seemed like a compromise at the time.
01:15:02	OCTAVIO: But why not tell them the truth? HARRIET: Because I didn't want them...I already had a number of battles on my plate. OCTAVIO: Why didn't you tell them the truth? HARRIET: I wasn't going to take that one on. OCTAVIO: Why didn't you tell them the truth? HARRIET: Because I wasn't going to take that one on. OCTAVIO: Why didn't you tell me the truth? HARRIET: I didn't think you were ready to hear it.
01:15:57	CORRIE: Hello. OCTAVIO: Hey, good morning. This is Octavio. Can I speak to Corrie, please? CORRIE: Hello. OCTAVIO: Hi, this is Octavio. CORRIE: Yes, hi. How are you? OCTAVIO: I'm doing well. Is this Cory? CORRIE: Yes. OCTAVIO: How are you? CORRIE: Fine. Octavio, I was trying to

	<p>trace your call. It said that you work for the paper?</p> <p>OCTAVIO: No. I'm actually...I'm Harriet Warnock's son.</p> <p>CORRIE: Harriet Warnock.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: Does that ring any bells for you?</p>
01:16:29	<p>CORRIE: I'm afraid that it doesn't. Harriet _____. Octavio, I really apologize. Are you from San Francisco?</p> <p>OCTAVIO: Actually, I'm from Ohio, but my mom lived in Washington D.C. from, like, 1968-1969 to, I guess, like, 1971-72.</p> <p>CORRIE: Okay. Okay. I was in Washington D.C. then.</p>
01:17:01	<p>OCTAVIO: Okay.</p> <p>CORRIE: Ohh! Ohh! Ohh! Oh. Oh, my god. Yes.</p>
01:17:29	<p>OCTAVIO: What was your first thought when I said, "You're my father"?</p> <p>CORRIE: I guess I was shocked, but I wasn't shocked when you said that. And I think that I wasn't shocked only in the sense that I'd had the hour of meeting you and coming over to meet you to think about these things, and so... I mean, I'm still shocked. I'm still shocked, but, you know, it wasn't, like, I just went, "Oh, my god!"</p>
01:17:59	<p>CORRIE: You know, "Hi, son!" It was just like, it could...that could really be.</p>
01:18:08	<p>CORRIE: Yes.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: So this...I mean, my parents used to... Well, one of my favorite songs, when I was little, was the ____.</p> <p>CORRIE: Right. Exactly.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: And when the cannons would go off...</p> <p>CORRIE: Mm-hmm.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: I would pretend like I was on a battlefield and be repeatedly getting shot by the cannons and dying these repeated</p>

	tragic deaths.
01:18:32	<p>OCTAVIO: So I had timed it so I jumped off the couch and then the cannon explodes, and I kind of ____...</p> <p>CORRIE: [<i>Overlap.</i>] Right. And then you ____.</p> <p>OCTAVIO: ...thriving.</p> <p>CORRIE: Ah, theatrics, huh?</p> <p>OCTAVIO: Yeah, the theatrics.</p> <p>CORRIE: Love it. Oh, this is just truly incredible. And you had your own audience of one.</p>
01:18:59	<p>It took 36 years, but for the first time in my life, I feel like I get it.</p> <p>Now, that my mother's silence has no power over me, I wonder how our relationship will change.</p> <p>I wonder if we can get close to the way things were when it was just me and her.</p>
01:19:43	<p>OCTAVIO: Do you see my face in your face?</p> <p>HARRIET: Yeah, absolutely. But, you know, I don't know if you see my face in your face.</p>