

Scottsboro Trials. A really lovely paper on the Renaissance of Ethiopia. Everything. It's important.

Roland Rene-Boisneuf dances with Andrée (21).

PAUL NARDAL

Your sisters are choosing marriage.

PAULETTE NARDAL

And I'm not. I'm sorry, papa. I'm too much like you.

PAUL NARDAL

I'm married.

PAULETTE NARDAL

And if I could find a complementary character like mama, I'm sure I would, but for now, Paris.

(she gets up)

Good night.

CUT TO:

33. INT./EXT. (DAY) - PARIS/MONTPARNASSE LINE - (1932)

Paulette (36) sits on the train with Eslanda Robeson (37), looking out the window as they pass northeast through the arrondissements.

ESLANDA ROBESON

Tell me more about your family.

PAULETTE NARDAL

I feel as if you're taking notes.

ESLANDA ROBESON

I am.

PAULETTE NARDAL

Well, my great-great grandmother, Zilia, worked as a slave on a sugar plantation in Martinique. Her daughter, Sidonie, was 34 when slavery was abolished in 1850. She walked with her five children to

list themselves as citizens rather than as property at the local municipal office.

ESLANDA ROBESON

Can you imagine?

PAULETTE NARDAL

Her son, Joachim, married my grandmother, and they had my father, Paul. He was the first black man to earn an academic fellowship for the national *Ecole des Arts et Metiers* after the abolition of slavery.

ESLANDA ROBESON

You are a family of many firsts.

PAULETTE NARDAL

(nods)

It is an honor, but it's also tiring. My dad had a congratulatory letter from Victor Schoelcher on that. You know him? He was the French senator who worked for the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean. It was destroyed in a fire.

ESLANDA ROBESON

Oh, what a loss.

PAULETTE NARDAL

Another one: he was the first black engineer in the Department of Public Works in Martinique. His accomplishments were many and visible, but because he was Black rather than metisse, he couldn't move to the highest ranks in the colonial administration.

(beat)

He really is the most important Negro on the island.

ESLANDA ROBESON

It's so interesting. People tell me in the States that I'm