

MISS ABIGAIL'S GUIDE TO DATING, MATING & MARRIAGE

by Ken Davenport & Sarah Saltzberg

DRAFT
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As the audience enters the theater, MUSIC plays. The songs played should be all classic love songs that use the word "love" prominently, e.g. "Why Do Fools Fall In Love," "Chapel of Love," "Love Me Do," etc.

The set should be a warm, inviting, bright, cheery, living room, grandmotherly living room.

There is a chair, a "love seat," and two side tables. The first table has a book stand on it, with no book. A red phone is on the other table.

There is a large bookcase filled with books of all shapes and sizes.

A pink card is on every seat. It says the following:

ASK MISS ABIGAIL!

Got a question about dating, mating or marriage? Need some relationship advice? Got a question that you're embarrassed to ask your doctor?

Ask Miss Abigail instead!

Thousands of people, including many well-known celebrities, have turned to Miss A for advice. And now you can too! Write your question below and Miss Abigail may answer it during the show! And if she doesn't get to it, she'll email you with her expert advice on your specific problem! That's a Miss Abigail promise!

Question: _____

First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

The ushers collect the question cards.

During the preshow, PACO, a 30-something Hispanic hottie, readies the stage for the arrival of Miss Abigail.

PACO is obviously Miss A's assistant, stage manager, sound designer, etc. Throughout the pre-show, he makes several appearances on stage. He fluffs a pillow. He sets out a virgin mint julep (her favorite drink). He checks the lighting. And he does all of this with love, and like he's done it a thousand times, because he has. PACO can also interact with the audience, encourage them to fill out their surveys, etc.

The songs continue.

"Book of Love" plays, and PACO enters again with "Facts of Life and Love for Teenagers" on a pillow in a shroud. He puts the book on the stand, puts on gloves and removes the shroud.

When "Book of Love" ends, "La Bamba" begins. PACO dances with a woman in the audience.

At the end of "La Bamba," the house lights go to half and "The Miss Abigail Theme Song" plays. PACO ushers the woman back to her seat, and checks a few more things on stage. After a few moments, he gives the thumbs up to the booth, the house lights go out, and he exits.

SINGERS (V.O.)

ROMEO AND JULIET WERE QUITE A PAIR
FELL IN LOVE IN SECONDS, WHICH IS OH SO
RARE
MISCOMMUNICATION KILLED THIS COUPLE'S
FLARE
WHO COULD HAVE HELPED?

MISS ABIGAIL!

LANCELOT AND GUINEVERE HAD TOO MUCH FUN
GAVE UP ALL THEIR GLORY SO THEY COULD BE
ONE
HE BECAME A HERMIT, AND SHE A NUN
THEY SHOULD HAVE CALLED . . .

MISS ABIGAIL!

HISTORY IS FULL OF TROUBLED WOMEN AND MEN
FROM TOM AND NICOLE TO WOODY AND MIA TO
JENNIFER AND BEN

WITH MISS ABIGAIL'S HELP, ELIZABETH
TAYLOR WOULD STILL BE MARRIED
TO NICKIE, MICHAEL, MICHAEL, EDDIE,
RICHARD, JOHN OR LARRY

FIRST SHE HELPS YOU FIND A MATE WHO MAKES
YOU PINE
WEDDING BELLS AND BABIES WILL BE NEXT IN
LINE
WHO DO YOU THANK WHEN YOU'RE MARRIED AND
TURNING NINETY NINE?

MISS ABIGAIL IS HERE AND SHE'S KEEPIN' IT
REAL.
MOVE OVER DOCTOR PHIL 'CAUSE WE'RE ABOUT
TO REVEAL . . .

*On the drumroll of the theme song, PACO
enters . . .*

PACO

(in a thick Spanish accent)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, senors and señoritas, put your
hands together for the woman who put the "U" and "you" in
love . . .

SINGERS (V.O.)

MISS ABIGAIL!!!

*MISS ABIGAIL enters to great fanfare
and Paco's wild applause and Arsenio-
like fist pumps. She's like Oprah at
the beginning of her TV show. PACO
encourages the audience to applaud and
fist pump.*

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, thank you so much, everyone! It's so great to be here.
Hi there! Good to see you again!

She waves to an individual member of the audience and shakes a few hands. PACO does too. When the applause dies down, she continues.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let's keep that applause going for my wonderful assistant, Paco!

PACO takes a small, humble, bow.

PACO

Gracias. Thank you very much.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Isn't he great? Just look at what he's done to this place. It looks just like my living room back home in Bethesda! You'd never guess we're underneath a restaurant in the middle of Times Square! Yes, Paco certainly knows how to get me in the mood for love, isn't that right, Paco?

PACO

I have been doing it for five years.

MISS ABIGAIL

But enough about us, you're here to gussy up your love life, am I right? Well, don't fret, my little cherubs. Over the next hour and eighteen minutes, I'll teach you all my secret recipes for romance.

PACO

(reciting from the script)

But why, Miss Abigail? Why do you want to help all of these desperate, lonely people?

He gestures to the audience.

MISS ABIGAIL

Good question, Paco. It all started five years ago. I was getting my weekly rinse at my favorite salon, The Best Little Hairhouse in Bethesda. Martha Winstock was hogging the latest copy of Good Housekeeping, so I was forced to pick up Star Magazine. Well, right there on the cover was the shocking story of "The Break-Up Heard 'Round The World."

PACO holds up a Star magazine with Brad and Jen on the cover.

PACO

Why, God, why?

MISS ABIGAIL

Before that fateful tabloid, I didn't know Jennifer Aniston or Brad Pitt from a hen's egg. But then I read their story. It was so tragic. Like Anthony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet . . .

PACO

Buffy and Angel.

MISS ABIGAIL

What could have been the problem? They were beautiful, they were successful, and they were so in love! Well, we now know that the problem was a certain someone whose name rhymes with Schmangelina Krolie.

PACO

I hated her in *Kung Fu Panda*.

MISS ABIGAIL

Didn't we all, Paco. (*continuing on*) Like the rest of the world, I was distraught, but everywhere I went for answers, I only found more questions.

PACO

Why is real love so elusive for so many?

MISS ABIGAIL

It wasn't always like this. There was a time when the divorce rate wasn't 50%. There was a time when fidelity was more than an investment firm. And there was a time when intern wasn't English for whore.

PACO

But, Miss Abigail? What if we could go back to those good ol' days?

MISS ABIGAIL

That's exactly what I said to myself, Paco! So, I dried my tears with my Brangelina collector's issue of *Star*, and took a vow. I made it my mission to help all of you with your contemporary dating, mating and marriage dilemmas by passing on the classic advice of yesteryear. Or as my nephew Joshie says, "We are going old school."

PACO tries to get her to do a hip-hop move. MISS A.

PACO

(again, reciting the script)

But what makes you such an expert, Miss Abigail? Why should all of these desperate, lonely people listen to you?

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let me tell you a story, my young Mexican friend.

MISS A sits down. Music plays. Lights dim.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

It all started when I was a little girl.

She sits down and invites PACO to sit next to her to tell her story.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You see, I was a late bloomer.

PACO picks up a remote control and presses a button. A slide of a geeky Miss Abigail as a 12 year old girl is projected on the set. She looks like an 8 year old boy.

PACO

I think you were cute, in a homeless sort of way.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I didn't have many friends, and there were certainly no boys in the picture. One day when I was bawling my eyes out because I couldn't find a date to the Sadie Hawkins dance, my Grandmother took me aside and gave me this book.

Music fades out.

She reaches over and grabs THE BOOK off of her side table and shows it to the audience and PACO.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Facts of Life and Love for Teenagers. After I finished it, I asked Grandma for another book, and then another. I devoured them all, from *The Art of Making a Perfect Husband* to *How Foods Can Help You To Have Lovely Hair*. And guess what . . . they worked. In just a few years, I transformed myself and my love life.

She presses a button on the remote again and a slide of a young hottie Miss A is projected.

PACO whistles.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Stop that nonsense, Paco. I'm old enough to be your sister!

She enjoys her joke.

PACO

Oh, Miss A! You're a regular George Lopez.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Thanks to Grandma's books, I had quite a few suitors, but I eventually settled down. And for twenty-five years I had the perfect marriage. Seven years ago this October, Robert passed away. (*SHE takes a moment, as does PACO.*) I spent a lot of time alone after that. But when I saw that Star Magazine, I knew I had to do something to help all the Brads and Jens of the world. So I quit my job at The Library of Congress, and with some help from Joshie, started one of those blog things. The next thing you know, there's an article about me in The Bethesda Bugle, I've got celebrities calling me for advice, and now here I am underneath a restaurant in the middle of Times Square!

PACO encourages the audience to applaud and fist-pump like at the beginning of the show.

*The red phone on her table rings.
Lights come back up.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(to the audience)

Oh! (*looking at the phone*) Excuse me, this must be an emergency.

PACO picks up the phone and hands it to her.

MISS ABIGAIL

Miss Abigail's Hotline! Oh, hello . . . uh . . .Crennifer. No, do not call him back. Well, he wasn't having second thoughts when he left you for Schmangelina. Listen, Cren, it's been five years. It's time to pack up your pity party. No. Do not call him. And DO NOT drive by his house. He knows it's you. Ok, bye.

PACO and MISS A share a moment of mutual understanding. This is not the first time she's received a phone call like this from this person. SHE puts the phone away.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

The poor thing.

PACO

Just goes to show you that a hit TV series and five hundred dollar highlights can't buy you love.

MISS ABIGAIL

You're right, Paco. Love can't be bought. But it can be taught.

PACO

Oh Miss A! That rhymed! You're a poet and you didn't even try to make it happen.

MISS ABIGAIL

So if you're willing to take a few chances, I promise to show you how to be the best daters and maters you can be. Are you ready?

PACO

Si!

MISS ABIGAIL

Are you ready!

PACO encourages the audience to say . . .

PACO AND AUDIENCE

Si!!!

MISS ABIGAIL

Then come on, let's go because sometimes

BOTH

You have to go back to go forward!

THEY dance and sit.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

When Grams gave me *Facts of Life and Love for Teenagers*, the first thing the book told me to do was take a good long look in the mirror. Was I presenting the best possible Miss Abigail to the rest of the world? The answer was no.

PACO

But Miss Abigail, my unwed mother told me not to judge a book by its cobertura.

MISS ABIGAIL

Why yes, Paco, but that doesn't mean you don't brush the book's teeth and put some deodorant on it, am I right?

PACO smells himself and then exits.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

If you're looking for love, you've got to look your best. I'll admit, this was a hard one for me when I was blossoming. Luckily, in 1928, the smart folks at the Cleanliness Institute created this for girls just like me.

PACO holds up the Ask The Looking Glass poster.

MISS ABIGAIL

The Ask The Looking Glass poster has been a part of my dressing ritual ever since that first day of seventh grade, when I gave my "What I Did On My Summer Vacation" speech with my dress tucked in the back of my panty hose. So, to prevent you from getting nicknames like Tucky Butt and Bunchy Bottom, I've made an Ask The Looking Glass for all of you to take home!

PACO (and the ushers) hand out the 'Ask The Looking Glass' cards to the audience.

PACO

Just remember to put it where you can see it everyday. *(pointing to someone)* Especially you, sir. In fact, un momento, por favor.

Paco gives him the big poster of 'Ask The Looking Glass'.

PACO (CONT'D)

Here, take this big one. Special for you.

MISS ABIGAIL

Good catch, Paco. You know, maybe we should spend a little more time on this subject.

She gives a nod to PACO who gets another book off the shelf and hands it to her.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Everyday Living by Adelaide Van Duzer, published in 1936. Ms. Duzer's quiz, "How Well Are You Groomed" is still the bible for determining if one is ready to step into the bright and unapologetic sunlight. Shall we see if we pass Ms. Duzer's test? It's not as easy as you think.

PACO

It's a "duzer."

They share a laugh.

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, Paco. *(reading)* Number one. Show of hands . . . Do you take a bath or shower everyday? *(She waits for some hands to raise.)* Number two. If perfume or cologne is used, is it fresh, faint, and not cheap?"

PACO

This means nothing from the J. Lo line, people.

She continues.

MISS ABIGAIL

"Number three. Is your hair shiny, healthy, and kept neatly trimmed?" *(beat)* Men, this is for you, too. The Chewbacca look is way out. I used to wax Robert's back on a weekly basis for years. And we didn't have store bought waxing kits back then. I used a surprisingly effective homemade paste of honey, baking soda and ground turkey. And what was left over, we had for dinner!

PACO finishes the line with her.

PACO

. . . we had for dinner!

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, money was tight back then.

PACO

On the contrary, I think it sounds delicious.

MISS ABIGAIL

Well. Thank you, Paco.

Awkward pause. He smiles at her.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Number four. Are your undergarments clean? That is, do you change them at least three times a week? Number five. Do your clothes fit appropriately?" This one is crucial. Appropriate and well fitting attire is a must if you want to attract a mate. Paco and I have been here in The Big Apple for only a few weeks, and we have been a little surprised by some of the choices made by you fashionistas here in New York City. I had Paco snap a few surreptitious photos so we can show you what we mean. In this first one, you're going to see what Paco tells me is commonly referred to as a cima de panecillo, or as we would say in this country . . .

PACO

A muffin top.

PACO holds up a photo of a woman with a huge "muffin top." MISS A gets out her telescopic pointer and uses it to point to the "top."

MISS ABIGAIL

Notice the excess skin that protrudes from the pants that are much too tight, creating the appearance of a scrumptious pastry. Let's take a look at the next photo.

PACO holds up a photo of a man with plumber's butt.

MISS ABIGAIL

Ahhh yes, the infamous Plumber's Bottom.

PACO

Just say no to crack.

MISS ABIGAIL

Remember, gentlemen, belts are a butt's best friend.

PACO

I just want to put a quarter in there and see if a gumball pops out.

MISS ABIGAIL

Let's just get to the next photo, Paco.

PACO holds up a photo of woman obviously not wearing a bra.

PACO

Turkey's done.

MISS ABIGAIL

Now ladies, does this say, "I'm looking for a meaningful relationship?"

PACO plays with the nipple photo.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Paco!

PACO

Ow! *(beat)* Miss Abigail?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, Paco?

PACO

What happens if you work very hard to make yourself attractive, and yet the person you want to notice, still does not notice?

He looks at MISS ABIGAIL.

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, Paco, being presentable *is* important, but the most attractive part of a person is on the inside, muffin top or not.

PACO exits with the cards.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

In fact, in 1967, Dr. Jeremiah Harriston took a survey of one thousand women and asked what they were most attracted to in men. Do you know what they said?

PACO returns.

PACO

Biceps?

MISS ABIGAIL

No.

PACO

Buttocks?

MISS ABIGAIL

No.

PACO

Looking like that guy from *Twilight*?

PACO strikes a pose.

MISS ABIGAIL

Close. But no. *(To audience)* Any of you know?

She waits for a few responses.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Confidence. Carrying yourself with confidence is the most dateable quality a man or woman can possess. So, if someone you're attracted to isn't noticing you, then make them notice! Grab them and tell them how you feel!

PACO makes a small move towards MISS A. MISS A turns to him and he pulls away.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Thank you for that question, Paco.

PACO

Oh sure, no problem.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

So, your ears are clean, your hair is trimmed, and your midsection is not available at Dunkin Donuts. Where do you go to show off your wares? Back in the days of Gloria Teaberry (*PACO hands her a book*), the best places to find a significant other were, "Church socials, church meetings, and church". But in 2010, the list is endless. You can find your mate at a bar, a laundromat . . .

PACO

Or even at work.

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, yes, Paco, but as my grams used to say, you shouldn't get your honey where you get your money. Anyone have any other suggestions of where to meet people?

She takes some suggestions from the audience. When some says "THE WEB", she continues. If no one says "THE WEB," Paco says

- - - - -

PACO

What about the web?

MISS ABIGAIL

(looking at the audience)

Who said that?

PACO raises his hand. MISS ABIGAIL mistakenly credits an audience member for getting the question right.

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MISS ABIGAIL

Yes! Very good, sir. There are hundreds of online dating sites for all different types of people. There's J-Date and Gay-Date and . . .

PACO

Date-A-Cougar-Dot-Com.

MISS ABIGAIL

That's right, Paco. But whatever species you are, once you set your sights on your prey, you need to get their attention. And how do you do that?

PACO

Look out, she's going to use the F-Word!

MISS ABIGAIL

You *(With PACO)* FLIRT! In her book, *How to Win and Hold a Husband*, Dorothy Dix describes intricate flirting techniques such as, "The Come-Hither Look" and "The Fine Art of Jollyng." *(She chuckles.)* This was one of my favorite flirting textbooks. I'd take it to Al's Soda Shop every day after school and try to get Sammy the soda jerk to give me free Banana splits.

PACO

Did it work?

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, I gained twenty pounds and Sammy got fired. After that, I had no one to talk to, so I had to develop a subtle way to invite a young man to sit down and join me for a malted. That's how I came up with the first of my trademarked flirtation techniques. I call this one The Miss Abigail "This Stool Is Free".

She does it.

PACO

Do it again! Do it again!

She does it again.

PACO

You still got it, Miss A.

MISS ABIGAIL

I do, don't I! Think any of you can do this? *What about you? Oh, you have this one down, do you? Well, why don't you come up here and show us. And what about you? And you sir?*

MISS A recruits two women and one man to join her on stage and puts them in a line, with the male last.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Welcome to the stage. What are your names?

She ad libs with them.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

So let's see what you've got. Show me . . . The Miss Abigail
"This Stool Is Free."

*She has each person step forward and do
each move one at a time and she and
PACO comment on each one.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Nice job, very inviting. This next move was born out of a
very embarrassing moment. One afternoon I was sharing an egg
cream with Tyler Gibbons, the Captain of the Forensics team,
when I got a little whipped cream mustache. I had to get it
off, but I didn't want to spoil the mood. And thus spawned
the Miss Abigail "Lick Lip."

She licks her lips.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Ok, now your turn!

*SHE waits for each one to do it, and
SHE and PACO comment and side coaches
them.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

*Get that tongue just a bit higher. You got a lot of whipped
cream up there. It's by your eye. Now try twirling your
hair while you lick. I know, it's like rubbing your stomach
and patting your head at the same time.*

*After all three audience members are
finished, she continues.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Alright, let's try something a little more advanced. This
particular move took me months to perfect, but it worked like
catnip on a tomcat. I call this one, The Miss Abigail
"Napkin Drop." *(She performs the move while explaining)*
Notice how my eyes follow the napkin on it's journey to the
floor, and then the gentle lean over to retrieve it. Try not
to bend your knees. Keeping the knees straight will
accentuate the curvature of the hiney. Do you see? *(to the
audience)* See that?

PACO

(a bit turned on)

Ohhhhhhh, we see the hiney, Miss Abigail.

MISS ABIGAIL

Ok. Now your turn!

Just as before, SHE waits for each one to do it, and SHE and PACO comment on them.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Very good. Wonderful. Let's put them all together and see how much you remember, shall we? Paco, do you have something that could help us out here?

PACO tries to whistle to the booth. Music starts. PACO grooves to the beat. They do step-touches.

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, that's quite a beat, Paco. What happened to the *Guys and Dolls* soundtrack?

PACO

Trust me, Miss A. This will get their hearts pumping faster than "Bushel and a Peck."

PACO exits.

MISS ABIGAIL

Ok everybody! Your flirting muscles need their exercise too. That's why I've put together this low-impact workout designed to get you in the best flirting shape of your life! I'll call out the moves, and you follow along. Are you ready? (to the AUDIENCE MEMBERS on stage) Are YOU ready?

She waits for them to respond.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Ready, Paco?

PACO enters in sweatbands, goggles and knee pads. He stretches.

PACO

Let's do it.

MISS ABIGAIL

A five, six, seven, eight!

She does the next section in rhythm, slowly.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

AND
FREE STOOL
FREE STOOL
AND

LICK LIP
AND
HINEY

MISS ABIGAIL
Good job everybody! Now it's time to kick up a notch.
Double time! A 5, 6, 7, 8!

She goes back in rhythm.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

AND
FREE STOOL
FREE STOOL

AND
LICK LIP
HINEY

AND
LICK LIP
FREE STOOL

AND
HINEY
AND
HINEY

MISS ABIGAIL
Great job, everybody!

PACO raises his hand.

PACO
Miss A!

MISS ABIGAIL
Yes, Paco?

PACO
Would you mind if I lead the group?

MISS ABIGAIL
Well sure, Paco! Lead away!

PACO
Vamanos, everybody! We're going to do this Mexican style . .
. Imagine that you are driving through the Arizona desert and
you've been caught without your papers! A . . . five, six,
seven, eight!

PACO does the next section in rhythm.

PACO

AND
FREE STOOL
FREE STOOL
LICK LIP
HINEY

FREE STOOL
AMERICA! (*PACO JUMPS IN THE AIR*)
HINEY

AND . . .

JAZZ HANDS!

Music ends.

MISS ABIGAIL

Great job, everyone! Now what do we have for our flirtathletes?

PACO

As a special thank you for flirting with us today, we would like to present you with a free DVD copy of Miss Abigail's home workout, "Flirting With The Oldies".

He hands them each a DVD and escorts them off the stage.

MISS ABIGAIL

Let's give them a round of applause! Oh, they did great, didn't they? The rest of you should be careful on your way out of the theater. Watch out for MAN's free stool. I'm teasing you, NAME . . . who knows, maybe I'm flirting with you . . .

PACO

Hey! Watch it, sailor.

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, Paco. You're so protective. Besides, you know this piece of property went off the market a long time ago.

PACO

But Miss A, I don't know about this country, but in Mexico, a good piece of property only gets more valuable with age. Perhaps you should think about putting your properties on the Craig's list?

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, that's nice of you to say, Paco, but I had my one true love, and that was enough for a lifetime. Sure, it gets lonely. Sometimes I wish there were someone beside me when I'm in the garden, at church, or playing Jenga. But it's ok, I manage just fine. And besides, I've got you, right? Although, to be honest, there is one thing I really do miss.

PACO

Sex?

MISS ABIGAIL

Crawfish.

PACO

Que?

MISS ABIGAIL

Robert used to make the best crawfish salad sandwiches. I know they're bottom feeders, but they're so yummy, and Robert had this special recipe that I went gaga over - a little mayo, not too much pepper, and just a dash of paprika. I haven't had a crawfish salad sandwich since then. But the memory of it is almost as good.

PACO

What about creating new memories? What about moving on?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, you're right, Paco. *(beat)* Let's move on!

She moves on, leaving Paco confused and a bit frustrated.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Now that we've learned how to flirt, it's time to get out there and go out on a date.

She waits for Paco to come in with his line. He doesn't. She motions to him to get him to speak.

PACO

(without enthusiasm)

But where is a good place to go, Miss Abigail? And who should choose the location? The senior or the seniorita?

MISS ABIGAIL

Good question, Paco. Good enthusiastic and bilingual question.

Paco grabs a few books and gives it to her, but with less enthusiasm than before.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let's see what Thelma McAndless said about this subject in her 1943 book, *Manners Today*. "Dates are not the boy's responsibility. The smooth feminine approach is to plan friendly get-togethers such as hikes, bicycle jaunts, and wiener roasts."

She picks up another book.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Irene Pierson suggests, "Lectures, coke dates, and wiener roasts."

She picks up another book.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Others suggest, "Dog shows, horse shows, and, of course, wiener shows."

Planned break.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I mean roast. Wiener roasts.

MISS ABIGAIL

(ad libbing)

Yes, a wiener show and a wiener roast are two very different things.

MISS ABIGAIL

What about the rest of you? Where do you like to go on dates?

PACO brings out an easel.

MISS A encourages the AUDIENCE to shout out some ideas. PACO writes them on the easel.

PACO

(after a dated idea)

The 80's called. They want their dating idea back.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(ad libbing)

Wonderful, these are some great ideas.

PACO tears off the sheet and hands it to an audience member.

PACO

Here. This is much better than Time Out New York.

MISS ABIGAIL

Now that you have some places to go, let's talk conversation. When you're at the INSERT A LOCATION JUST SUGGESTED BY THE AUDIENCE, what should you talk about?

PACO gives her another book and removes the easel.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

In her book, *Conversations with the Opposite Sex*, Angela Rhinegold suggests, "The weather, the food you are sharing, and church activities."

PACO

Miss A? Can I try?

MISS ABIGAIL

Go ahead, Paco.

PACO gestures for her to sit, and they both sit. PACO clears his throat.

PACO

The weather has been very dry lately, don't you think?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes.

PACO

Are you going to the church bake sale on Sunday?

MISS ABIGAIL

Good.

PACO

Do you support a fence between the US and Mexican border?

MISS ABIGAIL

I'd wait until the 3rd or 4th date before you bring up controversial or intimate topics. (*Just to PACO*) But the answer is "No," by the way.

PACO does a little fist-pump. He was testing her.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You want to take time to reveal some of your more personal history. No talking about exes, or that you are a Dungeon Master. For example, I waited until my fourth date with Robert to tell him the story of when I got so tipsy that I accidentally ate cat food.

PACO

Purina?

MISS ABIGAIL

Meow Mix.

They share a moment. They've both been there.

MISS ABIGAIL

So . . . Talk about gardening, or golf, or even cat food, because as Evelyn Duvall wrote, "Great conversation provides an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other's hopes and dreams."

PACO

Dreams are great, Miss A., but when do we get to . . . the . . . You know . . .

MISS ABIGAIL

The kiss?

PACO

(to an audience member)

I've been waiting for this all night!

PACO grabs a book and hands it to MISS A.

MISS ABIGAIL

If you've had trouble making the first move, don't worry. You're not alone. How to go in for the kiss is one of the questions I get asked the most, even from my celebrity clients. So how do you go from making conversation to making out?

PACO

Yes. For the love of God, how???

MISS ABIGAIL

Face it, ladies, we've all been in situations where we've wanted a man to make a move, but for whatever reason he just doesn't. Perhaps he's being a gentleman, or perhaps he's scared.

PACO

Or perhaps he just had a Bloomin' Onion from Outback Steak House.

MISS ABIGAIL

It took me three weeks to get Robert to pucker up! How did I let him know that I was ready? I followed Ellen Peck's advice in *How to Get a Teen-Age Boy and What to Do with Him When You Get Him*. *(reading)* "Take off something you're wearing. Like an earring.

She takes off an earring.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

"Toss you hair back and rub your earlobe."

SHE tosses her hair rubs her earlobe.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You see how I'm doing that?

PACO emphatically nods his head. MISS A doesn't notice.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Good. *(reading)* "Describe the lovely feeling of not having pinched ears any more." Oh, that does feel good. Doesn't it?

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Tell him his shoulders look tense. He'll think you're fantastically perceptive; but the truth is, nearly everybody's shoulders are tense. Tell him to relax his shoulders he should move them in a circle - forward, then up, then back, then down.

SHE circles her shoulders. PACO watches her like a tennis match.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(reading)

"You demonstrate this because when your shoulders are back, your chest looks good." See?

PACO

Si . . .

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading)

"He, of course, isn't doing it quite right, so you put your hands on his shoulders to show him how."

PACO raises his hand.

PACO

Excuse me, Miss Abigail?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, Paco?

PACO

Watching you read the book from this angle, I couldn't help but notice that your shoulders . . . they look very tense.

MISS ABIGAIL

Really? Huh. Yes, I suppose they are.

PACO

Might it be alright for me to rub them for a moment?

MISS ABIGAIL

Well sure, Paco! How thoughtful. Now, where was I . . .
(reading) "When massaging . . . "

PACO hits a spot and she goes orgasmic.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Oh my. That's quite good, Paco. (She continues to read)
"When massaging, tell him that his shoulders are not only tense, but that they are also very muscular."

PACO gives it a thought, shrugs his shoulders, and then raises his hand again.

PACO

Miss Abigail?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, Paco?

PACO

Might I say that while massaging your shoulders, I couldn't help but notice that you have the big muscles.

MISS ABIGAIL

Uh, thank you, Paco.

PACO

You have, how do you Americans say, nice guns? You want to go to the gun show?

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, haha, Paco. You're making a joke. Very funny!

PACO stops massaging her and pulls out two tickets, shrugs and then hands them to someone in the front row.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Now, if you are one of the many men out there that are having trouble going in for that first kiss, here's a tailor-made passage just for you. *(reading)* "As you stand behind her, murmur sweet, airy nothings in her ear.

PACO

(whispering)

I could be your hero.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let your lips traverse the distance to her neck, and nip the skin there, using the same gentleness as a cat lifting her precious kitten. Now, like a seagull swooping down through the air, bring your lips down firmly onto the lips of the girl who is quivering in your arms. KISS HER! Kiss her as though, at that moment, nothing else exists in the world. KISS HER!"

PACO smells his breath and then squirts himself in the eye with binaca.

PACO

AIY! IT BURNS!

PACO runs off stage.

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco? Paco! Hmmm. *(to the Audience)* I'm sorry, I don't know what's come over him. So there you are, ready to lock lips. And this is where so many people freeze up! But not you. Because I'm going to show you how I learned to have the perfect kiss. But first, I want you to meet someone who is very special to me. He taught me an awful lot about making out, and from the ages of twelve to fourteen, I never went anywhere without him. Would you like to meet him? This is Thomas.

She opens the door to reveal a man, who steps forward and pulls out a mirror. She takes it.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Thanks, Scott.

The man leaves.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(to the mirror)

Hello, Thomas. *(going on)* Now, I know I'm not the only one that had a Thomas in their life. Who else out there learned to kiss by using a mirror? How many of you used the back of your hand? How many used your cousin? Ok, now let's get to the good stuff. *(she puts the mirror down)* Are you ready to learn the secret to a perfect kiss? It's very simple. Say the word "true." "True." Ok, now let's try it from the diaphragm. Let's have the house lights up. Let me hear you! "True." Now, say it one more time and hold that position with your lips. "True." *(she says the next line with her lips in the held position)*. Good. Now try a few tempting movements. That's right. Move your lips around a bit. *(Ad libbing if/when appropriate)* Good. No, sir, watch the tongue. Be patient. Ma'am, ma'am, you've got a little spittle on the corner. Might want to lick lip that. Alright, let's do one more "true". This time, ladies, I want you to imagine that you are standing in front of the man of your dreams . . . or your husband. Close your eyes. Now a big "True" on 3, ready . . . 1, 2, 3, "True!"

She pulls out a camera and takes a picture of the audience.

MISS ABIGAIL

Got it! That's a winner! Now, there's one more step to learning how to have the perfect kiss. Turn to your neighbor. Say true. "True." Now start making out! *(beat)* I'm kidding! Oh, I love doing that. I once did that joke at a breakfast for the Albany Professional Women's Group, and I had two hundred ladies frenching before the croissants were served. Now, why do we use the word true? Yes, it gets the lips in the perfect position . . . But the real reason is that the "true" kiss, can lead to true love. *(wait for awww)*. Yep, I said it. The L word. *(she sits)* Yes, Love, that mysterious force that has brought the world's most powerful people to their knees. But how do you know when you are in cupid's clutches? In 1939, Dorothy Dix identified some tell-tale signs in her book, *How to Win and Hold a Husband*. Paco?

She waits for another moment and then realizes she's going to have to get the book herself.

She goes to the bookcase, and locates the book. It's just out of her reach, so it's slightly awkward. She teeters, almost falls.

She looks to the AUDIENCE and picks out a man.

MISS ABIGAIL

Excuse me, would you mind helping me for one moment?

She waits for him to come up and get the book for her.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(ad libbing)

Thank you so much. What's your name? If you could just get that book for me.

He gets the book, gives it to her. She lets him start to leave, then she stops him.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You know what? Why don't you just sit down for a moment. I may need a big boy like you again soon. *(continuing on)* Ok! Here we go! How To Tell You're In Love. "Number one. If you never wary of a man's company, even when he only talks about himself."

She can ad lib with NAME if appropriate.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

NAME, why don't you read this next one. *(showing him where)* Right here. Where it says, Audience Member.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(reading)

"Number two. If you can play games together without quarreling."

MISS ABIGAIL

Good. Can you do me a favor and try it again? Maybe this time with a Mexican accent?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(reading)

"Number two . . .

She stops him, reaches over and unbuttons his top button and then urges him to continue.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Number two. If you can play games together without quarreling."

MISS ABIGAIL

Much better, NAME. And, just to be clear. The games she's talking about are Parcheesi and Scrabble, not 'The Lonely Housewife and the Pool Boy.' "Number three. If you are content to live with him despite his flaws, whether it be carrying small change in his purse or burping after dinner." This one brings up some memories. Burping was definitely an issue in our house. But that's how I knew it was true love, because Robert never complained. Not once!

PACO returns. He sees the man.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Welcome back, Paco. You feeling better?

PACO

(to the MAN)

And who are you, cabron?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

I'm NAME.

PACO

And what are you doing here, NAME?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

SOMETHING.

PACO

Ok, and if Miss Abigail asked you to jump off a bridge, would you do it?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

SOMETHING.

PACO

That's what I thought. Now, why don't you make like Ricky Martin and shake your bon bon off the stage.

He ushers the AUDIENCE MEMBER off the stage.

MISS ABIGAIL

Let's have a round of applause for NAME!

PACO boos him and follows him off the stage.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Now, Paco, don't be rude. NAME was very helpful while you were gone.

PACO

I don't like other men in your stacks.

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, you were gone awhile. I was starting to think you might have fallen in!

She enjoys that.

PACO

(summoning up some courage)

Actually, Miss A. I did fall in. I fell in . . .

MISS A.'s phone rings.

MISS ABIGAIL

So sorry about this.

PACO (CONT'D)

Put a madre . . .

SHE answers the phone.

MISS ABIGAIL

Miss Abigail's Hotline! Oh hello again, Crennifer. No, I still can't talk right now. No, do not call him back either. For goodness sake, he's waiting on the world to change! He what? He called your body a wonderwhat? *(She coughs)* Crennifer, you need to find a nice guy. A simple and stable guy. Someone who knows what you need.

PACO enters with a drink. MISS A sips it from a straw. PACO exits and makes out with the straw.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You need someone smart, caring, strong . . . Really? Well yes, I have said he's all those things, but . . . uh. Ok.

SHE hands her phone to PACO.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

She wants to speak to you.

PACO takes the phone.

PACO

Hola, Paco here. Si. *(HE laughs)* Oh, you are too much!

MISS ABIGAIL

What is she saying?

PACO

Ah, I can't really talk now. *(beat)* Ella está aquí en este momento tan es un poco difícil . . .

MISS ABIGAIL

What's happening? Let me talk to her.

PACO

Ok. See you then.

PACO hands the phone back to MISS A.

MISS ABIGAIL

Honey, I don't . . . Hello? She hung up. Huh. So, what did she want?

PACO

Nothing.

MISS ABIGAIL

It didn't sound like nothing.

PACO

Well neither did NAME . . . sound like anything . . . at all.

More awkwardness.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Ok! So sorry about that interruption. Some of my clients are so troubled that I need to be available to them twenty-four-seven, especially the Golden Globe winners. In fact, some of them are so emotionally scarred that they can't tell when they are in love or when it's something else . . .

SHE looks at Paco.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

. . . like a rebound thing. Knowing when you're in love is not easy, especially with the complications of modern day romances. And that's why Paco and I modified the Ms. Dix questionnaire into a game we like to call . . .

MISS ABIGAIL & PACO

Love, Lust or Stalking!

Game show style jingle plays.

MISS ABIGAIL

We just need two players. What wants to play Love, Lust or Stalking?

PACO picks a MAN and a WOMAN from the audience, brings them on stage and sets them up with horns. They stand head to head, with MISS A in the middle. SHE gets their names, jobs, and banters with them.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Ok, MAN and WOMAN, are you ready to play the game? Great! Here are the rules. I'm going to give you a scenario that fits into one of our three categories: love, lust, and stalking. When I'm finished reading the scenario, and you think you know which one it is, toot! Go ahead, give it a try.

They toot their horns.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Remember, don't toot until I'm finished with each scenario. Now, before we begin, Paco, tell them what we have for our winner!

PACO

Well, Miss Abigail, for today's winner of Love, Lust or Stalking we have a free restraining order, and a chemical peel provided by Dr. Zizmor! *(beat)* Back to you, Miss A!

MISS ABIGAIL

(back to the contestants)

Ok, you two . . . let's play . . .

SHE and Paco try to get the audience to say the title of the show.

MISS ABIGAIL AND PACO

Love, Lust or Stalking!

Music cue.

PACO hands her a stack of index cards. PACO then takes a place upstage of the game and starts writing on a card.

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading)

"Question number one. You meet someone at your Sister's wedding, and after eight wine spritzers, you end up dancing the electric slide with her all night long. The next
(MORE)

MISS ABIGAIL (cont'd)

morning, you roll over to find yourself naked next to something that resembles Richard Nixon. You quietly untangle yourself from the bedsheets - before *it* wakes up.

She waits for someone to toot and give the right answer.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Lust.

Porn music theme plays.

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, that's lust. That one was easy . . . just like certain clients of mine.

She looks at PACO.

MISS ABIGAIL

Ready? Here's the next one. (*reading*) "You see someone on the subway and feel an instant attraction. The next morning, you get into the same exact car hoping to see them again, but all you find is a group of break dancing teens and a puddle of something brown. For months, you ride the same car and even employ several homeless people to be on the lookout for your missed connection. You alert them that "if they see something, say something."

SHE waits for an answer.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Stalking.

'Law and Order' theme plays.

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, that's clear-cut stalking. Now it's going to get tricky. (*reading*) "You find your high school sweetheart on Facebook. Her status is listed as "complicated." While you both feel the same old sparks, you do nothing until she finalizes her annulment. Months later, and after several dates, you end up at the same Econolodge you both sullied after prom night. It's magical, and only \$49.95 plus tax.

She waits for one of them to respond.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Love.

'The Love Boat' theme plays.

MISS ABIGAIL

Right. Love! True love is not always black or white or even Panasian, and it's not always instantaneous.

PACO

As my Uncle Jose says, "Time is the best Spanish Fly you can purchase."

MISS ABIGAIL

Well said, Paco. Alright, next question. You and a co-worker at Staples have been flirting for weeks. You're both in committed, healthy relationships - but do you occasionally fantasize about playing a randy game of "hide the glue stick?" Maybe.

She waits for one of them to respond.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Lust.

'Oh Yeah' sound plays.

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes. Lust. Now let me make something very clear. You can be in love with someone and still enjoy a good flirt now and then. You're human! As Robert used to say, "I don't care where you get your appetite, as long as you only eat my crawfish!"

PACO

Miss Abigail. Here, read this question. It, uh, just came in to your twitter.

HE hands her his cell phone.

MISS ABIGAIL

A question fresh from the world-wide-interwebs, here we go. *(reading)* While working as a busboy in Tijuana, you meet a waitress and fall in love. Three years later, she breaks your heart when she runs off with the boss because he has more," . . . ummm . . . *(she leans over the Audience Member Contestant)* . . . NAME OF AUDIENCE MEMBER, what's this word?

PACO

Dinero.

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading)

" . . . dinero than you do. One day, a woman who is older than your unwed mother but even more beautiful notices that you are crying in your chimichangas. She helps stitch your heart back together by reading you quotations from several
(MORE)

MISS ABIGAIL (cont'd)

insightful yet outdated and at times politically incorrect publications. She gives you a job and she becomes your best friend. She is the first person you see in the morning and the last person you see at night, and you swear that if you ever shared the same bed, you'd stay awake all night, just to gaze upon her as one would gaze upon the Mona Lisa."

She waits for the audience to respond.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Love.

MISS ABIGAIL

No, that's stalking.

'Law and Order' theme plays.

PACO

It's love, Miss Abigail. Come on, even (WHOEVER GOT THE QUESTION RIGHT) got that one right.

MISS ABIGAIL

No, it's definitely stalking. Not sleeping is a sure sign of mental illness, and the staring is just plain creepy.

PACO takes a second to summon up some courage and then . . .

PACO

Loving another person thrills the spirit with reverence. It glorifies into beauty commonplace things. Love is beautiful and terrible and vital. It is the spark which makes life. It uplifts us.

Beat.

MISS ABIGAIL

Elinor Glyn, *The Philosophy of Love*, 1923. One of my favorite passages. Paco, that was beautiful.

PACO

I never would've found it without you.

MISS ABIGAIL

You know where all the books are, I'm sure you would've found it.

PACO

I'm not speaking of the . . .

BUZZER sounds.

PACO (CONT'D)

Aye carumba!

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, that sounds means that's all the time we have today for .
. . . Love, lust or stalking!

*PACO doesn't say it with her and
haphazardly does the moves. He exits.
Music plays.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Looks like NAME is today's big winner! A big Miss Abigail
thank you to both of you for playing. Enjoy that chemical
peel, NAME.

*The MAN and the WOMAN return to their
seats.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Now, if you are lucky enough to hit that love jackpot, you
know what comes next. Right Paco?

She exits.

PACO

(reluctantly)

First comes love, second comes . . .

MISS ABIGAIL

Marriage!

MISS A exits.

PACO

Then comes Paco with an addiction to prescription pain meds.

"Chapel of Love" plays.

PACO sets up for the wedding.

MISS ABIGAIL (O.S.)

Well . . .

*MISS ABIGAIL re-enters in a wedding
dress.*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

What do you think? My old wedding dress still fits!

*She gives an audience member a high-
five. She turns around and it's half*

zipped in the back, and it's showing a red bra.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Guess what two fancy designers made it?

PACO

Vera Wang?

MISS ABIGAIL

Sears and Roebuck. Lesson number one: you don't have to break the bank to have a beautiful wedding. Weddings have become like Christmas. They're so commercial that we've forgotten what they're really about. Lesson number two: Remember, it's a party, not a political fundraiser! It should be fun and tasteful. I went to a wedding once where the theme was "Carnivale," and the bride's mother had employed little people to pass the hot hors d'oeuvres.

PACO

Was it scary? It sounds scary.

MISS ABIGAIL

It was, Paco. It was scary because they forgot that the wedding only lasts a moment, but the marriage was meant to last a lifetime.

PACO

But, Miss Abigail, what about the ring? How does a man know what size to get?

MISS ABIGAIL

I'm glad you brought that up, Paco, because I've got news for you. Lesson number three: Size doesn't matter. Right ladies? *(After audience response)* Sorry, guys. I tried. Anyway, would you like to hear how Robert proposed?

PACO shakes his head no.

PACO starts to mouth the words as she tells this story.

MISS ABIGAIL

He wrote me a sonnet and recited it while we were alone together . . . at a wiener roast. I never liked wieners all that much, ever since my roommate Carol convinced me to give them up freshman year at Wellesley. Just when I thought I was going to go hungry, he pulled out a sandwich. Yep, that's when he gave me my very first crawfish salad sandwich. One look at him and I knew I'd never go hungry again.

PACO

So, you're saying it's ok to propose with a sandwich?

MISS ABIGAIL

I'm saying that a ring isn't the important thing, Paco. It's the man. Would I have loved to get a diamond ring in one of those little blue boxes? Goodness, yes! The point I'm trying to make is that rings, and dresses and Carnivale weddings should be a symbol of your love, not a symbol of your status. Just remember, marriage is about two people. As my grandmother used to say, "There is no U in marriage."

She points at the sign.

PACO

But there is an "I age" in marriage.

He points at the sign.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

How many married folks do we have in the house today? Raise your hands if you're married. Keep them up there. How many of you have been married for 5 years? (and again) 10 years? 20 years?

She continues until there is only one couple with their hands up.

MISS ABIGAIL

Wow, XX years! What's your name? And your wife's? Congratulations. How did you meet? When did you know that she was "the one"? What is the secret to a long lasting marriage?

After ad libs, she continues on.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let's have a big hand for NAME and NAME! Paco, what do we have for this perfect couple?

PACO

Nothing.

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco!

PACO

Why should we give them anything? They have the perfect marriage.

MISS ABIGAIL

He's kidding.

PACO

Not really. But ok, for having a marriage that has lasted longer than my brother Juan's obsession with Winona Ryder, we have . . . Uh . . . *(he digs in his pocket)* . . . this piece of gum.

MISS ABIGAIL

That was some great advice. But, not all of us are as smart as NAME and NAME. That's why Edward Podolosy, in his 1947 book, *Sex Today in Wedded Life* came up with these Ten Commandments for Couples. Paco, why don't you help me with these?

PACO

Me?

MISS ABIGAIL

Unless you want me to ask NAME . . .

PACO

No, I got it.

He stares NAME down and then joins MISS A side by side. It's cute and cozy.

PACO (CONT'D)

Start here?

MISS ABIGAIL

Yes, right there. Where it says Paco.

PACO

Ok. *(reading)* "Numero uno. Men, always greet her with a kiss, especially when other people are around."

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading)

"Number two. Women, be good listeners. Let him tell you all his troubles."

PACO

(reading)

"Numero tres. Men, remember her birthdays and your wedding anniversaries." Here, let me turn the page for you, Miss A.

He puts his arm around her to turn the page.

MISS ABIGAIL

Thanks, Paco. *(reading)* "Number four. Women, remember a man is only a grown up boy. He needs mothering and enjoys it if not piled on too thick."

PACO

(reading)

"Numero cinco. Men, don't be stingy with the money. Be a generous provider."

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading)

"Number six. Women, don't live beyond your means."

PACO

(reading)

"Numero siete. Men, don't take love for granted. Remember your wife wants to be treated as your sweetheart always. She wants you to woo her."

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Number eight. Women, never hold up your husband to ridicule in the presence of others. If you must criticize, do so privately and without anger."

PACO

"Numero nueve. Men, remember, marriage is a fifty-fifty proposition and you are not the majority stockholder."

MISS ABIGAIL

And finally, "Number ten. Women, don't try to boss him around. Let him think he wears the pants." Now, to help you remember these commandments, Paco and I made you all Marriage Commandment wallet cards!

PACO and the ushers pass them out.

PACO

Just remember to put it where you can see it everyday.
(pointing to someone) Especially you, sir. In fact . . .

Paco gives him a big poster of 'The 10 Commandments'.

PACO (CONT'D)

Here, take this big one. Special for you.

MISS ABIGAIL

And even if you're not married, take one anyway. These commandments apply to all types of relationships, and all types of marriages, including the ones not allowed by law . . . But should be. Right Paco and NAME? Ok, everyone got one? Good. Now, regardless of who wears the pants, a marriage isn't a marriage unless you take those pants off once in awhile. Yes, there's one subject that we still haven't addressed tonight. We've talked about dating. We've talked
(MORE)

MISS ABIGAIL (cont'd)

about marriage. Sir, would you like to tell everyone what we didn't talk about?

She waits for the MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER to say, "Sex."

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Well, I was going to say, "mating." Because the show is called *Miss Abigail's Guide to Dating, Mating and Marriage*. But you're right, sir. Sex. A little on the noggin, but ok. *(getting back to the show)* Luckily, there have been more books written on sexual relations than on any other subject since the beginning of time.

PACO goes to the bookshelf and begins to take books off the shelf and hand (throw) them to her one after the other.

MISS ABIGAIL

(reading titles)

The Joy of Sex, 1972. Everything You Wanted To Know About Sex But Were Afraid To Ask, 1969. Married Love, 1918. The Mirror of Coitus, 15th Century. The Kama Sutra, 1st Century. And so on, and so on.

PACO goes to hand her another book but she doesn't need one. He keeps it for himself and starts reading it.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

But books weren't the only thing that taught us about sex in the golden days. *(to PACO)* Paco, are you ready?

PACO

Why would they call this one 'The Herd of Cows?'

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco!

She motions to him that it's time for his big debut! He whips out a laptop, sets up a screen and scurries around to set up for the film.

MISS ABIGAIL

There were also a number of public health films that helped us get off on the right foot. And you're in for a very special treat tonight, because we're adding a new feature to the show. Go ahead, Paco.

PACO

Ok. Miss Abigail got me an iMac for last Navidad, and I've been taking iMovie classes at the Mac store back home. Special shout out to my Genius, Larry. What up, Larry! I put together a little montage of all the classic sex movies just for you.

He looks at MISS A. She doesn't notice.

MISS ABIGAIL

Enjoy the film while I slip out of this wedding dress, because I haven't been able to take a deep breath for the last fifteen minutes.

PACO

But, Miss A-

MISS ABIGAIL

Just go ahead, my mini Fellini. I'll be back in two shakes of a belly cake.

She takes deeps breaths and exits.

PACO

Las luces!

PACO signals for the lights to go out. He starts the film.

FILM

"The film is dedicated to Miss Abigail"

After the film ends, MISS ABIGAIL enters.

MISS ABIGAIL

What did I miss? Did all of you learn something? (*she notices a couple*) You two didn't learn anything, huh? Well, I've got an idea. Why don't you come on up here and show us your technique. Paco, roll out the bed.

PACO

She's kidding!

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, I love doing that. Now, I can tell by the look on your faces, that you've got a lot of questions about sex, and all the other facets of dating, mating and marriage. So, I'd
(MORE)

MISS ABIGAIL (cont'd)

like to take some time and answer the questions you submitted at the beginning of the show!

PACO gets the question cards.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Now, don't worry. These are totally anonymous. Go ahead, Paco.

PACO reads the first question.

PACO

(reading)

Dear Miss Abigail, what is the best sexual position for a man and a woman?

MISS ABIGAIL

That's an excellent question, Paco.

PACO

It's not mine. *(pointing)* It's hers.

MISS ABIGAIL

Well, ma'am, there are so many sexual positions available to the modern couple, not including the 17 that are illegal in Arkansas. But what is the perfect one for a couple? In C.B.S. Evans' 1931 book *Man and Woman in Marriage* Evans said . . . *(reading)* . . . "A man can buy a ready-made suit; a woman, a ready-made dress. How many can buy a ready-made garment, for instance, pajamas, that will fit them both?" I hope that helps. Ok, next question!

2 more questions continue.

MISS ABIGAIL

(ad libbing)

Simply put, Linda: Check with your husband, and then make sure you sterilize the cutlery before AND after use. (back to the script.) Ok, we've got time for one more question from the audience. Paco?

PACO

(reading)

"Dear Miss Abigail, After three and a half years together, my boyfriend and I are thinking about splitting up. It's just not working anymore, and I'm afraid that we're no longer in love. What should I do?"

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, this is hard. In a perfect world, everyone would live happily ever after. Unfortunately, life is not a Disney movie, which I for one am fine with because talking birds
(MORE)

MISS ABIGAIL (cont'd)
remind me of the 60s. But I'll tell you what I tell so many of my clients: before doing anything drastic, remember, no relationship is perfect. Right, NAME AND NAME OF LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE? And if you're willing to work at it, I'd suggest trying my trademarked Miss Abigail DLDOW technique.

PACO holds up a card that reads:

*THE MISS ABIGAIL
DLDOW
(copyright 1989)*

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Here's how it works . . .

PACO reveals another card that reads:

- Decide together to make a change.*
- Listen to what your partner has to say.*
- Don't be critical.*
- Order some Chinese food.*
- When in doubt, get counseling*

MISS ABIGAIL gets her pointer.

MISS ABIGAIL
(reading)
"Decide together to make a change.
Listen to what your partner has to say.
Don't be critical.
Order some Chinese food.
When in doubt, get counseling."

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
I know it might seem hard, but it's very effective. I can't tell you how many times my DLDOW got Robert and I out of some very sticky situations. Now, I know what you're thinking . . . and you're right! We have mini DLDOWS for all of you to take home! Paco, hand out the little DLDOWS will you?

PACO hands out mini DLDOW cards.

PACO
Just remember to use your DLDOW everyday. *(pointing to someone)* Especially you, sir. In fact . . .

Paco gives him the big 'DLDOW'.

PACO (CONT'D)
Here, take this big DLDOW.

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, Paco, you're so generous. Now, if you've used my DLDOW and it's still not working, it may be best to part ways. I know, I know, you didn't think Ol' Miss Abigail would say that, but it's true. Sometimes, relationships end, and as hard as it is, you have to put your faith in the big-matchmaker-in-the-sky. But, and this is the important part . . . You must get out there and find love again. Life is too short and love is too precious. Follow the steps we talked about tonight, and get out there and meet someone at INSERT LOCATIONS SUGGESTED BY AUDIENCE OF PLACES TO GO ONE DATES or go online to J-Date or Gay-Date . . . As one of my anonymous celebrity clients said, "Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that the heart does go on . . . And on . . . and-

PACO

Ah dios mio! No puedo tomarlo! Yo no puedo comprender a esta mujer. . .

MISS ABIGAIL

I know, I'm sorry, Paco. I know you're not a Celine fan, but-

PACO

No, Miss Abigail. It's not that. Who doesn't love Celine? I just can't hear you tell all these desperate, lonely people (*he gestures again*) to keep their hearts going on when deep down in your heart, you don't believe it yourself!

MISS ABIGAIL

Of course I believe it.

PACO

Miss Abigail, for years you have helped so many people with the dating, the mating, and the marriage. You've helped famous people like Ben Affleck and Reese Whatsherspoon. But what about you?

MISS ABIGAIL

I had a wonderful marriage.

PACO

Yes. You did. You *had* a wonderful marriage, but, isn't it time for your heart to go on?

PACO grabs 'Facts of Life and Love for Teenagers' off the stage right sidetable. He opens the book and points to a page.

PACO (CONT'D)

Read it.

She takes a moment and then reads.

MISS ABIGAIL

"Love again. As love was the cause of your suffering, so love again will restore you." *(taking the book from him)*
Well, thank you for the advice, Paco, but let's just remember, who the expert is here, ok? I'm the one who's read all these books, remember?

PACO

Sometimes love is not in a book. Sometimes it is staring you straight in the face and speaking with a Spanish accent.

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco, let's talk about this later . . .

PACO

No. We're going to talk about it now.

HE stares at HER. SHE finally understands.

MISS ABIGAIL

I . . . I could never love anyone like I loved Robert.

PACO

I can't be Robert. I wouldn't try to be Robert. But I promise that I'll always take a shower, I'll keep my nose hairs trimmed and I'll put on a new pair of underpants every *single* day. And wait. Just wait.

He leaves the stage and comes back with something.

MISS ABIGAIL

What's that?

PACO

It's a sandwich.

MISS ABIGAIL

What are you trying to say, Paco?

PACO

I'm trying to say that I want you to eat this sandwich.

MISS ABIGAIL

I couldn't.

PACO

Yes, you can. For Paco.

She takes a nibble.

PACO (CONT'D)

Well?

She nods. She likes it.

MISS ABIGAIL

(with a full mouth)

It tastes different.

PACO

I make mine with a dash of picante instead of paprika.

*She takes another bite, and another.
She really likes it.*

PACO (CONT'D)

It's never going to taste exactly the same as it did before, but that doesn't mean you can't cherish it for what it is.

MISS ABIGAIL

Oh, Paco, I'm very flattered. I don't wary of your company, you always let me win at Jenga, and you don't mind that I burp after meals. *(she has a bit of indigestion)* I'm just not sure that a . . . um . . . relationship would be appropriate for us. Together. You're a young, strapping, olive-skinned boy . . .

PACO

Man

MISS ABIGAIL

Man. With his whole life ahead of him. It doesn't really make sense.

PACO

Does Julia Roberts and Daniel What's-His-Name make sense? Does Sweet and Sour chicken make sense? It doesn't have to make sense.

She turns, shocked.

PACO (CONT'D)

It just has to be.

SHE stares at HIM.

PACO (CONT'D)

I love you, Abbie. I love you.

Her phone RINGS. She lets it ring for a second and then picks it up.

MISS ABIGAIL

(into the phone)

Piss Mabigail's Yachtline. I mean, Hiss Tabigai's . . . Oh, for crimmeny Christmas, Crennifer, what do you want? No, I still can't talk. I'm having a bit of a . . .

SHE looks at Paco.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

How do you know? What do you mean, everyone knows . . . Yes, but Demi *looks* 25. Ok, what? You met someone else? He's a widowed plumber? From Jersey? You absolutely *should* go out with him. This sounds like a great change for you. Ok. Let me know how it goes. . . Yes, I will too.

She hangs up. After a moment.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

She says hi.

PACO

He will be good for her. That was good advice.

MISS ABIGAIL

They've both known heartbreak. Hopefully they'll both find love again.

PACO

Hopefully.

MISS ABIGAIL

With all she's been through, it's not that easy. And as much as she may want it to happen with all of her heart . . . it just may be too late.

PACO

I understand.

PACO turns away. MISS ABIGAIL stares at Paco. Then she turns and looks at all of her books. SHE reaches for one and then stops. And she makes a decision.

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco?

PACO stops.

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Your shoulders look tense.

He turns.

MISS ABIGAIL

Would you mind if I rubbed them for you?

PACO

I thought you'd never ask.

PACO smiles. SHE smiles.

She walks towards him . . . then stops center stage. She looks at the audience.

MISS ABIGAIL

Works every time.

She winks. And signals the lights to go out.

When the lights go out, we hear a "TOOTS" from the "Love, Lust or Stalking" game.

When the lights come up for the curtain call, PACO and MISS A are making out on the couch.

They bow.

The "Scott" bows.

They dance.

They exit and put a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door.

After the theme song ends, the phone rings. After one ring, an answering machine picks up.

MISS ABIGAIL (O.S.)

Miss Abigail's hotline. Please leave a message. Toots!

TIGER WOODS (O.S.)

Miss A. Can you call me as you soon as you get this? It's an emergency. Oh, it's Tiger.

SOUND: BEEP.

"The Miss Abigail Theme Song" plays.

THE END