

PACO SIDE #1

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
Well, ok, you've gotten the book.

*He ushers the guy off the stage . . .
waving.*

MISS A waves to the man.

MISS ABIGAIL
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. I did fall in. I fell in lo -

*MISS A.'s cell phone rings to the tune
of "SexyBack."*

PACO (CONT'D)
Ay dios mio!

MISS ABIGAIL
So sorry about this. Just one minute.

SHE turns upstage as before.

MISS ABIGAIL

Hello, Crennifer. No, I still can't talk right now. No, no, you shouldn't call him either. For goodness sake, he's waiting on the world to change! He what? He called your body a wonderwhat? Come on, that's one of the oldest lines in the book. *(beat)* Honey, I think I know the book.

PACO

That guy put the "lay" in player.

MISS ABIGAIL

Crennifer, you need to find a nice guy. 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. Yes. *(HE laughs)* Oh, you are too much!

MISS ABIGAIL

What is she saying?

PACO

What? I can't really talk now. *(beat)* Ella está aquí en este momento tan es un poco difícil. Sí, yo siempre he pensado que usted fue una hermosa mujer y muy gracioso. Ella no sabe, pero soy comedido a ella.

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 think . . . Hello? She hung up. She didn't want to say goodbye?

PACO shrugs.

MISS ABIGAIL

That's fine. I'm sure she's just, um, busy.

A beat of awkwardness.

MISS ABIGAIL
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.

MISS ABIGAIL
Hmm.

More awkwardness.

PACO SIDE #2

MISS ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

. . . As one of my anonymous celebrity clients used to say, "Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that the heart does go on . . . And on . . . and . . ."

PACO

Ah dios mio. No puedo tomarlo!

MISS ABIGAIL

I know, I'm sorry, Paco. I know you're not a Celine fan, but I couldn't find the . . .

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 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 Pamela Anderson. You've even help non-famous people like Carrot Top. 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 a book from the shelf.

PACO (CONT'D)

I think this is the book you were looking for. Professor Jefferis, *Light on Dark Corners*.

He hands her the book and opens to a page. She doesn't do anything.

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." *(beat)* 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.

HE stares at HER. SHE finally understands.

MISS ABIGAIL

Paco, I . . .

PACO

No, Miss Abigail. You listen to Paco now. When my heart was broken, you taught me how to love again. But you also taught me I had to love myself first, and then, only then, would I be ready for the love of another person. I didn't think it was possible, but you believed in me. You reminded me that life is not a sprint, it is a . . . a . . . I forget the word . . . a

He looks to an AUDIENCE MEMBER for help.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Marathon.

PACO

A marathaon. Yes, it is a marathon . . . with many hills and valleys, along the way. And you also taught me that marathons are so much easier to run and so much more fun, when you have a partner by your side.

MISS ABIGAIL

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 take a shower every day, keep my nose hairs trimmed and I'll put on a new pair of underpants every single day. I'll remember birthdays and anniversaries 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, and you will. For Paco.

She takes a nibble.

PACO (CONT'D)
Well?

She nods. She likes it.

MISS ABIGAIL
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.