

Dear Abby

written by

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**INT. CHURCH - DAY**

EXTREME CLOSE on a framed portrait of Abby (20): smiling, face slicked with sweat, volleyball tucked under her arm.

ZOOM OUT: nearby candles glinting off the photo frame. The blaring organ music, the soft sniffling, the somber black of the ALTAR.

The URN behind her photograph.

A CRASH echoes from the back of the room. A WOMAN (50s) swivels back on the pew, looks over. The crowd follows. *What was that?*

Her eyes dash across the room. *Maybe it's nothing.* She swivels back. The urn is GONE.

WOMAN

Wait, where is-

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREET - SAME**

GINA (20s) sprints down the street with a devilish grin. Several strides behind her:

ELLIOT (O.S.)

GINA! I DIDN'T MEAN LITERALLY!

A bus pulls over. Gina boards, URN tucked under arm, just as ELLIOT (20s) reaches the curb, out of breath. She hesitates.

The girls – still in funeral attire – reach a BUS STOP.

GINA

Come on!

Elliot looks around exasperatedly as traffic blares.

ELLIOT

For god's sake-

She jumps onto the bus just as the door closes behind her.

**INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS**

Gina sits down, cradling the urn in her lap. Elliot scurries up to her.

ELLIOT

I WAS JOKING. You're gonna get us arrested!

GINA

We're not gonna get arrested-.

ELLIOT

People have gone to jail for way less.

GINA

If Abby knew she was gonna sit on that creepy Addams Family mantle for the rest of eternity, she'd kill herself.

Long, awkward beat.

ELLIOT

So that's your plan? Just... lug her around for the rest of your life?

GINA

No. We're...  
(jiggles the urn)  
going to Newport.

ELLIOT

It's not our place.

GINA

Why don't we ask her then?  
(To the urn)  
Abby, do you wanna sit on your family's evil mantle or go to Newport with your besties one last time?  
(to Elliot)  
She seems to be a bit shy right now. Let's check in later.

Elliot rolls her eyes. The bus stops at a gas station parking lot. Gina gets up with the urn.

ELLIOT

Where are you going?

Gina ignores her. Elliot follows her off the bus.

**EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS**

The bus drives away, leaving the two stranded in the parking lot.

ELLIOT

This isn't Newport...Do you have any semblance of a plan?

Gina doesn't respond. Elliot sighs and pulls out her phone. No service.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Great. I hope you know the way to Newport without a GPS.

GINA

I'm thirsty.

Gina walks toward the gas station. Elliot follows reluctantly.

**INT. GAS STATION - DAY**

Gina and Elliot enter. An obscure country song is playing.

ELLIOT

Oh. This is a great song.

Gina wordlessly walks towards the drink/snack aisle.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Okay, guess I'll find the next bus myself!

Elliot scowls and goes to the register, manned by a CASHIER (20s, epically mustached) reading *Vogue*.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Hi! When's the next bus downtown?

The cashier jerks a thumb towards a pile of tourist pamphlets.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Oh, cool. Thanks.

She picks up a couple. The cashier glares at her.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Um... Which one do I-

He points to the middle pamphlet. Elliot flips through it.

CASHIER  
You kids and your fashions.

Elliot looks up, surprised that he's talking.

CASHIER (CONT'D)  
Where did you come from? A funeral?

ELLIOT  
Yeah.

CASHIER  
Oh.  
(beat)  
Uh. Want a coupon?

**INT. GAS STATION - SNACK AISLE - SAME**

Gina scans the snack aisle, lights up when she sees a bag of CIRCUS PEANUTS.

GINA  
Yoooo!

She grabs several bags and hurries back to the COUNTER, where Elliot has a large bus route map laid out. Gina dumps her snacks on top of the map, places the urn on the counter.

ELLIOT  
(annoyed)  
Hey!  
(off the circus peanuts)  
Wow. Haven't seen these in ages.

CASHIER  
You eat this shit?

GINA  
I'm sorry?

CASHIER  
I thought only old people liked these.

GINA AND ELLIOT  
(defensive)  
WHAT?

ELLIOT (CONT'D)  
Circus Peanuts are for everyone.

GINA

They made candy history! This guy  
chopped them up in his Cheerio bowl  
and invented Lucky Charms!

ELLIOT

We've had these at every birthday,  
every sleepover, since we were  
thirteen!

CASHIER

The two of you like these?

GINA

The *three* of us.

Gina pats the urn affectionately. Elliot swats her hand away.

ELLIOT

Look, could you just ring these up  
and tell us which route to take?

CASHIER

Where are you going?

ELLIOT

Downtown.

GINA

Newport.

They look at each other. Elliot pulls Gina aside.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Gina, be serious.

GINA

We didn't steal an urn for nothing.

ELLIOT

(looking around)

Keep your voice down!

GINA

You're such a goody-goody.

ELLIOT

Goody-goody? What the hell is this,  
the Hardy Boys? You know, I didn't  
want to come here, you're the one  
who flipped out!

Gina scoops up the bags of CIRCUS PEANUTS and huffs out.

CASHIER

She gonna pay for those?

Elliot shoves a few bucks at the cashier and follows Gina.

**EXT. GAS STATION CURB - DAY**

Elliot catches up with Gina. Gina won't look at her.

ELLIOT

I'm sorry, G. I didn't mean...

(beat)

Abby was always better at this stuff.

GINA

Why are you so against this? I just wanna do one last thing for her.

ELLIOT

I do too, but this is crazy-

GINA

I couldn't leave her there. She wouldn't want that.

(beat)

El. Don't make me do this alone.

A bus pulls up ahead. Elliot stares at the number, lets out a big sigh.

ELLIOT

We'll have to switch lines in a few stops, but we should be able to make it to Newport by lunchtime.

Gina cheers and tackles Elliot with a hug, dropping the circus peanuts. Elliot can't help a tiny smile.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Alright, alright. Don't have a cow.

CUT TO:

**INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS**

The girls sit on a bus. Elliot's arms are full of circus peanuts. Gina plucks a bag and opens it.

Gina offers a piece to Elliot. She nods. Gina feeds it to her. Elliot gestures towards the bags in her arms.

ELLIOT

Trade you for the urn?

GINA  
I thought you had it?

The two girls stare at each other. Beat. Then:

ELLIOT  
YOU'RE FUCKING KIDDING ME-

HARD CUT TO:

**INT. GAS STATION - DAY**

CELIA (20s) walks up to the cashier with the urn.

CELIA  
Excuse me, is my coupon valid for  
this?

**END OF EPISODE 1.**