

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 sniffing, 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	GINA
Downtown.	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.