

ABIGAIL Sides #2

Abigail appears in the canyon with a camp lantern. She finds Roderick in a dim pool of light.

ABIGAIL

My God you could have fallen down an abandoned mine shaft!

RODERICK

Mom there are no abandoned mine shafts out here.

ABIGAIL

How do you know that?

RODERICK

Because I would have found them when I was a teenager. I spent hours looking for these abandoned mine shafts you kept warning me about. There aren't any.

ABIGAIL

But you're hurt, aren't you.

RODERICK

My ankle. I turned it on a rock or something.

ABIGAIL

Let me see it.

RODERICK

No.

ABIGAIL

Do you need a doctor?

RODERICK

Of course not.

ABIGAIL

It's not the most ridiculous notion, that you might need help. People do.

RODERICK

Tell that to Tuffer. God, I don't understand why he won't just...

ABIGAIL

Sometimes we have to allow people to ask for what they need.

RODERICK

You mean me. Is that what you were doing? Waiting for me to tell you I needed help?

It wasn't obvious?

ABIGAIL

Yes, it was obvious. But it was not clear to me that you would accept it.

RODERICK

You stopped talking to me!

ABIGAIL

You weren't yourself at all! It wasn't doing either one of us any good. It broke my heart-

RODERICK

Pretty sure it was *my* life spinning out of control.

ABIGAIL

Now don't act like a victim, it's not your style. If you had just said the word-

RODERICK

I couldn't!

ABIGAIL

Well maybe Tuffer can't either!

RODERICK

It's not the same!

A tense silence.

ABIGAIL

You love him a lot, don't you.

RODERICK

Oh my God I can hardly stand it.

Roderick relents, and Abigail begins to perform Reiki on his injured ankle.

ABIGAIL

Oh sweetie I know. Welcome to exile, my love. You are leaving Egypt.

RODERICK

Mom I can't take a Biblical allegory right now.

ABIGAIL

You know how long it would take to walk from Egypt to Jerusalem? About three days. But the Israelites spent forty long years...forty years, wandering the desert, at the mercy of cosmic circumstance...

RODERICK

It took them forty years because they stood around complaining about each other. It took them so long because they doubted themselves and kept second-guessing God.

ABIGAIL

Yes. Exactly.

RODERICK

Don't home-school me like that! I've spent the last eight months wondering if he's dead or alive. Waiting for any signal that he might be ready to clean up. You have no idea.

ABIGAIL

Now wait a minute, I was there for the great cocaine invasion of Laurel Canyon, in case you've forgotten! I packed everything I could in that little Saab and hightailed it out of Los Angeles *through the rain* - and there's nothing as treacherous as the 101 during a thunderstorm, let me tell you - because I saw it first hand! I will never forget driving through the desert, you and Estrella sleeping in the back seat, and hearing on the radio that Elvis had died. Everyone knew why. And I thought 'Good. I am doing the right thing. This will protect them.' But it didn't. The first time you called asking for money, I knew. I could hear it in your voice, just like I could hear it in your father's. And I spent most of the next eight *years* wondering if you were dead or alive. So I know. All about it.

RODERICK

I'm sorry.

ABIGAIL

I know you are. I should have got on a plane. I wanted to, so many times.

RODERICK

But you knew it was up to me to make the decision.

ABIGAIL

Yes. But that's not why. I was afraid I'd get there and you wouldn't need me.

Roderick groans and collapses.