

YOU CAN'T BE SURE (SH) *Class use only.*

JEN

Hi ... Thanks for coming. I really need your help.

ABBY

Just one thing, why are we meeting in a bar? It's your classic meat market in here.

JEN

I know, I know. I'm sorry. It's just... I came here last week with Jan after the office party. She likes it here and I was too drunk to care. (pause) Don't look now... I said don't look! There's a guy behind me in a grey sweater... designer. He asked me out and I said I'd meet him here tonight but that I had to meet with a friend first - that's you.

ABBY

I hope you don't want me to come on the date too because I won't... and I'm married.

JEN

No, no. I just wanted your opinion.

ABBY

On what? It's a crappy bar, I don't like his sweater and I have to get home.

JEN

No, no... I mean, does he look okay to you? I've dated so many losers... I can't go through it again. I decided that I wouldn't go out with anyone unless someone I trusted, someone really stable and happy, would sort of look them over for me.

ABBY

And that would be me?

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JEN

Well.. Yes. I mean, you're married.

ABBY

That has nothing to do with it. Are you telling me you have absolutely no judgement in terms of men?

JEN

No judgement? Well...I guess that's it. I have absolutely no judgement.

ABBY

Do you know how pathetic that sounds?

JEN

Yeah. But will you help me?

ABBY

Hasn't it occurred to you that the whole dating process is about finding out who you like and what you like in a person. A meeting of minds... and bodies. It's a refining process and eventually you don't pick the losers - you just *know* when the right one comes along.

JEN

I know that but after Frank.... I thought he was the right one until they locked him up for fraud. Such a con-man and Frank wasn't even his real name. I'm scared. You just can't be sure.

ABBY

Jen, you can't be sure about anything. That's why these things are called challenges. You have to take a risk, a leap of faith. Trust your instincts

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JEN

I don't have any.

ABBY

Yes you do. You just buried them. When you meet someone you like, try to slow down a bit. Before you get caught up in the excitement, the lust, the love, all that stuff, try to see who they are and what their values are. Are they really someone you want to spend time with? You have to try to be objective. They say "love is blind" and that's why we often miss the obvious sign that says "serial killer" or in your case "con-artist".

JEN

But I'm very impulsive. That's why I need you. You're so lucky. You've been married to Joe for 10 years and the relationship is as hot as when you met.

ABBY

Hotter.

JEN

How did you do it? How did you find the perfect guy?

ABBY

Well, first of all, there's no perfect guy, or woman for that matter.

JEN

But did you do all that standing back and being objective thing. How long did you make him wait?

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ABBY

Well... actually, we met at a wedding. It was one of those instant things. Before the other guests had finished their appetizers we were down in the Pool House ripping each others clothes off.

JEN

That long huh? So why are you giving me all the advice on objectivity?

ABBY

Because you asked. Look, you've kissed a lot of frogs. You just have to trust that the right person is out there for you. And all this frog kissing has given you the tools to find him.

JEN

So what do you think of the guy in the grey sweater?

ABBY

He's a nice looking guy. Good hands.

JEN

So should I go out with him? What do you think? You just don't know who you're meeting in a bar.

ABBY

I think you should make up your own mind and not put that responsibility onto other people.

JEN

That's a lot of help.

ABBY

Well, you're here now. You may as well get to know him. Actually, he's very nice, he's the new accountant at our office.

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JEN

What!? He's from work?! All this time and you didn't tell me you knew him.

ABBY

You didn't ask me if I knew him, just what I thought of him.

JEN

You are amazing! You let me go through all that for nothing.

ABBY

Not really. You needed to discuss it.

JEN

Thanks a lot. (pause) He's looking cuter by the minute. Sorry you have to go so soon, but I have a date.

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