

8

CONTINUED: "A Honeymoon to Remember" S1 E05

8

Abigail follows John out the door.

9

EXT. SMITH HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

9

Richard's there, along with a carriage. While John throws the bag inside, Richard gives Abigail a quick good-bye kiss on the cheek.

RICHARD

Where are you off to?

ABIGAIL

Worcester.

John walks back to Abigail and Richard.

RICHARD

He used to live there when he was a--

JOHN

Apprenticing to be a lawyer, she knows.

RICHARD

He had an actual job too.

ABIGAIL

Really? Why won't you tell me?

JOHN

No reason. Let's go.

He grabs her hand and practically drags her to the carriage.

RICHARD

Get him to tell you! Ends justify the means!

John slams the carriage shut.

ABIGAIL

Poke.

JOHN

Nabby.

ABIGAIL

Poke.

JOHN

Nabby.

ABIGAIL

Poke, poke, poke, poke--

When she moves her hand to poke him again, John catches her by the wrist.

JOHN

(overdramatic whisper)

Ninjaaaaa.

Abigail pulls herself away. She holds her wrist in mock-pain.

ABIGAIL

You hate me, don't you? That's why you won't tell me.

He pretends to ignore her, which only prompts more teasing.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Why do you hate me? Tell me! All my faults, inside and out!

JOHN

I am so sleeping on the couch tonight.

He finally closes his book and takes a long look at her.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Fine, I promised you last episode, so, here, John Adams's catalog of your faults, imperfections, defects, or whatever you want to call them. You suck at cards, you're way too shy, can't sing, you hang your head all the time--habit from reading too much--you always cross your legs when you sit, and you point your toes inward when you walk. Short list, I know, but you put me on the spot.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11

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JOHN (CONT'D)

11

I'm sure I'll find more after a bit more searching... how's that for nitpicking?

ABIGAIL

I suppose you'll have to go on hating me, then. Most of those are incurable. As for your last two, what business does a gentleman have looking at the legs of a lady?

In response, he tries to put a hand on her upper leg, but she slaps him away.

JOHN

Aw.

ABIGAIL

Tell me what you did in Worcester.

JOHN

No.

ABIGAIL

Maybe you should write another catalog of my faults, imper--

JOHN

This is the story of John Adams in Worcester.

John ignores Abigail's smug smile.

12

INT. ADAMS HOMESTEAD - KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

12

A young John Adams (6) whittles a boat on the kitchen table. Mrs. Adams comes into the kitchen.

SUPER: Braintree, 1741

MRS. ADAMS

Time for school, John.

ABIGAIL (O.C.)

I wanted Worcester, not your entire life story.

JOHN (O.C.)

You got the last two episodes. Give me one.

END OF ACT ONE

20 INT. ADAMS HOMESTEAD - KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK) 20

The scene is identical to the first flashback, except Deacon Adams is beside Mrs. Adams. They speak to John (16).

SUPER: 1750... still Braintree

JOHN

Mother, father? I've decided that I'm going to drop out of school and be a farmer.

DEACON & MRS. ADAMS

No.

JOHN

What's the point in having separated parents if I can't play you two off of each other?

MRS. ADAMS

You have to go to school, John.

JOHN

Why? I hate school.

MRS. ADAMS

It's important.

JOHN

Not to me.

DEACON ADAMS

Why?

MRS. ADAMS

Don't ask why, he's just being a teenager. There is no why.

DEACON ADAMS

Mother of the year, everybody.

MRS. ADAMS

I swear to God--!

21 INT. CARRIAGE - MOMENTS LATER 21

Abigail's pulling out her hair.

JOHN

Then, my father said--

(CONTINUED)

21

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21

ABIGAIL  
Summary! John!

22

INT. ADAMS HOMESTEAD - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (FLASHBACK)

22

JOHN  
I know everything already, and when  
I do anything, they scream at me.  
I'm done with this.

DEACON ADAMS  
What if I got you a tutor?

JOHN  
That would work.

ABIGAIL (O.C.)  
Thank you for paraphrasing.

27 EXT. HARVARD - CAMPUS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

27

SUPER: Cambridge (Harvard) University, 1755

All of Massachusetts seems to be partying on the campus, the closest thing to a secular Christmas party a Puritan society could have. Food, alcohol, cigars, kites, decorations, children's toys, music, dancing, etc.

It's not just the families of the students that have come either. State officials in uniform, farmers, smiths, other working-class men and their wives, even beggars and some Native Americans.

There's a stage where John (20) and the students stand in their graduation gowns. John finishes a speech at the front of the stage.

JOHN

See how so many men from all  
different walks of life traveled  
o'er the plains, from those nut-  
brown country folk to... more rural  
people. Hey, it's Massachusetts.

A few people laugh. One man in particular, Rev. Thaddeus MacCarty, sees especially intrigued by John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

While some are intoxicated with  
wine, and others get into  
fistfights (probably from said  
wine), all of us in this loose  
crowd seek forbidden pleasures.  
Even Puritans need to have fun, so  
drink Harvard dry! And so concludes  
the week.

Another standing ovation.

JOHN (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Ok, I stole that speech from one of  
my other classmates, but my  
graduation speech is like the only  
speech I ever gave without a  
transcript. Point is, Rev. Thaddeus  
MacCarty was in the crowd:  
Worcester's town minister. And, the  
moment I descended those steps, so  
taken by my speech, he offered me a  
job on the spot-- oh, look, we're  
here!

28 INT. CARRIAGE - MOMENTS LATER

28

Indeed, the carriage has stopped. John offers a gentleman's hand to Abigail, who takes it as though she's holding a dead fish.

JOHN

What's the face?

ABIGAIL

I am going to murder you when you  
sleep on the couch tonight.

John starts packing his things, humming a tune of victory.

END OF ACT TWO

37 INT. WILLARD'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 37

John's diary, much less full, lays open on a table next to a quill pen and a single lit candle. Beyond the light of the candle on the book and his face, the room is dark and silent.

John writes in his diary.

JOHN

Mother and father paid for you to go to Harvard. You know they wanted you to go into the church! But, the last thing I need is everyone judging me. Everyone screaming. Where in the Bible does it talk about church congregations? Councils? Decrees? Creeds? Confessions? Oaths? Subscriptions? And all the other nonsense people use religion for these days?!

Lightning strikes outside his window, and thunder booms.

John looks up at the ceiling.

JOHN (CONT'D)

...sorry, Jesus, but you know it's true.

John slams his fist on the desk.

JOHN (CONT'D)

No, I can't be a minister! Church isn't supposed to make men good at solving riddles and mysteries, but good people: good husbands and good wives, good parents and good children. That's what I want to do.

John takes a shuttering breath.

(CONTINUED)



JOHN (V.O.)

Why is that so hard? What does it take to overcome my faults? Is it possible for anyone to conquer their natural pride and self-centeredness, expect no more respect than they deserve, be quiet and humble, great and generous... how trusting should we be in the goodwill of strangers? What's the hill to fight and die on? Why can't I settle and be happy? What is the proper business of mankind in this life?

He stands and paces.

JOHN

I don't want to go into the church. I don't want to go into medicine either. Or be a lawyer or a scholar. I don't want to stay here. I don't want to do anything. I don't want to be just anyone, but I don't want to be anything! I have no idea what I'm going to do with my life! I'm clueless!

He throws something, anything.

Mrs. Willard knocks on the door.

MRS. WILLARD (O.C.)

John, I heard a bang and out of nowhere acts of God. Are you having the standard post-college existential crisis?

JOHN

...no?

MRS. WILLARD (O.C.)

Okay!

She's gone. John attempts to get ahold of himself.

JOHN

All my life I've done what everyone else wanted, or taken for granted what I have. I've glorified myself and dreamed the days away, never once questioning the path that lay before me. How do you stop?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED: "A Honeymoon to Remember" S1 E05  
JOHN (CONT'D)

37

How do you learn to be an adult  
when, all your life, you've been a  
kid? The world threw me at me  
without a guide! Except God, but--

He's cut off with another lighting strike outside his window  
and clap of thunder.

John looks up at the ceiling.

JOHN (CONT'D)

All the most interesting people are  
in hell anyway!

He tries to sit on his chair, but it crumples under him.

For a third time, he looks up at the ceiling.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You're a jerk!

He settles for the floor.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's a new year now. I swear not to  
waste my time like I did last year.  
I swear to rise with the sun, to  
keep myself informed, to learn, to  
better myself. I won't  
procrastinate. I won't settle. Hear  
me, you big jerk in the sky: May I  
feel ashamed whenever an hour  
passes unimproved. I'll challenge  
my mind and focus on the world  
around me and reflect on what I  
read and what I see. I'll stand  
collected and confident. I'll  
follow my own advice. I swear to  
you, I will strive with all my soul  
to be something more than the  
people who've had less advantages  
than myself.

38

INT. WILLARD'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

38

John hovers over Abigail as she reads the diary. She looks up  
from the open diary with sparkling eyes.

JOHN

Am I the likable protagonist again?

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL  
(ignoring him)  
How did that go?

John points to the next day's entry.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
Sun's up. I'm not. This is the  
usual fate of my resolutions.

She closes the book.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
Don't give up, okay?

Abigail motions for him to join her on the bed. Right before she blows out the candle, she laughs maniacally.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
You were a kindergarten teacher.

John blows out the candle.

ME (O.C.)  
And, that's a wrap!

END OF ACT THREE