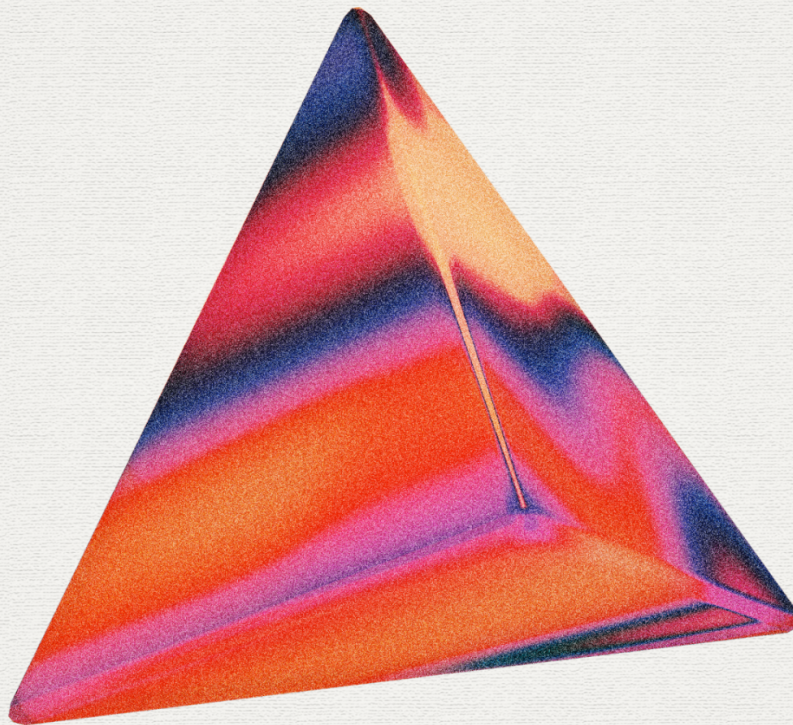


Jeanie Greenberg Presents  
Everything You  
Need to Know  
About Abortion  
*in one hour or less*



a new play by the  
wish collective

Commissioned by the Miranda Family Fund

## CHARACTERS

HEALTH TEACHER - She. Her. 64 years old

FRED BALDUCCI - He. Him. 46 years old

TRAVIS - He. Him. 15 years old

VINETTA - Black. She. Her. 17 years old & 19 years old

LYRIX - Black. She. Her. 17 years old

DANIEL - He. Him. 16 years old

CLARA - She. Her. 15 years old

MELISSA - She. Her. 15 years old

SEVENTH GRADER (AISHA) - She. Her. 12 years old

## WHERE

Oklahoma

## WHEN

December 2023 & 2026

## NOTE

-The actors playing Lyrix or Clara can play Seventh Grader (Aisha).

*A high school auditorium, worn red velvet curtains drawn. In relative silence, the HEALTH TEACHER in a tracksuit unloads a bundle of items onto a table, assisted by TRAVIS- they pull out a box of condoms, folders of slides, laundry bags of gym pinnies. Students trickle in as they adjust the lights.*

TRAVIS

Ms. G what kind of lights do you want?

HEALTH TEACHER

What kind of what?

TRAVIS

What kind of lights.

HEALTH TEACHER

Normal. Normal lights.

*TRAVIS turns on the lights; the stage is illuminated in bright stage light.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Too bright.

TRAVIS

That's too bright?

*TRAVIS adjusts the lights; he puts a spotlight on her. Students laugh.*

TRAVIS

You wanna spotlight?

HEALTH TEACHER

Not really no.

*He adjusts the lights; they look more normal.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok that's good.

TRAVIS

That's good? You sure?

HEALTH TEACHER

Very good, thank you Travis.

*She coughs. She unwraps a throat lozenge. She puts it in her mouth. A student yells “ow OWWWWW.” She looks out, weary, puts the lozenge wrapper in her pocket. She goes back off stage. In the back of the theatre, students are giggling.*

*She re-emerges with a projector cart. The cart is loud as shit, one of the wheels is wonky, it scrapes as she pushes it across the stage. She looks for an outlet to plug it in. Where the fuck is the outlet?*

HEALTH TEACHER

*(Under her breath.)*

Where the fuck is the outlet?

TRAVIS

Here.

*TRAVIS hops onstage, showing her where an outlet is near the foot of the stage.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Thank you. Somebody get some chairs from backstage please?

*VINETTA and LYRIX get up and go backstage, bringing out armfuls of folding chairs. HEALTH TEACHER opens the stage curtains to reveal a half-finished set of “The Music Man.” The main street of River City has been painted on butcher paper by some very enthusiastic set decorators, and it’s now stapled to flat frames. Cans of paint and a ladder are still on stage, next to a pile of 2x4s that may someday be the bridge. In the corner, there’s a real pool table on casters that is way, way fancier than the rest of the set. VINETTA and LYRIX set down the chairs.*

VINETTA

Where’s Douche?

HEALTH TEACHER

Don’t call him that.

VINETTA

Ms. G we love him. We call him Douche because we love him.

LYRIX

Is he coming?

HEALTH TEACHER

He's supposed to be finding a chalkboard. *Examining the set.* What's this for?

VINETTA

We're doing "The Music Man."

HEALTH TEACHER

Which one's that.

LYRIX

A con man tricks a small town in Indiana into thinking their kids are getting corrupted by pool tables and says he can save everybody with music lessons.

VINETTA

But he doesn't actually have any instruments. He can't play any instruments.

LYRIX

And then he falls in LOVE.

LYRIX *finds a spot onstage and starts practicing one of the dances.* VINETTA *joins.*

CLARA *walks to the foot of the stage.*

CLARA

Ms. G?

HEALTH TEACHER

What's up.

CLARA *whispers; we can't hear.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Yeah grab me my bag please.

CLARA *brings her her bag that's been left downstage left. HEALTH TEACHER pulls out a maxi-pad, hands it to her. CLARA takes it and leaves the auditorium.*

HEALTH TEACHER

*(Pointing to a flower box.)* Who made this?

TRAVIS

Me and Antonio.

HEALTH TEACHER

I like the little flower boxes. That's what I want on my house.

*She turns on the projector. It shines onto the back wall of the town square set, primarily on what is supposed to be "city hall"- the transparency says WELCOME TO ADVANCED SEX, HEALTH, & EMOTIONAL EDUCATION in hastily drawn bubble letters. Someone has drawn an ejaculating penis on the transparency.*

LYRIX

Ms. G. MS. G. I have the LEAD.

HEALTH TEACHER

What's that sweetie I couldn't hear you/

LYRIX

/Ms. G I have the leadddd. Marion the Librarian. Vinetta is Amaryllis.

DANIEL

*(From the audience)* I'm the mayor/

LYRIX

/Wait Daniel's here? Where's Daniel?

DANIEL

I'm right here.

LYRIX

Daniel I did not see you, I'm sorry.

HEALTH TEACHER *reviews her lecture notes. She breaks into a coughing fit.*

VINETTA

Woah are you sick?

HEALTH TEACHER

Bronchitis.

LYRIX

Ms. G I CANNOT get bronchitis. I am supposed to be Protecting My Instrument.

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm on antibiotics- I'm not contagious.

VINETTA

Are you gonna come to the show?

HEALTH TEACHER

I already reserved my ticket.

VINETTA

Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

HEALTH TEACHER

Friday.

*CLARA re-enters and sits back down.*

LYRIX

You're coming to opening noooo/ Ms. G

VINETTA

/We're gonna fuck up so much. Saturday's the best.

DANIEL

Saturday is always the best.

HEALTH TEACHER

I always go on the Friday.

*HEALTH TEACHER pulls a grubby white sheet out of the box.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Travis can you hang this for me over the middle part?

TRAVIS

Yep.

TRAVIS *takes the sheet, gets on a ladder, hangs it over the building supposed to be City Hall.*

HEALTH TEACHER *sees the penis, licks her finger, wipes it off. MELISSA comes over to*

HEALTH TEACHER, *gives her a hug.*

MELISSA

Hi.

HEALTH TEACHER

Hi sweetheart.

MELISSA

Can I have a cough drop?

HEALTH TEACHER

Are you sick?

MELISSA

No.

HEALTH TEACHER *hands her one. TRAVIS walks over to her, hands her a ring of keys.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Which one is it.

TRAVIS

This one. Purple one.

HEALTH TEACHER *puts the keys in her pocket.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Okay - why don't we, thank you Travis can you go take a seat, Vinetta, Lyrix we're gonna start. Take a seat. So. Why are we doing this seminar today?

MELISSA

Because of Harper.

HEALTH TEACHER

Right-

DANIEL

Because Harper puked so hard she had to go to the hospital.

*Everyone laughs except VINETTA and LYRIX.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Hey/

that is not what happened,

I know you know that's not what happened.

VINETTA

Daniel shut the fuck up!

DANIEL

She freaking went like

*(mimics vomiting)* like some exorcist shit

HEALTH TEACHER

Harper is hospitalized with organ failure. Your classmate is in the hospital because she poisoned her liver trying to give herself an abortion with essential oil, that's what happened.

*Everyone is very quiet.*

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm not supposed to tell you that, because we should respect Harper's privacy, but I have heard a lot of rumors going around, I've heard a lot of disrespectful things, ok, and I think it's important that you all know what happened.

TRAVIS

Why did she drink it. If it's poisonous. Like isn't that the shit you put in candles.

LYRIX

She didn't know dumb/ass

VINETTA

/there was a Tik Tok. You're supposed to drink this like, tea but the same herb comes in like an oil. She thought it would be faster.

TRAVIS

That's so dumb.

CLARA

Travis shut the fuck up/

HEALTH TEACHER

/That's enough. That's enough, that's why we're here today. This is why we're here.  
If people don't know what to do, they'll try anything, and sometimes that anything is dangerous.  
Where the hell is. I can hear him. COACH BALDUCCI?

*Nothing.*

HEY COACH BALDUCCI?

*That was too big a yell, it aggravates her throat. She coughs. FRED pops his head in.*

FRED

Sup?

HEALTH TEACHER *is coughing.*

FRED

You want water? I'll get water-

HEALTH TEACHER *hacks.*

HEALTH TEACHER

No, I-  
Chalkboard.

FRED

CHALKBOARD. Yes ma'am!

*He rushes out with the alacrity and vigor of a well-trained Marine. HEALTH TEACHER finishes coughing.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Phew, wow, uh.  
Okay, well.

*She looks at the class.*

We'll just. [wait.]

LYRIX

Ok Ms. G no offense I'm moving back a row, I love you, but if I get sick Ms. Powell-Thompson will literally kill me.

*LYRIX and VINETTA get up and move back.*

VINETTA

Same. I'm movement captain.

LYRIX

We're like carrying this production on our backs right now.

HEALTH TEACHER

Fine move back.

*FRED re-enters, dragging the chalkboard. It's covered in football plays.*

Thank you, Coach Balducci. Okay!

*He leaves. She grabs the eraser and starts erasing the football plays.*

HEALTH TEACHER

We're here today because I want you all to know what to do if you or someone you love have an abortion. Because abortions themselves are safe. Safer than Tylenol and safer than getting your wisdom teeth removed. But people trying to perform abortions on themselves without the right medication, without guidance, that is dangerous and I don't want anyone else going to the hospital. Harper shouldn't be in the hospital. Ok so in today's seminar, two objectives, number one, we're going to learn how abortion **works**, right?

So that if you're ever with a person who is having an abortion, you know what's normal.

And then if something happens that's not normal, you'll learn how to safely get medical care.

Number two, we are going to learn how to support someone who is having an abortion.

We are going to learn about all the tools we have at our disposal, because

if we're ever in a position where someone needs our help,

we will need to know what to do. We will need to be capable, ok, and something I want you to learn is that you are **capable**.

*Writes CAPABLE in big letters on the board.*

You have so much power and you don't even know it.

You can all, every single one of you, learn how to take care of each other.

*A student snickers.*

Yeah okay I know it's corny,  
but you just have to know that.  
Because shit like this-

*oooOOOOHHHH MS. GREENBERG SWORE.*

STUFF, stuff, I meant stuff-  
Stuff like this usually comes up when you're not ready.  
Crises generally don't happen when you're feeling great.  
They usually happen when you're in the shower, shampooing your hair,  
or when you're about to fall asleep, or when you're about to go on a date.  
That's just how it tends to go.  
So if you know what to do beforehand, and you believe you can do it,  
it's a lot easier to answer that call.  
I want you to picture a wheel. Big big wheel like Jeopardy.  
And it's spinning and it's spinning/

DANIEL

/There's no wheel on Jeopardy.

HEALTH TEACHER

What's the one I'm thinking of, what's the one with the/ big

DANIEL

/Wheel of Fortune.

HEALTH TEACHER

Oh god okay, Wheel of Fortune, that wheel, thank you Daniel,  
and we're all on it. Big huge wheel. The Help Wheel. We're all hanging onto it and we're  
waiting to see where it stops for the day. Where it puts us.  
Some days you're the one who needs help.  
Some days you're the helper.  
Some days you're both.  
Just depends where you land that day.  
And the wheel is always turning.

FRED *wheels in a TV and VCR.*

FRED

They made me SIGN THIS OUT. Like I'm gonna steal this thing/ jesu

HEALTH TEACHER

Did they ask what you needed it for?

FRED

No. They ask what you need That for/

HEALTH TEACHER

/I don't think anyone remembered this thing existed.

*Beat.*

FRED

So how long do you think we have?

HEALTH TEACHER

Hour tops.

HEALTH TEACHER *hands FRED a huge ring of keys.*

HEALTH TEACHER

It's the purple one.

FRED *takes the keys, nods, starts walking around the auditorium locking each door, testing it.*

MELISSA

Douche what the fuck?

FRED

Language, watch the language/

CLARA

Are we getting murdered like what's happening/ here

HEALTH TEACHER

/Ok, eyes on me, eyes up here. This is important I need, I need everyone listening, ok? Today's class is illegal. What we're gonna teach you is illegal. Even what I, the little bit I told you already, that's illegal, that's not allowed. It's not allowed here, it's not allowed in this state. But um. Coach Balducci and I have decided we're gonna teach it anyway.

TRAVIS

Fuck yeah.

*Scattered, mild applause.*

HEALTH TEACHER

That's why we're not in the gym, that's why we're here. So. If that's, if anyone's not comfortable with that you should go now. Up to you.

*FRED goes to the door, opens it, holds it open to see if anyone wants to leave. Silence. Then:*

MELISSA

Um. Are we gonna like. Be in trouble.

HEALTH TEACHER

No. You're not gonna be in trouble.

CLARA

But it's not allowed. You said it's illegal/

HEALTH TEACHER

/it is. I'm saying we're gonna be in trouble, not you.

LYRIX

Are you sure.

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm sure.

CLARA

How are you gonna be in trouble?

HEALTH TEACHER

Don't worry about that.

VINETTA

They'll fire you?

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm a big girl, I uh. You don't need to worry about that. Everybody good?

*Beat.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Then I guess we'll start.

*FRED locks the door, walks back onstage. He gives HEALTH TEACHER'S hand a quick squeeze; it's almost invisible. HEALTH TEACHER removes the transparency, leaving a blank white square projected on the sheet. FRED pulls over a cardboard box and stands at the other side of the projector.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Abortion has of course existed since ancient times.  
How do we know this? Because people wrote about it.  
Ancient Egypt.



That's papyrus.  
Pre-Han Dynasty China. That's the Shennong Ben Cao Jing.



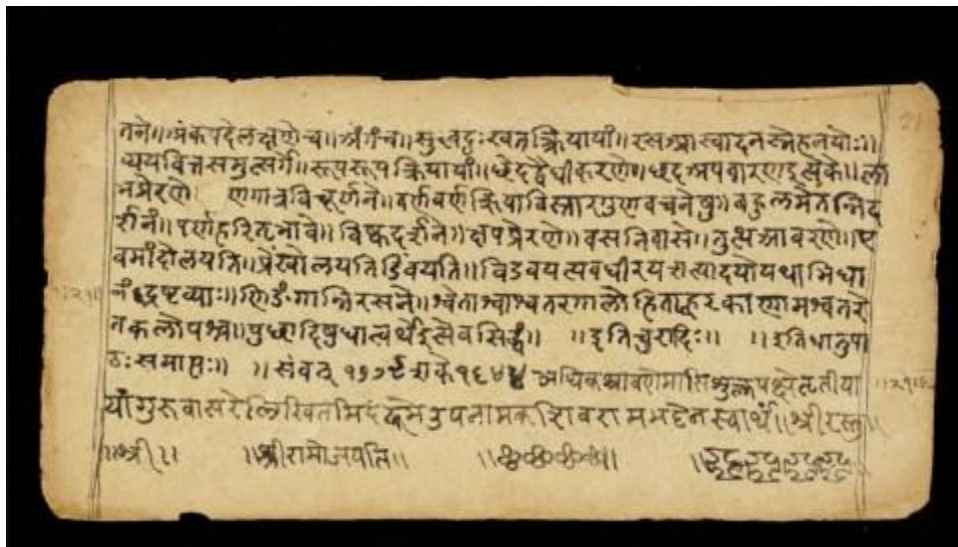
Here's a common massage abortion technique depicted in the Angkor Wat temple of Cambodia in 1150 AD.



We have abortion mentioned and not condemned multiple times in the bible.



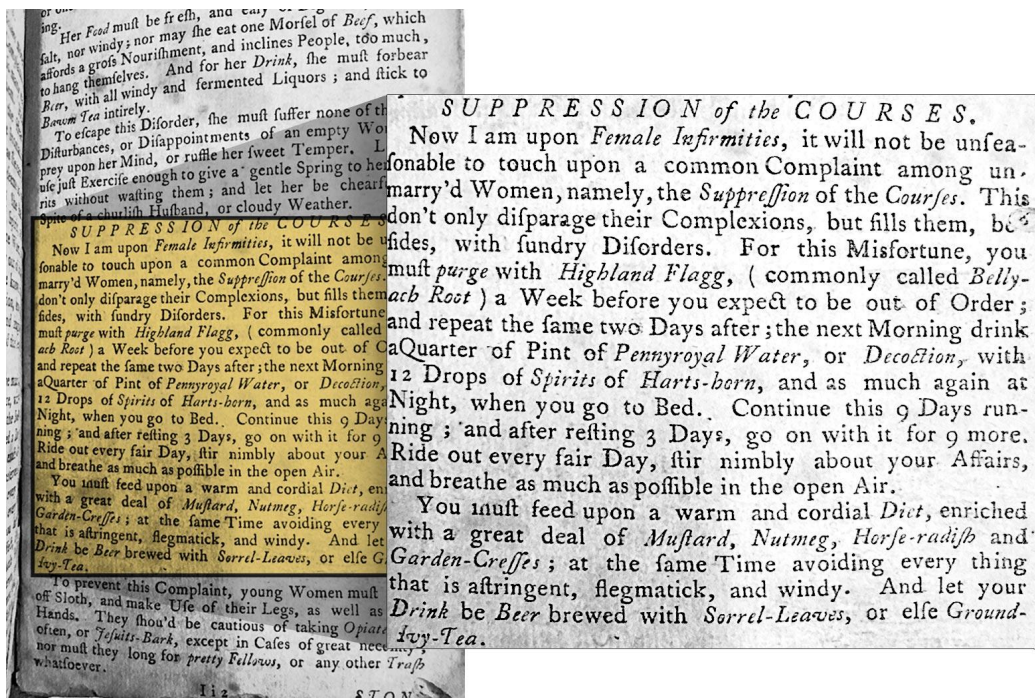
An 8th century Sanskrit text recommends abortion by squatting over a boiling pot of steamed onions.



Herbal contraceptives were used by the Shoshone and Bodewame Native American tribes, including dogbane and stone seed. Indigenous communities across the country had been using medicinal herbs for reproductive care centuries before colonizers arrived.



Benjamin Franklin included a recipe for an abortion remedy in one of his math textbooks.



So, abortion is present in almost every civilization.

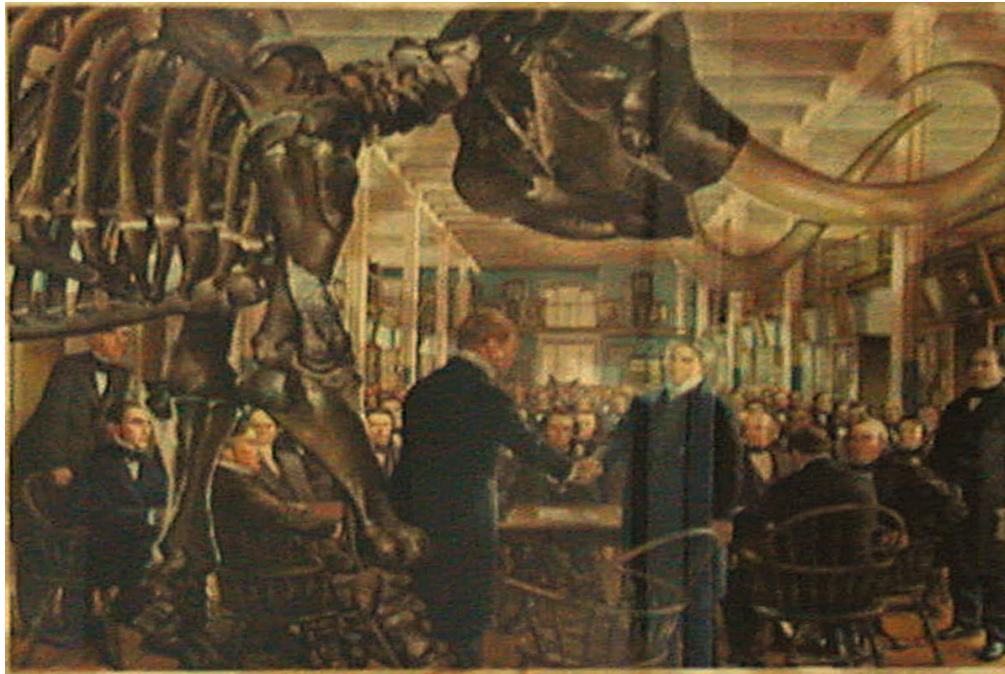
For some it's just a normal part of life, for some it's a social problem, for a lot of reasons, often because it interrupts patrilineal property ownership, but blah blah blah, I don't want to get too far in the weeds, the relevant part -

In the United States, nobody really cares until the mid-19th century.

Until the early 1800s, abortion was considered legal until "quickening", or, basically, when a fetus starts kicking and moving around.



Enslaved midwives provided birth and reproductive care to other enslaved folk, creating this incredible legacy of Black midwifery in the United States.



In 1847, and then the all-white all-male American Medical Association forms. These guys were real keen to establish themselves as the dominant medical authority in the United States, and in practice, that meant discrediting abortion providers and midwives- especially Black midwives.



In the late 1800's, we have the birth rate of white Protestant women dropping.  
We have immigration increasing.  
We have Dr. Horatio Storer in charge of the AMA -

MELISSA

Ms. G?

HEALTH TEACHER

Yes?

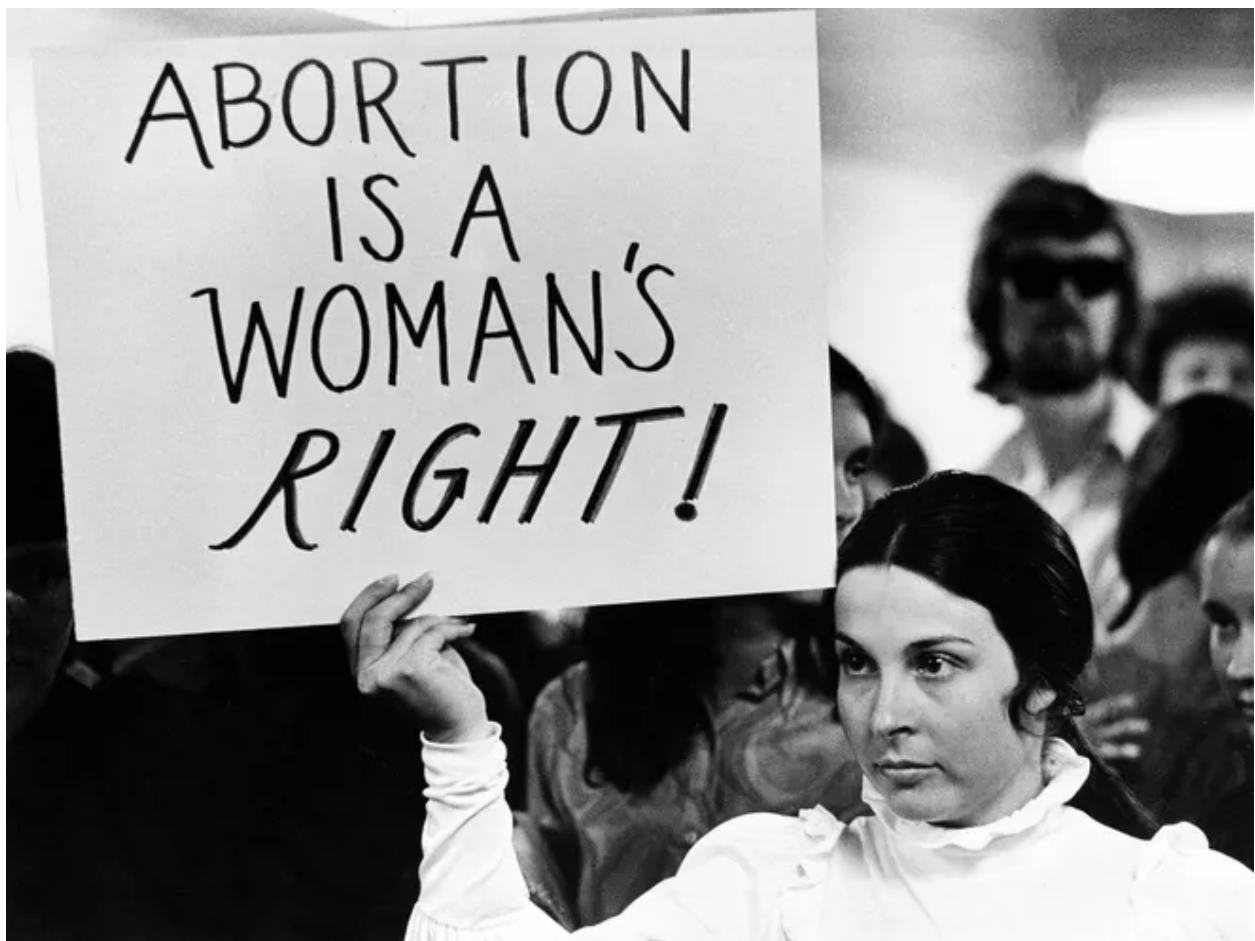
MELISSA

Why's his forehead so big?

HEALTH TEACHER

He was an OBGYN concerned about white "race suicide" - and he thought banning abortion would increase the white birth rate. By 1880 every state had some kind of law restricting abortion. By 1910 abortion was illegal in every state.

So between 1880 and 1973, abortion was heavily restricted.



Then we get to 1973, Roe v. Wade makes abortion a federally protected right.

This is followed by 50 years of, you know, relative protection, in practice, as we know, actual access to abortion has varied based on race, tribal affiliation, region, and wealth, but like, you wouldn't be put in jail for having an abortion. That's the world you were born into. Then starting in 2016, we've got some cases that chip away at abortion rights, and then finally we have Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health in 2022, and that's the one that turns abortion regulation over to the states. It doesn't make abortion illegal in every state, but it does allow states, like our state, for example, to pass laws and choose to criminalize providers and people who have abortions. So now we're here.

*Another coughing attack.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Right now, the landscape is a lot like it was in the 1850s. Every state has different rules, those rules are subject to change at any time. There's no federal protections. And you should be prepared to operate as though it's completely illegal, even if- even if you move to New York or something, you should just be ready.

Does anyone have any questions?

.  
.

Alright Fred, let's do the next section.

VICE PRINCIPAL (*over the PA*)

Chris Londa to the main office, please. Chris Londa to the main office.

CLARA

Oh my god it's probably about the van.

MELISSA

OH MY GOD THE VAN.

HEALTH TEACHER

What's the van?

LYRIX

Ms. G Chris Londa stole a fucking van.

VINETTA

He didn't really do anything with it though like he tried to go to Taco Bell but the guy who owned it saw him in the drive-thru and called the cops.

DANIEL

He was on TikTok the whole time, like he was doing a live, we all saw it.

FRED

Why'd he do it?

LYRIX

I dunno, it's Chris Londa.

FRED

I mean why'd he steal a VAN. Like a minivan?

LYRIX

No like a stalker van, like a windowless white kidnap murder van.

HEALTH TEACHER

Alright we're sidetracked, we're sidetracked.

How does an abortion work?

When we're talking about an at home abortion we are talking about a medication abortion.

A medication abortion is exactly what it sounds like: an abortion you cause with medication.

In the United States this is generally an option up to 10 weeks.

You're either going to get these pills from a clinic or an online clinic or distributor, depending on the legal status in your state.

Here in Oklahoma, you're gonna be getting them online.

If you need to - you can go to [www.plancpills.org](http://www.plancpills.org) to find a distributor.

The first one is mifepristone. Here write this down - M-I-F-E-P-R-I-S-T-O-N-E.

*FRED places a single mifepristone tablet on the projector.*

This freezes the pregnancy because mifepristone is a progesterone blocker.

Progesterone is a hormone, and you need it to be pregnant and for the embryo to grow.

So you take the mifepristone, your progesterone is blocked, and your uterine lining begins to break down.

The second medication you'll take is misoprostol. M-I-S-O-P-R-O-S-T-O-L.

FRED *places four misoprostol tablets on the projector.*

These are typically taken 24 to 48 hours after you take the mifepristone.

Misoprostol is four pills you dissolve under your tongue; you let them dissolve for 30 minutes, then wash what's left down with water.

The misoprostol is what's going to make you pass the pregnancy tissue; the misoprostol is what's going to make you cramp, anywhere from 1 to 4 hours after you take it.

Once you start bleeding, if you can, it's easiest to be on a toilet or wearing a heavy duty maxipad. Most of the bleeding occurs within 4 to 5 hours; you might see some blood clots, or clumps.

This is normal.

It's very unlikely you'll see the pregnancy tissue itself. It's about a quarter of an inch to half an inch long at eight weeks.

So that's, Fred show them.

FRED *uses a ruler and marks a quarter and half inch.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Can you give them something for scale?

FRED *takes a piece of gum out of his pocket, places it near the measured quarter and half inch lengths. HEALTH TEACHER looks quizzically at the projection, trying to discern the object.*

FRED

It's gum.

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok. So it's like a small fraction of a piece of gum. Do you have anything that's not gum I don't think gum is like/

FRED

/I have a vape.

FRED *pulls the vape out of his pocket and adds above the gum.*

FRED

So it's like half a gum and like a fifth of a vape. If that helps.

HEALTH TEACHER

No one should be vaping/

FRED

/No one should be vaping.

HEALTH TEACHER

The heaviest bleeding is going to happen in those 4 to 5 hours after the misoprostol takes effect, but you can expect some bleeding and spotting for a couple of weeks after the abortion. If you're soaking through two maxi pads in one hour for over two hours, that is too much bleeding and it's time to contact a healthcare provider. Vinetta, how much bleeding is too much? How many maxi-pads in an hour?

VINETTA

...two pads in an hour.

HEALTH TEACHER

For how many hours in a row? Two. Two pads in one hour, for two hours or more. Daniel, how much bleeding is too much?

DANIEL

Two. Two pads in an hour. For two or more hours.

HEALTH TEACHER

When is most of the bleeding gonna happen?

*Beat.*

HEALTH TEACHER

How long after you take the misoprostol are you gonna bleed the heaviest for?

CLARA

Four to five hours.

HEALTH TEACHER

Four to five hours, yes. Ok so if we're doing a self-managed abortion, which medicine do we take first? Everyone just shout it/ out

MOST

Mifepristone.

HEALTH TEACHER

Mifepristone. Then what do we take?

MOST

Misoprostol.

HEALTH TEACHER

When do we take the misoprostol? Come on guys. When do we take it? 24 to 48 hours after, ok, whatever doctor or organization you get the pills from is gonna instruct you, ok, you follow their lead. And then we're gonna bleed the heaviest for how long/

MOST

/four to five hours.

*A bang on the door. FRED gets up, checks through the door's window for the offender.*

FRED

Just kids.

HEALTH TEACHER

Kay.

*She coughs, clears her throat; back in it.*

You have another option, if-

As you may or may not know, there's a Supreme Court case right now that might result in mifepristone getting banned.

So it may not be available in the future, but it is possible to have an abortion with misoprostol only.

If you do it that way, what you'll do is, the person will insert 4 miso pills as deep into the vagina as possible, and then they'll lay down for 30 minutes, so the pills have time to dissolve.

After an hour, they'll do it again, and you'll repeat it one more time after that, you will end up using 12 pills in total.

Actually, we-

Fred, you have the handouts, right?

*FRED goes into his backpack and looks for the handouts. (By the way - handouts are also included in the programs, so the audience will have them too.)*

HEALTH TEACHER

These will have all the info you need.

Uh, okay, something else you should know -  
the experience of having an abortion is usually pretty unpleasant.  
It's safe, technically safer than taking Tylenol, but it hurts a lot.  
It's like a tiny labor.  
You can expect contractions, passing chunks of uterine lining, diarrhea, nausea, a mild fever -  
Daniel I see you, stop making that face.

DANIEL

Diarrhea?

HEALTH TEACHER

Yeah, well, it happens.  
Self-managed abortions are extremely safe, ok, less than 1% of abortions have life-threatening complications. You should reach out to a healthcare provider if you're passing clumps bigger than lemons, if you have a fever 24 hours after taking the misoprostol, or you have pain that doesn't respond to medication, ok? Good people to ask about this are doctors available through helplines, ok, who wanna talk you through it, because we are not in a state where most doctors offices are gonna give you the information and support you need. So we have this one: 833-246-2632. Can everyone put this in your phone? Put it in your contacts, ok this is the Miscarriage and Abortion Hotline, it is operated by clinicians, it is operated by doctors, they will answer your questions.  
But if something does go wrong - if you have to go the emergency room, or a doctor-  
If you're here in Oklahoma you do not tell a doctor what you took. If you do that you can be prosecuted.  
If you have to go to the hospital yourself, or if you have to take someone to the hospital, under no circumstances whatsoever should you disclose that anyone took anything.  
You go to the hospital and you say they're bleeding. Doctors cannot tell the difference between a self-managed abortion and a miscarriage, they will not know unless you tell them, ok, and you are not legally required to. You are not legally required to tell them.

VINETTA *raises her hand.*

Yes, Vinetta.

VINETTA

What if they ask like, directly?

HEALTH TEACHER

You lie.

VINETTA

Lie to the doctor?

HEALTH TEACHER

Sorry guys, I really wish you didn't have to.

But you do. You may have a great doctor who wouldn't report you, ok, those people exist, but we can't count on that.

MELISSA

That's so fucked.

HEALTH TEACHER

It is. It's awful, I don't, what else can I say about that. Um. The main point, my main point, if you're having excessive bleeding, if you have a fever or pain that doesn't go away, right, and you go to the emergency room, you tell them the least amount of information you possibly can. All you have to say is I'm bleeding. That's all. What do we say if we go to the emergency room?

MOST

I'm bleeding.

HEALTH TEACHER

That's right. And if you don't know what to do, ok, if you're having a hard time accessing care, you're gonna call the Repro Legal Helpline, they also have a form online, a lawyer can talk you through your rights, ok, what you do and do not need to disclose or allow. 844-868-2812. Put that in your phone. It's free, ok, it's FREE, and if you're confused about any of this, you call them and they will walk you through your rights and help you access the care you need.

HEALTH TEACHER *clears the transparency, then remembers something.*

Oh, also, uh, something to know -  
don't text about this stuff, yeah?

HEALTH TEACHER

Especially not through - don't use any of the Meta products, like Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp.

All that data is owned by the company, they'll share it with the cops if asked.

If you have to text, use Signal.

Don't email - I mean I know none of you use email to begin with  
but don't do it, Google will give the police everything.

Also, when you're researching, if you have to research,

you should use safe internet tools, like -

use Duck Duck Go as your search engine, all those searches are private.

Use a VPN, stands for virtual private network,  
that'll block your activity from your internet service provider,  
there's a list of VPN services on your handout<sup>1</sup>.  
Don't just use an incognito tab on your browser because  
basically all that does is, it won't save your browsing history,  
but your ISP can still track everything you do.

I know this is a lot of tech words but seriously, guys,  
please learn how to do it.  
People are going to jail for this stuff.

Any other questions?

*Half-beat.*

FRED

I'm gonna need two volunteers.  
Please.

*Silence.*

FRED

If you volunteer you can skip the kickball unit. Yeah ok, you two. Frick and Frack.

VINETTA and LYRIX *walk onstage, thrilled to be there.* FRED *offers them a pair of chairs.*  
HEALTH TEACHER *hacks, drinks from a water bottle.*

FRED

Ok so who wants to be the person having the abortion.

LYRIX

I can do it. I'll do it.

FRED *hands her a red pinney.*

FRED

For you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Proton VPN  
Mullvad (good because they accept cash payments, can be completely anonymous)  
Surfshark  
NordVPN  
PureVPN

FRED *hands CLARA a yellow pinney.*

FRED

Ok. So now you - (*points to LYRIX*) you're gonna reach into this bowl and pick a slip with a scenario.

LYRIX *takes a deep breath, then reaches into the bowl. She pulls out a slip.*

LYRIX

"LAUREN, 19, is hanging out with her friend LINDSAY and ends up having her abortion at her house." Wait what.

Coach Balducci? I don't really understand my objective in the scene.

FRED

"Objective?"

HEALTH TEACHER

You're having an abortion.

LYRIX

Duh, but like. What do I *want*.

HEALTH TEACHER

Help?

LYRIX

That's not specific enough.

Coach Balducci can we do a warm-up?

FRED

No you cannot do a warm-up.

HEALTH TEACHER

Guys, we don't have a lot of time, can we just-

FRED

Do the scene or I take back what I said about kickball unit.

*The two girls get to it. VINETTA grabs a chair and sits on it. LYRIX mimes knocking on a door; and stomps her feet.*

LYRIX

...do you wanna get takeout?

VINETTA

Um. Yeah? Sure Lyrix?

LYRIX

Wait do I know she's having an abortion?

FRED

Yes.

HEALTH TEACHER

So part of the exercise is asking, the person having an abortion, right, asking for what they need. So Vinetta, what do you need? What do you want?

VINETTA

Um. Ok. Can I have privacy?

LYRIX

Why?

VINETTA

Because I'm on the toilet.

*Beat.*

LYRIX

Can we hold for a second, um, hold means pause/

FRED

/what's up.

LYRIX

If she wants privacy does that mean just leave her alone?

FRED

It might, but why don't you ask if you can get her anything.

LYRIX

Can I get you anything?

VINETTA

Tea. I have tea in my bag. And my phone.

LYRIX

Ok.

VINETTA

*(Feeling confusion and slight nervousness.)* I'm feeling strange.

LYRIX "*leaves*" for a sec,  
*mimes bringing her the items.*

LYRIX

Here's your TEA. And phone. Um. Is it ok if I open the door a little and put them down?

*Half-beat.*

VINETTA

Yeah. Thanks.

LYRIX

Wait what did you say when I went to get the tea. You said something I didn't hear/ it

VINETTA

/just I feel strange.

LYRIX

That. That makes sense because this is a new experience for you? Um. It makes total sense you might feel that way.

FRED

Why don't you tell her where you're gonna be.

LYRIX

Um, I'm gonna be in the kitchen, ok? So if you wanna talk more or you need something just. Just call for me. Like I'll be here.

FRED

Ok why don't we stop there.

*Mild applause.*

FRED

Ok so what did we learn from that scene? So one thing I saw was Vinetta, you advocating for your own needs, asking for tea. I thought that was great. And I saw Lyrix, I saw you affirming Vinetta's feelings.

LYRIX

Thank you. Although in improv you're supposed to just say yes. Yes and. So I sort of followed the spirit of that impulse.

FRED

Which is, for this, in its own way a helpful framework. Kind of. So what Vinetta did is exactly right, she made her needs and desires clear, she got her phone, privacy, tea, she gave clear instructions. So let's give a round of applause/

VINETTA

/Music Man opens in two weeks/

LYRIX

/the tickets are on eventbrite.

*VINETTA and LYRIX walk off the stage,*

FRED

And now I believe we have a little video for you.

TRAVIS

You want me to turn down the lights? You're not gonna be able to see it with the lights on this high.

HEALTH TEACHER

Sure.

*HEALTH TEACHER puts a video cassette in the VHS player, presses play. TRAVIS goes to the lightboard, lowers the lights; he stays there for the duration of the video.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Fred, come here for a sec.

*FRED and HEALTH TEACHER walk to the side of the stage, deep in a quiet conversation. The tape starts playing on the TV screen:*

HEALTH TEACHER

Hi, I'm Jeanie Greenberg. *A beat that lasts a second too long.* Ok no start over/

*CUT.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Hi, I'm Jeanie Greenberg. I'm a health educator and today I'm gonna tell you four ways to support someone during an abortion.

*A bang at the door and laughs of students. HEALTH TEACHER swears under her breath, gets up, walks out of frame, the sound of a door opening. FRED walks past the camera, removes a mug of coffee from the microwave as HEALTH TEACHER says:*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

*Off-camera:* Get to class. Move along. Yeah, very nice move it.

*CUT.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Number one: when someone you love is having an abortion and they ask for your help, your number one job is non-judgemental support. What does that mean? Be good company. When someone comes to you and says, uh, "I'm terminating next Tuesday, can you help me", your response is not "oh thank god" or "are you sure", ok, your response is "I'd be happy to support you, I support you no matter what." It's not our job to try and change or influence anyone's decision. When we're asked for help or companionship, we're being asked to support the person's chosen course of action with COMPASSION and without judgment. We leave our own feelings and opinions at the door.

*VINETTA enters. Students cheer upon seeing her in the video.*

ONSCREEN VINETTA

Hey, can one of you get the main office to give me my phone?

ONSCREEN FRED

Um. No.

ONSCREEN VINETTA

So, you didn't ask why I need it.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

No.

ONSCREEN VINETTA

Is it because I'm Black?!

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER  
IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

ONSCREEN VINETTA  
Like-it could be.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER  
Vinetta.

ONSCREEN VINETTA  
UGH NO ONE HAS EMPATHY FOR A SWIFTY.

*Another bang at the door and the laugh of students.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER  
I'll kill him I swear to god. *To the camera.* I'm not gonna kill him. You can cut that out/ right

ONSCREEN FRED  
Yeah.

*FRED squeezes behind HEALTH TEACHER'S chair and the wall to yell at the students.*

ONSCREEN FRED  
Scusi scusi, HEY.

*CUT. TRAVIS stares at the camera.*

ONSCREEN TRAVIS  
Whoa wait is this on?

ONSCREEN FRED  
No.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS  
No, it's on. I see the green dot thing. I've never seen one of these in real life.

ONSCREEN FRED  
I just turned it off.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

You've never seen a camcorder in real life? You're a big techie guy.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

You should try and sell that at an antiques place. My aunt works at one people lose their shit over anything technological. Like cameras for sure.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

This is from 2001.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

That's what I'm saying it's old as shit it's 9/11 old.

ONSCREEN FRED

Go learn something Travis/

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

/what are you making.

ONSCREEN FRED

It's an abortion training video.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

Oh shit. *To the camera.* I support abortion.

*Laughs from the students.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Go to calculus. Go.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

Wait, is it just this, it's you sitting at the desk.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Yeah.

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

Wait, let me try something.

ONSCREEN FRED

Get out Travis/

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

/I'm gonna spice the shit out of this video here, just start talking.

*CUT.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

I just talk/

ONSCREEN TRAVIS

/Yeah you just talk don't, I'm gonna do my own thing.

*CUT. TRAVIS dances behind HEALTH TEACHER as she speaks. The students like it.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Number two: Do your research and know what abortion options you have in your area. This is important for a couple of reasons. If you are living in a state where abortion is either banned or severely restricted, your friend might need help understanding what their options are. They might be overwhelmed, they might not know where to go or what to trust online. Here are some trustworthy sources to connect you with the resources you or your friend may need:

*She holds up pieces of paper with the organizations listed on them, going through them.*

I'm gonna hold each one a little long so you can put these numbers and addresses in your phone right now. Take pictures.

I Need An A

<https://www.ineedana.com/>

Planned Parenthood Clinic Finder

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/abortion-access>

National Abortion Hotline (National Abortion Federation)

1-800-772-9100

Repro Legal Helpline (If/When/How)

844-868-2812

To Find and Access Abortion Pills

*CUT.*

FRED is now at the desk, HEALTH TEACHER eating a falafel sandwich behind him half out of the shot. TRAVIS has gone.

ONSCREEN FRED

Number three: Offer encouragement and hands-on support. Affirm the person you're with, and help them stay as comfortable as possible during the abortion. This might look like offering food or water, over the counter pain relievers, a sweater or blanket, a heating pad, etc. This might look like calling their doctor or clinic back with them so they can ask a question. This might look like sitting in their living room reading a magazine, this might look like sitting with them in the bathroom. This might look like googling information for them, comforting them, or reassuring them. Anticipate and communicate openly about their needs and the ways you can best meet them. Everyone's different. Follow your intuition and ask questions about your friend's preferences, needs, and expectations.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

I'm in the shot.

ONSCREEN FRED

No you're not/

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

/why didn't you say anything you can see me eating my falafel/

ONSCREEN FRED

/we'll edit it.

*CUT.*

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Number four: be present. The biggest and most important thing you can do is show up for the person in your life having an abortion with discretion, care, and thoughtfulness. The biggest thing you can do is show up.

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER *tears up a little bit.* ACTUAL HEALTH TEACHER is *trying to pause the video.*

ONSCREEN FRED

*Off-camera:* You ok?

ONSCREEN HEALTH TEACHER

Can you turn it off?

ONSCREEN FRED

Yeah.

*She finally figures it out, pressing pause; grainy haze fills the screen. Beat.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Yeah I, I wanna do some roleplay about what we just learned in that video about taking care of people.

TRAVIS *accidentally presses the sound cue for “76 Trombones”; he stops it within five seconds.*  
*Laughter from students.*

TRAVIS

That was an accident.

HEALTH TEACHER

That’s what I wanna do so I need two people. You do this you don’t have to do the timed mile.

CLARA *and* MELISSA *raise their hands.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok beautiful, come on up, we got pinneys.

CLARA *and* MELISSA *get up to walk onstage; TRAVIS now intentionally plays “76 Trombones” as their intro music. They do not like this.*

HEALTH TEACHER

*Over the music.* Travis turn it off and come sit down please.

*The music stops. HEALTH TEACHER coughs from yelling. FRED hands them each a pinney.*  
TRAVIS *returns to his seat.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok red is having the abortion.

*Half-beat, eye contact, CLARA and MELISSA switch pinneys and sit down in the chairs onstage. FRED brings over the “situation bowl”, holds it in front of CLARA, who pulls out a slip of paper.*

CLARA

“CHLOE, 17 is supporting her friend VIOLET, 17, who is on the toilet having a medication abortion.”

*Half-beat.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok so Chloe, Violet. Friends. I wanna see you supporting them using what we learned in the video, ok, so when you’re ready you dive in.

CLARA

Which one am I again?

FRED

Chloe.

CLARA

Okay. Hi, my name is Chloe. What’s your name?

MELISSA

My name’s Violet.

HEALTH TEACHER

You’re friends, you don’t need to do intros. This shouldn’t be that hard, you’re friends, yes? Talk like you’re friends.

*Beat. The girls make faces at each other.*

CLARA

Violet, how are you feeling? Is there anything I can do for you?

MELISSA

Um.

*She looks at HEALTH TEACHER for guidance.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Does your abdomen hurt, does your back hurt?

MELISSA

Um. It hurts. My abdomen hurts.

CLARA

Well, I can get you a heating pad. If you want, I can give you water or ginger ale. We can watch something together. You can take an ibuprofen, maybe? Do any of these sound good to you?

MELISSA

Uh. Some water would be nice.

CLARA

I'll go get you some water.

*CLARA stomps in place to simulate walking to a kitchen. They turn back to MELISSA and make a lego cup hand motion towards her.*

CLARA

Here's your water.

*MELISSA takes the water.*

CLARA

How's your back?

MELISSA

It hurts.

CLARA

Yeah.

MELISSA

Maybe I'll just like. Put on a maxi pad and lie down?

CLARA

I wouldn't. *Half-beat.* I think Chloe's had an abortion. Is that ok?

HEALTH TEACHER

Sure.

CLARA

So maybe she talks from experience. Because someone might do that. If like that was their experience. And I think Chloe has. It's a character choice.

HEALTH TEACHER

Sure.

*They both look at each other. MELISSA gives CLARA a concerned look. CLARA gives MELISSA a firm nod.*

CLARA

Uh, the, the doctor said I could just use maxi pads the whole time, but when I changed my pad, a clump of bloody tissue fell off the pad cause it didn't absorb all the way. It landed on my joggers, so honestly you're better off just being on the toilet.

MELISSA

Okay.

HEALTH TEACHER

...Is there anything Violet's worried about.

MELISSA

Dying?

CLARA

Dying?

MELISSA

Because of all the blood I'm losing?

HEALTH TEACHER

That's a common one, go ahead.

CLARA

Uh. You're not gonna die. And the bleeding is normal. And you did this with like, pills, and they're safer than Tylenol. So technically like you've been more at risk of dying every time you've ever like taken Tylenol.

HEALTH TEACHER

Ok is that, is that helpful?

MELISSA

Yeah. Weirdly.

HEALTH TEACHER

*Starting applause.* Ok, very nice.

MELISSA and CLARA *pull off their pinneys and hand them to FRED.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Lotta good stuff. Lotta good stuff we have checking in, we have her bringing them the water, ibuprofen, offering a heating pad, reassuring them.

*The door knob rattles; someone is trying to open the door.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Hey Coach Balducci, can we sidebar for a second?

FRED *meets her at the desk.*

HEALTH TEACHER

We have...how much longer, do you think?

FRED

I dunno, Jeanie, maybe /

HEALTH TEACHER

/ I mean how many more units can we do, like do you think we should speed this up

FRED

Let me see -

*He pulls out their curriculum sheet, and skims through the lessons they have planned.*

Okay we've got...boys unit, we've got how to make a mistake, we have CPCs...I think that's it.

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm not sure we're gonna have time.

FRED

We will.

HEALTH TEACHER

I just don't/

FRED

We will. I promise. I'll be quick.

*He slaps the desk, trying to make things jovial again.*

Take a load off, Jeanie, leave this one to me!

*He snaps at her, does finger guns. HEALTH TEACHER sighs, sits, pulls out a knitting project.  
FRED wheels on the students.*

FRED

Alright, now, let's do another one.

*Points to TRAVIS and LYRIX.*

You two.

TRAVIS

Me?

FRED

Yes you, come spice the shit outta this.

TRAVIS

I just thought, uh.

*He hesitates.*

FRED

You thought what?

TRAVIS

I thought I was just here to, like. Bear witness.

FRED

This is a hands-on workshop, son, everyone's gotta practice.

*He gestures to the stage.*

Alright, come on up!

LYRIX *goes up to the stage.* TRAVIS *follows. He looks terrified.* FRED *throws pinnies at them.*

Let's say - here's the scenario, ready,  
Lyrix, you're 17, and Travis, you're 17,  
and Lyrix is having an abortion,  
and Travis, you're her partner.

DANIEL

Oooooooooooh Travis got Lyrix preg/nant

TRAVIS

/shut up man/

FRED

/Daniel stop talking please that's not helpful.

LYRIX *sits in the chair; TRAVIS hovers awkwardly.*

Alright, go.

*The two don't say anything.*

FRED

Chop chop, Travis, let's / do it!

TRAVIS

/Ah okay uh. Wait like she's on the toilet?

FRED

Yeah.

*Beat.*

TRAVIS

So I would just like. Be in the bathroom with her?

FRED

If you got her pregnant and she wanted you to be with her, yes. That's your responsibility.

*Beat.*

TRAVIS

How's your, um.

Do you need.

Should I light a candle?

LYRIX

Why?

TRAVIS

Because it smells like diarrhea?

LYRIX

Coach Balducci!!

FRED

Alright, okay, Travis, let's not start with that, ok let's not start with the diarrhea.

TRAVIS

Sorry I mean uh.

How are you feeling?

FRED

Good, better.

LYRIX

Um. Like my abdomen hurts.

FRED *looks at* TRAVIS, *prompting him.*

TRAVIS

I'm sorry? I'm. That sounds uncomfortable. Can I get. Do you want advil or something?

LYRIX

Yeah.

TRAVIS *mimes handing her this.*

LYRIX

And water.

TRAVIS *mimes handing her this too. She smiles. She “takes the advil.”*

TRAVIS

Do you want me to stay?

LYRIX

Yeah.

FRED

That’s great. Just for time I’m gonna cut you off, ok, but that was great. Travis I love that you offered to stay, ok, that was great.

LYRIX *and* TRAVIS *turn to get off the stage.*

Oop, not you, Travis, you stay up here.

*He points into the audience.*

Daniel, you come on up here too.

*He unfolds two chairs for the boys, and they take a seat.*

Daniel.

Did you also think you were just here to listen?

DANIEL *hesitates.*

It’s not a trick question.

DANIEL

Uh, I guess.

FRED

Why's that?

DANIEL

Because I don't have a uterus?

TRAVIS

It's not really our bodies on the line, so, we don't really-

DANIEL

So we don't really have a place in this conversation, right, like our job is to amplify...  
it's to amplify the voices of.  
People who have...you know.

DANIEL *is beet red.*

FRED

What do they have?

DANIEL

Ah..bor, tions.

FRED

Yeah, see, you gotta be able to say the word, ready.  
Abortion.

DANIEL

Abortion.

FRED

Abortion.

DANIEL

Abortion.

FRED

Abortion.

DANIEL

Abortion.

FRED

Good work, alright.  
So you're here to learn how to support people who have abortions.  
And you're here to listen.

TRAVIS

Right.

FRED

But you don't feel that you can speak about it in your own words.

TRAVIS

Well I  
I like abortion.  
I mean I don't LIKE abortion, or, but  
sorry no I, here's what I meant, I meant,  
I like that people can have abortions,  
like I want the people I love to be able to have them.

FRED

I commend that.  
So how does abortion affect you?

TRAVIS

Yeah, um.

*He thinks. He looks at DANIEL.*

I guess because the people I love are in danger of not being able to get one?

FRED

That's a good one.

*FRED starts wheeling out the chalkboard.*

Alright, what else?

TRAVIS

I just said.

FRED

How about you, Daniel?

DANIEL

I mean, outside of what Travis said, I don't really have anything.

*FRED starts erasing the chalkboard.*

I'm here because I care, though,  
like, I don't want anyone to lose access to abortion,  
it's life-saving medical care.

*FRED perks up, points to DANIEL.*

FRED

Good! That's good.

*Writes on the board - "lifesaving medical care."  
Flips over the chalkboard.*

So let's say  
we're here, the three of us,  
to listen to Ms. Greenberg, and to "bear witness", as you put it.  
When we leave this room, what are we gonna be able to do?

DANIEL

Provide support.

*FRED writes HELP W/ ABORTION on the board.*

FRED

Good, what else.

TRAVIS

We'll know...all the stuff we learned already.

*FRED writes KNOW MORE on the board.*

FRED

Do you think you're gonna feel comfortable talking about abortion with other people?

DANIEL *and* TRAVIS *squirm a little.*

TRAVIS

Like arguing about it?

FRED

Yeah.

TRAVIS

I mean, I feel like our job is-  
Like, my job is not to talk.

FRED

Why not?

TRAVIS

Because like...I don't want to make the whole conversation about me.  
Because it's not, right?

FRED

Well sure, it's not ALL about you.  
But you're part of it.  
Travis, do you want to be a father?

TRAVIS

Like...ever?

FRED

Right now.

MELISSA *and* CLARA *giggle.*

Zip it, you two.

TRAVIS

No, I don't wanna have a kid right now.

FRED

So that's a way that abortion access affects you. Not just the people you love, right?

TRAVIS

I guess.

FRED *writes BIRTH CONTROL on the board.*

FRED

Alright so that's an argument.  
And it's a good one, that you can use.  
What's another one?

*Silence from the guys.*

DANIEL

Uh, I don't want the government telling people what they can and can't do with their bodies.

FRED

There you go, that's a great one.

*Writes BODY AUTO on the board.*

TRAVIS

I don't want life to be harder than it has to be.  
Like I have a cousin who had a...  
it's a long story but she was pregnant and she had a really hard time and  
I just don't want anyone to have to go through all that.  
If they don't want to.

FRED *writes DON'T MAKE LIFE HARDER.*

FRED

Here's one that, um.  
Say you've got a spouse, and they're pregnant,  
which by the way, I don't know if all of you know this,  
most of the people who get abortions already have kids.  
The common narrative is that it's all teens, but no, it's mostly moms,  
anyway say you've got a spouse,  
and say it's a dangerous pregnancy.

And say they aren't able to get it terminated.  
And say you've already got a kid together, but  
your wife has to just -  
it's a countdown, and you can't -  
you have to play chicken with fate, you both have to stare it in the eye and pray you make it out  
but say, for example.

*He hesitates.*

Say you don't win, right?  
Say you both lose, and she's gone,  
and you're a widower now,  
and a single dad, your daughter no longer has a mom.  
That's something where.  
You're not the one who died, right, but.

*FRED seems stuck. HEALTH TEACHER stands up and walks to the front of the room.*

*TRAVIS and DANIEL hustle off the stage.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Why don't we do a quick break? Yeah?

*The break begins. Students split into groups. FRED starts clearing the chalkboard.*

HEALTH TEACHER

You ok?

FRED

Yeah.

*FRED finishes clearing the chalkboard, taking a moment before turning around.*

HEALTH TEACHER

And you have a thing lined up, right? Job wise?

FRED

Job shmob who needs a job.

*HEALTH TEACHER looks concerned.*

I'm kidding. Shaun said I can work for him this summer doing roofing.  
That gives us some time.

HEALTH TEACHER

You remember what to say to them, right?

*FRED grabs one of the cues strapped to the side.*

FRED

6, left corner pocket.

*HEALTH TEACHER looks at the table.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Fred.

FRED

Yeah.

HEALTH TEACHER

I made you. You gotta tell them I made you, ok?

*FRED lines up the shot. He looks at her, nods.*

HEALTH TEACHER

How'd they get this table?

FRED

I think from Marcus O'Halloran's dad.

HEALTH TEACHER

Huh.

*FRED whiffs the shot bad. He goes to line up another shot.*

It's kind of a. Contrast. From the rest of the set.

FRED

Well, we gotta make do with what we can.

*He takes another shot. He sinks the 6.*

FRED *re-sets the pool table.* MELISSA *kicks CLARA gently as they sit on the lip of the stage.*

DANIEL, VINETTA, and LYRIX *are singing "Trouble," from The Music Man.* TRAVIS *re-arranges and marks out measurements with a tape measure and a pencil on some 2x4's onstage.*

MELISSA

So I love you.

CLARA

Yeah.

MELISSA

That's a really fucking weird way to tell me you had an abortion.

CLARA

I didn't know like when to tell you/

MELISSA

/Literally any other time. We text every single day.

CLARA

No I know.

MELISSA

You basically live part-time at my house.

*Beat.*

CLARA

Remember when we were 13 and Trisha thought she was pregnant cause Jeremy rubbed his dick on her inner thigh?

MELISSA

YES.

CLARA

You remember/ like

MELISSA

/We made her down 4 bottles of Tropical Fantasy cause the 8th grade boys told us it was spermicide. Then we fucking took turns elbowing the bottom of her stomach and hitting her with socks filled with quarters. What the fuck was wrong with us?

CLARA

Ok is it weird. Uh. Is it weird I kinda wished I had that when I got pregnant.

MELISSA

Yes. One hundred percent. She had bruises everywhere and it was like horrible.

CLARA

Yeah but remember when we all fell on the floor and started laughing? After? And when she cried we held her and made a plan for how we were all gonna raise her baby while we went to high school and took SATs? Then you joked that it would look good on our high school resumes. I wished I had that.

MELISSA

Was um. Was this with Jeremiah?

CLARA *nods.*

MELISSA

Was he like. Supportive.

CLARA

Kind of. Like ultimately but. He helped me pick up the pills and like. You know. So yeah but like he kept saying he was sad about my choice, and wished I thought about getting pregnant not as a mistake but what god would have given us, how we could have a baby even though I just turned 15 and he was 18.

MELISSA

That's horrible.

*Half-beat.*

CLARA

So. In that moment I missed all my friends. And I dunno I kinda wanted like. Tropical Fantasy and like, socks filled with quarters. And like laughing.

MELISSA

Maybe like. Split the difference. Abortion pills and Tropical Fantasy.

CLARA *laughs*.

CLARA

Four bottles of Tropical Fantasy/

MELISSA

/ok wash the abortion pills down with four bottles of Tropical Fantasy. And not like beat the shit out of each other and fall on the floor and laugh about something else.

CLARA

That's true.

MELISSA

Like you could have done that.

CLARA *shrugs*.

MELISSA

You know we all would have done that like you could have absolutely had that.

CLARA

I think I was a little too embarrassed to have that. Unfortunately. Like at that moment.

MELISSA

I'm not. Like you know I'm not trying to give you shit/ right

CLARA

/no I know.

MELISSA

I just want you to know that. Like I would have. I would do whatever.

CLARA

I know.

HEALTH TEACHER *twists up her hair and starts trying to pin it with a pencil, but it's refusing to stay put. She keeps fiddling.*

FRED

IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE, CLAP ONE.

*CLAP.*

IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE, CLAP ONE, TWO.

*CLAP CLAP.*

IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE, CLAP ONE, TWO, THREE.

*CLAP CLAP CLAP.*

Alright let's all find our seats again.

*Students file back to their seats. HEALTH TEACHER is still messing with her hair.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Okay, this is - we're almost done for today.

I know everyone's getting a little restless but we're close, so.

Just hang with me for a little while longer.

*She puts a transparency on the projector. It reads CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS.*

Who here has heard of crisis pregnancy centers?

*Looks to see if anyone has their hand raised.*

Gotcha, okay.

*She pauses.*

Have you ever had something that.

You absolutely need to do, you can't not do it,

but the fact that you have to do it is so-

you just really do. not. want to?

And you resent it?

You resent the fact that people are putting you into a position where you have to do this stupid fucking thing?

*She closes her eyes and counts to three. Then, back to Professional Mode.*

Okay, let's-

True or false:

A crisis pregnancy center is a place where a person can get an abortion.

Raise your hand if you think that's true.

Alright, now raise your hand if you think that's false.

If you said "false", you're correct.

But if you said "true", it's a very reasonable mistake, because Crisis Pregnancy Center, that sounds like a clinic, and that's on purpose.

CPCs, they're also called pregnancy resource centers or pregnancy help centers, they're what we call "fake clinics".

The goal of CPCs is to stop people from having abortions, now, how do they do this?

They have two main strategies.

*She goes to the chalkboard and writes her points as she makes them.*

One - circulating anti-abortion propaganda and misinformation.

Two - wasting peoples' time, until it's too late for them to get an abortion legally.

So, how do they get people in the door?

The main strategy is they pretend to be real abortion clinics.

That said, it is almost impossible to distinguish a CPC from a real clinic based on what they look like.

Let's play a game, ready,

I'm going to put up pictures, and you're going to say if you think it's a crisis pregnancy center or an abortion clinic.

VINETTA

Can we keep score?

## HEALTH TEACHER

You can if you want, I don't really care, okay  
here's number 1:



Raise your hand if you think this is a crisis pregnancy center.  
Raise your hand if you think this is an abortion clinic.

If you said crisis pregnancy center, you got it right.  
Now, are there any indicators on this sign?

*She goes over to the projector screen and points.*

See on the sign, it mentions STD screening, pregnancy testing, and **medical referrals**.  
This is an indication that they do not actually provide medical care.  
They're telegraphing that they do with this logo,  
see, it looks like a logo for urgent care,  
and you couldn't be blamed for thinking this was an actual medical facility.  
In fact, when you get inside these places, you'll often find a scene like this:



There will be ultrasound machines.

DANIEL

Ms. G?

HEALTH TEACHER

Yes Daniel what is it.

DANIEL

You can just buy an ultrasound machine?

HEALTH TEACHER

If you have enough money, anyone can own an ultrasound machine.  
Staff will be wearing white coats, or scrubs.

LYRIX

You can just buy scrubs?

HEALTH TEACHER

Yes you can buy scrubs, let's stay focused please -  
People at CPCs will speak very authoritatively and take urine samples  
and maybe even make you wear one of those terrible patient gowns that don't close in the back.  
But it's important to emphasize that they do not provide any actual medical care.

They are not licensed to do so, they do not employ doctors.

They'll provide some testing, like they'll do STD testing, and they're able to administer ultrasounds, but that's about where it ends.

And instead of sharing actual medical information, they'll say nonsense like:

*Transparency change - a list:*

- *Abortion causes cancer, infertility, and mental health issues*
- *It is possible to reverse an abortion*

<https://www.thewishcollective.org/resources>

According to the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#), none of these claims have any basis in science.

HEALTH TEACHER *draws an X through these claims.*

If you visit the link at the bottom of the slide, you'll see some studies cited, but right this second we're running out of time, so we're not going to waste our few remaining minutes discussing bullshit, alright, back to the game:



Raise your hand if you think this is a CPC.  
Raise your hand if you think it's a real clinic.

This is a real clinic. It's in New York.  
Tough, right?  
If I didn't know better, I would have sworn this was fake.  
The key here is the word **medical**, remember, CPCs can't use that word.

Okay next:



Who thinks this is fake?

TRAVIS, MELISSA, CLARA, *and* VINETTA *all raise their hands.*

What on this sign looks fake to you?

VINETTA

“Whole Woman’s Health” sounds very pro-life-y to me, I dunno.

CLARA

Yeah it just looks weird.

HEALTH TEACHER

Interesting. Does anyone think this is real?

*No one raises their hand.*

DANIEL

Well the last one was real so this is probably fake.

HEALTH TEACHER

A ha, fooled you all!

It's real.

Whole Woman's Health is actually an alliance of 6 abortion clinics, which makes it one of the bigger networks in the country.

Alright, next:



LYRIX

Okay that's fake as fuck.

VINETTA

Yeah no way that's real.

HEALTH TEACHER

Fake, yes, this one's fake,

This is a CareNet center.

CareNet actually has -

They say that they have [1,200 locations as of December, 2023](#).

Which, you know.

Whole Woman's Health has 6.

It's not really much of a contest.

*Changes to numbers transparency.*

As you can see here,

Planned Parenthood estimates that currently there are, in total, [over 4000 CPCs in the United States](#).

By comparison, there were 780 abortion clinics in the U.S. pre-Dobbs.

Since Roe was overturned, 66 abortion clinics have closed.

So as of today, we're now at, what's the math -

714.

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin currently have zero clinics that offer abortion care.

*She turns off the projector.*

So they get you in the door by seeming so real,  
that you trust them, and you're willing to do what they say.

Their next strategy is running out the clock, like I said.

If they make a person hesitate for long enough, especially in a state where abortion is legal, that person's window to get an abortion through an actual clinic will close, and they will lose yet another option.

So they'll never say "we can't give you an abortion here".

They'll maintain the illusion that it's an option they can provide.

They'll stall - they'll do the ultrasound, and say "if you still want an abortion, come back in 72 hours and we'll help you."

They'll string people along until there aren't any options left.

*A banging at the door. More banging.*

PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

Ms. Greenberg? Coach Balducci open up please.

VICE PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

Fred? Is Fred in/ there

HEALTH TEACHER

/I think we're gonna have to end/ soon.

PRINCIPLE (OFFSTAGE)

/Open the door. This doesn't have to be complicated open the/ door

VICE PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

/you can't have this door locked. It's fire safety Jeanie/

HEALTH TEACHER

/So I wanna tell you one last thing and it's important and it's how to make a mistake.

PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

If you don't open this door we're gonna have to call security.

VICE PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

They're not opening it?

PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

Jeanie do not make me call security.

HEALTH TEACHER

What do I mean? I mean you're gonna try something and it won't work.

PRINCIPLE (OFFSTAGE)

Ok call them.

VICE PRINCIPLE (OFFSTAGE)

Are you sure?

PRINCIPLE (OFFSTAGE)

What else are we gonna do call 'em.

MELISSA

Ms. G they're calling fucking security on/ you

HEALTH TEACHER

/let 'em call listen to me, eyes on me. You thought it would be nice to bring them a mug of tea on the toilet and they say I don't want that. You ask the same question twice. You forget their partner's name. You say more than you should, you make it about you for a second. And in that second you feel like you're gonna fucking die.

PRINCIPLE (OFFSTAGE)

Jeanie.

HEALTH TEACHER

But you won't. You're gonna feel uncomfortable for a second but you're certainly not gonna die. They're not gonna die. No one is gonna die because you talked a little too much about your cats, or offered something they didn't want, or didn't know what to say. But you know how someone might die?

VICE PRINCIPAL (OFFSTAGE)

Jeanie come on/

HEALTH TEACHER

/someone might die because no one even tried to help them. No one sat with them, nobody fucking offered to sit with them. Nobody taught them how to find a safe clinic or knew what to expect and what was normal and what wasn't. That's how people really die.

DANIEL *is crying.*

Desperation and isolation are lethal. Listen to me, they are lethal but they are not inevitable because they are within our control they are within your control/

RESOURCE OFFICER *is outside the door, we hear him approach and ask what's going on.*

VINETTA

Ms. G what the fuck/

CLARA

/Ms. G please.

HEALTH TEACHER

I urge you to consider that if care were only given by perfect people there would be no care at all. Do not let imperfection be your excuse for looking the other way when someone needs you. You show up and you do the fucking best that you can because someone has to/

RESOURCE OFFICER (OFFSTAGE)

/Police, open the door. I'm gonna give you ten seconds ma'am, I want you to open the door. If you do not open the door we are going to break the door/ down

HEALTH TEACHER

/You are perfectly capable of doing this for one another. You are perfectly capable of asking for what you need. Nod if you understand. Show me.

*Several nods, some genuine, some fearful.*

HEALTH TEACHER

Good. Good. And I'm so sorry that you have to. It breaks my heart that you do because you deserve so much more than that but I want you /all to be ok.

RESOURCE OFFICER (OFFSTAGE)

/We all want the same thing here, ok, we want these students to go home to their families, safe and sound, right? We all want the best for/ these kids.

HEALTH TEACHER

/I want you all to be ok.

*The door is broken in. Principal, Vice principal, and resource officers enter, cuffing FRED first, getting up onstage to grab HEALTH TEACHER.*

PRINCIPAL

Jesus don't cuff her. Don't cuff her.

HEALTH TEACHER *presents her wrists to a resource officer, who cuffs them. CLARA, DANIEL, MELISSA, and LYRIX are crying. VINETTA seems stunned. TRAVIS watches intently.*

*The resource officers walk HEALTH TEACHER and FRED out.*

VICE PRINCIPAL

It's all ok now. You're all safe.

You have to understand, when you're young people can tell you things - things you aren't ready to hear.

VINETTA

What's going to happen to her?

She really -

*HEALTH TEACHER looks at VINETTA.*

*Flash Forward. VINETTA is on the toilet facing the back (she's twenty-two, and no longer in High School). There is a SEVENTH GRADER outside her bathroom. Imagine being raised by TikTok.*

SEVENTH GRADER

Hey. Hey. (*Mini Beat*) Hey. Can I get dinner?

Dinner?

VINETTA

Uh. Duh.

SEVENTH GRADER

VINETTA

Can I tell you how to heat it up? *(To herself)* I need an iron vitamin.

Uh. No.

SEVENTH GRADER

You can put it in the...

VINETTA

No. No. Not my job.

SEVENTH GRADER

I know.

VINETTA

So, are you a swiftie or nah?

SEVENTH GRADER

*Vinetta touches her vagina within the toilet and pulls out blood. Rinse her hand on the sink, while still on the toilet. Uses hand soap.*

Hey. I def just asked a question.

SEVENTH GRADER

Can I have privacy?

VINETTA

Why?

SEVENTH GRADER

Because I'm on the toilet.

VINETTA

You know, you're supposed to impress me. And you're not doing great.

SEVENTH GRADER

VINETTA

I know.

SEVENTH GRADER

Are you shitting?

VINETTA

*(Lying)* Yup.

SEVENTH GRADER

Having a hard time?

VINETTA

...

SEVENTH GRADER

Can you like pop out for a sec, and make my food?

VINETTA

Nope. Can you- um. Can you get me some tea?

SEVENTH GRADER

What?

VINETTA

Tea. I have herbal tea in my bag. Can you go in my purse?

*SEVENTH GRADER leaves.*

SEVENTH GRADER

AND MY PHONE. GET ME MY PHONE.

*VINETTA moans.  
SEVENTH GRADER  
returns.*

SEVENTH GRADER

Hey.

VINETTA

Did you find the tea bag?

*SEVENTH GRADER slides it  
underneath the door.*

SEVENTH GRADER

I'm not allowed to use the stove. Which is why you're here.  
What is MIFI-PRESTON.

VINETTA

Look it up on your ipad.

SEVENTH GRADER

Good thinking.

SEVENTH GRADER  
*disappears for a sec. After a  
pause.*

SEVENTH GRADER

WHAT THE FUCK?  
ARE YOU BLEEDING INTO OUR TOILET?

VINETTA

Yup.

SEVENTH GRADER

Why didn't you stay HOME?

VINETTA

....

SEVENTH GRADER

THAT's FUCKING DISGUSTING.  
YOU SHOULD BE BLEEDING IN YOUR OWN TOILET.

VINETTA

I need money.

SEVENTH GRADER

Are you okay?

VINETTA

Oh, now you care?

SEVENTH GRADER

I'm about our rights. Gen Alphas, we're for the people. Most of us anyway.

VINETTA

Can you put water in a cup? And put it in the microwave? And then warm up your own food?

SEVENTH GRADER

My mom never taught me how to use it.

VINETTA

WHAT?

*VINETTA groans.*

SEVENTH GRADER

You're scaring me.

VINETTA

What the fuck is wrong with your mom?

SEVENTH GRADER

EX-CUS-ME?

VINETTA

I was washing my clothes at 12! My own fucking clothes.

SEVENTH GRADER

Literally not trying to emit "negative aura", but WHY WOULD YOU COME HERE after taking that?

VINETTA

I'm not dying- I literally will be fine. It's just getting heavier earlier than last time.

SEVENTH GRADER

Last time? You can do it twice?

VINETTA

YES. Oh. I wish you knew Ms. G. I wish everyone knew Ms. G.

*SEVENTH GRADER slides  
VINETTA her phone, while  
mouthing "Ms. G?"*

VINETTA

Can you slide me the maxi pad?

*SEVENTH GRADER does.  
The sound of a pad coming  
off, and a new one being  
placed on. Various tiktok  
sound clips play. Vinetta dials  
on her phone.*

VINETTA

Voicemail. Hi, Ms. Farris. Call me back when you have a moment.

*VINETTA hangs up and tries  
calling again.*

Voicemail. What is she doing?

SEVENTH GRADER

My mom is at the casino.

VINETTA

What?

VINETTA *hangs up.*

SEVENTH GRADER

Her phone's off. Let me figure out this microwave. Tea helped you last time?

VINETTA

I know what I need by now. Tea. A heating pad. Survivor playing on my phone. Warm socks. A cookie. And good company. But, yeah. I shouldn't be on your toilet. I should be on mine.

SEVENTH GRADER *walks off.*

VINETTA

*(Calling on the phone)* Ms. Farris. I need to leave the house. And I'm going to phone my boyfriend, to come take care of Aisha if that's alright?

SEVENTH GRADER *overhearing.*

SEVENTH GRADER

*(Loudly)* No, absolutely not.

VINETTA *hangs up.*

VINETTA

WHY?

SEVENTH GRADER

I don't want to say.

VINETTA

That's the only person I know who could get here in fifteen minutes. So I can go home.

SEVENTH GRADER

I can't be alone in a room with a man. I'm not okay with it. Never again.

VINETTA

Oh.

SEVENTH GRADER

...

VINETTA

Something bad happened?

SEVENTH GRADER

The babysitter before you. I keep telling my mom. I don't want to be around strangers for a while.

*The tiktok noises stop.*

VINETTA *cracks the door open.*

VINETTA

Wanna talk about it?

SEVENTH GRADER

Nah. My mom's not gonna answer. I can be good company for you. I want to learn. 99% sure I'm gonna have an abortion one day. This is good practice. I'm realizing it's really not as scary as I imagined it was. Just by hearing you talk about it. It's nice.

*The microwave dings.*

I'll be right back.

SEVENTH GRADER *goes away for a sec.*

*Vinetta dials.*

VINETTA

Hi, Ms. Farris. I'm bleeding into your toilet. I'm having an abortion. Live. From your toilet. I feel like you should be home with your daughter who doesn't want to be around strangers. Instead of at the casino. Feels fucking selfish.

*A steaming cup of tea is placed at the foot of the door. VINETTA flashes back to the present and looks at the HEALTH TEACHER.*

VINETTA

Ms. G helped me.

*Blackout. Sound of a VHS rewinding. In the dark, the television screen comes to life. It's a police interview with HEALTH TEACHER; she sits with a cup of coffee.*

HEALTH TEACHER

See I object to the term "hostage situation." Because there was nothing for me to gain, there was no exchange/

POLICE

/False imprisonment.

HEALTH TEACHER

Everyone was free to go as they pleased, we made that very clear.

POLICE

What would you call it? What you did?

HEALTH TEACHER

A teach-in, I suppose.

POLICE

A teach-in.

HEALTH TEACHER

Yes.

POLICE

We've had multiple parent complaints alleging you taught their children about abortion without their consent, are you aware of this?

HEALTH TEACHER

No. But I could have figured as much.

POLICE

Pardon?

HEALTH TEACHER

I could have figured as much.

*Half-beat.*

POLICE

And you're aware it is illegal to reference abortion in Oklahoma schools?

HEALTH TEACHER

Sir, why do you think the door was locked?

POLICE

It's a yes or no question.

HEALTH TEACHER

Yes.

*Beat.*

POLICE

What was Fred Balducci's role in all this?

HEALTH TEACHER

Oh he objected at every turn.

POLICE

He objected.

HEALTH TEACHER

Only helped because I threatened to burn down his house.

*Half-beat.*

POLICE

I don't believe that.

HEALTH TEACHER

Well. With respect that's not really my problem.

POLICE

Why do it this way?

HEALTH TEACHER

As opposed to what. What would you recommend.

POLICE

Uh. Advocating policy change. Talking to the school board.

HEALTH TEACHER

What does that do for my students right now? I care about my students/

POLICE

/You care about your students so much you locked them in a room for an hour, that's the kind of thing that causes trauma, do you understand that?

HEALTH TEACHER

When we can't teach the kids what the kids need to know, and the kids don't know what they need to know, someone is gonna get hurt. Someone got hurt. So no matter what, right, under these circumstances, someone is getting in trouble. When the right thing is illegal someone has to be in trouble. I get into trouble if I tell them the truth, they get into trouble if I don't. I think their trouble is worse.

POLICE

Is there anything else you'd like to say at this time.

HEALTH TEACHER

I'm all set.

*The TV turns off.*

*End of Play.*

## Resources for Reproductive Healthcare and Abortion Access (A Printout for Audience Members to Take Home)

To open an incognito tab:

On Mac: Shift + ⌘ + N

On Windows/Chrome: Shift + CTRL + N

To clear browser history:

Press Ctrl+Shift+Delete; click on the boxes you want to clear; click “clear browsing data”

To find your nearest Planned Parenthood: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center>

Or call: 1-800-230-PLAN

To talk to a clinician/doctor while having a self-managed abortion: 833-246-2632

<https://mahotline.org/>

To access free, confidential legal services related to your reproductive choices: 844-868-2812

<https://reprolegalhelpline.org/contact-the-helpline/>

To schedule a telehealth appointment with Planned Parenthood:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-care/get-care-online>

To find your nearest Planned Parenthood or other trusted clinic that provides abortions:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/abortion-access>

To access abortion pills online/via telemedicine (aidaccess allows for ADVANCE provision of abortion pills, certain websites cover some states and not others):

<https://aidaccess.org/en/>

<https://www.heyjane.co/>

<https://www.justthepill.com/>

To learn more about how to find/access abortion pills:

<https://www.plancpills.org/>

To learn about how much abortion costs:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/ask-experts/how-much-does-an-abortion-cost>

To find a trusted abortion provider, have a confidential consultation, or access accurate information about abortion (multi-lingual hotline): <https://prochoice.org/patients/naf-hotline/>

What to expect when getting an abortion: <https://prochoice.org/patients/abortion-what-to-expect/>

To find abortion funds (funds that help cover the cost of your abortion) available in your state, region, etc.: <https://abortionfunds.org/need-abortion/>

To provide shelter for people seeking abortion (and train to do so):

<https://prochoice.org/naf-membership/application/>

Other related resources:

I Need An A (comprehensive abortion resource assistance):

<https://www.ineedana.com/>

RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline (24/7, Confidential): 800-656-4673

To chat online: <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>

National Suicide Prevention Hotline (24/7, help available in English and Spanish with services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing folx): 1-800-273-8255

The Trevor Project Lifeline (for LGBT+ folx, 24/7, call, text, and chat available):

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

ARC Southeast (logistical and financial support for people who need abortions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina):

<https://arc-southeast.org/>

Data Defense Fund: How to keep your abortion private and secure:

<https://digitaldefensefund.org/ddf-guides/abortion-privacy>