

LOVE PERIOD.

WITH REV. DR.
JACQUI LEWIS

**Fierce Love Made Real
with Abigail Disney**

Jacqui Lewis: Hey everybody, Jacqui Lewis here. Welcome to this second season of Love. Period. This season, we're focusing our conversations on my new book, *Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World*. Each of my friends will be helping you to think about the themes in each chapter. Nine practical practices that can help us love ourselves, love our posse, and then love the world and healing. It all starts with you, and we're going to give you practical tips to make these practices a part of your life.

Jacqui Lewis: Today's episode is a combination, if you will, of all of the themes in the book, *Fierce Love*. A bonus episode with my friend, Abigail Disney. Abby Disney is an American documentary film producer, a philanthropist and a social activist. In fact, she and I did handcuffs together, and I mean we got arrested together. She's a kind, candid, warm advocate for a better way to make life in America. And I'm delighted to have a conversation with her really on Love. Period.

Jacqui Lewis: I am so excited to see you today, Abby Disney. How are you?

Abby Disney: I am great. I'm just so happy to see your beautiful face, too.

Jacqui Lewis: We had a drive by sighting at our friend Rod's house, right?

Abby Disney: Yes, yes.

Jacqui Lewis: I'm going, you're leaving, your coming [inaudible 00:01:40]. But I'm so glad. How are you doing?

Abby Disney: I'm good, I'm good. I mean, stressors here and there of all kinds. Finishing a film and all the stressors that come with that. But I have to say, as far as the pandemic goes, I'm just so blessed because I didn't lose anybody close to me, everybody's safe and sound. And somehow I was able to restore my marriage in that time.

Jacqui Lewis: Okay, what?

Abby Disney: Yeah, yeah. I don't really understand how that happens, but it was very good. There was good that came out personally for me, even if the country's a mess.

Jacqui Lewis: That's so great. When we got arrested, I think we talked about that marriage. Do you remember when we got arrested together?

Abby Disney: Yeah, yeah, yeah. In those days I told everybody everything about it.

Jacqui Lewis: You were upset, and I understood that.

Abby Disney: Oh, I was very angry.

Jacqui Lewis: Yeah. Do you feel comfortable just telling us a little bit about what kind of love it is that can repair itself during COVID? We'd love to know.

Abby Disney: Well, first of all, I think everybody experienced the way COVID kind of just put everything into perspective, right?

Jacqui Lewis: Right.

Abby Disney: You looked at your priorities. At the beginning of it all I still was really angry, and it really took me a long time to get past the anger. And I started looking around me at the imperfections of people I call my friends, which are no worse or better than the imperfections of the person I was married to for so, so long.

Abby Disney: We had one final blowout and I was done. We were on the phone with the marriage counselor and she said, "Are you out?" And I started to say, "Yes," and he said this thing. He said, "Abby, you're my person."

Jacqui Lewis: Oh, Abby. He said, "You're my person?"

Abby Disney: Yeah.

Jacqui Lewis: I love that.

Abby Disney: We've been together since we were 19. From the minute we came together, we were each other's person. It was so, so true. And I thought, "If there's any way to put this back together, it's worth doing because, yeah, he's my person." I don't even believe in that.

Jacqui Lewis: I mean, do you believe now a little bit?

Abby Disney: I do. I do. I do. It's a partnership that was made somewhere not on this earth and I've been lucky to have it for most of my life, and it's worth repairing.

Jacqui Lewis: Abby, can you tell, if we're girlfriends having a glass of wine, how did you meet him? Just tell me how you met him.

Abby Disney: Oh, well he was the cutest, cutest guy in the college punk rock band, the Ice Cream Clones. So I knew him all freshman year because he was so super cute, but of course he would never go for nebbish like me. But somewhere around Halloween our sophomore year, you know how you go as a sexy carrot or a sexy bunny or whatever?

Jacqui Lewis: Yeah.

Abby Disney: I was a sexy nothing in particular.

Jacqui Lewis: But a sexy something.

Abby Disney: He was wearing fur shorts. I don't know where he got fur shorts from, but anyway, we started dancing together that night and that was it, literally. I have not kissed another man since Halloween in 1979. Yeah, yeah.

Abby Disney: We have been partners through some hard things, some very hard things. We have been partners through some great things. And we have four amazing human beings that are our children. Something must have been right about it, don't you think?

Jacqui Lewis: I am so deeply moved by this, by the story of reconciliation and how love can change, right?

Abby Disney: Right.

Jacqui Lewis: It can get stressful, tense, funky even. But I don't know that when we really love someone, it goes away.

Abby Disney: I can't imagine where it would go. And I know people who've divorced and they have these very embittered relationships, and it does make me wonder maybe there wasn't love in the first place or it was mistaken for something else, or I'm not really sure what. But we had been together for so long. We were essentially children, you know?

Jacqui Lewis: Yeah, 19. [crosstalk 00:06:35].

Abby Disney: He knew every story and he knew my parents. He knew my parents so well that sometimes he would have horrible dreams about my mother, which I used to have too. It was pretty funny. That's how well we do each other. You share the burdens together and all those things, it's like being in the trenches. I couldn't just walk away from it. But I also came to an incredible appreciation for just how much reconciliation is to ask of people. I mean, Jesus wouldn't spend so much time telling us to forgive each other if it weren't hard.

Jacqui Lewis: That's a quoteable right there.

Abby Disney: He didn't waste any words on the easy things. That's what I kept telling myself. But I also knew it was like this full bathtub and I could pull the drain and the water would drain out, but it wasn't going to drain any faster than it was going no matter how much I wanted it to go away. And that was the part about it was that there had to be an element of patience, and I had to offer myself enough kindness to just be really mad.

Abby Disney: I was raised in a way where anger wasn't welcomed by me. It was only welcomed from men. So I really struggled with the anger. The bathtub emptied and then it got filled a little more, and then it got emptied. It wasn't a straight line. But over the course of five years, over a very hilly, bumpy period, we have, I think, found our way to the new and better marriage that we were always meant to have after the kids were gone.

Jacqui Lewis: I just am so happy that we're talking and we can see each other. Y'all can't see, but I can see restfulness and something like contentment On your face. I'm so glad for that.

Abby Disney: Yes. Thank you for that.

Jacqui Lewis: This book I just wrote, this Fierce Love book, [Corey 00:09:16], my producer and I, have been working on nine guests now for each of the nine chapters in this book that is on its way to with a love note from me. But the first part of loving ourselves and loving our posse, our people, partner, spouses, and then loving the world. And in this book, I'm kind of joining you at, I'm going to call it fierce reconciliation, Abby. In this book, I illustrate the difficulty of loving self and loving posse and loving world with some of my own stuff.

Jacqui Lewis: This is a fresh new story. Corey doesn't know this story yet. So I write this book and

I'm honest, honest, honest, like you are honest, honest, Abby. And there's some stories in here where the characters are my dad and my mom, who make you, you, right?

Abby Disney: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Jacqui Lewis: But also, they got stuff. My dad's stories in here are about anger and how we express it, and shutting down one's girl child, and then me rising up in my own voice and the conflict that causes. So two days ago, my dad calls me and says, "I read this book cover to cover, and I love you so much. This book is so beautiful and I'm so proud of you. I wish I had known more where you were hurting so I could have helped better, but I love you so much." And I just think that's why he's my hero. And how our love, the parent child love, is a model, Abby, for what you just experienced with your husband, your partner, that we can rocky and get back. We can wrestle and get back. We can tough it out and get back. We can keep filling up the love bathtub, if you will. Why don't more of us know that? How could we communicate that better?

Abby Disney: Well, what you just described about your father totally surprised me because I was in your story with you and thinking about how my father would react, and it wouldn't have been that way. So first of all, we aren't all raised by people with such a generous heart. My father was a good man, he was a kind man, he was a generous man. He was many good, good things and he treated people well, people loved him. But at home, he had a drinking problem and a temper problem. He could be violent. It wasn't frequent, but once is enough really because it's always now hanging in the air from then forth. Especially if he was really drunk, when he does something terrible he doesn't even remember he did it. So all of that goes underground. All of that.

Abby Disney: Parents are like a lid on the pot and it's just getting heated, and heated, and heated. And what are the atoms in there going to do? The siblings. But bump into each other and whatever else. I was very much in the AA way of casting families. You always have the alcoholic child, and you have the rebel child. I was the hero child. I was third out four. I was the one who wanted to be noticed for what I was doing that was good. Student body president and I went off to Yale and I did everything right. And not one thing could I do that they would not find a way for it to be bad news to them somehow.

Abby Disney: When I started my foundation in 1991 they said, "Don't you understand what an embarrassment this is going to be to us?"

Jacqui Lewis: Wait, a foundation is an embarrassment? Why?

Abby Disney: Yeah, because I had gone outside of their foundation and started my own.

Jacqui Lewis: Oh my.

Abby Disney: What you want to do is love your parents. What you want to do, because there are all the good things they've given you, all the right things they've said and the ways in which they were there for you. When I had my tonsils out and my mom made the best mash potatoes and all of that kind of thing. The hardest thing is to hold all of those things. But do do yourself the kindness of acknowledging that you did not

imagine the awful things, that they were in fact awful, and that you are right to be angry.

Abby Disney: Of all the things I think that challenges real love, is the incorporating those things together. The both and. Unfortunately, two years before my father died, he left my mother. It was terrible, messy, awful. It was just horrible. My mother was just becoming symptomatic with Alzheimer's, so it was awful. And then he got cancer and he died not long after that. The whole time I was sitting with him next to that bedside, all I could think about was hurry up and forgive him. You've got to get to the forgiveness before he dies. I really couldn't get there. Like I say, it won't go any faster than it will go. It makes me so sad because I'm still angry, really. But I know he was a better man than that, and I know that he was indeed a very, very good man. But I wish I could have heard one, "Abby, I'm so sorry." One of those-

Jacqui Lewis: I wish I had not done that. Just one of those.

Abby Disney: Yeah, it would have been nice.

Jacqui Lewis: Yeah, yeah. Did you read V's book, *The Apology*?

Abby Disney: No.

Jacqui Lewis: Eve Ensler's book. This is just to who's listening, Eve Ensler goes by V now. In this book she writes the apology she needs from her dad. She writes it for herself, and she says it was such a healing exercise because we need that, Abby. As a theologian I can say forgiveness shouldn't be dependent on the apology. But the truth of the matter is the truth does set us free. When someone honestly says, "I hurt you, I'm sorry. I made a mistake," that lubricates our relationship. It does. It makes a container for forgiveness and reconciliation. I don't there can be real peace without truth, right?

Abby Disney: No, no. This is where the public and the private start intermingling, right? Because when you're trying to forgive someone for something, it would be a lot easier if they wanted your forgiveness.

Jacqui Lewis: Yes, that's true. That's true.

Abby Disney: And it would be a lot easier if they would even acknowledge what it is you're forgiven them for. There is the political nightmare that we're living right now because over there on the other planet, there's thinking the same thing about us. They would love us to ask for their forgiveness. We have plenty to ask for forgiveness for. They say we make fun of them and we're elitist snobs. And we are, and we should ask for forgiveness.

Jacqui Lewis: What did Hillary call them? The undesirables?

Abby Disney: The basket of deplorables. Yeah, yeah. My last episode of my podcast was with Gloria Steinem and we were talking about a trip we were on together to North Korea. One of the things she said was that the dictatorship there felt like there was this one all-encompassing, unforgiving, unbending father in a household where the threat of violence is pretty much constant. I thought about it to myself and I thought, "That is exactly how I feel right here," and the family is the atom. And then the families come together and make a molecule, and the molecules come together and make whatever the state is. If the atoms aren't sound, what

are you building? So what you build in your family, if it's a democracy, if everyone is equally respected, if everybody knows how to ask for forgiveness, because that's actually an art, and how to give forgiveness, which is a challenge, then you imagine if that were happening in all of these families across the country, what a different political life we'd be living.

Jacqui Lewis: With the microcosm that is the nuclear family, had at its nucleus wellness, and I'm going to go wellness and nimbleness and laughter and forgiveness and grace. That would rewire the world. It would rewire the world, Abby.

Abby Disney: Yeah. I've thought this for a long time. I remember we used to go these conferences and every so often they'd put Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama up on stage together. And the two of them were hilarious. They were like six year old kids because when they were in each other's presence, they could not stop joking around and laughing. They were on the edge of a giggle at all times.

Abby Disney: And I have to say, I felt in the presence of godliness when the two of them were together and I was listening to that, and that the laughter coming out of them that they almost couldn't resist was an indication of just how close they were to godliness.

Abby Disney: This is the kind of awful contrast I suppose someday I'll have to apologize to the other side for, but when I watch the Trump rallies, there's constant laughter at Trump rallies. That's why people love him. He's very funny to them.

Jacqui Lewis: He's funny, yeah.

Abby Disney: And all of the humor comes from deriding people, calling them names, mocking them and that kind of thing. And that's the feeling of something not divine at all. That's a closeness to the opposite end of where energy is. So there's always, in everything, two kinds of laughter, and that's where you need to pay attention. If you're thinking of yourself as a family and that's always laughing, but are you always laughing at something or someone?

Jacqui Lewis: Or is it someone? Yeah, that's such a wonderful, important nuance from a great storyteller.

Jacqui Lewis: Abby, I have a book on my shelf that is Bishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama together. It is true, I think a lot to say something about joy right there. What is that, you know?

Abby Disney: Yeah.

Jacqui Lewis: I have experienced the kind of derisive, insidious, almost evil laughter of people in my family system, both up close and far away at times. Sometimes alcohol drives people to meanness [crosstalk 00:21:51].

Abby Disney: Oh, for sure.

Jacqui Lewis: And we both have that story in our backgrounds in a way that the humor is a weapon like religion can be a weapon. I think about, I'm going to just go to my dad for a minute, who is complicated, who also drank. I don't know that he was an alcoholic, but the mean dad at drinking was not fun. You could be in a joyful family moment and then the drinking would just get a little too salty and then suddenly people was feelings were hurt, and then suddenly

people were leaving. You know that kind of feeling of spiral, right?

Abby Disney: Yeah.

Jacqui Lewis: Wow, what's going on? No drinking for you. But the thing that he and mom did, if I were to go what they did well also, together, was even in the hard places, I think we as children felt... You'll read the book and you'll see sometimes silenced and that's not good and you can't be yourself and you can't be sassy. But this dad who reads my book and says, "I love you and I'm proud of you," there's always been that thread of them. Always a constant thread of we will sacrifice for y'all. We will take you to every baseball, basketball, football, band thing. We will create a container in which you can express yourself artistically. I could make a list of the things and if I was going to try to analyze it, I would just have to simply say though the love was not perfect, there was a lot of love there.

Abby Disney: You mentioned a word earlier that is so important in this, which was grace.

Jacqui Lewis: Grace, yes.

Abby Disney: Grace is God loves you no matter what.

Jacqui Lewis: That's right [crosstalk 00:23:50].

Abby Disney: No matter what. And grace is what we need to bring as parents to our families, that we wish our parents had brought, you know?

Jacqui Lewis: Right, yes.

Abby Disney: I know my parents love me. I know that. But there were times when I was growing up when I felt it was conditional, or that it was being withheld. I don't think it was anything they did on purpose, and maybe it was just my poor self image or what. But to come out of childhood with that kind of uncertainty-

Jacqui Lewis: That's what I see.

Abby Disney: ... it's a handicap in a lot of ways because I opened myself up to cruelty, both from my parents and my siblings and from others because I thought I might earn their love that way. I'm very lucky. We were just talking about getting together with my husband around 19 and he was a really good man. I'm really lucky because if I'd had a lot of wandering and a lot of trying different kinds of people, I could easily have been really hurt badly. And so I was really lucky.

Abby Disney: You're always trying to bring that first relationship to fruition somehow. If you leave for your adult life feeling some kind of lack that you've got to make up for, you could spend the rest of your life looking to fill that hole.

Jacqui Lewis: I think that's a really beautifully said thing. In *Fierce Love*, some people have asked me, "Why did you start with loving the self?" And even maybe a little bit of question about am I doing a self-help, self-care book. I'm really doing a save your life book because I do think that most of us, Abby, come into this world and there is a scar or a hole in our souls because there's not enough grace, let's just say. What's the class our parents take? How do we teach each other how to really unconditionally love a little person without so many barriers and boundaries and hoops and all the things?

Jacqui Lewis: So then we do move in the world looking, my friend Jim Loder would say, for the face that will never leave us. I love that. But that's not happening. You might end up in a funky relationship trying to

find it, you might end up in drugs trying to find it because you need it. I do find myself wondering about raising little people to love themselves. How can we make it a purpose for adults everywhere to raise babies who love themselves?

Abby Disney: I'm one of those lucky people who came out of my childhood and was able to sift through and keep the things that were good and put aside the things that weren't. So when my instincts were taking me in the wrong direction, I was able to recognize it. So I felt like I broke a cycle.

Jacqui Lewis: Good for you, yeah.

Abby Disney: And it was partly because of my partnership with my husband, who's a deeply kind and loving man. I think that no matter how you raise them, no matter how well you think you're doing, there's some way in which you're messing it all up.

Jacqui Lewis: Guaranteed, right?

Abby Disney: You're like the goalie of their life and nobody's going to notice you until you mess up. As my children have moved into adulthood and they've come back to me with anger about this and that, I've been shocked and it has really rocked me to my core. But as they've moved through that process, and thank God I always left a little money aside for the therapy.

Jacqui Lewis: It's good to put it in your budget.

Abby Disney: Everybody should do that.

Jacqui Lewis: Did you hear what she said, everyone? Put a little money aside for therapy or a coach.

Abby Disney: Yes, exactly. Then little by little, we arrive back at a place where we are... It's a little like reconciling in a marriage. Now we're in a whole new relationship and this is a better one because everyone's telling the truth now. And that is where I find myself with my kids, at a place where we've worked through the parts where maybe I was self-centered, maybe I spent too much time on the road, maybe this, maybe that. Maybe I was too heteronormative. That's a big one in my... I messed up in a thousand ways all while I was trying, and conscious of trying, to do my best.

Abby Disney: So yeah, I think that we should all, almost every person on earth when they have that baby and this rush of feeling comes over you, and it doesn't just come over the mother or the father, whoever is giving birth. That Oxycontin... Oh, sorry. Not that.

Jacqui Lewis: Oxytocin.

Abby Disney: Oxytocin.

Jacqui Lewis: Oxytocin. Almost.

Abby Disney: But that is that state of euphoria, and it's not even euphoria. It's like this is a astounding level of love. It's cosmic, it's divine, you can't believe you don't even know this person and you would do anything to protect them. And your partner's right there with you. It's not just oxytocin, because how is he also feeling that? It's not just some biological thing.

Abby Disney: I feel like I wish there were a way to take a picture of that moment in your heart and keep it with you because that's your guiding star. That's what your child needs to feel from you even when they've tried a drug you didn't want them to try. When they're little, they do things that disappoint you.

When they're big, they do things that terrify you and make you even question whether you raise a child with good values. Again, Jesus wouldn't say all this stuff if it wasn't hard. Love them anyway.

Jacqui Lewis: Love your neighbor. Your child is your closest neighbor. Your husband, your wife, your partner is your closest neighbor. How do you love them as yourself? Yeah, I think I love the implicit in what we're seeing of there will be just such disappointment and heartbreak because you love someone.

Abby Disney: You what the awful thing about that is? Somebody said to me once that when your child goes through childhood, one by one you have to drop every fantasy you had for them. It's not that you're disappointed. It's just he's not going to be Einstein and he's not going to be [inaudible 00:31:01], he's not to be Picasso. It's not an insult to them to say, "I'm deeply disappointed that you're not Picasso," but that there are these ways in which you have to let go of everything that you brought, and recognize that he or she brought everything that needed. And that was more than enough. And that's a transition you have to make as a parent. You have to know that there is a moment you're going to have to arrive at where you look at them and see them for who they are uniquely. And they're the only person who ever existed who is this exact person, and they are a miracle, and you have to find your way back to that feeling that you felt that very first beginning.

Jacqui Lewis: That is just so beautifully said.

Jacqui Lewis: I'm writing in the book a little bit about parenting. Though I don't have children, I feel like I co-mothered my brothers and my sister and got grand babies now. But I think it's true that in any kind of love perhaps, if the intention is this human is going to unfold before me, I'm going to read this book that is this person. I'm going to turn the page and discover, uncover, be surprised, be delighted, be infuriated by this person. And I'm out of control. There's nothing I'm doing\ that's going to make this person not who they are.

Jacqui Lewis: Jim Loder would say, "Love is the non-possessive delight in the particularity of the other." I love that. The non-possessive delight. So I'm not going to change you, I'm not going to fix you. I'm just going to see you. And the truth of that to me, the truth of that is also that we have to be able to be honest. I think we really kill each other's souls, Abby, not just our kids. But if we force the people we love to put on a false person for us, or a persona or a patina or a mask or something, I think we erode their soul. I don't mean to be dramatic, but I think it's soul death, little by little.

Abby Disney: Yeah, no, I agree. I agree. There are a myriad ways in which an individual, but also a family or a whole society can eat away at your soul little by little. Honestly, that's what I attribute my dad's mistakes toward the end of his life to, is that he was very powerful and very wealthy and quite well known. And one by one, the friendships that were real friendships from way back started to fall away and they were replaced with friendships, kind of, except that everybody was relying on him for a paycheck. They're not going to tell you the truth about yourself.

Abby Disney: There's a Japanese beetle. It's this beetle that eats the inside of the tree, and so the tree looks completely fine and then it falls over. I think that's what happens to your insides when you

have too much power or privilege in the form of money or whiteness or maleness or any of those things. If you happen to have the trifecta, it's really terrible. So you've got to have the truth tellers around you and you have to have the sole strength to be told the truth. And you have to signal to people that you want the truth because people will assume you don't. It's hard. I mean, I'm in this position myself and I'm really finding hard not to be my father. I can see all the ways in which it would be so much easier to relax into it.

Jacqui Lewis: Yeah. How do you love you well, Abby?

Abby Disney: I wouldn't say I'm a model of anything like that because I still struggle with epic amounts of insecurity about whether I'm doing the right things with my life, whether I'm keeping too much money for myself and should be giving more away, whether I'm spending my time... I mean, I'm making this film, right? So I seesaw wildly back and forth to between who cares what I think. Just because you have the position and the money to make the film doesn't mean your opinion is any more important than anybody else's. So that's one side of the seesaw. The other side is dig down deep into your soul, look really hard and ask yourself, are you right about this? Then do it.

Abby Disney: And so that seesaw is hard and what's the most stressful thing to me is when people compliment me. And I know that sounds crazy. Applause makes me want to cry. And it's because I think I spent a lot of my childhood groveling for approval and didn't get it. Right now where I am, lots of people will give me lots of approval, and many people will give me more than I have earned because of my name, because of my money, because of my position. So I need to take every compliment and parse it and make sure I understand where it's coming from and weigh it. That's exhausting. That's exhausting. But I know the consequences. Should I go ahead and just let it all in? It will not be good for me. I'd rather be exhausted from fighting this fight than turn into the person that I might turn into because I give up.

Jacqui Lewis: Wow, Abby. So in a way you are seeking the truth in those exchanges, just candor, just real sincere, honest truth. Not blow smoke up your skirt or pants.

Abby Disney: Exactly.

Jacqui Lewis: I just have been really thinking a lot about truth the last couple of days. I write a note to my church every week, and the one today was about truth. Just thinking about how easy the lies are. They just flow out of the mouth in the public square. Defense council for boys who take rifles on protest and the testimony of folks who were just teasing when they thought they would make a meme about killing AOC. So I want to make a connection maybe just as a statement between the power of truth as part of love. You don't fake lies. You want true relationship, true communication as part of love.

Abby Disney: Absolutely. I think that the more lies that are in there, the more they act like foundations, but they're actually just made of dust and the whole thing will come down eventually unless the truth is really, really shared. And that's hard. That means saying, "I hate to tell you this, but I did this thing I promised you I wouldn't do and I'm really ashamed." The art of the apology is then to stop explaining and just let the other person be mad at you and sit with that for a minute. That's the hardest thing about the whole thing. That's the space you have

to be living in is the constant exchange of that. Love is a dialogue.

Jacqui Lewis: Love is a dialogue.

Abby Disney: Yeah. The lies will kill it.

Jacqui Lewis: So Abby, what do for sure about love?

Abby Disney: What do I know for sure? I know for sure that love is not only a good, but it is probably the only worthy thing of committing a whole lifetime to. I try to test everything I do against my priority of seeking love in the world. I fall short sometimes and I try to course correct.

Abby Disney: I think love is present in every single human being, Hitler included. I think when you go look at a mass shooter, the first thing he does before he goes out and does that hateful thing is he kills his wife or his sister or his mother or whatever was the person that at one time or another he loved the most. He knows that he has to kill that before he can become a hateful person doing hateful thing. So I know that it's present in so many of the places you wouldn't expect to find it and that people would surprise you when you go and you engage with them and seek that out in them. People would surprise you. And thank God they're full of surprises.

Jacqui Lewis: Thank God. When I say fierce love, what does that evoke for you?

Abby Disney: It evokes all kinds of things about the way I am a parent. Also it evokes the way I think about social justice work because as I told you, I'm making a film about the way Disney treats its employees. And that's my name on that company. I actually don't have a role there. I'm not even a very big shareholder. But that's my name on that company. And I remember walking through those gates many, many, many times as a child with my grandfather who greeted everyone and asked about their wife and their children and knew every name, and picked up garbage from the sidewalk and said to me every time, "No one's too good to pick up a piece of garbage."

Abby Disney: I think about that as compared with where things are right now, and the flaw that has brought us to this place has been to allow ourselves, even just only in our business lives, to let love die. To just leave love at the door so it doesn't distract us from these important decisions we're going to be making about whether to buy this company or sell this stock or whatever. Everything would be different if we hadn't driven love out of the public square and out of what we think of as rational discourse. I think most discourse would be more rational if love were present and accounted for as an influence and a driver of behavior.

Jacqui Lewis: From your lips to God's ears, a prayer that we wouldn't leave love at the door even as we do the business of life.

Abby Disney: Yeah. So Gwendolyn Brooks, do the poem Paul Robeson?

Jacqui Lewis: Yes.

Abby Disney: We are each other's business.

Jacqui Lewis: We are each other's business. Oh man, thank you for reminding me of that. Abby, thank you so much for this conversation.

Abby Disney: This has been such a pleasure. It's just such a pleasure. It's almost as good as sitting around in handcuffs together.

Jacqui Lewis: I know. That was such a crazy day.

Abby Disney: I know. I love that.

Jacqui Lewis: That was such a crazy day.