



Tori Spelling - Our Hero

# The Weekly Idiot

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## N.Y. Girl Killed Over Demon Accusation!

**SAYVILLE, N.Y. (Reuters)** - A New York woman was arrested Monday and accused of suffocating her teenage cheerleader daughter because she thought the girl was possessed by demons, police said.

An aunt found the body of 17-year-old Charity Miranda late Sunday night, lying at the bottom of a staircase in the family's suburban home in Sayville, New York, police said.

The girl's mother and 20-year-old sister were chanting and praying over the body. Charity Miranda had been suffocated with a plastic bag, said Detective Lt. John Gierasch of the Suffolk County Police Department.

"She believed that her daughter was possessed by demons, and this was an effort to get rid of those demons," he said.

The woman had been trying to exorcise the demons but gave up and decided to kill the girl, he said.

"A decision was made that she must die," Gierasch said. The victim was a senior in high school and a cheerleader, police said. Her older sister, a college student, who was believed to have witnessed the killing, was also a cheerleader, police said. The youngest sister, (15 years old), is believed to be in danger from her mother's delusions. Vivian Miranda, and the 20-year-old sister Serena were arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

The mother had become increasingly interested in Santeria, a mixture of ancient African-based rituals and Christianity. But Charity Miranda apparently refused to go along with her mother's beliefs, police said.

The girl's father died just a week before, police said. The mother said at first that the girl had fallen down the stairs, but police determined she had been suffocated.

Neighbors in the middle-class town about 45 miles east of New York City were stunned.

"They're three lovely daughters," said one woman. "They're all-American, clean-cut cheerleader kids. It's a big shock."

19-JAN-98

## School staff caught visiting Internet porn!

**PASADENA, Calif. (Reuters)** - Internet porn is not approved homework in Pasadena, city school officials say.

They have yanked Internet privileges for staff allowed to work on their computers at home after discovering that some of them visited pornographic Internet sites.

"There are some cases of 'unintended' use by school district staff who are authorized to work at home," said David Banis, Deputy Superintendent of the Pasadena Unified School District.

He said staff were given passwords to use their home computers for Internet access and to send electronic messages for the purpose of school district business.

"School district business is pretty broad, I realize, and some were using (the Internet) for something other than that."

Banis said a routine monitoring of Internet logs showed several visits to pornographic sites, although he said the records did not show which staff had dialed them up.

Wednesday December 10 11:14 AM EST



# Apple Makes A Profit

*Can this company be saved? If so, what for?*

Steve Jobs held court in Boston at the Macworld show a couple of weeks ago. About an hour and a half into his presentation, the heavens and the earth stopped moving, and even God looked up from what he was working on: Apple, Jobs said, had at long last made a \$45 million profit. Apple aficionados wept, dealers jumped up and down, Wall Street went wild, and all was well in the Apple kingdom.

My question is a simple one: Who cares? A few years ago, news like this might have saved the once mighty Cupertino computer maker. But not now. Apple has wasted too much precious time fighting itself – time that the Wintel machine has used wisely to thoroughly dominate the market. Apple makes \$47 million last quarter and it's a cause for celebration – Microsoft in that same quarter posts a profit of \$1 billion and no one notices. Times used to be that any Apple product cost double what a similar IBM clone would cost; now that Apple has become competitive again... So what? A day late and a dollar short.

There are those out there (*commonly called the "Anybody But Microsoft" crowd*) that would never use an MS product, even if Steve Jobs personally called each one and begged them to. "Oh the Mac is SO superior to those... boxes". Well, it's just about time to knock the smug grin off of their faces. Windows 95 and its successors, especially NT, are closing the performance gap more and more quickly. Sure the Mac was without question the superior OS in the Win 3.1 days, but what about now? Is Win95 so bad that someone would rather pay more for less machine, wait and wait for software, and pay 3-4 times as much for repairs? I don't think so. The poor Mac is caught in a vicious cycle: fewer programmers deal with Mac code, so fewer people buy Macs; so less software comes out, so fewer people buy Macs, and so on.

When Apple folks look at you with that superior grin, remind them that Microsoft became King of the Hill as much for Apple's shooting itself in the foot than for anything crowd at Redmond did. Remember when Windows 3.1 came out? Apple could have flooded the market with Macs, but what did they do? Hiked their prices by 30 percent! Apple could have killed Microsoft during the introduction of the CD-ROM – all of Apple's hardware is, of course, proprietary, so the Apple machines were moving out the door while Bill Gates and the whole IBM gang were still trying to get IRQs and DMAs straight. But that can be an Achilles' heel with the wrong people in charge. After all, Apple is a *computer* company. Apple has to deal with developing hardware *and* software. Having to deal with assembling computers and a physical

stock of machines is very different from just writing code and stamping out CDs. Over the years, Apple has pushed itself into a corner by having really only 3 or 4 major suppliers, while the whole IBM crowd had thousands of suppliers. Unlike Apple, everyone else in the computer world was after cheap prices. Apple believed in the cult of the Mac so much so that Apple hardware, under the reign of Jean-Louis Grassé (*the father of the BeOS*) spent most of its time in second induced stupor. The High Priest of Apple's margin scheme was so elitist and so loved the aesthetics of the Holy Mac that in the end, the company was paying \$135 *each* for the cases to Macintosh computers – specially made so that their seams would face inside on the creases. At the same time Compaq, Gateway, Dell and everyone else in the Free World are moving their machines (*all using Microsoft products*) out the door by the truckload in good old old-fashioned, God-fearing, square IBM cases that then cost \$25 a pop. That's not to mention spending \$300 million here and \$200 million there for fantastic software crusades that never went anywhere. Correct me if I'm wrong, but Apple spent over \$100 million for a project the major result of which was *QuickTime*? If things were reversed and Mac held 90% of the PC market instead of Windows, I think we'd still be paying \$490 for a 4MB SIMM.

Apple, the company that brought you the first ad for a personal computer ever to be shown on television, has forgotten what the folks at Redmond have always known: that marketing is the One True God of the hope for the company. Was Apple the best? Yes. So was the Betamax. In fact, that's a good comparison. Sony, developer of the Betamax, kept its VCR standards proprietary – much like Apple. Look at it now. Apple had to feed an Unholy R&D monster by keeping margins ever higher. They could have made a billion dollars if only they licensed their OS. They had the code in their hands to turn every DOS machine into a virtual Mac. What did they do? Let's say in all together now: *They pissed it all away.*

Don't get me wrong. I don't hate Apple. I still get mushy when I think about the being ten years old and sitting for the first time in front of my Apple II. We love you, Apple, for bringing us little people computers. Why did you have to turn into the gang that couldn't shoot straight?

- Jim Cofer  
22.1.98

# Insurance Against "Virgin Birth by Act of God"!

**LONDON** (02-14) \* - Approximately 300 women purchased insurance against a virgin birth by act of God. Goodfellow Rebecca Ingrams Pearson, an insurer broker, sells the policies for \$210 a year.

"So far we've had everyone from 18-year-olds to pensioners taking out the policy, but I don't anticipate very many successful claims," said Managing Director Simon Burgess. The broker also offers insurance against impregnation by an alien.

"You can never underestimate the stupidity of the British public," Burgess added.

## Woman seeking revenge slices off man's penis!

**FAIRFIELD, Calif.** (*Reuters*) - A woman who was possibly seeking to avenge a murder 14 years ago had sex with a California man and then sliced off his penis, police said Wednesday.

Alan Hall, 48, met a woman identifying herself as "Brenda" last week and subsequently had sex with her at his home, said police in Fairfield, 45 miles east of San Francisco.

Early the next morning, the woman reportedly made a statement implying she wanted revenge for Hall's conviction in the 1983 murder of a friend of hers. Police said she then used a cutting tool to cut off Hall's penis.

Paramedics responding to a call at Hall's house found him on the front lawn. He and the severed organ were taken to a hospital, but surgeons were unable to reattach the penis.

Police described the suspect, who fled Hall's house on foot, as a 42-year-old white woman.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Hall, who works as a pipe fitter, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in July 1983 for strangling Denise Denofrio earlier that year. Police said "Brenda" may have been a friend of Denofrio.

*Wednesday December 10 5:32 PM EST*

## Man killed while ... relieving himself!

**SYDNEY** (05-03) \* - A man has died after a tree branch fell on his head while he was relieving himself in a park.

"He'd stopped in some bushes apparently to relieve himself and a branch of about one and a half

feet in diameter hit him," an ambulance service spokesman said. "He was dressed in evening clothes and seemed to have been out somewhere last night," he added.

The man, who appeared to be in his mid-30s, died from severe head injuries.

## Marijuana activists send joints to lawmakers!

**PARIS** (*Reuters*) - A group advocating the decriminalization of marijuana said Wednesday it had sent a hand-rolled marijuana cigarette to every French MP, along with letters urging them to ease France's tough drug laws.

"This legislation, the most repressive in Europe, has done nothing to halt the massive spread of drugs, nor has it slowed the appetite of a certain number of our fellow citizens for illegal substances," the Paris-based Collective for Information and Research on Cannabis wrote.

A spokesman said the joints, made from marijuana grown in France, had been mailed Tuesday afternoon. The group had not yet had any response from National Assembly deputies.

Some seven million of France's nearly 60 million people have tried marijuana at least once and about two million are regular users, according to official estimates.

Hundreds of French residents were jailed and thousands fined for use, possession or sale of marijuana last year, according to the organization.

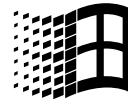
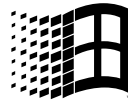
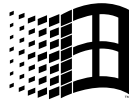
*Wednesday December 10 11:18 AM EST*

*A Seattle woman was reporting her car as stolen, and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the guy that answered that he had read the ad in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet, and the thief was arrested.*

*Clever drug traffickers used a propane tanker truck entering El Paso from Mexico. They rigged it so propane gas would be released from all of its valves while the truck concealed 6,240 pounds of marijuana. They were clever, but not bright. They misspelled the name of the gas company on the side of the truck.*

## A true story out of San Francisco:

It seems a man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote "This iz a stikkup. Put all your munny in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller window. So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to Wells Fargo. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he was not the brightest light in the harbor, told him that she could not accept his stick up note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said "Ok" and left. The Wells Fargo teller then called the police who arrested the man a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.



Bill's all excited about his new rifle. So, he goes bear hunting in Alaska. The first bear he sees is a little brown bear, and he kills it with his first shot. There is a tap on his shoulder, and he turns around to see a big black bear. The black bear says:

"You've got 2 choices. One, I maul you to death or Two, we have sex."

Bill bends over for the bear.

He's sore for 2 days, but he recovers and vows revenge. Bill heads out on another trip to Alaska and he finds the black bear and kills him. At that moment there is a tap on his shoulder. A huge grizzly is standing right behind him. The grizzly says:

"That was a big mistake. You've got 2 choices, "Either I maul you to death or we have sex."

Bill bends over.

He survives, but he's really hurting and takes quite a bit of time to recover, and he's outraged.

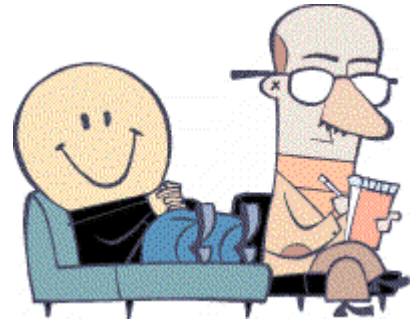
Sure enough, he heads back to Alaska and finds the grizzly and shoots him at point blank range. There's a tap on his shoulder.

He turns around to find an enormous polar bear, and the polar bear says:

"You don't really come here for the hunting, do you?"

# Dear Jim,

The Column that Cares!



Dear Jim:

I'm currently running the latest version of GirlFriend and I've been having some problems lately. I've been running the same version of DrinkingBuddies 1.0 forever as my primary application, and all the GirlFriend releases I've tried have always conflicted with it.

I hear that DrinkingBuddies won't crash if GirlFriend is run in background mode and the sound is turned off. But I'm embarrassed to say I can't find the switch to turn the sound off. I just run them separately, and it works okay. GirlFriend also seems to have a problem coexisting with my Golf program, often trying to abort Golf with some sort of timing incompatibility.

I probably should have stayed with GirlFriend 1.0, but I thought I might see better performance from GirlFriend 2.0. After months of conflicts and other problems, I consulted a friend who has had experience with GirlFriend 2.0. He said I probably didn't have enough cache to run GirlFriend 2.0, and eventually it would require a Token Ring to run properly. He was right - as soon as I purged my cache, it uninstalled itself.

Shortly after that, I installed GirlFriend 3.0 beta. All the bugs were supposed to be gone, but the first time I used it, it gave me a virus anyway. I had to clean out my whole system and shut down for a while.

I very cautiously upgraded to GirlFriend 4.0. This time I used a SCSI probe first and also installed a virus protection program. It worked okay for a while until I discovered that GirlFriend 1.0 was still in my system. I tried running GirlFriend 1.0 again with GirlFriend 4.0 still installed, but GirlFriend 4.0 has a feature I didn't know about that automatically senses the presence of any other version of GirlFriend and communicates with it in some way, which results in the immediate removal of both versions.

The version I have now works pretty well, but there are still some problems. Like all versions of GirlFriend, it is written in some obscure language I can't understand, much less reprogram.

Frankly I think there is too much attention paid to the look and feel rather than the desired functionality. Also, to get the best connections with your hardware, you usually have to use gold-plated contacts. And I've never liked how GirlFriend is totally "object-oriented."

A year ago, a friend of mine upgraded his version of GirlFriend to GirlFriendPlus 1.0, which is a Terminate and Stay Resident version of GirlFriend. He discovered that GirlFriendPlus 1.0 expires within a year if you don't upgrade to Fiancee 1.0. So he did, but soon after that, he had to upgrade to Wife 1.0, which he describes as a huge resource hog.

It has taken up all his space, so he can't load anything else. One of the primary reasons he decided to go with Wife 1.0 was because it came bundled with FreeSexPlus.

Well, it turns out the resource allocation module of Wife 1.0 sometimes prohibits access to FreeSexPlus, particularly the new Plug-Ins he wanted to try. On top of that, Wife 1.0 must be running on a well warmed-up system before he can do anything. Although he did not ask for it, Wife 1.0 came with MotherInLaw which has an automatic pop-up feature he can't turn off.

I told him to try installing Mistress 1.0, but he said he heard if you try to run it without first uninstalling Wife 1.0, Wife 1.0 will delete MS Money files before doing the uninstall itself. Then Mistress

1.0 won't install anyway because of insufficient resources.

Sincerely,  
Hopeless in Hoboken

**Dear Hopeless,**

**I think that you've reminded us all of the dangers of using ANY kind of Girl software on your system!**

**Thanks for your comments, and in the future, I suggest that you stick with DrinkingBuddies 1.0 like any God-fearing American male!**

## Germans shoplift every third condom they use!

**BERLIN** (Reuters) - Every third condom used in Germany is a stolen one, the *Berliner Morgenpost* newspaper reported on Thursday.

The paper quoted HDE retailers' association spokesman, Thomas Werz, as saying feelings of shame among Germans with regard to sexual activity led them to shoplift 38 percent of the condoms they use.

"One can hardly find another explanation for the fact that every third condom passes the till unpaid," Werz said.

The HDE said other commonly stolen goods included a popular anti-wrinkle lotion and a well-known Swiss confectionery product. It would not give brand names.

*Thursday January 22 11:15 AM EST*

## Pimp ordered to pay damages to prostitute!

**GENEVA** (Reuters) - A Swiss court has ordered a Geneva pimp to pay tens of thousands of dollars in damages to a prostitute who said he was taking nearly all of her pay.

The pimp was ordered to pay 160,000 Swiss francs (nearly \$110,000) -- including interest on lost revenue -- after the prostitute accused him of taking 90 percent of her income.

A spokesman at the Geneva cantonal court said it was the first time in the city that a pimp had been ordered to pay damages to a prostitute.

"It could encourage similar cases," the spokesman said.

*Thursday January 22 11:14 AM EST*

## 'Murdered' girl shows up alive!

**NEW YORK** (Reuters) - A 13-year-old girl, thought dead by her mother and police because a man had confessed to killing her, mysteriously showed up alive at her Queens home Wednesday night, police said.

The girl, Felicia Leighton, who disappeared Friday, the day before her 13th birthday, appeared at the house Wednesday around 8 p.m., police said. She was "conscious and alert," a police spokesman said, but was taken to an area hospital for examination.

Police said they do not know what happened to her since her disappearance.

After she disappeared, Glenville Smith, 28, a tenant in the house and who originally claimed to be a security guard, told police that he had seen a "vision" of the girl's body buried on a Long Island beach.

Later, he confessed that to having sex with the girl, then murdering her, police said.

Wednesday, hours before Leighton returned, he was charged with second-degree murder and tampering with evidence. Police said he was still in custody and the charges he would face are uncertain.

*Thursday January 22 11:14 AM EST*

Hello, welcome to the Psychiatric Hotline.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5 and 6.

If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want.  
Just stay on the line so we can trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell  
you which number to press.

If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press.  
No one will answer.

# Really GROSS stuff, *courtesy of David Shipman*

## MASSIVE TUMOUR

In October 1991, surgeons at Stanford University Hospital removed an ovarian tumour weighing over 21 stone from a woman. It was the largest cyst ever detached from a human being. After the operation, the woman weighed 5 stone LESS than the tumour.

## BABY CHICKEN

A 50 year old woman was brought into a New York emergency room complaining of abdominal pains. During an examination, doctors found that the woman's labia were pinned together with old safety pins. Further inside, they found the dismembered body of a chicken. The woman explained that she inserted the chicken pieces, convinced that they would grow into a baby.

## INNER SKELETON

A 63 year old widow was admitted to hospital in Recife, Brazil, suffering abdominal pains. X-rays showed that she was carrying a 20 inch long skeleton of a foetus which she conceived a decade earlier. It had become lodged outside the womb and was never expelled from her body.

## FEMALE SOFA

A 500lb woman from Illinois was examined in hospital. During the examination, an asthma inhaler fell from under her armpit, a dime was found under one of her breasts, and a remote control was found lodged between the folds of her vulva.

## OUCH!

A couple hobbled into a Washington emergency room covered in bloody restaurant towels. The man had his around his waist, and the woman had hers around her head. They eventually explained to doctors that they had gone out that evening for a romantic dinner. Overcome with passion, the woman crept under the table to administer oral sex to the man. While in the act, she had an epileptic fit, which caused her to clamp down on the man's member and wrench it from side to side. In agony and desperation, the man grabbed a fork and stabbed her in the head until she let go.

## SEX EDUCATION

A Californian doctor examining a young woman with abdominal pains asked her if she was sexually active. She said that she wasn't. A later examination showed that she was pregnant. Asked why she said that she was not sexually active, the woman replied "I'm not, I just lie there". When asked if she knew who the father was, with a puzzled look she replied "No. Who?"

## BLIND DRUNK

A drunk staggered into a Pennsylvania ER complaining of severe pain while trying to remove his contact lenses. He said that they would come out half way, but they always popped back in. A nurse tried to help using a suction pump, but without success. Finally, a doctor examined him and discovered that the man did not have his contact lenses in at all. He had been trying to rip out the membrane of his cornea.

## GROWING SEASON

An old woman in a North Carolina ER complained of green vines growing from her vagina. Investigation revealed a large potato trapped in her womb. The woman then suddenly remembered that she had inserted it two weeks previously, because she thought that her uterus was falling out.

## PRICKLY PAIR

In Michigan, a man came into the ER with lacerations to his penis. He complained that his wife had "a rat in her pussy" and it bit him during sex. After an examination of his wife, it was revealed that she had a surgical needle left inside her after a recent hysterectomy.

## LAST STAND

A Cambridge man hobbled into casualty complaining of a permanent erection. He admitted to doctors that while on holiday in Cuba, he frequented many brothels, and in one he was given some erectile cream to keep him hard. He was told to use it sparingly. However, since he was having so much fun, he kept using more and more. By the time he came to casualty, all the blood vessels in his penis were swollen and his testicles had ballooned in size. Doctors could do nothing except prescribe painkillers, and told him that it would return to flaccidity in a few days. They also told him to enjoy his erection while it lasted, because it was going to be his last.

## JUICY LUCY

In Kentucky, a woman complained of a purple discharge from her vagina. She thought it might have something to do with the diaphragm that her doctor had recently given her. "I followed all the instructions to the letter," she told her doctor, "and used it with the jelly." When asked which kind of jelly she had used, she replied "Grape."

## BRUSH AFTER MEALS

A very unhygienic patient was being treated by two nurses for a burst vein in his stomach. While changing the dressing, one of the nurses screamed. They saw maggots crawling down the man's chest. They had been breeding between his teeth, and smelling the open wound, decided to feed further down his body.

## Bus driver replaces mental patients!

**HARARE**, Zimbabwe \* - After 20 mental patients disappeared from his bus, the driver replaced them with sane citizens and delivered them to a mental hospital.

The unidentified bus driver was transporting 20 mental patients from the capital city of Harare to Bulawayo Mental Hospital when he decided to stop for a few drinks at an illegal roadside liquor store. Upon his return he was shocked to discover that all the mental patients have escaped. Desperate for a solution, the driver stopped at the next bus stop and offered free bus rides to several people. He then delivered them to the mental hospital and informing the staff they were easily excitable.

It took the medical personnel three days to uncover the foul play. The real mental patients are still at large.

## New guidebook rates privies of Paris!

**PARIS** (AP) + - Travelers to France long have relied on guidebooks to find the best hotels and restaurants. Now, a new work offers evaluations that may be even more helpful -- the restrooms of Paris.

"Gogues en Vogue" -- French for "Fashionable Johns" -- includes descriptions of bathrooms in 98 Paris

restaurants, bars and nightclubs and awards toilet bowl cleaner icons for cleanliness and toilet bowl seats for scent.

One of each, the book explains, denotes toilets of an "apocalyptic to mediocre" purity and a "pestilential to unbearable" odor. Three of each, meanwhile, denote "sensational to astonishing" cleanliness and an "inebriating to captivating" scent.

The authors gave the famed Cloiserie des Lilas a lukewarm review: "In all, taking a break in the Cloiserie is not unpleasant and, depending on the time of day, you may be accompanied by music."

The ritzy four-star Hotel Crillon, on the other hand, proved praiseworthy.

"A detour not to be missed," they write. "The finest of the fine are the majestic sinks with gold-plated faucets that await your manicured hands."

The book comes out in a country of hygienic extremes. The capital's cafes often offer only seatless Turkish toilets -- two footprints and a hole -- while its green self-sterilizing public restrooms have been known to inspire awe and envy.

The book's lowest ranking went to the Cafe Monte Cristo, a Spanish-style restaurant-bar on the Champs-Elysees.

"As I try to make my way through the salsa dancers, the situation starts to fall apart," the researcher wrote. "There is no clear distinction between the two doors for a simple reason: They have been ripped off."

"But the strong stench allows me nonetheless to determine that's where the bathroom is."

*January 24, 1998*

*Web posted at: 4:18 p.m. EST (2118 GMT)*

Thanks to Tracy Abshire, Justin Cranford, Joe Etten and David Shipman for their contributions to this edition of the *Idiot*. Justin's contributions are noted with a '+'; Tracy's with '\*'. Joe found the "Vistaweb 3000" pic on the cover. Find more at <http://www.thecorporation.com>

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“He’d seen beautiful women before, though, women who caught his eye, but to his mind they usually lacked the traits he found most desirable. Traits like intelligence, confidence, strength of spirit, passion, traits that inspire others to greatness, traits he aspired to himself...Allie had those traits, he knew, and as they walked now, he sensed them once again lingering beneath the surface. A ‘living poem’ had always been the words that came to mind when he tried to describe her to others.” From The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks