

# ABIGAIL, the MELODRAMA

By Kathy Applebee



## CAST (13)

MA

OWEN LOTS/Amalekite Gang

ABIGAIL

DAVID/ Amalekite Gang

NABAL/ Amalekite Gang

RED EYE/ Amalekite Gang

WILLIN/EGYPTIAN/Amalekite Gang

ABEL/ Amalekite Gang

MAID 1

MAID 2

MAID 3 (Narrator)

MAID 4

MAID 5

## Cast (7) with Doubling

Ma//Maid 2 & 4

Owen Lots/Red Eye/ Amalekite Gang

Abigail

David/ Amalekite Gang

Nabal/Abel/ Amalekite Gang

Willin/Egyptian/ Amalekite Gang

MAID 1, 3 & 5

*Before curtain, center stage*

MAID 3:

This here's the story of Abigail and David. I got the story from Miss Abigail herself. I was one of her five maids but we gots to start way back before Miss Abigail married that scoundrel Nabal, had 5 maids or ever laid on our hero, David. Not so far back as another hero – Samson - who fought the Lord's battles but got in some bodacious trouble with a woman, Delilah, the Haircutter, from Phyllis Steen's Gang. Fortunately, Samson busted that gang up. Unfortunately bout this time Phyllis Steen's Gang had gotten back together and was roaming these parts, causing a heap of trouble for the people of God.

You audience members can help us by responding to the signs. (*Hold up "Boo Hiss", "Our Hero", "He always has and He always will" and have audience practice*)

Ya'll done good so here we go.

*At rise: Abigail is sweeping and MA is looking out of the window.*

ABIGAIL:

Ma, I reckon you've been watching out the window most of the day. Is something on your mind?

MA:

I sure wish your father, Owen Lots, would get home directly. With that Phyllis Steen's Gang running these parts a body could come to harm.

ABIGAIL:

Don't worry so. God will take care of father. He always has and He always will.

MA:

I reckon. But that gang has been stealing sheep and vittles, right off some folk's tables. This family would be in a heap of trouble if Phyllis Steen's Gang came by our place. We sure enough need the law around these parts but since King Saul went plumb crazy, there just ain't been any.

ABIGAIL: (*Getting that dreamy far –off love-struck look*)

If only King Saul would make things right with that brave warrior David, (*sigh*) (*MAID 4 hold "Our Hero" sign up and have audience sigh*) God's anointed. David would save us from Phyllis Steen's Gang.

MA:

Saul has a conniption fit at even the mention of David's name. But David's a clever one. He skedaddled himself out to the badlands. All Saul's chasing him won't amount to a hill of beans.

OWEN: (*entering*)

Ma, Abigail, I'm a feared I have some bad news. Phyllis Steen's Gang has stolen our sheep herd, our wheat and the shirt off my back.

MA:

The shirt off your back?

OWEN:

Actually, it was on the clothesline. What are we gonna do? We're plumb broke.

ABIGAIL:

Never fear father. God will send someone to save us. Some young, handsome, rugged man. *(sigh) (hold "Our Hero" sign up and have audience sigh )*

OWEN:

If that Phyllis Steen's Gang wasn't bad enough, kicking up a row every time a body turns around, our rent is due.

MA:

If we can't pay it, that ornery, no-account rascal Nabal *(MAID 5 Hold up "Boo! Hiss!" sign for audience)* will kick us out of house and home.

ABIGAIL:

God will provide a way. *(MAID 4 holds up "He always has and He always will" sign)* He always has and he always will.

*(knocking on the door)*

MA:

It will be that No Good Nabal *(Hold up "Boo! Hiss!" sign for audience)* come to get our rent.

NABAL: *(Calling from off stage)*

Owen Lots, open up in the name of the law. *(ABIGAIL, OWEN and MA gasp)*

OWEN:

The law? Abigail, you head for cover. *(to Nabal)* I'm a coming. Hold yer horses. *(opening door)* What can I do for you, sir.

NABAL:

I've come for the rent!

OWEN: *(confused)*

You ain't the law. You're our landlord, Nabal.

NABAL:

Might as well be the law. *(aside to audience)* Ever since Samuel came to be pushing up daisies, I've been able to do whatever I want.. *(to Owen)* Owen Lots, I've come for the rent.

OWEN:

We can't pay the rent. Phyllis Steen's Gang stole our sheep, our wheat and the shirt off my back, I mean clothesline.

NABAL:

That is no concern of mine. Unless you pay the rent you and your entire family will be sold as slaves. (*Hold up "Boo! Hiss!" sign for audience*)

MA:

Slaves!

OWEN:

But your one of the richest fellers in these parts. Surely you could give us more time to come up with what would be a drop in the bucket for a flush man like you.

NABAL:

Balderdash. I want it now, or else.

MA:

Please, Mr. Nabal. Isn't there another way?

NABAL:

(*aside to audience*) I was hoping it would come to this. (*to Owen and MA*) As a matter of fact, there is. It has come to my attention that you have a beautiful and intelligent UNMARRIED daughter named Abigail. I've taken a cotton to her. If she'll marry me, I'll forgive your debt.

OWEN:

We couldn't do that. She's our only daughter.

MA:

Our only child. (*aside to audience*) Besides she's a hankering for some young, handsome, rugged man. David. (*hold "Our Hero" sign up and have audience sigh*)

NABAL:

Look at it this way. You're not losing a daughter, your gaining a charming, handsome, and might I add, wealthy son-in-law to your family. (*laughs cruelly, with malice*) Tell her she has to marry me.

OWEN:

I just....

ABIGAIL: (*sweeping into the room*)

That's alright, father. I'll marry him.

NABAL:

(*to audience*) That was as easy as licking butter off a knife. (*to Abigail*) Come, my pretty bride.

## Scene 2

*Stage is split with David and the Desperados stage right and Abigail and her maids stage left. One side freezes/no lights while the other side has light and action.*

DAVID: *(taking His “David the superhero” pose)*

Red Eye, Abel and Willi, this is a good place to set up camp, far far away from Saul and His evil intentions. I hereby name this place Ziklag. Red Eye, take a look around. Abel, I’ll take a drink. Willin, where exactly are we?

WILLIN: *(Inspecting an upside down map)*

David, this here is .... *(RED EYEL turns the map right side up and points for him, Abel clobbers him with his hat)* the Badlands of Maon.

DAVID:

And whose sheep are those?

ABEL: *(handing him a canteen)*

They belong to a certain Big Wig in Maon, who has spread there at Carmel. Nabal’s His name and he’s powerfully well off. . He has a thousand goats and three thousand sheep,

DAVID:

A shepherd. I was once a shepherd you know, before I started fighting the Lord’s battles.

ABEL:

But he’s nothing like you. Folks around these parts claim he’s a surly and highfaluting yellow – bellied blow hard. But he’s got a beautiful and intelligent wife by the name of Miss Abigail

RED EYE:

Folks say she’s as fine as frog hair.

DAVID:

Since this Nabal is just two hoots and a holler away from our camp, I want you Desperados to watch out for his men. Phyllis Steen’s Gang might try to kick up a row every now and then. We’ll just put a stop to it before it starts. *(Abel, Willin and Red Eye nod and “Yes, Sir”)*

MAID 3: *(Center stage, spot only)*

David’s Desperados watched out for Nabal’s crew the whole time. Now in these here parts, sheep shearing time means hard work. Being finished with sheep shearing means a big shindig.

DAVID:

Red Eye, Abel and Willin, Time for Nabal and His outfit to do some sheep shearing. I expect they'll be having a big hoe down directly after. Head on over to Carmel and tell 'em we hope they are all as fit as a fiddle. Then ask real nice what all he might spare in the way of vittles.

ABEL:

We'll call to His mind how nothing of His was missing the whole time David's Desperados were around.

WILLIN:

And how nice we treated them, like they was kinfolk.

*(RED EYE, WILLIN and ABEL exit. Lights off stage right. David freezes. Lights up on Abigail and her Maids. MAID 4 Holds up sign "Meanwhile, Back at the ranch")*

MAID 1:

Abigail that no account husband of yours is grinning like a possum eating yellow jackets but he's as full of whiskey as a tick on a three day bender.

ABIGAIL:

That demon whiskey will be the death of Nabal yet. The good book says *(Maid 4 holds up "Proverbs 23:20-21" sign)* Do not join those who drink too much wine

or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor,  
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

*(MAID 5 holds up "Proverbs 23:29-35" sign)*

Who has woe? Who has sorrow?

Who has strife? Who has complaints?

Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

Those who linger over wine,  
who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

Do not gaze at wine when it is red,  
when it sparkles in the cup,  
when it goes down smoothly!

In the end it bites like a snake  
and poisons like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange sights  
and your mind imagine confusing things.

You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,  
lying on top of the rigging.

"They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!  
They beat me, but I don't feel it!  
When will I wake up  
so I can find another drink?"

MAID 2: *(Wringing her hands)*

Whiskey's big trouble but bigger trouble is a brewing. I can feel it in my bones.

ABIGAIL:

What kind of trouble?

MAID 1:

Nabal has gone and kicked up a row with David and His Desperados. Night and day those Desperados were a wall around the menfolk keeping Phyllis Steen's Gang from messing with them. .

MAID 2: *(Wringing her hands)*

David sent over a couple of His Desperados asking if Nabal had some spare vittles for them.

MAID 1:

But Nabal answered him uglier than a bucket of mud. He said.....

*(Spot on center stage. NABAL is speaking to RED EYE and WILLIN)*

NABAL:

Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Are you trying to bulldoze me? Many bumpkins are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I fork over my bread and water, and the meat I have cooked up for my men, and give it to some deadbeats coming from who knows where? Vamoose! *(Spot off, Lights on stage left)*

MAID 2: *(Crying and carrying on, periodically blowing her nose loudly)*

Oh no. There's gonna be fuss, Miss Abigail.

MAID 1:

Nabal's gone and done it now, sending David's Desperados away empty handed. I'm rightly afeared he'll be mad enough to swallow a horned toad backwards when His Desperado's tell him what Nabal said.

MAID 2

A heap of trouble is hanging over our master and our whole place. He is powerfully thick headed and liable to be the death of us all.

MAID 1:

He is such a low down varmint that a body can't talk to him.

MAID 2: *(Wringing her hands)*

Nabal has made us worse off than a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. *(Burst into tears)*

ABIGAIL:

Ya'll don't worry yourselves none. God will provide. *(MAID 4 holds up "He always has and He always will" sign)* He always has and He always will.

MAID 5:

*Hold up sign “Meanwhile, back at the Desperados”. Lights off Abigail and on David.*

WILLIN:

David, Nabal wasn’t very neighborly. He told us to skedaddle.

RED EYE:

He sure enough did.

DAVID:

Jumping Jehoshaphat! I’m madder than a peeled rattler! I reckon It’s been balderdash—all my watching over this fellow’s property in them thar hills so that nothing of His was missing. He has paid me back evil for good.

*(taking His “David” the superhero pose)* May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him! *(breaking pose)*

Red Eye, Willin and Abel, Put on your pig stickers, boys. We’ll be paying the Nabal place a little visit..

*MAID 4 Holds up sign “Meanwhile, Back at the ranch”*

ABIGAIL:

Fetch two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep,

MAID 2:

What should we dress ‘em in? Calico?

ABIGAIL:

Dressed as in ready to roast., five baskets of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs. Then load them on the mules.

MAID 1:

Where are we taking all these Vittles.

ABIGAIL:

To David and His Desperados. I’m hoping we can head off trouble. I’ll tell Nabal tomorrow once the whiskey has worn off.

MAID 5:

*Hold up sign “Meanwhile, back at the Desperados”. Lights off stage left and on stage right.*

RED EYE:

Look there, David. It’s a mule train toting enough stuff to start a dry goods store.

WILLIN: And riding along in the back is Miss Abigail herself. Now look, she’s getting off her mule and looking at the dirt. Do you reckon she lost an earring?

ABEL:

I believe she’s bowing .

ABIGAIL:



My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant, little ole Abigail, speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. May my lord pay no attention to that no-account ornery skunk Nabal. He was just shooting His mouth off. He is just like His name—His name is Varmint, and he acts like a varmint.. But as for me, your servant, I never laid eyes on the men you sent.

Now pull in your horns, since the LORD is keeping you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own two hands. As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm you amount to nothing but a hill of beans.. And let this picayune gift, which your servant has brought to you, be given to the Desperados who follow you.

Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. *(taking His "David" the superhero pose)* Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be safe as a mole in His hole.. God loves ya and your life bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away like dung getting kicked in the ditch..

When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him Big Wig over Israel, you'll have nothing on your conscience . not the staggering burden of needless bloodshed nor of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember little ole Abigail.

DAVID:

Praise God for sending somebody as smart as a whip to talk some sense into my hard head. As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, all the men folk belonging to Nabal would have been goners.

ABIGAIL:

Please accept our gift.

DAVID:

I reckon this squares us up. Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.

ABIGAIL: *(aside to audience)* David, My hero! *(MAID 5 holds up "Our Hero" sign and has audience sigh)*

*Lights off except center spot on MAID 4 holds up sign "Meanwhile, Back at the ranch". MAID 5 holds "Several days later" sign Lights up stage left on ABIGAIL and MAIDS.*

MAID 1:

What's wrong with Nabal? He hasn't twitched a muscle for days now.

MAID 2:

I'm afraid he went and died on us.

MAID 1:

Oh no. That means Abigail is a widow! *(ABIGAIL enters)*

*MAID 2: (Wringing her hands)*

Abigail, what will we do now that you're a poor little old widow woman? Once Phyllis Steen's Gang finds out there'll be no end to our troubles.

ABIGAIL:

Never fear. The Lord will provide. He always has and He always will.

*Lights out stage left and lights up stage right. MAID 5 hold up sign "Meanwhile, back at the Desperados".*

ABEL:

Guess what I heard. That Nabal fellow just plumb went and died.

RED EYE:

He's pushing up daisies. That's a fact.

WILLIN:

I guess that makes Abigail a widow woman.

DAVID:

Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. Nabal's wrongdoing backfired onto himself. Now Red Eye, Willin and Abel, head on over to Carmel and pay my respects to the widow Abigail. See if she's willing and able to love again.

WILLIN: *(Confused)*

She ain't Willin or Abel. I'm Willin and he's Abel. *(ABEL hits him with his hat)*

ABEL:

David means for us to ask Miss Abigail to marry him, you bumpkin! *(WILLIN thinks a moment, the light goes on, and he nods and grins. ABEL grabs His shirt) Come on. Quit you're dawdling. We got a message to take, (They move to stage left, lights off stage right and on stage left. Abel bows before ABIGAIL and has to drag WILLIN down next to him because he's busy waving shyly at MAID 2 who is giggling)*

ABEL:

David has sent us to pay His respects cuzing you're a widow.

WILIN:

But, shucks, ma'am, a pretty little thing like you ought to not be by yourself. Specially not when there's a big strong hero type a hankering to marry you.

ABIGAIL: *(Gets that far off dreamy look while MAID 4 holds up "Our Hero" sign)*

David, my hero.

MAID 1:

You were right once again. God has provided. *(MAID 4 holds up “He always has and He always will” sign) and cast gets audience to say it with MAID 1.*

ABIGAIL:

You can tell David I’m ready, willing and able.

Willin:

Ma’am, we’re Willin and Abel.

ABEL: *(Hitting him with His hat)*

She knows that. She means she’s gonna marry him.

WILLIN:

Oh.

ABIGAIL:

Let me just pack a few things and my 5 maids and I will head back with you. *(heavenward)*

David! My hero! *(MAID 2 and WILLIN flirt just a bit. Lights out)*

## Scene 3

MAID 3:

Miss Abigail and we five maids headed off to Ziklag. Miss Abigail and David were married. Everything was going as fine as frog's hair until David and the Desperados marched off to war.

*MAID 5 holds up sign "Meanwhile, back at the Desperados".*

DAVID: *(Striking His superhero pose)*

Saddle up, Red Eye, Willin and Abel *(To Abigail)* My Desperados and I are headed off to war.

ABIGAIL:

God be with you til we meet again. *(ABIGAIL kisses DAVID on the cheek. Entire cast should make a huge kissy noise. DAVID and his Desperados exit)*

MAID 2: *(Wringing hands)*

With David and the Desperados off in the Badlands, I'm mighty afeared, Miss Abigail.

ABIGAIL:

Balderdash. God will protect us. *(MAID 4 holds up "He always has and He always will" sign)*  
He always has and He always will.

MAID 1:

Good thing cuz here comes the Amalekite Gang.

MAID 2:

We're goners, Miss Abigail. *(Faints into a chair)*

ABIGAIL:

Never fear, Trust in the Lord. David will rescue us from this band of ruffians. *(Reviving MAID 2)*

*(Amalekite Gang, have kerchiefs hiding their faces, rush in and "capture" the maids, tying them to chairs. MAID 2 repeatedly faints and carries on until they gag her.)*

## SCENE 4

*Stage is split with David and the Desperados stage right and Abigail and her maids tied to chairs stage left. One side freezes/no lights while the other side has light. Maid 5 Holds up sign "Meanwhile, back at the Desperados with one hand while tied)*

WILLIN:

David, Ziklag's been burned to the ground.

ABEL:

The whole kit and caboodle is missing, including the women and children.

WILLIN:

Some of the Desperados are talking about stoning you for getting us into this bodacious mess.

DAVID:

**Fetch** me the ephod. We'll ask the Lord if I should pursue the Amalekite Gang. *(Abel brings out a bag, turns his back to the audience to show DAVID, thereby keeping the audience from seeing the ephod, which is NOT a prop)*

ABEL: *(Faces audience while delivering this line)*

Pursue them, you will certainly overtake those rascals and succeed in the rescue.

DAVID:

Well then. God has spoken. Quit yer yammering and saddle up. We got us some rescuing to do.

WILLIN:

I'm afeared me and 200 of the boys is too tuckered out to cross the ravine.

DAVID:

Willin, ya'll stay here with the baggage and the rest of us Desperados will keep a going.  
*(WILLIN exits, quickly puts on the Egyptian headdress and lies down on opposite side of stage)*  
 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.  
 Take up shield and buckler, arise and come to my aid.

.

RED EYE *(pointing)*

Look there. It's a body. Is he dead?

ABEL *(Checking the guy out, raising him up)*

He aint' dead; he's still breathing. Give him something to drink.

RED EYE: *(Hands him the canteen and gets out food)*

I'll give him part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins.

ABEL:  
He's reviving.

DAVID:  
To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?

EGYPTIAN:  
I am an Egyptian, a boot polisher of the Amalekite gang . My master left me for buzzard food when I became bodacious ill three days ago. The Amalekite Gang raided all over these parts and burned Ziklag. Now they're scattered over the countryside, whooping and hollering and carrying on,

DAVID:  
Can you lead me down to the Amalekite Gang?

EGYPTIAN:  
I reckon so if you swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to those ornery varmints.

DAVID:  
You got yourself a deal. *(Shakes hands with the Egyptian) (Lights off on David, up on the MAIDS and ABIGAIL)*

MAID 1:  
Abigail. Look over yonder! There's David and His Desperados!

MAID 2:  
They are fixing to rescue us

ABIGAIL:  
I knew David *(sigh)* my hero would show up. Hobble your lip so as the Amalekite Gang doesn't get wind of it.

*David and the Desperados "fight" their way across the stage. David unties Abigail while RED EYE, WILLIN and ABEL untie the others.*

ABIGAIL: *(After being untied, throws her arms around David. MAID 4 holds up "Our hero" sign)* David! My hero!

DAVID:  
Aw, shucks, ma'am. It ain't nothing when the Lord is on your side. God always comes through. *(MAID 4 holds up "He always has and He always will" sign)*

WILLIN:  
Nothing's missing: young or old, boy or girl.

ABEL:

Not a cotton picking picayune thing.

RED EYE:

David, sir, a message has just come in from the war. Saul has been killed by Phyllis Steen's Gang.

ABEL:

I reckon that makes you the new law 'round these parts. *(ABEL pins a big Star of David badge on him. Everyone bows to David who takes his superhero pose)*

DAVID:

I waited patiently for the LORD;

he turned to me and heard my cry. *(Others look up, slowly rise to listen. MAID 4 holds up "Psalm 40" sign)*

He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.

He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear  
and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the man

who makes the LORD his trust *(ABIGAIL comes into his embrace, the rest clap and get quiet although they appear to be congratulating him in the background. MAID 2 and WILLIN, look at each other with lovesick expressions. MAID 3 comes center stage to deliver the final line)*

MAID 3

David became king and I wish I could say we all lived happily ever after but I can't. Miss Abigail took him for better or worse and sometimes it was better and sometimes it was worse. But David was known as a man after God's own heart. He wrote a whole pack of poems like the last one he was saying. You can find 'em in the Bible in a book called Psalms.

*(Cast moves up with David and Abigail in the center to take a company bow)*

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Unless specified characters wear typical old west garb. To double as the Amalekite Gang, characters don red bandanas over their faces like bank robbers.

Owen Lots:

Overalls and an undershirt

Nabal

Black dress attire, black moustache, black hat

Abigail

Calico dress. Apron in second scene. Hair down in scene 1 only.

David

White pants, shirt, vest, etc. White hat. Shiny Star of David badge in last scene.

Egyptian

Use an Egyptian head covering to indicate nationality.

## PROPERTIES:

Broom, map, canteen, bag for ephod, rope, gag for MAID 2.

MAID 4 (has “Meanwhile, Back at the ranch” , “Proverbs 23: 29-35” ., “Our Hero”, “He always has and He always will” “Psalm 40” signs)

MAID 5 (has “Boo Hiss!”, “Meanwhile, Back at the Desperados” . “Several Days Later”, “Proverbs 23: 29-35 “ signs)

David in the early years battleship  
[www.quia.com/ba/221878.html](http://www.quia.com/ba/221878.html)

David's officials hangman  
[www.quia.com/hm/814571.html](http://www.quia.com/hm/814571.html)

David the Warrior, David the Fugitive  
[www.quia.com/jg/1507643.html](http://www.quia.com/jg/1507643.html)

The Life of David jumbled words  
[www.quia.com/jw/281636.html](http://www.quia.com/jw/281636.html)

David the King  
[www.quia.com/rr/394837.html](http://www.quia.com/rr/394837.html)

Who said it? Quotes about David  
[www.quia.com/ba/221957.html](http://www.quia.com/ba/221957.html)