

## FST Forums

### People Mentioned in the Play

**Abe and Becky Friedman:** The Russian Jewish parents of Ester “Eppie” Pauline (“Ann Landers”) and her three siblings: Helen, Dorothy, and Eppie’s twin, Pauline “Popo” Esther. Abe came to America to avoid conscription in the Czar’s army and worked his way up from selling chickens off a cart to owning a tri-state movie theatre chain.

**Pauline Esther “Popo” Phillips: (b) July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918** Twin sister of Eppie. After aiding Eppie with her column, Popo began her own advice column, “Dear Abby,” under the pen name “Abigail Van Buren.” The competition and feeling of jealousy of the strikingly similar jobs caused a feud between the twin sisters, who didn’t speak for years, despite being raised to be extremely close, even celebrating their weddings and honeymoons together. Popo raised two children and is currently suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

**Jules Lederer: (d) January 21, 1999** Husband of Eppie. Jules met Eppie while she and Popo were shopping for their matching wedding veils. After a few weeks of courting, Eppie decided to have her wedding, but with a new groom: Jules. He worked very successfully as a cook-ware salesman, breaking national sale records. Eventually he bought a small car rental business from a friend and turned it into Budget-Rent-A-Car, which became third largest car rental business in the world. Eppie and Jules divorced in 1975 after 35 years of marriage.

**Margo Howard: (b) March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1940** Eppie’s only child. Margo attended Brandeis University and dropped out her senior year to get married. Margo wrote a youth column for the *Chicago Tribune*, for five years and now writes the advice column “Dear Margo” for *Yahoo! News*. She has three adult children.

**Joseph McCarthy: (b) November 14, 1909, (d) May 2, 1957** During the time that Eppie was heavily involved in the Democratic Party, McCarthy was the Wisconsin junior senator. Eppie was strongly opposed to his politics and refused to shake hands or even speak with him when they were in the same place. Eppie devoted herself for months to campaigning against him during his re-election campaign.

**Linda Lovelace: (b) January 10, 1949. (d) April 22, 2002** An adult movie star in the 1960s, she became famous for starring in the adult movie, *Deep Throat*, which is one of the highest grossing adult movies ever produced. Later in life she would be one of the strongest opponents to the adult film industry. Following the release of “Deep Throat” Lovelace and Eppie appeared on *Kup’s Show*, a talk show in Chicago, to discuss the morality of releasing an adult film.

**Hubert Humphrey: (b) May 27, 1911, (d) Jan. 13, 1978** When Eppie was elected the County Chairman for the Democratic Party in Wisconsin, she went to Washington, DC and became good friends with Humphrey, the future Vice-President under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Humphrey opened a lot of Washington doors for Eppie and their friendship lasted a lifetime. He became a close friend of the family, eventually even writing a college recommendation letter for Margo.