

THE DATING POOL SIDE 4 (ALL)

61

I'd like to wake up now. And for all of you to stay in the past.

36

Jump in. Then we can all move on. Stop the haunting.

16

Well, is she going to date a boy or a girl?

61

Should we tell her about the beautiful spectrum of gender and sexual orientation in 2022?

16

Watching "Love, American Style" did not prepare me for this.

23

You're scared.

61

Of course I am! You hit the water and at first it's exhilarating – but it takes a long time to swim up back to the surface. It feels like your lungs won't make it, that you'll never make it to the top. To air. To safety.

36

You will.

61

What if I never come up again?

49

What if you float?

(49 looks at the others)

We all survived because we learned to tread water.

61

The thought of kissing anyone after my husband...

23

If any of us had made different choices, you might not have met Gene. And that was good, right?

61

Yes, most of it.

36
And there were other relationships that were good, right?

16
And you learned from them?

61
...But I bear the scars of your decisions!

49
Scars mean you survived.

23
We need you to love us. Not berate us.

49
Who's the you at 70?

36
Doesn't she deserve a chance to be happy?

(beat. 61 contemplates the water)

61
...It's deep.

16
It's the unknown.
(They all look at 16)

I told you, I'm mature.

(beat. 61 holds out her hands. They join together)

61
I bet we're fabulous at 85.