**Theme of the Week**

**Abraham Lincoln had periods of absent-minded abstraction that were very trying to his wife. When they were newly married in Springfield, Illinois, Mary would go to church while Lincoln minded the baby. One day he bundled the baby up and put him in a wagon. He then began to read a book while pulling the wagon back and forth in front of their house. When Mary returned, she found that the baby had fallen out and was squalling on the ground. Lincoln, obliviously absorbed in his reading, was pulling an empty wagon. (John & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See , p. 143)**

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[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Presidential Trivia document of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. For more quotes, stories, funnies, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and statistics on this theme, I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website to the P-section of documents, click open the Presidential Trivia document, and read all about**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/) **them!**

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[**Quiet Valentine**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**No nagging for a whole week**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 14th, 2023 - What to get Morris for Valentine's Day? Chocolates! I thought. No. Too fattening. I had a hard enough time keeping my husband away from the butter. Maybe I could get him a new pair of goggles for the pool. I was always reminding him that swimming was good for his arthritis. (I often left health newsletters on his desk too.) "When do I have time to swim?" he'd growl. "Don't bug me." In fact, the more I nagged my husband the less likely he was to do the things I thought he should do. Was that bad?**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**That's when the idea struck me: Well, shut my mouth. I'd promise not to nag him for a whole week! "You're my Valentine," I wrote on my homemade card. "I pledge to not comment on what you do or how you feel. My helpful hints are disappearing this week."**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Morris read the card at breakfast. "Thanks, Honey," he said, giving me a smooch. "This is the perfect present." He promptly reached for the butter.**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**"No!" I almost shouted. You promised, I reminded myself. But this was going to be harder than I thought. God, I can't keep my mouth shut without your help.**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**No more nutrition newsletters left on Morris's desk. No hints about exercise and diet. I wouldn't even tell him in the car. "Slow down. You're going too fast."**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Something got into Morris that week. He went to the pool. He ate a big serving of peas and carrots along with his fries. He slowed down behind the wheel without my saying a word. God helped me help my husband by helping him less.**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**At the end of the week I asked, "Morris, what if I extend that Valentine for a little while longer?"**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**"Fine by me," he said, smiling and giving me a hug. "Have you seen that newsletter on nutrition? I was in the middle of a good article."**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[***(Written by Christina Friberg, in the February, 2006 issue of Guideposts magazine, on page 14)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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