

"HOME BIRTH"

HOME BIRTH

INT - AN URBAN APARTMENT OWNED BY YOUNG SUCCESSFUL WOMEN OF COLOR. LIVED-IN, WELL-LOVED, COLOR COORDINATED, LOTS OF BOOKS. THE LIGHTS ARE DIM, THERE ARE CANDLES, BLANKETS, AND JUICE BOXES SCATTERED AROUND. A BIRTHING BALL IS IN THE SPACE.

We hear occasional moaning.

ALEXIS (Female, 30's, sporty) paces around the room a little nervous. LENA (Female, 30's, self-assured) is about to have a baby. LENA is channeling her inner earth mama, swaying and moaning, but in control.

START

ALEXIS

Where is the midwife??

LENA

(breathing in rhythm)

We call her when the contractions are five minutes apart.

ALEXIS

We're paying her how much and she doesn't show up until the end?

LENA

This is why we wanted a homebirth, remember? Low intervention.

(takes Alexis' hand reassuringly)

Just you and me, moving through this miraculous moment, together.

ALEXIS

Right.

They kiss. LENA begins to feel another contraction. She sways and moans to it. ALEXIS rolls a cold can of coke up and down LENA'S back to help with the pain. As the contraction peaks, LENA is caught up in it and strikes a pose that helps assuage the discomfort. ALEXIS pulls out her phone and takes a picture of LENA and posts it to social media.

ALEXIS

#thestruggleisreal

LENA

Did you just post my contraction on Facebook?

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2.

ALEXIS

(beat)

No. What? No. Instagram.

LENA

Oh my God, Alexis!

ALEXIS

I'm sorry! I'm nervous. I'm trying to distract myself so I can stay calm for you. (cracks open the coke she was using to massage Lena, and takes a sip)

LENA

You are such a dad.

ALEXIS

What does that mean?

LENA

Oh, I don't know. Why don't you just open a couple of beers, grab your headphones and watch the game?

ALEXIS

Oh shit, are we missing a game?

LENA

See! DAD-MOVE. Grossly insensitive in an oblivious and annoying, yet stupidly charming, way.

ALEXIS

If I were actually a dad, I might be offended.

LENA

Oh come on. Your period panties are Star Wars boy briefs.

ALEXIS

Boy briefs keep things in place much better than regular panties.

LENA

(heard this explanation before)

-- much better than regular panties. So you say.

(CONTINUED)

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3.

ALEXIS

Boy briefs don't make me a daddy.

LENA

You wanted to name this baby JJ Abrams!

ALEXIS

He is a visionary.

LENA

JJ Abrams Hernandez-Flores? That's three last names.

ALEXIS

Listen, Lena Maria Jose Valeria Emperatrice Mayoral Flores. I am a mommy through and through! In the words of Sojourner Truth - "Ain't I a woman?"

LENA

Sure, mama. When your ovaries gonna give this baby a sibling?

ALEXIS

That's not fair. I don't need to birth a child to be a mother.

LENA

You're right, you're right. I'm sorry, love. A woman does not need to birth a baby to be a mother.

(Silence.)

So, I think a 2 to 3 year age gap would be perfect...

ALEXIS

We can't really be talking about--

LENA

--Because I don't want them to be too far apart--

ALEXIS

--having our next kid--

LENA

--then they can play with each other, and be best friends--

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4.

ALEXIS

--while our child-to-be is
currently moving into your birth
canal!

LENA had been slowly building into a contraction during
their conversation and is now working on a long, loud,
moan...

LENA

AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

ALEXIS grabs LENA'S shoulders and helps her through the
discomfort, while moaning with her.

ALEXIS

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

When the contraction subsides they catch a breath and look
at each other.

ALEXIS

Let's focus, let's focus, baby.
Let's be here in the present
moment.

LENA

(panting)
Yes, yes. You're right. Thank you.
I love you.

ALEXIS

I love you, too. And... just give
me some time on the birthing the
second baby thing. I just want to
meet this one first, right now, ok?

LENA

Deal.

They smile at each other.

END

SFX: VERY LOUD AND ALARMING PHONE ALARM

LENA

What was that?

Alexis grabs her phone.

ALEXIS

Oh God - an Amber Alert. 5 year old
girl, license plate 63FC739.

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