

My Heart & My Flesh

by

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**1. Emily's News. Late afternoon. Ma is asleep on the couch. She sleeps deeply, snores, curled up in a fetal position, her backside to the audience. After a moment, Emily comes in. Her movements, in running into the bedroom for a moment, suggest a basic lack of coordination. She comes out of the bedroom more sloppily dressed than she was. She kicks the back of the couch a few times to wake her mother.**

	MA
Hi, pumpkin.	
	EMILY
What's for dinner?	
	MA
Shhh. How was your day?	
	EMILY
What's for dinner?	
	MA
Peanut Butter and Jelly.	
	EMILY
We had that three nights.	
	MA
Fluffernutters. (re: kicking) Stop that -- you'll rip the couch one of these days.	
	EMILY
No, I won't.	
	MA
You interrupted my nap.	
	EMILY
No, I didn't. How about Chinese?	
	MA
You want Chinese?	
	EMILY
Yeah.	

*Ma gets up and goes to the kitchenette; she takes a can of La Choy Chinese Food out of the near-empty cabinet, opens it (a pop-top is nice), sets it on the range.*

MA

Chinese it is. It's all re-runs tonight. I hate that.

EMILY

Is that that stuff with the tree in it?

MA

What?

EMILY

I can't eat it if it's a tree -

MA

No one is telling you to eat a tree.

EMILY

I can't, I can't swallow it --

MA

Oh, brother. Let's see -- "bean sprouts, sugar, celery, bamboo shoots" --

EMILY

Oh, forget it, that's a tree. I can't eat it.

MA

That is not a tree - it's a bamboo shoot.

EMILY

It's a tree!

MA

But you asked for Chinese --

EMILY

I wanted the other kind --

MA

What other kind --

EMILY

The kind without the bamboo - those - you're not supposed to buy that kind -

MA

You asked for Chinese.

EMILY

But not *that* kind!

MA

You didn't say, "no bamboo shoots."

EMILY

That's what I meant! I did say that!

MA

You did not --

EMILY

I SAID NO TREES!

MA

For heaven's sake - I'm throwing it in the garbage.

EMILY

What did you do? Don't do that!!

MA

Too late. I already did it. You want to eat, make yourself a sandwich. I am *not* cooking tonight.

EMILY

But - how could you waste that whole thing? That's expensive --

MA

You wasted it - think of it that way. How about Spaghetti's?

EMILY

NO!

MA

But you love Italian--

EMILY

No! I can't! You can't waste food like that! How can you waste food! You can't! You can't! There's no money! There's no - there's no - you can't! (etc.)

MA

All right, all right - I'm sorry. Take it easy. Look at Mama. Easy. I'm sorry. I had a rough day. We ran out of decaf at seven in the morning because that idiot Josephine has no idea how to run a shop - I have never seen in all my days a more idiot manager - and I had to turn people away all day and they act like it's *my* fault! Oh, and my feet! Honest to God, I'm two inches taller standing on my calluses.

EMILY

I don't have a job.

MA

Having a lousy job and having no job are two different things - we can both thank our lucky stars.

EMILY

No. None.

MA

What, none? You had one when you left this morning.

EMILY (a big fat lie, not well done)

The bank is closing.

MA

What?

EMILY

Uh-huh. Yeah. They went out of business.

*Pause.*

MA

Emily. Did you bite?

EMILY

Did you bite?

I didn't bite!!

MA

What did you do? Did you mouth off to someone? Damn it, Emily!

EMILY

Nothing! I didn't - didn't say nothing - anything -to somebody. I didn't bite and I didn't -- and you threw out a dinner.

MA

I didn't know, though.

EMILY

Should we. . should we take out of the trash?

MA

No! No. Let's not. Baby. OK. Uh. We'll both have Spaghetti's.

EMILY

I'm really hungry, though.

MA

You can have mine.

EMILY

OK.

**2. Lamar's News.** Next day. Emily and Lamar. Lamar's about thirty, thirty five. He is neatly dressed, everything pressed. His pants are cargo-style chinos, lots of pockets. He's brought daisies. Emily is eating corn out of a can ( a pop-top is nice).

LAMAR

I was so sorry to hear about your - your - terrible - it was terrible, them doing that to you. I wished it had been me. I even told that to Tom, my boss at work. I sure did. I said, "Fire me! I don't care --"

EMILY

I wasn't fired --

LAMAR

No, I'm not saying that you were. But, I told him, "Fire me, fire me and Emily can keep her job and I'll find another job."

EMILY

You could find another job.

LAMAR

He wouldn't fire me.

EMILY

Why not?

LAMAR

He said, "Lamar, you need the health insurance."

EMILY

So do I!

LAMAR

I told him that --

EMILY

What did he say?

LAMAR

Oh, nothing.

EMILY

That secretary was in my way! I said, "Mail Cart, Coming Through!" Beep Beep! Mail Cart!" and she lied anyway.

LAMAR

You don't even have to *do* anything to a broken toe - it just heals on its own!

EMILY

It does! She's a big baby.

LAMAR

She is. Yeah. But. Anyway. When I heard the news, after I finished my shift and all, I came right over here. I looked up your address on the computer. I hope you don't mind.

EMILY

How come you did that?

LAMAR

Because you don't have a job!

EMILY

I know that!

LAMAR

OK, no. What I mean is, I don't want you to worry. What I mean to say is, look, Emily. Emily, look. OK. I can't tell you how long I've admired you from afar.

EMILY

Well, I've been at the bank for seven years.

LAMAR

I've been there fifteen years in May. Right. Seven years.



EMILY

Right. You didn't know me before you came to the bank.

LAMAR

Yeah, no, but you got there after me --

EMILY

I got there, I've been there seven years ago - so that's seven plus --

LAMAR

Yeah, so, OK. No. I, uh, Emily --

*He kneels; she stands*

LAMAR (con't)

No, no, stay sitting. Sit there, so I can look at your face. Emily. What I want you to know is, is this. Excuse me.

*He unbuttons his shirt. She stands.*

No, sit. Please.

*She sits.*

EMILY

Put your shirt on.

LAMAR

It's on.

EMILY

FIX IT!

LAMAR

Feel this --

EMILY

Agh!! Your skin is very hairy. It's very gross. It's --

*Pause.*

LAMAR

What you don't feel is my right lung.

EMILY

It's sunk.

LAMAR

That lung collapsed when I was thirteen years old. Over twenty years ago. That's a long time with an empty lung. And until seven years ago, when you started at the bank, and I saw you, until then, I thought it was sunk, too.

EMILY

It is, though.

LAMAR

No! No. Now it's full.

EMILY

I'm taking my hand off it.

LAMAR

But promise to put it back sometime. Some time forever. Marry me.

EMILY

You can't boss me around.

LAMAR

I'm not. But I think you should marry me, though.

EMILY

Why?

LAMAR

That's not a question a man can answer. I thought I could spend my life just working with you, not drag you into it if I got sick again or if I became an alcoholic. But now, things the way they are, you need me. You need me to take care of you. And I'll do it. All the days of my life. I'll pay your rent. I'll get your health insurance. And some day, if I can afford it, I'll buy you a car.

EMILY

I don't drive.

LAMAR

You would if you had a car.

EMILY

No, I wouldn't.

LAMAR (kissing her hand)

Do you mind if I do this?

EMILY

No. Lamar. Wait. Wait. Let me feel your lung again.

LAMAR

Forever?

EMILY

I have to see if it grosses me out still. It still does.

LAMAR

I'm sorry. We should have sex.

EMILY

OK.

LAMAR

Wait a second! I have to talk you into it --

EMILY

No, you don't --

LAMAR

Now, where? That's important. We could use the couch --

EMILY (a fact)

My mother sleeps on the couch.

LAMAR

Oh, no, then -- we'll use the floor! We could put a towel on it --

EMILY (a fact)

You dry your face with a towel.

LAMAR

That's true. Can you believe how much I love you? May I kiss you?

EMILY

I don't care.

*He kisses her. He unbuttons the buttons of her shirt.*

Oh, Emily. (*another button*) Oh, Emily. (*another button*) I like your bra.

EMILY  
It's the white one. I have a beige one, too.

LAMAR  
I'm looking forward to seeing it.

EMILY  
I'll go get it.

LAMAR  
No, no. Stay. Emily - when I kissed you -

EMILY  
If I tell my mother you did that, she'll kill you.

LAMAR  
No, she won't.

EMILY  
Yes, she will.

LAMAR  
No, no, she'll like me. She'll *love* me. Because I'll love her. Feel my hair. It's soft.

EMILY  
It is.

LAMAR  
It's very soft. Get on the counter.

EMILY  
What??

LAMAR  
I'm going to recite poetry to you.

EMILY  
Oh, no, no, no. No high places.

LAMAR (climbing up on the counter)  
Oh, never mind, I'll do it myself.

EMILY

Don't! You'll break the chair! JUST GET DOWN HERE. WE'LL HAVE SEX - ALL RIGHT?

LAMAR

No, no, you won't believe me if I just stay on the ground.

EMILY

I'm buttoning my shirt!

LAMAR

NO! This is Shakespeare! DON'T BUTTON IT!!

But soft what light through yonder window breaks  
It is the east, and Emily is the sun --

EMILY

That's stupid.

LAMAR

Never mind.

EMILY

Hey, your ankles are hairy just like your chest.

LAMAR

Is it gross?

EMILY

Uh-huh, it is, yeah.

LAMAR

Sorry. Sorry about the poetry, too.

EMILY

That's OK.

LAMAR

You sure you're not mad at me?

EMILY

Yeah, shut up already.

LAMAR

See these pockets? A man can put anything he wants in these pockets. Can you reach my knees from there?

EMILY

No.

LAMAR

I'll bend them -- here --

*She kisses them; he collapses and sits beside her on the floor.*

LAMAR (con't)

They got weak. Oh, Emily. People do this all the time. I won't lie to you. The first time it might hurt a little. But. But, Emily. If someone loves you, it's the right thing to do.

**3. More News from Emily. Afternoon. A few weeks later. Ma paces, distracts herself. She keeps checking her watch. Waits. Finally, Emily bursts through the door in an ill-fitting dress, a second-hand suit jacket, one sneaker and one shoe.**

MA

Where have you been??? Why are you dressed like that?

EMILY (overlapping)

I did an interview! An interview!

MA (overlapping)

Where? Where did --

EMILY

I can't - I can't - the buttons won't un-do -

MA

They're just crooked - here, let me -

EMILY

I'm not going on one of those again!

MA

I don't know what you were doing going on an interview if I didn't know about it. You'll make a fool of yourself.

EMILY

But they had a sign! There was a sign: "Help Wanted". I read it!

MA

I'll get you a job, just give me a while.

EMILY

Ick - your hair smells like donuts --

MA

Breathe through your mouth. (re: the buttons) Ah, there you go.

EMILY

Ow.

MA

I didn't hurt you. I cooked dinner.

EMILY

What did you cook?

MA

Chicken casserole with mushroom soup and onion rings.

EMILY

Oh, gross.

MA

You like that!

EMILY

I'm not eating it.

MA

Everyone likes that recipe, Emily. I see it *again and again* in the magazines -- Why are you wearing one sneaker and one shoe?

EMILY

I couldn't change it!! The guy - the guy wouldn't shut up he just kept talking and talking and I didn't know what to do - I was sitting there and I was sitting up straight in the guy's office and I swallowed my gum before I went in there --

MA

That's good --

EMILY

WILL YOU LET ME TELL IT?? And he was talking and I remembered: remembered my shoes were in the bag and my sneakers were on my feet - In my dress! In my dress with my sneakers on! Then he told me to relax and have a drink of water and I said to him, "You're not the boss of me."

MA

Oh, Emily, that wasn't --

EMILY

Can I come work in the donut shop with you?

MA

Oh, no, too much hot coffee and stuff. It wouldn't be safe.

EMILY

I could do it!

MA

No, you'd burn yourself --

EMILY

I cried.

MA

You did?

EMILY

Dammit.

MA

Emily, don't swear.

EMILY

I tried to change my shoes and the guy started looking at me funny and he, he stopped talking. I thought he was going to yell at me and so I cried. His secretary came in with a box of Kleenex. She had those Kleenex that I don't like, the ones that smell --

MA

That's right - you don't like those. I don't buy those.

EMILY

I blew my nose. But I held my breath.



MA

That was smart. Why don't you take your sneaker off - and your shoe. Here, let me --

EMILY

I'll do it. I can do it. I'm pregnant.

MA

What? Why do you say that?

EMILY

Lamar. He's sure.

MA

Lamar? Who's Lamar?

EMILY

Lamar's the father.

MA

You need a fork? Sometimes when it's tangled you stick a fork in it and pull --

EMILY

I can get it!

MA

All right, fine. Fine. I brought some rolls home from the shop--

EMILY

Those soft ones?

MA

Yeah --

EMILY

With the cinnamon?

MA

No, you don't have cinnamon for dinner.

EMILY

Agh!! The fork went - it - ow, ow, ow --

MA

Oh, Geez. Let me see. Let --

EMILY

It's bleeding! It's, oh, my God! --

MA

It's not bleeding, it's just rubbed a little bit --

EMILY

What is *that*??? That's blood --

MA

But it's not *bleeding*- it's OK, OK. I'll rub it. Here, see? No problem.

EMILY

My stomach is sick.

MA

It's from the interview. Nerves.

EMILY

No. It's because of the baby. Lamar said --

MA

You are not pregnant.

EMILY

What should I do?

MA

Well. I am having the chicken casserole. And you can have a fluffernutter. And then Lamar should come over here so I can meet him and kill him. He shouldn't go around telling people they're pregnant. You're not. You have a stomach ache.

EMILY

We went to the doctor. Lamar paid for it. Isn't he nice?

MA

How can you -- did you kiss him? Did you exactly kiss him or did you --

EMILY

No, we --

MA

I've *been* pregnant. I'd know. You're not pregnant. My God, sometimes you're a lot of work, sweetie.

EMILY

Nine months is a long time.

MA

Thirty years is longer.

EMILY

I mean, though, it's almost a year.

MA

So?

EMILY

Maybe it won't live.

MA

What? What did you say?

EMILY

Maybe it will die.

MA

Go to your room!

EMILY

Whatsamatter with you?

MA

Go to your room this minute! I don't want to see your face -- if you were pregnant -- if you *were* pregnant -- God forgive you --

EMILY

What did I --

MA

Now!!!

*Emily runs to the bedroom, slams the door*

And don't slam that door!!

*Emily opens the door part-way, slams it shut*

Emily!

*Emily opens the door part-way, slams it shut*

Emily.

**4. Our New Life.** Evening, about a week later. Ma and Emily snuggling on the couch; Ma is holding a baby book, obviously just borrowed from the library. Emily is eating marshmallows out of a bag.

EMILY

Why didn't he call?

MA

Men like to get a girl pregnant then leave. He's probably half way across the country by now. (from the book) Oh, hemorrhoids--

EMILY

What's that?

MA

When you get them, I'll tell you. We'll skip that part. Oh, look, the baby's the size of a lima bean --

*KNOCK on the door.*

EMILY

Lamar.

MA

I told you he'd turn up, Miss Worry Wart.

LAMAR (O.S.)

Emily! Emily!

*She runs to the door, flings it open. LAMAR is carrying a toaster and a floor lamp.*

LAMAR

Honey! I'm home!

*He kisses her passionately.*

MA

Hello? Excuse me? You must be Lamar.

LAMAR

Oh, oh, yes. I'm pleased to meet you Miss - Mrs. --

MA (overlapping)

Please, call me Ma, since you already got my daughter pregnant.

LAMAR

Yes, ma'am, but, let me say, I got her pregnant *after* I asked her to marry me. I won't be one of those husbands who goes out fishing all weekend. If I went fishing, I'd take Emily with me --

EMILY

Ick, no, not fishing, that's disgusting --

MA (overlapping)

She doesn't like anything outdoors or gross like that --

EMILY

Yeah, I don't like that.

MA

No, it wouldn't do you any good to take Emily fishing, would it, pea?

LAMAR (overlapping)

OK, OK. I'm only saying, I wouldn't be the kind of husband who goes out for a beer and doesn't take you.

EMILY

I don't like beer.

LAMAR

That's OK. You don't have to have a beer --

MA

You shouldn't drink beer if you're pregnant anyway -

EMILY

I can drink beer if I'm pregnant.

MA

You don't even like beer --

LAMAR

OK, but what I mean to say is, I'll do the right thing. This is just, it's faster than I might have thought but it's not a problem. It's a good thing. It's a great thing. Emily. I'm ever so grateful.

MA

Why are you carrying a lamp?

LAMAR

It's my best lamp. Actually, it's my only lamp, but it's a very --

MA

Do you always carry it with you?

LAMAR

Of course not. But there are times in a man's life, a man has to do things that he has to do then.

MA

What?

LAMAR

I said, there are times in a man's --

MA

You know she doesn't have a job.

LAMAR

That's OK. I do. I love my job. I've had that job for fifteen years.

MA

No promotions?

LAMAR

Yes, ma'am. I started in high school - part time. Started sorting mail when I was still in high school, and now I'm second man in charge of all the people who sort and distribute all the internal mail.

MA

You can't support two people on one small salary --

EMILY

You could.

MA

Oh, no I can't young lady - you're getting a job.

LAMAR

I will not have the mother of my child work --

EMILY

I don't have a job.

LAMAR

She won't need a job. I can support her. And she'll be on my insurance and everything, as soon as we're married. (to Emily) How's Saturday?

EMILY

OK.

MA

Wait a second, wait a second. That's not much of a proposal.

LAMAR

I already did it right once.

MA

And Emily said "yes?"

LAMAR

Sure, she did. Uh. Let me think. I think she was a little annoyed at first, I don't know why --

MA

Oh, my God. She didn't even say "yes".

EMILY

Ye--

MA (covers Emily's mouth)

Wait! Wait! WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH??

LAMAR

Seven years is not a big rush! Emily's been my wife, in my mind, for a long time.

EMILY (under their lines)

Ow, you hurt my tooth.

MA  
That's really not the same thing.

LAMAR  
But this is our new life.

MA  
But we don't want a new --

LAMAR  
Please don't think of it as losing a daughter. You're gaining a son-in-law.

MA  
Maybe I have enough trouble.

LAMAR  
I won't be any trouble.

MA  
You don't still smoke, do you?

LAMAR  
I never did---

MA  
Then what happened to your lung?

EMILY  
It's very hairy, Ma.

MA  
A lung is not hairy, Emily.  
The outside is hairy, but not the --

LAMAR  
Oh, some things just happen,  
I guess.

MA  
Like pregnancies.

LAMAR  
Like falling in love.

EMILY  
We're in love. We're going to get married.



MA

That's perfectly fine if it's true. You *think* you're in love. The problem is, you're also pregnant. You know what's happening to your hormones, honey?

EMILY

No.

MA

They're haywire!! When I was pregnant with you, I ate pistachio fudge day and night. I don't even like pistachios! One night at dinner I hit your Daddy over and over in the face because he was drinking a Coke! You'll have to take vitamins and everything. So you see my point --

EMILY

No.

LAMAR

I'm not sure I do, ma'am --

MA

Last night at dinner you wouldn't eat a fluffernutter -

EMILY

Uck -- the smell of the peanut butter --

MA

Emily, you *love* peanut butter. So you're all backwards - so all I'm asking is, you should wait to marry Lamar till you're not pregnant anymore and you don't have hormone-head.

EMILY

What's hormone-head?

MA

It's a medical term.

LAMAR

But the baby has to have a name --

EMILY

Oh, man, we'll have to name it --

LAMAR

I mean my last name! And we'll have to be married before he comes --

EMILY

What if it's a girl --

LAMAR  
That's OK ---

EMILY  
I don't want a boy --

LAMAR  
That's OK.

EMILY  
If *anything*, I want a girl.

MA  
Trust me, you don't know what you want right now. Look, look this is all you favorite food -

*She goes to the cabinet and starts emptying them out.*

Peanut butter? You usually love that. Spaghetti's?

EMILY  
No.

MA  
See what I mean ---

MA  
Cocoa? Tuna? Stove Top?

EMILY  
No, no, no. . .

MA  
See? You usually love this. Huh? Canned pears? Peaches?

EMILY  
With the syrup?

MA  
Oh, yeah.

EMILY  
I have to throw up.

*She runs into the bathroom, slams the door.*

LAMAR (calling)  
OK, Emily. We'll discuss this later.

MA (calling)

All right, sweetheart. I'll be right there. (to Lamar) Nice to meet you.

*She hands him his lamp and heads for the bathroom. He hovers for a moment, then sets down the lamp and toaster and goes out.*

LAMAR (calling to them)

I'll be right back.

MA (O.S.)

Oh, I wish Lamar had not made you throw up.

*Sounds of heaving. He comes back in with a ratty old bean bag chair; places it around the room, trying to decide where to put it. After a while:*

LAMAR

How you doing in there, Emily?

EMILY (O.S.)

I hate you!!!

LAMAR

Emily! That's not a nice thing --

EMILY (O.S.)

You did this to me!!

LAMAR

You'll stop doing this --

EMILY (O.S.)

When!!!

LAMAR

I don't know. Maria in the stock room at work said some women are sick through their whole --

EMILY (O.S.)

Agghhhh --- GET AWAY FROM ME!

MA (O.S.)

Lamar, you're just making her upset.

LAMAR  
Oh, fine, fine. I'm sitting over here.

EMILY (O.S.)  
Go away!

LAMAR  
You can't see me if you're in the bathroom!

EMILY (O.S.)  
Yes, I can! You're ugly!!

LAMAR  
Emily! Oh, fine. I'm standing behind the counter --

EMILY (O.S.)  
Oh, my God, I'm dying --

MA (O.S.)  
You're not dying - here, let's just get this cold cloth on my little girl --

EMILY (O.S.)  
Put it on my head --

MA (O.S.)  
OK, OK, here we go --

LAMAR  
I am not hiding behind the counter in my own home --

MA (sticking her head out)  
Excuse me??

EMILY (O.S.)  
Press it down -- I can't feel it --

*He goes back out, Ma goes back in.*

MA  
Lamar!

EMILY (O.S.)  
Mama!

MA (O.S.)

(back to Emily) All right - easy, easy. I threw up the whole time I was carrying you. But I didn't mind. (soothing her:) Ta, ta, ta.

*Pause. Heaving. Pause. Heaving. Lamar comes back in with some boxes, maybe a hammock.*

LAMAR

I saw something funny on the way to work this morning.

MA (sticks her head out)

Leave her -- What are those things?

LAMAR

What do you think they are?

*BIG heave from Emily and Ma dashes inside again.*

There was a dog right in front of me when I got off the train. He was with his owner, a little black dog. No, the owner wasn't a little black dog. Let me start over. There was a dog. And the dog was looking for a place to do his business, you know --

MA (O.S.)

Don't be crass, Lamar.

LAMAR

-- you know, so he kept lifting his leg. He'd stop, all the time, and he'd lift his leg. He'd stop at a fire hydrant. Lift his leg. Stop at a sign, lift his leg. One time, he stopped at a "Stop" sign! Stop everywhere, but he wouldn't GO! He just kept stopping, not going.

*Emily snickers.*

Yeah, you get it! I walked beside him the whole way to work. I don't think he ever went! Stop, not go. Stop, not go.

EMILY (O.S.)

That was a stupid jerk dog.

MA (O.S.)

Emily, don't let Lamar distract you while you're throwing up.

LAMAR

Yeah! I guess it was! Or -- or he's fussy! "Ruff, I can't go here -- this isn't a nice tree stump!!" "Arff! This is a yucky fire hydrant!" "Hey! I'm not peeing here! Somebody already peed here! Oh, my!!"

EMILY

He couldn't find a nice bathroom!

*Emily pads out of the bathroom with her face cloth pressed to her head. She heads for the couch and Lamar and Ma follow her.*

LAMAR

Should I massage your feet? Lydia in the Copy Room at work said it's the best thing for a sick stomach.

EMILY

That's stupid --

LAMAR

That's what she said. It's just because the baby is growing inside you. You have a great bellybutton, Emily.

EMILY

Don't touch it! It's sore.

LAMAR

I'm sorry. (re: the chair) Is that a good place for that?

MA

Not really.

LAMAR

I don't want it to be in the way.

EMILY

You could put it there --

LAMAR

Thank you. I love you.

MA

Wait -- what did you mean, you live here?

LAMAR  
I mean I live here. Emily. You're radiant.

EMILY  
I might get hemorrhoids.

LAMAR  
We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

EMILY  
OK. This chair is very comfortable.

MA  
Get out of that chair!

LAMAR  
No, sit. You look good in it.

MA  
Emily, you'll hurt your back in that chair!

EMILY  
My back already hurts.

LAMAR (going out)  
I'll give you a back rub when I'm finished. I have to get the rest of my stuff.

MA  
Stop! You do not have to get the rest of your stuff!

EMILY (ignoring Ma)  
OK. Hurry. I need a back rub.

*Ma gets Emily off the chair and starts to drag it, and some other stuff,  
back out.*

MA  
Emily, help me.

EMILY  
I have to rest.

MA  
You've been resting all day.

EMILY

It makes me tired to throw up.

MA

This tops it. Remember that time you talked me into keeping that disgusting old cat?

EMILY

No.

MA

That cat, that old tabby with half an ear --

EMILY

That was a kitten.

MA

It was a beast --

*Lamar comes back, carrying some more boxes full of drab personal items and some children's toys he's evidently picked up at yard sales.*

*He has to step over the chair; he moves it back to where it was, or she may even hit him with it as he walks back in.*

LAMAR

Emily. If your mother won't let you marry me Saturday, that's all right. (to Ma) I'll give you a few weeks, a month, if you want. It'll give you a chance to get to know me. (producing a tape player) Look!

EMILY

I have all Barry Manilow's tapes.

LAMAR

It has two tape slots.

EMILY

I can play two at once.

LAMAR

I don't think that'll work, but -- (to Ma) I was going to move in anyway. I can help pay the rent here till we get our own place. Suzanna my social worker at the clinic said she can get me some kind of apartment really quick, but that can take a while. And if you think I intend to miss one minute of the most important event, ever, of my entire life you are wrong.



MA

I don't need your help paying the rent.

LAMAR

You just said you can't pay it by yourself. Emily! I like the disposal diapers. They *are* tough on the environment but we can recycle glass. Is that OK with you? I don't want you to use them if you don't want to, but if you like them, I like them better.

EMILY

I'm not changing diapers.

LAMAR

Oh. I'll do it until you learn how. (re: his toaster) And, look this will toast bagels -

MA (overlapping)

We have a perfectly good toaster.

*When he holds it up, the crumb plate falls open and there are bagel crumbs all over the floor.*

MA

Oh, look what you did!

EMILY

Are these sesame seeds --

MA

Emily, do not eat off the floor.

EMILY

I'm pregnant, I'm hungry all the time.

MA

You don't like bagels, Emily - you like English muffins. Just leave it, Emily -- don't eat off the -- Lamar - go home!

LAMAR

This is my home. I gave up my room at the house.

MA

Get it back.

LAMAR

There's a five-year waiting list. Oh, man. Look at this -- my shell collection.

MA

You don't throw it a shell collection at the bottom of a box. That was stupid.

LAMAR

I am not stupid. I have certain deficiencies in the way I process information --

MA

You can't just move in here and I didn't call you stupid --

EMILY

You shouldn't call someone stupid.

MA

They can't have given your room away already -- maybe if you call them real quick - come on, we'll help you pack up your stuff.

LAMAR

I'm finished with that place. It's for people who are alone. I'm a married man.

MA

You are not --

*Lamar, with great difficulty, heaves a box onto the counter. It's a gift set of cast iron pans (probably used). It weighs approximately one ton. He opens it, and starts placing them on the counter, where they remain from now on.*

LAMAR

Emily! When people are getting married, they have a shower. This is your shower gift. It's pans.

EMILY

They're burnt.

LAMAR

No, no, they're cast iron. They distribute the heat evenly. You could cook for me.

MA

I do the cooking around here!

*Lamar falls to his knees and kisses Emily's stomach.*

LAMAR

Oh, Emily, my baby, thank you, thank you, thank you. . . (etc.)  
Oh, honey, excuse me, but you smell like vomit.

EMILY

I do not!

MA

Emily, go brush your teeth. I'll have a talk with Lamar.

LAMAR (to Emily)

I'll come with you.

MA

No, no, stay. I want to have a word with you.

EMILY

I don't mind --

*The two of them run into the bathroom, slam the door. Ma paces. She examines Lamar's stuff.*

MA

It's awfully quiet in there. How are you doing in there?

LAMAR (O.S.)

Fine.

EMILY (O.S.)

Fine.

MA

Are you getting every tooth?

LAMAR (O.S.)

I am.

MA

Lamar? Lamar, you don't just move in with people, and marry them, and get them pregnant, and --

LAMAR (O.S.)

Don't worry, as soon as we're married, we'll move out.

MA

And where am I supposed to live?

LAMAR (O.S.)

You'll live here!

MA

By myself??

*Giggling, banging, slamming. Ma almost knocks, almost knocks, almost knocks. Finally, she can't stand it.*

MA

What is going on in here!!!

*Ma yanks open the door. Lamar is standing there with two toothbrushes in his mouth and foam all over his face. He and Emily practically fall out of the bathroom, laughing hysterically.*

EMILY

Aaacchhhh!!! Mad dog coming through!!

LAMAR (overlapping)

Watch it!! Watch it! Mad dog coming through!

MA

Emily! Let me see your teeth!

EMILY

Mad dog!! GGGRRRRrrrrr!!! GGGRRRRrrrrr!!!

*Ma tries to check her teeth.*

LAMAR

Mad dog! Rabies! Rabies!!

MA (to Emily)

Ow! Emily!

EMILY

Rabies!!

MA

You two settle down this instant. Acting like children! At least there's one adult in this house.

EMILY  
Can he stay?

LAMAR  
Where can I hang my hammock?

**5. The Truth About Emily. A few nights later. Two a.m. Lamar's legs and feet are visible from under the sink. He's piled cleaners and cloths that look to be from the 'fifties around on the counter. He knocks something over and wakes Ma.**

MA  
Emily --

LAMAR  
Oh, sorry, sorry. Go back to sleep.

MA  
Lamar?

LAMAR  
Shh. Don't wake Emily.

MA  
What are you doing?

LAMAR  
I'm saving my child's life.

MA  
What time is it?

LAMAR  
I'm a night owl.

MA  
Stop that. Don't touch those things --

LAMAR  
The book says to make a home child-proof.

MA  
This place has been child-proof for a long time. Emily lives here.

LAMAR  
You're unkind.

MA  
She's retarded, you know.

LAMAR  
She's not retarded. She has Mild Brain Dysfunction. MBD, it's called. That means there are some areas of the brain that don't connect to other --

MA  
I think I know what she has, Lamar.

LAMAR  
Then why did you say --

MA  
I was just trying to explain it --

LAMAR  
And we don't say "retarded" -- we --

MA  
I know, I know. I had a doctor tell me once, "She's not playing with the face cards." 'Course, they're not allowed to say things like that anymore, but --

LAMAR  
I'm very busy. You're disturbing me.

MA  
Her daddy dropped her.

LAMAR  
Did you have him arrested?

MA  
I threw him out.

LAMAR  
Still. (*re: something under the sink*) Oh, my God. This is rusted shut. This is going right in the trash. He should have been punished, if he did that.

MA  
It was an accident.

LAMAR

But, I would think there'd be some kind of, some social workers, or some kind of person to come and talk to him and see if it was safe to-

MA

He was long gone. She slept for six months. And when she woke up, she -- she was very different. She was a pillow.

LAMAR

She's not a pillow.

MA

I said "was."

LAMAR

Was she pretty? When she was a baby?

MA

Very.

LAMAR

There are no pictures.

MA

She didn't like the flash.

LAMAR

I'm gonna takes thousands of pictures of my baby! The walls will be covered.

MA

Are you really staying?

LAMAR

Till we get married, yeah.

MA

Amazing.

LAMAR

If you got another apartment, it wouldn't be so crowded in here.

MA

But it's my apartment --

LAMAR

But it's my baby --

MA

How about, when the baby comes, I'll call you? Then you wouldn't have to worry if she throws up or bleeds to death.

LAMAR

I don't think that'll work.

MA

You could have visitation rights.

LAMAR

I don't think that'll work. (*re: the sink*) Eeew.

MA

Lamar, didn't your mother teach you not to touch things that don't belong to you --

LAMAR

Don't have a mother.

MA

Everyone has a mother. That's why you don't get it! A mother would die for her child. She would - she'd do anything. We were one person once, you know. You can't understand that. You can go anytime you want.

LAMAR

A man doesn't leave his wife.

MA

Grow up, Lamar. Men leave their wives all the time.

LAMAR

Not real men.

MA

I won't let you break her heart.

LAMAR

I won't break her heart.



MA

Not on purpose. But if she's already used to you, and you go, it'll be bad for her.

LAMAR

Emily needs me.

MA

Emily needs *me*!! Do you know what they taught her in school? They taught her to finger paint. I taught her to read.

LAMAR

You did a good job. I never saw her not be able to read a name on a letter.

MA

Thank you. She's a lot of work, Lamar. I don't think you can handle it.

LAMAR

I think I can.

MA

All the ladies at work, they say, "Oh, you're a good mother, keeping a child like that so long. . in the old days, she'd have been slapped into an institution, and here you keep her year after year and take such good care of her."

That's what they say.

I don't mean to be rude. But that wasn't a regular old apartment you were living in before, was it? I mean it was --

LAMAR

Was what?

MA

It was for people. Who. Who need some --

LAMAR

Some what?

MA

Help me out, here, Lamar. I know what kind of home has a five year waiting list. You were in there for a reason.

LAMAR

I was in there because I was lucky and there was an opening. It was too noisy anyway. And people take your things.

MA

How can I put this? I can't take care of three babies.

LAMAR

How can I put this: You won't have to. (*re: the sink*) What is this?

MA

You should be wearing gloves.

LAMAR

Ah hah!!

MA

What?

LAMAR

You admit it's unsafe for my child.

MA

Lamar, we have seven months before the child comes. I think we have time before it crawls to clean out under the sink. They don't crawl till they're about eight or nine months, so that's seven *before* it's even born and then another --

LAMAR

I can add.

MA

I know you can add. God, Lamar, you're so high-strung.

LAMAR

I'm not high-strung.

MA

All right, you're not high-strung.

LAMAR

Don't pretend to agree with me.

MA

I am not pretending --

LAMAR

I'm not stupid -- I have severe learning disabilities with behavioral maladjustments, but my cognitive skills are excellent. I am far from stupid

MA

I did not say you were stupid. Geez, you're very --

LAMAR

What?? What?? What am I??

MA

Nothing. I would have cleaned that cabinet before the baby came.

LAMAR

I got it. No diseases for my baby.

MA

What diseases?

LAMAR

How should I know?

MA

See? You don't know. Just because you're smarter than Emily doesn't mean you know everything.

**6. Getting to Know You Afternoon. A few weeks later. The TV is on, Barry Manilow is crooning and Emily is asleep on the couch. Lamar enters and tip toes around for a moment. Then he decides to put a pillow under Emily's head. Then he decides to put a blanket on her. Then he decides to put her feet up. He wakes her.**

LAMAR

Oh, you're awake. I'm glad.

EMILY

I was sleeping.

LAMAR

But now we can talk.

EMILY

About what?

LAMAR

I don't know. But. We never have the place to ourselves.

Ma is at work. EMILY

Yeah. So, tell me something. LAMAR

What? EMILY

I don't know. Something about yourself. LAMAR

I'm thirsty. EMILY

Oh. I'll get you something. So tell me something. LAMAR

What? EMILY

Once, I ate a dime. I was walking and I had it in my mouth and it slipped down into my stomach when I tilted my head back, slipped right down. LAMAR

Don't put money in your mouth, Lamar. EMILY (in a familiar sing-song voice)

I don't anymore. Can I sit like this? LAMAR

Yeah. EMILY

It doesn't hurt the baby? LAMAR

How should I know? EMILY

LAMAR

The baby's getting big.

*to the tune of "Yesterday"*

Emily  
All my troubles seem so far away  
Once I thought that they were here to stay  
Oh, I believe in Emily.

Did you have a nice childhood?

EMILY

How should I know?

LAMAR

I didn't. Do you remember your father?

EMILY

He dropped me.

LAMAR

Yeah, I heard, I'm sorry about --

EMILY

That's why I can't play checkers.

LAMAR

Pardon me?

EMILY

It hurts my head, the board.

LAMAR

Oh. This is a nice place. It's kinda crowded.

EMILY

That's because you moved in and brought all your stuff --

LAMAR

Well, yeah, but --

EMILY

I like your boom box, though.

LAMAR

Thank you, Emily. That's very nice of you. Do you like having me here?

EMILY

Of course I do, ditz-brain.

LAMAR

You do, ditz-brain? Did you like school?

EMILY

Ma won't let me paint in here because I'll make a mess.

LAMAR

Uh. Huh. Oh. Did you paint in school?

EMILY

I just told you that.

LAMAR

Great. So you liked school. It's important to have good teachers. I had one teacher, Mrs. Fox, who was able to see that all I needed was a little help. She saw that I could read if she showed things to me in a certain way. If she stayed after school with me. She made me clap erasers. She said, Lamar, do you know why I had you stay after school? I told her it was because I was stupid. She said it was because I was smart in a different way. She said I was smart, you know. She was right. My cognitive skills are excellent, though I have a severe learning disability with some behavioral maladjustments. It's severe. But I work all right, don't I? That's the kind of man you have, Emily. I managed. Didn't I? Did you have some friends at school?

EMILY

Kids are stupid jerks.

LAMAR

Do you have any friends now I should meet?

EMILY

No.

LAMAR

Me. You have me. I'm your friend. That's why we're having a baby.

EMILY

Because you proposed and I got pregnant.

LAMAR

Uh, you got pregnant because we had sex.

EMILY

Lamar, I've had sex lots of times before and I never got pregnant.

LAMAR

What sex? With who?

EMILY

I don't know, just some guys.

LAMAR

Guys!! Who?

EMILY

Dave. . something . . or, uh, no, not Dave. Uh, Bob, I think -- no, yeah, Dave, and --

LAMAR

OK, OK. Never mind. A man doesn't expect a woman to be a virgin, not in this day and age. I've had lots of girls with me, Emily. A man likes to play the field before he settles down. But. They didn't love you. Only I do.

EMILY

Ma does.

LAMAR

Of course, but in a different way.

EMILY

I know that, Lamar.

LAMAR

Does your mother know about those men?

EMILY

Yeah, right.

LAMAR

I won't tell her.

EMILY

You better not tell her, Lamar!!

LAMAR  
I won't. It'll be our little secret. Would you like to have another secret?

EMILY  
OK.

LAMAR  
Close your eyes.

EMILY  
Why?

LAMAR  
Just close them.

EMILY  
I'm watching TV.

LAMAR  
Just listen to it.

EMILY  
But I'm --

LAMAR  
JUST LISTEN TO IT!!!

EMILY  
Oh, brother. What a pain.

*He goes into the hallway to get a bag, takes out a large, wrinkled wedding gown. It's just below knee-length, so her legs stick out.*

LAMAR  
Open them! TA-DA. It's a wedding gown. Try it on.

EMILY  
Are we going out?

LAMAR  
No, it's just for trying. You don't have to go in the other room.

EMILY  
Pervert.



LAMAR

I've seen you naked -- all right, all right, fine. (SLAM) You don't have to slam the door. Hurry up.

You know, Emily, allotta times when people get married, they go on a honeymoon. We could go on a honeymoon. Go somewhere.

EMILY (O.S.)

Where?

LAMAR

Wherever you like.

EMILY (O.S.)

Russia.

LAMAR

No, not Russia. It's not good for the baby. They have lots of diseases and poor people there. Pick someplace else.

EMILY (O.S.)

Where?

LAMAR

Bermuda?

*Emily comes out of the bedroom.*

Oh, my God.

EMILY

Don't mess it up.

LAMAR

Oh, you make me dizzy --

EMILY

Achhh!! Head between your knees!!

LAMAR

No, no, I'm all set. Our baby's gonna be so beautiful, Emily.

EMILY

I hope the baby doesn't cry.

LAMAR

Can we not talk? I just want to look at you. Pretty, pretty, pretty.

EMILY

It's soft. Feel it. Hey, quit it. What are you doing??

LAMAR

I'm goin' fishin'.

EMILY

That's not fishin'--

LAMAR

Goin' fishin' --

EMILY

Hahaha. That's not fishin'! Fishing is in the -- ah! Lamar! Quit it!

LAMAR

Here, fishy, fishy, fishy. A man needs some woman sometimes, baby --

*MA walks in. Pause.*

EMILY

He made me.

MA

I'm sure.

LAMAR

Ma, we're practically married.

MA

You're not married, yet.

LAMAR

When?? She's showing!

MA

She's not showing.

LAMAR

She is, too.

Is not. MA

Uh-huh. LAMAR ("Yes")

I have a terrible headache, Lamar. MA

LAMAR  
I spoke to Suzanne my social worker at the clinic. She says that apartment is available. We can get it.

MA  
There's no rush, no rush at all, right, pea?

EMILY  
No, no rush.

LAMAR  
But I only said one month and it's been three!

MA  
It seems shorter. Time flies. (re: the dress) It's got a stain. It's not new, is it?

LAMAR  
I bought it for Emily.

MA  
I hope the person who wore it before didn't have lice. Oh, well.

*She appears to be doing some sort of crying.*

EMILY  
What's the matter with you?

MA  
Don't mind me. I just thought we'd shop for it, Emily. It's something a mother looks forward to, all her life, from the moment her daughter is born, but, never mind. Please take your hand out of my daughter's dress, Lamar.

LAMAR  
You know, a man and a woman --

MA (overlapping)

Go to your room.

*They both dash into the bedroom.*

One of you! One of you in the bedroom.

*He heads into the bedroom.*

LAMAR

I spent a fortune on that dress, Emily.

MA

Don't slam -- (SLAM) Oh, my head --

EMILY (re: dress)

This looks good on me.

MA

It's short.

**7. Ma's Late Night. A few weeks later. Ma is on the couch. Lamar is asleep on the hammock. Emily comes padding out of the bedroom.**

EMILY

I can't sleep.

MA

Whatsamatter, punkin'?

EMILY

My stomach.

MA

Ah. That's a little heartburn. The baby's gonna have a lot of hair.

EMILY

What?

MA

Old wives' tale.

That's stupid.	EMILY
I guess it is.	MA
But my stomach.	EMILY
It's OK.	MA
I don't like it.	EMILY
I don't blame you.	MA
Scooch over. Can you get me some Tums?	EMILY
No.	MA
Why?	EMILY
It's late.	MA
Can I watch TV?	EMILY
No.	MA
Why?	EMILY
It's late.	MA
But I want to.	EMILY

I don't feel like it. MA

How come you're crying? EMILY

I just am. MA

Are you sick? EMILY

No. MA

Why, then? EMILY

I just am. MA

Oh. EMILY

I wanted so little in life, you know? MA

Yeah. EMILY

We had it pretty good, right? MA

Uh-huh. EMILY

You know, we just, you know, just did our jobs and ate and -- MA

Yup. EMILY

Right, yeah. And watched TV and just kind of. . . MA

We eat.

EMILY

MA

I know. I just think Lamar might be happier if he leaves.

EMILY

He snores. Maybe I'll divorce him.

MA

You're not married yet.

EMILY

After we get married.

MA

You're funny. Do Mama's feet.

EMILY

Ick.

*But she does. They have a system for this.*

MA

Oh, thank you, Emily. Thank you, thank you. . .

**8. A Man and His Toast. Three a.m. Several weeks later. (About four/five months along.) Ma sits reading a magazine or watching TV in her bathrobe. Lamar comes crashing in, tipsy. Ma watches him for a moment.**

MA

She doesn't mean it.

LAMAR

She does.

MA

She just does stuff like that sometimes.

LAMAR

Did she ever bite you?

MA

Oh, my God, all the time. I used to think I should get rabies shots.

LAMAR

I never saw her do that.

MA

She hasn't done it in a while. You should eat something.

LAMAR

I'm going to make some toast.

MA

You're not doing very well.

LAMAR

You have to be careful with hot things.

MA (getting up to help him)

First you have to get the bread open. Ew. You smell like a bar.

LAMAR

A man likes to go to a bar when his wife bites him.

MA

She's not your --

LAMAR(overlapping)

She doesn't like me.

MA

I think she does.

LAMAR

Usually, if I hit someone, it means I don't like them.

MA

When do you hit people?

LAMAR

I don't.

MA

You shouldn't touch her stuff.



LAMAR

She doesn't need posters of Barry Manilow all over the room! Taped to the ceiling and the walls and the --

MA

Where's the harm, Lamar? She likes them.

LAMAR

But she has a real man, now.

MA

Maybe she didn't want one.

LAMAR

She shouldn't bite him.

MA

I know, hon, but --

LAMAR

You should have taught her that.

MA

What?

LAMAR

She shouldn't do that. If you do something wrong, you should be punished.

MA

And that's my fault?

LAMAR

Who raised her?

MA

All right, good night, Lamar --

LAMAR

What! I'm just asking who raised her?? If my child does something bad, I will punish him so he knows right from wrong --

MA

Her - punish her --

LAMAR

WHAT IF IT'S A BOY!!! WHAT IF IT'S A BOY!! WHY CAN'T IT BE A BOY!!

MA

You'll wake Emily!!

LAMAR

Good! Fine! She deserves it!!

MA

Quiet! I'm going to bed --

*She heads back to the couch. He watches her, struggles with the bread.*

LAMAR

I thought you were going to make me some toast.

MA

Make it yourself but don't burn the house down.

LAMAR

I'll just have bread.

*(burp)* Excuse me.

*(burp)* Excuse me.

*(burp)* Excuse me.

MA

Oh, for God's sake. I'm gonna be all worn out tomorrow at work - no, *today* at work - and I'll be dead on my feet and Marcie will say, Why are you so tired, Dotty, and I'll say, Oh, my little son-in-law-to-be had a spat with Emily and came home drunk at three in the morning and I had to make him some toast so he wouldn't burn the house down because he doesn't use hot things by himself when he's been up drinking half the night. Isn't that right? Right?

LAMAR

Your name's Dotty?

MA

Sit down before you fall down.

LAMAR

Thanks, Ma. Sometimes I think you don't want me to stay here.

MA

Of course I do.

LAMAR

No, sometimes, I think it's just because I help you with the rent.

MA

I want whatever Emily wants.

LAMAR

Tom my boss at work said a mother knows her daughter better than anyone else.

MA

That's true.

LAMAR

I don't know how to talk to Emily, sometimes.

MA

Emily's a little hard to figure sometimes. I guess you two kids will work it out.

LAMAR

Work what out?

MA

A good relationship takes time.

LAMAR

We have a good relationship.

MA

You just said you can't talk to her.

LAMAR

Sometimes, I said "sometimes." Sometimes *you* can't.

MA

I always can.

LAMAR

No, sometimes she doesn't understand a word you say. She says you talk wrong, but I think she doesn't get you. I know how she is. She doesn't even close the bathroom door when she uses it, and that is not normal.

MA

Before you came, she never had to.

LAMAR

I mean at work. All the women thought it was gross. She needs me to teach her all the things you forgot.

MA

Oh, for God's sake. Get out of my way. I'm going to bed.

LAMAR

Who's going to make my toast?

MA

Make it yourself.

LAMAR

But we were talking. We're family. We should be friends.

*He walks over to her and nearly falls on her in a bear hug.*

MA

Don't!

*Startled by his touch, she pushes him back and he goes flying.*

LAMAR

What'dyou do that for? I was just --

MA

I'm sorry! I -- you shouldn't grab me like that.

LAMAR

I was hugging you!

MA

I *said* I was sorry.

Do you want me to make you some toast?

**9. The Truth About Babies and Men. Early Evening. About six months along. Ma is attempting to comb the snarls out of Emily's hair. This is obviously an excruciating experience for Emily; she forebears as best she can.**

MA

Only three more months till the baby! I'm so excited, aren't you?

EMILY

I don't even want a baby.

MA

Yes, you do.

EMILY

I don't like babies.

MA

Yes, you do. Remember that woman downstairs had the baby? You were always asking to pick it up, and she wouldn't let you because she didn't trust you, but I'll let you hold your baby.

EMILY

Maybe you can hold it.

MA

OK.

EMILY

Why does everybody make such a big deal out of them?

MA

Oh, they're a miracle, the way they come into the world! Their skin is like cotton balls, Emily, really, really soft. The head of a baby is like an eyeball - it's so soft. And there's this little fuzz - this little fuzzy peach stuff for hair. And the hair practically moves, like it breathes. And what it is, is, the scalp has not grown closed. That is called the soft spot. And you can see in it, the heart beat.

EMILY

You can't see a heartbeat in a head.

MA (overlapping)

In India or Africa, I've heard it can take three or four years for the soft spot to get hard, and until it grows over the baby is in danger. Something could happen.

EMILY

Like what?

MA

Oh, nothing. But this is why you have to be careful not to hold it too much, honey.

EMILY

I don't want to, anyway. You and Lamar can hold it.

MA

He's kind of clumsy, though. And babies are so very fragile. Anything could happen. They could fall out of the cradle. Or if you have them wrapped in a blanket, they can kick free and go flying. Or you could be walking up and down with them, and you're trying to quiet them, and you *could*, ah, trip. Just. Just catch the hem of your robe or your nightie or whatever, it could be daylight, God, I don't know, whatever, and down you go. You could fall and then you could catch, just so, just catch the tip of the soft spot on the edge of the end table and you could. . . and then you would, wait. To see if the pumping is still. Still doing that. And it's the little pumping you don't see — and you still, for some reason, it makes sense, I guess, you wait for the baby to cry. Because you would think that would make them mad. But, the baby doesn't seem to mind this incredible clumsiness. Instead. You cannot believe how quiet everything is.

*Pause.*

EMILY

Then what?

MA

What?

EMILY

Is it dead?

MA

No, no. It's fine. Oh, we'll be so happy when the baby comes. I will catch that little girl in my arms, and she'll be so *perfect*. And we'll feed her and she'll get so big. And then she'll go to school, and we'll videotape it and then she'll get a job and she'll take care of us and I won't have to worry any more, ever. Because I'll be old by then.

EMILY

You're already old.

MA

I'm not that old. I was very young when I had you. Much too young to know what I was in for. There. All beautiful. You look beautiful, sweetie.

EMILY

You're all puffy.

MA

Am I? I'll go splash some water on my face.

*Emily watches TV and turns on some Barry Manilow while Ma goes to the bathroom. Sound of running water from the bathroom. LAMAR comes in from the hallway with a black eye, pauses at the door.*

LAMAR

Honey, I'm home.

EMILY

Lamar.

LAMAR

Don't get up. Get it? I said, don't get up or look at me or anything. Because you didn't. What are you watching on the television?

EMILY

You're in my way.

LAMAR

Sorry.

EMILY

Well, move.

LAMAR

I like your shirt.

EMILY

I can't hear the television because you're talking all the time.

*He shuts off the tape.*

LAMAR

You should be listening to Mozart, anyway. Dana in the Supply Room at work said babies like that. I think I'll pour myself a glass of lemonade. Ah. That's good. I can't believe that's made with powder. It tastes like the real thing. I think I'll have another glass.

EMILY

Don't drink it all.

LAMAR

I won't.

EMILY

It's the only thing I can drink.

LAMAR

I know.

*MA comes out of the bathroom, notices his eye.*

MA

What happened to you?

LAMAR

What?

MA

What'd you do to your eye?

LAMAR

Oh, my God. Can you even see it?

MA

How could I ask if I didn't see it?

LAMAR

Emily didn't see it. Looked right at me. Didn't see it.



See what? EMILY

He's got a black eye. MA

Oh. How come? EMILY

How should I know? Maybe he walked into a wall. MA

Hah! Why did he walk into a wall? EMILY

I did not walk into a wall. LAMAR

How should I know? MA

Walk into a wall! Haha. EMILY

That is not what happened! LAMAR

Then what happened? MA

Oh, now, don't be nagging. LAMAR

We're not nagging. (to Emily) Scooch over. MA

Oh, just like women: "Oh my God!!! What happened to your eye!!!" All hysterical. It's not like it's gonna fall out or anything. LAMAR

(re the TV) Oh, my show is starting. MA (to Emily)

I don't like this show. EMILY

LAMAR (under their lines)

These things happen sometimes. Sometimes it's not even a man's fault.

MA

I said it's my show. Oh, this is that one when he takes his shirt off.

EMILY

Gross.

MA

It's not gross. It's very nice. He used to be a California life guard, that actor --

LAMAR (under their lines)

In the world, it's not always a nice place. It can be hard. Very hard.

EMILY

No, he didn't --

MA

He did! I read it in *TV Guide*. Do you think those are his real teeth?

EMILY

How could he eat if he didn't have --

MA

He *has* teeth, Emily. They're just fake.

LAMAR (louder)

See, sometimes a man has a little --

EMILY

That's gross.

MA

It's not gross. It makes their teeth very straight.

EMILY

I wouldn't do that to my teeth.

LAMAR (last try)

Sometimes a man has a little trouble with another man, and it's the only thing he can do, to talk with his fist. So a man is left with no choice. Then a man has to just take action. He has to ---

MA

Men are naturally fighters, Emily. One night, when I was pregnant with you, I dreamed that your father was hitting me in the stomach.

He did? EMILY

No he didn't, but I dreamed he did. MA

That was a stupid dream. EMILY

No, it wasn't. It was a very scary dream. MA

You shoulda told him to stop it. EMILY

Emily, he didn't *actually* hit me in the stomach. I just *dreamed* -- MA

What's for dinner? LAMAR

Oh, I don't know. Emily doesn't feel like eating. MA

But she's eating for two. LAMAR

She can't eat if she's not hungry. She'll eat later, right, pea? MA

I'm not hungry. EMILY

But. What should I eat? LAMAR

How should I know? MA

What are you eating? LAMAR

MA

Nothing! I had so many donuts at the shop today I won't eat for a week. I go weeks at a time, don't touch them, then one day I go crazy. –

EMILY

She was burping donuts.

MA

Emily!

LAMAR

Did you bring any home?

MA

I can't feed the whole neighborhood, Lamar.

LAMAR

Hey, / know! Emily, you could cook for me. Why do you think I got you those nice pans?

EMILY

I'm pregnant. I can't cook.

MA (overlapping)

Who can lift them? They're awful.

LAMAR

Pregnant people cook, Emily.

*Lamar, with some difficulty, pulls one of the cast iron pans out of the box and sets it on the table - big thunk. It stays there from now on.*

LAMAR

Here, here, you can lift them, they're not heavy.

MA

I can't even lift them, and I'm strong.

EMILY

I'm strong.

MA (overlapping)

Not as strong as me.

EMILY (overlapping)

Yes, sir.

LAMAR

I'm telling you, you could if you try. Try it. Come on.

*Ma comes over to show him that she can BARELY lift one. .*

I meant Emily.

MA

She can't -- ah, God! No, no, these are --

LAMAR

A woman has to cook for her man, and her --

MA

She's not allowed to touch  
the stove.

EMILY

I'm not allowed to touch the  
stove.

LAMAR

What am I supposed to eat?

MA

Get a pizza. Or a steak. You could put it on your eye.

EMILY

Ha ha ha -- steak on his eye.

MA

It's good for a black eye.

EMILY

It is not.

MA

I'm telling you, it is.

LAMAR

Oh, fine. I'll eat marshmallows.

EMILY

They're all gone.

LAMAR

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT??

MA  
Lamar!

Lamar!

EMILY

Rude!

MA

Rude!

EMILY

MA  
No wonder you have a black eye - that temper of yours. I hope that didn't happen at work -- you'd be in serious trouble. Oh, Lamar -- at work? That temper is not good for the baby.

LAMAR  
I wouldn't get mad at a baby.

MA  
Oh, yes you would.

LAMAR  
No, I wouldn't.

MA  
Lamar, they can be the most aggravating things in the world. Sometimes they cry and they WILL NOT stop. And that can go on all night. You think your skin's going to peel off - you think you're gonna jump out the window. You might hurt the baby! You might.

LAMAR ("no")  
Uh-unh.

MA  
I'm worried. I'm very worried. What is Suzanna your Social Worker at the clinic's phone number?

**10. Lamar Lamaze. Saturday, late morning. About 7 months along. Ma alone, is kicking Lamar's bean bag chair around the room. She might knock over his hammock, or throw a doll. There's a SCREECH from the hallway, and Emily comes running in.**

EMILY

You can't make me go back - you can't, you can't, you can't-

*LAMAR runs in after her.*

LAMAR (overlapping)

All right, all right, all right - I said OK an hour ago --

MA

What happened?

EMILY

He took me to a - a -thing -- at the hospital! At the --

LAMAR

Lamaze.

MA

You took her to a Lamaze class?

EMILY

It was so gross!!

MA

I heard that's gross.

*Emily's running around and around the couch; Ma and Lamar both chasing her.*

LAMAR

She started crying when they showed the film and I - I haven't been able to get her to stop.

EMILY (overlapping)

The lady was screaming and screaming - and she had her legs up up on a table! I don't like that table!

MA (overlapping)

That's right, you hate that table --

*Emily crawls behind the couch - her absolute panic mode.*

EMILY

-- and this *thing* came out of her legs! This, this vomit head something -- it wasn't a baby - they had to kill it --

LAMAR

They didn't kill it - they just hadn't cleaned it up yet, Emily --

EMILY

Don't talk to me!

MA

Don't talk to her right now - it'll only make her worse.

LAMAR

Emily, listen --

EMILY

Aaggghh!!!! Get away from me!!!

MA

See?

LAMAR

OK, OK. I'll be right here. Here I am, sweetheart.

EMILY

Mama, Mama, Mama (etc.)

MA

Shh, shh, shh.

LAMAR

Fine. We'll discuss this later.

MA

It's OK, baby. Look at Mama. Look at Mama.

EMILY

No. I don't want to --

MA

You don't have to, OK.

EMILY

I don't want to go back there.

MA

You don't have to --



EMILY

I don't want it. I can't. I can't do it.

MA

Honey, there is nothing you can do about that now.

LAMAR

I am right here -- Can you see me, Emily?

MA

Emily, there are all kinds of medicines you can take when you're having a baby. You don't have to feel a thing. All you have to do is push a little.

EMILY

No. No way.

MA

I don't even remember having you, I was so doped up.

EMILY

No, no, no. No, sir.

MA

Honest to God, someone else could have had you, I was so out of it. I didn't feel a thing. And it's better for the baby because they don't get scared. It's nothing, really, you don't even know you're in the hospital.

EMILY

I am *not* going back to the hospital!

LAMAR

We are not having this baby at home, Emily. Tucker General is --

MA

Lamar! You don't have to go back, Emily. Tucker General stinks anyway --

LAMAR

It's the best OB/GYN care in the city!! Lorraine Tom my boss' secretary at work said --

MA

I had Emily at Memorial and they do the best job in the world, don't they honey?

LAMAR

They stink! What if the baby turns blue? They won't know what to do!

MA

Lamar, Please! Now, Emily, settle down. Lamar can go to Lamaze if he wants to. Hey. Lamar can go to Lamaze. Get it? Did you hear that? That's why he likes it - because it rhymes with his name! Lamar Lamaze!!

EMILY

Lamar Lamaze?

MA

Yeah, Lamar Lamaze!

EMILY

Lamar Lamaze! I don't have to go!

LAMAR (overlapping)

Stop that!

MA

You sure don't. Lamar can go if he wants to. Let him go. Oh, my little girl, my little girl.

EMILY

Yeah. Lamar Lamaze!

LAMAR

Emily -- one, two, three --

MA

Hello, Lamar Lamaze!

LAMAR

Emily - four, five, six --

EMILY

Hello, Lamar Lamaze!

MA (to Lamar)

She's OK now.

LAMAR

She is NOT OK! She has to go to class when the time is close for the baby because Lorraine Tom my boss' secretary at work said she had to have it the best way for the baby--

MA

Who's Lorraine?

LAMAR

I just told you who Lorraine --

MA

Men! The minute you're pregnant, they need a twelve-year old with perfect thighs and no corns. Tell the truth, Lamar. Do you have a girlfriend?

LAMAR

Besides Emily?

EMILY

You do?

LAMAR

I do not! What are you --

MA

Lorraine! Oh, my God, do we have to discuss this in front of Emily --

LAMAR

Lorraine is a very good secretary --

EMILY (overlapping)

Lorraine is that fat stupid Chinese lady at work --

LAMAR

She is not fat --

MA

You have a Chinese girlfriend?

LAMAR

I do not have a girlfriend!!!

EMILY

Oh, hey, Lamar Lamaze, why don't you go marry Lorraine --

MA

Hey! Then she'll be Lorraine Lamar Lamaze!

LAMAR

Stop that! Lorraine says there is a right way and a wrong way to have a baby - you can kill it if you don't do it right, you have to count and breathe and stuff --

EMILY  
I am *not* having a  
baby!!! I changed my  
mind!

MA  
Leave her alone.  
You can't handle  
her when she gets --

LAMAR  
You cannot change  
your mind!

LAMAR  
YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR MIND! I will not leave her alone! In two  
months you are having this baby, and we are having this baby and we are  
going to be parents. Now, GROW UP! Emily: you don't ever have to be  
afraid. I will always, always, always take care of you. I promise you. Cross  
my heart.

EMILY  
But it will hurt.

LAMAR  
It will. And I will say: OK, honey, OK, honey. Breathe. Breathe. And I'll hold  
your hand and rub your hair, and it'll be over before you know it, Emily. And  
then. And then we'll be happy. Doesn't that sound good?

EMILY  
I guess.

LAMAR  
It sounds great. Doesn't it?

EMILY  
It sounds pretty good.

LAMAR  
Oh, doesn't it though? See? Breathe. Breathe. You can do it. You can do it!

EMILY  
I could take medicine.

LAMAR  
Some. I'm just saying, Emily, we can do it. And we will be great. We'll be  
amazing. We already are. I love you. That is all we need. Believe me?  
Breathe. Breathe.

**11. The Squabble. Late Afternoon. About 8 months along. Emily on the couch watching TV, listening to music and talking to the baby. Beside her, the baby book from Scene 4 is open.**

EMILY

Hello, pea. Hello, sweet pea. Ow. Hey! Quit it. Don't kick Mama. Don't kick Mama. Ow. It doesn't hurt, I'm just kidding you. Mama just kidding. Mama said, don't kick.

*Lamar comes home from work, opens the fridge.*

LAMAR

Honey, I'm home.

EMILY

Come and feel my tummy. It's kicking. It's perfectly natural for it to kick.

EMILY

I asked you to do something for me today. Do you remember what I asked you to do for me today?

EMILY

How about Jane? You could name a baby Jane.

LAMAR

Jane's fine. Honey --

EMILY

I wouldn't name her Emily, because then she'd have the same name as me.

LAMAR

Sweetheart. Do you remember --

EMILY

Can you get me some juice?

LAMAR

No.

EMILY

What?? Why not.

LAMAR

Because I don't see any beer in this fridge.

What? EMILY

LAMAR  
I asked you to go and get me some beer. I said, "Emily, since you're lying around doing nothing all day, could you at least go to the store and get me some beer so when I get home it's cold and I can have my beer?" Do you remember that?

No. EMILY

I said it! This morning! LAMAR

So? EMILY

So you didn't!! LAMAR

So? EMILY

LAMAR  
So why didn't you?? A man comes home from work, he would like to have some nice cold beer in the fridge waiting for him. It's not a lot to ask, Emily. Did you forget?

I had morning sickness. EMILY

You don't get morning sickness in your eighth month. That's a rule. Did you forget? LAMAR

I forgot. EMILY

LAMAR  
How could you forget! I put a stickie on the fridge. What does it say? It says "get beer." It's so you wouldn't forget, so it would be cold when I got home. I leave you this one little note and you, puff brain, forget it!

EMILY  
Alkie!!

LAMAR  
I am not an alkie! A man just likes to have one beer when he comes home from work. You remember work, don't you?

EMILY  
It's not good for the baby.

LAMAR  
You don't drink it, it's for me. It's not like I ask you to do much.

EMILY  
I'm not your maid.

LAMAR  
I didn't say you were my maid --

EMILY  
I'm not! I'm your wife --

LAMAR  
I didn't say you ---

LAMAR  
My -- my -- wife! Emily! We're fighting! Like husband and wife!

EMILY  
It's your fault.

LAMAR  
No, we are. Just like married people! Marry me.

EMILY  
Don't try to make up.

LAMAR  
I already did. Hey, I got a joke at work. How do you make time fly?

EMILY  
I'm not speaking to you.

LAMAR

Throw a clock across the room.

*In laughing, she smashes his bad lung.*

Ow, that's my sore lung. I was telling you a joke to make up. Now, I'm going fishing.

*He dives for her, she screams, then, from the bedroom:*

MA (coming out of bedroom)

Oh, my God! I can't even get a nap around here! Lamar! You'll hurt the baby! Can you ever think of someone besides yourself for one second?

LAMAR

We were making up.

EMILY

We had a fight.

LAMAR

We fought because she wouldn't even go to the store to get me some beer when I left her a stickie and everything. But, see, I forgave you because that's what husbands and wives --

MA

Oh, Lamar. That's not very nice.

LAMAR

What?

MA

She can't go to the store.

LAMAR

What do you mean, she can't --

MA

She can't do it. She tried. She forgets what she went in for, and if I write it down, she forgets to look at the note. And she can't handle money, so people take advantage of her. She'll hand them a twenty dollar bill for a can of Spaghetti's and walk out. Then I have to go back, get the money, *try* to get the money, then there's a big fight, half the time they don't want to give it back -- we had some -- remember that Italian guy?



EMILY

Yeah.

MA

Oh, you probably don't, but he fought me over two dollars! Said she must have spent it on something else on the way home and that's just nonsense. He was fighting me over two dollars, wasn't he Emily?

EMILY

Stupid jerk.

MA (overlapping)

Stupid jerk. So Emily doesn't go to the store, right, pea?

LAMAR

How could she possibly not go to the store? She held down a job for seven years!!

MA

She brought her lunch.

LAMAR

That doesn't make any sense --

MA (overlapping)

Lamar, she just cannot do math, can you, pea?

LAMAR

She could do math! Math is not hard!

MA

I go to the store. Emily doesn't go to the store.

EMILY

Ma can you go get Lamar some beer?

MA

I certainly will not.

LAMAR

Emily: I will teach you math. Ma: she could learn to go to the store.

MA

She tried.

LAMAR

"She tried." How hard? You never let her learn anything.

MA

She tried long before you showed up on the scene, Mister Smarty Pants, with all the answers of what we and she should and should not do.

LAMAR

But I could teach her. (to Emily) Do you want me to teach you?

EMILY

Nah.

LAMAR

Why not??

MA

She --

LAMAR

I'm talking to *her* -

EMILY

I already can't.

LAMAR

You could.

MA

She already said --

LAMAR

I KNOW WHAT SHE SAID. She always says that, she says what you say, she says she can't do this, she can't do that, it's lucky she can feed herself!!

MA

Lamar!

EMILY

I can feed myself!

LAMAR

You can do more! Who's gonna take care of the baby if you're a baby?

EMILY

I'm not a baby.

MA

She's not a baby!

LAMAR

That's not what I'm saying!! You two always talk when you should be listening! Hah! Women! Ranh, ranh, ranh, ranh, ranh,. . .

MA

Oh, shut up.

LAMAR

You shut up.

MA

You shut up!

EMILY

Don't tell her to shut up!

LAMAR

YOU BOTH SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP.

*Lamar grabs a coat rack or something, sends it flying - it goes down with a frightening crash. They all stop yelling. Pause.*

EMILY

Well, you don't have to yell.

LAMAR

I don't have to -- I don't -- geez. I'm just saying, You should learn to go to the store. That's all I'm saying.

EMILY

Can't you do it?

LAMAR

Yeah, yeah, sometimes. Most of the time. But. I think you could learn to go to the store. I just wanna. I wanna help you. Learn to go to the -- maybe, maybe sometime, you could come to the store with me.

EMILY

OK, but don't yell.

LAMAR

I couldn't help it. Rub my head, will you? My head hurts. That feels great. Just great. See? See what I mean, Emily? You'll make an excellent mother.

MA

Do you want some tea, Lamar?

EMILY

He doesn't need anything.

MA

An aspirin?

Shh. EMILY

Emily, don't shush me. MA

Shhh! His head hurts. Ta, ta, ta. EMILY

**12. The Moment We've All Been Waiting For. Evening. About 9 months along. Lamar and a very large Emily alone in the apartment, cuddling. There is a chair propped up against the doorknob.**

It's ten o'clock, Emily. LAMAR

I can tell time, Lamar. Put your head on my belly. Then you can hear his heartbeat. EMILY

I can't really put it -- I'll just -- here, I'll just sit like this. It'll be midnight soon. LAMAR [she's too big]

Der. EMILY

Don't you have any pain at all? LAMAR

I guess so. EMILY

What kind of pain? Where? LAMAR

I don't know. EMILY

You must know. LAMAR

When are you leaving?  
EMILY

I'm in for the night, baby. Unless you need me to go to the store.  
LAMAR

No. When, though?  
EMILY

What?  
LAMAR

When are you leaving? Ma said you would be leaving and then we would raise the baby. Why don't you want to raise the baby?  
EMILY

I do! I would never leave you. Never. Ma. Um. Ma. She's a liar.  
LAMAR

She is not!  
EMILY

She is, Emily. She wants you to not like me and she's telling you lies.  
LAMAR

I can't hear you -- I can't hear you. Don't say that -- don't say that --  
EMILY

OK, OK, Emily. Look at me. Look at Lamar. See? Here I am. She told you I would leave, and I didn't. I didn't leave yet, did I?  
LAMAR

No.  
EMILY

See? There you go. I'm staying.  
LAMAR

But --  
EMILY

LAMAR

No! NO. BUT. You are my life and blood and my -- this baby is my heart and my flesh and, and my heart and I want to see you every day for the rest of my life. I want to kiss, kiss that baby, all the time. I want to come home and say, Honey, I'm home, and then we'll eat dinner and play with the baby.

EMILY

I can't lift those pans --

LAMAR

OK, OK, we'll get new ones. We'll get really light ones -- or I'll cook, then we can play with the baby.

EMILY

Oh, gross.

LAMAR

What?

EMILY

We'll get food all over the baby.

LAMAR

AFTER WE EAT, we'll play with baby.

EMILY

I was telling you a joke.

LAMAR

You were?

EMILY

Yeah.

LAMAR

Oh. Oh, OK. That was funny.

EMILY

I know.

LAMAR

OK, marry me tonight. Suzanna my social worker at the clinic says we can get a different apartment - an even better one. Come on. It's time. It's time for you to be your own woman! You'll be a mother soon. An actual mother. Do you know what that means?

*Emily gets up and heads into the bedroom.*

No. EMILY (O.S.)

LAMAR  
Of course you don't because your mother babies you --

No, she doesn't -- EMILY (O.S.)

LAMAR  
She does! What are you doing? Answer me, at least. Listen. Your mother will be upset at first but in the long run, after the baby comes, she'll forget all about it, and just be a grandmother. Emily. Honey?

*Emily comes out of the bedroom wearing her wedding gown - it's impossibly tight, open in the back and hanging off her swollen breasts.*

LAMAR (con't)  
What did I do to deserve you?

I don't know. EMILY

Come here. LAMAR

Don't hurt the baby. EMILY

LAMAR  
I won't. Come here, fishy, fishy, fishy . . .

EMILY (overlapping)  
I really don't feel like it, Lamar --

*There is a noise at the door. They panic.*

LAMAR  
Damn.

MA (O.S.)  
Emily!

LAMAR  
Damn it!

EMILY  
Don't swear in front of the baby!

LAMAR  
Emily - this is the last time --

MA (O.S.)  
What is going on in there? Emily! Open this door this minute!

LAMAR  
Coming!

EMILY  
Shhh!! Maybe she'll go away --

MA (O.S.)  
I know you're in there, Lamar --

LAMAR  
Yes, coming, mother --

MA (O.S.)  
OPEN THE DOOR!!

*He takes the chair off and in she comes, the two of them practically tumbling over each other. Pause.*

MA  
What is this, dress-up?

LAMAR  
Dress up is for children. Step out of the way. We're leaving.

MA  
Oh, no you're not. Emily, go change. You'll get your dress dirty.

EMILY  
We're getting married and getting our own place and then you can be a grandmother.

MA  
Pregnant girls don't wear white, Emily. It's a lie.



I don't lie, you do. EMILY

What? Go take it off. MA

Emily, it's now or never. LAMAR

YOU BABY ME. EMILY (to Ma)

I -- What if that baby goes into a crying fit and turns all red and you don't know if it's going to die or what? What would you do? MA

We'll manage. Emily. Go put your shoes on. LAMAR

Why would it turn all red? EMILY

Sometimes they just do. What if the baby gets a fever? They get all kinds of things wrong with them. Sometimes they die in the middle of the night and nobody knows why. MA

Emily, get your shoes on! LAMAR

I don't want to kill the baby. EMILY

Your only choice now is if you'll let me help you take care of it so nothing happens to it. And you want to leave me now -- MA

We *have to* leave you now -- LAMAR

How could they just die in the middle of the night? EMILY

LAMAR

That hardly ever happens, Emily.

EMILY

But why do --

MA

Oh, Lamar. We welcome you into our home and you try to tear it apart. I thought we could all be just one big huge happy family.

LAMAR

I can't take too much more of this, Emily. Honey. You should have married me already. And you know it.

EMILY

I'm going to bed.

LAMAR

You can't! What if the baby comes! It's almost midnight!! I bought flowers and everything --

MA

Oh, sure, carnations.

LAMAR

-- and now the baby's not here and WHERE IS IT? You must have done something wrong, Emily. The baby is due today! Today, today, today! You shouldn't have eaten all those marshmallows. Do you think babies like marshmallows? Huh?? Corn from a can is not a good dinner! There's no protein in that! You need protein when you're having a baby! How many times did I tell you that?

MA

Lamar, babies come when they're ready --

LAMAR

Not if you starve them to death!

EMILY

Corn is protein.

LAMAR

I'm sorry, but corn is not protein! I'm gonna have to do everything myself! I can see that! AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH CARNATIONS???? What? (then, to Emily:) What?

What? EMILY

I thought you made a noise. LAMAR

No. EMILY

She was probably trying to get you to leave her alone, weren't you pea? MA

No. EMILY LAMAR  
She was not.

I think she was. MA

No, he's just upset because the baby didn't come today. EMILY

Oh, relax, Lamar Lamaze. MA

Stop that! EMILY

Emily! MA

You shouldn't call him that if he doesn't like it -- EMILY

Don't contradict me! MA

I didn't. EMILY

You just did it again! Do NOT speak to me in that tone of -- MA

You're not the boss of me. EMILY

MA

Emily! I am *not* your boss! I'm your mother! Have I or have I not been your mother for thirty years! I think I deserve a little bit of respect for all the, all the, you can't imagine the work raising a child - raising you! Fine! If Lamar wants to take care of you, let him!

EMILY

Well, you shouldn't boss me around like that. I'm not a baby, you know! I'm getting married and everything.

FINE! We'll just go. Lamar - go get my hospital bag.

LAMAR

Yes, dear --

MA

Lamar, don't you dare!

EMILY

I am a grown woman.

MA

You are MY Emily - never forget that. Never forget who --

EMILY

A grown woman does not need a mother --

LAMAR

You tell 'er sweetheart!

MA

Emily! How can you speak to me this way - that baby will die! You will kill that baby! It's very easy to kill them, Emily!

EMILY

I can say whatever I want! I am a grown woman! A grown woman has a baby!! I will not kill that baby! I will make an excellent mother--

LAMAR (under their speeches)

Hey! OK, that's enough -- come on, you two, you're upsetting the baby -Emily! Don't yell near the baby! Emily! Babies do not like yelling! They like Mozart!

MA

You listen to me, young lady -- I have SLAVED for you for thirty

EMILY

I will not kill that baby!

I will feed him with my breast!

LAMAR

HEY! Stop it, you two! (to Ma) You: be quiet! (to Emily) You: get your things. We're going. I am going to take that baby away and take care of it myself! How about that, huh?

MA

You WOULDN'T.

LAMAR

A man has to do what a man has to do! I am taking my BABY and taking my WIFE and I am getting out of here and you'll never see us again!!

MA (overlapping)

I don't think so, Lamar. I don't think you're taking that baby anywhere --

LAMAR

I think I am --

MA

We'll see about that. We sure will. We'll see how you do at the custody hearing.

LAMAR

The what?

MA

You think you're the only one who can talk to a social worker? I put in a request for a custody hearing. You can't take care of a baby. Your problems, and Emily's problems --

EMILY

I don't have problems.

MA

So this is a good time for you to leave, Lamar. Before anything happens. Get out of this house. Take your stupid hammock and your stupid --

LAMAR (overlapping)

My hammock is not stupid!

MA

-- and your stupid toaster and stupid everything and get out, get out, get out!! We'll call you when the baby comes!

LAMAR

I'll be standing right there when the baby comes! That is MY BABY! NOT YOURS!

MA

That's great. Just great. I bet we get to see that temper at the custody hearing --

LAMAR

I can control my -- I am the father of the baby!

MA

-- they are going to take that baby away because you are going to kill that baby --

*He grabs her head and squeezes as hard as he can. She is screaming, Emily starts screaming.*

MA

Help me, Emily! Let go of my head!!! Bite him, Emily!

LAMAR

That baby is mine! MINE! MINE! MINE! (etc.)

*Mayhem as Lamar drags Ma around the room by the head.*

MA

BITE HIM, EMILY!!!

*Emily, in sheer panic, grabs the biggest cast iron pan and smashes him in the back, right on his sore lung. He gasps - the lung seems to have exploded. He looks at Emily, and*

LAMAR

Emily. My lung.

*He collapses, is still. Pause.*

EMILY

Lamar! Lamar?

MA

OK, pea, OK. All right. He's not going to hurt you anymore. All right. Oh, my God. Did you see him come after me? He was like a crazy person! Easy, sweetie. We'll say I did it. You were protecting me. That's all.

EMILY

Lamarlamarlamarlamarlamar. . .

MA (overlapping)

He's been in trouble at work, hasn't he? They know about him.

*Ma cautiously approaches Lamar, checks his carotid artery - no pumping.*

Oh, God.

*Emily's in a panicked mumble mode -- non-verbal is fine.*

What sweetie? What honey? You're mumbling. Mama can't hear you if you mumble, sweetie. What honey? Say something I can understand.

EMILY

Oh, no, oh, no, oh, no (etc.) Mamamamamamama. . . .

MA

Look at Mama. Look at Mama.

EMILY (hard to hear)

I wet my pants.

MA

What, lovey?

EMILY

I wet my pants -- my dress! My dress is all wet! It squirted out!

MA (overlapping)

Oh, Emily. It's the baby -- It's the baby coming! The water broke! It's the baby!

EMILY

I don't want the baby! I want Lamar -- Lamar!!!

MA (overlapping)

No, no, it's fine. It's good. We'll go to the doctor and we'll get that baby on out of there! It's time.

EMILY

Lamar! I hit Lamar!

MA

He'd have hurt the baby, Emily. You don't want to hurt the baby, do you?

EMILY

I hate this baby!

MA

Everything's fine, honey. Lean on Mama. We'll take a cab -- how would that be?

EMILY

I WANT MY HUSBAND!!

MA

You love cabs!

EMILY

I love Lamar! Lamar! I love you!!

MA

Emily! Stop!

EMILY (kicking his leg)

Move, Lamar! Wake up!

MA

Emily. Look at Mama. Look at Mama. We have to go to the hospital.

EMILY

Lamar? I'm sorry.

MA

Oh, he's all right. He can catch up with us. We have to hurry. Come on, baby. Here we go.

EMILY

Lamar, wake up!



MA

He's fine. (calling to Lamar) We'll see you in a bit, Lamar. (to Emily) Look at  
Mama. Come on. Everything is fine, baby.  
Everything is fine.

*They leave. Lamar is still.*

**BLACKOUT**