

# "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?

(CONTINUED)

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 p19/45

CONTINUED:

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)

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 p20115

215

CONTINUED:

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--

(CONTINUED)

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 p24/15

315

CONTINUED:

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

AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

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

ALEXIS

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

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.

(CONTINUED)

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 part 45

4/5

LENA

What?

ALEXIS

It's when a kid goes missing.

LENA

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS. (panicks) Oh my God, Oh my God, Oh my God....

ALEXIS

Another contraction?

A contraction comes on. LENA screams and talks while going through the contraction.

LENA

WHAT ARE WE DOING?! WHAT KIND OF WORLD ARE WE BRINGING THIS BABY INTO!? OH MY GOD HOW WILL WE KEEP HIM OR HER SAFE FROM ALL THE DANGERS IN THE WORLDDDDDDDD?!  
AHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

ALEXIS

Breathe, breathe,...

The contraction subsides.

LENA

(sobbing)

There is a scared baby out there...

ALEXIS

Look at me. Look at me. Repeat after me. It's all going to be okay. We will protect our baby. Say it. We will protect our baby.

LENA

We will protect our baby.

ALEXIS

We will love our baby.

LENA

We will love our baby so so much.

ALEXIS

Our baby will be safe with us.

(CONTINUED)

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 p22/15