

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Logline: When Lynn's daughter is close to death in emergency surgery, it brings a flood of memories forcing Lynn to face the decades long rift between her and her own mother.

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Address  
Phone Number

FADE IN:

INT. MATERNITY WARD - DAY

A homey hospital room with wood-looking linoleum floors and a loveseat that makes out into a bed for dad. The quick THA-THUNK, THA-THUNK sound of a babies heart beat is amplified from a monitor.

At the window, forty-one year old LYNN stares out at the wind thrashing the limbs of an old oak tree.

The twenty-something mom to be, ROSE, pants away on the bed. She's drenched with sweat and looks exhausted, but her focus is riveted on her husband to keep the pain at bay.

STEVE sits holding Rose's hand. He remains perfectly still while Rose puffs. Steve can't hold it anymore, he lets out a big yawn. Rose let's out a moan.

ROSE

Uh-h-h! St... eve!... Is this... boring you?!

STEVE

I wasn't expecting it to be this hard.

Rose looks at Steve with fury.

STEVE

Maybe we need to pray?

Rose's face relaxes. She looks over to Lynn.

ROSE

Mom?

Lynn turns away from the window.

LYNN

Go ahead. Mine won't count.

Rose sighs. She expected as much. Steve grabs his wife's hands and bows his head.

LYNN

I'll get the doctor.

DOCTOR Jeffries opens the door just as Lynn reaches for it. The Doctor's face is full of concern but in control.

DOCTOR

Okay, Rose. I've reviewed the ultrasound. It looks like the baby is too big to make it through.

Steve stops and looks at the Doctor. Rose's head falls back against the pillow. Lynn takes her daughter's hand.

LYNN

What does that mean?

DOCTOR

It means we're going to have to do a cesarean. The baby's getting weaker with each contraction, so we need to get in there soon.

Steve's face goes pale. Doctor Jeffries gives Rose's hand a pat and walks to the door.

DOCTOR

The nurse will get you ready.

The Doctor leaves and Steve looks at Lynn in an effort to figure out what to say.

Rose moans.

ROSE

It's another one.

Rose moans and pants as she has a contraction. The galloping THA-THUNK, THA-THUNK of the babies heart beat slows down.

ROSE

Ah-h-h-hhh... Okay. It's... going...

The heart rate speeds back up to the quick pace it was before. A NURSE rushes into the room with a clipboard.

NURSE

Saw that one on the monitor at the desk. Better get you into surgery.

She pushes the clipboard at Steve.

NURSE

Sign at the X's.

She puts a blue hat over Rose's hair and starts unhooking some of her monitors. Rose looks up at Lynn and grabs her hand.

ROSE

Mom?

LYNN

You'll be fine, honey.

Rose relaxes her hold a bit. She smiles at Lynn. Steve hands the clipboard back to the nurse.

NURSE

Okay, Dad. Put this on to go in.

She hands Steve a white flimsy jumpsuit and blue hat that matches Rose's. Steve's eyes bulge.

NURSE

You're not a fainter are you?

The Nurse doesn't wait for a reply. She's out the door.

LYNN

You'll be fine too, Steve.

ROSE

Is this what it was like with me?

Lynn frowns.

LYNN

I was sixteen. I was screaming my head off.

Rose manages a tired laugh. Lynn looks at the empty metal bassinet waiting beside the bed.

LYNN

No. I was all alone.

She shakes off the memory and pats Rose's hand. Steve almost falls over trying to get into the white jumpsuit over his jeans and T-shirt.

ROSE

Oh, no. Not already.

Rose grips the sides of her bed and starts to pant. She can't hold it together this time. She has a look of panic in her eyes. Lynn grabs her face and turns it toward her.

LYNN

Focus on me.

Lynn starts to pant. Rose follows along not taking her eyes off her mom. The heart beat accelerates and then slows down. Way down. An alarm goes off. BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

The Nurse and another staff member rush into the room.

NURSE

Let's go! Let's go!

She grabs the head of Rose's bed and the helper unlocks the wheels and grabs the bottom of the bed frame. They start rolling out with Lynn still holding Rose's hand.

NURSE

Come on, Dad.

They get to the door, but Rose won't let go of Lynn.

LYNN

I'll be right here waiting, honey.  
Right here.

Rose let's go. Steve follows them out. Lynn watches them race down the hall. She walks back into the room. She runs a hand across a wooden rocking chair. And sits in it.

She begins to rock.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. OLD MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Lynn's monochromatic memory. A very pregnant sixteen year-old Lynn lays in a metal hospital bed. White walls, white floors, metal tables.

YOUNG LYNN writhes in bed panting. She lets a out a scream between pants.

An old BATTLE AX nurse comes in wearing a starched white uniform complete with white stiff nurse's cap.

BATTLE AX

Better toughen up, missy. Only gets worse.

Young Lynn looks at her with eyes full of tears.

YOUNG LYNN

My mom?

BATTLE AX

Said she ain't coming.

Lynn turns away. The tears flow.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Lynn looks around the room. She looks up.

LYNN  
Can you even hear me anymore?

She waits.

The door opens and the Nurse walks in leading Steve. He holds an icepack to his head. Lynn jumps up.

LYNN  
What happened?

The Nurse sits him in the rocker and rushes back out.

STEVE  
I didn't mean to look...

He lowers the ice pack. A red bump is visible on his head.

STEVE  
It just got black and... boom. I  
woke up on the floor.

He looks at Lynn.

STEVE  
How do women do this?

LYNN  
Not much choice once the deed is  
done.

STEVE  
And you went through it alone. Your  
mother already passed when you...?

LYNN  
No. She died the year after Rose  
was born.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Monochromatic Young Lynn, in a white patient gown, sits on the edge of the examining table. Her eyes are down watching her hands clasp and unclasp in her lap.

Lynn's mother, KATHERINE, sits bolt upright in her crisp white blouse and gray polyester skirt suit. She stands clutching her black purse.

YOUNG LYNN

I'm pregnant, not going to jail.

KATHERINE

...and all the overtime...

Lynn rolls her eyes.

KATHERINE

It'll have to go to raising another baby.

YOUNG LYNN

I can raise my own baby.

KATHERINE

What would your father think?

YOUNG LYNN

We might know if you hadn't chased him away.

That blow is written all over Katherine's face.

KATHERINE

That's a very childish thing to say.

Katherine stomps out the door. Lynn hops down.

YOUNG LYNN

I don't need you either!

END FLASHBACK.

INT. MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Lynn sighs and looks over at Steve.

STEVE

But you gave Rose her middle name, Katherine. Why?

Lynn clasps her hands in her lap. The Nurse rushes into the room.

NURSE

Congratulations. It's a girl. You can go see her in the nursery.

She's right back out. Steve is frozen in place. Lynn pats his shoulder as she passes.

LYNN

Well come on, daddy. Let's go see that baby.

A smile takes over Steve's face. He hops up.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Steve and Lynn stand looking through the clear glass at nurses while they clean up a very pink, wiggly newborn.

STEVE

Oh my gosh. She's beautiful!

LYNN

What's her name?

STEVE

We can't agree. I want Shasta. After my favorite mountain. Have you seen it? Beautiful...

LYNN

Rose told me she's not naming her daughter after a volcano.

The Newborn lets out a loud cry to protest the nurses putting clothes on her.

LYNN

Maybe it's appropriate after all. She looks just like Rose when she was born.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. OLD MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Young Lynn wears a white hospital bathrobe and takes careful steps toward the nursery. She looks up to see Katherine standing at the nursery window holding a white frilly bassinet with a big white bow around it.

Lynn quickens her pace to the window. Katherine puts a hand up to the glass and smiles at the babies.

LYNN

What are you doing here?

KATHERINE

Oh... I want to-

LYNN

Get out!

Katherine stumbles back a step.

LYNN

We don't need you. Leave us alone!

Katherine turns. She stops and turns back. She places the bassinet on the ground and walks away.

The Battle Ax Nurse stops her.

BATTLE AX

Miss! You've left something.

Katherine looks back at Lynn.

KATHERINE

It's for my daughter.

Katherine walks away. Lynn watches her go.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Lynn puts her hand up to the glass. She looks at her hand there.

STEVE

Rose should be holding her. Why aren't they telling us anything?

The Nurse looks around the corner and spots them. She hurries to Steve and hands him another clipboard.

NURSE

Sign here. It's to consent for blood.

LYNN

What? What's happening?

NURSE

She's lost a lot of blood. The baby  
was wedged down in the pelvis.

Steve scratches his signature on the form and pushes the  
clipboard back.

STEVE

Is she-she...?

NURSE

The Doctor is doing her best.

The Nurse rushes out. Steve flops against the glass. Lynn  
puts a hand on his shoulder. Steve looks up at her.

STEVE

I can't loose her. She's my...  
she's my everything.

Through the glass, a nurse motions Steve into the nursery. He  
looks back at Lynn.

LYNN

Go hold your baby. I'll wait in the  
room.

INT. MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Lynn stares out at the old tree battered by the wind. She  
looks up and closes her eyes.

LYNN

I-

Lynn clears her throat.

LYNN

I need your help. I have nothing to  
offer you, but me. Not much of a  
bargain, I know.

Lynn opens her eyes. She waits.

LYNN

Is it too late for me?

No answer. Lynn closes her eyes and reaches her hand up to  
the glass in agony.

LYNN

Please! It's not for me. It's for  
my daughter.

KATHERINE (V.O.)  
It's for my daughter.

Lynn's eyes fly open. Tears pool.

Steve rushes in.

STEVE  
She's okay! They told me she's in  
recovery.

Lynn wipes tears from her eyes.

STEVE  
You alright?

For the first time, in a long time, Lynn is smiling.

LYNN  
Yes, I am now.

STEVE  
They'll let me go in with her.

LYNN  
Give her my love.

STEVE  
You're leaving?

LYNN  
I need to get something from home.  
A present for the three of you.

Lynn turns back to the window and looks up.

LYNN  
Thank you.

INT. LYNN'S ATTIC - DAY

Lynn pushes aside dusty boxes and looks around. She pulls an old blanket away. Underneath is the bassinet. Still covered in plastic. The big bow has wilted and yellowed.

She brushes off the dust.

INT. NURSERY/INSIDE - DAY

Rose sits in a rocker holding a bundled up baby. Steve coos and talks baby talk to the little girl. Lynn comes. She carries the bassinet.

LYNN  
Oh! She's so beautiful!

Lynn is all smiles as she kisses momma and baby.

ROSE  
Isn't she precious?

LYNN  
The second most precious thing I've  
ever seen.

Lynn smiles at her daughter. Rose returns the grin.

LYNN  
And this is something you'll be  
needing at home.

Lynn hands Steve the white bassinet.

LYNN  
My mother gave it to me when you  
were born.

Steve unwraps the plastic.

ROSE  
From Grandma?

LYNN  
I'm sorry you didn't get to know  
her, Rose. She loved you from the  
first moment she saw you.

Steve pulls a faded card from the bassinet.

STEVE  
It's addressed to you.

He hands Lynn the card. She stares at the familiar writing.

LYNN  
It's from mom.

Lynn uses gentle pressure to release the old gum.

LYNN  
My Darling, Daughter. Please  
forgive me for how I've behaved. I  
love you and only want the best for  
you and your little miracle.

A tear slides down Lynn's cheek.

LYNN

All my love always, Mom.

Steve puts a hand on her shoulder. Lynn dries her tears and looks at Rose and Steve. She leans down and touches the babies cheek.

LYNN

So, what did you name this little angel?

Rose looks up at Steve.

ROSE

I'm thinking, Katherine. Steve?

Steve smiles.

STEVE

Katherine it is. I like Katherine Shasta...

Rose gives him the eye.

Lynn smiles. And manages a nod. She walks over to the glass look-through window.

The memory of her mother appears. She whispers to the memory.

LYNN

I'm sorry, Mom. Forgive me. I forgive you.

She reaches her hand up and places it on the glass over Katherine's. Katherine smiles. Her white blouse turns pink to match her pink lipstick. That's right, it was pink wasn't it?

Lynn smiles.

FADE OUT.

