

SHELBY

Uh... Jackson and I have something to tell you. We wanted to tell you when you and Daddy were together, but you're never together, so it's every man for himself... I'm pregnant.

M'LYNN

Shelby?!

SHELBY

I'm going to have a baby.

M'LYNN

I realize that.

SHELBY

Well... is that it? Is that all you're going to say?

M'LYNN

I... what do you expect me to say?

SHELBY

Something along the lines of congratulations.

M'LYNN

...Congratulations.

SHELBY

Would it be too much to ask for a little excitement? Not too much, I wouldn't want you to break a sweat or anything.

M'LYNN

I'm in a state of shock! I didn't think...

SHELBY

In June. Oh, Mama. You have to help me plan. We're going to get a new house. Jackson and I are going house hunting next week. Jackson loves to hunt for anything.

M'LYNN

What does Jackson have to say about this?

SHELBY

Oh, he's very excited. He says he doesn't care whether it's a boy or a girl... but I know he really wants a son so bad he can taste it. He's so cute about the whole thing. It's all he can talk about... Jackson Latcherie Junior.

M'LYNN

But does he ever listen? I mean when the doctors and specialists give you advice. I know you never listen, but does he? I guess since he doesn't have to carry the baby, it doesn't really concern him.

SHELBY

Mama, don't be mad. I couldn't bear it if you were. It's Christmas.

M'LYNN

I'm not mad, Shelby. This is just... hard. I thought that... I don't know.

SHELBY

Mama. I want this child.

M'LYNN

But what about the adoption proceedings? You have filed so many applications.

SHELBY

Mama, it didn't take us long to see the handwriting wall. No judge is going to give a baby to someone with my medical track record. Jackson even put out some feelers about buying one.

M'LYNN

People do it all the time.

SHELBY

Listen to me. I want a child of my own. I think it would help things a lot.

M'LYNN

I see.

SHELBY

Mama, I know, I know. Don't think I haven't thought this through. You can't live a life if all you do is worry. And you worry too much. In some ways, it's a comfort to me. I never worry because I know you're worrying enough for the both of us. Jackson and I have given this a lot of thought.

M'LYNN

Has he really? There's a first time for everything.

SHELBY

Don't start on Jackson.

M'LYNN

Shelby. Your poor body has been through so much. Why do you deliberately want to...

SHELBY

Mama, diabetics have healthy babies all the time.

M'LYNN

Ou are special. There are limits to what you can do.

SHELBY

Mama... listen. I have it all planned. I'm going to be very careful. And this time next year, I'm going to be bringing your big healthy grandbaby to the Christmas festival. No one is going to be hurt or disappointed, ore even inconvenienced.

M'LYNN

Least of all Jackson, I'm sure.

SHELBY

You are jealous because you no longer have any say-so in what I do. And that drives you up the wall. You're ready to spit nails because you can't call the shots.

M'LYNN

I did not raise my daughter to talk to me this way.

SHELBY

Yes you did. Whenever any of us asked you what you wanted us to be when we grew up, what did you say?

M'LYNN

Shelby, I am not in the mood for games.

SHELBY

What did you say? Just tell me what you said. Answer me.

M'LYNN

I said all I wanted was for you to be happy.

SHELBY

OK. The thing that would make me happy is to have a baby. If I could adopt one, I would, but I can't. I'm going to have a baby. I wish you would be happy, too.

M'LYNN

I wish I... I don't know what I wish.

SHELBY

Mama, I don't know why you have to make everything so difficult. I look at having this baby as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sure, there may be some risk involved. That's true for anybody. But you get through it and life goes on. And when it's all said and done, there'll be a little piece of immortality with Jackson's looks and my sense of style... I hope. Mama, please. I need your support. I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.