

Baby, Jesus!

by Murray Mednick

Baby, Jesus! was first produced at The Lost Studio by Circus Minimus in 1996, under the direction of Guy Zimmerman, with the following cast:

Jennifer: Dawn Howard

Chrystal: Roxanne Rogers

Margaret/Dorothy: Cinda Jackson

Paul: John Stepling

Mordecai: Murray Mednick

Characters

Jennifer *A pregnant teen.*

Chrystal *Jennifer's friend, older.*

Margaret/Dorothy

Paul

Mordecai

A room with a Christmas tree, lit from inside, a plastic Baby Jesus, a Madonna and Child, a phone. JENNIFER listens in as CHRYSTAL speaks with MARGARET on the phone.

- Margaret** *(Phone voice)* I'm sorry, dear, what did you say your last name was?
- Chrystal** *(Spells it)* Kimmineu.
- Margaret** My, what kind of a name is that, dear?
- Chrystal** German. I'm part German, part Irish.
- Margaret** Ramsey Kimmineu. I'm very glad to meet you, Ramsey. Are you calling from Las Vegas?
- Chrystal** Yes, Ma'am. It's 6:00 here now. What time is it there?
- Margaret** Oh, it's 7:00, Ramsey, in Chicago. You can call me Margaret. Have you decided that adoption is the best plan for the future of your baby, Ramsey?
- Chrystal** Oh, for sure.
- Margaret** Why?
- Chrystal** Well, I don't know how to say this, but I'm too young. I want to party. I want to go back to drinking beer and partying.
- Margaret** Oh. Have you been taking care of yourself, dear?
- Chrystal** That's what I'm saying. I've been living like a nun, taking care of myself, what's inside me. But I can't, um, you know... become a mother right now. I have to face that, come to terms with that, and I have, so I'm calling, and this is my first call.
- Margaret** The very first one?
- Chrystal** Yes, Ma'am. I don't want to string out a whole bunch of people. Who want to be parents. I want to take them one at a time. When I find, you know, the right situation, then I'm ready to make a commitment.

Margaret I see. Sounds good. Do you smoke, Ramsey?

Chrystal No, Ma'am. Margaret. I haven't had a smoke and I haven't had a drink... in eight months.

Margaret Well, that's fine, Ramsey. Can you tell me something about the father?

Chrystal He's a blonde, like me. About six-two. Blue eyes. Very good looking. He's a first-generation American, part Swiss, part Finnish.

Margaret What does he like to do?

Chrystal Oh, he's a college boy. He wants to be a musician, I think. But he doesn't know what he wants, really. He writes poetry and songs. Then he wants to be a painter. He paints a lot. I don't know. I don't know and he don't know.

Margaret My, my. When is the baby due?

Chrystal January fifteenth.

Margaret Oh, my.

Chrystal Yeah. (*Big sigh*)

Margaret That's in less than a month, Ramsey.

Chrystal I know it. And it's twins.

Margaret Oh, my goodness!

Chrystal I'm a moral person, really. But I'm not ready for that, and neither is he, Michael. That's the father. I'm moral, though, and I want them to have a good home.

Margaret Oh, my.

Chrystal Most people adopt again, you know. They adopt, and then they adopt again. This way you can do it all at once. Get the entire family. And everything is fine. They'll be five or six pounds when they're born, which is good for twins.

Margaret Do you know... uh...?

Chrystal It's either two boys or two girls, identical. They're facing

each other with their arms around each other. Isn't that sweet? They're in one water bag, so you can't see the genitalia. So we don't know what sex. I only gained twenty-six pounds.

Margaret Ramsey?

Chrystal Michael's a kid. He just wants attention. He'll sign papers. It's easy here in Vegas. So we can do our thing.

Margaret What is your thing?

Chrystal I'm a cocktail waitress. *(Pause)* What I want to do right now. *(Pause)* I quit, I had to, after the first six weeks, I had to quit, I haven't worked. Now I want to go back to work.

Margaret Is this bogus? Is this a bogus call? Ramsey? *(CHRISTAL hangs up, laughs)*

Chrystal Margaret. I called her last night, as a person named Lisa. Fifteen years old. I had a totally different voice. We talked for forty minutes. Mrs. Margaret Harrington, of Chicago, an artiste. She wants an artistic child. Caucasian.

Jennifer That was... Jesus, Chrystal, incredible.

Chrystal You want to try it? Get a lady on the phone?

Jennifer We could do that.

Chrystal Talk to one? You get these women on the phone, they're dying to take your baby, whatever, they'll listen to your story.

Jennifer It could be triplets. *(Laughs)*

Chrystal No, you have to make up a good story. You be believable. It's like acting. It's just like acting, only nobody can tell because it's your voice, it's only your voice, it's so cool. It was the water bag that blew it with Margaret.

Jennifer You're really good, though.

Chrystal Triplets sound funny. They'll get alarmed. They'll hand up the phone, like with the water bag. You want to keep them on the phone, and, you know, explore.

Jennifer I'm seven months, and who's the father?

Chrystal You make him up. Some jerk. They don't know. They can't tell anything.

Jennifer I have ideas for that.

Chrystal They don't see your body. They don't see you. They just hear this voice, this lost soul, this little teenage girl, if you want. It's an 800 number, so they even pay for it, these people. You have a *TV Guide*? Where's my *TV Guide*?

Jennifer Here's a *TV Guide*.

Chrystal Not the paper, the regular one, from the store.

Jennifer It's so cool, because you could be another person. You become another person, on the phone.

Chrystal Here it is. What would be your name?

Jennifer What's a good name?

Chrystal Oh, you know, like a teenage name, like a good American name, a Protestant name, like Kimberly. Or Jennifer.

Jennifer And who are you?

Chrystal Well, I don't have to be here.

Jennifer In case you're here.

Chrystal I'm your best friend, and my name is Mary. How old are you?

Jennifer Twenty-three.

Chrystal Say nineteen. They expect that. Nice little voice. Little teenager. Fucked a guy. Whatever. Do not like abortions. Poor thing. Like that. Thing is, don't know too much ahead of time, because that's the fun part, making it up. You know, you have to be ready. Who the person is, what's their angle. And you never know with these people, but be careful about money, don't say anything about money.

Jennifer Don't ask for money.

Chrystal No, they get suspicious. The thing is to keep them on the line, get their hopes up. I had one for an hour and 35 minutes. Tabetha and a lady named Rachel, in New York City. I was Tabetha, from a little town in Arkansas... Rockingport.

Jennifer What area code?

Chrystal Any area code.

Jennifer If they ask for a number.

Chrystal What difference does it make? Pick a number. And now is a good time. Now is the perfect time. The day before Christmas, because they're lonely, they're thinking about it, see what I'm saying?

Jennifer Why?

Chrystal I have my reasons. Las Vegas is good, because they can get a quick relinquishment there.

Jennifer I mean, why do you do it?

Chrystal I don't know why. I like the acting. I hate these people. You know, what kind of world is this? Advertising for babies.

Jennifer It's different.

Chrystal I feel like doing another one. You want to do it?

Jennifer I should get my act together.

Chrystal Not too much.

Jennifer No, I mean to start off. You have to start somewhere.

Chrystal Me and Rachel, we had a whole relationship. Not me, Tabetha. Tabetha and Rachel. New York City in Queens. I learned a lot, believe me. All about Queens, all about Rachel and Morty. The Sterns. What they do, how they live, the sad tale, the many woes.

Jennifer What was with them?

Chrystal Infertility. Right? No baby. Want a baby. Jesus. He was a film professor in a college. And she was an editorial assistant,

Rachel, for a magazine. What do you think, did they want a smart kid, or what?

Jennifer A genius intellectual.

Chrystal I could tell by the sound. You got a Rachel and a Morty in the city of New York, or Queens. Guy is fifty, and she is thirty-nine, which I'm not so sure is the truth, and they're so vain. So, I could hear that. They want to be nice to a Gentile birth mother. You know how the Jews are, they're insecure. They got a Tabettha in Arkansas, the poor thing, she never saw a Jew in her life probably, maybe they're gonna get a bright little Gentile out of Arkansas to bring up, so I said the father was a computer programmer who was engaged to a pre-med student.

Jennifer What were you?

Chrystal I was Tabettha. Seventeen. In Arkansas. Tabettha had memorized the complete New Testament.

Jennifer Oh, that was clever!

Chrystal Yeah, and then I said some quotes.

Jennifer You can do that. You're knowledgeable.

Chrystal And you know what she lets slip? Rachel? We're making conversation. She says, "We don't say that, because for us it is not the Old Testament, it is the Bible. There is not a new and an old, there is only the Bible." So I make a long silence. Silences really get them. They think it's all gone wrong. "Tabettha? Are you there? I didn't mean anything by that, Tabettha. We are not prejudiced people, my husband and I." So I reassure her, and I explain that even though I'm young, I have the church. I have the church in my life. I believe in Jesus. I believe in the baby Jesus. And that is why I'm against abortion. I'm against abortion because of

my religious beliefs. And so is the father, who is now my ex-boyfriend.

Jennifer That's a good story.

Chrystal Anything partly true will work. Because it's easier. You become. I became Tabetha. That's the thing. That's the kick. That and the way you can twist them around. These people. Then I asked the big one, right? I go, "How will the child be raised? Because religion is very important to me. Religion is the most important thing, because I was raised a Mormon. Otherwise they get confused." And Rachel goes, "This would be an open adoption, Tabetha." I called myself Tabetha. "That's how it works in the contemporary world of adoption. Therefore the child would know, he would know what he was and he could choose, he could have a choice."

Jennifer Do the Mormons believe in Jesus?

Chrystal I don't know. I don't know a thing about Mormons. And neither did Rachel.

Jennifer Tell me, how did you get pregnant?

Chrystal They don't care.

Jennifer I would care.

Chrystal You wouldn't care. You want a baby. Jesus, what do you care? But not a rapist, and not an unknown. That they don't like. It makes a bad impression. And not a black guy, either. Unless, you know, you get that hit, you get a feeling they might go for that, you hear what I'm saying? Then you say, "I think maybe his father could be black." Like, a tantalizing half-breed, with hazel eyes. Some people, you don't know. And it's a performance. You could make up a whole romance, a tragedy. On the phone, on the spot.

Jennifer How did I get pregnant?

Chrystal Come on, you and your boyfriend, who is a very nice guy, a sweetheart, but immature, he's not ready for a relationship, you were out, your I.U.D. slipped. An accident. Whatever. You had a steady, one time he overlooked precautions. You get pregnant easily. You could throw that in. That always gets them. To get pregnant easy.

Jennifer I'm healthy. I have healthy desires.

Chrystal Hey.

Jennifer This is the modern world.

Chrystal Exactly.

Jennifer I can't have an abortion, my parents are serious Mormons.

Chrystal You ready to try?

Jennifer What address?

Chrystal You make one up, but you hold back. You're shy and confused. You don't want to be a teenage mom. But it's very difficult to give up a baby, remember that. If I had one, I could never give it up. A baby? Jesus. Could you?

Jennifer Never.

Chrystal I couldn't give one up, and I couldn't take one from somebody else, either. Okay, let's look in the ads.

Jennifer Where am I?

Chrystal I don't know. Say Utah.

Jennifer Why Utah?

Chrystal Mormons. Where's the magazine? Here we go. Adoption.

Jennifer Okay.

Chrystal Now remember one thing, which is that you want to know them, right? You don't just give your baby away, right? Your own flesh and blood. You want to know what kind of home, what's her expectations, like that. Remember, you're the birth mother.

Jennifer This is exciting.

Chrystal It's okay to be nervous. *(Reads)* Richard and Malvina. Florida. Sounds Black. You want to do Black? No. Middle class couple, California. Paul and Dorothy. Will cherish your child. Dorothy. You want to do Dorothy? What time is it in California?

Jennifer It's early there yet. Is there money in this? There could be money in this. People might send checks.

Chrystal No.

Jennifer But I should ask. Because you just don't give your baby away.

Chrystal You do. You give it away.

Jennifer In return.

Chrystal No, they don't want to buy a baby, because baby-buying is illegal. But maybe you never know, because they stretch. They stretch it as far as they can, these people out there in phoneland, in 800-number-land.

Jennifer Give me the number.

Chrystal If a guy answers, hang up. You don't want to talk to a guy.

Jennifer Why not?

Chrystal They don't want to talk. It's no fun. They're not interested in baby shit and lost teenagers. They don't talk. Ready? 1-800-876-5890. *(Dials)* It's in California. *(Phone rings)*

Dorothy *(Phone voice)* Hello?

Jennifer Hello, Dorothy?

Dorothy This is Dorothy.

Jennifer Hi, I'm Jennifer. Uh. Is this *TV Guide*? No, I mean, I saw your ad in *TV Guide*.

Dorothy Of course, Jennifer. Thanks so much for calling.

Jennifer You're welcome. Uh. Well, I...

Dorothy That's all right. I'm nervous, too. This is a whole new... uh... experience for me, ha, ha. I mean, it's difficult. This must be difficult for you, too.

Jennifer It is, yes.

Dorothy But I'm so glad you called. I really am. I know how hard it is to call a number in a magazine, a total stranger, about something so important, as important as this must be for you.

Jennifer Yes, it is.

Dorothy How old are you? *(Pause)* Do you mind my asking?

Jennifer Nineteen.

Dorothy Nineteen?

Jennifer Yeah. Do I sound young?

Dorothy You sound very young.

Jennifer Is that all right?

Dorothy Yes, of course it's all right, it's perfectly fine. Please don't think I meant anything at all by that. It's fine. *(Silence)* Jennifer? Are you there?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy It's fine to be young. *(Pause)* It's wonderful. Nineteen. It's great, it's the best age, ha, ha.

Jennifer It's okay.

Dorothy Of course, this is a hard time for you, isn't it? Jennifer?

Jennifer Yes, it is, uh...

Dorothy Dorothy.

Jennifer Yes, it is, Dorothy.

Dorothy Well, I take it that you have decided that adoption is the best plan for your baby.

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy When is the baby due?

Jennifer Uh, I think it's due on... February twenty-fifth.

Dorothy Oh! So you're in your seventh month?

Jennifer Yeah, it's seven months.

Dorothy Oh! Do you have a doctor? Jennifer?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy I should have asked you, I'm sorry, I'm excited about this, but did you have a confirmed pregnancy test?

Jennifer Do I need one? (*Looks to CHRYSAL*) I don't think I need one. I mean, I know I'm pregnant.

Dorothy Of course, you do. I meant from the doctor. (*CHRYSAL nods*) Officially.

Jennifer Yes, I did.

Dorothy So you're almost in your seventh month. God. I have so many questions. It's a little overwhelming. This is my first call. Is this your first call?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy Do you have questions? (*Silence*) Well, if you don't, that's all right, Jennifer. Maybe you will later. Do you mind if I ask you a couple of things now?

Jennifer No.

Dorothy Well, where are you? I know this sounds silly, but where are you? (*Pause*) I mean, where are you calling from?

Jennifer Nevada.

Dorothy Nevada. Whereabouts in Nevada?

Jennifer It's a little town. It's near Salt Lake, I mean Las Vegas. Rockingport.

Dorothy Las Vegas.

Jennifer It's near there.

Dorothy Is it snowing?

Jennifer It's not snowing.

Dorothy Oh. Too bad, I love the snow. I miss it.

Jennifer It doesn't snow there?

Dorothy I'm in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Oh. Okay.

Dorothy It never snows here. And I'm originally from Pennsylvania. Stroudsburg, P-A, where it snowed in the winter. We had beautiful Christmases. So that's why I'm saying... Anyway, Merry Christmas, Jennifer.

Jennifer Thank you. Are you hanging up now?

Dorothy No. I just thought, I don't want to press you. I'd love to keep talking, if you would like that, Jennifer. (*Silence*) Are your parents there? Jennifer?

Jennifer They're here, but I'm not staying with them. I'm not staying with them because they don't like the idea.

Dorothy Of you being pregnant?

Jennifer They don't like the idea of anything.

Dorothy You mean?

Jennifer Not anything.

Dorothy They don't like you being pregnant, and they don't approve of abortion either, is that what you mean?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy But they know about adoption?

Jennifer Excuse me?

Dorothy They know you want to give the child up for adoption?

Jennifer Oh, yes.

Dorothy I'm glad, Jennifer. Where are you staying?

Jennifer I'm staying at a friend's house. They're Greeks. They're all in there now eating fish, and videotaping. They videotape everything. (*CHRISTAL cracks up silently*)

Dorothy Is there a number there where you can be reached?

Jennifer Excuse me?

Dorothy A phone number.

Jennifer Yes. Uh, 619-885—uh—9076.

Dorothy And what's your friend's name, Jennifer?

Jennifer Ask for Mary.

Dorothy Mary. Okay. Thanks. I don't mean to ask so many questions, but I'm serious about this. Can I ask you something else important?

Jennifer Sure.

Dorothy Do you have medical insurance?

Jennifer Uh, maybe my parent... I don't know... no.

Dorothy No?

Jennifer Uh, no.

Dorothy Have you applied for Medicaid?

Jennifer Medicaid? (*CHRISTAL nods vigorously*) Yes, I have. Because my parents, you know, they won't.

Dorothy They won't pay for it.

Jennifer They won't and my boyfriend won't. So, how else?

Dorothy You're very brave, Jennifer.

Jennifer I don't have any money.

Dorothy What's he like, your boyfriend?

Jennifer He's a jerk.

Dorothy Oh.

Jennifer You know, he's not stupid or anything. He's just a jerk. He is immature. (*CHRISTAL is cracking up*) Carl. I can't stand him.

Dorothy Why not?

Jennifer He's like, he's not in the picture, like he doesn't get it.

Dorothy How old is he?

Jennifer He's twenty.

Dorothy Well, he's still a kid, Jennifer.

Jennifer I can hardly talk to him. Because he doesn't pay any

attention. He can't deal with my problems because he has too many problems of his own.

Dorothy That's quite common, Jennifer.

Jennifer He's a total mess now. I mean, it's Christmas, and he's spending all of his time in the library. He won't even talk to me. And the reason is, he's there with his ex-girlfriend, the one before me. So he doesn't have time for me. And the reason she's there is, she's a deaf-mute. Actually, she died. Today.

Dorothy Wait a second, Jennifer.

Jennifer I know this sounds weird. I know this sounds strange. His ex-girlfriend, she's Myra, she had problems, because of her condition, and Carl had to be there. It's a medical condition. And today she died, so now he has to do that. You know, the funeral and stuff. I hope he spends the rest of his life in jail.

Dorothy Carl?

Jennifer Not Carl. Carl is a sweetie-pie, really. He's the nicest guy. He is harmless. He's just, you know, inexperienced. I mean the... I can't explain it. But not Carl.

Dorothy What's Carl like?

Jennifer Uh, he's very good-looking. (*CHRISTAL nods vigorously*) Carl ain't ugly. He's a grey-eyed ladykiller, that boy. Because he's sweet. It's not just looks. And he's very smart, like me. I think I am, you know, smart. But I think he's young for his age.

Dorothy How tall is Carl?

Jennifer Five-ten, maybe. He's a bit taller than me.

Dorothy How tall are you?

Jennifer I'm five-nine-and-a-half.

Dorothy Oh.

Jennifer Is that okay?

Dorothy Of course it's okay.

Jennifer Because if that's a problem.

Dorothy It's not a problem. My husband is short. But if it's not a problem for you, it's not a problem for us. You sound... wonderful, Jennifer.

Jennifer He could be short, your husband. Is it Paul?

Dorothy Paul.

Jennifer He could be short. I only would want, you know, a good upbringing. I would want... it... to have morals. Because I'm a very moral person. Otherwise, short's okay.

Dorothy If we were to go on, Jennifer, if we were to go further with this, then you would get to know us. We would all get to know each other. Would you want that? *(Pause)* My husband, Paul, is an absolutely wonderful man. You could talk to him if you want to. Would you like to say hello to Paul? Hear his voice? He's right here.

Jennifer Okay.

Dorothy Say hello to Paul. Paul?

Paul *(Phone Voice)* Hello? Jennifer?

Jennifer Hi.

Paul Hi, Jennifer. This is Paul. I'm very glad to meet you. How are you?

Jennifer Fine.

Paul How are things in, where is it, Utah? No, Nevada. How are things in Nevada?

Jennifer They're fine.

Paul That's good, Jennifer. Are you feeling okay?

Jennifer I feel fine. I mean, I'm big.

Paul Well, of course you are.

Jennifer I bang into things. At night, I can't turn over. But... I'm not sick, or anything.

Paul Good, Jennifer. Uh, let's see. Are you having a nice Christmas holiday so far?

Jennifer Fine.

Paul Good, Jennifer. Well, this is very exciting for us. I hope it is for you, too.

Jennifer Okay.

Paul I hope we can get to know each other. I'm sure we will.

Jennifer Okay.

Paul Well, I've about shot my load, ha, ha, Jennifer. I guess I'll give you back to my wife. I think you'll be more comfortable with her. Dorothy? Here's Dorothy. 'Bye, now.

(DOROTHY comes back on the line)

Dorothy *(Phone Voice)* Jennifer? Are you there?

Jennifer Hi.

Dorothy That was Paul. *(Silence)* He's shy. As I feel you are. And it's perfectly understandable. So if you want to get off the line now, that would be all right with us. *(Pause)* And we could speak again soon. What do you think? *(Pause)* Just a few more things maybe you should know, if you want.

Jennifer Okay.

Dorothy Well, we live fifteen minutes from the beach in a nice house with plenty of room. Paul is in the motion picture business, so he's pretty busy, but I plan to be a stay-at-home mom. I'm sure that's probably important to you, that your child have a stay-at-home mom.

Jennifer Does he know people?

Dorothy You mean, in the business?

Jennifer Paul. Like stars? Does he know stars?

Dorothy Movie stars? Well, yes, a few.

Jennifer Who does he know?

Dorothy Can I tell you next time, Jennifer? Can we talk again soon? Can I call you at that number? Meanwhile, I could send you photos if you want. I could send you photos of us, and the house, and stuff. And you could send some photos, too, if you want. Do you want to continue with this? We would like to...

Jennifer It could be twins.

Dorothy I'm sorry?

Jennifer It could be twins.

Dorothy Twins!

Jennifer I was afraid to say, but it could be.

Dorothy Oh, my God.

Jennifer Yeah.

Dorothy You had an ultrasound?

Jennifer I guess so.

Dorothy You guess so?

Jennifer I mean, yeah. I had one.

Dorothy Oh, my God.

Jennifer They thought there might be another head in there. Behind. Another head. Is that okay?

Dorothy I don't know. It's a shock to me right now.

Jennifer Because it could be two. Identical.

Dorothy I'm in shock.

Jennifer They would be really good-looking. Their father is like a movie star with his looks.

Dorothy I don't know what to say.

Jennifer And I guess I'm pretty.

Dorothy I believe you, Jennifer. Um...

Jennifer I know I am. I'm popular.

Dorothy Let me just ask you, Jennifer, uh—

Jennifer It really gets me, you know, about that mother who drowned her kids?

Dorothy Yes?

Jennifer Why did she do that? She could have done so many things, and that's what she did. Like, who did it? You know what I'm saying?

Dorothy I'm not sure, Jennifer.

Jennifer Like, who committed the crime? (*CHRISTAL starts waving at her*) Because she herself didn't do it. She couldn't have done it herself. It wasn't herself who did it. Not the mother. Like, I didn't do it. But it happened. It's just weird. Because you can't take it back, even though. They're dead, they're drowned. Because, you know, time. How could it happen? It's like with, uh, Carl.

Dorothy What?

Jennifer I mean, his ex. She had a medical condition. Why didn't they do something? And she does. (*Pause*) And now America is in shock. Like on TV.

Dorothy Me too, Jennifer. Let me just ask you. Would he sign papers? Carl. Would he sign a relinquishment? (*CHRISTAL nods frantically*)

Jennifer Don't worry about that, uh, Dorothy.

Dorothy You're sure he's the father? (*Silence*) Well, I have to think about this, if you don't mind, Jennifer. (*CHRISTAL hands her a slip of paper*)

Jennifer Why do you want to adopt?

Dorothy That's a good question. That's a fair question, Jennifer. My husband and I, Paul and I, we tried for seven years. We tried and tried. *(Pause)* It was awful. We went to these doctors, to a clinic, here in Southern California, a fertility clinic. These people. I have so much rage. They have all these photographs on the wall... of babies... they could have been adopted, for all I know... *(Sobs)*... Babies, Jesus... I took all these drugs... and the only time... we conceived... we did it on our own. And we lost it. It didn't take. We did that on our own. But these doctors, they string you along. We did inseminations, we did everything, and nothing worked. And finally... finally, they said, "That's it. You have to quit. You will never have children." Do you know what that's like? Do you have any idea how that feels? For a woman? To be barren? I'm sorry. It's not your fault. But that's why. That's the answer to your question. These people. My husband told me, it becomes a business. That's what happens. The fertility business. So we decided. We had to give up, and we decided to adopt. Jennifer? Are you there?
(Pause)

Jennifer You deserve it, Dorothy.

Dorothy I'm sorry.

Jennifer You deserve to have a child and be parents, Dorothy, you and Paul.

Dorothy Thank you. I'll call you. Can I? Would you like our address? I'll give you my home number, if you want, not the 800 number.

Jennifer No, you call me.

Dorothy Would you like my lawyer's number?

Jennifer Uh, the lawyer? *(Chrystal shakes her head)* No, could we

talk more first? I'd like to get to know you guys, like your expectations and your ideas of parenting. Okay?

Dorothy Of course. Can I give her your number?

Jennifer Yes, she could call me, your lawyer.

Dorothy Good. Let me just check the number. 619-885-9076.

Is that correct?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy We'll call you.

Jennifer I'll be here.

Dorothy And we'll continue. Okay? Meanwhile, I'm so glad you had the courage, Jennifer, to do this.

Jennifer Thank you, Dorothy.

Dorothy It was good talking to you, and we'll talk soon. Okay?

Jennifer Yes.

Dorothy We'll talk soon. Bye-bye.

Jennifer 'Bye. (*Hangs up. Pause*) Whoa.

Chrystal I told you.

Jennifer That was an experience!

Chrystal Really. You were funny! (*The phone rings. CHRYSAL answers it*) Hello?

Mordecai (*Phone voice*) Hello, who am I speaking with?

Chrystal This is Chrystal.

Mordecai Ah, Chrystal. Chrystal. Life as you have known it is over, Chrystal.

Chrystal Who is this?

Mordecai This is Mordecai, Chrystal. Mordecai Stern. New York. The bill for the 800 number, Chrystal. It lists the calls and the origin of the calls. So I've got your number, Chrystal, and I know where you are. And I'm coming. I'm coming. I will track you down, and I will smite you.

CHRYSTAL hangs up the phone as she gasps and covers her mouth.

BLACKOUT.

The End