

From VINO VERITAS
Dramatic
LAUREN, Female (20s-40s)

You want to hear about a day that changed everything? Brandon and Zack had a little sister. They did. Or at least, they were going to have one. And the reason you don't know about it is because we never told anyone. We were waiting until after the ultrasound to make the big announcement. But then, the ultrasound didn't go too well. And all the tests after that went even worse. That's when we learned the secret that they don't tell you in the baby books or the classes...that if a baby is too damaged, the doctors will take care of it for you. Oh no. No, we didn't have an abortion. God forbid it should be called an abortion. No, in cases like ours, the doctors have a special magic phrase they use, just to make everyone feel better. It's not an abortion...it's a medical interruption. So, we signed the papers, all the papers, and then they wheeled me down the hallway into this small little room. Phil was there the whole time holding my hand, and all we could do was look at one another...because we couldn't even speak. Then the doctor took a long needle, and he filled that needle with potassium chloride. Then he took that needle and put it through my stomach, and right into our baby daughter's tiny heart. And then the doctor said, "The baby's heart has stopped." Now that's a day that changed everything. So go ahead, Ridley. Tell Phil he's never stared into the abyss...tell me I haven't. And then let me tell you something. The tragedy isn't that it happened to us. The tragedy is that it's always happening to someone, somewhere. Right now, a mother is waking up and wondering why her newborn didn't cry once all night. Right now, someone's getting a call telling them the biopsy results look bad. That's what's so easy for us to forget...that every day is a day that changes everything for someone...and that's what we need to remember.

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