



DQP's thoughts on platforming:

The back and forth was what drew me into the script. Mr. Franklin has a very sardonic sense of care for his patient and Ash trusts him (perhaps why they remain theirs). The relationship needs some ironing out. I have a difficult time pinpointing the anagnorisis. I have made up my mind that I am prochoice, but if I was pro-life, I would still conflate Mr. Franklin as evil and still real-life abortion doctors as evil. The hypocrisy burn needs to be more cutting edge before it is suitable for submission to TRU, whose many members are Republican and neoliberal.

## Birth Control




By Nico Juber

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

ASH (female identifying or gender nonconforming), 20s

 DR. FRANKLIN (male identifying), 40s

PLACE & SETTINGS – Small town, USA, 2031





SCENE 1

*(ASH sits alone in a doctor's office. She's wearing a paper gown and sitting on the end of an exam table, legs dangling. DR. FRANKLIN knocks once, then pokes his head in the room.)*

DR. FRANKLIN

Hello, Ash? Sorry to keep you waiting.

ASH

It's okay.

*(He walks in.)*

DR. FRANKLIN

I went ahead and got you on my calendar for first thing Friday morning. Make sure not to eat anything after 8 the night before.

ASH

Okay, but-

DR. FRANKLIN

Did you have any questions about the procedure itself?

ASH

No.



DR. FRANKLIN

It's very routine. You just need someone to take you home-

ASH

Dr. Franklin, I just-

DR. FRANKLIN

In the future, we'll need to get you on a more reliable birth control.



ASH

-I'd really like to keep my baby.

*(Dr. Franklin is silent for a moment.)*

DR. FRANKLIN

That's not possible.

ASH

But-

DR. FRANKLIN

There are only a handful of states where you can still carry a fetus to full term. If you can make the trip to California, and stay there for a while-

ASH

I can't afford to just leave the state.



DR. FRANKLIN

Then how do you expect to afford to raise a child?

ASH

My mom figured it out.

DR. FRANKLIN

The whole point is that you shouldn't have to "figure it out". That's not your responsibility.

*(Beat.)*

DR. FRANKLIN (CONT.)

I understand that this is hard, but you shouldn't have put yourself in this position.

ASH

It's my body. You can't force me to do this.

DR. FRANKLIN

*It is* your body. That's why we outlawed childbirth-

ASH

But-

DR. FRANKLIN

-pregnancy creates an unreasonable burden on the body. Plus, you have to leave the workforce to recover from birth-





ASH

Please-

DR. FRANKLIN

-not to mention overpopulation, the carbon footprint alone-

ASH

What happens if I don't show up on Friday?

DR. FRANKLIN

You'll be fined.

ASH

I'll work extra shifts.

DR. FRANKLIN

If you wait past sixteen weeks, they'll put you in jail.

ASH

That's not fair.

DR. FRANKLIN

It's fair for you to play God and bring a new life into this world?

ASH


No, I mean, I don't know-



DR. FRANKLIN

That's settled, then.

ASH

Can I see the baby, just once? An ultrasound? 

DR. FRANKLIN

No.

ASH

Just for a minute.

DR. FRANKLIN

I could lose my license.

*(Beat.)*

DR. FRANKLIN (CONT.)

There's nothing to see. Just a collection of rapidly multiplying cells.

ASH

This. This is the reason women don't go to doctors anymore. I thought you were different.

DR. FRANKLIN

Because you've been my patient for years? That's why I don't want to put you in danger!



ASH

People are huddled in cheap motels, delivering babies off the grid. If anything happens to us, or to the baby-

DR. FRANKLIN

This never has to happen, with good birth control-

ASH

Birth control isn't foolproof.

DR. FRANKLIN

Which is why we have these early procedures! We're just going in circles.

ASH

This is wrong.

DR. FRANKLIN

Ash, go home. Have a glass of wine tonight and think about your future and what a criminal record would mean for you. I'll see you on Friday.

*(The lights fade to black...*

*THE END)*