



DQP's thoughts on platforming:

It is a 3/5. This is a bit messy but now shows promise and potential. There is a strong statement made with this play. However, there is still hesitation. Ash's and Dr. Franklin's family are familiar. Do consider using their relationships and Dr. Franklin's hypocrisy with Luna as argumentative weapons that steers and "controls" each of their principles. Luna did not just give birth to a new baby, but Dr. Franklin also gave birth to a new identity as a Grandfather. A story is often when a main character has an established identity, a conflict arises that challenges it, then the protagonist has to prove their principles right or fail, then come out with a modified or new identity. A little more arc and relationship building and then a reading may be needed to develop it further.

Birth Control

By Nico Juber

Contact:

Nico Juber
310-463-7277
nicolj@gmail.com
Dramatists Guild Member: 103101

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ASH (female identifying or gender nonconforming), 20s

DR. FRANKLIN (male identifying), 50s

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

How's your mother been?

ASH

Fine, although not thrilled that the fires have been keeping her from doing her morning walks again. How's Luna? I haven't seen her at church lately.



DR. FRANKLIN

Luna and Tim moved to California to have a baby two months ago. He found a job in carbon capture, near San Francisco.

ASH

Oh.



DR. FRANKLIN

A little girl. Gemma. I'm a grandfather now.



ASH

Congratulations.

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

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

Okay.



DR. FRANKLIN

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

ASH

Dr. Franklin-

DR. FRANKLIN

Yes?

ASH

I want to keep my baby.

(Dr. Franklin is silent for a moment.)

DR. FRANKLIN

You know that's not possible here.

ASH

But-

DR. FRANKLIN

There are only a handful of states where you can still carry to term. If you can get over to California, and stay there for a while-

ASH

I can't afford to just leave.



DR. FRANKLIN

Is there any way your mom can help?

ASH

No. I've been supporting her.

DR. FRANKLIN

What about the father?

ASH

I haven't told him. I can't tell him. I-

DR. FRANKLIN

Then maybe the timing isn't right.

(Beat.)

DR. FRANKLIN (CONT.)

I understand this is hard.

ASH

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

DR. FRANKLIN

It is your body. That's precisely why they outlawed childbirth here-



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. Without the financial resources to support a baby to begin with-



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

I'm sorry.

ASH

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

DR. FRANKLIN

No.

ASH

Look, I know you have a machine, you checked me for fibroids last year-



DR. FRANKLIN

I could lose my license.

(Beat.)

DR. FRANKLIN (CONT.)

There's nothing to see at this point, Ash. 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 I've known you since you were in high school? Because you were friends with Luna? That's why I don't want to put you in danger!

ASH

People around here 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.

ASH

This is wrong. Everything about this is wrong.

DR. FRANKLIN

Ash, please, go home. Have a glass of wine tonight. None of us want to see you end up with a criminal record. I'll see you on Friday.



(The lights fade to black...

THE END)