

SURROGATE GRANDMA

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION - DAY

A beautiful, upscale house. Numerous cars are parked in the lengthy driveway.

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY - SAME

A large space with a hardwood floor. A banner hangs on the wall, decorated for a baby boy. A good amount of seating holds GUESTS for a baby shower. A table displays presents and food.

The guest of honor is ABBY (32). She looks ready to pop as she eats a piece of cake with blue icing.

Others around Abby also enjoy cake, including KAREN RHODES (35) and her mom HELEN RHODES (60).

GUEST #1

(to Abby)

You're starting to look like a piñata.

Laughter from the guests.

ABBY

Thanks.

Abby places a hand on her stomach.

ABBY

I'm starting to feel like one, too.

GUEST #2

Enjoy it while you can. He'll be going off to college before you know it.

ABBY

Hey, I haven't even changed William's first diaper yet. Let's not rush him leaving home.

GRETCHEN (late 20s) suddenly looks ill. She sets her plate aside. Others notice.

ABBY

Are you all right, Gretchen?

GRETCHEN

Yeah. The nausea comes and goes.

Helen studies Gretchen for a brief moment.

HELEN  
Are you pregnant?

The other ladies light up at the prospect.

GUEST #3  
Are you?

Gretchen observes all of her curious onlookers.

GRETCHEN  
Yes...

Several of the women hurry over to hug Gretchen and offer their congratulations. Karen and Helen are with the group.

HELEN  
Who's the father?

KAREN  
Mom.

HELEN  
Like no one else wants to know.

GRETCHEN  
There is no father.

Everyone looks at Gretchen in confusion.

HELEN  
That's not possible, dear.

GRETCHEN  
Well, there is a father. He's a married man with an incredible wife.

Helen reacts in shock.

HELEN  
If his wife is so incredible, why did he cheat on her with you?

GRETCHEN  
I don't think I'm explaining this right. I'm a surrogate for this couple who can't have a baby of their own.

GUEST #2  
Why would you do that?

GRETCHEN

There are so many women out there who can't have a baby but really want one. I decided to do something wonderful for a deserving couple.

Karen gazes at Gretchen with admiration.

KAREN

That is so awesome.

Helen returns to her seat.

HELEN

I don't see how anyone could give up their baby. It's still a part of the woman who gave birth.

GRETCHEN

I don't look at it that way. I'm not ready to be a mom, but I can use my body to make a couple happy.

HELEN

Are they paying you?

KAREN

Mom.

GRETCHEN

They're paying for my expenses with a little extra for my trouble.

HELEN

For your trouble?

Karen looks at Helen in a panic.

HELEN

You're renting out your uterus like a cheap hotel room.

Gretchen wears a look of shock. Karen decides to change the subject.

KAREN

It's time for Abby to open presents.

Karen goes to the gifts and hands one to Abby.

KAREN

This one's from me.

Abby beams as she opens the gift. It's a baby carrier.

ABBY

I love it. Thank you.

AD-LIB Abby opening more of her gifts and reacting excitedly.

Gretchen looks over at Helen. Helen stares at Gretchen instead of watching the gifts being opened.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Helen's Lexus moves along the city street.

INT. HELEN'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY - SAME

Helen drives. Karen sits next to her, head in her hand.

KAREN

I can't believe you ruined  
Gretchen's shower.

HELEN

I didn't ruin anything.

KAREN

Mom, you did. Instead of giving  
Abby, your niece, your full  
attention at her baby shower, you  
spent most of the party trying to  
convince Gretchen to keep the baby.

HELEN

I just don't see how she could feel  
the baby move inside her and then  
hand it over to strangers.

KAREN

It's not your place to understand.  
She made the choice and it's no one  
else's business.

HELEN

You'll understand one day when you  
have your own baby.

Karen laughs.

KAREN

You just don't give up. I have told  
you a thousand times that I don't  
want a baby, ever.

HELEN

You'll change your mind.

Karen turns to Helen with a furrowed brow.

KAREN

I'm not going to... you know what?  
Just forget it. Let's not ever talk  
about babies again.

Karen rests her elbow against the door and lays her head in her hand. She looks out at the scenery passing by.

HELEN

I wanted to give you a sibling, but  
fibroids had different plans for  
me. You're my only hope of being a  
grandma.

Karen shakes her head.

KAREN

Do you like laying guilt trips on  
me? It's not right that I should  
have a baby for you.

HELEN

Karen...

KAREN

No, I'm done talking about this.  
Please, drop it.

Helen saddens but she complies.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

A small house in an okay neighborhood. Nothing special.  
Helen's car pulls into the driveway and stops.

INT./EXT. HELEN'S CAR - STOPPED - DAY - SAME

Helen and Karen both stare forward in silence.

KAREN

I wish you could understand how I  
feel. Just because you loved being  
a mom doesn't mean I would.

HELEN

But you would, Karen. You have to  
trust me on this.