

RACHEL

What I'm trying to say is that we must strive to be intelligent as well as compassionate, and that means not being vulnerable to false information which only leads to ignorance

LUELLA

Oh, that's just my allergies.

RACHEL

Now what about the baby's father, has he been vaccinated?

LUELLA

I doubt it, but he's out of the picture which is why I'll decide what my baby needs 'cause

RACHEL

My goodness!

LUELLA

I predict someday she'll be singing solos in the choir when she's not dancing with the stars on TV.

RACHEL

Well, that sounds lovely, Luella. Now please settle down and permit me to put my

RACHEL

I'm sorry; I can't do this. You're praying for your child to thrive, but I can't. I realize it's

RACHEL

Luella was desperate for Precious Joy to leave the hospital, but some of the other consulting doctors kept postponing her discharge, partly because she was still so frail, but also because she was such a fascinating anomaly. Then, as you know, a few days after her birthday she disappeared. Apparently the nurse on duty² (s)-0.2 (t) 0.2 (i) 0.2 making her rounds and noticed Precious Joy was not in her crib. Luella was frantic.

(LUELLA dashes in, approaching RACHEL.)

