

## Our Future

“What do you mean?”

Ashley pressed the phone closer to her ear. “Exactly what I said.”

“You can’t have a baby, you know that right? We can’t support a baby.”

Wiping a tear out of the corner of her eye, she inhaled deeply.

“Have you told your parents yet?”

“No.”

“Well then it’s not too late to have an abortion.”

She moved the phone away from her ear and blinked.

*He’s not serious. Why would he suggest that? I can’t do that. I can’t-*

“Ashley? Are you there?”

She took a deep breath. “I’m not hurting my baby, Brent.”

“Look. It’s either that, or... we’re over.”

“What?” she choked out.

“Think about it.”



Many people in difficult situations, such as Ashley’s, feel pressured to have an abortion. Whether it is influence from a spouse, boyfriend, or even parents, women who are unintentionally pregnant will typically do anything to please their loved ones. Not only do they fear being abandoned by them, but they have an intense desire to feel loved during this time when they need a supporting shoulder to lean on.



Pulling into the parking lot, Ashley leaned back in her seat and closed her eyes.

*Just go in before you change your mind. You already scheduled the appointment. There's no going back.*

Unclipping her seat belt, she opened her door. As she slid out, she looked at the string of unlabeled buildings that her GPS had led her to. Turning around, she noticed some women standing on the grass near the parking lot. She walked towards the woman closest to her, hoping she could point her in the right direction.

“Excuse me, ma’am, do you know which of these buildings is the abortion clinic?”

The woman smiled, putting her at ease. “Of course, but first, is everything okay? In case you didn't know, there are other options besides abortion, if that's why you're here?”

Ashley pasted on a smile. “Oh, I'm sorry ma'am, you don't understand.” She looked down at the ground, dragging a foot across the grass. “I don't really have a choice.”

The woman nodded. “I do understand. There are many women and girls in your shoes. Have you considered adoption? There are a lot of women who would love a baby but are unable to have one. Even if you can't care for your child, there are many families who are willing and want to. There's also free health care and other helpful services for young women just like you.”

Ashley looked up at the woman's sincere eyes.

“What do you say?”

She swallowed. “Okay.”

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I am not just pro-life because of my religion. I am not just pro-life because of what others think. I am not just pro-life because it feels like the right thing to do. I am pro-life because every embryo, every fetus, every baby should have a chance at life. Because the child in the womb of any mother is a part of our next generation. And they are our future.

## Works Cited

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