

CATCHIN UP

1 (ANGIE visits her friend JUDY and her newborn baby.)
 2 ANGIE: He's just so cute.
 3 JUDY: Yeah, he is, isn't he?
 4 ANGIE: His eyes are so blue. He's got my favorite
 5 combination, dark hair, blue eyes. He's going to be a little
 6 heartbreaker, you just watch.
 7 JUDY: Well, he's already gotten a strong hold on my heart.
 8 From the minute I first saw him, I fell forever in love.
 9 ANGIE: I don't blame you. He's adorable.
 10 JUDY: Yeah, he is. But I'm prejudiced, I'm his mommy.
 11 ANGIE: I know. Look at you! You are handling this so well. I
 12 always knew you would.
 13 JUDY: Thanks. It's been hard, but worth it.
 14 ANGIE: And I can't believe how great you look.
 15 JUDY: Not bad, huh? My waistline just snapped right back
 16 into place.
 17 ANGIE: It really did.
 18 JUDY: I swear, I had so many people telling me how hard it
 19 would be to get my figure back after the baby, but it
 20 wasn't that hard.
 21 ANGIE: Hey, that Abflex and the gym are terrific things, huh?
 22 JUDY: Just plain old sit-ups.
 23 ANGIE: Just sit-ups? You didn't use any of the machines at
 24 the gym?
 25 JUDY: No gym, either. Can't afford it.
 26 ANGIE: Why?
 27 JUDY: Other things take priority now, you know? Baby food,
 28 diapers, formula, rent, utilities. All that stuff.
 29 ANGIE: Whoa. I thought your parents were going to help you
 30 and Tony out with things.
 31 JUDY: They are a little bit. But, face it, they weren't that
 32 thrilled to have their seventeen-year-old daughter "with
 33 child." Their attitude seems to be that if I am going to
 34 do adult things then I should take responsibility for
 35 those actions.

1 ANGIE: That's a little harsh. They won't at least pay for the
 2 membership at the gym?
 3 JUDY: Hey, I'm happy when they throw in for some Pampers.
 4 Those things are a fortune. I can't expect them to pay for
 5 luxuries.
 6 ANGIE: I hardly consider my membership at Fitness Center a
 7 luxury.
 8 JUDY: Well, for you it's not. For me, Tony, and now Brian,
 9 something like that falls into the category of unnecessary.
 10 Necessaries include toilet paper and Cheerios.
 11 ANGIE: I don't know how you do it. You are so brave.
 12 JUDY: It's not a matter of brave. You do what you have to do.
 13 ANGIE: But you didn't have to do this.
 14 JUDY: I know. And trust me, it hasn't been easy, Angie. But I
 15 think that in the long run, I made the right choice. For me.
 16 ANGIE: I guess. Well... *(There is an uncomfortable pause.)* Oh, I
 17 know what I wanted to tell you. You will die! Casey
 18 Powers asked Dana Porter out!
 19 JUDY: No! You will shut up right now! He didn't!
 20 ANGIE: Oh, but he did.
 21 JUDY: Shut up! He has no business going out with that child.
 22 What is she, fourteen?
 23 ANGIE: Barely. Imagine, a freshman girl dating a senior guy.
 24 A graduated senior guy.
 25 JUDY: Has he lost his mind? And her. Do her parents know?
 26 ANGIE: They are encouraging it!
 27 JUDY: Well, what do you expect? His family has money and
 28 social position and hers has nothing.
 29 ANGIE: Obviously no pride, either
 30 JUDY: This will lead to nothing good, trust me.
 31 ANGIE: I bet she ends up in trouble, her kind always do... *(She*
 32 *sees JUDY's stricken look.)* Oh, Judy, I didn't mean... God,
 33 I've got a big mouth.
 34 JUDY: Don't worry about it. Really. I know you didn't mean
 35 anything.

1 ANGIE: I didn't. Sometimes my mouth is miles ahead of my
 2 brain.
 3 JUDY: *(A beat)* So what else is going on with everyone.
 4 ANGIE: Well...ummm. Oh, I know! Guess who Brandy is going
 5 out with!
 6 JUDY: Brandy is going out with Robert.
 7 ANGIE: Old news! She left Robert three months ago. She's
 8 now going out with David!
 9 JUDY: David who?
 10 ANGIE: David! David, the new guy who came to school this
 11 year. You know. Blond hair, cheekbones to spare and
 12 shoulders enough for two men. The surfer.
 13 JUDY: When did he come to school?
 14 ANGIE: In October. Don't you remember? We were in line at
 15 lunch and he came in with Josh that day before progress
 16 reports came out and I was freaking because I was
 17 getting a D in Spanish and then I saw him, and all
 18 thoughts of Spanish disappeared and were replaced by
 19 thoughts of David. You were there. Remember?
 20 JUDY: No. Of course, that was right around when I thought I
 21 was pregnant, so I guess I had other things going on in
 22 my mind.
 23 ANGIE: Still, I don't see how you could forget him.
 24 JUDY: Well, I left school around then. I was getting sick all the
 25 time.
 26 ANGIE: Oh, yeah.
 27 JUDY: Plus I had to take care of a lot of things. Doctors and
 28 getting married and finding us a place to live that was
 29 cheap enough so that Tony could still go to college and
 30 just work part-time. Speaking of which, I need to get
 31 ready pretty soon. I have to go to work.
 32 ANGIE: You still cleaning houses?
 33 JUDY: Yeah. The perfect job. I can set my own hours and take
 34 little Brian with me. The pay isn't bad either. It's enough
 35 where Tony can still do what he needs to do and the bills

pretty much get paid.
 ANGIE: That's good. Really, it is. *(Another uncomfortable
 silence)* So, what's new with you?
 JUDY: Not a lot. Wait, finish telling me about Brandy and this
 new guy. I never get to hear any of the good gossip. I don't
 really get to see anyone much anymore.
 ANGIE: Oh! Yeah, OK. Well, anyway, Brandy was at Mark's
 going-away party...
 JUDY: Going away? Where's he going?
 ANGIE: I told you, he got accepted into Northwestern.
 JUDY: Oh, that's right. That's where I had planned on going...
 ANGIE: Yeah, I know.
 JUDY: Yeah...so, anyway, Mark had his party.
 ANGIE: Didn't you know about Mark's party?
 JUDY: I don't hear much about parties. No one seems to
 invite me.
 ANGIE: You could have come.
 JUDY: And brought Brian?
 ANGIE: You could leave him with a sitter.
 JUDY: Everyone who babysits are people my own age, and
 they were probably all at Mark's party anyway.
 ANGIE: I'm sure there's someone.
 JUDY: It's a little hard getting a sitter, OK?
 ANGIE: Oh. Yeah, I guess it would be.
 JUDY: OK, Mark, party, Brandy, Northwestern, what else?
 ANGIE: Well, Brandy walked in with David...
 JUDY: The surfer...
 ANGIE: The surfer, and who should also walk in but René!
 JUDY: You lie!
 ANGIE: I don't!
 JUDY: Oh my God! René! Even I remember the fight they got
 into last summer over Robert.
 ANGIE: Well, they both must have remembered it, too,
 because they re-enacted it right there in the middle of
 Mark's mother's designer living room.

1 JUDY: You are not serious.
 2 ANGIE: But yes! Hair flying, nails scratching, clothes tearing.
 3 It was amazing.
 4 JUDY: Remember last summer when they had that fight?
 5 Brandy just reached right into René's car window and
 6 punched her in the face.
 7 ANGIE: Well, I could kind of understand that because René was
 8 just stupid. I'm sorry, but you don't call someone a bitch
 9 from your car when you are stuck in parking lot traffic.
 10 JUDY: I will never forget that. René shows up that night at her
 11 graduation with a big old black eye.
 12 ANGIE: Well, she's got a matching one now! *(They laugh at the*
 13 *memory.)*
 14 JUDY: *(A beat)* Last summer seems so long ago.
 15 ANGIE: You think? Seems like yesterday to me. But now here
 16 we all are, ready to go off our own separate ways. Mark to
 17 Northwestern, me to Boston, Derek to Wheaton, even
 18 Brandy is going away to college.
 19 JUDY: No way!
 20 ANGIE: Yes! She's going to San Diego.
 21 JUDY: State or University?
 22 ANGIE: Hello! What do you think?
 23 JUDY: Party school...State.
 24 ANGIE: Right!
 25 JUDY: I was going to go to Northwestern.
 26 ANGIE: I know.
 27 JUDY: Imagine, me and Mark together...
 28 ANGIE: You guys were really good in the musical last year.
 29 JUDY: Yeah, we were. God, all those seniors were so jealous of
 30 the two juniors who got the leads in *West Side Story*. Is
 31 Mark still going to major in theatre?
 32 ANGIE: Oh, yeah. That's what he wants to do with his life.
 33 JUDY: They've got a really good theatre program there, you
 34 know.
 35 ANGIE: Yeah.

1 JUDY: Theatre major. Seems like a stupid idea now.
 2 ANGIE: It's not. You were good, Jud, really good. What other
 3 high school junior was selected to represent State at the
 4 Shakespeare Conference? And won it?
 5 JUDY: I still have that trophy around here somewhere. My
 6 mom packed it for me, but I haven't had time to look for it.
 7 ANGIE: You should put it up where you can see it. To remind
 8 you how good you were.
 9 JUDY: Yeah, I was, huh? But that was then. I haven't acted
 10 since my junior year. Now here I am with a baby. A trophy
 11 for acting, a 1250 on my SAT score, a folder of letters of
 12 recommendation for colleges, an overall 3.8 GPA and a
 13 baby. Somewhere along the way, things got a little
 14 messed up.
 15 ANGIE: Yeah.
 16 JUDY: I'm never going to college. I'm never going to be an
 17 actress. I'm stuck.
 18 ANGIE: I thought you were OK with all this. I thought you
 19 were happy.
 20 JUDY: Happy is a relative term. I'm as happy as I can be with
 21 a really crummy situation that I never asked for.
 22 ANGIE: Come on, it's not so bad.
 23 JUDY: No? You know the last time I went out? The last time I
 24 saw anybody from school? At my baby shower.
 25 ANGIE: You've seen your friends. They've come over.
 26 JUDY: Yeah, like you have. To see the baby and then to leave.
 27 ANGIE: I'm not leaving.
 28 JUDY: But you will pretty soon. You'll be leaving for Boston,
 29 everyone will be leaving for college, Mark is going to *my*
 30 college! And even Brandy of all people is going to college.
 31 And I'll be stuck in this crummy little town with a baby
 32 and a husband and no future.
 33 ANGIE: But you love your baby. And Tony.
 34 JUDY: Of course I love them. But that doesn't change how
 35 I feel.

1 ANGIE: Do you wish you would have had the abortion?

2 JUDY: I wish I hadn't gotten myself into a situation that made
3 me make that decision. I wouldn't trade my baby for
4 anything, except maybe for some time.

5 ANGIE: What do you mean?

6 JUDY: Time to grow up, to go to college, to be an actress or a
7 teacher or something. But my choices are all gone now.
8 Oh, Tony can still do things. God knows he hasn't given
9 up a helluva lot. Why should he? He goes to college, he
10 works, but he comes and goes as he pleases. And I'm
11 stuck here with a baby and no future.

12 ANGIE: I didn't realize things were so bad. You seemed so
13 happy when I first got here.

14 JUDY: Of course I seemed happy. I'm happy for everyone's
15 benefit. The only person I cry in front of is little Brian. I
16 just hold him and cry. Someday when he's with what is
17 sure to be one in a long line of therapists, he will have
18 that repressed memory surface of his mother crying.

19 ANGIE: I'm so sorry.

20 JUDY: Don't be. It was my choice. I swear, though, I never
21 thought past the baby shower. It was all going to be so
22 much fun. Once I got over the initial shock of being
23 pregnant, it seemed so right. Everyone was so nice to me,
24 gifts for the baby, making a home for me and Tony. But
25 you know, I never thought past that baby shower. It was
26 like it was just another party with my friends. Then
27 Brian came and all of a sudden I found myself standing
28 all alone in the bathroom wiping baby spit off my
29 shoulder, smelling like diaper rash medicine, the baby
30 screaming in the next room and I looked in the mirror
31 and saw tears coming down my face. I never bargained
32 for this, that's for sure.

33 ANGIE: I don't know what to say.

34 JUDY: You can't say anything.

35 ANGIE: Well, look on the bright side. By the time Brian

graduates from high school and moves out, you'll only be
thirty-five. That's really young.

JUDY: Young? Compared to what?

ANGIE: In comparison to people that have kids at twenty-
seven. I mean, think about it. I probably won't get
married and have kids till I'm established in a career, so
figure about thirty. By the time my kids are grown and
gone, I'll be at least fifty. That's really old. I mean, you'll
have years in front of you to do all kinds of stuff. Think
of all that free time you'll have.

JUDY: So what you're saying is that I start on my life and
career when I'm thirty-seven. Which means being an
actress is out because actresses in their thirties are
considered old and used up...and I won't even have been
used at all.

ANGIE: You can go to college, you know.

JUDY: When?

ANGIE: When Brian starts school. You'll only be a few years
older than the other kids.

JUDY: You just don't understand. I've got enough to do here
taking care of the baby, cleaning houses to pay for Tony's
tuition, trying to study for my General Ed degree since I
had to drop out of high school.

ANGIE: I don't know what to tell you.

JUDY: You can't tell me anything. This is my life and I'm stuck
with it. I made choices that got me into this position and
now I have to live with them.

ANGIE: Judy, come to my house tonight.

JUDY: What for?

ANGIE: I'm having a little party. That's why I came over here
today. I wanted to invite you. I leave for Boston next
week, and I'd really like you to come tonight. Not a lot of
people, just close friends.

JUDY: You still think of me as a close friend?

ANGIE: I always will. Just because we don't hang out like we

1 used to doesn't mean I don't love you.
 2 JUDY: What about Brian?
 3 ANGIE: Can't Tony watch him?
 4 JUDY: He's got a class tonight.
 5 ANGIE: What about your parents?
 6 JUDY: Oh, no. They made it really clear that they were not
 7 going to be built-in babysitters. They want a week's
 8 notice or they automatically say no.
 9 ANGIE: Then bring him.
 10 JUDY: Bring the baby?
 11 ANGIE: Yeah. Why not? It's just a little party, no big deal.
 12 Everyone would love to see you and the baby.
 13 JUDY: Great, now I'm a side show attraction.
 14 ANGIE: Don't be silly. Your friends want to see you. And Brian
 15 is a part of you that isn't going away.
 16 JUDY: I just wish he'd come about ten years later.
 17 ANGIE: "And if wishes were horses..."
 18 JUDY: "All men would ride." I know, I know.
 19 ANGIE: Say you'll come.
 20 JUDY: What time?
 21 ANGIE: Dinner at six and then till whenever.
 22 JUDY: And I can bring Brian?
 23 ANGIE: I'd be mad if you didn't. And if he gets sleepy, we can
 24 rig something up so he can nap.
 25 JUDY: OK, I'll try.
 26 ANGIE: Don't try. Do it. Judy, you need to take some of your
 27 life back. Just because you have a baby doesn't mean Judy
 28 goes away. You can go to college, you can do whatever you
 29 want. You just have to make adjustments.
 30 JUDY: I just feel really alone, you know?
 31 ANGIE: You kinda are. But roll with it. You're here in this life,
 32 make the best of it.
 33 JUDY: I guess I am starting to wallow a little in self-pity, huh?
 34 ANGIE: A bit.
 35 JUDY: Thanks, Angie. You're a good friend.

1 ANGIE: So I'll see you tonight?
 2 JUDY: Yeah, you will. *(She gives ANGIE a quick hug.)*
 3 ANGIE: And, hey, my sister will be there, too. I'll tell her to
 4 bring my niece. Maybe we can set Brian and Tiffany up
 5 on a hot date.
 6 JUDY: Over this mommy's dead body. My son won't be
 7 allowed to date until he's out of high school. God, I just
 8 sounded like my mother.
 9 ANGIE: Pretty scary. I'll see you later.
 10 JUDY: Yeah. Later. *(ANGIE exits. JUDY stands alone for a*
 11 *moment.)* Come on baby Bri. Mommy's got to go to work
 12 and then you and I are going to a party.
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