

# Steel Magnolias

- M We have this new psychiatrist that comes in two days a week. Of course, I pick her name out of the grab bag. I've got to pick something up for her tomorrow. Would you put that down on the list? ...I have no idea what to get your father. What's Jackson giving you, do you know?
- S ...Furniture.
- M Furniture. Well my, it must be nice to be married to a rich lawyer. What's, it for the living room?
- S No, for the nursery. We wanted to tell you when you and daddy were together, but you're never together, so it's every man for himself. I'm pregnant.
- M I realize that.
- S Well...is that it? Is that all you're going to say?
- M What do you want me to say?
- S Something along the lines of congratulations.
- M ...Congratulations.
- S ...Would it be too much to ask for a little excitement? Not too much, I wouldn't want you to break a sweat or anything. It's in July. Oh Mama. You have to help me plan. We're going to get a new house. Jackson and I are going house hunting next week. Jackson loves to hunt for anything.
- M What does Jackson say about all this?
- S Oh. He's so excited. He says he doesn't care whether it's a boy or girl...but I know he really wants a son so bad he can taste it. He's really cute about the whole thing. It's all he can talk about...Jackson Latcherie Junior.
- M Does he ever listen? When doctors and specialists give you advice. Does he ever listen? I know you never do, does he? I guess since he doesn't have to carry the baby, it really isn't his concern.
- S Mama. I want a child.
- M But what about the adoption? You filled out all the applications.
- S Mama. No judge is going to give a baby to someone with my medical record. Jackson even put out some feelers about buying one.
- M People do it all the time.
- S ...Listen to me. I want a child of my own. I think it would help things a lot.
- M I see.
- S Mama. You worry too much. In fact, I never worry because I know you're worrying enough for the both of us. Jackson and I have given this a lot of thought.
- M Has he really? Well, there's a first time for everything.
- S Don't start on Jackson, Mama.
- M Your poor body has been through so much. Why would you deliberately do this to yourself....
- S Mama. Diabetics have healthy babies all the time.
- M You are special, Shelby. There are limits to what you can do.
- S I'm going to be very, very careful. No one is going to be hurt or disappointed, or even inconvenienced.
- M Least of all Jackson, I'm sure.
- S You are jealous because you no longer have a say-so in what I do. And that drives you up the wall. You're ready to spit nails because you can't call the shots.
- M I did not raise my daughter to talk to me like this.

S Yes, you did.  
M Oh no, I didn't.  
S Whenever any of us asked you what you wanted us to be when we grew up, what did you say?  
M Shelby, I am not in the mood to play games.  
S Just tell me what you said, Mama. What did you say?  
M The only thing I have ever said to you ever is that I wanted you to be happy.  
S O.K. The one thing that would make me happy is to have a baby. If I could adopt one I would, but I can't. I'm going to have a baby and I wish you would be happy too.  
M I'll tell you what I wish. I don't know what I wish.  
S Mama. I don't know why you have to make everything so difficult. I look at having this baby as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sure, there may be risk involved. That's true for anybody. But you get through it and life goes on. And when it's all said and done there'll be a little piece of immortality with Jackson's good looks and my sense of style...I hope. Please? Please? I need your support. I would rather have three minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.