

Dipstick

V. 1

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Characters

Anna 30s, Female. Dee's wife.
Dee 30s, Female. Anna's wife.

Setting

The Holstead's bathroom. Early morning.

Acknowledgement

For anyone that's ever dipped the stick. May the outcome be what you wish.

DO NOT COPY

Early morning in the Holstead household. DEE leans over the bathroom vanity looking worse for wear. On the counter, among other things: a cup, and an unopened pregnancy test. DEE stares at them. A knock at the door:

ANNA

Dee? You done?

DEE

Yeah.

ANNA

Can I come in?

DEE

Yeah.

Enter ANNA with a cup of coffee.

ANNA

So?

Silence from DEE.

ANNA (CON'T.)

Still waiting?

DEE

I have to dip it.

ANNA

You didn't dip it yet?

DEE

No.

ANNA

Well where are the tests?

DEE

No! They're in the drawer.

ANNA

(that was weird) Okay...

She pulls out a test from the drawer.

DEE

No! Not that one.

ANNA

Okay?

DEE

Use a pink test.

ANNA

Excuse me?

DEE

Blue dye can run and give false results. Pink dye tests are more reliable. Get a pink test.

ANNA

Okay. If you want a pink one, we'll use a pink one.

She goes back in the drawer and pulls out a pink box.

DEE

No, not that one. Use the strips. We have a ton of strips.

ANNA

Okay. We can use the strip test.

Back to the drawer for another test. DEE starts reading the test boxes.

DEE

Maybe we should use this one. "Results five days sooner". What day is it? Five? Six?

ANNA

Uh... *(she checks an app on her phone)* last recorded ovulation test was on the 9th.

DEE

And that was definitely after the surge.

ANNA

Yes, that was definitely after the surge. Surge was marked on the 6th.

DEE

You're positive?

ANNA

Yes. You tested twice that day. Remember?

DEE

Right, right.

ANNA

Dee. It's alright.

DEE

You're right. It's alright.

ANNA

So, if the surge was the 6th, that makes today 9 DPO.

DEE

That's still five days out.

ANNA

That's okay. We can start testing today.

DEE

Maybe we should just wait until tomorrow.

ANNA

We can test tomorrow, too. We can test all week if you want.

DEE

But my period isn't even that consistent. I mean, sometimes it's a 30-day cycle. Sometimes it's 31. You really can't guarantee these things-

ANNA

Dee. It's consistent. We've been tracking for months.

DEE

You're right. You're right.

ANNA

Hey. Look at me. It doesn't matter if this one's negative, okay? We can test again tomorrow.

DEE

But what if they're all negative?

ANNA

Then they're all negative.

DEE

But if they're all negative then it didn't work.

ANNA

You're right.

DEE

But what if it didn't work?

ANNA

Then it didn't work this time. We order more and go again when we're ready.

DEE

But we've already bought three vials.

ANNA

And I'll buy three more. I'll buy three hundred more if that's what it takes.

DEE

That's so expensive.

ANNA

Dec. We have the money. We planned for this.

DEE

I know.

ANNA

What's this about? You were so excited to test last month.

DEE

Because I thought it was gonna work last month.

ANNA

I know. I wanted it to work, too.

DEE

What if it's me?

ANNA

Your fertility is great. Doctor Kenna said your uterus was "textbook".

DEE

Yeah. It is textbook.

ANNA

Exactly.

DEE

But what if it isn't my uterus? What if I'm too stressed? I work in finance, that can't be good for growing a baby.

ANNA

I'm sure finance is fine for the baby. Boring, maybe, but I don't think they'll mind. All that baby cares about is having a mommy that loves them.

DEE

You're right.

ANNA

Why don't we take a test and see if we'll be raising a little financial guru, huh?

DEE

Okay. Pink one.

ANNA

Pink one. Promise.

ANNA hands DEE a pink strip test. DEE rips it open and shakily dips it in ANNA's coffee cup.

ANNA

That's my coffee.

DEE

Shit. Sorry.

DEE yanks the strip out of the coffee and feverishly throws it away.

ANNA

Baby. Come here.

DEE

What if it's positive?

ANNA

Then we're in for our next great adventure, aren't we? Do you want it to be positive?

DEE

More than anything.

ANNA

Me too.

DEE

But what if it doesn't stay positive?

ANNA

Oh, Dee. It's okay, remember? Doctor Kenna said early miscarriages happen a lot.

DEE

But what if I lose this one, too?

ANNA

Hey. You didn't do anything to cause the miscarriage. Sometimes they just happen. And that sucks. We lost something really special. *You* lost something really special. But we have to stay positive, right? Because our baby is coming. Our beautiful, special rainbow baby is on their way right now. I can feel it.

DEE

What if it happens again?

ANNA

It won't happen again.

DEE

You don't know that.

ANNA

No, I don't know that. But I know that it won't happen again. And if it does, then I'll be here again to cry with you and love with you and grieve with you. We'll have each other. I love you no matter what happens, Dee.

DEE

I feel like a bad wife.

ANNA

A bad wife? Why would you ever think you're a bad wife?

DEE

Because I lost our baby.

ANNA

Dee. You are a miraculous woman. You are the best wife. You did everything right.

DEE

I don't know if I can handle losing another one, Anna. I don't want to wait another couple months and order another few thousand dollars worth of frozen sperm and pee on sticks every day and get basted like a turkey for it to not work anymore.

ANNA

I know. Tell you what- you already peed in the cup. Let's just take the test, and no matter what happens, we won't take another one unless you miss your period. Okay? It either worked or it didn't. It's in God's hands now.

A nod from DEE. ANNA rips open a strip test and dips it in the cup. She waits the designated 5-10 seconds before pulling the strip out of the cup. She places it on the counter. DEE slides the strip back in the packaging and pushes it away.

DEE

I don't want to watch it while we wait.

ANNA

Okay. How long are we supposed to wait on those ones?

DEE looks at the packaging.

DEE

Three minutes.

ANNA

Okay. Hey Alexa, set a timer for three minutes.

From the other room: "Okay. Setting a timer for three minutes."

DEE

I heard if you eat a lot of strawberries you can sway the gender of the baby.

ANNA

I'm pretty sure that only works in *The Sims*, Dee.

DEE

I think this one might be a girl.

ANNA

Oh yeah? You think you're pregnant?

DEE

I don't know. Maybe. I've been too nervous to let myself get excited. But my nipples got really sore on Friday, and I've made sure to eat strawberries every day since just in case there's any truth to the lore.

ANNA

Well, I'll make sure to keep the fridge stocked to up the odds for us.

DEE

Unless I get a terrible food aversion to strawberries.

ANNA

Then that'd be a waste.

DEE

And a shame. I love strawberries.

ANNA

So do I.

DEE

I think Elliott sent us a little girl. I know there's no way to really know, but I think we were meant to have a boy.

ANNA

Yeah. That feels right.

DEE

And I know that if we had a son, you wanted to name him after your brother.

ANNA

My brother would've loved that you named our son after him.

DEE

I like to think Elliott and Elliott are up there somewhere keeping each other company. That's why I miscarried. Elliott needed company. Now they have each other.

ANNA

Well, wherever they are, I hope they send us a beautiful baby soon.

DEE

Do you think if they send us another boy, it'd be weird to name him Elliott?

ANNA

Maybe a little. Three Elliotts in the family is a lot of Elliotts.

DEE

Yeah, it is.

ANNA

If it's a boy, we can name him Dean. After the bravest woman I know.

DEE

Or we could name him Andrew. After the strongest woman I know.

ANNA

How do you feel about Declan?

DEE

Declan?

ANNA

Nah, you're right. Hated it the moment I said it.

DEE

If it's a girl, let's name her Ellie.

ANNA

Short for Mariellen: A nod to your incredible mother, Mary-

DEE

-and your incredible brother, Elliott.

ANNA

The best of both worlds.

DEE

Two gifts from Heaven above.

The timer goes off.

ANNA

Time's up. Ready?

DEE grabs the test. Together, they pull the strip from the package.

END OF PLAY