

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SHAWE HALL MATERNITY HOSPITAL

(Banner on back wall – SHAWE HALL MATERNITY HOSPITAL – THE ANGELINA JOLIE WARD)

LYNNE - BRIDGET O'FLANNIGAN (Sister) Bossy, Irish, No nonsense

ANN - MRS. SULLIVAN. Having her 7<sup>th</sup> child. Seen it all before. Slightly abrasive.

SARAH - SHARON. Typical unmarried teenage mother. Common and chavy. From a Very poor Council Estate.

FIONA - FLEUR TEMPLETON-SMYTHE. Mousey. Dominated. Unworldly.

KATE - SUSAN SMITH. Big-hearted mumsy type. Loud. Slightly common.

SUE - MRS. COLLINS – Older mother. School mistress type. Baby not her Idea.

ANDREW - DOCTOR ANDREW. Only comes on at end.

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LYNNE - Come along now Mrs. Sullivan, you must know the way by now. You've been Here often enough! (Ann comes trailing in holding a modest sized lump) Let's Get you into bed. How often are you having the pain?

ANN Oh not that often. I've got ages to go yet I can tell – ouch (rubs bump and Looks slightly alarmed.

LYNNE Yes this will be your 7<sup>th</sup> visit to us in as many years (Ann nods). Tell me do You think your husband needs a hobby or is he just sex mad?

ANN Well a bit of both really. It's just he's set his heart on a baby boy and up to Now we've just had the six girls.

LYNNE Just the six girls! Have you had a scan done? Maybe this one will be a boy.

ANN No such luck. It's another girl.

LYNNE Will I be booking you in for next year then? (Ann shrugs). Don't you think You're getting a bit long in the tooth for all this?

ANN Don't be so cheeky I've still got a bit of life left in me.

LYNNE Yes, that's what I was afraid of. It's a wonder you don't run out of names!

ANN Oh no, we do it alphabetically, it's easier. We've Amy and Betty and Christine and Daphne and Elizabeth and Florence and we were hoping that This one was going to be George but.....

LYNNE My mother's name was Gertrude. You could call it that.

ANN Not likely. No this one is going to be Gracie.

(They are interrupted by loud noises off stage)

SARAH Ouch – oh my god. Is there a nurse around here? I'm having a baby!

LYNNE Good grief, what's all the noise about? Get into bed and don't make such A fuss (looks at her list) And you are Mrs.....

SARAH Don't be daft. I'm not Mrs. Anybody, just call me Sharon, everyone else Does.

LYNNE And how old are you Sharon?

SARAH Me, I'm 16 and half (Ann tuts loudly and looks skywards) What's up with Her?

LYNNE I think maybe she thinks you're a bit young to be having your first baby.

SARAH Well I'm not! (Ann and Lynne looks puzzled) It's my first two. I'm having Twins!

ANN Oh my god.

LYNNE Oh good grief.

ANN Didn't you have sex education at your school?

SARAH Oh yeah, we did it when I was 13.

ANN So what happened?

SARAH Well we all thought it sounded dead good. We couldn't wait to get started.

ANN I give up. Would it be a silly question to ask if you know who the father Of these babies is?

SARAH You cheeky cow! What do you think I am, some sort of slapper?  
(Lynne wags her finger and looks stern) What sort of a question is that?  
Of course I know who the father is.

ANN Go on then tell us.

SARAH Wayne.....or Leroy.....or Sean

ANN (holds her hands up) What did I tell you.

SARAH Hang on a minute. I'll work it out. It takes nine months to make a Baby doesn't it?

LYNNE Give or take a week or two.

SARAH (counting on her fingers) Well in that case it can't be Wayne 'cos 9 Months ago he was in prison!

ANN Well that narrows it down a bit.

SARAH So as soon as they are born, I'll know!

ANN How do you work that one out?

SARAH Cos Leroy's black!

ANN Oh my god!!!

LYNNE Wouldn't you know it.

ANN That's handy for you having them colour-coded.

LYNNE Will any of the fathers be coming to visit you?

SARAH You must be joking. They're a right pair of scum-bags. I've got a new Partner now, someone more mature.

ANN That's nice for you. Have you had a scan done? Do you know what You're having?

SARAH No, it doesn't really matter does it?

LYNNE It does if you've had 7 girls (looking at Ann) Perhaps if one of them's a boy you could do a swap with Mrs. Sullivan and hope that her husband doesn't notice.

ANN Do you mind! All my girls are blonde haired and blue-eyed. I think my Phil might notice if I took a black one home!

LYNNE Just trying to helpful.

FIONA (entering and looking timid) Excuse me I'm having a baby. Am I in The right place?

ANN Welcome to the mad house.

LYNNE (takes Fiona's arm and guides her to the bed) Yes of course you are

Dear, pop into bed. This is Mrs. Sullivan.

ANN This is my 7<sup>th</sup>. Another girl.

FIONA Oh.

LYNNE And this is Mrs.....er Sharon

SARAH (pointing to her lump) This is twins.

FIONA Goodness!

LYNNE Is this your first dear?

FIONA Oh yes

LYNNE (consulting her list) And you are Mrs...

FIONA Templeton-Smythe. Sarah bursts into raucous laughter)

LYNNE (wagging finger in Sarah's face) Now you behave yourself or I  
Might just decide it's time you had an enema.

ANN What's your first name luv?

FIONA Fleur.

SARAH FLEUR!!!

ANN (ignoring her) That's a nice name. Pity I've gone past the Fs.

LYNNE You could always bear it in mind for next time around. It's only  
Another 25 babies. The rate you're going you'll get there in no time!  
Ann throws her a dirty look)

ANN Have you had a scan done? Do you know what you are having?

FIONA Oh no, Lionel, thats my husband says it wasn't necessary. It's bound  
To be a boy. The Templeton-Smythe's first born are usually boys.

SARAH Cocky in't he your Lionel.

LYNNE I admire confidence in a man but he can't be that sure.

FIONA Oh Lionel is! He says it's got to be a boy. He's got his name down  
For Eton already. It must be a boy. Lionel's never wrong.

ANN I bet he isn't. I hope you don't end up with 7 girls like me.

FIONA Oh no Lionel would never put up with that.

LYNNE He might not have any choice dear.

FIONA (smiling nervously) Oh Lionel says that if the first two turned

Out to be boys he would divorce me and try again with someone else.

SARAH Lionel sounds like a right ba.....

LYNNE Thank you Sharon. That's enough if you don't mind.

ANN Doesn't Lionel like little girls?

FIONA Not really. He says it's a man's duty to produce lots of sons to carry  
On the family name.

SARAH Templeton-Smythe!

FIONA He thinks siring lots of boys shows that he's a man.

SARAH Shows that he's a pratt (Lynne looks stern and wags her finger) Well  
You couldn't make it up could you.

ANN I'm surprised Lionel allowed you to come to the local maternity  
Hospital, I'd have thought you'd have gone private.

FIONA Oh no, Lionel thinks it would be a waste of money. The Templeton-  
Smythe women have very easy births, I'll be home in no time.

SARAH I'd like to give your Lionel a piece of my mind. What time is he  
Coming in?

FIONA Oh he isn't. He checked his diary on the way here. He's too many  
Commitments he couldn't fit me in for at least twoweek. He's a very  
Important man.

SARAH I thought he was.

LYNNE Just you make the most of your time here, we'll look after you. You're not  
missing him too much are you?

FIONA (Looking relieved) Oh no, actually it's quite nice not to be told what to do  
all the time.

KATE (Loudly- off stage) Coo-ee anyone there hello (come on) I'm here!

LYNNE Well it's nice to see a happy face (consults her list) and you are Mrs?....

KATE Smith - Susan Smith. God it's taken me ages to get here.

ANN How long?

KATE 21 years!

ANN Good grief, where do you live?

KATE What? Oh no I mean we've been trying for a baby since our wedding

Night 21 years ago.

ANN Did we really want to know that.

KATE I tell you it's a relief to be pregnant. We've been at it like rabbits for  
The past 21 years. I'll be glad of the rest.

ANN Oh that really is too much information.

SARAH I can't think why it took you so long, it took me no time at all.

LYNNE (to Sarah) Why don't you practice your breathing exercises.

SARAH I don't have to practice breathing. I do it all the time.

FIONA Didn't you come to the ante-natal classes? I would have liked to  
But Lionel said it was a waste of time. He said animals didn't go to  
Them so why should women.

SARAH Oh good for Lionel.

LYNNE (to Sarah) Now I'm not going to tell you again.

SARAH (to Lynne) I hope that when you and me get into the delivery room  
You know what you are doing. Have you had a lot of twins?

LYNNE (looks affronted) I'll have you know that I've had more babies than  
You've had hot dinners including lots of twins and the occasional  
Triplets.

SARAH How many have you had of your own?

LYNNE Do you mind. I've never been married.

SARAH Neither have I.

LYNNE I've been far too busy seeing to the likes of you to have had the time  
To have any of my own but I reckon if I had I wouldn't have made  
As much fuss as you are.

ANN (to Kate) So what do you think did the trick after all those years?  
Do you know?

KATE Oh yes. It was our new milkman (all gasp)

SARAH I didn't think it was true what they said about milkmen. It just shows  
You.

KATE (looking puzzled) What. Oh please. What I should have said was that

It was the new milkman's wife.

ANN Well, I've never heard of that before.

KATE No. I mean our new milkman's wife was having the same trouble as Me and then she had some treatment and now she's got four strapping Lads.

ANN What was this treatment?

LYNNE I don't think with you having number 7 on the way you need to worry About treatment for getting pregnant.

ANN I'm just curious that all.

KATE Ugh. Don't lets go there. Enough to say that it included a thermometer A few pills and a diet of very odd food that gave you a lot of wind.

ANN Yes thanks for that. I think I've heard enough now. Do you know What you're having?

SARAH If it's a boy don't tell her. She'll only be dead jealous.

FIONA (at a vain attempt at humour) Wouldn't it be funny if we all had baby Boys except Mrs. Sullivan.

ANN That's right Fiona, rub it in.

FIONA Oh sorry. I didn't mean to be rude.

ANN Well I wouldn't be too smug about it just yet. You've only got Lionel's Word for it that this baby's a boy and he can't possibly know for sure He's not god you know.

KATE Yeah we know that but does Lionel

LYNNE Ladies please settle down now. I've never known such a rowdy lot. Why don't you all just sit here and think beautiful thoughts until it's Time for your babies to be born.

KATE Are all your husbands going to be at the births?

ANN Well mine isn't. He's seen it all before. You've seen one, you've Seen them all, that's what he says.

FIONA Oh no. Lionel's far too busy. Anyway he says it's women's work Having babies and men don't need to be involved in that side of things.

ANN (waving a hand towards Sarah) And don't bother asking her. There's not enough space in the delivery room for all the fathers of her babies.

KATE Is there a day room around here? I wouldn't mind watching a bit of telly while I'm waiting. What about you Fleur?

FIONA Oh I never watch daytime T.V. Lionel doesn't think it's good for you.

KATE What do you do with yourself all day then?

FIONA Lionel's mother has made me join all her committees so that keeps me fairly busy and of course with Lionel being in business we do a lot of entertaining so I'm always cooking.

SARAH What do you want to waste your time doing that for? Send out for a Pizza or an Indian.

FIONA Oh I don't think Lionel would like that.

ANN Has Lionel decided what this baby is going to be called?

FIONA Oh yes. Hugo. All the Templeton-Smythe first born are called Hugo.

SARAH What even if they're girls?

FIONA Oh they're never girls.

KATE So Lionel wasn't the first born then?

FIONA No he was second. His mother had four sons and two daughters and now she has 7 grandsons as well.

ANN So yours had better be a boy or your name will be mud.

SUE (entering) I've been told to report here. So here I am. Ooh (rubs her Bump) and not a moment too soon if you ask me.

LYNNE Who are you?

SUE Mrs. Collins. Who are you?

LYNNE You can call me Sister Bridget. I'm your midwife.

SUE Hmm. Not something I ever thought I would need, a midwife but my Husband had other ideas. He felt the need to pass on his genes before it was too late.

ANN Don't you like children then?

SUE Not really. I've been a teacher for over 20 years. I've taught all ages

From primary to school leavers and quite frankly when I get home at Night it's nice to be in a child free zone but not for much longer (pats Bump)

ANN Oh you'll get used to it. This is my 7<sup>th</sup>.

SUE Good grief woman have you never heard of the pill? I can assure you That there will be no more after this. My husband will have to make do With one.

SARAH Oh my god, it's MRS. COLLINS!!!

KATE Yeah we know. She said so when she came in.

SARAH No you don't get it. Mrs. Collins, don't you recognise me? It's Sharon. Sharon from 4C. You used to be my teacher.

SUE (peering at Sharon) Oh goodness me. Sharon. It doesn't seem that Long since you were in my class, when you bothered to turn up.

SARAH It's not that long. I only left last year. Who'd have thought that you and Me would have both ended up here at the same time?

SUE Somehow Sharon I always knew you'd end up here sooner or later but I never thought that I would.

SARAH You were a good teacher Mrs. Collins (to the rest of the group) She Taught me human biology. It was the only lesson I got the hang of.

SUE (po-faced) Clearly. And what about the father of this baby? Did I teach Him as well?

SARAH Babies – two.

ANN Fathers – well there were three at the last count. But we're not sure If that's the final figure. The jury's still out. Anyway what are you all Going to call your babies. Mine's Gracie and Fleur's is Hugo. What About the rest of you?

SUE I've no idea. I'll leave it to my husband.

KATE Oh I'm having a little Susan or a little Graham. We couldn't agree on Anything else.

SARAH I'm not sure about boys names.

KATE What was your father's name?

SARAH How should I know.

KATE Couldn't you ask your mother?

ANN Don't be daft. She probably wouldn't know either.

SARAH (ignoring them all) But for girls I like Kylie or Jordan or Pink but My favourite's Beyonce.

ANN If it's one of each you could call them Brad and Angelina.

KATE How about Ashley and Cheryl? Oh no perhaps not.

ANN Victoria and David

SUE Victoria and Albert.

LYNNE Charles and Camilla.

KATE Tony and Cherie.

ANN Napoleon and Josephine.

SUE Chi-chi and Chow-chow!!!

ALL (except Sarah) WHO????

SUE Oh sorry I got carried away. They're my two chihuahuas.

SARAH Oh can you all shut up. I've never heard of these people. You're all Just being really stupid. I want to try and have a sleep but I've got Really bad pains.

FIONA Excuse me Sister Bridget

LYNNE Yes dear, what is it?

FIONA I don't want to be a bother but I just wondered what time I will be Having my operation?

LYNNE And what operation is that?

FIONA (patting bump) The one to get the baby out.

LYNNE (consulting her list) Nobody told me about any operation. It's not down On my list. A fit young woman like you should be able to have her baby Naturally.

FIONA What do you mean, naturally?

SARAH Oh my god , she doesn't know how babies are born.

LYNNE Will you shut up or when you find yourself in the delivery room we just might run out of gas and air (turning to Fiona) Now listen dear I do think someone might have mentioned this to you before now but.....erm...you do remember how this baby got in there in the first place ?

FIONA (looks embarrassed) Oh yes. It wasn't too bad. Lionel is always very quick in everything he does.

LYNNE Well you see dear, that's the way the baby's coming out.

FIONA (looks horrified) Oh no.... I don't think mine's big enough!

LYNNE (patting her shoulder) I shouldn't worry dear that's what everyone thinks. But Mother Nature will find a way. Now don't worry about it too much, the tea trolley should be here soon. I think you should all have a nice cup of tea and a Hob Nob and then a little doze before lunch.

ANN Actually my pains are getting quite bad now. I think I'm ready for the delivery room (starts groaning and holding her bump)

SARAH You'll have to get in the queue my need is greater than yours. These two are beginning to fight their way out.

KATE I think someone should phone our Graham. I don't think I'm far off now.

SUE I've not had back-ache as bad as this since I demonstrated the shot put to 4C.

FIONA Actually I don't want to be a bother but I have got a bit of tummy ache. I wasn't sure if it was wind or not.

LYNNE No dear. I think you'll find it's a bit more substantial than that. Well I'm sorry ladies but you can't all be having your babies together. We haven't got enough delivery beds.

(everyone is panting, groaning and holding on to bumps by now)

KATE What are we to do then? Toss for it?

SARAH I should go first. I'm having more babies than anyone else.

ANN This is my 7<sup>th</sup> child. It could be born very quickly.

FIONA I don't mind waiting until everyone else has finished.

SUE Couldn't we go alphabetically or something?

LYNNE (looking slightly panicked – looks off to wings) I'll just have to get Dr. Andrew to come and examine you all (everyone is moaning) He'll sort you all out. Dr. Andrew, Dr. Andrew can you come quickly now, we've got a bit of an emergency.

ANDREW Here I am Sister Bridget. Now ladies, which one of you wants to be examined first?

C U R T A I N   C L O S E

Curtains open. Everyone is holding a baby.....All girls  
Sarah has a black and a white one. Sister Bridget and  
Dr. Andrew are in the middle.

T H E E N D



