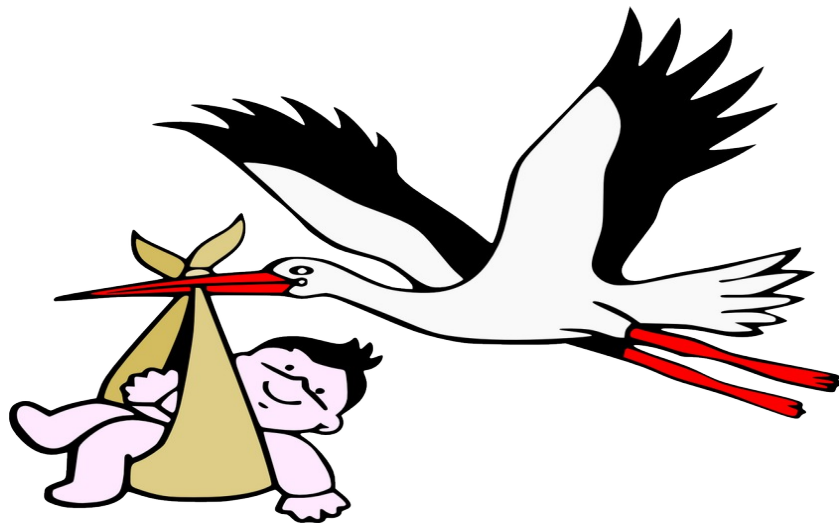


HE DELIVERED



by Jean Blasiar

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HE DELIVERED

SETTING: A SINGLE BED, STAGE RIGHT, telephone on small table next to bed

WOMAN (EMILY, AGE 25-30) IN BED

In the BLACKOUT PHONE RINGS

LIGHTS UP, only on woman in bed, stage right

Woman grimaces in pain as she turns to pick up the phone.

EMILY

(answering phone)

Hello?

LIGHTS UP, stage left, on MAN (TONY, age 40-45) with phone in his hand.

TONY

Hello. Is this the woman who had a baby in my cab?

EMILY

What...?

(beat; she smiles)

Is this the cab driver who helped me deliver?

TONY

That's me, lady. Tony Mandella. You okay? I called to see if you're okay.

EMILY

I'm hurting. Not unusual for just having a baby.

TONY

Maybe you oughta tell somebody you're hurting.

EMILY

I'm sure they think that's pretty normal. How are you, my brave warrior?

TONY

I'm terrific. I called to see about you. And the baby.

EMILY

Raymond is doing just fine. Eight pounds, three ounces with a very healthy set of lungs.

TONY

Wow! Eight pounds! No wonder he had trouble getting out.

I like his name. It's a great name. Lots of All Stars named Ray.

His daddy missed a beautiful thing when Ray arrived.

Emily doesn't respond.

TONY

I never saw a birth before. You know?

EMILY

You don't have children?

TONY

Not yet. I'm looking forward to it. But I'd be

too nervous to drive my wife to the hospital.

EMILY

You pulled over and parked when I told you the baby was coming. I was a perfect stranger and you helped me breathe and push. But you'd be too nervous to drive your wife to the hospital?

TONY

Did you know we were in the middle of traffic on the busiest freeway in the world? The busiest freeway in the world and your baby decides to be born. I threw up all last night just thinking about it. Basically, I'm very shy.

EMILY

You weren't shy when you helped me push.

TONY

I did what I had to do. But I'm not kidding you. I'm very shy.

EMILY

You could have fooled me.

TONY

Is your family coming to help with Ray?

EMILY

I hired a nurse for a few weeks. We'll be fine.

TONY

I could drive you and the baby home. I bought him a little outfit in the gift shop. Hope you like the Dodgers.

EMILY

We'd be very happy to have you drive us home, Tony. They told me that we'd be discharged tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

TONY

I'll be here. You think I could see the little guy through a window or some place?

EMILY

I'm sure you can go to the hallway leading to the maternity ward and peek into the viewing room. He's there now.

TONY

Yeah? That'd be okay with the nurse? I don't wanna break any rules or nuthin'.

EMILY

It's more than okay, Tony. You're a hero around here. Everybody in the hospital knows that you delivered my baby in the back of your cab.

TONY

No kiddin'. Everybody knows? You tell 'em?

EMILY

**I told them. And the staff in the Emergency
Room told them. You're famous, Tony.
Probably get your picture in the paper.**

TONY

Oh, no. You think it's okay if I see him?

EMILY

**Absolutely. Call me after you see him and
let me know what you think.**

TONY

**I'm on my cell phone in the lobby right now
at the receptionist's desk. You think you could
tell the lady here that it's okay if I go back
and have a look at Ray?**

EMILY

Call me back in three minutes.