

WHERE THE HEART IS 1-

LIL

Well, I hope you don't think this kid's gonna call me grandma.

NOVALENE

Mama?

LIL

I thought you'd be surprised.

NOVALENE

How'd you know I was here?

LIL

I saw your fabulous interview on the television and I hopped right in the car and here I am. Musta been in that damn car like ten hours, I'm telling you.

NOVALENE

From where?

LIL

New Orleans? I've been livin' there about, guess I've been livin' there about 2, 3 years now.

NOVALENE

With Fred?

LIL

Who?

NOVALENE

Fred. The Umpire.

LIL

Ah! That shithead? Oh my God! Jesus! What in God's name made you think of him?

NOVALENE

Because he was the reason you left.

LIL

Left what?

NOVALENE

Me.

LIL

Oh geez. Now, Sweetie, look; that is all water under the bridge. I didn't drive here for ten hours to reminisce with you, alright!

NOVALENE

Well then why did you come?

LIL

Well I thought you could use some help! You didn't look too good up there. Livin' in the Wal-Mart is not my idea of a big success.

NOVALENE

How are you going to help?

LIL

I don't know. You got a man?

NOVALENE

No.

LIL

This is not one of them, artificial spermination things, is it?

NOVALENE

No.

LIL

Then where is the prick who put you in this mess?

NOVALENE

California

LIL

Well, that figures. All the pricks, they move to California.
[beat] Got a place to live?

NOVALENE

No.

LIL

Sweetie, look; You are going to need a place to take this baby. Maybe you should think about moving into Sears. I- I hear the K-Mart is really nice.

NOVALENE

Did you come all this way just to make fun of me?

LIL

God, no. Jesus! I didn't. I wanted to help my child with her child, is all. [pause] You want me to go?

NOVALENE

No.

LIL

Alright then. When are they lettin' you out?

NOVALENE

Tomorrow.

LIL

Hmmm. Well, I'm not in any hurry to move on. Maybe I could find a place. You, me and the baby.

NOVALENE

You mean like, like a home?

LIL

Home, apartment, whatever. Till you get on your feet. I got me a little money.

NOVALENE

Oh, I got money! The president of Wal-Mart sent me five-hundred dollars!

LIL

Why? He's not the Father of the child, is he?

NOVALENE

No.

LIL

Aw shit.

NOVALENE

No, he just, he just wanted to be nice! They offered me any job in any Wal-Mart in the country!

LIL

Wow! So [taking the money] I'm thinking, what with your money and my money together, we might be able to find us a real decent place. So I don't want you to worry about a thing anymore. Cause Mama Lil is here now.

NOVALENE

Why don't you come by and pick us up tomorrow, me and Americus. 9:00am?

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LIL

On the dot. So I got me a lot of stuff to do. We gotta get diapers, and blankets, and a cradle—

NOVALENE

Mama

LIL

Yeah

NOVALENE

Thank you for coming.

LIL

You bet.