

A photograph of a baby crawling on a dark, rippling surface, possibly water. The baby is wearing a white onesie and is seen from the back. The text 'THAT BABY' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, white font. The letters 'H', 'A', 'B', and 'B' are filled with a dark blue color that matches the background.

THAT BABY

written by
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Matt Lathrom

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

JENN (36) rifles through her purse at the checkout line. Her dark hair veils her panicked expression. Five stuffed bags await. A backed up line behind her.

She shoots the cashier a smile of assurance.

JENN
One sec. It's here.

Jenn sifts around. Takes pause. Stares at the floor, then b-lines for the exit.

CASHIER
Mam. Mam!

Jenn halts. She bites her lip, then flips around.

A stroller sits parked at the end of the line.

She stares at the floor as she grabs the stroller. The baby looks up and back at her. Baby GABRIEL (1). She looks away.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Jenn hyperventilates. Closes her eyes. Tries to calm her breathing.

In the car seat behind the passenger seat, Gabriel shuffles.

Tears fill Jenn's eyes.

JENN
You're not my baby!

Gabriel laughs.

INT. JENN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jenn hauls in the car seat. Locks the door behind her. She drops the car seat. Gabriel giggles.

She starts to walk away when--

DANIEL (36) rounds the corner. He's tall and pale with blond, almost platinum hair.

She stops, circles back around to Gabriel in the seat.

Daniel stares for a moment.

DANIEL

Want me to grab the groceries?

JENN

Yeah, no. I didn't get them. He was being really fussy, so I thought maybe he had a stomach ache or...

Jenn picks up Gabriel. Holds him lower, away from her face.

JENN

He's fine now. I don't know.

Daniel comes over to her. She hands off baby Gabriel.

DANIEL

You all right, little man?

JENN

Can you take him tonight? I need a break.

Daniel holds Gabriel close.

DANIEL

Not this again.

Daniel has the tone of an disapproving father.

JENN

Fuck you. He's your baby.

DANIEL

You can't leave him. He'll always come back to us. To you.

Jenn grits her teeth. Storms off. Daniel smirks. Shakes his head. Whispers to Gabriel.

DANIEL

She's funny, huh? We like her.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jenn rests in the neck-high water of the porcelain tub. She fiddles with a safety razor that sits on the soap dish.

She sings under her breath.

JENN

I can't see me lovin' nobody but you, for all my life.

She peers down at her belly as she sings. Rubs it like a pregnant mother would.

JENN

Me and you, and you and me, no
matter how we--

Gabriel yelps from another room. Jenn startles. She rolls her eyes. Sinks her head into the tub.

INT. GABRIEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

A small, plain, white room. Daniel lifts Gabriel from his wooden crib. Gabriel stops crying in that instant. He holds him up in front of him.

DANIEL

Let's go say hi to mommy, huh?

Gabriel giggles.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

JENN'S POV

From underwater, a figure appears above, obscured by the ripples.

BACK TO SCENE

Jenn lifts out of the water. Catches her breath.

DANIEL

(to Gabriel)
Mommy's gonna drown.

JENN

What do you want?

DANIEL

I want you to start acting like a
part of this family. We both do.

Jenn stands up in the bathtub. Naked. She stares down Daniel with Gabriel.

CLOSE ON the safety razor in her hand.

JENN

He's not my baby. And you're not my
husband.

Daniel gets serious, bordering on angry look. He grips Gabriel by the foot, dangles him, then tosses Gabriel across the room.

Gabriel smashes against the wall, hits the ground.

Jenn and Daniel are unfazed. Gabriel twitches on the ground.

Gabriel laughs, crawls to Jenn's feet. Sits. Gabriel looks up to her with big blue eyes. Smiles. She sneers down at him with a look of disgust.

Daniel steps toward Jenn.

DANIEL

You're impatient. You just have to
give me one more.

Daniel reaches out. Touches Jenn's stomach.

Jenn slashes up his arm vertically with the safety razor blade.

A gash opens up. No blood comes out.

The wound closes up.

Daniel gives Jenn a "really" kind of look.

Jenn shrugs. Drops the blade. Walks out.

Gabriel picks up the blade.

DANIEL

(to Gabriel)

Mommy's funny, isn't she.

Gabriel chews on the blade. Giggles.

FADE OUT,

THE END