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967 words.

<To Term>

by <Growing Desires>

Chapter Two

Sophie felt like she was just hit by a bat.

Twins...

Her mind raced. She was giving the baby up anyway but the thought of carrying two babies, it was a lot. She wondered about a lot of things but was cut short when Dr Mills interrupted her.

“Unfortunately... That does mean the drug we’re testing... We can’t use it on someone who is having multiples, not yet...”

“What? But... What about the money? What am I going to do?” Sophie’s world was crashing around her and from the elevated hormones she was feeling she was a blubbering mess.

“Hey, it’s okay.” Dr Mills put her hand on Sophie’s leg. “Look, my friend from another lab, he is running a different trial, specifically for twins. Let me give him a call and let me see if I can run it for him. There will be a lot of reading to do though.”

Sophie nodded, through sobs.

Dr Mills called her friend, Sophie remained still, the jelly still on her stomach, she hadn't even bothered to cover up, she was too distraught at the thought of not being able to pay her rent, pay for food or anything.

"Well... Clearly I need to take some lessons from him..." Dr Mills muttered. "Right, I need to send over some more scans to him so he can review, he is happy for me to carry out the trial from this lab. That is a big relief, trust me, he's over 300 miles away... You do not want to be travelling when you enter the third trimester..." Dr Mills started to look away as if she was lost in thought. "Anyway, I'll take some more scans, put in the application for you and give you the information you need to read."

"Thank you." Sophie said, fighting back tears.

"And Sophie... I shouldn't say this until you're accepted but... He has a lot more funding than me... \$7,000 was a nice offer from my trial but whatever he is doing, I need to do that..." Dr Mills leaned in, grinning from ear to ear.

"\$120,000"

Sophie froze. The shock had paralysed her.

"I'll say that again... \$120,000... Mind boggling isn't it. Governments around the globe are willing to pay a lot for this research." Dr Mills mused. "There is a lot more complexity and it is much harder to come across multiples. Hey if you had another one hiding in there he would go up to \$250,000! I don't even want to know what quadruplets or quintuplets would get..." Snapping herself back. "I digress..."

“One hundred and twenty thousand... What’s the trial for?”

“Oh of course, it’s not the same, actually quite different, this is an injection rather than a pill, taken every 10 weeks, it allows multiples to be taken to full term. Most multiples are delivered early. It can pose a risk for baby and mum, so he’s been trying to make it possible for a woman to take to term, did you know multiples in pregnancy are increasing worldwide. Wouldn’t be surprised if he didn’t get money from around the world for this one, it is far cheaper for hospitals to have babies born and mothers out within a day of birth rather than intensive care for the baby for a number of weeks.”

“Full term... Twins...”

“Yeah.” Dr Mills looked at the younger woman.

Sophie looked down at her tiny bulge in her stomach and blurted out;

“I’ll be huge...”

“Well... I think I can say it now before you start showing properly. Yes. I remember with my son, I felt huge, I can’t imagine how much bigger I’d have felt with another one in there...” Dr Mills said without restraint. She was quite a candid woman as it would turn out. “Anyway... Let’s get this show on the road.”

Dr Mills took some more scans, sent them over to her coworker and emailed Sophie the information on the new drug. There was a lot in there, nothing too scary, the side effects were different obviously, but they mostly seemed good to Sophie, yet they needed to be stated as they were not intentional.

Back home Lorna read the information alongside her friend.

“They’re going to pay you 120k and the side effects are Increased metabolism, increased muscle growth, higher energy levels, increased size of bust, increased levels of lactation and early onset lactation and prolonged lactation postpartum.” Lorna scoffed. “Sign me up... What’s a bit of milk for that!”

The two girls laughed with each other. “Twins... Are you okay?” Lorna brought it back to the realm of reality.

“I think so... I was concerned that I was going to be the size of a house before...” Sophie placed her hand on her lower stomach. “To full term...”

“Yeah... I might need to roll you around the place.”

Sophie punched Lorna in the arm.

“Ouch! I deserved it but... I can’t hit you back now that you are pregnant.” Lorna teased.

“120k...”

“Yeah...” Lorna and Sophie stared off as their minds raced with what that amount of money could mean for Sophie.

The response was quick, she was accepted onto the trial and Sophie quickly found herself back in the lab, this time to be administered a quick jab, thankfully it didn’t hurt too much, a few more scans and she was left on her way. There was a big rush to get the injection in at the 10-week mark so she could then have an even rarer full course of the drug. This extra shot came with an added bonus of \$40,000, bringing the total up to \$160k. Each payment

would come with each job. Walking back to her car, she sat down and checked her banking app.

It was there.

\$40,000 flashed on her screen.

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