

Role Play Script
SELLING DEATH: INSIDE AN ABORTION CLINIC
(Teacher reads the “blue italics”)

Narrator 1: To explore alternatives to her crisis pregnancy, Jane googles, “What do I do if I’m pregnant,” and goes to the Planned Parenthood site. The website says that she needs to get a pregnancy test and suggests that the local Planned Parenthood health center has specially trained staff who can talk about all options. However, the site warns to “beware of so-called “crisis pregnancy centers”. They are fake clinics run by people who are anti-abortion. They often don’t give women all their options. They have a history of scaring women into not having abortions. Absolutely no one should pressure you or trick you into making a decision you’re not comfortable with.”

Scene 1: Dialogue

Narrator 1: Jane calls the Planned Parenthood facility near her. The phone is answered by Sue, an abortion salesperson calling herself a "counselor." However, the one product she sells is abortion. The abortion clinic makes no money if that pregnancy is continued in any manner. Sue may have had extensive marketing training to "help" this woman with her "problem."

Sue: *When was the first day of your last normal period?*

Narrator 1: Jane tells her the date.

Sue: *(matter-of-factly) Sounds like you're six weeks pregnant.*

Jane: *(sounding nervous) You mean I'm pregnant?*

Sue: *Is this good news or bad news?*

Narrator 1: Sue knows that women who are happy about being pregnant do not call abortion clinics. *(Teacher: Keep in mind that the pregnancy hasn't even yet been confirmed.)*

Jane: *Bad news.*

Sue: *(taking charge) No one needs to know. We can take care of your problem without anyone's knowledge.*

Narrator 1: The "counselor" now searches for the reason the woman does not want this baby. She must know in order to use the fear in her selling technique.

Jane: *This is just not what I need right now.*

Sue: *(continues selling) Does the father know?*

Narrator 1: She never calls the woman the "mother" or the baby a "baby," but the male involved is always referred to as the "father." Subconsciously Sue is encouraging Jane to blame the man for this problem.

Jane: *I guess I have to tell him now.*

Sue: *(ready to close the deal) You know the cost is \$450. Do you have that much money?*

Jane: *(horrified) No!*

Sue: *(in a calm voice) Go to all your friends and ask to borrow \$5, \$10 or \$25. Get a part-time job and pay them back in a year. Now, why don't you come in tomorrow around 2:00 to confirm your pregnancy and see what you want to do?*

Scene 2: The Test

Narrator 1: It is the next day and Jane and her boyfriend, Darryl, the father of the baby, arrive for her appointment.

Sue: *(smiling) Hello, Jane. I am so glad you are here.*

Jane: *This is my boyfriend, Darryl.*

Sue: *Hello, Darryl. Are you the father?*

Darryl: *(obviously nervous and embarrassed) Yeah, I guess so.*

Sue: Well let's go back to the lab and do the pregnancy test.

(Teacher: Carol Everett points out in her brochure that in order to make more money, sometimes a woman who is not pregnant will be told that she is pregnant, so that she will buy an abortion, thus, the clinic will make more money. A "procedure" is then performed on her so that she will believe she has had an abortion. However, this is not being done at this clinic today.)

Narrator 1: Together they go to the lab and mix the urine with chemicals. She points to a chart on the wall showing what the results of both a positive and negative pregnancy test will look like. Jane watches carefully.

Sue: It looks like you are pregnant. If you have your money, then we can go ahead and get this over with today, and you won't have to think about it anymore--after all, the sooner the better.

Darryl: We have the money. I guess we should go ahead and get it over with today.

Jane: I'm just not sure. I think I need some time to think.

Narrator 1: Sue knows that if Jane leaves the "clinic" someone might counsel her that abortion is not the answer to her "problem." Sue knows that Darryl is the key here. If she can keep him on the abortion track then he can convince Jane. Seeing that Darryl is uncomfortable, Sue uses this to press them both into a quick decision and "close the sale." Sue is trained to be a "friend" to couples like Jane and Darryl.

Sue: Darryl, why don't you two go in this room and talk about this? You can talk about what is best for the two of you and your futures. I want you two to make the best decision for your lives.

Narrator 1: Sue is trying to scare Darryl about his future if Jane doesn't go through with this abortion. She wants him to use his emotional control of the situation to convince Jane to "shape up and do what is right for both of them." As the two walk into the room, Sue gives a sympathetic knowing glance to Darryl as if to say, "Your future is in your hands."

Scene 3: The Persuasion

Darryl: I thought we had talked about this already and we decided that this was best.

Jane: I know, but now I'm scared. I bet it really hurts and what if something goes wrong?

Darryl: It will be ok. People do this all the time. Besides I'll be right out here the whole time

Narrator: The father is not normally allowed in the actual "procedure room."

Jane: Maybe this isn't the right thing to do. Maybe this really is a baby and maybe we should just leave here right now.

Darryl: (becoming scared and impatient) What does it matter, let's just go ahead and get this over with. We both decided this is what was best.

Jane: I thought you loved me.

Darryl: I do. And if we can just get this behind us, then we can move on together.

Narrator 1: Jane sees this comment as a threat that if she doesn't have the abortion, he will end their relationship. She reluctantly agrees and they let Sue know of their decision. Sue tells Darryl to go get some fresh air or something to eat and come back later for Jane. She takes Jane with her.

Scene 4: The Lie

Narrator 2: Jane is brought to the front desk to pay **before** the abortion. The preferred method of payment is cash but most abortion clinics accept credit cards. Jane might be given a consent form that confuses her so that she doesn't ask many questions about what is to transpire. But almost every woman has the same two questions...

Jane: Is it a baby?

Sue: No, it's a product of conception (or a "blood clot" or a "piece of tissue").

(Teacher: Carol Everett also points out that the "counselors" lie to the women, even though on an ultra sound they have seen six-week-old babies that are less than an inch long with arms, legs, and eyes that are closed.)

Jane: *Will it hurt?*

Sue: *(lies) No, your uterus is a muscle. It cramps when it opens and cramps when it closes so you will experience a slight cramping sensation.*

Scene 5: The Abortion

Narrator 2: Now that the sale has been made and Jane has paid her money and signed the consent form, she is a different commodity. The operating room is cool; the atmosphere is one of confusion with teams of nurses running around. Each operating room has a radio that is set on a different station, so there is little cross-communication between rooms. Every effort is made to keep the patient from hearing other women's comments or screams during the abortion procedure.

Sue joins Jane in the operating room, to continue the "friendship." In reality, she is there to keep Jane quiet. The abortionist stops at the door of the room, picks up the chart, removes a receipt, and adds it to his stack. At the end of the day the abortionist turns in his receipts and is paid in cash.

The abortionist enters the room, asking a question like,

Abortionist: *"Where does your mother think you are today?"*

Narrator 2: Something to reinforce the fear and keep him in control of the situation. He never asks, "Is this what you really want to do? Have you considered the alternatives?" Jane starts to cry as the abortionist preps her for the abortion

Jane: *"Stop, I don't want to do this. I've changed my mind."*

Abortionist: *"It's too late, I've already started the procedure."*

Narrator 2: This is a lie, but if he stops now, he doesn't get paid. In some cases, nurses will have to be called in to hold the woman on the table while the doctor completes the abortion. The sound of the suction machine as the blood and small parts of the baby pop through the tube are permanently imbedded in Jane's memory. Finally the killing is over and she is moved to the recovery room.

Scene 6: The Recovery Room

Narrator 2: Women who have had abortions have two reactions in the recovery room. The first is, "I've killed my baby!" This woman has to deal with the death of her child, grieve, and try to go on with her life. The second reaction is anger: "You promised me I'd only be here two hours. It's been four. Let me go!" But she can't leave yet. She has to go through the re-sale process where the counselor gives her birth control pills. She replies, "I'll never have sex again." The recovery room nurse coolly says, "You came in once, and if you don't take these, you'll be here again." With inadequate information, the woman is often given the Pill. Statistics show that when contraceptives are dispensed in this kind of uninformed environment, pregnancy rates ACTUALLY go up not down. Sadly statistics also show that nearly 40 percent of all abortion clients are repeat customers.

(Teacher: If things go as they usually do, Darryl and Jane will break up eventually. Each may blame the other for what happened, or perhaps their commitment to one another wasn't that strong to begin with. Both must live with their role in this abortion.)