

MINE

BY LAURA MARKS



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Jessica Amato and everyone at Gersh.

Michael Patrick Thornton and everyone at the Gift Theatre.

The superb cast, crew, and creative team of the Chicago production, especially director Marti Lyons.

Everyone at Juilliard and the Public Theater, my two homes when I was writing this play.

Director Lucie Tiberghien and the Juilliard students who appeared in a workshop of this play: Julia Ogilvie, Alex Hanna, Gabriella Grier, Carolyn Michelle Smith, and Carmela Corbett.

Joan Bryson, CNM, for her expert advice.

Clarissa and Eleanor and Ken, for all that they've taught me and given me.

MINE was presented at the Gift Theatre (Michael Patrick Thornton, Artistic Director) in Chicago, Illinois, opening on June 21, 2013. It was directed by Marti Lyons; the set design was by Stephen H. Carmody; the costume design was by Emma Weber; the lighting design was by Mac Vaughey; the sound design was by Christopher Kriz; the properties design was by Rita Thornton; and the stage manager was Helen Lattyak. The cast was as follows:

MARI Hillary Clemens
JOAN Alexandra Main
RINA Deborah Ann Smith
PETER Gabriel Franken
AMY Cyd Blakewell

CHARACTERS

MARI — a first-time mother

JOAN — a midwife

RINA — Mari's mother

PETER — Mari's husband

AMY — something else entirely

MINE

Scene 1

Night. A bedroom in a small apartment. Mari crouches inside a blue inflatable birthing tub with high sides. She's in the final stages of labor. Her husband, Peter, is kneeling beside the tub, and she leans on him, clutching his hands, grunting and moaning. Two other women sit nearby on an ottoman and a Pilates ball: a midwife, Joan, in street clothes except for a stethoscope and latex gloves; and Rina, Mari's mother. They lean forward encouragingly, but they don't intervene.

MARI. I can do this —

JOAN. That's right.

RINA. Of course you can, honey.

MARI. — Oh my God! —

JOAN. It's okay.

PETER. You're doing great.

MARI. I think — oh, something's tearing, oh God —

JOAN. It's all right. Just "breathe the baby out."

MARI. *(Starts pushing.)* Aaaugh! ... I. Want. My. Baby! *(Blackout.)*

Scene 2

The bedroom, two hours later. Mari and Peter are alone. Mari lies on the bed, dazed and spent. Peter holds a swaddled baby and slow-dances around the room, singing a whispered lullaby. Mari watches them. She reaches out and gropes around on the nightstand, finally grabbing a wide-mouthed sports bottle with a straw propped inside. She tries to lift her head far enough to drink, but can't.

MARI. Mom?

PETER. *(Whispering.)* Shhh ... She went home.

MARI. Oh.

PETER. I just wanted some time alone. With my family. *(Pause.)* We're a family ... *(Mari lifts her head a few more inches and tries to drink. Liquid dumps all over her.)*

MARI. Oh fuck. *(Pause.)* Honey? *(No response.)* I'm in a puddle here.

PETER. *(Lovingly, eyes on the baby.)* I know. Me too.

MARI. No, really. *(She brushes weakly at the spill, dislodging a molecule or two.)*

PETER. I think she's sleeping. *(He walks over to Mari with exaggerated slowness and starts to put the baby in her arms.)* Jesus! You're all wet.

MARI. I tried to drink lying down. *(He backs up.)* It's okay, I can still hold her.

PETER. Not if you're all wet.

MARI. It's mostly on the bed.

PETER. I'd better change the sheets.

MARI. *(Burrowing in the pillow.)* No, please, don't make me get up again. I'll sleep in the wet spot, I don't mind. It's soothing.

PETER. How are the stitches? *(She flashes a weak thumbs-up.)* Here. Look: *(He drags over a bassinet.)* I'll put her right here. Can you see her?

MARI. Kind of. *(He climbs into bed behind Mari.)* I feel like I've hardly seen her at all.

PETER. She's only been alive for two hours.

MARI. I know, but it all happened so fast.

MINE

by Laura Marks

1M, 4W

As a first-time mother about to have a home birth, Mari is certain of one thing: She can't wait to hold her baby. The next morning, she's certain of something else: The baby in her arms is not her baby. A contemporary thriller with age-old roots, MINE explores an unseen world where doubt and certainty blur and madness vies with reality.

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ISBN 978-0-8222-2909-4



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