

Babymoon

By

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Based On The Conversation Recorded For  
The Please Make This Podcast

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Scene #1

By

Paula Skaggs

Mariela  
Jeff  
Devil Doula  
Stephanie  
Deb  
Wang Min  
Gabriella  
Greta

**BABYMOON: Opening Scene**

**EXT. LONG COUNTRY ROAD**

*A Toyota Corolla drives up a long, creepy, winding road, up toward an ominous mansion on the hill - the home of the DEVIL DOULA.*

*MARIELA (25, pretty but doesn't know it) sits in the front seat. Her husband JEFF (28, pretty but doesn't know it) is driving the car.*

JEFF

Come on, babe. Just stay home and watch Netflix this weekend with me. What do you even need a "birthing retreat" for - people have been having babies for centuries.

MARIELA

No, Jeff. I need to do what's best for me...and the baby.

*The camera pans out to reveal that MARIELA is very, very pregnant.*

MARIELA - CONT.

And this Doula is supposed to be the best in the biz -I can't believe Groupon had a deal for a one-on-one overnight retreat with her.

*The car pulls up in front of the DOULA'S mansion. It's even creepier up close - huge, elaborate and ominous. A line of women - all dressed in nurse-like white gowns - (The CULT MEMBERS) stand near the door, with emotionless faces.*

JEFF

Well, this must be the place. Let me know when you're all settled in. I'll pick you up in the morning?

MARIELA  
See you then.

*DEVIL DOULA (late 50s, pretty but doesn't know it) dramatically emerges from the front door as Jeff drives away, her long red dress blowing behind her, also dramatically.*

DEVIL DOULA  
Ah! Mariela Johnson. We've been waiting for you.

*DEVIL DOULA snaps her fingers, and one of the CULT MEMBERS rushes forward and grabs the bag from MARIELA.*

DEVIL DOULA  
Right this way, my dear. I'll show you to your room.

**INT. DEVIL DOULA MANSION**

*MARIELA follows DEVIL DOULA through the mansion.*

DEVIL DOULA  
Yes, I come from a long line of Doulas. My mother, her mother, her mother, her mother before her...you might say that doula-ing is in my... blood.

DEVIL DOULA laughs, MARIELA politely laughs too.

DEVIL DOULA  
Thousands of pregnant women have passed through these halls...generations of babies...and generations of those babies' babies....and gener-

MARIELA  
Those women outside. Who...who were they?

DEVIL DOULA  
Helpers. They're my helpers.

MARIELA  
But why-

*DEVIL DOULA quickly changes the subject.*

DEVIL DOULA  
Some say that being a doula is a lost art, but-

*DEVIL DOULA and MARIELA pass by a room with an open door. GRETA (24, country girl, pretty but doesn't know it) stands at the window. She slowly turns around to reveal that she is also pregnant.*

DEVIL DOULA

And here we are, this is your room. Dinner will be at 6 pm sharp downstairs. Do not be late.

*DEVIL DOULA opens the door to a room. There's another woman - STEPHANIE (27, pretty but doesn't know it) sitting on the bed, reading a magazine. She looks up and smiles.*

*MARIELA turns to the DEVIL DOULA*

MARIELA

Oh, I thought this was supposed to be a private retreat-

*DEVIL DOULA has already disappeared.*

**INT. BEDROOM**

*STEPHANIE stands up to enthusiastically hug MARIELA.*

STEPHANIE

(Speaking really fast, MARIELA can cut her off wherever)  
Hiiii, roomie! Boy oh boy, do I have SO MANY questions for you. How long have you been pregnant? I've been pregnant for 8 and a half months but it FEELS like 8 and a half years, amiright? Are you having a boy or a girl? What kinds of foods are you craving? Right now, I'm craving salt and vinegar chips but I can't tell if that's because they're pregnancy cravings or just because I really like them, you know? And-

MARIELA

Um, wow. I definitely cannot wait to talk about...all of that...but, I've gotta go call my husband. I'll be right back.

*MARIELA pulls out her cell phone and begins to click around to call JEFF.*

STEPHANIE

It's no use. There's no reception anywhere in the house. None of the other girls can get their phones to work either. It's

probably because we're totally secluded out here. Like, if anything bad were to happen, it would probably be *hours* before the cops could even get here and who *knows* what would happen before-

MARIELA

None of the other girls? How many more are there?

STEPHANIE

It's almost time for dinner. Let's go down, you can meet them.

**CUT TO: DINNER**

INT. DEVIL DOULA DINING ROOM

*The pregnant women - GRETA, GABRIELA (18, sexy teen, pregnant with twins), WANG MIN (26, comedian AND comic relief), DEB (42, Middle School Vice Principal and mom of 2 already) All are pretty but don't know it. - sit around a long dining table. DEVIL DOULA stands at the front of the table. She looks around, smiling. CULT MEMBERS stand around the table, emotionless.*

DEVIL DOULA

Now, ladies, I've invited you all to this doula retreat for a very special reason-

GABRIELA

You didn't *invite* us anywhere. We all bought this retreat on Groupon.

*There's a pause.*

DEVIL DOULA

ANYWAY. This is a very special-

GABRIELA

And actually, it was an extra 30% *off* the Groupon deal. That's like, the lowest level of Groupon.

DEVIL DOULA

...okay. So anyway.

GABRIELA

PLUS my mom bought this for me so, like, I'm REALLY not personally invested in this-

DEVIL DOULA

GREAT. ANYWAY. I invited you on this doula retreat - for tonight is the night...of the BABYMOON.

*Right on cue, lightning strikes.*

DEVIL DOULA pauses for a dramatic gasp from the crowd, but receives none. She pauses a few more seconds.

DEVIL DOULA

The baby moon is, of course, a very important day for us doulas. It's the day when the moon is at its smallest - and pregnant women are at their most full...of power.

(Pause)

It's also the day when we here at Doula House look for new members to join our...club.

*The camera pans to the emotionless CULT MEMBERS standing around the table.*

WANG MIN

(Whispering)

Oh man, I skipped a bar basement improv show for *this*?

DEVIL DOULA

SILENCE!

*DEVIL DOULA waves her hands dramatically.*

DEVIL DOULA

Membership in this club is not...optional.

*There's another dramatic flash of lightning. The power goes out, it's pitch black in the dining room. The women scream, scrambling around in the dark.*

*Zoom in on MARIEL. A hand holds out a lit-up candle to her. She looks up to see who is holding it - it's STEPHANIE, now wearing the white CULT CLOTHES, her face completely emotionless.*

*MARIEL screams.*

CUT TO: INT. LIVING ROOM

*The remaining women - MARIELA, GABRIELLA, GRETA, WANG MIN and DEB huddle together in the living room. They've barricaded the doors with all of the furniture they could find.*

GRETA

Okay, so - what the hell *is* this place?

DEB

I'm beginning to think the "seaside meditative lamaze class" is not going to happen.

WANG MIN

In improv, it's all about the "Yes And" - so YES I'd like to get me and my baby out of here...AND I'd like to do it soon.

MARIELA

Look, we just need to keep calm and stick together.

*The women check the windows to see if they can get out, hold up their phones for reception, etc.*

GRETA

I'm not going to wait around like some sort of Holstein Friesian Cattle. Let's smash our way out.

*GRETA runs toward the window to smash it.*

*A red light fills the room, and the DEVIL DOULA's voice can be heard.*

DEVIL DOULA (V.O.)

Now, now, now. Don't do anything that might hurt the baby. We want to take care of you forever and ever and ever...

*GRETA screams.*

END SCENE.

Scene #2

By

Spencer D Blair

The Middle of BABYMOON  
By Spencer Danger Blair

**EXT. Outside of Doula House**

*There are clouds passing over the babymoon, obscuring it's light every now and then. The women have broken a window on the second floor, tied bed sheets together to make a rope, and climbed down leaving them in the gated backyard of the Doula House where there is a hedge maze. DEB, GABRIELLA, and WANG MIN are already on the ground cheering Mariela on, who is halfway down. GRETA has not started climbing down yet.*

DEB

Come on Mariela! If teaching middle school PE for 12 years taught me anything, it's that physical strength exists entirely in the mind!

WANG MIN

If that's the case, then my mind must be completely empty!

*Everyone glares at WANG MIN.*

WANG MIN (cont'd)

Whaaaaaat?

GABRIELLA

You're halfway down, Mariela! You're almost there!

MARIELA

I'm so scared! I can't do it!

Suddenly, there is a scream from inside the house. It's GRETA.

MARIELA

GRETA?! Are you ok?!

Silence.

*Suddenly, the rope starts getting pulled back UP into the window. The cult members are trying to pull Mariela back in!*

DEB

Mariela! You have to go! NOW!

*Mariela starts climbing down with exceptional haste. Her adrenaline is rushing, which definitely can't be good for the baby. But neither is whatever the cult members want to do to the baby, so it's go time. After a tense minute, MARIELA makes it down to the ground. She is crying, and everyone comes to hold her and they have a moment together.*

DEB

We have to go.

*The Devil Doula™ looks out the window, sees the women on the ground and scowls at first, but then lets out an evil chuckle and slowly retreats back inside. The women turn around, and ahead of them is a hedge with a doorway in it.*

GABRIELLA

Is this some kind of maze?

*It IS some kind of maze, and an aerial view shows that it's in the shape of a hexagon.*

WANG MIN

What is this, my taxes?

*Everyone glares at WANG MIN.*

WANG MIN (cont'd)

Whaaaaaat?

MARIELA

Well, if we go back they'll catch us. If we stay here, they'll catch us. So I guess we have to go forward.

DEB

Everyone find a buddy. No one else is getting lost on this field trip.

*Everyone tries to grab DEB's hand, but MARIELA gets there first. GABRIELLA reluctantly takes WANG MIN's hand.*

WANG MIN

Jeez, buy me dinner first!

*Everyone glares at WANG MIN.*

WANG MIN (cont'd)

Whaaaaaat?

They enter the maze.

**INT: Hedge maze**

*The women walk into the maze. It immediately forks to the left and right.*

DEB

We have to stay together.

GABRIELLA

No way! This is just like Scooby Doo. If we split up, we have double the chances of finding a way out! And then we can just call out until the other find us!

MARIELA

I don't know...

GABRIELLA

Listen, you guys just have one baby. I have TWO. TWINS. INSIDE ME. I don't know how much longer I can last without these things bursting out of me.

DEB

Then we'll just follow you!

GABRIELLA

No, you go right. We'll go left. Call out if you find anything.

GABRIELLA drags a reluctant WANG MIN with her to the left. DEB and MARIELA look at each other, and then go the right with MARIELA taking one last glance towards the others.

MARIELA

This doesn't feel right to me. We should stick together!

DEB

I know, but some people just can't be reasoned with and that girl is one of them. Trust me, I taught plenty just like her. She thinks right and she'll only think otherwise when she's dead... uh, proven wrong.

MARIELLA

Yeah. Well, let's find the way out so we can get all of us out of here.

INT. Hedge Maze

*GABRIELLA and WANG MIN are still holding hands. GABRIELLA is clearly annoyed by WANG MIN, but she keeps just talking and talking and talking.*

WANG MIN

And THAT is the full plot of The Skeleton Key. I think. I've never seen all of it, just bits and pieces on TBS or whatever.

GABRIELLA

Wait.

WANG MIN

What is it?

GABRIELLA sniffs.

GABRIELLA

Someone is cooking something. And it smells delicious!

WANG MIN

Oh my God, you're right!

*They start sprinting in the direction of the smell. Well, waddling quickly. Eventually they come to a clearing with a small pit in the middle with a spit on which some meat is roasting. The women walk over to it.*

*A moment later, a deformed man comes out of the maze. His hair is long, thin, and dirty. He is wearing overalls with one button undone and nothing on underneath. He is malnourished and naaaasty. He is wringing his hands.*

HORK

Wutter ya'll doon near mah meet?

*The women are very clearly startled. HORK notices they are pregnant and feels bad.*

HORK

Ahm sorrih. Ahm Hork. Iss a stupit name, ah noe.

GABRIELLA

STAY BACK. WHATEVER YOU ARE.

HORK

Oh, well now thass juss rute. Ahs goin tah offur some of mah eats to yeh.

WANG MIN

Really? It smells so good!

HORK

Tankee.

GABRIELLA

No, I'm sorry. We can't take it. I'm really not trusting anyone tonight. Not after what those nutjobs in the house did to us.

HORK

Eh, the weeches. Thar meen to babeh ladehs like yerselfs. Baht ahm nice.

*He smiles. He's missing teeth and it's seriously gross, but sincere.*

GABRIELLA

I don't know.

HORK

Here, ahll et some mihsilf.

*HORK grabs the meat off the spit and tears off a piece for himself. He chews with his mouth open, swallows, and opens his nasty maw for them to look into.*

HORK

All gun. Yeh sih?

WANG MIN

Seems legit.

GABRIELLA glares at WANG MIN.

WANG MIN (cont'd)

Whaaaaaat?

GABRIELLA

Well, I guess it's good then. And I'm starving. Let's have some.

HORK

Yih, yih. Iss rull goot. Specierly wif mah saahwssss.

*HORK pulls a small bottle out of his pocket. There's a red-brown sauce inside. He pours it all over the meat and offers it to the women. They reluctantly take it, but then start eating. We then see the Devil Doula<sup>tm</sup> behind them grinning. HORK starts smiling wildly.*

**INT. Hedge Maze**

DEB and MARIELA are still holding hands and walking through the maze. Suddenly we hear the screams of WANG MIN and GABRIELLA. DEB and MARIELA are terrified and look at eachother.

DEB

Well, I guess she was wrong.

Scene #3

By

Hobert Thompson

Mariel  
 Officer P. Skaggs  
 Deb  
 Wang Min  
 Greta  
 The Child  
 Roy  
 Max  
 Nurse 1  
 Doctor  
 Dulah

Int. The Attic - Midnight

*Mariel is dragged into a completely dark room in the attic of the mansion. Except for the moonlight coming in from a circular hole in the roof, there are no other lights in the room. She shakes the bag off her head forcefully, and looks around the room, panicked. She steadies her breathing and focuses.*

DULAH

*(From somewhere in the dark)*

So, you were paying attention during the breathing exercises. I'm so pleased. I don't want anything to happen to you, honey. I don't think you and I are understanding each other.

Mariel

What have you done?! Where are my friends?!

DULAH

Mariel, please stop. That's so unnecessary. We're not bad! We're not evil! We're just women working together to raise our children! To lead by example, and if not that, by force. Your friends are ok. They're here.

*More voices chime in from the dark.*

WANG MIN

Hey Mariel! What are you doing, idiot! You're going to get hurt if you keep running around the house!

GRETA

Everything is fine, Mariel. They're not trying to hurt us, listen to her!

DULAH

Your friends are right, honey.  
 There's really nothing to be afraid  
 of, this is all in your imagination.  
 You've been hysterical since dinner.  
 Raving about magic, witches,  
 monsters. I'm worried about you.

MARIEL

*(Forcefully)*

Do you really think I'm going to  
 believe you?

DULAH

*(Laughing)*

I just thought I'd give that a try.  
*(Her gentle demeanor changes  
 suddenly)*

But so what, Mariel? You have no idea  
 what you're doing. None of the women  
 I invite here know what they're  
 doing, and everyone, EVERYONE feels  
 like they knows what's best. But a  
 mother knows what's best.

*The women around her, including Wang Min and Greta, echo "a  
 mother knows best".*

DULAH

*(Cont.)*

Please, Mariel. Just listen. You  
 don't have to go through this alone.  
 Being a mother can be so frightening,  
 so difficult; it can make you feel  
 powerless. But here, we're in charge.  
 Your children will be raised the  
 right way. The old way. Not by  
 committee, but by the guiding light  
 of our mother, the moon.

*Mariel stifles a snort of laughter, and DULAH looks enraged.  
 In the dark behind Mariel is a sudden sound of something large  
 moving, scraping against a surface in the dark. WANG MIN and  
 GRETA step forward from the darkness. In the moonlight, their  
 faces appeared deeply scarred with a dark, hexagonal pattern.  
 They are no longer pregnant.*

MARIEL

Where are your babies?! What is that?  
 What are those things in the  
 basement?

GRETA

They are our children, Mariel.

WANG MIN

They grow up so fast!

*The sounds come closer to being right behind Mariel. She hears a raspy, buzzing breathing.*

MARIEL

*(Very frightened)*

Where's Deb?

DULAH

Dead. She pushed Helen's son out a window, Mariel. Helen is absolutely crushed.

WANG MIN

So is Deb!

DULAH

Please don't be ghoulish, honey. We have laws here. All must obey their mothers. What we're starting here is more important than any one of us. From this colony, we will spread. We will build a kingdom of--

MARIEL

You won't find Gabe. She's gone!

DULAH

Oh, that's so rude. And we will find her, honey. Where will she go?

MARIEL

A nearby farm. She'll get help!

DULAH

The others are looking for her as we speak. No one lives in the surrounding area anymore. Our children saw to that. And I don't think she'll be bringing the police..

*A voice comes out of the dark, and a face comes into Mariel's view. It's OFFICER PAULA, the policewoman who pulled over Mariel and CHARLIE on their way to the Doula's house. She also has the strange, hexagonal facial markings.*

PAULA

*(Cheery)*

I took the night off. It's important to find a positive work/life balance as a mother.

DOULA

Hold her.

*WANG MIN and GRETA grab MARIEL's arms and stretch them out so they disappear again into the dark. The DOULA steps forward into the moonlight and her face is similarly marked with the hexagon pattern, and a thick, viscous fluid drips down her face. She extends a hand into the column of light, and as it passes into the direct light, her true form is revealed and her fingers are suddenly impossibly long, thin, and tipped with sharp, black nails that drip with the red-brown substance. She places her hand on MARIEL's stomach, and MARIEL screams in pain.*

*With all the force she can, MARIEL pulls WANG MIN and GRETA together, and both shriek in pain as their head collide over MARIEL. As they let go of her hands, she reaches into the pocket of her coat and takes out the small bottle of talcum powder DEB gave her earlier in the evening. She holds the bottle in her hand and punches it as hard as she can. The cap on the bottle rockets off, and a plume of white powder shoots into the faces of the four women, turning the column of moonlight opaque.*

*Coughing, MARIEL shoves her way past the DOULA and into the darkness of the chamber. The sounds of the scraping thing have gotten louder, and there's a horrible sounds of something trying to scream, but the voice is garbled and pained as if it's mouth is full of liquid, but it can't spit it out.*

*Trying desperately not to breath too loud, MARIEL makes her way through the darkness and yanks open the door, and moonlight filters in through the open door, revealing PAULA rushing toward MARIEL with her arms outstretched. Behind PAULA is one of THE CHILDREN, running on all fours toward the door.*

Int. Hallway in the Attic

*MARIEL runs down the hall, and behind her PAULA draws her service pistol and points it at MARIEL's back. She is suddenly, forcefully shoved against the wall as THE CHILD crashes through the door frame. Silhouetted by the moonlight coming into the hallway, THE CHILD appears tall, gaunt, its limbs stretched and thin. It screams another gurgling roar and rushes down the hallway. MARIEL, running ahead into the darkness, looks down and sees a square of blacker black spread*

*across the floor. Instinctively, she jumps, landing safely on the other side of the trap door to the attic. THE CHILD falls into the open door, and there's a loud crash as it tumbles down the ladder. From down the hall she hears the voices of THE DOULAH, WANG MIN, and GRETA. She gropes in the dark for the top of the ladder and clumsily slides down the ladder as quickly as possible, landing roughly on the stomach of THE CHILD.*

*THE CHILD shrieks again and looks up at MARIEL. In the dim light, she sees that it has a strange, childlike face. It meekly tries to raise its arms and MARIEL runs away down the hall to the stairs. As she approaches the top of the stairs, she suddenly spasms with a jolt of pain, and looks down to see the front of her dress soaked, and a puddle forming on the floor.*

MARIEL

Oh, fuck!

*Gripping the banister, she makes her way down the stair, hearing WANG MIN, GRETA, and the DOULAH yell for her as they descend the ladder. There's another muffled shriek as they step over the injured CHILD.*

GRETA

What have you done!? Don't leave us!  
Stay!

*As she reaches the bottom of the staircase, she sees the door to the basement door starting to buckle as more CHILDREN press against it. The DOULAH calls to her from the top of the stairs.*

DOULAH

They'll tear you apart if we tell them to. They're absolutely loyal. They're good children. This is what I offer you, honey. Power in motherhood. The outside world doesn't care about you. It barely cares about your baby. Say with us. Let your child taste our sweet honey. Let them serve a higher purpose.

MARIEL

They're monsters!!!

DULAH

Oh, what does that even mean. They're just kids. Kids will be kids, Mariel. They're no more monstrous than normal human children.

MARIEL grabs one of the oil lamps from off the wall and hurdles it up the stairs at the DOULAH. It lands with a dull thud and tumbles down the stairs, coming to a stop at the bottom near the basement door.

DOULAH

Stupid girl!

Suddenly, the door to the basement explodes open as it finally gives to the shoving of THE CHILDREN. The force of the door swinging back smashes the oil lamp, and it bursts into a ball of flame, igniting the first of THE CHILDREN as they pile through the door. The women at the top of the stairs rush down, and MARIEL uses the distraction to escape.

Ext. The House - night

MARIEL runs awkwardly toward DEB's car, the keys are still in her pocket. She turns the key and slams the car into reverse. As the car swings back, a CHILD runs out the front door of the house, dragging its hands as it rushes down the driveway before being backed over by the car. The CHILD flies backward and crumples on the steps of the house as MARIEL puts the car in drive. She drives off into the night. We see her inside the cab of the truck, covered in white powder, lit by the moonlight.

EXT. St. Spencer Hospital - Later

ROY and MARK, two nurses, stand in the parking lot of the hospital smoking.

ROY

I'm telling you, dude! TRL could really make a comeback. They should reboot that shit!

MAX

Dude, shit!

MARIEL's truck roars up to the front of the hospital, coming to a complete stop almost at the front door. MARIEL tumbles out and lays on the sidewalk on her back. MAX and ROY run to her.

INT - Hospital Room - Later

MARIEL is in a hospital bed, giving birth surrounded by a doctor and a couple of nurses.

MARIEL

Please, call Jeff!

NURSE 1

(To the doctor more than  
MARIEL)

We've tried, but she's delirious, she can't tell us the phone number or a last name.

DOCTOR

Listen, Mariel, can you breath for me? Now I need you to push, we're doing our best to find Jeff.

*MARIEL continues to push at the encouragement of the NURSES and DOCTOR. Her face contorts with the pain of childbirth and the overwhelming emotion of what transpired in the house that night. With one final push she gives birth, and her baby begins to cry. The DOCTOR holds up the newborn baby, and MARIEL sees it for the first time. It's crying and as the NURSES tie off and cut the umbilical cord, the DOCTOR holds up the baby, showing it to MARIEL. It's tiny face is covered with a viscous, red-brown goo. MARIEL looks at it, and screams in terror.*

**THE END**