

Bao

The setting sun was just about to fall dark just as she exited the hospital. Her abortion was final. 18-year-old Sarah thought that she would feel better after it was complete, but all she felt was a hole in her heart. Something about it was not right but how could it be wrong everyone, even her mother told her this was the only way. Could it be possible that the only way was the wrong way? Nevertheless, she tried not to think of it. She could not change anything now it was final.

Months had passed and the side effects of being pregnant were still present. She wasn't feeling any better and constantly stayed home because her grades were dropping.

"You don't look alright, Sarah," said her closest friend, Annabelle who was wearing a flowy white shirt. "You should go to the doctor's again to check if everything's okay."

Sarah still felt her stomach was bulging and decided Annabelle was right. One day after school, she drove herself to the hospital, almost shaking with fear of something being wrong. The doctor gave Sarah shocking news and she was unsure about how to react. Sarah was originally pregnant with twins, but her abortion still left her with one child. She went home, ran to her room, and began to cry and cry. Kristy, her mother, tried to comfort her but nothing helped. Sarah stared at her circle-shaped mirror on the wall and no longer knew who she was anymore. Her life would never be the same and she never wanted to leave her room.

Her mother decided she must get an abortion again because she should not have to deal with the burden of a baby while in college. Something about another abortion not only frightened Sarah, but it did not feel like the right decision. She went back to the doctor but it was too far in the pregnancy for him to do the abortion. He directed her to another doctor across the country who was the only one who could maybe abort the baby. They had to leave immediately so the mother got a last minute flight to Kansas and from there they would leave to New York where the doctor was located. The mother took Sarah home and demanded her to pack up her clothes and everything she needed. Sarah called her friend and while holding back tears said, "Annabelle I won't be at school tomorrow. I'm sorry, I will explain later." Annabelle asked, "What? Sarah what's going on? Are you okay?"

"Look i just can't explain right now okay? Goodbye." And she hung up the phone and ran out the door.

As they were waiting in the airport Sarah stared at the airplane and at it's triangle-shaped front. Is she really doing the right thing? Everyone told her she was.

She could not keep the child and her mother told her that putting the baby up for adoption would ruin the child's life so what else could she do? "Mom," Sarah hesitated, "I can't do this."

"Well, sure you can sweetie, I mean you have to. You know this."

Before Sarah could admit her feelings, the flight attendant interrupted, "Now boarding Flight 456 to Baldwin City, Kansas."

Sarah and her mom had to sit in separate seats because they bought the tickets last minute. Sarah sat next to an old man. He asked her where she was going and she decided it wouldn't hurt to tell him where and about her situation. His face sunk and his eyes looked sad. He asked, "I know I am in no position to question, but if I may, do you want to abort your baby?"

Sarah thought about it and she did not know how to respond. No one had ever asked her how she felt. "Well," sighed Sarah, "I guess I have to because it's the right choice and it's pretty much the only way."

"I'm going to tell you a story. A young woman tried to have an abortion at home. It failed and the baby was born. She named the child Jack and he grew up to fall in love, become the father of 2 wonderful children, and there is never a day that he does not thank God for being alive." Deep down, she did not want an abortion, and she felt like being a mother could be a positive thing. She realized that she did have control of the situation and aborting the child was not her only option, let alone the option she wanted. She thanked the old man, and just as the plane was about to take off, she ran out of her seat while yelling back at him, "What was your name by the way?"

"My name is Jack!" said the old man.

"Well it was nice to meet you, Jack! Thank you for everything!", she responded. Her mother furiously watched her exit the plane but she couldn't control Sarah's decision or stop her.

As Sarah exited out the airport, she froze. She realized the old man's story was about himself, and that he was the Jack who lived an amazing life. She breathed in fresh air and saw a dove fly across the sky. Three months later, her baby girl was born with beautiful blue eyes as the sun was rising. She decided to name her "Bao" because it stands for treasure. She realized how fortunate she was to have had a second opportunity to do what she wanted and keep her child.