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# In the End, They Were Born on TV

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DOUGLAS KEARNEY

## *In the End, They Were Born on TV*

### *i. good reality TV*

a couple wanted to be -to-be and TV wants the couple-to-be  
to be on TV. the people from TV believe we'd be good TV  
because we had wanted to be -to-be and failed and now might.

to be good at TV make like TV isn't. make like living in our living room  
and the TV crew isn't there and the boom isn't there  
saving the woman from TV's voice that won't be there  
saying *tell us about the miscarriage*. in the teeming evening  
and some dog barking at all we cannot hear.

### *ii. would you be willing to be on TV?*

people in their house on TV are ghosts haunting a house haunting houses.  
pregnant women in their houses on TV are haunted houses haunting a  
house haunting houses.  
our living room a set set for us ghosts to tell ghost stories on us.

### *would you be -to-be on TV?*

to be the we we weren't to be and the we we're-to-be to be on TV.  
the pregnant woman agrees to being a haunted house  
haunting flickering houses. yes ok yeah yes.

### *iii. forms*

in the waiting room for the doctor to TV the pregnant woman's insides  
out on a little TV on TV. filling a form on TV is to flesh into words  
on a sheet that fills up with you. yes yes and turn to the receptionist  
only to turn back to a ghost waiting to be officially haunted yes.

a magazine riffles itself on TV; loud pages, a startled parrot  
calls your name then alighting on magazines  
and waddle the hall you -to-be and the TV crew that isn't going to be there  
on TV and the doctor and you are looking at her little TV on TV the doctor  
says *see? there they are*. ghosts sound themselves out to flicker on the little  
TV.

*there they go* to the pregnant woman scared to be such good TV.

*iv. cut*

to one-more-time-from-the-top yourself  
is to ta-daaaaa breathing. the curtain drops, plush guillotine.  
*would you talk about the miscarriage one more time?* ta-daaaaa

*v. all the little people out there*

after she was a haunted house before we haunted us for TV then  
the pregnant woman watched TV. vomit on her teeth like sequins.

our TV stayed pregnant with the people from TV's TV show  
pregnant with haunted houses wailing then smiling up into our living  
room.

*it helps* she said of the people from TV's TV show so *yes* then to TV  
to help,  
she said, the haunted houses in the living rooms we said *yes* to help  
thousands of wailing houses.

*vi. only with some effort*

the best ghosts trust they're not dead. no  
no the best ghosts don't know how not to be alive.  
like being good at TV.

*inside* the pregnant woman, the -to-be of the family-who-failed-  
but-now-might-be-to-be were good TV.  
but the we-who-failed butterfingere and stuttered,  
held our hands like we just got them.

*we've been trying so long* we said *we can't believe it this is finally happening.*

vii. *scheduled c-section: reality TV*  
and they're born made of meats on TV!  
the doctor voilas them from the woman's red guts  
into the little punch bowls.

the new mother says *I want to see them my babies!*

the doctor shoves the new mother's guts back, express lane grocer.

the demure camera good TVs up two meat babies into wailing ghosts.

off, the new mother's blood like spilled nail polish.

viii. *ghost story*  
did you know about dogs and ghosts? one barking at one's nothing?

ix. *the miscarriage: exposition for reality TV*  
*it helps* to be on TV. we want to be good on TV. ok yes.  
to help we want to be good TV. yeah yes.  
*please tell me about the miscarriage.*

the woman from TV wants good TV and *something specific that gets you*  
*right*  
*in the tear to the eye* to milk the pregnant woman's breasts heavy with—.

good, we talk about the dead one on TV.

*it was horrible, the blood was everywhere that morning* a dog barks.  
one-more-time-from-the-top. *it was horrible, the blood was everywherrrrr*  
doggone dog goes on. on to take three and *it was horriboom*  
in the boom goes the barking and bad TV! bad TV! we want to help  
being good TV *please tell me about the miscarriage*  
one more time *it was*

x. *after the c-section was more like*  
the doctor shoving the new mother's guts in, jilted lover packing a  
duffel.

xi. *talking about the miscarriage: behind the scenes*  
*please tell me about the miscarriage*  
*please tell me about the miscarriage*  
*please tell me about the miscarriage*  
*please tell me about the miscarriage*  
the fifth take and *it was horrible*, that's all.  
they call them takes, again we're robbed.

xii.  
did it help watching a house fill with haunting every room  
or help haunting the house? watch! here we are:  
an expanding family of ghosts. we aren't here but yes ok yeah yes.  
*did it help?* and even now know yes they were born on TV  
but before *it was horrible* wasn't it must have been. please tell me  
about the miscarriage for I don't know how not to be telling  
and the dog growls still and still and still