

Christi reveals a couple of surprises

CHRISTI stopped by to see Miranda at her Southgate house. Christi looked both agitated and gleeful.

“Uh oh,” thought Miranda, “This looks like trouble.”

“What’s going on?” she asked her niece.

“Aunt Miranda,” said Christi, “I’m pregnant.”

Miranda wasn’t sure what to say. She knew of Christi’s outspoken reluctance to have children. “That’s wonderful,” Miranda said, tentatively. “Are you happy about it?”

“I think so,” said Christi. She looked happy.

“Then that’s great,” said Miranda. “So you were opposed to having children last month; then you get pregnant; and now you are happy about it.”

“Yes,” said Christi. “I’m happy about it.”

“Makes sense to me,” said Miranda. “It’s like the pregnancy chemistry takes over in a woman’s body and connects her to the process.”

This is the final episode of a 72-part fictionalized serial in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

“How would you know?” said Christi, “Since you never had children.”

“True,” said Miranda, “how would I know?” Then she added, “But JJ will be thrilled. What did he say?”

“I haven’t told him yet,” said Christi. “You’re the only person I have told.”

Miranda was silent for a moment. “I’m honored, Christi,” she finally said. “You and I are becoming closer and closer. Every time I look at you I see my brother Tom, who was your father.”

“I do have one problem,” said Christi, “And I need your advice.”

“Anything,” said Miranda. “I’m always glad to help.”

“Well,” said Christi, “I’m not sure how to say this.”

“Yes?” said Miranda.



CHRISTI



MIRANDA



JJ

“Aunt Miranda,” said Christi. “I’m a little embarrassed to say this, but I don’t know who the father is.”

Miranda was stunned. It took her a moment to process the words. “I don’t understand,” she finally said. “The father is JJ, right?”

“Maybe,” said Christi. “But I had an affair with our contractor. Not a long one, just for a few weeks. While JJ was out of town. But the timing fits my pregnancy. I’m not sure what I should do.”

“Do you want to keep the baby?” asked Miranda.

“Yes,” said Christi. “I definitely want to keep the baby. I am not giving the baby up. But what should I do? You’re the lawyer. Help me figure this

out. Do I tell JJ? Do I keep it secret? I don’t want to hurt JJ.”

Miranda wanted to smack her niece, but realized that would not help anything.

“Should I just keep silent,” said Christi, “And just let JJ think the child is his; and let the child grow up and have her life; and just not say anything? I know it will be a girl.”

“What a mess,” thought Miranda.

“And if the child ends up looking like Henry the contractor,” continued Christi, “over time no one will think about that, or know, or care. At least I think that’s what will happen. I hope so. But these are confusing questions, and I was hoping you could help me figure them out.”