

Abortion: One Woman's Story

'Was I Being Too Choosy? Falling Prey To a Fad? Would My Luck Later Turn On Me For Making This Decision?' 6/27/82

(Editor's Note: This woman agreed to write of her abortion experience on the condition her name not be used.)

THE MORNING OF MY ABORTION, I read several books to my young daughter. I gave her extra attention, thinking that by spending more time with her I was in part making up for the time I would not be spending with this second child that was growing inside of me.

I planted a wisteria vine in my backyard and ate a light breakfast, being careful to avoid orange juice and milk as had been recommended by the abortion clinic.

My stomach was in a knot, not only from the morning sickness of pregnancy, but from the anxiety I was feeling over whether or not I was making the right choice. All morning, I was on the brink of tears and tried to hide my anguish from my daughter and husband.

For weeks my mind had become a platform for a debating match over the decision. I wished and wished the whole circumstance would mysteriously disappear like magic ink.

I realized how appropriate was the name of the abortion clinic — "Choice." The world is filled with so many choices these days. I remembered a phrase I had once read in a college philosophy class — "Too many choices drive a man to

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sanity." Sometimes it's easier not to make a choice, to have it made for you.

I studied my daughter's profile and recalled what it had been like being pregnant with her. I pictured her curled up inside my body. I could not get this image out of my mind.

Was I being too choosy? Was I falling prey to a fad in the same sense taking LSD had been a fad during the 60s? Would my karma, or my luck, or whatever you want to call it, later turn on me for making this decision?

I mulled over the pro-abortion arguments. Abortion is not a fad, I thought. Women have been performing abortions in different cultures for centuries.

Also, the pregnancy had been an accident. My husband and I both agreed this was not a good time to have a child. My career was just starting to take off.

'In the end, I decided abortion was not the perfect choice, but that it was a good choice at this time.'

There was a fetus inside of me, but it was not developed. I was only eight weeks along and it certainly could not make it alone in the world at this stage.

Also, what good would it do to have a child who was not truly wanted, who was not considered a "blessing"? I've seen the miseries of enough unwanted children.

My husband told me I was torturing myself over the decision, that I could drive myself crazy over the moral and metaphysical aspects and still not come to a conclusion.

In the end, I decided abortion was not the perfect choice, but that it was a good choice at this time.

Ritualistically, I tucked the \$240 fee into my wallet, kissed my family and drove to the clinic,

crying the whole way.

Before walking in, I put on my sunglasses to hide my teary eyes.

After talking with the other women there, however, I realized they had had the same qualms. We were given a chance to air our feelings, and it really helped.

I breathed deeply during the abortion. The

procedure itself was uncomfortable, but not painful. It was certainly easier than all the worry that had preceded it. The doctors and nurses were very understanding.

Afterwards, I felt elated and extremely relieved that it was over, but in the backyards of my mind, I still wondered if I had made the right choice.

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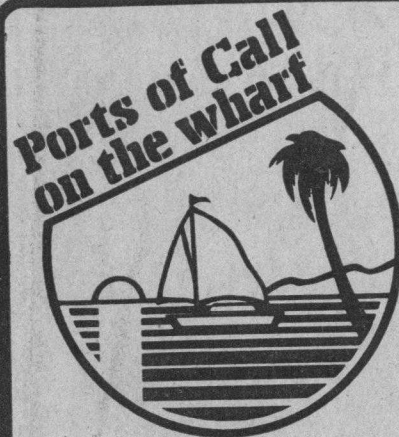


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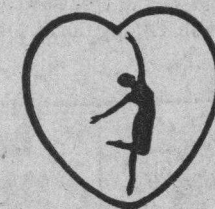
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