

## **Excerpt from "What's in a Naming"**

*David and his wife Beth are expecting. Beth miscarried during her first pregnancy and was diagnosed with cancer soon after. Her doctor informed her that the radiation treatments she underwent have eliminated any chance of her getting pregnant again. Miraculously however, she is now pregnant. Only she is now experiencing the same symptoms as her first miscarriage. She wonders if this is some sick joke. David has quietly listened to her fears. She asks him "Aren't you afraid?" and the scene begins.*

**DAVID** - ...I'm afraid that we'll lose this child.

I'm afraid there'll be complications and I'll lose you both. I'm afraid...

*(Pause)*

I'm afraid we'll give birth to a beautiful young girl, and as she grows stronger, you grow weaker. At your next six-month visit we'll find out you're no longer in remission.

On our little girl's third birthday she'll wonder why mommy's always in bed, and never has any time to spend with her.

On her next birthday she'll visit mommy like she does ev'ry Sunday, to help daddy put flowers on the stone with her name on it.

**BETH** - Well that just about names it all.

*(She breathes deeply before continuing)*

No there's one more naming. Hope.

**DAVID** - Hope?

**BETH** - I'm naming our daughter. She just kicked.