

Senior Division, Non-Fiction

Willow Kean, St. John's

Checking it Twice (an excerpt)

We did some shopping at the drug store while we waited for the prescriptions. Justin paced up and down the aisle and called my director, while I filled the basket with our miscarriage-prep kit. Magazines, root beer, a party-size bag of salt and vinegar chips, peanut butter cups, the new Amy Poehler book. When everything was ready, a young pharmacy student handed me three white paper bags and asked in her most professional tone, "And what will you be using these painkillers for?"

Justin stepped forward and started to speak but I cut him off.

"I need to induce a miscarriage."

The girl stopped for the smallest of seconds and blushed and I could see a lesson learned pass over her face. She cleared her throat and said, "Ok, be sure to take the Ketorolac with food or it will really upset your stomach."

"Thanks," I said. "Merry Christmas."