

Repetitive birth story

After class I had him tell me about his birth story and he was very eager to do so!

He was thrilled that after all these 22 months I was finally ready to sit down and listen to what he had been trying to tell me his whole life.

He took me to where he was born (my bed) and said, "Born. Fast. Scary." Then he pointed to a picture that I have hanging on my wall of a naked woman dancing. She has a thick necklace draped over her shoulders. He pointed to it and said, "Scary! Scary!" Now, he's been pointing to this picture and saying that for about a year but I always sort of laughed at him and wondered why he thought a picture of a dancing lady was scary but then it dawned on me. His birth was very fast, he was born with his cord pulled tight over one shoulder and around his belly. He was born blue, his cord was white and pulled thin. Once he recovered, he started screaming and didn't quit for about 12 hours. My husband and I were beside ourselves. We couldn't figure out what was wrong with him.

Well, he's screamed and cried ever since and has been trying to tell me that his cord pulled over his shoulder like that (as portrayed by the dancing lady) was really scary for him. Ever since he was physically able to do so he has put ribbons, belts, sashes, cords, etc. over his shoulders and concentrated hard as he wrapped his body up in them.

He also told me, "Born. Fast. Mama go away too much." Well, there you go. This pretty much sums up why he's convinced that every time I leave (even to go to the bathroom!) that I'm doing so to try to get away from him. He takes it so personally when I walk out of the room, but he can't help it! He thought that's what I was doing when he was born; kicking him out so that I could be free of him.

Since I have come to understand this, and I acknowledged **his** experience of **his** birth and of what happened to **him**, our relationship has changed. He's no longer so clingy, he never points to the picture and says, scary scary, he no longer wraps himself up in cords and sashes. I'm more relaxed, and he knows he can talk to me and that I will do my best to listen. □