

Thursday you are going to court. There are some others that are not going to court; they are going to be jailed. Are you getting me? I am from Harare, I am telling you what is going to happen. You are going to be jailed because you are failing to comply with the laws of Zimbabwe. You are violating the laws. All of them!

[Harassment]

CAR STALK

From text messages sent to Jennifer Dicks by Michael Fischer, who was hired by the Auto Financing Network to repossess a car bought by Dicks in March 2008. In April, Dicks, who lives in Phoenix, fell behind on her payments, and a website was created at jenniferdicks.com, stating, "Jennifer Dicks isn't paying for her Cavalier!" The messages are included in a complaint that Dicks filed against the company and Fischer on April 24.

Call me.

You need to call me. I know you don't give a shit, but I do. I need the car back.

Can you quit playing games and give me the car?

You no longer own it. Registration is in my name, and I need to get it sold ASAP. Where is it?

I'm two miles away. Coming to your house. Are you home?

I will stop by anyway.

Please tell me where the car is.

This isn't fair to me. Do you have no soul?

I'm putting a website up which will be updated daily with ur text messages, pictures, videos, etc.

Jenniferdicks.com.

You are f*cked!

All you do is lie. I wish you died when you fell off the roof.

I drive by all your addresses each day. I talk to your old neighbors and offer them cash if they see u.

I'm not stopping.

And the website is almost done. All about you and you being a deadbeat. I can't wait.

I offered two teens a hundred to call me when they see the car. You're a crook, so enjoy it. Thought you were good.

The website I'm putting up has all public records, and, more important, it's true.

Do you actually think you get a free car? Are you that fucking retarded? You are just a loser. Don't text me.

[Melodrama]

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

From an episode of Sibrat, a radio drama that airs four times a week in Ethiopia. The show is produced by Population Media Center, a Vermont-based organization that strives "to improve the health and well-being of people around the world through the use of entertainment-education strategies." PMC produces soap operas that air in fifteen countries. Although each show is tailored to the perceived needs of a specific country, the programs generally promote AIDS awareness, family planning, and gender equality. Sibrat means "trauma" in Amharic. Gashaw and Tihitina are husband and wife. After this scene, Tihitina is taken to a hospital, where she learns that her prolonged labor and near death are the result of genital scarring caused by childhood female circumcision. Translated from the Amharic by Getahun Mesfin Haile.

TIHITINA: [Screaming in pain] Oh, mom! I'm going to die without seeing you again.

MIDWIFE: Push! Be strong! Push a bit more!

TIHITINA: Oh, I am dying! Call my mom.

GASHAW: [Angered] It's the midwife you need now, not your mom.

TIHITINA: Oh, I can't stand it any more! My God! Why won't you take me to the hospital?

MIDWIFE: Are you afraid? Be brave, woman. Don't forget that I have helped countless women safely deliver their babies.

GASHAW: She's just putting on a show!

MIDWIFE: Please, Gashaw! How can you say that while she is in labor?

GASHAW: Well, that's a fact. All of us respectable folks, haven't we all been born at home?

TIHITINA: Oh, I can't bear it any longer. If you don't want to be sorry if I die—

MIDWIFE: It will soon be over, baby. Take a break, Gashaw! Will you please leave? Where is the butter? Let me massage her belly with it.

TIHITINA: Please! Smother me and put me out of my misery.

GASHAW: Do you hear her malice? She knows how much I want to have a child, and yet she wants to die and deprive me of my baby!

MIDWIFE: Though we're not supposed to say that God gets it wrong, wouldn't it have been better if you men sometimes got pregnant so you could feel the pain?

GASHAW: Lady, wouldn't you rather do your work instead of comparing men and women?

MIDWIFE: Sorry, I'm just trying to entertain her.

GASHAW: Me having labor pains and giving birth like a woman, is that something that would entertain her?

MIDWIFE: I've already told you, I was just joking.

GASHAW: Look, you are an old woman. You should know what is to be joked about and what is not.

TIHITINA: Oh! Please help!

MIDWIFE: Courage, my dear. Keep on pushing.

TIHITINA: I can't! Where can I get the strength?

MIDWIFE: These hands of mine have delivered so many babies. They are special. Take courage, my dear Tihitina.

TIHITINA: Oh dear! Ahh! [Screams]

MIDWIFE: This is the pain we had to endure to bring you into the world.

TIHITINA: I'd rather not have been born than suffer this pain.

MIDWIFE: Hold on, baby! Gashaw, shouldn't we take your wife to a doctor?

GASHAW: Have you been persuaded by what she's said? She causes me lots of trouble.

MIDWIFE: By now the baby should have been on its way out, but it hasn't moved.

GASHAW: Maybe she was lying about her labor pains after all!

MIDWIFE: The labor pains have come. There were other signs as well.

GASHAW: So what has happened to the baby?

MIDWIFE: That's what I don't know.

GASHAW: Just ignore her. What has not been done for anyone else will not be done for her.

MIDWIFE: What if something terrible happens?

GASHAW: Why do you want bad things to happen?

MIDWIFE: I am only expressing my concern about what *could* happen.

GASHAW: I have never seen a woman as stubborn as she is. She's so determined to go to the hospital that even if the baby came now she wouldn't have it here.

MIDWIFE: That's what I mean by you guys not knowing what it's really like! Is she deliberately delaying the birth of the baby?

GASHAW: She will, if she so chooses.

MIDWIFE: It's not right for you to be so unfeeling.

GASHAW: Am I not the one who lives with her? Also, if she has the baby in the hospital and it gets switched with another baby, would I not be the one raising someone else's dirty toddler?

MIDWIFE: Why would it be switched? All the babies have numbers.

GASHAW: What? Are they going to put a number on my baby, the baby of Gashaw Aschanaqi? It will never happen! She will never have our baby in a hospital.

MIDWIFE: All the townsfolk are having their babies in hospitals.

GASHAW: That's their business and not mine.
[Tihitina screaming in the background]

MIDWIFE: Oh, Gashaw! What has become of you? Take it easy, my dear Tihitina. You'll soon be okay, honey. Gashaw, her body is getting cold.

GASHAW: What a terrible misfortune!

MIDWIFE: Oh, I am losing her. Help! Help! I need someone now! Saint Mary, Mother of Light, please don't fail me now!

[Torture]

DELIVERANCE

From a complaint filed December 15 by Catherine Skol, a police officer in Chicago, against Scott Pierce, M.D., and Rush University Medical Center.

At 4 A.M. on March 1, when her contractions were eight minutes apart, Catherine Skol and her husband, Larry, proceeded to the emergency department, and the resident assigned to her called Dr. Pierce. At approximately 8:10 A.M., Pierce arrived. He immediately asked, "Did you call anyone before you came in?" Skol responded that her instructions were to come to the emergency room. "You should know better," Pierce said, "since this is your fifth child." Over the next two hours, Pierce would not let Skol have an epidural or other pain medication. He would not answer any of her questions and interrupted her repeatedly, saying, "Shut up, close your mouth, and push."

As the room was prepared for delivery, Dr. Pierce took a seat on a stool between Skol's legs. Pierce then took a cell-phone call from a resident and proceeded to talk at great length about an abortion he was going to perform that day. Pierce scolded the resident on the other end of the call for taking heart tones on a baby that the resident was about to abort. The conversation was overheard by everyone in the room, because Pierce has a very loud voice. Skol was shocked and fearful for her life and for that of her unborn child. In other cell-phone calls, Pierce called people "assholes" and told someone to "kiss my ass." He made comments such as, "That stupid woman, she has no business being pregnant."

At 10:23 A.M., Skol experienced an uncontrolled delivery, which caused a three-centimeter right periurethral laceration. Pierce caught the baby by her arm and leg, almost dropping her. Skol asked to see the baby. Pierce said, "No." When Skol's husband asked to hold the baby, Pierce said, "No, the mother always holds the baby first." Pierce proceeded to stitch Skol without adequate anesthesia. Each stitch was excruciatingly painful. Pierce requested that Skol's husband hold her down, because she was squirming in pain. Not knowing what else to do, Skol's husband held her down.

When Skol was wheeled out of the delivery room, several people had gathered outside her door, because they had been alarmed by her screaming. Pierce told a nurse that Skol deserved to feel pain because she had not called before coming in and that "sometimes pain is the best teacher."