

She Used To Be Mine

Waitress

- MUSIC AND LYRICS: Sara Barielles
- LYRICS: Fred Ebb
- TYPE: Modern musical theatre
- YEAR: 2015
- CHARACTER: Jenna Hunterson

SYNOPSIS:

Waitress tells the story of Jenna Hunterson, a waitress in an abusive relationship with her husband Earl. When Jenna unexpectedly becomes pregnant, she begins an affair with her gynecologist, Dr. Jim Pomatter. Looking for ways out, she sees a pie contest and its grand prize as her chance. The story starts that on a particular day, Jenna is distracted by her potential unwanted pregnancy; she ducks into the restroom to try a home pregnancy test, where she reveals that she has an unloving relationship with her husband, Earl, and that the latent pregnancy was the result of a drunken night. She is dismayed to discover that the test is positive ("The Negative"). As the work day continues, Earl visits the diner, criticizes Jenna's low-paying job, takes her tips, and suggests that he may make her quit in the coming days and give up her passion for baking. Jenna decides not to tell him about the pregnancy, and finds solace in baking her eccentric and at times experimental pies. She meets her new OB/GYN, the young and handsome Dr. Jim Pomatter, filling in for the woman who had been Jenna's doctor since birth. Jenna is uncomfortable with this change, and bluntly tells Dr. Pomatter that she does not want her baby. She gives him the pie she had made specially for her old doctor, and while he initially rebuffs the offer, having cut sugar, he indulges himself in the pie when she leaves, clearly falling in love with the confection ("Pomatter Pie"). Jenna arrives home to find Earl, who tells her that he was fired. Already in a sour mood, his temper rises as he tells Jenna to make more money, and his anger almost turns physical until Jenna stops him by telling him that she is pregnant. Earl immediately calms down, though remains angry that she kept this from him, and makes her promise to never love the baby more than him ("You Will Still Be Mine"). At the diner the next day, Jenna reveals to Dawn and Becky that she plans on entering the pie contest and using the winnings to leave Earl and start a new life with the baby. Several months have passed and Jenna's pregnancy has progressed. In one scene, Earl angrily reveals that he has found the money that she has been stashing away to save up for the pie contest. **When he asks what she has been saving the money for, Jenna meekly tells him that the money is for the baby, and that she was saving up to buy the baby a new crib. Earl leaves and takes the money. When he leaves, Jenna breaks down, lamenting her long-lost control over her own life ("She Used To Be Mine").** Soon afterward, Jenna goes into labour. The presence of Earl, Becky and Dawn, and even Dr. Pomatter's wife, makes the delivery room incredibly crowded, and Jenna eventually grows so stressed that she cries out. The stage goes silent and dark, until suddenly the cries of the newborn baby are heard ("Contraction Ballet"). Jenna names the baby girl "Lulu," and falls in love with her immediately. Earl, disappointed that the baby is a girl, tells her to make good on her promise not to love Lulu more than him, but Jenna bluntly tells him that she hasn't loved him in years and wants a divorce. When he reacts poorly, Becky escorts him out of the hospital. Jenna tells Dr Jim Pomatter that their affair is over and it would complicate things too much. As she leaves the hospital, Jenna remembers a note from her colleague Joe, and she opens it to read that he has left her the diner, asking her to name a pie after him. Some two years later, it is business as usual at the diner, now called "Lulu's Pies," and Jenna, now the owner and head chef, is content, her life finally turned around ("Opening Up (Finale)").