

COLEEN MONOLOGUE

From “Kill Shelter” by Ashley Rose Wellman

Colleen: Female, 30s

Ellie’s father and I were never married. We were barely even dating. He was my friend’s older brother, and he was a shithead and an idiot and he was actually really fucking mean to me, but I was so in love with him. I was seventeen. When I told him I was pregnant, he immediately drove across the country to Alabama so that he could “paint the people of Appalachia”. It was so stupid. He didn’t know anything about “the people of Appalachia” or that the part of Alabama he went to wasn’t even considered part of “Appalachia”. And he didn’t even really know how to paint! He took one community college class where he mostly just painted apples and pears. Ellie’s only met her dad once, and it was awful. They had nothing to talk about, because they had everything to talk about. The stupid decisions I made at seventeen left me raising her alone, and left her with this horrible person as a father, and when Ellie told me that she was pregnant... at seventeen, at the age I was when I had her, I just lost it. We can’t be this family with generations and generations of pregnant seventeen-year-olds knocked up by terrible men. We just can’t.

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