

Waiting

I was recently watching *Masters of Sex*. It is good, you should watch it. But maybe only if you are not struggling to get or be pregnant. For example, I have stopped watching it now. ANYWAY. The protagonist, Bill, and his wife become pregnant after a long period of trying. One night they are attending an important medical function. His wife gets up from the table to, I don't know, powder her nose or something, and there, all over the back of her beautiful cream silk dress is BLOOD. Cut to her lying in a hospital bed and the doctor delivering the news that she has miscarried. This, I would say, is a reasonably average portrayal of miscarriage in television or film.

And it is UTTER BOLLOCKS.

At least, in my experience.

In my experience, miscarriage is primarily characterised by the quality of time stretching out beyond endlessly. And I shall document this through the medium of a list.

1. The time between the radiographer beginning the scan and speaking. Sometimes this can take up to eight million years. Very occasionally it is broken up by the radiographer saying that they just need to find someone else to come in for a second opinion.
2. The time between discovering that you are spotting blood and getting a scan to find out what is happening. If, like us, this happens on a Thursday night before the Easter weekend, then you have to wait until the following Tuesday. Because God is really cross with you, or something like that.
3. The time between the first scan when they can't see a heartbeat and the second scan when they can't see a heartbeat. The medical professionals will claim that this time is only a week, but I can assure you it is much more like seven million years (but not quite as long as the time before the radiographer speaks).
4. The time between finding out that your baby is "no longer viable", and when you can have an operation performed with a tiny vacuum cleaner to make your womb all empty again.
5. The time between a positive pregnancy test and your first scan BEFORE you have been diagnosed with recurrent miscarriage but AFTER you have already had one or two miscarriages. Every day is a case of passing time between trips to the toilet when you can check for spotting. And if you find spotting I refer you to list-point 2. And if you don't, I refer you back to this very list-point.

And I won't even go into the amount of waiting during when you are trying to make a pregnancy happen in the first place.

Basically, I should now be supreme champion of the universe at waiting.

But I'm not.

In fact, I think I might be getting worse at it. Because:

6. The time after your third miscarriage before you can be tested to find out what is wrong.

Which is happening now.

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