

JT Challenge Fic Balance Point

Ok,

I waited, but it's lunchtime Monday here in Australia! So here is my story!

As a mother of two I am writing this from experience. Most people suggest Mara is not a tall woman, neither am I, so I know what it is like to carry a 8lb 8oz whopper and not have the appropriate room to accommodate him – BTW – I called my whopper Luke!!

Painful Expectations

Thud. Thud. Mara slowly opened her eyes as the gentle thudding got a little more frequent. The baby was kicking again. Drawing a deep breath, she tried to awaken her brain enough to find a more comfortable position. It was not so long ago when feeling the baby kick had been the most wonderful thing she had ever experienced. Carefully she lifted herself, re-arranging pillows as she went and then lowering herself on the opposite side. Smiling she remembered the look on Luke's face when he'd felt the kicks for the first time, such wonderment. A man who had seen so much and experienced more than most yet it warmed her heart to know that the precious life they had created was able to bring a new joy neither of them had ever known. Luke. Sighing she lay her hand on the bare space beside her in the bed. It was nearing time for the baby to come and sleeping with her husband had become something she no longer enjoyed the luxury of, he had begun to sleep on the lounge about two weeks prior. About the time when she started spreading more pillows about herself and rotating her cramping and oversized body every hour or so. Mara Jade, Emperor's Hand, Smuggler, Jedi Master, swollen space slug!!! So much as she wanted the child she also wanted her life back. Moving about had become a major chore and the feeling of complete uselessness was almost overwhelming.

"Mara, are you alright?" She heard Luke call from the living area. Closing her eyes she tried to send the right feelings out through the Force, but failed dismally.

"Just feeling sorry for me, I'll be fine. How about you, lounge getting any more comfortable?"

"Not really, but I've slept in worse places, believe me" He smiled as he walked into the room. Sitting down on the bed beside her he gently began to stroke her hair away from her face. "It won't be long now, I know you feel lousy. Do you want me to rub your back?" He asked.

Looking up at him, his hair disheveled and untidy and the dreamy look of sleep still lingering in his blue eyes she suddenly felt it was definitely all worthwhile. "No, I'll be fine, just want to lay here for a while" she said, reaching up to cup his cheek in her hand. Leaning gently into her palm he nodded.

"Sure, I'll be out getting breakfast if you need me" he said gently as he began to stand up.

"NO! I mean, I didn't want you to go, I wanted to lay here a while with you. I've spent so much time here alone of late and....." her voice trailed off. Not another word was needed, the connection between them was strong and he knew what she meant. Without hesitation he began to lay down beside her, but without his pillow he looked almost as uncomfortable as she felt. Reaching behind her she groped about for a spare pillow, there had to be one there somewhere. Finally her hand found one that seemed it had escaped being pinned under her swollen body and began to drag it back over. Unfortunately for Luke it wasn't quite free and when Mara gave a good tug it flew free of her weight and landed on his head.

"fanks" His muffled voice grunted from underneath it. "I meeded vat". Mara began to giggle, as she watched her husband untangle himself from the pillow and pound it a few times with his fist to soften it.

"Hey, ease up on the pillow Skywalker, it was me who lumped it on you" she chuckled. Turning to her he grinned,

"Yeah, but I can't hit you can I?" he replied. Mara raised her eyebrows,

"Oh? You think I helpless do you now?" Luke lowered his head onto the pillow,

"You're a lot of things Mara, but helpless will never be one of them" he conceded smiling warmly. Pursing her lips, she closed her eyes and gently shook her head.

"You're a lousy liar you know." Opening her eyes she added, "you just wait until I've had this baby, you're in big trouble then". She threatened. His smile softened and the look in his eyes changed,

"I can hardly wait." He whispered suggestively. That wasn't the response she had been aiming for and accordingly she began to try and pull the pillow out from under his head to hit him with it again. Suddenly an incredible pain began to build in her stomach, starting low and moving up over the large bulge. Gasping she grabbed her belly and began to breath quickly. Luke sat up,

"What? What's wrong?" he asked anxiously.

"Not sure" she gasped. BANG!! Something had exploded inside, almost like something had broken. Just as suddenly as the pain had begun, a huge gush of liquid exited her body saturating the bed around her legs. She tried to sit up and looked at Luke wide-eyed.

"My waters....I think it's time".

The End.

Disclaimer - Luke and Mara are George's babies as it were, I am not making anything out of this!