



Our Genes / Our Choices

Making Better Babies



Professor Lee Silver and journalist Meredith Vieira, in the roles of a husband and wife, have just lost their beloved daughter in an accident and discuss the possibility of cloning her.

JOHN HOCKENBERRY:

You are infertile. And you've lost Sophia. The option of cloning is now your only option...

LEE SILVER:

Well...

JOHN HOCKENBERRY:

...to have a child.

LEE SILVER:

...and there's a presumption at the very, very start. The presumption is at some point in the future it actually can be done safely. Before that point, I don't think we would consider that. But now we're talking about being able to have a child. A completely unique, different child. It's not going to be Sophia, although it will look a lot like her.

MEREDITH VIEIRA:

But I don't think that's true. I think that it's emotionally so charged. Because if I gave birth to a cloned Sophia, to me it would be Sophia.

LEE SILVER:

But it won't be. The girl will be different as she grows up.

MEREDITH VIEIRA:

Well, then let's adopt a child that is different. Or let's have a surrogate. Why do we need to clone?

LEE SILVER:

What's wrong with having your own child?

MEREDITH VIEIRA:

It will be a clone. That's what it's called, it's cloning. It will be a clone.

LEE SILVER:

No, it won't. It won't be a clone.

MEREDITH VIEIRA:

Well I don't know, because we haven't done it yet, but I don't want to go down... then let me... can you introduce me to a clone? Somebody here? Somebody from your parish is a clone to talk to me?