



persuaded me to go back to bed, as it would be quite awhile yet, since she wasn't even having really hardly any contractions-- I started to say contractions--

13. SHE NEVER DID HAVE HARDLY ANY STRONG CONTRACTIONS until way later.--And of course, she never did have any contractions at all.--ha! Praise God! So I decided, "Well okay, the girls can handle the situation, so if this is going to be the big day I might as well try to get a little more sleep." So I went back to bed.

14. ABOUT 7 O'CLOCK or so, between 7 and 8 somewhere, I woke up again and I thought, "Oh my Lord! It's been 3 hours! I better go and see how she's doing!" So I jumped out of bed and I didn't have my robe again, so I had to hold my undershirt down in front of me, running around in my undershirt with all these women around, but I didn't know what to do, as I didn't have anything to put on.

15. SO ANYWAY I HAN OUT THERE TO HER HOW SHE WAS DOING and by this time she was lying out there peacefully and beautifully on the living room couch like the famous Naked Maja, only the Maja Vestido, the clothed one, in my robe, and Lydia was sitting beside her talking to her or reading to her, and they just looked perfectly calm and collected and there was nothing important happening at all.

16. MARIA JUST SMILED at me and looked cheerful and bright and said, "What are you doing here?" and I said, "Well what are you doing?" (Maria: I stayed there in the living room the whole time.--You called me about 7 o'clock to come back to bed, remember? But I told you I wasn't coming back, I wanted to stay out here. I told you to go back to bed and go to sleep, so I really prayed and evidently you did. So it wasn't till 10 o'clock that you woke up again.)

17. SO SHE CLAIMED HER CON-

TRACTIONS--I keep wanting to say contractions, but she never did have a contraction--her contractions were, oh, I think you said they were only about half-an-hour apart or something like that, 20 minutes or half-an-hour apart, but the doctor said not to worry about coming until they were about 15 minutes apart. So Maria said,

18. "I'M FINE OUT HERE. I want to be out here where I won't bother anybody. I like to be out here alone." She reminded me of some little animals that like to crawl off in the woods to have their babies. So she finally persuaded me to go back to bed. She said, "You'll need your rest and strength for later." So I said, "All right, if you're okay."-- And I made sure the girls kept an eye on her. Lydia was still up and around.

19. SO I WENT BACK TO BED, and of all things, I was so dead tired I slept like a log for another three hours until 10 o'clock! Then I heard this horn outside faintly in my sleep, and I heard a car door slam and it sounded like a taxi drove off! I jumped out of bed and thought,

20. "THAT LITTLE RASCAL! If she's trying to pull a fast one on me and go to the hospital without me, I'm going to be so mad! It's just like something she'd do to not want to worry me and want to get off and have it without any bother!" So I jumped up in my undershirt again and ran out into the living room, and there she was lying peacefully on the couch still smiling and Lydia is sitting behind her reading to her! So I ask,

21. "WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?" (Maria: Lydia was asking me how much pressure there was. I was telling her I felt like I was going to have a B.M., and so she started to get worried but she didn't want to tell me!) So the first thing I said was,

22. "HOW FAR ARE THE PAINS APART?" And Lydia tries to calmly say, "Oh, just five minutes." I said, "My Lord kids, she's about to have the baby!" (Maria: They'd been five minutes apart for a long, long time but the book said that in the first stage of labour they come at intervals of five to twenty minutes, so I thought that was fine.) But I said,

23. "FOR GOD'S SAKE HURRY UP AND GET HER READY and get her suitcase and I'll call the taxi! Goodness gracious, she's going to have it right here!" And Maria says, "Well, why can't I have it right here? It's so much more comfortable and convenient. Why can't I stay here and have it?" I think she was really deliberately trying to wait as long as she could to keep from having to go to the hospital! And I said,

24. "LISTEN, BABY HOSPITALS ARE MUCH BETTER EQUIPPED FOR THIS THAN WE ARE! Besides, your doctor--what would he say? He expects you there and he told you to come, an' we done paid him all that money, so what good is it if we don't go?" So I argued with her about it and said, "We've got to go to the hospital!" So I ran and got dressed quick and phoned the taxi while the girls were getting her and her things ready, and she was having