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*Dedicated with lots of LOVE  
to*

MY Wonderful Family  
Korrey, Korrey II & Talia

Your dedication to me has inspired my drive to educate  
others

Visit my site at [www.imhavingtheirbaby.com](http://www.imhavingtheirbaby.com)

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## INTRODUCTION

First many thanks to all of you that have supported my endeavors thus far and for continuing to do so. As I began to write this book, I faced many questions. How can a surrogate write an IP book? How can I EVEN begin to relate to what IP's are experiencing?

What many people do not know about me is that I can somewhat relate---even if not directly. When I was stationed in Germany with the US Army, I was told that I could not have any children. As a matter of fact, the doctor stated "you should look into adoption." At the time, I was engaged to be married. I remember my reaction and that of my fiancé'. It was near unbearable to try to comprehend that I—a woman who grew up with LOTS of family and one of six children—may never be able to have children of my own. I remember my fiancé' trying to reassure me that things would work themselves out if meant to be, that if GOD allowed we would be able to have children regardless of what doctors said. For two months, I felt an agonizing sense of emptiness. Two months later, after going for a medical check-up, I found out that I was pregnant—I was stunned. I remember feeling SO happy, but then scared.

Fast forward six years later and I am the proud mother to one boy and one girl and a surrogate mother of a baby girl. Again, how can I relate? I can not directly relate to what you are

experiencing—but for the two months of my life that I did not have any answers, I had my own experience with emotions regarding infertility. I know that 2 months is nowhere near what many people experience, but to me—it was long enough.

No—I am not an Intended Parent. My purpose with this book is to bring views from not only that of someone who could have very well BEEN an intended parent, but a surrogate. I hope that at least ONE—ok, realistically more than one, Intended Parent is able to gather helpful information from this book. I hope that by picking this book up, you are able to make an informed decision to move forward in your journey to parenthood and that you are able to use questions that are helpful to you along the way.

Good luck to you and your family and I wish you nothing but the BEST in your journey to parenthood!

*Latashia S. Alexander*

# **PART I**

## *Starting Out*

## *So...what is surrogacy?*

*Surrogacy* is the expansion of a family through unconventional means. This book will address questions and concerns that Intended Parents may experience. A surrogate carries a baby with the intent to give it to another couple/individual. The couple or individual is referred to as the intended parents (IP's for short), because although the child is not yet born and/or conceived, eventually they are "intended" to be the parent(s). In most cases involving intended parents, they will contribute one or both of their DNA to the intended child(ren). There are cases where a couple uses both donor sperm and eggs.

A surrogate can fall into one of two categories as far as arrangements go. The first is known as a traditional surrogate and contributes her own eggs to the process of creating a child. Referred to as TS for short, she will carry a child that is partially hers biologically for a couple/individual. On the flip side the gestational surrogate, also referred to as a GS has no biological attachment to the child and will carry a child that has both the IP's DNA or donor sperm and/or donor eggs.

In many cases, the process of using a GS is expensive, time consuming, and very emotional. Most IP's decide to pursue surrogacy because they are unable to conceive or due to secondary infertility. More recently there has a rise in arrangements involving same sex couples turning to surrogacy as a form of expanding their families.

If you are reading this far, then you are interested in gaining more information regarding the surrogacy process. Surrogacy is a very emotional journey that can be very rewarding. Many families have used this form of family building to expand their families and in turn have gained an

extra friend and/or extension to their family. When I began writing surrogacy books, my intentions were to educate families about their options so that they would be able to make an informed decision. Here I will address some of those just to give you an idea of what they are.

***- What are the pros of pursuing surrogacy?***

One of the biggest pros of entering into a surrogacy arrangement is the positive outcome---a BABY. Another pro could be an extension of to your family.

***- What are the cons of pursuing surrogacy?***

Ultimately one of the cons could be your arrangement resulting in a sour relationship. This could happen for many reasons and regardless of why it always seems that both parties lose somehow. Another con of pursuing this type of arrangement and a lot of IP's fears is any kind of legal issue. The biggest fear is that the surrogate will change her mind regarding her rights following the birth. Another con could be the difference in views regarding eating habits, medical, or other important issues.

***- What is the profile of a "typical" surrogate?***

Realistically they vary. Most women range in age from 18-40+. One of the major requirements for most agencies and/or clinics is that the surrogate has given birth to at least one child. Surrogates also range in status from being single to married and employed to unemployed. Though compensation is a factor in most arrangements, contrary to popular belief, most surrogates are middle class women not motivated by financial needs.

***- What are the various insemination methods used in surrogacy?***

*In Vitro fertilization (IVF)/Embryo Transfer (ET):* For this procedure egg(s) are retrieved from the intended mother and fertilized by her husband's sperm resulting in embryo(s)

that are later transferred into the surrogate. With this procedure, the child is not genetically related to the surrogate and once born, the couple's name will be placed on the birth certificate.

*IVF/ED*: This method is the same as listed above except donor eggs are used. Donor eggs are combined with the intended father or donor sperm and the resulting embryo(s) are transferred into the surrogate in which, like above, the child is not genetically related. Once the child is born, the intended father's name is placed on the birth certificate and if married, his wife will adopt the child via stepparent adoption.

*Artificial Insemination (AI)*: When this method is used, the surrogate is artificially inseminated with the sperm of the intended father. Because the surrogate's eggs are being utilized, the child is genetically related to the surrogate. In cases where the intended father is married, once the child is born his wife will undergo the procedure to complete a stepparent adoption.

*Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID)*: Donor sperm is used to artificially inseminate the surrogate. The child is therefore genetically unrelated to both parents and they will both have to go through a stepparent adoption once the child is born.

*Egg Donation (ED)*: A woman donates her egg(s) to the intended couple. Later the egg(s) are fertilized by the intended father's sperm and the resulting embryo(s) are transferred into the intended mother. The child is genetically related to the donor and intended father, but because the intended mother will carry will carry the child, adoption proceedings are not necessary.