

# HELLO, WE ARE MELISSA & BRIAN, MIA & PHEOBE 🐶

LOCATION: ONTARIO

CLINIC: MARKHAM FERTILITY

EMBRYOS: 5 PGT NORMAL EMBRYOS,  
2 UNTESTED, 1 NO RESULT, 1 MOSAIC



YOU CAN GET TO KNOW US MORE OR ASK US ANYTHING:  
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# ABOUT US:

Our story started at work, literally. Brian was overseeing a bank renovation, and Melissa was the bank manager. There were blueprints, opinions, strong personalities, and a lot of banter. Melissa questioned one of the drawings ("Why does the wall end in the middle of the window?"), Brian explained his job, Melissa didn't fully agree... and just like that, a routine was born. Every time Brian came into the bank, the banter continued. The chemistry was obvious.. to everyone else, at least.

Before the job was finished, Brian casually left his number "in case there were any issues." There weren't... but Melissa texted him anyway. the conversation began, it was clear it was never meant to end.

Our first date was at Jack Astor's (a classic), where Brian learned two important things: Melissa looks great in leopard print... and he definitely doesn't like leopard print. We've been lovingly disagreeing ever since.

We're big Christmas people, the extra kind. Mickey and Minnie Christmas specials, Christmas Vacation on repeat, Home alone and the grinch every year, Hallmark movies, Christmas markets, Bradford Greenhouses... our house gets completely transformed every year, it's ridiculous and we love it! Giving back is important to us too, and we proudly support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We love to travel, whether that's trips down South to the U.S., time at the cottage, lake swims, hikes, or just being outdoors together. Family time is everything to us, especially with our daughter Mia (Brian's daughter, Melissa's bonus daughter). Melissa met Mia when she was just two, and they clicked instantly. She's now eight, obsessed with Disney, loves shopping, crafts, reading to the dog, and considers our pup Phoebe her self-proclaimed sister. We truly count down the days until she's with us.

Sometimes we all go to work together, Brian works, while Melissa and Mia hang out and make a day of it. It's one of our favourite little traditions.

Ok now the most important thing about us, we're Disney fanatics: Stitch movies, Cinderella, Aladdin, Lion King, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Jumanji, if it's nostalgic or magical, we're in. We even got engaged at Disney. Brian jokingly insisted that Melissa had to propose first- just to prove she was really ready- and promised that once she did, he'd give her a proper princess-worthy proposal. So Melissa popped the question at Disney (where else?). Brian followed through completely: ring ready, outfit changes and all. He always said he wanted to be the princess!

We believe deeply in growth, as individuals, as partners, and as parents. Therapy, self-reflection, evolving, doing better, it matters to us. We also believe life should be fun, which is why we host family cook-offs where our parents judge who made the better meal. Brian used to hate cooking. Now he's competitive about it. Our home is full of laughter, love, tradition, and intention. We're building a life grounded in connection, and we're so excited about growing our family with care, respect, and a whole lot of heart.

## OUR JOURNEY

Our path to growing our family hasn't been the one we expected, but it's shaped us in ways we're deeply grateful for.

Because of Melissa's endometriosis, we began pursuing fertility treatments with the hope of carrying a pregnancy ourselves. Before moving forward with a transfer, Melissa underwent multiple egg retrievals and started Lupron suppression in preparation for excision surgery. During that time, a lump was discovered in her breast. Further testing revealed that the Lupron had actually been suppressing and shrinking a hormone-sensitive tumor, something we had no idea was happening.

At that point, everything paused. Fertility treatments were stopped, and Melissa focused on surgery and cancer treatment. Thankfully, she is now healthy but moving forward with pregnancy or additional fertility hormones carries risks we are not willing to take. Protecting Melissa's long-term health is, and always will be, our priority.

Choosing surrogacy comes from a place of gratitude, trust, and hope. We're incredibly thankful for the science that allowed us to create embryos safely, and for the possibility of growing our family with the help of someone truly extraordinary.

This journey has taught us patience, resilience, and the importance of listening to our bodies and our doctors. We're approaching surrogacy with humility, respect, and so much appreciation for the person who would help us take this next step.

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IN A MATCH

- Within Ontario preferably, open to other provinces
- Independent journey
- Age 25-43
- BMI <35
- Non-smoker, non-drug user, lives and works in a smoke-free environment
- History of at least one healthy pregnancy but no more than 5 previous births and 3 previous c-sections
- Comfortable with a hospital birth
- Yes, we would consider termination if our surrogate or baby's health is at risk or their quality of life would be affected
- We would want to discuss vaccinations that are doctor recommended, but have no preference for flu-shots or covid shots
- We would like to be very involved in the pregnancy and attend appointments if possible
- We would like our relationship to span beyond our surrogacy journey, building a lifelong connection, but can be flexible with our future surrogates preferences
- Open communication is key to a successful journey for us, we want to be as open as possible and chat with you about anything and everything, and hope you feel comfortable doing the same

# MELISSA'S CORNER

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## BRIAN THROUGH MY EYES...

Brian is truly a miracle worker. Even while he is balancing a hundred different things, he shows up with calm, steadiness, and reassurance. Our life together is full and vibrant- two businesses, shared dreams, family, Mia and Phoebe, and all the moments that weave a story. Through every season, Brian has been my constant, the quiet strength and love at the heart of it all.

When I feel overwhelmed, sad, or full of doubt, he is the one who holds my hand, looks me in the eye, and reminds me that we will get through anything together. He is my rock, the reason I keep pushing forward and persevering, even when things feel heavy.

Brian is incredibly hardworking, compassionate, kind, empathetic, and selfless. He always thinks about how to make others happy before himself. He's also wildly sarcastic in the best way, always quick with a comment, directly or indirectly, that catches me off guard and keeps us laughing. Even when moments begin seriously, they almost always end with us laughing together.

While he's amazing at multitasking and big-picture thinking, he's admittedly terrible with admin and paperwork, often handing me crumpled receipts pulled from a bag like it's totally normal. It's part of his charm. He's spontaneous, go-with-the-flow, and brings lightness to our life.

As a dad, Brian is deeply loving and attentive. The same goes for me and Phoebe. When Brian is present, he is fully present, no phone, no TV, no sports, just his full attention. Family always comes first, and everything in our life is built around being a true family unit.

Because Brian didn't get to experience full-time parenting with Mia in the traditional sense, he is especially excited to raise another child together, to give Mia a sibling, to share our values, and to experience parenting as a complete family. Our shared commitment to family, love, and togetherness is at the core of everything we do.

## ABOUT ME..

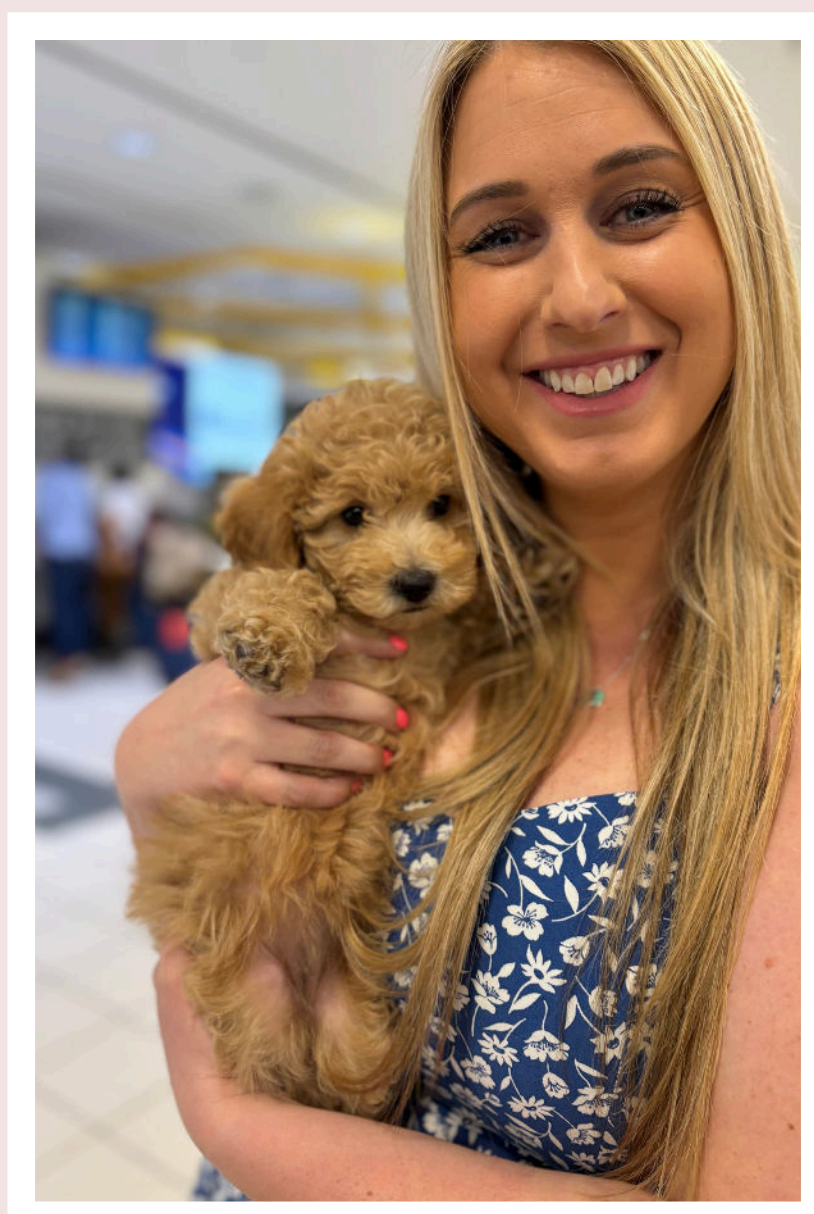
*I'm a bit of a numbers nerd with a creative heart. Professionally, I'm a bank manager and property manager, and I genuinely love anything to do with finance, real estate, and problem-solving. I manage rental properties, run an Airbnb, and am always working on a renovation or dreaming up the next project... think HGTV, just without the cameras!*

*I grew up in Richmond, BC, in a family where dogs were basically siblings. I'm an only child due to my parents' secondary infertility, but my life has always been full of family, cousins, and connection. After moving through Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, and eventually Toronto, I found my home here. I studied Sociology and Psychology at Brock University and managed a student housing rental for ten years.*

*I was always busy growing up, competitive dance, sports, gymnastics, crafts, and that creative energy is still a big part of who I am. I've always loved capturing memories through photos and scrapbooks, hosting gatherings, and creating meaningful moments.*

*These days, I love cooking (chicken schnitzel, paprikash, soups, and baking), experimenting with healthier versions of comfort food, staying active with gym and bootcamp workouts, and spending time on home projects. Travel is a big passion too, Disney is my happy place, Europe holds a special place in my heart, and Ireland is at the top of my bucket list.*

*At my core, I'm family-oriented, grounded, and intentional, and I'm so excited about growing our family with love, care, and gratitude.*



# BRIAN'S CORNER

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## MELISSA THROUGH MY EYES..

Melissa is one of the most selfless people I know. She is always there to help, always thinking of others, and consistently puts everyone else's needs before her own. Her capacity to care is something I admire deeply.

As a stepmom, she treats Mia as if she were her own in every way. No matter the circumstances, Melissa will drop everything to make sure Mia feels safe, supported, and endlessly loved. She's incredibly in tune with Mia's needs and emotions, and she brings out parts of her I've never seen before. They truly are best friends, and Melissa is always making sure Mia has everything she needs to thrive.

The same goes for Phoebe, she is very much Melissa's baby. Our plans often revolve around what's best for her, and Melissa always prioritizes helping her adapt, feel secure, and be happy. Watching her care so deeply makes me even more excited to see her as a mom to our future child. She's already an incredible parent, and I can't wait to see her love a child we share together.

Melissa is thoughtful, caring, and deeply intuitive, but she's also always in motion. She can't sit still, starts one thing and moves effortlessly into the next, bringing depth and reflection to everything she does, while I'm more inclined to leap first. That balance is exactly why we work so well together.

She's also the keeper of our memories. Melissa is always capturing moments, especially the small, meaningful ones. She notices the beauty in the everyday moments we spend together. What once felt unfamiliar to me has become something I deeply treasure. There's one road we drive where she takes a photo every single time. I used to laugh, tease her, and wonder why- now I understand. One day, those memories will mean everything. Pieces we'll look back on and cherish as part of our love story. Above all, Melissa is the strongest woman I know. I don't think I could have endured what she's faced through her cancer and fertility journey with the same grace and perseverance. She continues to move forward with strength, love, and determination, and I'm endlessly proud of her.

## ABOUT ME..

*I've always had an entrepreneurial mind and love turning ideas into something real. I'm a general contractor and run two companies, and I genuinely enjoy building, fixing, and improving things. I stay busy, but I wouldn't have it any other way.*

Some of my favourite ideas arrive when I least expect them- sparked by a joke, a late-night conversation, or a problem no one else has quite solved yet. I love creativity, problem - solving, and the thrill of making something out of nothing. *I was born and raised in Toronto in a very close family. My mom is Irish, my dad is French, and family time has always been a priority. I grew up building things from a young age, helping neighbours with projects, taking things apart and rebuilding them, and finding ways to earn a few dollars along the way. That hands-on mindset has never left me.*

*Outside of work, I play baseball, bowl in a league, and enjoy staying active. I also love creating experiences for others through our properties and Airbnbs.*

*My girls are the light of my life. I look forward to every day we have together, especially our nightly movie tradition. No matter what's happening in life or work, quality time with family always comes first.*



# A LETTER TO OUR FUTURE SURROGATE...

Dear Future Surrogate,

From the very beginning, we want you to know how deeply grateful we are that you are even considering this journey. The selflessness, generosity, and courage it takes to carry a baby for someone else is something we will never take lightly. There are truly no words that can fully capture the appreciation we already feel for you.

As we move through this journey together, we hope to build a relationship rooted in trust, open communication, and mutual respect. We want to be a team, supporting one another every step of the way as we work toward the shared goal of bringing a healthy baby into the world. Your well-being, your voice, and your comfort will always matter to us.

We envision you being a meaningful part of our lives before, during, and after the pregnancy, in whatever way feels right and comfortable for everyone involved. We believe relationships grow naturally, and we want any connection we build to be authentic, supportive, and grounded in care, never forced or expected.

What you are offering us is an opportunity we never thought we'd have. This journey means everything to us, not just because it brings us closer to becoming parents, but because it fills a missing piece in our hearts and in our family. Melissa's parents are beyond excited at the thought of becoming grandparents, and this path gives all of us hope, joy, and something truly beautiful to look forward to.

We know that nothing we say or do could ever fully repay you for the gift you are giving us. Please know that your role in our family's story will always be honoured and remembered with gratitude. You will forever hold a special place in our hearts for helping us grow our family.

Thank you for considering walking this journey with us. We would be honoured to do it together, with care, respect, and endless appreciation.

With all our gratitude,  
Melissa and Brian



## WHEN WE PICTURE OUR GROWING FAMILY...

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Our life with Mia has shaped us in the most meaningful ways. Being her dad and bonus mom has taught us the importance of presence, patience, and truly valuing time together. As we imagine growing our family, we see more of what we already cherish, deep connection, shared experiences, and a home filled with love.

Quality time is at the heart of our family. We picture cottage weekends filled with lake swims and long walks, cozy story time with Phoebe nearby, baking and cooking together in the kitchen, and learning through everyday moments. We hope to instill strong values while also encouraging our children to develop their own voices, interests, and traditions.

Traditions mean so much to us. Holidays are already special in our home, and we can't wait to add new memories — including a future Disney trip with our baby and, one day, adding a fifth stocking to our fireplace. These moments, big and small, are what we treasure most.

We're especially excited to give Mia the sibling she so deeply hopes for and to expand our family in a way that feels intentional and full. Our home already has so much love to give, and growing our family feels like adding a missing piece to a life we're already proud of.

Above all, we see ourselves continuing to be hands-on, present parents — growing together, learning together, and building a family rooted in connection, warmth, and shared values.



# THROUGHOUT THE YEARS...

