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PARENTING

My husband has an identical twin. I can't tell them apart over the phone.

Essay by [Karen Mabashi](#)



The author (not pictured) married an identical twin and had fraternal twins. Sphoto/Getty Images

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- I never believed in love at first sight until I met my now-husband.
- I couldn't recognize him from his identical twin brother over the phone.
- We ended up having fraternal twins, and I got to experience the twin magic first-hand.

The first time I met my husband, I had all the cliché love signs.

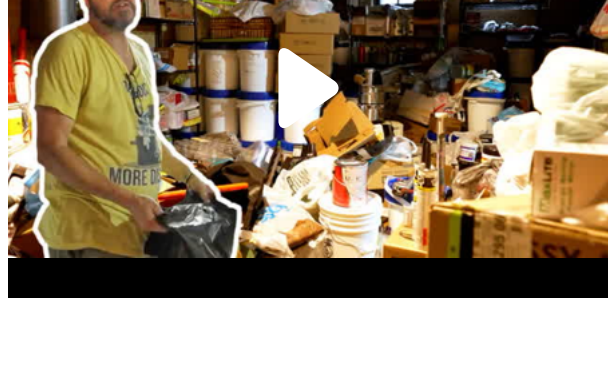
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I felt butterflies in my stomach, and my heart was beating fast. I never believed in [love at first sight](#) until I actually fell in love with him the moment I saw him.

We didn't even talk then. I just knew this was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

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When I told a friend of mine who knows him, she asked me, "Are you sure it's not his [twin brother](#)?"

People confuse them all the time

When we started dating, when we went out together, [people would greet him with his brother's name](#). He never corrected them.

Whenever I called him on their home's landline, I never knew if it was him or his twin brother who answered the phone; they had the exact same voice and even way of speaking.

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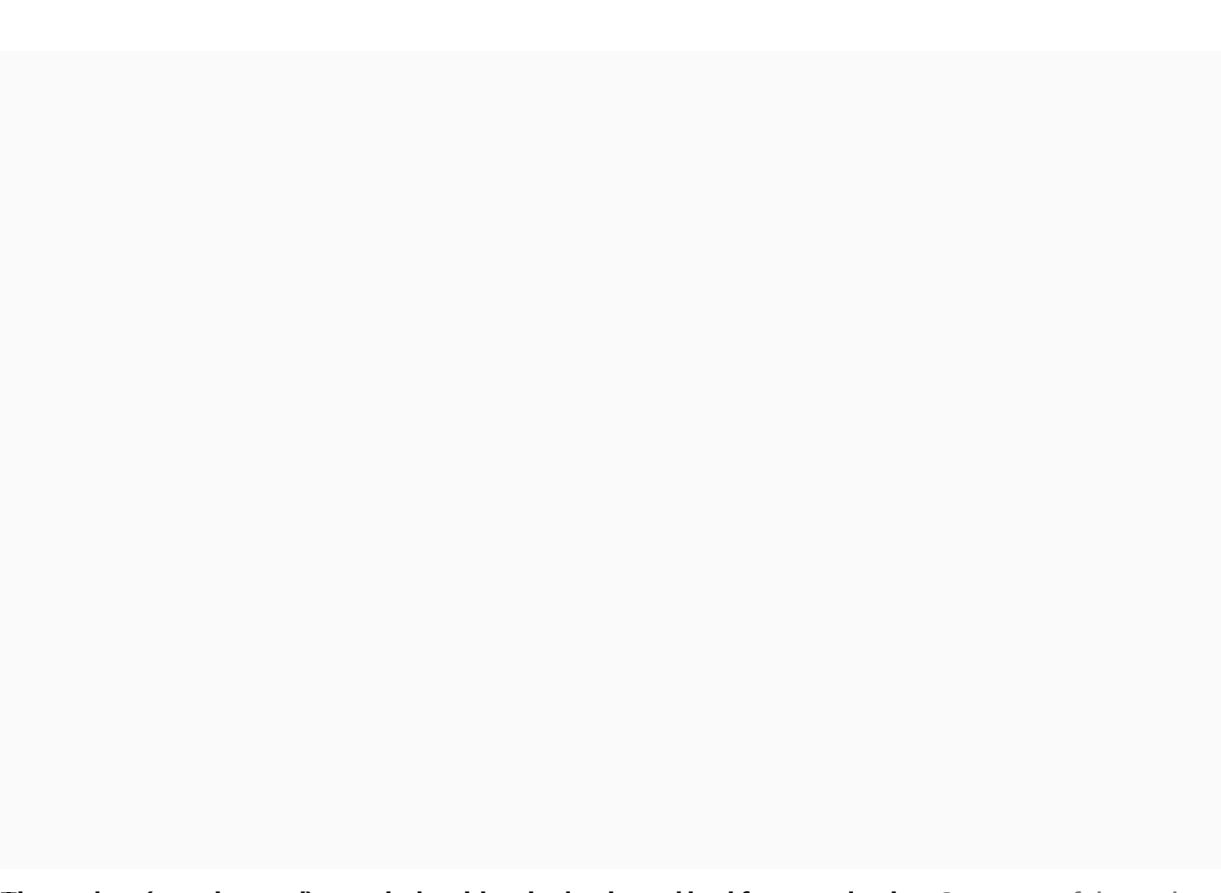
They were [famous for pulling pranks](#), and I was always afraid they'd play one on me.

On our wedding day, his twin brother went early to the photographer's studio, and my now-husband hadn't arrived yet. We joked that we could take photos with his twin brother in case my husband didn't arrive in time.

We had fraternal twins

Years later, I was pregnant with [fraternal or non-identical twins](#). It was so surreal having twins whose dad was also a twin.

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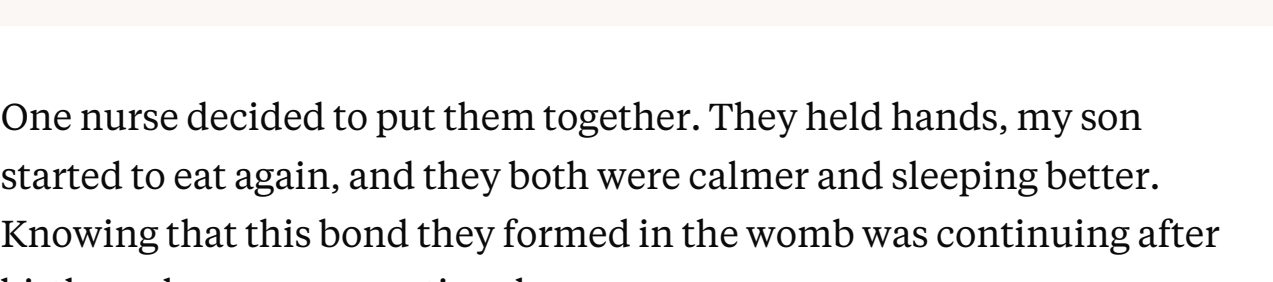


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The author (not pictured) married an identical twin and had fraternal twins. Courtesy of the author

I had an emergency C-section and gave birth to my twins early at 35 weeks. When they were in the NICU, the nurses separated them. My son started not to eat; he had an NG-tube, but he wasn't thriving, and his sister was always crying and not sleeping well.

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One nurse decided to put them together. They held hands, my son started to eat again, and they both were calmer and sleeping better. Knowing that this bond they formed in the womb was continuing after birth made me very emotional.

When they were babies, they had their own secret language. My daughter would translate to us what her twin brother wanted or was saying because he had delayed speech.

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Even now, as tweens, when we're out together, they unintentionally hold hands. It warms my heart to see them grow together, each with their own unique character, yet so close to each other.

My twins were confused when my husband's twin came to visit

When they were almost a year old, their uncle came to visit us. It was their first time meeting him since he doesn't live in Canada. They were so confused, and it was hilarious watching them not knowing which one was their dad.

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Last year, we had sort of a "twins reunion." It included our twins, my husband and his twin brother, and their oldest brother's identical twin girls.

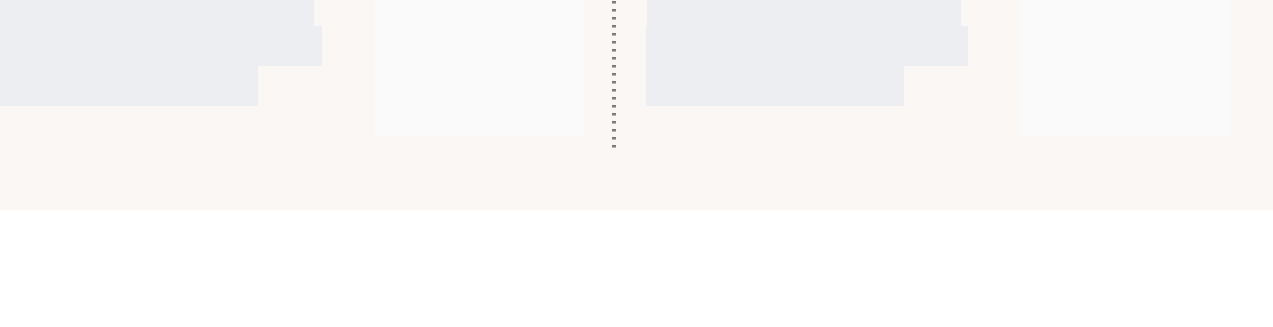
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It was funny comparing notes and inside jokes and seeing how twins' dynamics are different from ours. Although they're twins, I still have to remind myself that they are also two separate individuals.

I learned a long time ago not to compare them to each other, whether in their milestones or academically. I hope they continue to support each other while embracing their individuality. And I can't wait to see what they'll do next.

Essay : Parenting

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