UNKNOWN FAMILIES



by Paige greenwald

For all the kids who are proud

Of how they were born.

Written and Illustrated by:

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Chapter 1: A DONOR KID'S STORY

I remember that day when I first laid my eyes on my mom. A brand-new world, and it was all waiting for me.

Many families are different.

Whether you have one parent, two parents or your parents are divorced, or you're adopted, your family loves you. These examples of families are often known today. We will talk about one that doesn't have a name. I'll tell you what it is, but you must read a few chapters so "Nenana-booboo" on you. The family we are talking about is very special. (that's just between us, ok?) This family is based on donors. Do you know what a donor is? (circle one: YES or NO.) If you circled yes, you should probably skip this chapter. If you circled no, then listen to the next chapter!!!!!!!



Chapter 2: DONORS

A donor is a very special person. Well, when I say donor, I mean an egg donor or a sperm donor. Oh! About donors … they are people who give things away. We are not talking about donors who give their body parts away. (I don't know about you, but to me that's disgusting.)

We are talking about sperm and egg donors. I will explain what that is so first things first, you know what an egg is - a hard-boiled egg, scrambled eggs, deviled eggs, Sunnyside eggs and more. The "more" is the type of egg that your body produces. You get it when you're about let's say 13. You might be wondering, how does a hard-boiled egg produce inside your body? Well, I have your answer.

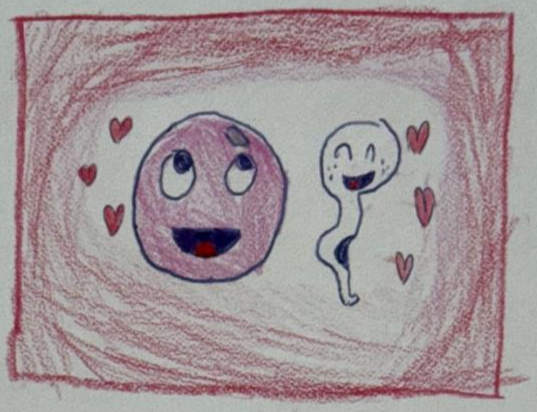
It's not an egg that you eat. It's a type of egg that is made to make embryos which I'll explain later, and the egg connects

with the sperm. Oh! A woman produces the egg, not a man.

Now you're probably wondering what does a man have to do with making a baby. Well, instead of just a woman donor there's a male donor for the sperm. A sperm is almost like an egg, but it comes from the man. A man produces it, a man gives it, a man has sperm.

Now you're probably wondering, what does an egg and a sperm have to do with making a baby? An egg and sperm create an embryo. An embryo is a stage in the beginning of the pregnancy. When someone is pregnant, it means you have a baby in your belly, but it hasn't been birthed yet. Back to embryos – some people have more than one. Well, if you're a woman that is. You see, men can't be pregnant for some reason. Some reason that I don't know. The woman can only produce a baby.







your donors names:

_____

_____

CHAPER 3: NAMES

Since we just read about “Donors” I wanted to tell you that I personally feel we should call them something more. Something that really expresses what they do. For example, I think we should call them... “Biological mom/dad”. I think that’s a **VERY** reasonable name because yes, they don’t live with you, but you’re still related.

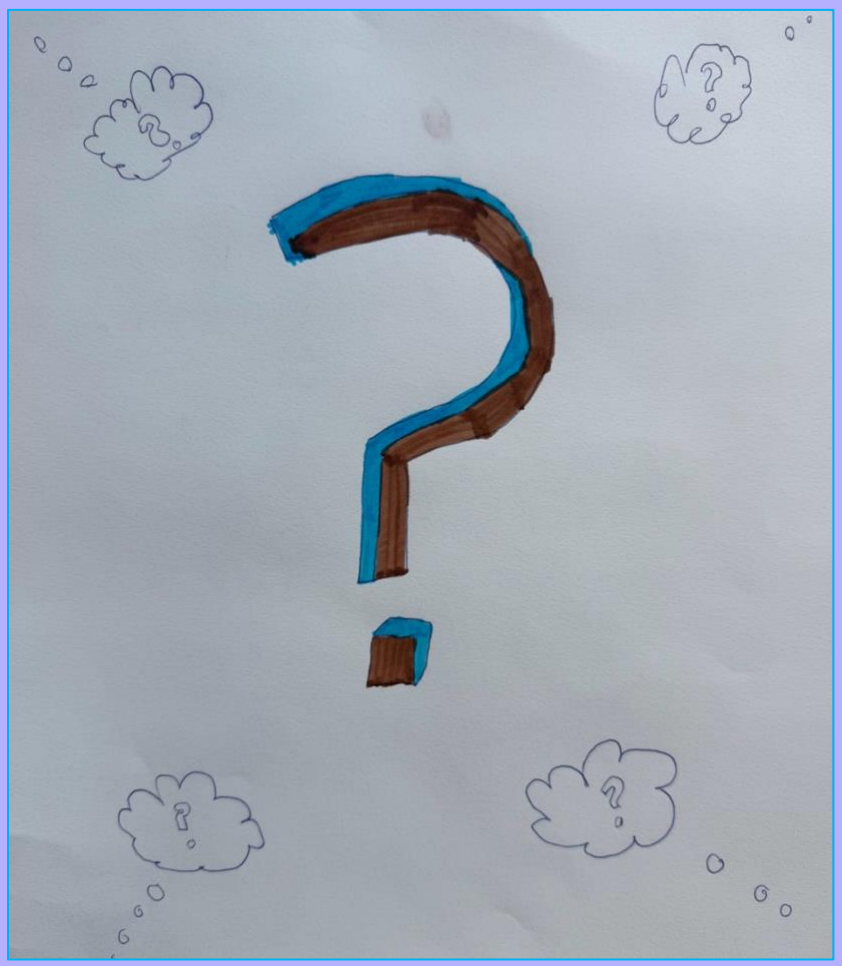
Just a reminder, the way you are related to your egg donor/sperm donor is because they shared their sperm or egg with your parent or parents. Calling my egg and sperm donor this way makes me feel like I’m not the only one who has a unique family.

The reason why I personally use the word “donor” is because it’s much easier for people to understand than biological mom/dad. But when a person I am telling my story to finally understands what donor means, I personally would say “biological mom/dad” instead of “donor”.

Since my Mom is single (you’ll learn about what that means later in the book), when she told me that I have a biological mom and dad, I was thinking I have two moms and three parents! But I know that they are not “parents”, they are just people who are biologically connected to me. I consider my Mom, who raised me, my only parent but I consider my biological mom/dad as “honorary” parents.

Chapter 4: MYSTERY FAMILY

Finally, I'm going to reveal the mystery family. Like I said, this family doesn't have a name so it's goanna take a while to explain this family to you. It might even take a few chapters, but don't worry, I'll tell you.



I’m going to break the family into parts. Part #1, half siblings. Part #2, one parent. Part #3, not living with your sibling. Part #4, privacy. Now you’re probably wondering why I broke it into parts instead of just explaining it altogether. The reason why is because it took me eight years to know everything, I’m putting in this, and I want it to only take you one single book. I know you might be thinking why do I need to read such a long book? Well, I have your answer: to know everything about the subject. You can tell your friends and family. You could even be smarter than your teachers.

Chapter 5: HALF SIBLINGS



Part one of this family includes something called a half-sibling. Now you're probably wondering what I mean. Cause if you're reading this book out there and you have a sibling who lives with you, you might be wondering are you only half genetically connected with your sibling. The answer is "NO". Remember how I talked about the egg and sperm donor? Well, if you're a donor baby, then you probably have half-siblings. This is because for instance, let's say I have half-siblings, but I only share the same sperm with them. Remember what that is? Well,

if you don't, then you gotta re-read Chapter 2, OK? But if you remember, then listen up. Did I mention that a woman has multiple eggs, and a man has multiple sperm? I guess I didn't. But it's true, they do. So that means egg and sperm donors usually have many future parents they give their egg and sperm out to. And those other children, if you're a donor baby, have to be your half-siblings because you share half of genetics. Some people call these half siblings "diblings" because they are donor half-siblings.

You're probably wondering what "genetics" is, so let's say that you're with your parent at a dance class that you're both enjoying and are really good at - that probably means it's from genetics because you're probably going to like the same activity as your parents (or donors or donor siblings if you're a donor kid like me). Well, that's how the egg and the sperm work with genetics so half-siblings aren't your siblings that you live with,

they are siblings from genetics. But now you're probably wondering why do we call them half-siblings? The reason is they're not our full siblings, but we share genetics, only half of it though, and donor siblings don't come from who you're birthed by, for donor siblings it's about genetics, and half-siblings only share half genetics. That's why we call them half-siblings.

Chapter 6: SINGLE PARENT

You might be wondering what “single” means. Well, single means by yourself, and you might be wondering “Do I know anybody who has a single parent?” If you have a single Dad, you are probably either a donor kid, adopted, or your parents are divorced. In addition, if you have a single mom, you are also probably either a donor kid, adopted, or your parents are divorced.

Having a single parent isn’t something to be ashamed of. It means your parents are a bit stronger than others. Don’t tell anyone I said that. If you have a single mother, you probably have donors. The reason why single parents are a chapter in this book is because mostly everything we’re talking about usually happens because of single parents, a “mystery family”, donors and more. The weird thing about single parents is it always feels

like you're the only one that has one, but you're not. There are 1000s of people who have single parents, just sometimes it's hard to figure out who. This may be the shortest chapter, but it has a big influence on this book.



Chapter 7. FULL SIBLINGS

This chapter title might sound a bit odd to you, but don't worry, it makes sense. You're probably wondering "Why are you adding a sibling? A lot of people know what a sibling is." If that is your question, I got your answer … This sibling isn't a typical sibling. Now don't worry, I'm not going to redo Chapter 4. I'm going to tell you about another type of sibling.

This sibling is a regular sibling, except he/she doesn't live with you. I know it makes no sense. Why would your sibling not live with you? It's crazy! Well, do you remember what an embryo is from Chapter 2? Well, if you do, I have more information on it. Grown-ups who have embryos sometimes have multiple embryos.

My mother, who used donor egg and donor sperm, gave one of her embryos to her close friend. That means that her friend who

took that embryo had the same donor egg and donor sperm as the embryo that created me. Now the hard part is that until my genetic sibling knows that we're brother and sister, we have to keep it a secret. My mother and I believe genetic siblings should know about each other the moment they are born. Whenever we play together, he never realizes that he's playing with his sister. Dramatic isn't it? He's my full sibling, well full genetic sibling, do you remember what that is? If you don't, reread Chapter 2. The fact that he is my genetic sibling is not a secret, but his name is. We would never want somebody going around saying "Oh, your brother, his name is blank." It would be annoying because everyone would want to know who he is. We wouldn't want that! We call him a PSLA, which stands for "private siblings living apart".

Chapter 8. <u>THE LAST CHAPTER</u>

You probably understand what the mystery family is now. You probably understand why I just couldn't explain it in one sentence. The answer of the mystery family is everything you just read in this book. Oh, and have I revealed the clues that have been hidden in this book?



This whole entire book is my life of how I was birthed. The hard part about keeping my genetic sibling a secret, the unique things about me, and that I feel it's good to be unique even if nobody understands that being unique is the best thing you could do for yourself and others. So, if you have something that other people might not, don't keep it to yourself … spread it out to the world. Just talking to a therapist inspired me to write this whole entire book.. For you, I hope you like it, and I hope you could influence your friends to understand what different lives are like, and your friends may say "Wow where did you get all that knowledge?" You can either tell them all your knowledge came from a book, or just your brain.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

My name is Paige. I am 8 years old. I live in Manhattan, New York. I am on a hip-hop dance team. My hobbies are singing, dancing, reading, acting, gaga, & more! My favorite colors are either sky blue or aquamarine. My school is Columbia Grammar. No family is the same, & I hope you are VERY proud of them!

