By Ashley Rappa \* For Organic Conceptions \* January 13, 2016

**Jessica Wright**

*Spoiler alert: Jessica and her husband Eric got their happy ending--two beautiful baby boys. But what they endured to get there is a story for the books. Read on to find out about their struggle, their moment of surrender, and their surprising road to parenthood.*

Jessica Wright always knew something was wrong. Ever since she was a child, her greatest fear was that she would be unable to start a family someday. But when the time finally came, one year after she married her husband Eric, she pushed her fear aside in the name of faith and hope. The next five years would test her resolve in a way she never dreamed as she realized that the only way she would be able to have the children she so desperately hoped for was to face her biggest fear.

Jessica and Eric were in their mid twenties when they started trying for a baby. Though they hoped it would happen right away, that they would have as easy a time as most of their friends and family, with each passing month came the rollercoaster of emotions: the high of hope and the sharp sting when their pregnancy test came up with just one line.

“Every month you're a little more disappointed,” said Jessica. For her, there was another layer to the disappointment: the slow realization that one of her earliest worries was becoming a reality.

“I have always felt since I was a very young girl that I was going to have a hard time having kids. I’ve always had a huge desire to have a family, but on some level I thought there was no way I’d be able to have one. So in the back of my mind that first year, I thought, ‘Oh, I kind of called it, didn’t I?’”

But there was little satisfaction in predicting that outcome. After a year of trying the old fashioned way with no results, she mentioned their lack of progress to her OBGYN.

“My doctor said there wasn’t reason to be concerned, but I intuitively knew something wasn’t right,” said Jessica. And her OBGYN wasn’t alone: friends, family, even her husband all thought she was making something out of nothing. “But I had this underlying feeling that there was actually very good reason to be concerned. I knew it was going to be a bigger issue than people thought at the time.”

After a year and a half of trying, Jessica wondered if she had spoken too soon. Her gut feeling about her infertility was replaced by a different sensation in her belly: morning sickness. She and Eric were finally pregnant. They rejoiced, telling everyone their good news. Sadly, their elation was short-lived: they lost the baby at 8 weeks.

“We just never thought miscarriage could happen. No one we knew ever talked about it. It just didn’t seem like a possibility. It was the furthest thing from our mind,” she said.

Their hearts heavy, they waited the requisite time before trying again, and after many fruitless months decided to seek treatment. On their second round of Clomid, they conceived again. More cautious this time, but still armed with hope, they were shocked and saddened when they learned they had miscarried very early, also known as a chemical pregnancy.

That was when the stress began to set in in earnest, but their mutual loss was also a solvent to their marriage. Stronger than ever as a couple, and more sure of their eventual future as parents, they pursued Intrauterine Insemination (IUI). On their second try, they succeeded.

“The second IUI, we conceived, and that was Lillian. We got everything confirmed. It was all working out. I wasn’t considered high risk and we thought yes, finally—this is it.”

But once again, Jessica’s intuition took hold.

“We were 26 weeks and I just knew something wasn’t right. We called our doctor and they said, go to the ER, just as a precaution. We thought we’d hear the heartbeat, pick up some things for the nursery, and go out to dinner,” said Jessica. “But they couldn’t find anything. At first they thought the machine must be broken, but eventually they confirmed she had passed away. I delivered her the next day.”

For the Wrights, that was the hardest time, both for what had happened and because of how alone they felt.

“We didn't know anyone who had stillborn baby or a late term loss. It was absolutely devastating to everyone,” said Jessica.

As a self-proclaimed doer, Jessica knew she couldn’t sit back and be passive although she was still mourning her daughter. She began researching what could have happened, trying to get to the bottom of what was behind their persistent losses.

“No one could tell me what caused her death, and no one will ever be able to, but I needed to know as much as I could.”

Jessica had full blood work done and sent to one of the best infertility doctors in the country to see if he might be able to provide them with some help, or at the very least, some answers. It turns out he could: Jessica had a rare immune disorder called Factor Five, which may have been behind their recurring losses. Though it was a good feeling to uncover the issue, what he said next changed their lives.

“He said, based on his findings, that he thought it would be hard, if not impossible, for me to conceive naturally and carry a baby to term. And that was it. That was the moment. The path was suddenly before me and I realized yes, I was going to be a mother, but that this wasn’t the way it was going to happen.”

Jessica and Eric instead pursued adoption. Just 18 weeks after their moment of clarity, and after being told that they likely wouldn’t be placed with a child for many years, they received the call they had been waiting for: their son Levi was on his way.

Once he arrived, they were shocked: shocked by how much love they felt for this little boy, shocked by how many diapers they changed, shocked by how loud he could yell. Their first three months with their colicky, screaming, sleepless baby were some of the hardest on record, they were also some of the most amazing. In part because they were finally parents, but also because they found out that an additional miracle had occurred: Jessica was once again pregnant.

“We couldn’t believe it. There could not have been a less ideal time in our lives to conceive a child. I was living on coffee and two hours of sleep. There was a screaming baby around all the time,” said Jessica. “Now I joke: if you want to have a baby, just be as gross as you can possibly be, and you will get pregnant like *that*.”

After a blissfully uneventful pregnancy, their second son Owen was born, just a year behind his big brother. After so many years of trying to do everything perfectly in order to conceive, Jessica discovered that the most powerful thing you can do is sometimes giving yourself the opportunity to do nothing at all.

“Letting go, leaving the stress and the worry behind, not thinking at all about pregnancy or conception, that can be everything,” she said. “After we did that, we moved forward, we trusted, we followed our path, and that’s when everything started to click and fall into place.”

Levi is now 3 and Owen is 2, and though Jessica and Eric’s journey was bumpy at times, they know they are exactly where they are supposed to be.

“I still look at my children every day and get that same wow feeling,” said Jessica. “I think to myself: you’re here! You’re finally here. And you are everything we’ve ever wanted.”