

get pregnant, we'd wait until our first baby was born to try again.

Which is how we came to be pregnant at the same time.

The main difference in our experiences was that nobody knew that Angie was pregnant. This is not because she didn't get big and all that. It was more about the clothes she wore—her own oversized men's clothes—versus the hand-me-down maternity blouses and dresses I'd acquired and tried to wear with a little contradictory, body-revealing flair. (In my opinion, femme is about just these kinds of contradictions: fulfilling some norm while trending against it at the same time.)

Then there was Angie's denial: It was easier for her to believe that I would make her a parent than that she would do it herself, too. In late summer, just before she was due, a woman approached her in a café and asked if she was expecting a baby. "There's my baby," Angie replied, pointing to our first son.

Maybe most folks assumed that she was just drinking a heck of a lot of beer.

Actually there are advantages to being pregnant at the same time as your partner. No one has any brain power anymore, so conversations—requiring words, as they do—are necessarily limited. Still, there's a telepathic bond that comes from sharing the pauses in each other's sentences.

On the other hand, who should do the heavy lifting? Who should hand out the bonbons and who should sit on the couch nibbling and waiting for a foot massage? Like all good lesbians, we took turns.

And like any butch and femme couple, we understood that we each had our own way of being in the world, which surely included being pregnant. I went to prenatal yoga classes, practiced hypnobirthing and had the baby at home. Angie asked the doctor about weightlifting during gestation, took private birthing classes and elected to go to the hospital when the time came.

The lesbian baby boom announced to the world that being gay didn't mean we couldn't become parents. But why stop there? In a two-uterus relationship, much more is possible. I know of other couples who are both trying to get pregnant at the same time. And word on the street has it that the lesbian couple with the double sets of twins is making it work.

Now we are in the throes of raising our two infants (the first a Taurus—named Leo—and the second, two weeks overdue, a Virgo), and we know that we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into—the good, the hard and the seriously messy. If Irish twins are those siblings born 11 or 13 months apart, ours are lesbian twins, or, as a friend called them, San Francisco twins.

But when you think of it that way, as having twins, all the advantages to our approach come to light. After all, the increasingly dated method of one person doing all the childbearing is based on a strictly heterosexual model. Ask any woman who had twins the old-fashioned way—one beleaguered pregnant body, one nursing mom. We're just sharing the work 50-50. The old-school feminists who preceded our generation would be proud. ■

Bring Words to Life

Heather isn't the only one with two mommies, as you'll discover while reading through the catalog from Two Lives Publishing (twolives.com). The company's latest children's story, *The Different Dragon*, also features a family with two mothers: Go-Ma and Momma.

The richly illustrated story begins during their son Noah's bedtime ritual. It's Go-Ma's turn to get him ready for bed, and like any good mom, she tells him a goodnight story. Together they imagine a story that includes Noah's cat, Diva, a boat ride and a dragon. The fierce, fire-breathing dragon doesn't necessarily want to *be* a fire-breathing dragon, but Noah assures him that fierce is not the only way of being: "You can be however you want," he tells the now-tearful dragon.

Written by Jennifer Bryan, with striking artwork by Danamarie Hosler, *The Different Dragon* is a lovely example of what makes Two Lives Publishing unique. Without focusing solely on the issues that affect gay and lesbian parents, Two Lives books reflect real life for thousands of families. "We want to depict kids in normal settings," says co-publisher Sally Lindsay, "without focusing too much on the big issues, without banging them over the head with it."

When Lindsay and co-publisher Bobbie Combs decided to combine their years of publishing experience to start their own publishing house, they felt that this emphasis on LGBT families was critical, but they wanted to address it without using a bullhorn to blast the message.

Their first book, *ABC: A Family Alphabet*, was written by Combs and has turned out to be their best seller, with more than 10,000 copies sold. Parents across the United States have taught their children with this book, a fact that always pleases Lindsay. "There's nothing better than meeting parents at a conference and them telling you, 'My child learned the ABCs from your book!'"

The book sold out of its initial print run, but will be reprinted in the near future. Two Lives Publishing is also getting ready to release two other books in 2008—*The Lavender Nursery Book* and *The Case of the Vanishing Valuable*.

For more than eight years, Two Lives has focused on publishing and distributing quality books that cater to the LGBT community. Lindsay and Combs started to distribute when they found that other publishers were producing materials that were valuable to families everywhere.

Now they herald themselves as the "only clearinghouse that carries books that exclusively focus on or feature LGBT families," providing a central site to purchase dozens of titles that fit the niche. The site is one-stop shopping for LGBT children's books.

Combs and Lindsay are fulfilling a dream. "It's a mission of love," Lindsay explains.

Two Lives has partnered with several organizations over the years, and donates a portion of its profits to family support groups. Despite not having any children, Lindsay and Combs are determined to foster pride and love in LGBT families, through access to quality books for both children and parents alike.

— Teresa Coates

