

Real-life dilemmas plus info & advice

## Your health

### DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE



Husband and wife team **Dr Mike** and **Dr Louise** tackle your problems - together

## 16 YEARS to hold a baby again



She was well worth the wait

Lisa had one child - so why couldn't she conceive now?

Cradling newborn Dean, I could barely believe he was mine. At 18, I hadn't planned to be a mum so young. I wasn't with his dad and feared I wouldn't cope. But luckily, I was a natural. When Dean was six months, I met John, 18. He adored Dean, and eight months later we got married, began trying for a baby. A year on, I still wasn't pregnant so my GP ran tests on us both. But they came back normal.

Years rolled by and still nothing happened. With every period I felt a failure. If I saw a woman with a baby, I'd be jealous and bitter. After a rocky nine years John and I split up with the strain. Six months on, now

29, I began seeing an old friend, Rob Weeks, 24. There'd always been chemistry between us. I explained to Rob about my infertility and he assured me it didn't put him off. Yet I fell pregnant three times in as many years - each one an ectopic. Then, a month after Rob and I married, I had a fourth ectopic pregnancy. My right Fallopian tube was so badly damaged, it had to be removed. Luckily, my ovaries were still fine so my doctor suggested an IVF egg-sharing scheme. This meant I'd get free IVF in return for donating eggs. Over the next three years, I had IVF four times. I conceived once but miscarried. The

other attempts all failed. 'One more go and then we'll give up,' I told Rob. But two weeks after my fifth attempt, I took a pregnancy test. And it was positive. It had been 16 years since I'd had Dean - it felt so odd to think I'd be a mum again.

**'With every period, I felt like a failure'**

Only, at 28 weeks I was rushed to hospital for an emergency Caesarean. My placenta had stopped working. Tiny Keira-Jayne was born, just 11b 9oz. She was 12 weeks early, had to be resuscitated and put on a ventilator. Rob and I prayed our baby would make it. Yet she was a fighter, and three months on we brought her home. Keira-Jayne's two now and such a joy. The years of heartache melt away when I look at her.

**LISA WEEKS, 37, PLYMOUTH, DEVON**  
 For more info about infertility, log onto [fertilityfriends.co.uk](http://fertilityfriends.co.uk).



We almost gave up

Me, Dean and his little sister

## 3 OF THE BEST FACE MASKS

**1<sup>ST</sup>** SkinVitals C-Brighten Cloth Facial Treatment Mask, £2.99  
 Skin was firmer and more hydrated after use. Gave a fresh glow too

**2<sup>ND</sup>** Fade Out Extra Care Face Brightening Mask, £7.95  
 Had a nice smell and face felt deeply moisturised

**3<sup>RD</sup>** Grace Your Face Pre Date Brightening Mask, £3.99  
 Really did make the skin look brighter - though left the face slightly sticky

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