

Illustrations by MARIE DELON

Mac & Madi's Surprise

A Very Different Twins
Birthday!



Linda Herron

MAC & MADI'S SURPRISE

A VERY DIFFERENT TWINS BIRTHDAY!

By Linda Herron

Illustrated By Marie Delon



MAC & MADI'S SURPRISE: A VERY DIFFERENT TWINS BIRTHDAY!

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

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For all Twins,
“May you hug, smile and laugh throughout your
life with your best friend.”
– Linda Herron



Mac and Madi look the same.

Same hair.

Same smile.

Same size.



And when they laughed, same scrunchy up crinkly nose and eyes.



The twins were so famous for being identical
that their friends even got them confused.



“I’m not Madi!
I’m Mac!”

“Hi Madi.”

“Oops”

But the twins were not only famous for being the same.

Their birthday parties were famous too!



Every year they held a big bash:



Same cake. Same colors.
Same food. Same clothes.



But Mac and Madi were tired of the same old.
This year was going to be different.

The twins had a plan,
and their birthday traditions were about to change.



At the bakery, Mac chose German Chocolate and
Madi chose Vanilla Funfetti.







At the party store, Madi chose purple
and Mac chose yellow.



“Those colors don’t even match!”

“Well this year the colors will just have to clash.”



At the grocery store, Mac chose pizza
and Madi chose tacos.



A colorful illustration featuring two characters. On the left, a young man with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a green tank top with a yellow name tag that says "DAN", holds up a green rectangular object with a picture of a pizza and the word "Pizza!" written on it. On the right, a young girl with light brown hair tied in pigtails, wearing a red hoodie, points her finger towards the boy. A yellow speech bubble above the boy contains the text "I thought you both like spaghetti?". A large yellow speech bubble at the bottom contains the text "We like other things too, you know."

"I thought you
both like
spaghetti?"

"We like other
things too,
you know."



At the mall, Mac chose pants and Madi chose shorts.



On their birthday, Mac and Madi woke early and quietly said,
“Today is our day.”



But Madi thought, “I wonder if Mom and Dad are going to be upset.”

Mac puzzled, “I wonder if our friends will fret.”



But when it was time to celebrate...







Their friends were shocked.



Mom and Dad's eyes locked.

Nothing was the same!



Different cake. Different colors.
Different food. Different clothes.
Silence ensued...



And then, everyone hugged.

Happy Birthday Madi!



Happy Birthday Mac!





Mac and Madi were still the same.

Same hair.

Same smile.

Same size.



And when they laughed, same scrunched up crinkly nose and eyes.
But now, as they say,



“We love being different even though we are similar in many ways!”

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Linda Herron knows firsthand what it is like to grow up as an identical twin. In fact, the most wonderful part of her childhood was spending time with her best friend and twin sister.

Because Linda recognizes the unique bond—and the unique challenges—that being a twin entails, she was inspired to create a series of children's stories about being an identical twin. Her latest book is *Mac & Madi's Surprise: A Very Different Twins Birthday!*

When she isn't writing children's books, Linda spends some of her time writing business articles and blogs. As the CEO of SimpliProfit, she provides strategic advising that transforms businesses by boosting profitability. Her financial expertise has been featured on media outlets including American Express, LendingTree, and Daily Business News, and she holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Bryant University.

Today, Linda lives in California and enjoys the sunny, seventy-five-degree weather every day. Though her twin still lives in Rhode Island, they visit each other to spend time together.

If you'd like to learn more, purchase books, or join her mailing list, you can connect with Linda via her website or her Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

A handwritten signature of the name "Linda" in a cursive, light blue font.

Note to Parents of Twins

Raising twins is a major ongoing challenge for parents, close relatives, and teachers. In addition to the life-sustaining importance of physical care, the emotional attention and psychological mindfulness required for raising twins can be complicated and stressful. In my experience working with parents of twins, feeling exhausted or overwhelmed is a very normal reaction.

For these reasons, asking parents to react to each child as a unique individual may sound like too much work, especially at first, but making a special connection with each of your children will pay off in the long run. Fighting will be reduced—and you will be better able to understand what is going on when it does happen. The competition will be less intense, and language acquisition will be less problematic.

In fact, endorsing and acting on twin individuality is the greatest gift you can give to your children. To counter the attention twins receive as a pair, I suggest the following:

1. As early as possible, designate objects such as toys, games, friends, and clothes for each twin that cannot be shared without asking.
2. Discuss what is shared, and maintain sharing time.
3. Discipline each child separately to avoid twin enmeshment.

Barbara

Barbara Klein, Ph.D.

Twins and Gifted Children

Parent Coaching

Join Twins, Mac and Madi in this colorful and imaginative book as they change it up on their friends and family this year. It's a fun-filled journey celebrating the acceptance of differences in an unlikely relationship, identical twins.



– Linda Herron, Author

To find out more about Linda Herron and books
www.lherron.com



“Finally, a book on twins and their friends and families that acknowledges differences as normal and celebrates unique aspects of each child’s identity.”

– Barbara Klein, Ph.D.

To find out more about Dr. Barbara Klein and books
www.drbarbaraklein.com

