

Luke and Raychel welcomed Maisie through IVF in 2023.

LUKE
JACOBZ

‘OUR BABY MIRACLE’

The star gets candid about the couple’s heartbreaking road to parenthood

Luke Jacobz always knew he wanted to be a dad, but he never could have imagined how hard it would be or the toll it would take to fulfil that dream.

Having started dating now-wife Raychel in 2017, the



Their journey has been rough, but worth it.



LUKE has been a regular on our screens for over 20 years, appearing in iconic dramas such as *Home And Away* and *McLeod's Daughters* and has played host on *The X Factor*.

this point, the couple decided to proceed with their nuptials and do the implantation – not thinking it would stick. The last thing they expected was that Raychel would be walking down the aisle four months pregnant!

"We weren't expecting that, so we just lost our minds. We were so close to not trying any more, because it was just so hard."

After a "pretty horrendous" pregnancy and a "really traumatic" birth, the couple resigned themselves to the fact they wouldn't be having any more children.

'We were so close to not trying again, it was so hard'

But the older Maisie – now 19 months – got, the more they "felt selfish" for not giving her a sibling.

Recently, they made the decision to try IVF again but much to their surprise, the couple fell pregnant naturally with their second child!

"I jumped up and down and lost my mind," Luke says of the moment he realised they were expecting again.

"That we were actually able

to fall naturally with number two. It's almost like Raychel's body was like, 'OK, now I know what I'm doing.' It sort of gave us that little kick."

HOME STRETCH

Already 21 weeks along, Raychel is thankfully finally over her severe "24-hour sickness", and since getting pregnant was such a surprise, the couple decided to find out what they're having this time – something they didn't do with their first pregnancy.

"We're having a boy! We are just over the moon,"

Luke beams. "We're so thrilled."

While theirs might not have been the easiest journey, Luke is a firm believer that this was always meant to be their path to parenthood.

"I think things happen for a reason," Luke reflects. "Maybe if we fell pregnant seven or eight years ago I might not have been emotionally and physically ready for it, whereas now I'm absolutely with open arms so happy that I can promise you this right now, we're two and through!"



pair began trying just a year later, with no luck. And it wasn't until some years later that they decided to get some tests done.

While there was no medical reason as to why they weren't falling pregnant, they decided their best bet was with IVF through Adora Fertility.

Still, the process of going through egg retrievals, fertilisation and transfers wasn't easy, and their hopes were dashed multiple times.

"You hear stories that it's possible to fall [pregnant] the first try. And we went in there going, 'We're going to be the ones that create the statistic where it is possible,'" Luke, 44, tells *Woman's Day*.

JOY AFTER HEARTACHE

After suffering three early-stage miscarriages and with only one embryo left, Raychel opted for another egg retrieval. Having put their wedding off twice by