

## The Birth of My First Born Prince

This is the birth story of my son Ja'Michael Cashmir Gore. Me and your father were very excited to meet you, and see who you'd look like most. He knew from the moment we found out we were pregnant that you were going to be a boy. I remember watching baby stories on TLC and getting scared as I neared the end of my pregnancy. I was afraid of the pain, and I was afraid of the possibility of getting a c-section. I guess for a first time mother those feelings I was having were normal. I remember trying everything to get you into the world after turning 37wks, but you held on as long as you could. In the early morning hrs of November 18, 2011 I was awoken from my sleep from what I originally thought was Braxton hicks. I went to the bathroom because I felt like I was going to have to poop, and I did so I thought everything was ok after that so I went back to sleep. Once again at about 8am I had to use the bathroom but that time nothing happened at all so I returned to bed. I remembering squeezing your father very tight, as I was having a contraction but at the time I still thought it was a Braxton hick because the pain was bearable. He asked me if I was ok, I said yea I was just having a Braxton hick. After that we were able to fall back asleep. Then around 10:30am we woke up to start our day. We went outside to feed the dogs, well your dad was feeding them I was sitting on a cooler watching because the braxtons hicks kept coming. I called my mom to tell her what was going on and she asked me to count how many minutes in between and call her back. I waited awhile then called her back and told her they were 10min apart. She was so excited and said we're going to have a baby today. I didn't think so because I thought when you're in labor you're supposed to be in excruciating pain, but that was only the beginning of what was yet to come. I called my job to tell them that I thought I was in labor but wasn't sure so I went anyway. I arrived at work at 2p and I was still feeling fine but kept going to the bathroom frequently. Every time I'd go if I took too long someone would come making sure I wasn't having the baby in there which tickled me to think about it. Around 5:45 the bearable contractions became not so bearable anymore. I guess after 9mths with no menstrual cramps I forgot what they felt like not to mention they were worse. I was in the back booth taking orders while another worker took the money I just couldn't stay still long enough to do both jobs. I was sitting down on a stool and every time a contraction came up I would stand up until it passed. This lasted until 7p when another worker came to release me. Once I got into the car I called your father he was so excited and told me he was on the way. Then I called my mom and she said she knew it and was leaving choir practice early with my sister. After I called them I went to the hospital which was like 3miles from my job. I went to the women's center and told them that I was in labor so they took me to triage. That's when the nurse checked for dilation and monitored my contractions. Sure enough I was in full on labor at 5cm the show was on the road. I

was put in the room I'd be delivering in and while waiting for your father I started calling my friends. I called 3 of them and was only able to speak to the mother of one. After talking to her I felt just a little sad because I was still there alone, but not for long cause your dad came in the room with a great big smile. Then 15min after your dad came your grandma and aunt arrived just as excited. My birth plan was to have you all natural just to say I did it but I ended up getting a shot in my IV so I could get a little comfortable before I had to push. It felt like I was having an out of body experience as the drugs took effect on my body. At 10:30p they checked me again and I was 7cm so the nurse came in and broke my water. It felt so gross running out but it had to be done to speed up the process. As I was lying in bed I'd feel a little more water trickle out and they said it was because your head was moving around. After my water was broken the pain started getting closer together. It got so bad I actually asked for the epidural but my mother convinced me not too and encouraged me. So I just kept working on my breathing just like in Lamaze class. I started to feel like I had to push so the nurse came in and checked me I was 9 ½ cm so we did some trial pushes. As I pushed I realized I didn't feel any pain while you were traveling down my canal. I thought it was going to be easy but I was wrong because as soon as your head reached the opening I began to scream instead of push. The Dr. gave me some shots to numb me so I wouldn't feel the pain of you coming out. It was such a relief and after only 3 pushes your head was finally out. They quickly told me to stop pushing because the umbilical cord was wrapped around your neck so I waited until they said it was ok to push. Then on November 19, 2011 at 12:31am you made your way into the world. You were looking around but you weren't breathing so they began suctioning the mucous out of your nose and throat. I was crying because I had no idea what was going on, one thing I did know was that you weren't crying at all. When you finally did start crying I cried even more and they brought you over to me for a short moment. I was sad when they took you from me, but they wanted to check you out since your delivery was a little rough. It was about 2:30a when I was finally put in the room I'd be in the duration of our stay. Then around 3am you were finally brought into the room. I did skin to skin for a while then tried breastfeeding you, and you latched like a pro I was very happy. Well this is the story of how you made your mark in our lives, I love you son.

