# Meghan’s anniversary moodboard reignites baseless conspiracy theories about her pregnancies



The Duchess of Sussex recently shared a heartfelt moodboard on her Instagram to commemorate her seventh wedding anniversary with Prince Harry. Among the endearing photos capturing their journey, including loving moments shared with their children, was a striking image of Meghan displaying her bare baby bump during her pregnancy with Archie, alongside an ultrasound image. This personal tribute, however, has reignited a series of unfounded conspiracy theories regarding her motherhood.

Since Meghan announced her first pregnancy during a royal tour of Australia in 2018, sceptics and conspiracy theorists have relentlessly questioned the authenticity of her experiences as a mother. Allegations that she fabricated her pregnancies began to proliferate almost immediately, spurred on by claims that she used a ‘moonbump’—a prosthetic belly—to simulate her pregnancies. Such outlandish theories, often fuelled by fringe commentators and social media users, suggest that she hired a surrogate for both Archie and Lilibet, the couple's second child.

The basis for these claims has often been ludicrous and lacks credible evidence. Critics have scrutinised details of her pregnancies, including her choice of hospital for Archie’s birth—the Portland Hospital in London—rather than the typically favoured St Mary’s. This ignited disdain among traditionalists eager for royals to adhere to established norms. Meghan’s decision to retreat from public scrutiny shortly after giving birth, along with her refusal to partake in the customary photo opportunity on the hospital steps, was met with harsh criticism from some quarters, despite many applauding her choice to prioritise her newborn’s safety and privacy.

The social media frenzy surrounding her moodboard post has intensified the scrutiny. Critics have dissected the texture of her baby bump, alleging it was “too shiny” or “far too high.” Such commentary reflects a disturbing trend not only regarding Meghan but also towards women in the public eye who are subjected to invasive speculation about their bodies, particularly during pregnancy. Theories such as the ultrasound image lacking identifiable hospital information serve as fuel for those determined to undermine Meghan's credibility as a mother.

In the realm of public discourse, these unfounded conspiracies resonate deeply, revealing broader societal issues around race, gender, and the expectations placed upon women, particularly within royal and celebrity circles. Meghan’s experiences illustrate the pervasive nature of scrutiny women face, particularly those breaking from traditional roles. According to research highlighted by various outlets, including Snopes, the ongoing myth that Meghan used a surrogate is based on little more than public suspicion and a desire to perpetuate narrative control over her story.

Compounding this ordeal is the involvement of various family members, such as her half-sister Samantha Markle, whose public statements amplify the scrutiny. The backlash against Meghan transcends mere gossip; it becomes a societal reflection of our fears and desires surrounding motherhood, authenticity, and celebrity culture.

There is little doubt that Meghan’s efforts to protect her children’s privacy are often misinterpreted or ridiculed. The couple has consistently chosen to share their family moments selectively, which many modern parents can empathise with, yet this choice has not shielded them from relentless examination. The juxtaposition of their desire for privacy against the media's voracious appetite for personal details underscores an acute tension inherent in their public lives.

While Meghan attempts to navigate this complex landscape, marked by her activism for mental health awareness and her candid admissions about her own struggles, the incessant trolling she faces remains both a personal and public challenge. The enduring scepticism surrounding her motherhood has led to a tragic irony; even while promoting themes of authenticity and vulnerability, she finds herself ensnared in a web of unfounded doubts.

In the wake of this ongoing scrutiny, some observers argue that Meghan and Harry may need to issue further clarifications to quell the discontent swirling around their family life. The potential for these baseless conspiracies to undermine the very fabric of the royal family is a concern that speaks to the deep-seated cultural anxieties about lineage and authenticity.

Ultimately, the torrent of negativity directed towards Meghan serves as a larger societal commentary on the tangled intersections of race, gender, and public perception, demonstrating how the narratives spun in the public arena can sometimes overshadow personal truths. For Meghan, an individual who has striven to blend her private and public selves, these recent events underscore the relentless pressures that accompany public life, especially for women who dare to redefine the rules on their own terms.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 - [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14735825/LIZ-JONES-Meghan-moodboard-speculation-surrogate-fake-bump.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
2. Paragraphs 5, 6, 8 - [[2]](https://www.ibtimes.com/how-meghan-markle-pregnancys-was-used-create-conspiracy-theories-hostility-2783708)
3. Paragraph 8 - [[3]](https://www.vice.com/en/article/meghan-markle-fake-pregnancy-conspiracies)
4. Paragraph 8 - [[4]](https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/harry-meghan-surrogate-pregnancy/)
5. Paragraph 5 - [[5]](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/dark-theory-surrounding-meghan-markles-pregnancy/DHSYCDRR56P73EK756VT5GWEEY/)
6. Paragraph 2, 7 - [[6]](https://www.popculture.com/celebrity-parents/news/meghan-markle-conspiracy-theorists-claim-used-surrogate/)
7. Paragraph 8 - [[7]](https://www.meaww.com/meghan-markle-fake-pregnancy-conspiracy-theories-resurface-omid-scobie-book-slammed)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14735825/LIZ-JONES-Meghan-moodboard-speculation-surrogate-fake-bump.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ibtimes.com/how-meghan-markle-pregnancys-was-used-create-conspiracy-theories-hostility-2783708> - This article discusses how Meghan Markle's pregnancies have been the subject of various conspiracy theories, including claims that she faked her pregnancies and used a surrogate. It highlights the negative impact of such theories on public perception and the challenges Markle faces in addressing these unfounded rumors.
3. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/meghan-markle-fake-pregnancy-conspiracies> - Vice News reports on the resurgence of conspiracy theories alleging that Meghan Markle faked her pregnancies. The article examines the spread of these unfounded claims on social media platforms and the role of individuals like her half-sister, Samantha Markle, in promoting such narratives.
4. <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/harry-meghan-surrogate-pregnancy/> - Snopes investigates the claim that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle used a surrogate for their pregnancies. The article provides evidence to debunk this conspiracy theory, citing official statements and reports from reputable news outlets.
5. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/dark-theory-surrounding-meghan-markles-pregnancy/DHSYCDRR56P73EK756VT5GWEEY/> - The New Zealand Herald explores the 'moonbump' conspiracy theory, which suggests that Meghan Markle faked her pregnancy. The article delves into the origins of this theory and its prevalence on social media platforms, highlighting the impact of such unfounded claims on Markle's public image.
6. <https://www.popculture.com/celebrity-parents/news/meghan-markle-conspiracy-theorists-claim-used-surrogate/> - PopCulture.com reports on conspiracy theories alleging that Meghan Markle used a surrogate for her pregnancies. The article examines the spread of these claims on social media and the reactions from the public and media outlets.
7. <https://www.meaww.com/meghan-markle-fake-pregnancy-conspiracy-theories-resurface-omid-scobie-book-slammed> - MEAWW discusses the resurgence of 'fake pregnancy' conspiracy theories surrounding Meghan Markle, particularly in light of royal biographer Omid Scobie's new book. The article highlights how these theories have resurfaced and the public's reaction to them.