

BACK ON TRACK

Their relationship has had many ups and downs over the years, but showbiz power couple Jay Z and Beyoncé's double baby news is the sign their marriage is back to its best

They've been dogged by cheating rumours throughout their nine-year marriage. But last week, Beyoncé silenced the whispers when she shocked fans with the announcement her and husband Jay Z, 47, are expecting twins, five years after welcoming their first child, Blue Ivy Carter. Sharing the special news on Instagram with an ethereal snap, the 35-year-old cradled her bare bump, while surrounded by ivy and blue skies as a tribute to her five-year-old daughter. She told her 93 million followers that the Carter family 'will be growing by two'.

Days before the surprise announcement, was made BeyHivé fans speculated 'The Queen' was pregnant after the songstress appeared to show off a small bump in a promotional video for her sportswear line, Ivy Park. She said, 'I'm proud of the body that I'm in.'

And it sounds like Bey's plan to expand her brood has been in the pipeline for a quite a while.

Last summer, she revealed, 'I would like more children. I think my daughter needs some company. I definitely love being a big sister.'

CRAZY IN LOVE

Bey and Jay's baby news comes after years of being rocked by infidelity rumours, marriage problems and family dramas. Throughout their 18-year relationship, the fiercely private couple have experienced many highs and lows.

After striking up a friendship in 1999, the US musical duo started dating a year later. Bey, then 19, gushed, 'We were on the phone for a year-and-a-half, and that foundation is so important for a relationship.'

Despite featuring on several tracks, which included Jay's 2002 hit '03 *Bonnie & Clyde*, and Bey dropping the L-word in their duet *Crazy In Love* the following year, the couple remained tight-lipped about their romance. They waited until the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards to go public with their relationship. Their multiple joint-



Jay, Bey and Blue in 2014

Grammy wins and PDAs soon saw them become a global power couple. But in 2006, it looked as though Jay and Bey had hit a rocky path when Beyoncé released her 2006 single *Ring The Alarm*, which talked about a woman feeling threatened. Rumours began swirling that the track was about Jay's alleged tryst with Barbadian singer Rihanna, who released her first album with Def Jam – the label Jay Z was president of – that year. However, Bey's father and manager at the time, Matthew Knowles, denied the claims.

MARRIAGE AND A BABY

The couple got over the cheating speculation, and in April 2008 they tied the knot at an intimate ceremony. 'There was no rush, no one expected me to run off and get married,' Beyoncé said.

Three years later, Bey announced they were expecting their first child. Rubbing her belly on stage at the MTV VMAs, she told the audience, 'I want you to stand up on your feet. I want you to feel the love that's growing inside of me.'

The Carters welcomed their baby

girl in January 2012, but Beyoncé later revealed in her 2013 HBO documentary, *Life Is But A Dream*, it wasn't her first pregnancy. The former Destiny's Child singer had sadly suffered a miscarriage two years earlier.

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

It looked as though the pair had salvaged their marriage but, in May 2014, a family feud broke out.

After the annual Met Ball, video footage emerged of Beyoncé's younger sister, Solange, attacking Jay in a lift at New York City's Standard Hotel.

Despite issuing a public statement, explaining the pair had 'worked on it', none of the parties involved ever spoke about what caused the incident. But, sources speculated Solange was upset with her brother-in-law over cheating allegations.

In 2015, the cheating stories came back to haunt the couple when an explosive book titled *Becoming Beyoncé: The Untold Story*, by best-selling

writer J Randy Taraborrelli, claimed the couple had secretly split in 2005, amid the Rihanna cheating rumours.

However, Rihanna's former publicist, Jonathan Hay, confessed he'd made the stories up to promote the then 17-year-old's debut single *Pon De Replay*.

The couple brushed the drama under the carpet, putting on loved-up displays and taking lots of exotic family holidays.

However, last year, Bey's album, *Lemonade*, seemed to drag the past back up, as she appeared to address her husband's rumoured infidelity in the track *Sorry*.

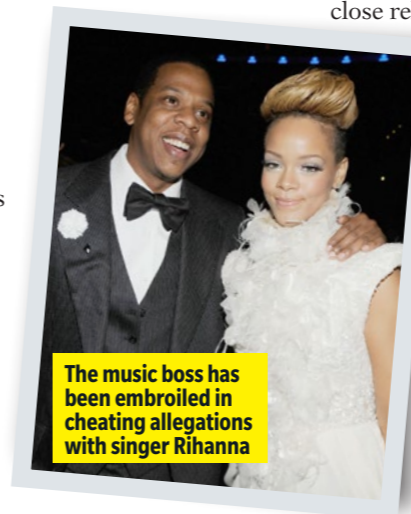
Beyoncé sang the infamous lines, 'You better call Becky with the good hair,' sending the internet into a frenzy as they pointed the finger at Rihanna, designer Rachel Roy and singer Rita Ora, whose close relationships with the music

boss had caused concern in the past.

Nevertheless, Bey hit back at the marriage rumours when she invited her hubby on stage for the final show of her Formation World Tour, and asked her fans to, 'Give it up for my man.'

There's no doubt the power couple have had a roller-coaster ride, but will the arrival of the twins finally spell a happy-ever-after for the Carter family?

Grace Henry



The music boss has been embroiled in cheating allegations with singer Rihanna

BEY & JAY TIMELINE

1999-2000 Jay Z and Beyoncé meet.
2000-2001 The couple begin dating.
2002 Jay Z releases '03 *Bonnie & Clyde*, featuring Beyoncé, and they film the video in Mexico.
2003 Bey drops *Crazy In Love* music vid, featuring Jay. They go on to win the Best R&B Song and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration awards at the 2004 Grammy Awards.
2004 The couple make their red carpet debut at the MTV VMAs.
2006 Bey releases *Ring The Alarm*, which fuels Rihanna and Jay Z cheating rumours.
2008 Jay and Bey get married on April 4.

2011 Beyoncé announces she's expecting her first baby at the MTV VMAs.
2012 Blue Ivy is born on January 7.
2013 Beyoncé opens up about her 2011 miscarriage.
2014 Video footage surfaces of Solange attacking Jay in a lift.
2015 J Randy Taraborrelli's book, *Becoming Beyoncé*, claims the couple split in 2005.



Solange attacked Jay Z in a lift in 2014

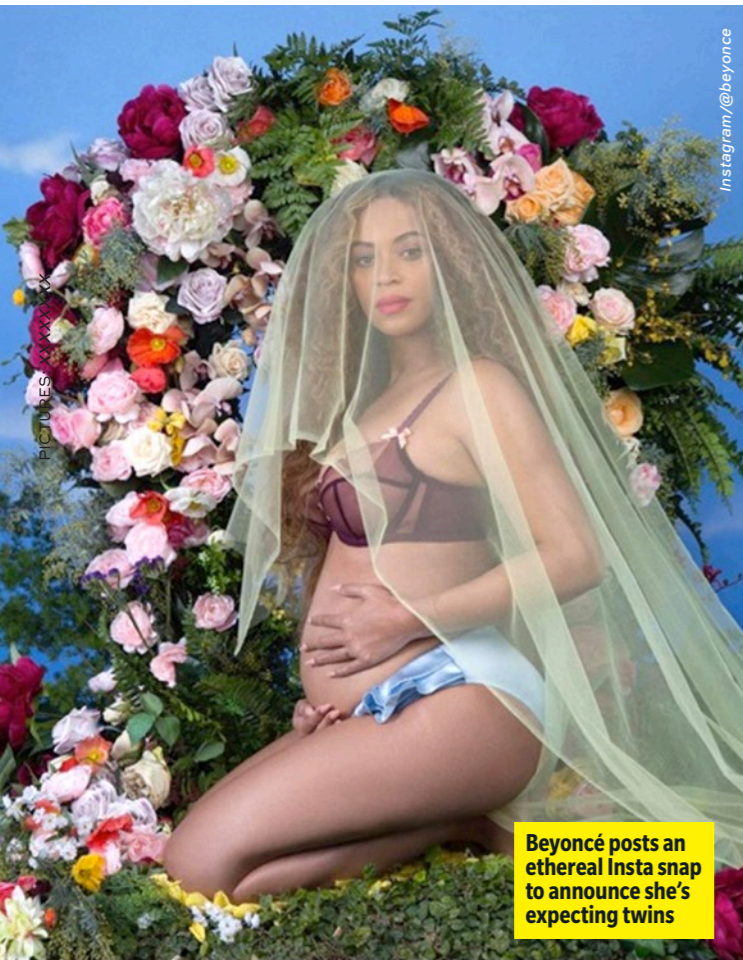
2016 In April, Beyoncé releases *Lemonade*, which hints at Jay's infidelity. However, she brings Jay on stage for the final show of her Formation World Tour in October.
2017 Couple announce they're expecting twins.



They went public in 2004, and married four years later



instagram/@jayz



Beyoncé posts an ethereal Insta snap to announce she's expecting twins

instagram/@beyonce