

'Glam' and cozy come together

Lawyer/author tells of perils in having pool installed while being pregnant

celebrityspaces

Q: How would you describe your home?

A: Warm and welcoming.

Q: Tell us about your home.

A: My house is located at the end of a cul-de-sac which has a scenic pathway lined with trees that heads down to a manmade pond area, golf course and park. After a long day at work, I turn onto my street and feel like I can breathe when I see the lush trees down that path. As much as I love being downtown, I have grown to really appreciate the peacefulness of living in my neighbourhood.

When we moved in, I decided that I wanted my home to be a place where my family really wanted to be. In addition to modernizing the house aesthetically, I added a few touches to achieve my goal such as creating the kids' lounge in the basement, ensuring the large play structure in the backyard of my old house was moved to the new house, and despite my husband's protests, buying a large outdoor trampoline and adding a swimming pool.

Q: What attracted you to this space?

A: I was drawn to the house for its location and the unique nature of the home itself. The house is a split-level design which creates a lot of separation and gives us all our own space. The flow of one room to the next and the way the rooms are spread out over several floors makes the house great for entertaining. I also fell in love with the property itself which is an irregular shape that includes a large front yard and backyard, something that is getting harder to find in Toronto.

Q: Who shares this home?

A: My husband, three children ages 5, 8 and 12 and me.

Q: How much time do you spend at home?

A: Not enough!

Q: What is your favourite room and why?

A: There are several rooms I enjoy in the house, but my favourite is definitely the kitchen. I renovated the kitchen just over a year ago. After meeting designers, I decided not to use any of them because I wanted to implement my style, not theirs. That meant lots of sparkles on the handles, backsplash, lights and countertops. The contractors were skeptical, but I knew it would make me smile every time I entered the kitchen and it does! The kitchen is always where my family and friends



Toronto author and lawyer Jasmine Daya's favourite room is the kitchen where she's added lots of sparkles to the handles, backsplash and countertops.

MARTIN SLOFSTRA
Editor, Homes and Decor

Under her pen name Leia London, author and lawyer Jasmine Daya paints a gritty but engaging portrait of a career woman dealing with an unplanned pregnancy in her debut novel *Law Girl's Bump in the Road* available now on Amazon.

"I was inspired to write this book while I was unexpected

pregnant with my son. My friends were all enjoying their last summer after law school, before real work and life started while I was pregnant and miserable," she says.

Initially it was more of a journal chronicling entertaining events that occurred during her pregnancy, more to occupy her mind from the unknown that was completely contrary to the plan that she had made for her

life. "After my son was born and my story was complete, I knew that this journal needed to become a book one day!"

Both realistic and poignant, gripping yet funny, the book deals with the issues of marriage and motherhood in a lighthearted and entertaining way.

Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Daya began her career as an articling student in 2005 at Fireman Wolfe

LLP. She became an associate at the same firm, and as the firm transitioned over the years, she moved up in the ranks to be named partner. Currently, she owns the firm Fireman Daya & Co, where she remains committed to practicing law.

She is also the founder and director of JD Holdings Corp. which provides property management services for a portfolio of real estate

that she owns in Toronto and Kingston; has launched JD In the Kitchen, a food and lifestyle website where she shares advice on making time for family meals in addition to sharing her simple recipes; and, is in collaboration with her mother to create a series of cookbooks which contain recipes that incorporate Indian cooking with African influences.

come together in our home and create memories. The kitchen is also where a lot of recipe testing occurs for JD in the Kitchen, my food and lifestyle blog which will also include my upcoming Indian cookbook series!

Q: How would you describe your decorating style?

A: Modern glam but cozy.

Q: What is your fondest memory in this home?

A: We brought our youngest daughter home from the hospital, not only because it was a special time for my family but because of what occurred in the weeks before she was born. I had decided that it was the perfect time to build a pool as we would be homebound more with the addition of a newborn. I had thought that this would be a great way to entertain my other two children at home as well as entertain friends and family coming to visit us and the baby. I had always wanted a pool and had saved up for it, or so I thought. In the two weeks before my daughter's birth, I endured numerous stressful issues beyond my control. I say "I" because somehow my husband was not phased. There

was a neighbour dispute involving a shared fence that the City required us to replace. I had told the neighbour that we would pay for the fence, but they involved their lawyer and landscaper and then tried to send me their unnecessary bills.

Another angry neighbour made a noise complaint to the City when the pool was being filled with water. There were tree protection and zoning issues which required a costly arborist report and the purchase of new trees to replace the old ones. We needed new sprinklers as the old ones had been damaged and then there was the growing contractor's bill that exceeded my budget. Note to self, don't get a pool built a few weeks before having a baby! Thankfully, when we arrived at home during Easter long weekend with our youngest daughter, our family was complete, and peace was restored...the bill took a little longer to get paid off.

Q: What's the one item in this house you can't live without?

A: My double pillow top bed. As a lawyer and mother of three among my other projects, I need a goodnight sleep in order to be productive during

the day. I sink into bed every night and drift off perfectly.

Q: Weekends at home, what are we most likely to find you doing?

A: I usually stare at all the purses that I have used during the week and try to clean up the accumulation of junk inside them but then instead decide to do anything but that! In the summer, you will definitely find me in the backyard. I may be doing yoga, grilling lunch or dinner, reading a magazine, doing paper work or watching my kids devour one of my summertime fruit platters. In the winter, you would likely find me recipe testing in the kitchen, watching Netflix or the Raptors in the family room or doing paper work in the home office. For over the past year on the weekends, I have also enjoyed quiet time at home to pour my heart into *Law Girl's Bump in the Road*.

Q: If your walls could talk, what would they say?

A: They would tell you that I head down to the kitchen every night for a little bowl of potato chips after my kids are asleep, so they don't see me.

— photos by Jordan Prussky

