

## **Hawaii Dreamin’**

Couple Finds Unexpected Rewards in Living and Working Together

**Kohala Coast, Hawaii’s Big Island (June 3, 2007)** — Darrin and Darien Gee have more in common than their very similar names. They both have birthdays in September, they’re married, they’re co-founders of a golf school in Hawaii, and, in 2007, they will each have a first book published by major New York publishing houses.

“We’re the epitome of a couple that works and plays together, stays together,” says Darrin, 39. His book, *The Seven Principles of Golf: Mastering the Mental Game On and Off the Course* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang), was released April 1<sup>st</sup> and is already back at the presses for a second print run.



Darien, 38, agrees. “It’s not always easy, but it’s been immensely rewarding. It forces us to work things out, and we’re better individuals and partners because of it.” Darien writes women’s fiction under the pen name of Mia King to help avoid confusion with her husband’s name. Her book, *Good Things* (Berkley Books) was published in February 2007 and has hit the Barnes & Noble General Trade Fiction bestseller list twice. It is currently in its third print run.

The Gees were pregnant with their first child when they decided to move from California to Hawaii in 2000. Both were management consultants and Darrin, who also holds an MBA from Northwestern University, was working 80+ hour weeks and traveling coast-to-coast at least twice a month. “It was exhausting,” he remembers. “Physically and mentally. There was one day in New York where I woke up in my hotel room and couldn’t move.”

“When we decided to move to Hawaii, we couldn’t see beyond getting out of the rat race,” says Darien. She was five months pregnant when they first visited the Big Island. Two months later they sold everything and made the move. “We were blissfully naïve. We had an idea for a golf school, using a teaching method Darrin had developed. The idea of owning and running our own business, plus raising a family in paradise, was incredibly romantic.”

Not to mention an incredible amount of work. Their golf school, Darrin Gee’s Spirit of Golf Academy ([www.spiritofgolfhawaii.com](http://www.spiritofgolfhawaii.com)), focuses on peak performance and mental mastery

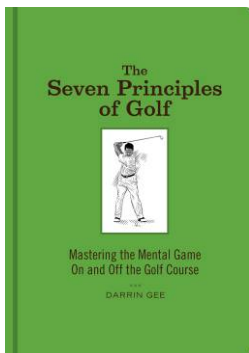
on the golf course and has received national recognition as one of the top mental golf schools in the country.

“Being an entrepreneur is tough,” Darrin admits. “We work seven days a week, 365 days out of the year. The reality of our dream forced us to make choices we wouldn’t have otherwise considered.”

One of those choices is the couple’s decision to homeschool their daughter, Maya. “Education is really important to us,” he says. “We didn’t know anything about homeschooling, but once we looked into it, we were hooked. Maya learns at her own pace, plus we’re able to tailor her curriculum to include subject matter she’s drawn to.”

Darien agrees. “I’m pretty confident that if we were still in California living our old life, we would not be homeschooling,” she says. The couple also has a one year old son, Eric. “It’s been a huge blessing.”

Another blessing is the couple’s books, both of which are being published in 2007. “It’s a complete coincidence that our publishers decided to publish our books within a few weeks of one another,” Darrin says. “We wrote our books when we first moved to Hawaii, before our business took off. A couple of years later, we decided to get agents and see if we could get published.” Both books will be available at amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Noble, and most major booksellers.



The couple will be sent on a book tour to promote their books. Darrin, who was named one of the most innovative leaders in the history of golf by former *GOLF* Magazine Editor-in-Chief, George Peper, will also be a guest instructor at several golf courses and resorts. As you might expect, the entire family will be making the trip.

“People often ask us how we do it,” Darrin says. “And the truth is, we have our good days and our bad days. But we figured out pretty early on that managing your mental state is 90% of the battle. Integrating that concept into our daily lives has helped us achieve a lot, plus enjoy a more rewarding lifestyle.”

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Digital images available upon request