



Q&A

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What initially drew you to a career in M&A or corporate finance?

I never considered a career in corporate finance, and was introduced into a role in a corporate finance team without knowing what it really entailed. The moment I learnt more about the environment and what the work involved, I was hooked. I was curious to learn more about M&A, and found the work intriguing and interesting. It seemed to be a highly pressurised and challenging environment, but rewarding. I enjoyed the complexity of transactions, the thought process around structuring, and overlaying the regulations.

Have there been key decisions that significantly impacted your career trajectory?

The decision to join Standard Bank's corporate finance team impacted my career trajectory. It provided me with opportunities, and has been a tremendous learning curve. It has also been a very rewarding career path. I have worked on many different transactions, some of which were really complex, as well as new listings on the JSE. The exposure has been tremendous.

How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, male-dominated environment?

Resilience is built over time, as you grow and learn to deal with situations. I have learnt that you never have to stand back, make excuses or be afraid to voice your opinion, and that being soft spoken is actually okay. We are all equal and play our own part in a team. I am fortunate to be part of a team where women are recognised and supported.

How have you balanced your personal life with the demands of a career in finance?

When I started my career in corporate finance, my children were small and work pressures were real. The hours were long, and

spending time with family was limited. I had to find a way to juggle and balance this and, for me, it was important to make sure that I set aside time to spend with my family.

It was important to try and attend events that mattered to them, even if it meant that when I got home later, I had to complete what I needed to finish from a work perspective, or get up early the next morning to get through the "to do" list.

I have a better work-life balance now, and it's important for me to have "me time".

What does self-care look like for you, and how do you prevent burnout?


Fortunately, I have always been able to cope with stress. Self-care for me is focusing on taking care of myself by exercising, eating well, and making sure that I get sufficient rest in order to destress.

What advice would you give to your younger self starting out in this field?

My advice would be to keep going and never give up. There are days where things are difficult and challenging, and sometimes the learning curve is huge, but just know that you can do it. Build and treasure relationships. It is also always a

good idea to have a mentor. Try and become part of a team where there are opportunities to learn and grow within a supportive leadership structure.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

The belief that all will be okay, and knowing that although challenges come our way, you always come out stronger in the end. And then it's the coffees and conversations with my daughter, who is always prepared to just listen. 

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