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Q *Where did your financial markets journey begin, and how did you end up where you are today?*

A I got into Global Markets by chance. I was an Accounting and Auditing major and the last thing I wanted to be was an accountant. I was working at Anglo American at the time as part of my service agreement (they sponsored my university education). Anglo ran a dealing room like that of banks. I walked in there one day by chance and asked to stay. The world of markets was exciting and exhilarating. I was hooked.

I have worked through a few of the financial crises including the Asian contagion and the Sub Prime. The journey to where I am today has not been easy or meteoric. There has been a lot of pitfalls along the way but what I have learnt is that sometimes the best journeys are not as straightforward as we might want them to be.

Q *Did you have a mentor at any point in your career? If so, who were they and what did you learn from them?*

A I have had different mentors for different stages of my life and career. My most beneficial mentorship relationships were informal and

undefined. I told myself earlier on in my career that I would have to fight my way through everything and that would require me to be vulnerable in my learning journey. When I started out that many years ago, there were no formal mentorship programs. Later, I took it upon myself to informally mentor young women who joined Global Markets. Now, I have a formalised mentor relationship because that is what I needed to progress to the next stage of my career.

Q *What, if any, hurdles have you had to overcome in an industry that has traditionally been male-dominated?*

A Dealing rooms have been traditionally male dominated and that has meant that as a young woman in that environment, you sometimes felt unseen. What I have learnt over time is the importance and the power of communication. You must always push and fight for that seat at the table. I have also found that the women have generally been very supportive to each other because we all understand the struggle and pain of working in this sector. The environment has somewhat gotten better but still far from being perfect.

Q *What are some of the most memorable deals you have worked on?*

A I have worked on a couple of notable deals and the ones that stands out is Chinese handset manufacturer. We had to advise the client on the best possible hedging strategy for a large capex spend. I enjoy the process of getting the client onboard and pitching your ideas to them. Establishing the trust and seeing the deal over the finish line is what keeps me going. It is always exhilarating when you can partner with your client for the best possible solution for their business.

Q *What advice would you give to young women who are looking to enter to financial markets?*

A You need to bring your full authentic self to your working environment every day. There is no need to shrink yourself to fit any narrative that maybe out there. You are worthy and you have earned your place. Ask for what you need and seek help. What I have found is that a lot of people are willing to help if you ask. Work on your networks and establish strong relationships that you can lean on when the time comes. Take up space. 

