



Q&A

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What did your path into this field look like – was it intentional, or did you discover it along the way?

My path was far from intentional. My background was predominantly in audit (a combination of external and internal, both locally and abroad), followed by 18 months in financial reporting. Through various experiences and challenges, I realised there was a drive within me that was not being utilised optimally. After a scenic journey, and exploring many options, I found myself in the fortunate position of being offered a role in Investec's Sponsor Leveraged Finance division. I have been part of the team since April 2023, and am looking forward to what the future holds.

Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

I had two misconceptions prior to my current role: 1. A front office role is not suitable for a woman, especially one with a young family 2. A front office role entails being a salesperson. As much as the second point is partially true, it requires a range of skills, both technical and interpersonal. Taking the leap and making a move out of my comfort zone into investment banking was indeed the turning point for me.

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

I completed a short-term secondment in Dallas, Texas, which sparked the desire to move abroad. My husband and I made a bold decision to relocate to Toronto, Canada, where I remained in external audit. The relocation required me to remain in service at the audit firm at the time, which delayed my ability to explore other options.

Shortly after our move back to South Africa in early 2020, I found myself unemployed for 18 months due to the pandemic, resulting in a significant knock to my confidence, which then transformed into ambition to get back out there.

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

Transparency and honesty is key. At the onset, I made my boundaries clear, needing to have a window each evening to see to and be with my family. It is difficult to find time for health and wellness, but when time does allow, although usually not at an ideal time of day, I will squeeze in a gym or pampering session.

Have your views on work-life balance changed over time?

Most definitely. Pre-motherhood, stretching the nights and striving to maintain being a top-performer seemed like an acceptable thing to do in the absence of other commitments. Since having children, my priorities have shifted, with the need to create balance and set boundaries becoming more important. I've accepted that a little sacrifice is required on both personal and career fronts.

How do you mentor or support other women entering the field?

I am passionate about investing time in those who are curious or uncertain about the world of finance. By sharing my personal experiences and career history, it allows others to see that not everyone has a clear path to follow, and that exploration is both beneficial and necessary to be in a position of contentment.

How has the landscape for women in finance changed since you started?

When I completed my articles, it was uncommon for a woman to join advisory or take on front office roles. This contributed towards my decision to continue a career in audit, as the generalisation was that a woman in such spaces could not maintain a healthy work-life balance or manage the responsibilities of having a family when the time arose. It has since evolved, with many women having accepted the challenge and created workable solutions where both career and family can be prioritised.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

Knowing I have my two special daughters and husband to go home to. Daily family dinner is a non-negotiable, as it gives us the ability to connect and be present without any distractions.

If you could rewrite one chapter of your journey, what would it be and why?

Although certain decisions led to some challenging periods, I don't regret them. Each decision was made based on circumstances at the time, which I thought were best for me. These created the experiences, memories and characteristics that have moulded me into who I am today. I would, however, have preferred to be bolder, to have made the harder decisions and explored alternative career opportunities sooner than I had. 🐾



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