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

**A** My journey began when I was as little as 4 years old, when I started to exhibit an understanding and fascination for money.

I always used to have cash with me which I collected from birthday funds and earnings from chores. I first learned about the concept of interest when my mother conveniently forgot her wallet at home, asking to borrow R10 for a loaf of bread, but promising to pay me back R15. This is when the penny dropped for me!

Sadly, my enthusiasm to earn interest made my family reluctant to borrow, and so I had to start experimenting things like tax-free savings and investments.

I think that my keen eye for an opportunity and inherent negotiating resonates in my career today.

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

**A** The most notable hurdle for anyone in the corporate finance industry, is doubt. In a mostly male-dominated industry, certain people assume that women know less than men, and so it takes some time to build people's trust in your abilities and knowledge.

**Q** *What is the biggest / most complex transaction you have worked on so far in your career?*

**A** Providing a fair and reasonable opinion to shareholders in terms of section 114 of the Companies Act with regards to an acquisition of a major agriculture group.

Due to situational influences, analysts are often under pressure to issue a favourable opinion based on a transaction, which is why acting as an independent expert that shareholders can trust, along with maintaining an objective point of view is imperative. However, performing rigorous due diligence and obtaining a good understanding of the operational and financial aspects of the business and transaction in question aids this responsibility.

**Q** *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A and Financial Markets industry?*

**A** Be courageous and believe in yourself, but before entering the industry, be very sure that you will enjoy what you will do and that you can see yourself doing it for the rest of your life. This way, you will never be disappointed with where you are in life.

**Q** *What are three words you would use to describe yourself?*

**A** Creative, driven, and reliable.

**Q** *What qualities would you say are essential for a woman to thrive in the M&A industry?*

**A** I believe that the same qualities are essential for men and women to thrive in the M&A industry, to name a few:

- You should be confident in everything you do and say in the M&A industry. The key is to build trustworthy relationships with the individuals you come across in your every day, be it clients, colleagues, or superiors.
- Be tenacious in everything you do, because not giving up says a lot about your character.
- Another quality that is essential to thrive in the M&A industry is to be competitive, healthy competition of course.

**Q** *What is your go-to power song?*

**A** Break my stride – Matthew Wilde

**Q** *What is your favourite quote?*

**A** “A happy soul is the best shield for a cruel world” - Atticus

**Q** *What is your most effective time saving tip?*

**A** Don't delay the non-glamorous tasks, and if it can be done in less than an hour, do it first. Unattractive tasks will consume your thoughts until they are completed. Knock them out first so you can have a clear head to plough through the rest of your tasks. 