



Q&A

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Was there a pivotal moment or influence early on in your life that shaped your interest in finance?

Looking back, I don't think I realised it at the time, but money and business were always part of the conversations around me. Like most South Africans, I grew up in an environment where financial decisions had a direct and visible impact on daily life. I watched close family and friends run a small business, and I saw how tough financial decisions could impact, not just the business, but the people behind it. That left an impression. I became curious about how businesses actually work, what drives them, what holds them back, and how value is built. In high school, I naturally gravitated toward numbers; they provided a framework for thinking clearly and solving problems in a way that felt intuitive to me.

Fast-forward to university, specifically through courses like corporate finance and strategic thinking, and that's when everything started to come together. We were unpacking how to value a business and I remember thinking, this makes sense — this is what I want to do. It brought together my interests in business, people and decision-making, and that's really what set me on the path to where I am today.

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

It has to be when I became a Partner. It's more than a title — it's a shift in how you show up. It continues to push me on the path I had already started down, which is to lead more intentionally, to create space for others to grow, and to focus on shaping the future of our business.

What kind of leader are you, and how did you develop your leadership style?

My leadership style is deeply rooted in how I was raised. I grew up surrounded by people, specifically my parents and grandparents, who led with purpose and lived with a deep sense of responsibility toward others. They believed in putting people first, in staying grounded in values, and in knowing how to connect with the community and people around you to move things forward. I didn't realise it then, but I was learning some of the most important leadership lessons just by watching how they showed up in the world.

That influence shaped how I lead today. I'm intentional about building trust, leading with empathy, and creating spaces where people feel heard and supported. I believe in being clear, present, and honest, even when the stakes are high. I've also learnt that

leadership isn't static — it evolves. Early in my career, I leaned heavily on technical strength, but over time, I realised that influence, connection and purpose are what truly drive impact. Those early lessons from home still guide me today.

What barriers still need to be broken down for women in M&A?

There are still quite a few. In South Africa, and across the continent, you don't often see women leading in M&A or high-stakes finance roles, especially Black women. The talent is there, no question. But the visibility, the access to big opportunities, and the networks that help people move forward: these are still not equally distributed.

Many of our systems weren't built with us in mind, and you feel that in subtle ways. Sometimes it's in how clients respond to you in a room, or in who gets the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes it's the extra explaining you have to do to be seen as credible, especially when you're younger or don't fit the traditional mould.

What we really need is more people, especially those in leadership, to be intentional about opening doors, mentoring women, and normalising different styles of leadership. We also need to stop waiting for women to "prove" themselves first. If someone has potential, sponsor them. Give them the exposure.

The good news is things are shifting. I'm seeing more women step into leadership roles, own their expertise, and challenge outdated norms. But the pace of change still depends on how brave we're willing to be, not just individually, but as an industry.

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

I've always found this to be such a powerful question.

I'd tell her: You belong here — don't shrink yourself to fit into spaces that were never designed with you in mind. Your voice, your perspective, your way of leading — it all has value, even if it looks different from what's around you.

I'd also remind her that it's okay not to have it all figured out. The journey is as important as the destination. Ask questions, stay curious, and don't be afraid to take up space. The technical skills will come, but what will really set you apart is your integrity, your ability to build trust, and how you make people feel.

And finally, I'd say: find your tribe. The work is demanding, but it doesn't have to be lonely. Surround yourself with people who see you, stretch you, and remind you who you are when things get tough. 🙌

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