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

A I am an associate director in Deal Advisory, Transaction Services, focused on financial due diligence, carve out assistance, including capital markets support, and working capital reviews.

Having recently completed two decades with KPMG, 17 years of which has been within Deal Advisory, I have been doing a fair amount of self-reflection and recollection about my career journey.

I embarked my career, pursuing my CA qualification, within the Energy & Natural Resources ('ENR') audit team, but I realised early on that audit was not for me.

In my third year, I was afforded the opportunity to assist on a Transaction Services engagement. I thoroughly enjoyed it, sought opportunities to join the business unit post articles, and have never looked back.

Ironically, I gained a lot more exposure to mining clients performing due diligences, and I have been fortunate over the years to gain experience across many other industries.

I have also been fortunate to work collaboratively with our KPMG UK office on multi-jurisdictional engagements.

In interviewing graduates and mentoring our junior teams, I often highlight the benefit of gaining deep operational and financial insight on a client/target's business within a short space of time, performing a due diligence. This is knowledge and insight I have carried across engagements, which has allowed me to provide valued insights to my clients.

I have grown, personally and career wise,

during my time with KPMG and in this industry. From the 'green' graduate to getting married, birthing and raising 3 children, all while navigating the challenges of a full-time, challenging corporate career. Levelling up, I have learnt, is inherent for working parents, especially working mothers, and whilst riddled with guilt at times, I recognise the role model I am for my children, especially my daughter, in being an independent, purpose-driven woman.

Q *What was the toughest deal you have worked on and why?*

A In 2020, I was part of the cross functional, multi-jurisdictional team which supported Anglo American with the demerger of Anglo Coal, and the dual listing on the JSE and LSE of Thungela Resources.

We worked alongside many professional advisors, supporting our determined client to navigate to a successful listing. I leveraged my knowledge of Anglo Coal's business from our prior years performing advisory services, but this was a mammoth transaction on its own, coupled with the challenges of remote working at the inception of the COVID lockdown.

The challenges faced included juggling long hours in virtual meetings and collaboration over Teams (which was a completely new experience in April 2020), with no childcare or support during lockdown level 5!

I admit, the stress of trying to keep my little kids out of view of my Teams video calls and limiting the background noise of their cries and screams raised my cortisol levels higher than the stress of meeting JSE submission deadlines! But all in all, it was a memorable, successful engagement.

Q *When things go wrong, what advice would you give about moving on?*

A There is a blessing in every experience. Take the learnings, be accountable, and remedy to the best of your ability. But don't beat yourself up so that it stops you from pursuing stretched opportunities in future.

Introspect to recognise how you limit and punish yourself, to avoid the pitfalls of self-destruction. Pivoting that approach can propel us to great heights!

Q *What is one thing that makes your life easier and that you really wouldn't want to do without?*

A My Phillips Air Fryer! The only thing that stops me from using it is load shedding! The convenience of quick meals and snacks for constantly hungry kids and lunch prep in the morning, so that I have a healthy meal for the office, is invaluable. I may have a boring repetitive lunch of Woolies chicken schnitzel or tempura hake and salad, but it's my way of staying healthy.

FUN FACTS

Current book on your nightstand:

Personality Plus by Florence Littauer. I immerse myself in personal development, as learning about myself and others is foundational to developing a high EQ.

Favourite restaurant:

Beira Alta (Portuguese cuisine).

Unusual hobbies:

Started learning to play the Ukelele.

Preferred holiday destination:

An island; Hawaii is on my bucket list (possibly why I was drawn to the Ukelele!).

What genre of music would one find on your favourite playlist?

80's & 90's, and R&B. 🎧