

WIFE, MOTHER, and CAREER WOMAN? Can you have it all?

Insights from the author of Diamonds and Scoundrels: My Life in the Jewelry Business, a memoir by Adrienne Rubin

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, May 19, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- I was 34 years old, a lucky chief cook and bottle washer, chauffeur, social planner, wife and mother with a loving husband who paid the bills for our happy family of four in west L.A. My diploma from UCLA had been filed away long ago, along with my old teaching credential. I'd done what many women did: go to college to find a husband and live happily ever after.

But something was missing. Something important.

Who could possibly understand that this was not enough for me? Why was I aching inside for something I could not define? Was this the same old story of the over-educated housewife? I wanted so much to find fulfillment outside the realm of my husband and family and put my untapped talents to good use. Where did my expertise lie? I was helpless when it came to interior design; teaching left me unfulfilled; fashion was not my forte; and volunteering for charity hadn't brought any satisfaction. On the other hand, I craved recognition. I needed to be needed, to be persuasive, and to have influence.

Although I didn't fully understand the existential question, I couldn't stop asking what I could do with my life. I'd quit teaching to raise a family. My husband was an attorney, the children were in school, and I was supposedly living the happily ever after. But what I craved was a clearer sense of my role here on earth and my place in society. Who was I, this person with untapped, wasted talent and energy? Venturing out into the world, suffering there, struggling there, and most assuredly, not failing there, would validate who I was in a different way.

And then it happened. One of my husband's clients, a manufacturer of silver jewelry, was firing his sales rep. Immediately I thought, "He needs a new rep. That's perfect for me!" And truly, I



Adrienne Rubin, Acclaimed Author

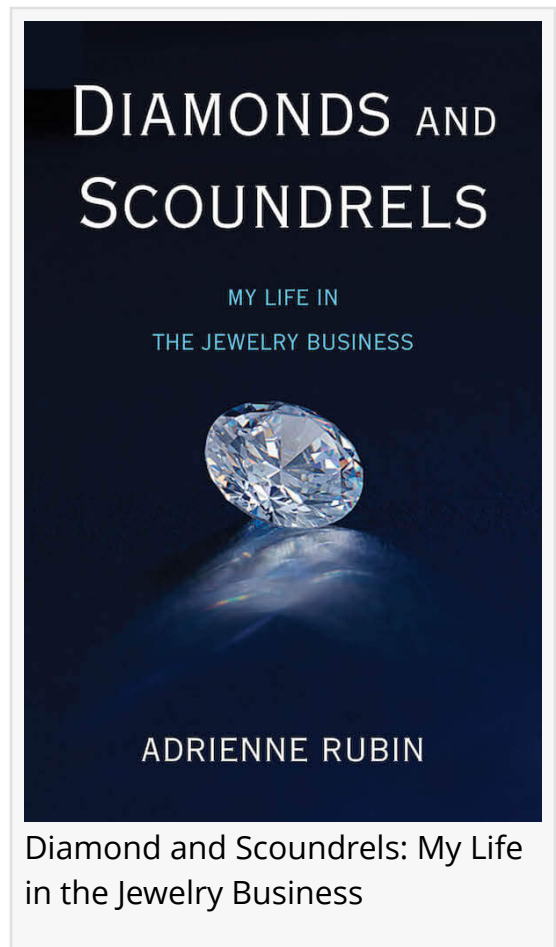
did find selling silver jewelry, wholesale to the stores, exciting at first. But it wasn't long before I realized I had to switch from silver to gold, a totally different product requiring a larger investment. Fortunately, I was able to borrow from the banks and create my own company. But I didn't want a full time job or career back then. My children were still very young. Working from home, I opened accounts by calling on jewelers while the children were in school and sold at gift and jewelry stores across the country. It wasn't long before I had a viable business that suited my part time needs perfectly.

Except... there were sacrifices. With my car as my office (I'd drive around looking for prospects everywhere), I remember driving home from San Diego alone late at night, hungry and tired, having missed dinner with my family. My energy was sapped from every inch of my body after a long day of calling on jewelers. Utterly fatigued and anxious to get home, I gave myself a pep talk. "Today you weren't very successful, but you must keep going. No regrets for having tried. Today was a setback, but you are not a loser and must never give up without giving your all."

I tried not to let my work impact on my family, but there's no question it did. I shudder to think of that time when our son was left stranded after religious school. Class was over at 5:00 PM, but 6:00 PM had come and gone, and where was I? Overtired and overworked (self-induced to be sure), I'd simply neglected to pick him up. Poor kid, eleven years old, standing outside as the streetlights illuminated, the school principal at his side. And poor me – I still shudder with shame to this day at my forgetfulness.

There were sacrifices. Wife and mother or career girl: pick one or the other and do it well. Could I possibly relinquish the role of wife and mother to have a strong career? Unthinkable! Struggling with internal conflict, I found myself apologizing. To compromise here or there was not a solution, and yet that was what I was doing. On occasion the family would suffer, and if not the family, the business. My mother had never worked as far as I knew, and after she died and my father remarried, my stepmother never worked either. Back then wives weren't expected to have a career, and most men felt diminished somehow when they did. It was a bad idea for a woman to make more money than her husband. My stepmother told me so, and she was very wise. If it meant I could make millions, I could never sacrifice my family for personal success.

This was a conflict that never went away, because the world out there was full of adventure, prizes, and promises. It was tempting to go after it all, capture the "brass ring," and become



someone different in the process. But I had to ask myself, "What truly matters?" There is a time and place for everything in life, and for me, with my loved ones as a priority, pursuing personal achievement would happen more slowly. Life would be imperfect but still wonderful. I would not forego the ladder to success, but simply climb it more slowly.

Could I have it all? With a competent nanny to manage the household, I was able to go after my dreams. But having a big impact on the world out there, and being the best possible wife and mother, was a goal that had its limits. In time, after the children went off to college, I would discover I could have it all. Just not all at once.

Adrienne Rubin's memoir, *Diamonds and Scoundrels: My Life in the Jewelry Business* is available through www.Amazon.com, www.target.com, www.walmart.com or www.barnesandnoble.com, and can be ordered through your local bookstore.

Adrienne Rubin:

<https://adriennerubin.com/>

Aurora DeRose
Boundless Media Inc.
+ +1 951-870-0099
[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/541485674>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.