



Do you **still** want it all?

As more women turn their backs on the dream of 'having it all', Katie McKenna asks if the struggle to be a Supermum has left us feeling more unfulfilled than ever

The number of women in high-powered jobs is falling, according to a recent study. But isn't it the modern woman's dream to have the career, as well as a neat and tidy house, a loving husband and a brood of well-mannered children? Do we not all strive to be a Supermum?

The ideal of 'having it all' is no bad thing. Women's emancipation meant freedom from the chains of motherhood and wifedom and burning those pesky bras! But as the saying goes, be careful what you wish for, sometimes when you get what you want, it just ain't all it's cracked up to be.

Has juggling a full-time job with family life, whilst looking fabulous left us women feeling that we are more a jack-of-all-trades master of none as opposed to the yummy mummy, effortlessly balancing this season's Louis Vuitton on one arm and baby under the other like we aspire to be?

Rachel McTavish, 34, is mother of two-year-old twins, Finn and Joe. She returned to full-time work seven months ago, as presenter of stv's *the five thirty show*, "I realised after being at home for the majority of



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Rachel McTavish

I chose a profession that allowed me time as I knew I wanted a family. I don't need to climb any ladders in teaching and I knew I couldn't do both

Jennifer

their first two years, that I was not ever going to be a stay-at-home mum because my job has always been so creative. I did love being at home but there were days when I just thought, "This isn't me".

But being true to what she wants hasn't stopped worries from creeping in, "I feel completely fulfilled by going back to work but I still feel very selfish saying that. I hope that when the boys are older they understand and don't resent the fact that I didn't stay at home".

Rachel had the future very firmly in the forefront of her mind when making the decision, "My boys are getting older and at some point, they will be at school. I did think that if I don't start now, I will have been out of work for four or five years and I will be back trying to break into a career that's incredibly difficult to break into in the first place".

For many women, finances dictate that staying at home just isn't an option. For others who can stay at home, they pay for the privilege of seeing their kids grow up by giving up luxuries.

Jennifer McNeill, 33, is mother to three boys aged one to five and gave up her job as a primary school teacher when she fell pregnant with her eldest, "Financially, it would be better if I was working because we would probably have more things but at this stage in our lives, you don't necessarily need all the material things – you don't need the flash car. The first three years of their development is the most important and it's nice for me to be a part of that".

But does she feel that she is letting herself down by