

## Nobody Is Perfect

Once upon a time in a land far, far away lived a man. This man had three sons, the eldest was called Peter, the second eldest John and the youngest of the sons was not so much a son as a daughter called Jane, but lets face it, starting a story with this man had two sons and one daughter just does not sound right.

Peter is an accountant, he has a good job with a big firm, earns around £40 000 a year after taxes, has a beautiful wife and two children, one boy and one girl. All around he appears to be the ideal husband and father, only he does enjoy the occasional drink. Sometimes he stays out late, especially on the weekend and he rarely phones home to tell his wife where he is or when he will be back. However, he does provide for his family, and his father says in Peter's defence, that nobody is perfect.

John works in a bank where he has just had a pay rise and is now earning £36 000 after taxes. He is engaged to a girl of a highly respected family, and it is in her father's bank that John makes his living. They have a little daughter together, and not long ago they found out that they were expecting a little boy as well. John is a very friendly young man, and he enjoys the company of friends. Preferably his friends are to be in their early twenties and of the female variety and not mind the fact that he is nearly married and a father. However, when it comes down to it, John provides for his family, and as his father says when questioned about the rumours about his son's infidelity: Nobody is perfect.

Jane is a single mum. Jane became pregnant at 17. Jane was thrown out of her father's house when he found out that she was pregnant. Jane now runs one of the busiest and most popular clothing shops in London. She is a world famous designer and earns more money in 3 months than her two brothers will over a period of ten years, including their pay rises and yearly bonuses. Jane spends most of her spare time with her growing daughter who now has turned twelve. She would also do a lot of charity work whenever she had the time; not only hosting events but doing the less glamorous deeds that didn't make it into glossy magazines. When asked about his daughter, how well she had done by herself and what a strong woman she had turned into the father would reply that he had no daughter.

Sound familiar? Even today some people have an old fashioned view on what women have to do in order to be successful. Being a single mum is a sign of failure, being a single dad is a sign of courage and strength. I admire women who stay at home with their children; I think it is incredibly important that especially young children get to spend as much time as possible with their parents and benefiting from the love and warmth that only a parent can provide. I have less admiration for men who do not encourage their other halves to satisfy their ambitions in life beyond being a mother and a housewife. Of course there are women out there who are happy and satisfied by being at home and looking after their families, but there are also other women out there who stay at home because they think it is expected of them.

I do not want to sound like a feminist, because I am not. I am for equal rights, and like everyone else I disapprove of the consistent discrimination between sexes in society, even now in the twenty-first century. I am just not about to burn my bra as a protest against it.

When I was in my early to mid-teens I thought I had life completely figured out. I wanted to finish college, move to England to do a University degree in criminology and eventually work as a criminal profiler. A husband and children was not something I wanted to have in my life until I had an incredible career. When I was 18 I moved to England, planning only to have one year off college before doing a third year at a college in England. I ended up settling in England, moved in with my boyfriend and had a baby girl. My little girl is now nearly ten months old and I could not imagine life without her and I love being a mum more than anything else. I gave up my temporary job in a successful financial company whilst I was pregnant to get things ready for the baby and had every intention to stay at home with her when she was born and had no immediate plans of returning to work. Becoming a mum changed my priorities completely, including what line of work I wanted when I did return to employment. I wanted to do something that was not only challenging and that I would enjoy, but that would not interfere with my family commitments. I have always had a passion for writing, even from a young age and my desire to become a writer has only increased as I have gotten older. I am lucky in the way that I have people around me who support me and encourage me to go after what I want, people who would do anything to make sure I achieve what I want. That to me is incredibly important, but it is not enough.

Some women are afraid to go after what they want because they do not have the same faith in themselves that their parents, husband or friends do. I am of the opinion that a person can do anything they want, within reason, as long as they set their heart to it. I am not saying that I think everyone should have an incredible confidence in themselves, and it is important to not become arrogant. There is this saying, you have to think you are the best to become the best, but that is not true. You have to work hard, you have to improve your weaknesses and you have to keep at it. Sometimes it feels everything and everyone is against you, but you have to keep going and keep trying, and as a woman you will find that sometimes maybe it will be harder to succeed because of your gender. However, a lot of people out there will face discrimination in one form or another. Your gender, your skin colour and your religion can all play a part in someone else forming an opinion on you, not based on you personally or your actual qualities. That is not an excuse to give up. Whatever discriminations you face, however hard you have to work, if you want something bad enough you will and should do anything to achieve it.

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