



Super Mum to the Rescue

Busy working mum urgently seeks more hands!

I fondly recall sitting in my Grandma's front room with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade blackcurrant pie, surrounded by hundreds of perfectly polished brasses, ornaments of birds and lovingly handcrafted tapestries, she stands in her pinafore and says "Women today don't know they're born!" This sweeping statement is usually followed by a harrowing list of chores that us 'modern women' fortunately don't have to bear the brunt of in our technologically advanced times.

“Forget Wonder Woman and Super Girl, I'm more like Elastigirl but without the stretchy limbs and the evil arch enemy”

Gone are the days when the majority of women stayed at home and managed a household with their housekeeping on a tight shoestring, cooking from scratch with just a handful of ingredients, washing clothes by hand, maintaining a lit-

fire and cleaning the front doorstep with a pumice stone were part of everyday life.

With the introduction of modern technology and the diverse range of services within easy reach I find myself asking if life has become easier or has a woman's role in the home changed and the expectations grown?

Not only do we manage the household, we juggle the school run with getting to work on time, organising family activities and holidays, holding spectacular parties for our children, getting little Johnny to his third after school activity of the week, sorting out the vast amounts of insurances that we need (as well as getting it for the best possible price!), finding a plumber to fix the tap that's been dripping for four weeks, the list seems endless!

Forget Wonder Woman and Super Girl, I'm more like Elastigirl but without the stretchy limbs and the evil arch enemy. But perhaps children should be looking up to their own heroine, Super Mum! Fending off stains and unwanted sales calls, dodging evil library book fines and saving the day with discounted days out and a nicely ironed pile of washing!



A 21st Century woman has the responsibility to fill the shoes of those who were bold enough to gain equality amongst the sexes - we take that ballot card and we proudly place it in the box, then head off to collect the dry cleaning, pick up a limited edition present before it goes out of stock, head to the gym and then make that all important team meeting. We maintain the position in the family as homemaker, mother, housewife and co-breadwinner with the added demands that society lays upon us - fashion, celebrity, fitness and health, diets, cars, houses, etc. With all these added pressures are we

being a Jack of all trades but master of none, compromising family life at the detriment of our children, partners, and ourselves?

In this time poor society that we now face, we are becoming reliant on services and products that ease the load - thank goodness they exist!

With inventions such as lightweight vacuum cleaners, the accessibility of transport, ready meals and home PA services, we are finding ways to ease the load and we are discovering a happy work-life balance. The hours spent travelling the internet for the best deal on car

insurance, the family holiday, sorting the children's parties are eased by companies such as Pink Spaghetti, a home PA service for ordinary people, that gives me a helping hand when I need it. Let's face it, if my husband can have a PA at work then why can't I?

I look at my life and can only put a price on these timely but necessary chores, not on the valuable time I have with my children. Would I rather pay a small fee to an expert than have to wangle my way around the internet and directories, interviewing gardeners and children's entertainers? Yes, I'd

rather be at the park or playing Lego with my kids or spending quality time with my husband.

If there's one thing my Grandma taught me, it's that life is precious and short - we don't have an endless reserve of energy, we need time for ourselves and our family. So tonight I'm taking collection of my new dishwasher and receiving my holiday itinerary (thank you Pink Spaghetti) and I'm putting my feet up with my husband and having some quality rest and relaxation before the school run tomorrow!

Words: Stephanie Jones