

Many people complain about sitting outside in the cold at a soccer tournament, but I love it. I also love hanging out with my kids, trying to get them to tell me about their day.

Do you find being a lawyer has been a family-friendly career for you? Yes. I certainly work hard, but the atmosphere at the firm is one where I don't need to be anxious when I have to go to a school play. I say it proudly and come back to show pictures.

How do you balance your work responsibilities with being the parent you want to be? I try to get home every night early enough to check homework. I leave my weekend days open for them as much as I can. Now that they're older and their activities end later, the pressure for me to rush home has subsided a bit. I love knowing that I can be a role model for my daughter and can show my son who and what women are; it's a living example that women can do anything men can do.

—Nicole Vermut

Rachel Thebault

Owner and head confectioner of Tribeca Treats
Mother of Marin, 3

What was it like leaving your career in investment banking to open a bakery? It was something I actually agonized over for months. I had a great career, and I loved the people that I worked with, but deep down I knew there were very few female role models in the field who successfully bal-



COURTESY OF RACHEL THEBAULT

Rachel Thebault with Marin

anced family and career. Cooking and baking have been hobbies all my life. There is something very precise and artistic about pastry in particular that really appeals to me. I decided to quit my job and go to culinary school.

How has being a mom influenced your business? There are a lot of similarities between being an entrepreneur and a mother. Having to multitask, to put out little emergencies. Having a business is, to me, like having a second child.

What are some of your joys as the mom of a 3-year-old? The vain part of me loves having a mini-me, a little sidekick who is into everything I do. In the afternoons after school, my daughter hangs out in the bakery with me, which is a lot of fun. She always sits on the stool and helps me sweep and says to my employees who are frosting cupcakes or putting sprinkles on, "What are you doing?" But more so, it's fun to see how her personality progresses and imagine the kind of young woman she is going to grow up into.

Is there anything that surprised you about being a mom? I was surprised at how natural it was. How many parenting decisions are really governed by instinct.

Jodi Misher Peikin with Alison and Brian

