

# My Boss,

# My Love



by Libby Carty McNamee

**M**y boss weighs 31½ pounds and is 40½ inches tall. He's moody, wears diapers, and can be a real tyrant at times. Despite the fact that he challenges my sanity and never says "thank you" at the weary end of the day, he is still my favorite boss of all time. It doesn't hurt that he is the cutest little guy I've ever seen.

I never planned on being a stay-at-home mother; it just worked out that way. And it's not for everyone, that's for sure. All I can say is that it works for us. Heck, I used to wonder what stay-at-home mothers do all day. Why would anyone suffer through law school and then choose to stay home full time?

I now understand how little I understood. Needless to say, I am ready to take out a full-page ad in *The New York Times* to apologize and beg for forgiveness. I try to remember my own idiocy when I get questions like, "When are you going back to work?" My stock reply is, "You mean getting paid for working, right?"

After having been home with my son for three years, I now spend my time wondering what stay-at-home mothers don't do. Have you ever heard a stay-at-home mother claim, "That's not in my job description?" I used to be just a lawyer. Now I'm a full-time nanny, short-order cook, maid, playmate, storyteller, chauffeur, activity director, preschool teacher, child development specialist, nurse, laundress, errand runner extraordinaire, and gardener, as well as food gatherer and personal shopper. Oh, and I'm on call 24 hours a day, even in the middle of a shower. These are just a few good reasons why the 2008 salary for a stay-at-home mother would be \$117,000, according to [www.Salary.com](http://www.Salary.com).

Admittedly, there are lots of perks to the job, job security being one of the biggies. Let's face it, as a mother, I'm irreplaceable. The other day when I mentioned a babysitter was coming, Sam declared, "I don't want a babysitter. I want you!" Ouch. The hard truth is that lots of people could fill my shoes in the corporate world in a heartbeat, but I am the one person who can answer to Sam's panic-stricken cry of "Mommy!"

I am confident that no one will downsize me, except hopefully Weight Watchers. No new technology will make me obsolete, although I would welcome some automated help, especially with the kitchen floor. Roomba, anyone? The benefits package can't be measured in stock options but by sticky and sweaty hugs. The vacation plan is seriously lacking, and there are no sick days.

Nevertheless, I'm glad I've been around to hold his favorite pebbles, visit the "pines" (usually called "porcupines") at the zoo, play pirate at the lake, and drop by the fire station until it has become "Cheers," where everyone knows his name. There may be no health insurance per se, but loving someone more than yourself has got to be good for you. It's definitely been good for my heart. ▽

Libby Carty McNamee is a local freelance writer and underpaid stay-at-home mother. Visit her Web site at [www.libbymcnamee.com](http://www.libbymcnamee.com).

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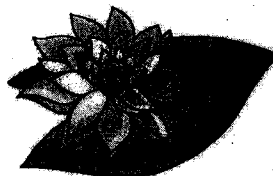
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