

What Do You Do?"

by Libby Carty McNamee

I have always been an academic and career-minded person, focused on climbing up the ladder to achieve that elusive notion of success. After much internal debate and encouragement from my husband, I decided to make some bold changes in my life. I quit my job as a lawyer to pursue my lifelong dream of writing a novel—and to try to get pregnant before turning forty.

The next spring with a baby well on the way, I had finished my novel and was waiting nervously to hear back from literary agents in New York. Suddenly finding myself with lots of free time, I felt like a failure. Trying to be productive, I decided to attend a local mother's group. I thought it would be a good idea to meet some other women in the neighborhood before the onslaught of dealing with a newborn. (Plus I heard that they would deliver five dinners to you when you had a baby.)

Once I parked on the street surrounded by a fleet of shiny

nondescript minivans, I was already intimidated. By the time I waddled up the walkway and slapped on my nametag in the hostess's pristine foyer, I felt as conspicuous as a pineapple in Alaska. As the perky women chattered on about organizing playgroups and comparing kindergarten teachers, I struggled for something, anything, to contribute to the conversation. For once I was without words.

Finally one bubbly young mother of three boys asked me, "So what do you do?"

Happy to be back in familiar territory, I responded with a long-winded answer explaining that I was a lawyer by trade but had quit my job to write a novel, etc.

She listened politely until I finished but then burst out laughing. "No, no! I was asking you when are you DUE!" I blushed as red as tomato paste as she continued with a condescending smile, "You first timers are all so alike—so into your careers." ♡



Libby Carty McNamee is actually "due" any minute now with a baby boy! She is a freelance writer and lawyer living in the Richmond area, and can be contacted at libbymcnee@yahoo.com and 804-378-8218.

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