

# WONDER WOMAN

## The Myth of 'Having it All'

By Virginia Haussegger

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*"...I am childless and I am angry. Angry that I was so foolish to take the word of my feminist mothers as gospel. Angry that I was daft enough to believe female fulfilment came with a leather briefcase..."* *The Age* 2002

In 2002, a passionate opinion piece written by news presenter and journalist Virginia Haussegger appeared in *The Age*, and according to the Opinion Editor the response was unprecedented.

Forced to defend and explain her reasons for going public about the pain of her own childlessness, Virginia found herself suddenly engaged in a deep, intimate and at times heated conversation with women around the country about feminism and the choices it had left them.

"When I outed myself as childless and angry", she wrote some six months later, "a floodgate burst open and a tidal wave of emotion and fury poured forth. "

By expressing her personal response to childlessness Virginia set off a lively public debate that spawned countless articles and talkback segments that two years on is still raging. Part of the discussion centred on whether feminism had failed women in regards to having children, and whether indeed 'career women' should simply quit their whingeing.

In researching **WONDER WOMAN** Virginia found that women on both sides of the debate wanted to express how they felt about the issues surrounding the so called choices women today have about children, life partners and careers.

In her book Virginia discusses her own journey while touching on many of the key issues central to the lives of women in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Issues of fertility and procrastination; of choice and chance; ambition and career; of finding love in seemingly loveless times; of weighing up the merits of motherhood against unencumbered freedom; of copping a gob full of patriarchy in the workplace and being forced to swallow; of coming to terms with childlessness, while grappling with the divide between mothers and non-mothers; of questioning feminism and its unintended outcomes; and of contemplating failure in the quest to 'have it all'.

In **WONDER WOMAN** Virginia attempts to investigate, penetrate and unravel what she sees as the key issues in the lives of many women. Virginia wrote the book for the woman who finds herself up against it and wondering if she's alone. She wrote this book to tell her she is not.

MP Julia Gillard will launch **WONDER WOMAN** at the National Press Club in May.

**TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER,**

PLEASE CALL DEBBIE MCINNES ON (02) 9550 9207

**Virginia Haussegger** is a journalist with almost 20 years experience working in Australian television news and current affairs in both commercial and public broadcasting. She has worked as both reporter and presenter for the ABC 's *7.30 Report*; Channel 9's *A Current Affair* and Channel 7's *Witness* program. She has reported from around the world including Washington, New York and the Middle East and is the recipient of the United Nations Media Peace Prize. She has written articles that have appeared in various newspapers and is currently the ABC's TV News Presenter in Canberra.

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