



**Australian  
Monday 8/11/2010**

Page: 31  
Section: Media  
Region: Australia, AU  
Circulation: 131246  
Type: National  
Size: 223.15 sq.cms.



**slice**  
slicemedia.com

press clip



**TEN  
QUESTIONS**

Jacinta Tynan is a news presenter, author, actor and a new mum who caused a storm in August when she wrote a column saying motherhood isn't as hard as it's made out to be

**What was your first job in media?**  
Reporter with Prime TV, Canberra. Three months after joining, they closed the newsroom and retrenched us all.

**What is your current job?**  
News presenter with Sky News, columnist and author — and my favourite job of all, a mum to one-year-old Jasper.

**You were one of six children, born nine years apart. How tight was it, space-wise?**

We got about in a Kombi van, shared Chunky Tube bunk beds and learnt to eat everything on our

plate.

**You are patron of SISTER2-Sister, a mentor program for disadvantaged teenage girls. Who are your mentors?**

I always longed for someone I could turn to for guidance, not just in career but in love and life, (but) I have always felt I was sailing solo, which is why I was drawn to SISTER2Sister because I know what a phenomenal difference it can make to have someone looking out for you.

**Your first book, *Good Man Hunting*, was about women in their 30s under pressure to hook up and have children. Are you now guilty of encouraging others to have babies?**

In *Good Man Hunting* I made the point that every life phase is legitimate, with or without a man, and so it is with having a baby. It's not for everyone. Whether by circumstances or choice, many women won't do it. But I do say if you have the chance to be a mum, take it. It has enriched my life more than I could have ever imagined.

**You caused a storm in August when you opened one of your *Sunday Life* essays with the line: "There is one thing nobody warned me about when I became**

**a mother: what a breeze it would be." Were you ready for the furore?**

I always thought an opinion piece was just that: an opinion. I was disappointed so many women took my experience as a judgment on their own. But I am also buoyed by the overwhelming majority of women who thanked me for reminding them of the privilege of motherhood.

**You went into labour while reading the news on Sky.**

I rang my mum in a break who told me I would know I was having contractions if they were at regular intervals, so I started noting the times on my news script: 3.08pm, 3.23pm. I have kept that news script as a memento.

**I read somewhere that you are the grand-niece of Nino Culotta, who wrote *They're a Weird Mob*, but how can that be?**

Nino Culotta was actually a fellow named John O'Grady, pharmacist and older brother to my grandfather, Frank, an author. John challenged Frank as to who could write the first bestseller and he whipped up *Weird Mob* in six weeks. Nino's real identity was kept a secret by the family until he was outed by the press.

CAROLINE OVERINGTON



Sky News presenter Jacinta Tynan