



JOANNE YURICH,

president of The Y Group and mom of twins Jack and Emma (8),
Matthew and Jonathan (3), and Alex (1),
and her mother, designer

ROBYN MENTER

JOANNE ON ROBYN

My mother has always been my role model. I have so much respect for her, watching her in her career and seeing how she was able to balance everything. Now we call her Super Grandma. She is amazing. She has her own successful and demanding business, and yet, she is so engaged with kids. She can whip up a gourmet meal, clean the kitchen, and then be playing on the floor with the kids without missing a beat. And she's always had a great relationship with Jack and Emma because she makes such an effort. I mean, she works all day, but for Jack and Emma she would come over every morning on her way to work to see them. When Jack was little, he would look out the window and wait for Grandma to get there. It was just part of his routine. Now, often on her way home from work, she stops in to see the kids, and she makes special one-on-one dates with them on the weekends. All this effort has resulted in her forming a really special bond with them. I'm so lucky I have always had her close by to support me and always be there and be so involved and be such a presence for my children.

Watching her grow in her business and watching her business grow, how she's been so successful and yet still so present as a mother and a grandmother, was really inspiring for me, especially when I was getting ready to take the leap myself and leave a great job to go out on my own. I had two babies at the time, so that was kind of scary, but she was just always really encouraging and supportive. I was like, "Well she did it, so certainly I can."

ROBYN ON JOANNE

Joanne has always been very self-disciplined. Even growing up, I never had to ask her to do anything; she never really even got in trouble. She just seemed to know what she needed to do and did it. We immigrated from South Africa when she was 5, and she had no trouble making friends. Her dad and I divorced when she was 11, and she handled it remarkably well, staying really close to her dad and me and taking the best from both of us and really running with it.

It's so nice having her in the same town and having the kids nearby. I try to go see the kids every day, and she and her husband, Joe, never mind how much I come and visit. She's given her kids such a loving environment. She's such a caring person. The thing that really fascinates me about her is that she never loses it. I stayed at her house recently for a couple of nights when she was out of town and I even had help, I had a nanny there, and you are just constantly juggling. I was trying to work and prepare dinners and bathe the kids, and when I went to bed at night I was like, "Oh my god, how does she do this every day?" I don't know how she does it. I really and truly don't. She prepares dinner every single night. She never loses her temper. She's so cool, calm, and collected in any circumstance. It's just amazing to me.

One of the biggest things Joanne ever did was get me to start exercising four years ago. Just before she became pregnant, she told me she had started yoga, and she said I absolutely needed to go with her. I was really very reluctant, and I said, "No, I can't do it. I'm not really good at exercising." She said, "No, you'll love it. You have to do it." And I went. She did yoga through her entire pregnancy right until two days before she delivered. We go together, and it's a really special bonding experience for us. I would say that she's done many wonderful things for me, but this is one of the best because I feel so much better now. I'm glad that I listened to her. I'm glad that she pushed me to do it.