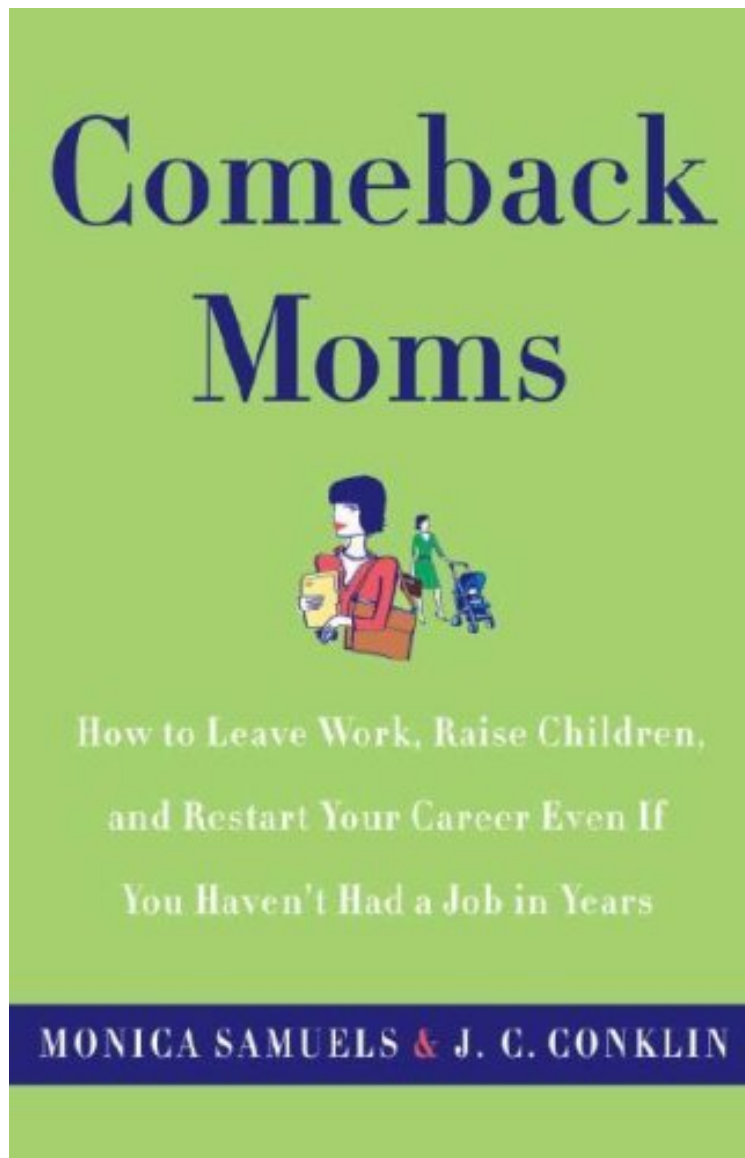


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Comeback Moms: How to Leave Work, Raise Children, and Restart Your Career Even if You Haven't Had a Job in Years

Monica Samuels, J.C. Conklin
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15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and Informative
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I bought this book after reading a very favorable recommendation for it ([...]/2006/06). Although I normally don't invest in books like this, I found it intriguing and relevant to my life so I got it. This book is filled with excellent advice on how to tackle balancing career goals with the needs of a family and covers almost every topic imaginable in the process. I especially enjoyed the tone in which the information is presented using humor and anecdotes to make many of its points, but still providing a tremendous amount of insight and valuable information. It is exactly what I was hoping to find - - informative, yet enjoyable to read. I must say I was surprised to find an review of this book that suggested it was "patronizing." As a wife, mother, and student I found the information to be very applicable to most women I know. I see this book as being addressed primarily to women who spent a great deal of time and effort pursuing their education and careers prior to becoming wives and mothers. Their families and friends expected them to continue with the dreams they talked about as young girls and they are not used to hearing them now put the role of wife and mother as number one. I found the book to be an excellent look at life from that perspective, and although it is a great read for anyone, it is particularly relevant to that group of women. Thankfully, there are many such women out there. These women want to put their families first for a time and then get back out in the work place to pursue the careers they love. Bravo! I'm glad to see there is something out there for us too!!!

What happens when an educated professional wants to become a stay-at-home mom but not end her career forever? Here is a book for the millions of moms who want to do what's best for their families and for themselves. Monica Samuels and J.C. Conklin show what to do when you're ready to leave work to be a full-time mother, how to maintain contacts while away from the job, and then how to execute a successful reentry into the workforce anywhere from one to twenty years after you've left. *Comeback Moms* is filled with anecdotes and advice from economists, career counselors, employers and, of course, mothers who have made the transition from the career track to the mommy track and back again. The authors distill the wisdom of the experts and many high profile women--including Ambassador Karen Hughes, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and former Texas Governor Ann Richards--into a three-tiered battle plan to help any woman get through this life-changing process and come out ahead. "You can't fall into the trap of thinking you have to do it all or can do it all. You have to take advantage of opportunities when they're offered." -- Anne Richards, former Governor of Texas
Millions of educated, professional women are quitting their jobs to stay home and raise their children. That would never be you, right? You worked hard for your degree and even harder to get to this point in your career. Quitting now, even for a few years, would kill your career. Right? That's what Monica Samuels thought when she found out she was pregnant and boy, was she wrong. Once you have a baby, your life changes in ways you'd never imagine. Some of your friends and family members may think you've gone a little crazy--crazy enough to leave a salary and paid vacations to stay home with your child. Before you go storming into your boss's office to announce your departure, read this book. It's more about quitting than saying the words. It's strategy involved. Over sixty percent of professional women who leave work to raise children want to go back into the workforce someday. If you even think you might want to go back to work, be it in one year or twenty, you need to lay the groundwork now for a successful reentry or your options will be limited. If you do a little planning, you can reposition yourself professionally and have the choice to one day get back on the same career track, shift gears, accelerate, or change careers entirely. And, if you've already been out of the workplace for several years and never thought you'd go back, you'll learn about the best strategies and resources for jumping back in. *Comeback Moms* is a practical, commonsense approach to career planning for all mothers. Monica Samuels and J.C. Conklin examine every conceivable angle and obstacle to help you make the best decisions possible before leaving your job, during your time at home, and once you decide to return to work. They offer advice on how to keep one foot in the professional pool, when and if it's best to go back to school, setting realistic expectations when re-entering an old career, helping your children adjust when you do go back, and on the logistics of rebalancing marital power when a spouse leaves or re-enters the work force. It's all here in an invaluable guide for every woman who wants it all.

From Publishers Weekly
While it's arguable that women can have both a career and children at once with some degree of success, many like Samuels, an attorney, prefer to focus on one at a time, and decide to become stay-at-home moms. But that doesn't mean that they can't return to the work they love. The key, according to Samuels and co-author Conklin, is laying the groundwork for your comeback long before leaving a job. "By planning, we mean decide, as

much as you can, what you want: are you going back to work? Do you want to try part time? Do you want to work on special projects occasionally? Do you want to work with the company again in the future?" All options are viable, given realistic expectations and sound exit and re-entry strategies, and all are thoroughly examined here in a practical and candid manner. Whatever decision a woman makes, Samuels says that those who have the courage to create a path that works for them will find "opportunity to become something else, something new—a mother who knows she doesn't have to do it all, all at once." Copyright © 2003; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Comeback Moms is loaded with practical tips from high-powered women who have dropped out and then reentered the workforce . . . refreshingly no-nonsense." —Fortune "A must-read for both women and men seeking to manage career and family successfully." —Representative Dianne White Delisi About the Author Monica Samuels is a trained environmental and immigration attorney. Although she was given the opportunity to join the Bush administration, Monica elected to stay in Austin and raise her two sons. In 2002, President Bush appointed her to the Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center, which she serves on today. J.C. Conklin is an award-winning writer and journalist whose work has appeared in the Wall Street Journal and The Dallas Morning News.