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Mom with the Write Stuff: Allison Winn Scotch

By [Crystal Patriarche](#)



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This Mother's Day, *New York Times* best-selling author [Allison Winn Scotch](#) hopes her husband replicates last year when he surprised her with a fabulous new handbag. A girl can never have too many of those, right? She'll also be spending time with her two young children and living her best, most full-bodied life – something she writes about in her women's fiction novels, *The Department of Lost and Found*, *Time of My Life* and *The One That I Want*.

In *The One That I Want* (in bookstores on June 1), her main character – a small town thirty-something woman named Tilly – walks into a fortune teller's tent at the local fair and gets a gift of her own: the gift of clarity. Thus begins this clever story of a woman who discovers the life she's mapped out for herself isn't the one she's meant to live after all.

If you could be given a gift from a fortune teller, like Tilly, what would it be?

As a mom, the single thing I worry about (and I'm not a worrier) is that something could happen to one of my kids. If I could be assured that my family be shielded from harm's way, there's probably not a lot I wouldn't sacrifice for that gift.

Your books tackle the "What if?" Why?

Asking those big, life-changing questions allows me to take the heroine's journeys and up the stakes, just as those questions do the same thing in real life. What if you're not living the life you want? Then what?

What if...you weren't a writer?

I'd probably be an actress. I find the process of writing to be fairly similar as the process of acting – digging in and creating a persona from nothing – and before I found myself as a writer, I really loved performing.

What if... you could have lunch with any celebrity?

Impossible question! I adore all things pop-culture, so I have a million answers for you. But I'd say Sandra Bullock. I bet, as far as a good time, good conversation and good food, she'd be the best. Not to mention, I have a lot of respect for her as a person.

Favorite part of being a mom?

Seeing my kids learn lessons on their own and watching their little minds grow and explore the world around them fills me with pride that I've never had before.

Favorite part of being a writer?

That I have a very fulfilling career – for my self-esteem, my creativity – while still playing an active role in the day-to-day aspects of my kids' lives. I feel incredibly blessed because of it. And creating something from nothing that resonates with readers is an all-time high.

How has motherhood affected your writing?

I couldn't have written *Time of My Life*, the break-out book of my career, without understanding that resonating bass note of unconditional love that we have for our children. Exploring motherhood – and our complicated relationship to it – was a big part of that book, and that theme is further explored in my follow-up, . Having children has certainly made me both more introspective and more empathetic, and I have no doubt that this has come through in my writing.

Books you love reading to your kids?

I've been reading the *Nate the Great* series with my son, which makes all of us giggle. My daughter is a little younger. She's into the *Franklin* series, which I find adorable. *Franklin in the Dark* is pretty hilarious and a fantastic life lesson.

How do you juggle motherhood and being a bestselling author?

I have a very good support system. My babysitter takes the kids out of the house for the afternoon, so I'm not torn between work and kids. My flexibility allows for me to walk my son to school each day, hang out with my daughter during lunch and attend their swim lessons. When I'm not doing that, I put on my writer hat and get down to business, knowing that they're with my sitter, whom they adore. Once dinner time comes around, my mommy hat goes back on and work is done for the day.

Best mom advice you've gotten?

Don't aim for perfection. Lord knows that I don't because I'd never achieve it. I think that moms have enough on their plates these days, the last thing we need is the veil of guilt because we somehow didn't live up to a certain standard. As long as my kids are happy, kind, smart and confident, I feel like that is a job well done.

Most embarrassing mom moment?

My son went through a phase in which he liked to categorize people. He'd yell, "He's old, he's going to die soon!" or "He's smoking, that's going to give him cancer!" Nothing was off the table for him. I spent a lot of time on the sidewalk shushing him and trying to deflect harsh stares.

Other moms you admire?

My dearest mom friends. I've surrounded myself with an eclectic group of women all of whom embrace my philosophy of just doing your best, of being kind to yourself and those around you, and letting yourself fall apart every once in a while because someone will be there to pick you up. For celeb moms, Keri Russell and Jennifer Garner.

Most important lesson your mom taught you?

Be nice. My mom rarely has a bad word to say about anyone – even if she's thinking it, she just bites her tongue. The older I get, the more I value this attribute and want to pass it on to my kids. I think it does wonders in terms of attracting the right type of people to you, and in putting out a little good karma into the world.

For more on Allison Winn Scotch, visit her website [allisonwinn.com](#) and follow [Allison on Twitter](#).

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