



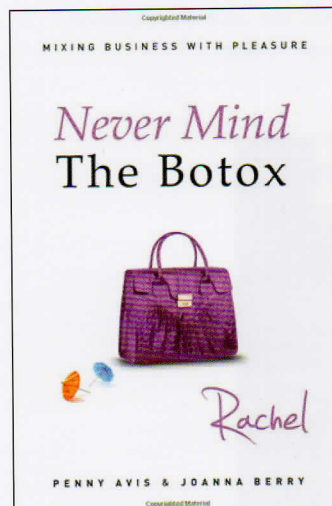
Penny Avis

### From accountant to author

#### Penny Avis shares her journey

I was a partner in Transaction Services for many years until I decided in 2009, aged 41, to take a career break. I loved my job but after the financial crash, the business was very quiet and it seemed like the ideal time to see what the world outside Deloitte might have to offer. I had no idea what I was going to do instead but just wanted to create some 'white space' and see what filled it. I had always thought that perhaps I could do something else, but didn't have a clue what the something was! However, a few months after I stopped working, the idea of writing a book jumped into my head. I thought about writing about what it's like to be a woman in the City and share some of the funny and mad stories that have happened to me over the years.

I was talking to one of my oldest friends, Joanna Berry, about my idea and she told me that she'd always wanted to write a book too. A lawyer herself, Joanna's idea was to write about a lawyer who meets her other half across the deal table. Our ideas had so much in common, that we decided that two heads would be better than one and so the idea for our book series was born! *Never Mind the Botox* is a book series about four professional women (lawyer, accountant, doctor and banker) all working on the sale of a cosmetic surgery business. Each book reveals how the women cope with one of the most glamorous but challenging deals of their careers and the dramatic impact it has on their personal lives.



So, a year and a half later, we have published the first two books in the series with the second two coming out during 2012. We have had reviews in everything from *Cosmopolitan* and *Heat* magazine to *Accountancy Age* and *The Lawyer!* I can't tell you how much fun it has been. We have also signed a joint venture with Future Films to develop a TV series based on the books, which is so exciting!

**"A fabulous new contemporary women's fiction series."** *Daily Mail*

**"The must-have read of the summer."** Waterstones

**"Plenty of glamour, pace and excitement."** *Heat* magazine

We've had more laughs in the last two years that I can remember for a long time. The world of publishing could not be more different to the City. I have loved being able to spend more time with my children and work to my own timetable and on my own terms. I don't miss the evening and weekend phone calls from demanding clients one bit! I do miss the quality of the Deloitte people though. It's easy to forget what it's like to be surrounded by bright, motivated people all day. It makes me appreciate why the alumni network is so strong and I am delighted to be part of it.