

## **SUNDAY NEW YORK POST (9/29/02)**

Pearson's new novel: a 'Bridget Jones' for mommys

By Nina Willdorf

For decades now, women have insisted that it's possible to have it all: a fulfilling job, nonmedicated kids, a healthy relationship with the hubby.

Sound good? There's just one thing missing: sanity, according to Allison Pearson.

The 42-year-old British journalist recently penned what's now known as the Mommy's Bridget Jones, "I Don't Know How She Does It: The Life of Kate Reddy, Working Mother."

The novel's heroine is a financial whiz with two wee ones who hurls herself through one endless day after another, only coming up for air to avert disasters.

Periodically stay-at-home moms, creatively dubbed "Mothers Superior," offer up the faux-cheery refrain: "I don't know how you do it."

"It's like, 'I don't know how you do it,' brackets 'you crazy idiot' or 'you neglectful mother' or 'you bad wife,'" Pearson laughingly explains over the phone from temporary digs in New York.

The book, originally published in excerpts in the London Daily Telegraph, has struck a chord with sleep-deprived mommies everywhere.

"It's about the crazy, funny extremes that you go through in trying to do it all," said Pearson, who toiled on the novel at night while penning a weekly column for the London Evening Standard and sitting on BBC2's Newsnight Review panel – not to mention raising her own two kids, Evie, 6, and Thomas, 3.

So how does she do it? "Every day, you're just two instances away from total disaster," explains the author.

"I'm always about to start my relaxation program but I'm always too busy."