

# Ambitious Pursuits

Entrepreneur, interior designer and author Devon Fleming shows that life in Fairfield County involves much more than lunch at the country club

## Life's Lessons

"I discovered that the secret to happiness was not doing everything yourself, but, rather surrounding yourself with the best team, resources or advisor," says Devon Fleming. "Whether you're the president of the United States or a single mom, that's the key."

From an outsider's perspective, it seemed like Devon Fleming lived the perfect life. She pursued a successful career as a high-powered executive on Wall Street before meeting her husband and choosing to settle down in New Canaan, Connecticut. The proud mother of three golden-haired children, Fleming began her second career as an interior designer and, like many of the other women in her community, balanced home life with a creative job on the side. Despite appearances, though, Fleming was not at all content. "I had an epiphany on my 40th birthday," she says, "I realized I was a square peg in a round hole. I was living for everyone else—my husband, my kids—and had taken myself out of the equation of my life."

This jarring self-assessment sparked Fleming to write a manuscript based on her experiences. She wanted to reclaim her identity and share her revelation with other women in similar situations. She penned a resource guide to Fairfield County's best-kept secrets for managing life's everyday needs titled *The Pink Book*, and expanded her interior design company into a multimedia and lifestyle business. "I discovered that the secret to happiness was not doing everything yourself, but, rather, surrounding yourself with the best team, resources or advisor," Fleming says. "Whether you're the president of the United States or a single mom, that's the key."

Ever ambitious, the energetic Fleming then began sharing her life lesson by lecturing at women's clubs and young women's leagues. Soon the media-savvy and camera-friendly blonde found herself maintaining her design business while hosting a weekly radio show, typing away on a blog and writing a column for *Fairfield County Home* magazine. She helped cast a docu-drama for the Bravo network about Fairfield County wives and quickly established connections in the entertainment industry. Fleming is currently working as a co-producer for two prospective television shows. "I want to be a positive example for other women and provide everyday solutions for the modern woman and mother," she says with certainty. "That may be in a multimedia context or through writing a self-help book or memoir."



When not juggling the various aspects of her thriving businesses or cheering for her children during their numerous sports and activities, Fleming is most excited about her work with the Higgins Group, a real estate brokerage firm and Christie's affiliate based in Westport and Fairfield. As a consultant for the company, Fleming provides a firsthand account of the Fairfield County lifestyle and invaluable connections to the community. The partnership is a natural extension of the Devon Fleming brand, which is quickly becoming synonymous with Fairfield County. Within her capacity at the Higgins Group, Fleming will head a team of residential real estate brokers that specialize in promoting the unique lifestyle of the area.

As for Fleming's future, there's no telling what bright prospects await her. "I feel most comfortable in front of the camera, so I envision doing something on TV," she says. "Also, nothing makes me happier than helping to empower other women. There are so many wonderful possibilities that have opened up for me." ♦