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## **Working as a woman in a men's world: 'Men in high positions think they can do whatever they like'**

Annelies George wrote an intriguing book based on her own experiences in the financial world.

***Annelies George can best be described as a writer with a mission. In her new fiction book Nice Doing Business with You, Ma'am, she opens up about her own experiences as a woman in the still male-dominated financial world. And those experiences are not exactly rosy. Envy, sexual harassment, cheating, transgressive behavior: Protagonist Lisa has to deal with it all. "I hope to inspire women with the book, despite these unpleasant experiences, so they keep believing in themselves and never give up."***



The book centers on Lisa Simon, a 26-year-old woman who is employed as an account manager at an American leasing company. She steps into a male-dominated world, which produces hilarious moments but also female-degrading events. The story shows how Lisa manages to navigate her way through the snake pit of envy, sexual harassment, #MeToo situations, seduction and deceit.

### **Own experiences**

Lisa's story is based on George's first 10 years working in finance and offers a disconcerting glimpse into what it is like for a woman working in a man's world. "Men can come across as very disparaging and disrespectful," George says of her own experiences. "Some people, especially men in high positions, think they can just get away with everything they do." But, she stresses, there are also plenty of men who do behave and show respect. "With some of them I have even built a friendship over the years." The latter is certainly covered in the story, as well as other topics such as fraud, deadlines, takeovers and the impact on her relationships.

Like George, protagonist Lisa learns through trial and error that honesty, perseverance, self-confidence, knowledge of business and hard work are the keys to her success. "As a twenty-something, I thought I just had to accept certain things because it was business as usual. This is why I want to inspire young women in particular to take action if something similar happens to them.

Everyone should continue to believe in themselves and never give up when such unpleasant experiences occur."

### **Transgressive behavior**

She also hopes to open the eyes of men, in particular those who exhibit transgressive behavior at work, so that they will begin to see how certain statements and events can come across to a woman. That behavior is something George, even now as CFO and after working in finance for nearly 30 years, has had to deal with all too often. "Unfortunately, not much has changed in that area at present," she says. "That's why I felt it was important to incorporate events that today are labeled #MeToo into the story."

George has learned to survive - and be successful - as a woman in the financial world. "It's important to stand up for yourself while not worrying about any consequences that might affect your career," she says. "Your self-worth is your most precious asset. No job, promotion or money can compete with that."

*The book Nice Doing Business with You, Ma'am, written in Dutch by Annelies George can be purchased for 21.95 euros at any bookstore affiliated with Centraal Boekhuis and via [www.boekenbestellen.nl](http://www.boekenbestellen.nl). George was given the title 'international bestselling author' when her book Quest to the Unknown knocked JK Rowling out of first place on Amazon. With that book, which is the first volume in her Jessie Golden series, she also won first prize from the American Speak Up Talk Radio in the 'Suspense' category. You can read more about author Annelies George and her books at [www.anneliesgeorge.com](http://www.anneliesgeorge.com).*

### **About Annelies George**

Annelies George will launch her new book *Nice Doing Business with You, Ma'am*, based on her own experiences as a woman in the male-dominated financial world, on Thursday, Sept. 28. The book has been read by Han Mouton, CFO of the Johan Cruijff Arena, among others. Han praised the book: "Smoothly written and easy to read book. Insight with a smile and a wink by a woman in the international financial man's world. A description of the beginning of a career to an executive top woman. Thoroughly written with humor, suspense and now topical, sometimes bumping up against the limit of overstepping by men. I enjoyed reading it." Annelies George currently serves as CFO at a Dutch IT company. She previously held various management positions at Cisco, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and the French company Econocom, among others.

For more information or to receive a (digital) copy of the book:

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