Recommended

When There Aren't Enough Hours In Your Day
Because You Went Back To College Or Work

by Kathy Mitchum

Do you have an attitude in which you are far less concerned about those little things that used to drive you crazy? The main reason being you have gone back to work or school and have a family and no time to spare. For example, you no longer plug up those holes in your pierced ears that you once thought were so fashionable, even though now there's six of them. How about your hair? Now you think it looks great if you get it to lay down instantaneously with whatever you have on hand!

When there aren't enough hours in your day, do you find you do little unexpected things? For example, you have put things in the refrigerator which do not belong, like the sugar, or salt, or peanut butter, which has been missing for days. Or how about the box of cereal which was not in the cupboard but in the refrigerator.

Yes, how about meal times? Are they those kind of meals you just whip together? Are you eating breakfast for dinner sometimes? Is it suddenly real important to teach little Ricky to cook? Do you feel very resentful towards cooking, because it's cheating you out of so much time, precious time that could be used to catch up on homework or just plain sleep? Yes, TV dinners are looking better every day, and Taco Bell is my kind of place!

Do you find you are talking to yourself more and more? Your children are hysterically laughing at Mom talking to herself, and she's even cracking up, laughing out loud, and she doesn't realize she's doing it. All Mom knows is that she has work to do and books to crack, which is cracking her up royally.

How about that housework that never ends? Since time is so short, do you notice that "Little Suzie Homemaker" you are not anymore? Cobwebs are connecting from corner to corner in a few of your rooms (to your amazement). Mopping floors is a bi-weekly (monthly) thing to do now. As the result of cleaning under the kitchen sink yearly, my mother-in-law was horrified at finding that dead heart in a jar, all moldy and growing sprouts, and it was quite a shock for all the relatives to view. Yes, I got a good laugh out of that incident, knowing it was actually an onion left in a jar, and it was disgusting!

Shopping is of no concern to me, when there's so much to do and so little time. Pillowcases are so thin, rough and transparent that my family thought they were sleeping on giant Brillo pads. Sheets are a mix-match of tops and bottoms. We have fitted, flowered, stripes or abstracts for the top layers, and whatever is clean and in one piece for the bottom half, which looks fine to me. I can't seem to get the strength or spare the money to buy that Pledge furniture polish. Is it really that important to shine the furniture? I say not! I have studying to do, or work to be done, and children to care for.

Then we have the week of finals at college and definitely not enough hours in the day. Or, maybe we have worked overtime at our jobs. Do you notice real strange things you didn't know you could so strangely do? For instance, you've gone up and down the basement stairs at least three times and you are wondering why in the hell you went down there in the first place. You are looking all around like some fool, so mad you couldn't remember why you were down there but knew there was a reason. Yes, have mercy, you had your note cards with you, prepared not to waste time. Yes, we can sometimes lose our minds when there is so much to do and so little time to do it in.

My thinking is, when time is of essence and things get tough, have faith, courage and, above all, a sense of humor to make it through those hectic days one day at a time. But damn, whoever thought it would be this tough?