

broadcast from Vuyo's house when his body arrived, was hard beyond words. My producers wanted me to speak over the arrival of the hearse carrying Vuyo, and for the first time in my career, I put the mic on the floor and walked away. Marc was there with me that morning and offered me strength.'

HOME MATTERS

It's obvious that Leanne and Marc, who have been together for 16 years, have a special relationship. During the *Good Housekeeping* interview and shoot, Leanne frequently checks her cellphone for messages from Marc – the two phone and message each other throughout the day. 'Doesn't everyone?' she asks, bemused. They met while Leanne was a student and waitressing at a restaurant in Blackheath, Johannesburg, and Marc, who knew the owner, would visit. She went on an overseas trip with friends after her studies, and seven years later she and Marc bumped into each other back home. 'We started chatting, he asked for my number, and that was the end of that.'

'I'm the typical Libran; he's the Virgo,' she says, describing herself as indecisive, worried about everything and everyone, and a touch disorganised. 'I live much better on the edge. I come and throw Marc's life into complete chaos. He organises our lives, basically.' Marc, who plans the practical matters, is overseeing the renovation of their house; Leanne plans their holidays and overseas trips. 'We're opposites, but it works. He makes me more serious, and I make him more fun.'

With equally demanding jobs, she and Marc need a system in place at home. Leanne is up at 4am, and since Marc leaves at 6.30am for work, their live-in housekeeper, Lenah Molopa, gets Alexandro breakfast and ready for school. Back home around 10am, Leanne may go to gym, visit her gift shop, Simply Manas (yes, she's a businesswoman too!) and fetch Alexandro from school and take him to his swimming lesson. Lately, she's been trying to ensure that she is able to have lunch with the children and spend the afternoon with them. 'Family is very important to us,' says Leanne, who lives in the same Northcliff housing estate as her brother, and whose mother, Vida, and mother-in-law, Connie, live nearby and take turns to drop the kids off at school.

'When you become a mother, you give birth to guilt. Suddenly, I feel guilty for everything. *Everything*,' she confesses. 'But it's all worth it when the kids come running up to you and they love you. I don't see them as much as I'd

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like to, but the time I am with them is such huge quality time.' In the afternoon Leanne usually heads out with Gabi and Alexandro on play dates, to meet friends in the area, and to feed the ducks in the estate.

By 6pm, everyone's home. 'Because we both have such hectic lives, Lenah does a lot of the cooking, although Marc and I do sometimes cook together. But those days of sitting and having a gourmet meal are unfortunately over. We run the house together; we're a good team.' A 'phenomenal dad', Marc is happy to be left on baby duty – for days on end if necessary – changing nappies and taking the kids out.

'It's a balancing act,' she says. 'But you somehow get to the end of the day: everyone's in bed, everyone's eaten, and it's okay.'

Although they take the children on breakaways to the Magaliesberg or Sun City, and spend time in Umzumbe on KZN's south coast with the same families every December, holidaying without the kids is how the couple reconnect. 'You actually get to the point where you turn into two ships in the night: by the time he wakes up, I've already gone to work. We come home exhausted; I fall asleep reading my son a story. By the time we stumble into bed, that's it. For us, it's the best medicine just to go away and spend time together.'

Once a year, Leanne and Marc leave the children with their moms and take a two-week overseas trip. Last year they celebrated his 40th with a cruise to Venice, the Dalmatian Coast and Greece; this year, they may mark Leanne's 40th in New York, where her best friend lives. 'I'm a travel-holic,' she says. 'Travel is my weakness and passion in life.' They also pop out for dates, usually for prawns at the laid-back Portuguese restaurant 1920 in Ferndale.

WEIGHING IN WITH THE NATION

Being in the public eye, Leanne admits she feels pressure to look good, but says she has always had an issue with her weight. During her 10 years as a morning-show host, she has been 'skinny, gorgeous and glorious' at the time of her wedding, then 'blew up' while pregnant, lost the weight, and gained again with her second baby. 'I've done it in front of the nation. It's been humbling but I've never really had negative feedback. I think that's what South Africans like: I'm a real person. I go through all the problems everyone else does.'

Looking toned and healthy, she's still in the process of shedding her baby weight. Leanne gained approximately 20kg during each pregnancy, dropping the weight relatively →