



Just Look At Me Now

Tracey Reeves was described by her teachers as a below-average student when she attended school in Swindon. She left Headlands School with just one O-level in art and was even shown how to fill in a dole form during one of her lessons. But after emigrating to New Zealand with just £400 in her pocket she found her fortune running a world-famous photographic agency. Now Tracey, 37, a mother-of-two, is a millionaire and boasts five luxury homes. A decade after leaving Swindon, Tracey is one of New Zealand's richest women. She runs the country's biggest photographic agency which has names like Lord Snowdon and Lord Lichfield on its books and has just negotiated a lucrative contract with a company owned by Bill Gates. Her Tranz Picture Library specialises in celebrity photographs, selling the copyright of pictures to magazines and newspapers. It has not only given her a lavish lifestyle she regularly lunches in Paris and New York but respect in a competitive and difficult industry as well as the freedom to live as she chooses. And her company, which she founded eight years ago, is now so successful it has been nominated as a contender for the prestigious Ernst and Young Award, for which only businesses with an annual turnover of a million New Zealand dollars are eligible. She said: I was always told I was never going to make it and no-one ever had any faith in me at school. But I suppose this shows they were all wrong. If you put your mind to it and don't let anyone hold you back, you can be anything you want to be. But her parents, who live in Stratton, say her success hasn't changed her and she eagerly reclaims their spare bedroom whenever she comes home.

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