

his characteristics that make him an unusual leader. He has had some very unusual experiences in his lifetime for leadership, working on the economy and bringing big changes to organizations. There are many things that are extraordinary about him. He was leagues better than the other candidates.

UV: You've spent public and private time with other candidates, including a recent weekend with the McCains. What was that like?

Ann: They're just people, and we have everyday conversations like, "Look at the bird that just flew by. Was that a hawk?" When you are outside the press bubble, everyone is chatting about the birds in the river — normal stuff.

UV: What are some of the funny things that happened on the campaign trail?

Ann: There were so many funny things. A lot of times we didn't know what door we were supposed to go in. There were times I slammed the door, not knowing that Mitt was coming out the same door I just slammed. We stayed in every hotel imaginable. We stayed in a hotel where supposedly Jeffrey Dahmer had murdered someone. That was comforting! Another time, Mitt left the hotel room to make a call. I leaned out the door and said, "Don't go! Come on in!" There was a big hunkin' guy there,

and he pointed to himself and said, "Me?" I laughed and said, "Not you! Sorry!" Funny things happened all the time.



"It was like a seesaw. Public, private, public, private. We kept our sanity by having private moments of laughing, joking, chitchatting, talking to the kids."

UV: I'm glad to hear there were lighthearted times because I'm sure most of the time there was intense pressure.

Ann: It became "every day" stuff to us. You make the public appearance, make the speech, do the press, get back in the car. And as soon as you get back in the car and close the door, everybody pops out their Blackberries and goes back into "normal mode." "Oh, Josh called." You don't even talk about what just

happened at the speech because you are back in the bubble of the car with your family.

UV: How often were you with Mitt during the race?

Ann: In the beginning we were together a lot. It was hard at the end because we had to go our separate ways.

UV: Did you call and text him?

Ann: All day long. Even if it was just a short text of "hi" or "crazy here."

UV: Do you ever feel like you are Mrs. Mitt Romney instead of Ann Romney?

Ann: In our marriage we are equal partners. There are so many misconceptions about Mormons and temple marriages. But if they really understood us and our religious beliefs, they would know that we focus on having really good marriages. And to have a really good marriage, you have to have an equal partnership. So I am very happy to support Mitt, and he supports me equally.

UV: Does it surprise you that Mitt rose to the top of Corporate America and was nearly the president? Or did you see great things in him from the beginning?

Ann: When I met him as a teenager, I knew he was going to be extraordinarily successful.

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