

ADDICTED TO COUPONS

Extreme bargain hunting gives these women an adrenaline rush they compare to a "high." But they admit — it comes at a cost



SHE'S SAVED \$20,000!

"What started out as a desperate way to help my family has become a full-time job," says Joanie.

Joanie Demer is the first to admit that she has found an unusual way to unwind: "I don't enjoy myself by going out for a glass of wine," the pretty 28-year-old tells *In Touch*.

It's fair to say that I am obsessed, but it honestly gives me a high!"

And it turns out that Joanie's not alone: So many women have begun practicing this super-intense form of bargain shopping that TLC is premiering a new series about them, called *Extreme Couponing*, on April 6. Chrystie Corns, 33, started using coupons after she and her husband split. "I didn't think coupons were sexy or cool," she admits, "but I needed to stay afloat. Coupons are addictive!

When you get \$100 worth of stuff for \$2, it's an adrenaline rush."

They're hoarding groceries

Of course, as with any addiction, the drive to save ever-increasing amounts of cash can take a toll. Chrystie — coincidentally, the older sister of new Bachelorette Ashley Hebert — admits that she can't go even an hour without thinking about either couponing or her



99 PERCENT OFF!

"I spend \$160 a month for a family of six," brags Jessica. "My teen stepsons think it's so cool."



SHE STOCK-PILES STUFF

"Right now I have 37 toothpastes," admits Chrystie, "66 rolls of paper towels and 30 boxes of cereal."

bargain-obsessed blog, ilovetogossip.com. "I'm probably spending 20 to 25 hours a week on this," she says.

Another downside? Chrystie's spoils sometimes threaten to take over her whole apartment. It's a problem that fellow coupon fan Jessica Hacker also deals with. "I store items all over the place," the 25-year-old reports. "The area underneath my daughter's bed is

completely packed with crackers and barbecue sauce!"

Nevertheless, none of these women are considering quitting. "I make more money couponing than I did working," says Jessica, a stay-at-home mom. "My friends think I'm crazy, but they also see the benefits." And she gets a thrill out of showing off her haul after a big shopping trip. "I'm like the cat that got the mouse!"