

Step into the Unknown To Live your Extraordinary Dream

I was on the phone talking to the realtor as he told me the price of the home that I had driven past earlier that morning. I laughed nervously when he revealed the price to me. “Well, do you have anything in a more affordable price range?” I asked. He responded, “Actually, we do have a house near that side of town that just recently had the price reduced.” He went on to describe the house and location in greater details. I was familiar with the neighborhood he was describing. I said, “I’d love to check it out. Can I meet you there in a couple of hours?” He eagerly agreed.

I hung up the phone, my heart beating fast. What in the heck was I doing, I wondered. I didn’t have enough money to buy a house. Was I out of my mind?!

My mind flashed back to two weeks earlier. I had just broken up with a boyfriend that I had been with for over three years. After the break up, a strange thought kept going through my mind—I just hope he doesn’t buy a house. I wondered why I was so concerned about him buying a house. I realized that if he went out and bought a house, to me it meant that he was moving on and improving his life without me. I realized that my concerns about him moving on and buying a house was my intuition telling me that this was something *I* needed to do.

I didn’t have a clue as to how to go about buying a house. On top of that, I was pretty certain I didn’t have enough money to follow through with my crazy idea, but I decided that I would trust my strong desire to buy a home.

In 2001, homes were being snatched up within days of being listed. I remember saying out loud to myself, “If I’m going to follow through on this crazy idea to buy a home, it has to happen easily—I don’t want to feel pressured or driven.” I didn’t realize at the time that I was making a declaration. I had declared out loud a future that I wanted to bring into existence even though I had no idea how I was going to go about achieving it.

When I met the realtor at the house a few hours later, I knew in my heart that I wanted to buy it. It was cute and charming. Three bedrooms, hardwood floors, next to a trail system, green space, quiet neighborhood. I told him that I was ready to make an offer on it. We made plans to meet the next day to draw up the offer. That evening I went for a walk on one of the trails near the house. I remember walking and looking up at the clouds. I said a prayer out loud, “God, I really want to buy this house. It feels right to me. It just does. I have no idea how I’m going to do it. But I trust that you will show me the way because it feels so right to me.”

The next day the realtor asked me what price I wanted to offer. I told him. He did a double take and said, “Are you sure you want to offer that amount? The sellers just lowered the price and your offer is \$8,000 under their new listed price—I mean it’s a

sellers market, after all.” I replied, “No, it feels right to me. I’m going to stick with my price.”

One day later he called to tell me that several other offers had been put in at the same time as mine. The other offers that came in were for full price and even above price. But, for reasons unknown to me, the sellers had accepted *my* offer!

What a phenomenal experience. I remember going for walks and feeling anxiety about taking on such a huge loan. But even though I was afraid, every time I got quiet and checked in with myself, I just knew it was the right thing for me to do.

It was amazing to me how situations fell into place after making the commitment to buy the house. After discovering that I was \$2,000 short for the closing costs, I called a longtime friend of mine and asked him if he would be willing to loan me the difference. Without skipping a beat, he said, “Leslie, how much money do you need? I’ll get out my checkbook and loan you the money right now.”

It’s interesting how many people I’ve come across who have made the decision not to follow their dreams simply because they don’t know how their decision will turn out. They’re afraid of stepping beyond their warm, familiar comfort zone. And yet, the more I follow my own intuition and dreams, I continue to be amazed by how things unfold once I step into commitment and action.

Live and Love Richly Action Steps

1. Notice if you experience a sense of inner “rightness” about some decision you are contemplating. I knew that I felt pulled to own a home. Instead of listening to my rational mind and dismissing it as impossible (like many of us do) I trusted my desire to have a home. I listened to that desire and allowed it into the realm of possibility.

2. Don’t allow your fear to hold you back. “I can’t change jobs, I have to stay where I am.” “I’d love to be a writer but I don’t have enough time to write a book.” “I can’t achieve my existing vision for my business, because it’s way too big and impossible.” “I can’t get out of debt, because I’m drowning in it and there’s just no way out.” Many of us won’t take action until we have some great guarantee that everything will work out. But in truth, we are thwarting the creative process when we do things this way. This keeps countless people discounting their dreams and goals. When we listen to our fears, we continue to recreate our past instead of moving into a powerful and exciting future.

3. When we make a commitment to our vision, things begin to unfold that would have never otherwise been revealed. In truth, the only way to allow a vision to unfold is to make a commitment to pursuing it. We can’t sit around and wait for things to change. Unforeseen possibilities and opportunities present themselves only after we’ve stepped into our commitment. The reason possibilities don’t present is because we’re still standing in the doorway of our fear—instead of walking through the door.

4. This process is absolutely essential for anyone wanting to do something new. I really encourage you to engage in this powerful creative process. It doesn't matter what your circumstances are—the process is the same. Don't wait until you read another book on how to make some change in your life. Commit to doing it, and your own unique steps will be revealed.

Integrate these powerful steps and begin to take action towards creating your extraordinary today—it truly is a transformational experience.