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**Foreword**

This volume features a selection of the world’s most inspiring stories

to move the body and soul. Inspire your readers with these tales of

courage and bravery so that they can have a breakthrough in their

own struggles, no matter where they are.

Featured in this massive book are tales of people overcoming

extraordinary hardship and achieving breakthroughs in their lives.

Their strength and courage serve as a source of inspiration and

motivation for us all.

***The Big Book Of Inspiring Stories -***

***A Powerful Collection Of Tales Of Courage that Inspires***

***and Strengthens The Soul***

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**Chapter 1:**

***Success Stories Of Great People And Inspiring Leaders***

**Thomas Alva Edison** is one of America's most famous inventors.

Edison saw huge change take place in his lifetime. He was responsible

for making many of those changes occur. His inventions created and

contributed to modern night lights, movies, telephones, records and

CDs. Edison was truly a genius.

Edison is most famous for his development of the first electric

light bulb. When Edison was born, electricity had not been developed.

By the time he died, entire cities were lit by electricity. Much of the

credit for electricity goes to Edison.

Some of his inventions were improvements on other inventions,

like the telephone. Some of his inventions he deliberately tried to

invent, like the light bulb and the movie projector. But some

inventions he stumbled upon, like the phonograph. Of all his

inventions, Edison was most proud of the phonograph.

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Edison invented and improved upon things that transformed

our world. Some things he invented by himself. Some things he

invented with other people. Just about all his inventions are things we

still use in some form today. Throughout his life, Edison tried to

invent things that everyone could use.

Edison created the world's first "invention factory". He and his

partners invented, built and shipped the product - all in the same

complex. This was a new way to do business. Today many businesses

have copied Edison's invention factory design.

A business friend once asked Edison about the secret to his success.

Edison replied, "Genius is hard work, stick-to-itiveness, and common

sense". But his "common sense" was very uncommon. More patents

were issued to Edison than have been issued to any other single

person in U.S. history: 1,093.

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**Beethoven** was born on 16th, December, 1770 in Bonn of Germany.

His father was a singer in local palace choir. Beethoven's father was a

very common person and he was addicted to gambling. However, his

mother was a fairly kind-hearted and gentle female. She married an

assistant as her first marriage and married to Beethoven's father

when her ex-husband died.

Beethoven didn't have access to go to school for the reason that his

family was very poor. Nevertheless, he had a special feeling of music

when he was very young. His father wanted to make use of his

potential to make a big fortune. As a result, Beethoven had to practice

playing clavicorn and violin day and night under his father's pressure.

Beethoven had a performance on a stage for the first time when he

was only seven years old and he made a huge success. Some famous

musicians considered him as the second Mozart. Beethoven learned

how to compose music from Nifo and published his first work named

Concerto in A minor when he was 11. He went to Vienna to learn how

to compose music from Mozart and Haydn.

It seems that he would have a fairly bright future when Beethoven

received the first success in 1800. Nevertheless, he was troubled with

a terrible matter for years at that time. He found that he has became a

deaf person. There couldn't be anything more terrible than that for a

musician. He sank into a blue mood for a long time as a consequence.

Beethoven has an enthusiastic heart all the time. But his enthusiasm

was often unfortunate. He often tolerated both hope and enthusiasm,

disappointment and resistance. There was no doubt that all of these

emotions had become his unique source of creation. He fell in love

with Julia in 1801 and composed a music named Moonlight for her

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specifically. To his disappointed, she couldn't understand his noble

soul and refused him. Beethoven was upset and despairing for that

and married a comte before long. It was the most hopeless moment

for him and once a time, he wrote down a paper of posthumous

papers.

He came to life in 1803 and composed some bright and warm music

such as The Second Symphonies. From then on, several more

beautiful and marvelous music were produced. Some of them are

fairly famous and I think you must have heard about them such as

The Eroica and The Storm.

Beethoven finished his masterpiece named The Ninth Symphonies in

1823. This piece of work expressed his world in his dream.

He suffered from pulmonary edema in Dec.1826, which was resulted

from a bad influenza. He passed away on 26th, March, 1827 for the

reason of suffering from hepatopathy.

It is said that the day on which Beethoven died was raining heavily

and storming seriously. It seems that even the God grieved over his

death.

Beethoven's funeral was fairly solemn and grand. It is estimated that

over 20 thousand people presented his funeral.

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**Mother Teresa -** This great personality was born in Albania. Right

from the age of 18, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, popularly known as

mother Teresa, was into spirituality. It was in the year 1931, when this

young girl with a golden heart, acquired the name Teresa from the

French nun Thérèse Martin. In 1937, she took vows and began

teaching in Saint Mary's High School in Calcutta.

In 1948, she got another opportunity from God to serve the society.

The same year, mother Teresa was relieved by Pope Pious XII from

her services and she was granted the status of an independent nun.

And thereafter, she got engrossed with the task of serving the poor

and sick people of Calcutta. The coming years witnessed the setting

up of a charity organization called the Missionaries of Charity. In

1950, her source of concern was the care of lepers, the people

discarded by society.

Missionary of Charity opened its branches in almost every country to

assist the poor, elderly, blind and people suffering from deadly

disease like AIDS. For the bright future of children, she opened up

schools. In 1979, she was awarded with Nobel Prize for the services

that she had rendered to the society. But the journey of this great

messiah on earth ended in August 1997, when she made her way

towards the heaven.

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**Michael Jordan** is one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

Although, a summary of his basketball career and influence on the

game inevitably fails to do it justice, as a phenomenal athlete with a

unique combination of fundamental soundness, grace, speed, power,

artistry, improvisational ability and an unquenchable competitive

desire, Jordan single-handedly redefined the NBA superstar.

Even contemporaneous superstars recognized the unparalleled

position of Jordan. Magic Johnson said, "There's Michael Jordan and

then there is the rest of us." Larry Bird, following a playoff game

where Jordan dropped 63 points on the Boston Celtics in just his

second season, appraisal of the young player was: "God disguised as

Michael Jordan.

A brief listing of his top accomplishments would include the

following: Rookie of the Year; Five-time NBA MVP; Six-time NBA

champion; Six-time NBA Finals MVP; Ten-time All-NBA First Team;

Nine time NBA All-Defensive First Team; Defensive Player of the

Year; 14-time NBA All-Star; Three-time NBA All-Star MVP; 50th

Anniversary All-Time Team; Ten scoring titles -- an NBA record and

seven consecutive matching Wilt Chamberlain; Retired with the

NBA's highest scoring average of 30.1ppg.

Michael Jordan makes the jump shot that catapults the Bulls over the

Utah Jazz in the 1998 Finals. However, his impact is far greater than

awards and championships. He burst into the league as a rookie

sensation scoring in droves with an unmatchable first step and

acrobatic drives and dunks and concluded his career as a cultural

icon. Along the way, he became a true champion who spearheaded the

globalization of the NBA with his dynamic on court abilities and

personal sense of style that was marketed to the masses.

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He was an accessible star who managed to maintain an air of

mystique. He was visible as "Air Jordan," as part of a sneaker

advertising campaign and endorsing other products as well as the star

of the movie, Space Jam. However, he would vanish into retirement

twice only to return until hanging up the sneakers for the last time

after the 2002-03 season.

Although Brooklyn born, Jordan was bred in the more tranquil North

Carolina. The son of Delores and James Jordan, he shared a special

bond with his father, which included baseball being both of their first

love. However, following his older brother, Larry, whom he idolized

and was a spectacular athlete in his own right, Jordan began to play

basketball.

Jordan, coming off a gold medal performance at the 1984 Olympics

prospered in the pro game with a fabulous first season, earning the

NBA Rookie of the Year Award. He averaged 28.2 ppg, (third behind

Bernard King and Bird) 6.5 rpg and 5.9 apg. He also was selected to

the All-NBA Second Team. Perhaps more important, the Bulls

improved to win 11 more games than in the season prior to his arrival

and made it to the playoffs. Jordan averaged 29.3 ppg in the first

round series, but the Bulls lost in four games to the Milwaukee Bucks.

In his first season, he did not have outstanding shooting range and

was thought to roam to often on defense resulting from playing

trapping defenses in college according to his first NBA coach, Kevin

Loughery. Yet, his medium game -- eight to 15-feet from the basket

was impressive as evidenced by his .515 field-goal shooting

percentage and his steals tended to compensate for his less than

stellar straight-up defense. Improvement in both areas would come

and he would ultimately be regarded as threat from anywhere on the

floor and one of the best ever one-on-one defenders.

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"There's Michael Jordan and then there is the rest of us."

-- Magic Johnson

Even in the exhibition season before his rookie campaign, players and

coaches were sure that the Rockets and Blazers would regret their

picks. King, the eventual leading scorer for that upcoming season,

seemed sure as well when he spoke to Hoop magazine after a 1984

preseason game.

"All I can say," King says, "is that the people in Chicago are in for a

real treat."

He was right. Jordan's greatness and likeabilty was apparent in just

his first season. Home attendance at the venerable Chicago Stadium

and on the road rose dramatically. Fans of opposing teams were

seemingly content to see their team lose if in return Jordan put on

show.

Jordan's personal style was equally authentic and unique as his

basketball skills. Nike signed him to a major shoe deal because of his

anticipated appeal, but he surpassed even the loftiest of expectations.

One version of the sneakers he wore in his first preseason was an

unseen before blend of his team's red and black colors that the NBA

initially considered in violation of the "uniformity of uniform rule."

Subject to fines if he continued to wear them, he occasionally did and

the demand for that version and others in the Air Jordan line was

unprecedented.

The rookie's mesmerizing effect was even suggested to have extended

to referees as it was said that he was getting veteran preferential

treatment allowing him to take that additional step on route to the

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basket rather than being whistle for a travelling violation. Many

assessed that he eluded defenders so easily that he had to be

travelling. However, video break down established that his first step

was just so quick and that he was not in violation of the rulebook.

Despite all the attention, Jordan retained a sense of humility. He did

not ridicule the Blazers for not taking him. Early on in his first

season, he told Sports Illustrated, "He [Bowie] fits in better than I

would. They have an overabundance of big guards and small

forwards." His self-effacement was more apparent when in that same

article he said, "I'd like to play in at least one All-Star game."

Three games into his second season, he broke a bone in his left foot.

He was voted to the All-Star team but could not play as he was

sidelined for 64 games. However, he came back late in the year to

score a NBA playoff-record 63 points in a first-round game against

the Celtics. The Bulls lost that game 132-131 in double-overtime and

the series in a sweep, but Jordan averaged 43.7 ppg in the series. If

there were any doubters to that point about Jordan's ability, surely

there were no more.

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The success story behind Berkshire Hathaway's **Warren Buffett**---

who is also the company's largest shareholder and CEO---spans back

to his years packing groceries at his grandfather's grocery store.

Buffet showed maturity beyond his years when he decided that he

would rather make money than play games with the other children

his age.

Born Warren Edward Buffett on August 30, 1930 to a stockbroker-

turned-Congressman, it is no wonder that Buffett showed an amazing

flair for business and numbers at such an early age. At 11 years old, he

jumped into the world of high finance by buying three shares of Cities

Service that he later sold. He immediate regretted the decision as the

numbers for Cities Service soared. Buffett learned his lessons earlier

than most, paving the way for the plethora of critical real-world

decisions he was going to make.

Warren Buffett was educated at Woodrow Wilson High School,

Washington, D.C. after his father was elected into Congress. He

received his college education at The Wharton School, University of

Pennsylvania then later at the University of Nebraska where he

received a B.S. in Economics. Choosing to further his education,

Buffett enrolled at the Columbia Business School where he graduated

in 1951 with an M.S. in Economics.

Warren Buffett experienced a variety of jobs before he landed himself

at Berkshire Hathaway. Fresh out of school, he worked as an

investment salesman at Buffett-Falk & Co., Omaha until 1954. From

1954 to 1956, Buffett served at Graham-Newman Corp., New York as

a Securities Analyst. From 1956-1969, he sat as a General Partner at

the Buffett Partnership, Ltd. Since 1970, Buffet has served at

Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Omaha as its Chairman and CEO.

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Berkshire Hathaway Inc. is a conglomerate holding company that

oversees and manages a number of subsidiary companies. Since

coming onboard, Buffet has been instrumental in driving the

company to the colossal status it stands at today.

In 2008, Warren Buffet was ranked number one on Forbes list of

World's Billionaires making this the richest success story in the

world.

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Bill Gates was born on October 28, 1955 in a family having rich

business, political and community service background. His great-

grandfather was a state legislator and a mayor, his grandfather was

vice president of national bank and his father was a lawyer.

Bill strongly believes in hard work. He believes that if you are

intelligent and know how to apply your intelligence, you can achieve

anything. From childhood Bill was ambitious, intelligent and

competitive. These qualities helped him to attain top position in the

profession he chose. In school, he had an excellent record in

mathematics and science. Still he was getting very bored in school

and his parents knew it, so they always tried to feed him with more

information to keep him busy. Bill’s parents came to know their son's

intelligence and decided to enroll him in a private school, known for

its intense academic environment. It was a very important decision in

Bill Gate's life where he was first introduced to a computer. Bill Gates

and his friends were very much interested in computer and formed

"Programmers Group" in late 1968. Being in this group, they found a

new way to apply their computer skill in university of Washington. In

the next year, they got their first opportunity in Information Sciences

Inc. in which they were selected as programmers. ISI (Information

Sciences Inc.) agreed to give them royalties whenever it made money

from any of the group’s program. As a result of the business deal

signed with Information Sciences Inc., the group also became a legal

business.

Bill Gates and his close friend Allen started new company of their

own, Traf-O-Data. They developed a small computer to measure

traffic flow. From this project they earned around $20,000. The era

of Traf-O-Data came to an end when Gates left the college. In 1973, he

left home for Harvard University. He didn’t know what to do, so he

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enrolled his name for pre-law. He took the standard freshman

courses with the exception of signing up for one of Harvard's toughest

mathematics courses. He did well over there, but he couldn’t find it

interesting too. He spent many long nights in front of the school's

computer and the next day asleep in class. After leaving school, he

almost lost himself from the world of computers. Gates and his friend

Paul Allen remained in close contact even though they were away

from school. They would often discuss new ideas for future projects

and the possibility of starting a business one fine day. At the end of

Bill's first year, Allen came close to him so that they could follow

some of their ideas. That summer they got job in Honeywell. Allen

kept on pushing Bill for opening a new software company.

Within a year, Bill Gates dropped out from Harvard. Then he formed

Microsoft. Microsoft's vision is "A computer on every desk and

Microsoft software on every computer". Bill is a visionary person and

works very hard to achieve his vision. His belief in high intelligence

and hard work has put him where he is today. He does not believe in

mere luck or God’s grace, but just hard work and competitiveness.

Bill’s Microsoft is good competition for other software companies and

he will continue to stomp out the competition until he dies. He likes

to play the game of Risk and the game of world domination. His

beliefs are so powerful, which have helped him increase his wealth

and his monopoly in the industry.

Bill Gates is not a greedy person. In fact, he is quite giving person

when it comes to computers, internet and any kind of funding. Some

years back, he visited Chicago's Einstein Elementary School and

announced grants benefiting Chicago's schools and museums where

he donated a total of $110,000, a bunch of computers, and provided

internet connectivity to number of schools. Secondly, Bill Gates

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donated 38 million dollars for the building of a computer institute at

Stanford University. Gates plans to give away 95% of all his earnings

when he is old and gray.

Bill Gates from this story may seem a superhero and do it alone guy

but in reality, he is not. He was able to achieve it because of the kind

of people that he choose to mingle with.

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**Chapter 2:**

***Overcoming Adversity***

**Oprah Winfrey -** No one ever blames Oprah Winfrey for taking

some easy way out. Although her childhood was full of toil, this

young girl from Kosciusko, Mississippi always believed she was

destined to be someone great.

Maybe it was from her life background in a village that she learned “to

turn misery into wisdom” as she stated later. And her misery was not

just a few. She was born as she resulted of a free intercourse between

her mother and a service man who then left her. First Oprah was

brought up by her grandmother in a pig farm with no running water

facility. She then lived with her mother who moved to Milwaukee

where she was sexually abused for the first time by a friend of her

family and her own relative. Oprah grew up into a rebellious teenager,

at 14 years old she lived in a bad surroundings and gave birth to a

male baby that died a week later. Loosing her patience, Oprah’s

mother sent her to live with her father – a man she never knew

before.

But it was by living with her father that she eventually got the

discipline she needed to turn her outstanding intelligence into its

right track. She was doing well at school and was known for her smart

talking. She joined a local beauty contest and won a scholarship in

Tennessee State University. She began to study broadcast

communication and got a part time job as a reporter in Nashville TV

station.

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Suddenly it looked like nothing could ever stop the strides of this

young girl she once was a naughty girl. Oprah left school at the age as

young as 19 years old to become the first Afro-American woman

broadcaster in Nashville. She wrestled with this job for three years

before she took another job in Baltimore Broadcasting Station –

where there were larger market segment and greater prestige and

challenge as well. This step later proved to be the biggest blessing in

disguise mistake Oprah had made.

Oprah was usually calm and self controlled in her previous job, but

now she looked so exhausted. She forgot to read the text copy prior to

her appearance before the camera. She misspelled “blasé” and

misplaced Barbados to be somewhere in California and made a small

laugh at that incident. She interviewed a fire victim with such style as

asking “How did you feel after the ordeal?” then wept in front of the

camera and apologized for exploiting woman’s emotion.

The station management did not appreciate her attitude in front of

the camera and they didn’t like her appearance either. They

complained about her hair style, her big nose and the distance

between her eyes. Tempted to glamorize her appearance, they sent

her to a good salon in New York which did a disastrous remodeling

that made her fair fall off. Failing to find a suitable wig, she managed

to appear on the camera (then she said: “You will learn a lot about

yourself if you are baldheaded, a black and a news broadcaster in

Baltimore”)

In one year her glory was to be unpredictably coming. The station had

had enough of this new figure. They decided she just didn’t fit to TV

news broadcasting job. But to avoid breaking her contract, they

choose not to fire her but lowered her position from broadcaster to

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presenter of a talk show for housewives called “People Are Talking”

run at daytime.

Oprah said, “Failure is the way God chooses to remind you that you

are on the wrong track”. But clearly she is now on the right track

about her first day on the talk show “it is like a breath of relief, and it

is exactly what you must feel”. The show was a prime show and most

of the audience were women who found themselves reflected in the

figure of that simple, direct, funny and human presenter.

Seven years later, Oprah’s show attracted a station in Chicago and she

was offered to move there to direct the A. M. Chicago show. In a

month, she made that show the most loveable show. In 1985 the show

was further developed and given a new name: The Oprah Winfrey

Show and is now nationally broadcasted.

During more than 15 years of unpredicted success, Oprah keep

sharing many things, including her own struggle and success affairs:

going on a diet against too much food and fat (she eventually got her

ideal weight), a law suit by a ranch owner (which she won), the “TV

Garbage” program which dominates her market segment (she soared

up and achieved highest rating). Even after all she had been through,

she refused to see her failures as mistakes. “I don’t believe in failure”

Oprah said. “It is not a failure if you enjoy the process”.

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Once upon a time, a farmer owned an old mule who tripped and fell

into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule braying and was

unable to figure out how to bring up the old animal. It grieved him

that he could not pull the animal out. He'd been a good worker

around the farm. Although the farmer sympathized with the mule, he

called his neighbors together and told them what had happened. He

had them help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and quietly

put him out of his misery.

At first, the old mule was puzzled, but as the farmer and his neighbors

continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, he had a thought: he

ought to shake off the dirt and step up. And he did just that.

"Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and

step up." Even though he took painful blows of dirt and fought panic,

he just kept right on shaking it off and stepping up!

It wasn't long before the old mule stepped up and over the lip of that

well. What could have buried him actually blessed him...all because of

the manner in which he handled his adversity.

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Once upon a time, a daughter complained to her father that her life

was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it.

She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as

one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with

water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to

boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and

ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil,

without saying a word to his daughter.

The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he

was doing. After twenty minutes, he turned off the burners. He took

the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the

eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and

placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked, "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer”, he said, "and touched the potatoes”. She did and noted

that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the

shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile

to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

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He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs, and coffee beans had

each faced the same adversity, the boiling water. However, each one

reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water

it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile with the thin outer shell

protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then

the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were

exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created

something new.

"Which are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on

your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee

bean?"

In life, things happen around us and things happen to us, but the only

thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

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When things go wrong as they sometimes will

When the road you're trudging seems all up hill.

When funds are low and the debts are high.

And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.

When care is pressing you down a bit.

Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns.

As everyone of us sometimes learns.

And many a failure turns about

When he might have won had he stuck it out.

Don't give up though the pace seems slow -

You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out -

The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.

And you never can tell how close you are.

It may be near when it seems so far:

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit

It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

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People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you do good, people accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

If you are successful, you win false and true enemies.

SUCCEED ANYWAY.

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY.

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight.

BUILD ANYWAY.

People really need help but may attack you if you help them.

HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY.

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An elderly couple retired to the countryside to a small isolated cottage

overlooking some rugged and rocky heathland.

One early morning, the woman saw from her window a young man

dressed in working clothes walking on the heath about a hundred

yards away. He was carrying a spade and a small case and he

disappeared from view behind a copse of trees.

The woman thought no more about it but around the same time the

next day she saw the man again, carrying his spade and a small case,

and again he disappeared behind the copse.

The woman mentioned this to her husband who said he was probably

a farmer or gamekeeper setting traps, or performing some other

country practice that would be perfectly normal, and so not to worry.

However, after several more sightings of the young man with the

spade over the next two weeks, the woman persuaded her husband to

take a stroll - early, before the man tended to arrive - to the copse of

trees to investigate what he was doing.

There they found a surprisingly long and deep trench, rough and

uneven at one end, becoming much neater and tidier towards the

other end.

"How strange," the old lady said, "Why dig a trench here...and in such

difficult rocky ground?" and her husband agreed.

Just then the young man appeared earlier than his usual time.

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"You're early," said the old woman, making light of their obvious

curiosity, "We wondered what you were doing and we also wondered

what was in the case."

"I'm digging a trench," said the man who continued, realizing a bigger

explanation was appropriate. "I'm actually learning how to dig a good

trench because the job I'm being interviewed for later today says that

experience is essential, so I'm getting the experience. And the

case...it's got my lunch in it."

He got the job.

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**DETERMINATON**

In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an

idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with the Long

Island. However bridge building experts throughout the world

thought that this was an impossible feat and told Roebling to forget

the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never

been done before.

Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge.

He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it

could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else.

After much discussion and persuasion he managed to convince his

son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge in fact

could be built.

Working together for the first time, the father and son developed

concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could

be overcome. With great excitement and inspiration, and the

headiness of a wild challenge before them, they hired their crew and

began to build their dream bridge.

The project started well, but when it was only a few months underway

a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling.

Washington was injured and left with a certain amount of brain

damage, which resulted in him not being able to walk or talk or even

move.

"We told them so."

"Crazy men and their crazy dreams."

"It`s foolish to chase wild visions."

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Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt that the project

should be scrapped since the Roebling’s were the only ones who knew

how the bridge could be built. In spite of his handicap Washington

was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the

bridge and his mind was still as sharp as ever.

He tried to inspire and pass on his enthusiasm to some of his friends,

but they were too daunted by the task. As he lay on his bed in his

hospital room, with the sunlight streaming through the windows, a

gentle breeze blew the flimsy white curtains apart and he was able to

see the sky and the tops of the trees outside for just a moment.

It seemed that there was a message for him not to give up. Suddenly

an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger and he decided

to make the best use of it. By moving this, he slowly developed a code

of communication with his wife.

He touched his wife's arm with that finger, indicating to her that he

wanted her to call the engineers again. Then he used the same

method of tapping her arm to tell the engineers what to do. It seemed

foolish but the project was under way again.

For 13 years Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger

on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today the

spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands in all its glory as a tribute to the

triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to

be defeated by circumstances. It is also a tribute to the engineers and

their team work, and to their faith in a man who was considered mad

by half the world. It stands too as a tangible monument to the love

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and devotion of his wife who for 13 long years patiently decoded the

messages of her husband and told the engineers what to do.

Perhaps this is one of the best examples of a never-say-die attitude

that overcomes a terrible physical handicap and achieves an

impossible goal.

Often when we face obstacles in our day-to-day life, our hurdles seem

very small in comparison to what many others have to face. The

Brooklyn Bridge shows us that dreams that seem impossible can be

realized with determination and persistence, no matter what the odds

are.

Even the most distant dream can be realized with determination and

persistence.

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**Chapter 3:**

***Timeless Inspirational Tales***

**Generosity**

Mahatma Gandhi went from city to city, village to village collecting

funds for the Charkha Sangh. During one of his tours he addressed a

meeting in Orissa. After his speech a poor old woman got up. She was

bent with age, her hair was grey and her clothes were in tatters. The

volunteers tried to stop her, but she fought her way to the place where

Gandhiji was sitting. "I must see him," she insisted and going up to

Gandhiji touched his feet. Then from the folds of her sari she brought

out a copper coin and placed it at his feet. Gandhiji picked up the

copper coin and put it away carefully. The Charkha Sangh funds were

under the charge of Jamnalal Bajaj. He asked Gandhiji for the coin

but Gandhiji refused. "I keep cheques worth thousands of rupees for

the Charkha Sangh," Jamnalal Bajaj said laughingly "yet you won't

trust me with a copper coin." "This copper coin is worth much more

than those thousands," Gandhiji said. "If a man has several lakhs and

he gives away a thousand or two, it doesn't mean much. But this coin

was perhaps all that the poor woman possessed. She gave me all she

had. That was very generous of her. What a great sacrifice she made.

That is why I value this copper coin more than a crore of rupees." to

rejoice about.

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**The Window**

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One

man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour a day to drain the

fluids from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window.

The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and

families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military

service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when

the man in the bed next to the window could sit up, he would pass the

time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside

the window.

The man in the other bed would live for those one-hour periods where

his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and

color of the outside world. The window overlooked a park with a

lovely lake, the man had said. Ducks and swans played on the water

while children sailed their model boats. Lovers walked arm in arm

amid flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the

landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the

distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite

detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and

imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade

passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he

could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window

portrayed it with descriptive words. Unexpectedly, an alien thought

entered his head: Why should he have all the pleasure of seeing

everything while I never get to see anything? It didn't seem fair. As

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the thought fermented, the man felt ashamed at first. But as the days

passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into

resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and found

himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window - and that

thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window

began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other

man watched in the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the

window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across

the room, he never moved, never pushed his own button, which

would have brought the nurse running. In less than five minutes, the

coughing and choking stopped, along with the sound of breathing.

Now, there was only silence--deathly silence.

The following morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their

baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window,

she was saddened and called the hospital attendant to take it away--

no words, no fuss. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the man asked if

he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make

the switch and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him

alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his

first look. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He

strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced

a blank wall.

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Moral of the story:

The pursuit of happiness is a matter of choice...it is a positive attitude

we consciously choose to express. It is not a gift that gets delivered to

our doorstep each morning, nor does it come through the window.

And I am certain that our circumstances are just a small part of what

makes us joyful. If we wait for them to get just right, we will never

find lasting joy.

The pursuit of happiness is an inward journey. Our minds are like

programs, awaiting the code that will determine behaviors; like bank

vaults awaiting our deposits. If we regularly deposit positive,

encouraging, and uplifting thoughts, if we continue to bite our lips

just before we begin to grumble and complain, if we shoot down that

seemingly harmless negative thought as it germinates, we will find

that there is much.

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**The Starfish**

There was a man taking a morning walk at or the beach. He saw that

along with the morning tide came hundreds of starfish and when the

tide receded, they were left behind and with the morning sun rays,

they would die. The tide was fresh and the starfish were alive. The

man took a few steps, picked one and threw it into the water. He did

that repeatedly. Right behind him there was another person who

couldn't understand what this man was doing. He caught up with him

and asked, "What are you doing? There are hundreds of starfish. How

many can you help? What difference does it make?" This man did not

reply, took two more steps, picked up another one, threw it into the

water, and said, "It makes a difference to this one."

Unconditional Love - motivating story

A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after

having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco.

"Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've a favor to ask. I have a

friend I'd like to bring home with me."

"Sure," they replied, "we'd love to meet him."

"There's something you should know the son continued, "he was hurt

pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mind and lost an

arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live

with us."

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and

encourage you to succeed they lend an ear, they share a word of

praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

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**Don’t We All?**

I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. I had just come

from the car wash and was waiting for my wife to get out of work.

Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would

consider a bum. From the looks of him, he had no car, no home, no

clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous

but there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This

was one of those "don't want to be bothered times."

"I hope he doesn't ask me for any money," I thought.

He didn't.

He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop but he didn't look

like he could have enough money to even ride the bus.

After a few minutes he spoke.

"That's a very pretty car," he said.

He was ragged but he had an air of dignity around him. His scraggly

blond beard keep more than his face warm.

I said, "thanks," and continued wiping off my car.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never

came.

As the silence between us widened something inside said, "ask him if

he needs any help." I was sure that he would say "yes" but I held true

to the inner voice.

"Do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never

forget.

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We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it

from those of higher learning and accomplishments.

I expected nothing but an outstretched grimy hand. He spoke the

three words that shook me.

"Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a bum

in the street, until those three words hit me like a twelve gauge

shotgun.

Don't we all?

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed

help. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus

fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those

three little words still ring true. No matter how much you have, no

matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too. No

matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with

problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can give help.

Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that. You never know

when you may see someone that appears to have it all. They are

waiting on you to give them what they don't have. A different

perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from

daily chaos, which only you through a torn world can see. Maybe the

man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets. Maybe he

was more than that.

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Maybe he was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a

soul too comfortable in themselves.

Maybe God looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum,

then said, "go minister to that man cleaning the car, that man needs

help."

Don't we all?

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**How would you like to be remembered?**

About a hundred years ago, a man looked at the morning newspaper

and to his surprise and horror, read his name in the obituary column.

The news papers had reported the death of the wrong person by

mistake. His first response was shock. Am I here or there? When he

regained his composure, his second thought was to find out what

people had said about him. The obituary read, "Dynamite King Dies."

And also "He was the merchant of death." This man was the inventor

of dynamite and when he read the words "merchant of death," he

asked himself a question, "Is this how I am going to be remembered?"

He got in touch with his feelings and decided that this was not the

way he wanted to be remembered. From that day on, he started

working toward peace. His name was Alfred Nobel and he is

remembered today by the great Nobel Prize.

Just as Alfred Nobel got in touch with his feelings and redefined his

values, we should step back and do the same.

What is your legacy?

How would you like to be remembered?

Will you be spoken well of?

Will you be remembered with love and respect?

Will you be missed?

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**The Midas Touch**

We all know the story of the greedy king named Midas. He had a lot

of gold and the more he had the more he wanted. He stored all the

gold in his vaults and used to spend time every day counting it.

One day while he was counting a stranger came from nowhere and

said he would grant him a wish. The king was delighted and said, "I

would like everything I touch to turn to gold." The stranger asked the

king, Are you sure?" The king replied, "Yes." So the stranger said,

"Starting tomorrow morning with the sun rays you will get the golden

touch." The king thought he must be dreaming, this couldn't be true.

But the next day when he woke up, he touched the bed, his clothes,

and everything turned to gold. He looked out of the window and saw

his daughter playing in the garden. He decided to give her a surprise

and thought she would be happy. But before he went to the garden he

decided to read a book. The moment he touched it, it turned into gold

and he couldn't read it. Then he sat to have breakfast and the moment

he touched the fruit and the glass of water, they turned to gold. He

was getting hungry and he said to himself, "I can't eat and drink

gold”. Just about that time his daughter came running and he hugged

her and she turned into a gold statue. There were no more smiles left.

The king bowed his head and started crying. The stranger who gave

the wish came again and asked the king if he was happy with his

golden touch. The king said he was the most miserable man. The

stranger asked, "What would you rather have, your food and loving

daughter or lumps of gold and her golden statue?" The king cried and

asked for forgiveness. He said, "I will give up all my gold. Please give

me my daughter back because without her I have lost everything

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worth having." The stranger said to the king, "You have become wiser

than before" and he reversed the spell. He got his daughter back.

**Meaningless Goals**

A farmer had a dog who used to sit by the roadside waiting for

vehicles to come around. As soon as one came he would run down the

road, barking and trying to overtake it. One day a neighbor asked the

farmer "Do you think your dog is ever going to catch a car?" The

farmer replied, "That is not what bothers me. What bothers me is

what he would do if he ever caught one." Many people in life behave

like that dog who is pursuing meaningless goals. in his arms and the

king learned a lesson that he never forget for the rest of his life.

**Which Road**

A man was traveling and stopped at an intersection. He asked an

elderly man, "Where does this road take me?" The elderly person

asked, "Where do you want to go?" The man replied, "I don't know."

The elderly person said, "Then take any road. What difference does it

make?"

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**Chapter 4:**

***Inspirational Women Stories From Around The World***

The what? The Strongwoman competition? **Kara Mann** wasn't what

I expected. Nor did I expect to be so fascinated and so inspired by a

23-year-old. Her look, demeanor and voice were not unlike one of the

cheerleaders she has had to dead-lift in competition. Another

stereotype bites the dust.

In 2004, Kara Mann became the National Strongwoman Champion,

less than two years after first starting to compete in the sport. After

winning that competition again as recently as 2006, she is now a two-

time national champ. Where did she come from and how did she get

there so fast?

A native of Boston, she first got into it through a boyfriend and his

family who encouraged her to give it a try. Her ascent was rapid,

beginning with third place in the Massachusetts state championships.

Mann shook her head when asked if she would have done anything

differently, having been a three-sport athlete in high school where she

succeeded at cross-country, basketball and track and field, and

dabbled in gymnastics, taekwondo and playing the flute.

Today she uses her degree from Vanderbilt in chemical engineering at

her job at General Electric in Cleveland and is learning to juggle her

vocation and her strongwoman hobby. “You can't do it as a career.”

When asked about financial rewards, she laughed. “Sometimes they

give us swords, Samurai swords. Once I did get three hundred dollars,

though.”

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So why would someone so physically strong, athletic and focused

choose this? The well-known health benefits of this level of physical

conditioning aside, “It's a passion. It's a release of energy and stress

for me…and you can't imagine the highs, the empowering feeling you

get after being successful in a competition.”

Asked to describe a typical competition, her eyes light up. “You never

know what to expect.” The unpredictable nature of each competition

holds particular appeal for Mann. What is consistent about the

competitions is that three aspects of skill and strength are always

tested: “overhead,” “grip” (e.g., see how long you can keep two Mini

Cooper cars from rolling) and “back and legs.” In addition, one can

always expect the classic, signature event called Atlas Stones, where

contestants carry large cement stones of varying weight and shape

over to a platform. She once pulled an A-4 military airplane 47 feet in

60 seconds.

A typical week involves strength training each weekday, followed by

“implement” training on the weekends. Implement training zeroes in

on the specific mechanical skills involved in the upcoming events. In

the week preceding an event, the amount of implement training

increases. In all three geographic settings of her life, Boston,

Nashville and now Cleveland, she has connected to a network of

athletes with this pursuit, most of them males, who she refers to as if

they were her brothers.

Just as important as physical preparation is mental preparation. She

is convinced that the quality of her mental focus at the time of her

event is crucial. “You can't be distracted in the least or paying

attention to your opponents.” Mann uses what she calls “angry”

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music, like Disturbed, to get her psyched and ready. “I don't even

know what they're saying.” She attributes her success in putting mind

over matter to her upbringing and to her experience in other sports.

Behind this modest, casual, relaxed demeanor, there lies a woman

with strong opinions about what is wrong with the sport. She laments

that there are but a handful of females who compete consistently. The

corollary to that problem is the lack of financial rewards. She would

like to see the women break off from the male federation, recognizing

a need for more woman-power in the decision-making. She would like

more consistency, predictability and regularity in dates and locations

of competitions.

And perhaps most importantly, she would like to see the sport

regulated. Right now there is no drug-testing whatsoever in either the

male or female milieus. “I really have issues with that, since it

constitutes an uneven playing field.” Mann's goal is to attract other

females to this sport that she loves, and along with that, to inspire

entrants to compete without “supplements.” She even envisions two

separate classes for those who “do” and those who “don't.”

All of these improvements would help to shift strongwoman away

from its entertainment flavor toward its status as a serious “sport.”

You can bet that Kara Mann, at 5'6” and 165 pounds, will be a force in

helping shape the evolution of her sport. She's just that strong.

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Eileen Marie Collins (Colonel, USAF, RET.)

NASA Astronaut

Born November 19, 1956, in Elmira , New York.

Eileen graduated from Elmira Free Academy, Elmira, New York, in

1974 and received an Associate in Science degree in

mathematics/science from Corning Community College in 1976. She

went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and

economics from Syracuse University in 1978. She also has a Master of

Science degree in operations research from Stanford University in

1986 and a Master of Arts degree in space systems management from

Webster University in 1989.

As a small girl she gazed up into the sky and watched the silent birds

(sailplanes) soar through the air, this is where the love affair began.

Eileen grew up in the "Soaring Capital of America." She was

fascinated with flight and knew that one day she wanted to fly. At the

age of 19 she had saved $1,000 and went to her local airport to ask

them to show her how to fly. Her inspiration was fueled by women

pilots and early astronauts.

Through years of education, determination and hard work she has

logged more than 6,751 hours in both the air and space! Eileen joined

the Air Force and began pilot training in 1978, the same year that

NASA opened the Shuttle program to women. She became an official

astronaut in 1991.

Eileen Collins is the first and currently only female Space Shuttle

Commander in history!! Four space flights and 872 hours in space

later Eileen retired from NASA in May 2006.

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**Battling dyslexia**

Rebecca, who I met at a business conference in Las Vegas, is one of

the smartest people I know. Even if you were around her for an entire

day, you probably wouldn’t notice her disability.

“I was born with severe dyslexia,” Rebecca explains. “Due to my

learning disability, I was in special education classes for most of my

elementary and middle school years.”

Despite the challenge, she refused to let dyslexia dictate her life.

Every day, she worked on overcoming her disability with the help of

her parents.

“My dad would spend an hour every morning helping me with math,”

says Rebecca. “In the evenings, my mom would have me read books

out lout and then she would quiz me on the content.”

Rebecca’s hard work paid off. By high school, she had advanced from

special education classes all the way to honors classes. When high

school came to an end, she kept striving.

“When I was a young, no one thought I could ever go to college,” she

confides.

Not only did Rebecca end up going to college, she graduated near the

top of her class. Was her journey over? Hardly.

“I always had a vision,” says Rebecca, “of one day being a lawyer. But

it seemed like such a crazy aspiration that I never told anyone.”

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Today, Rebecca’s vision is a reality. She graduated from law school

and is currently working her way up in one of the largest law firms on

the East Coast.

Rebecca says: “I wouldn’t change a thing. My learning disability still

makes life a challenge but it also gave me the determination to make

my dream come true.”

"Mom, why are you crying?" he asked his mom.

"Because I'm a woman" she told him.

"I don't understand," he said.

His mom just hugged him and said, "and you never will." Later the

little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no

reason?"

"All women cry for no reason" was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women

cry.

Finally he put in a call to GOD. When GOD got on the phone the man

said, "GOD, why do women cry so easily?"

GOD said:

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"When I made women she had to be special. I made her shoulders

strong enough to carry the weight of the world; yet, gentle enough to

give comfort.

I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection

that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone

else gives up and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue

without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all

circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly. This

same sensitivity helps her to make a child's boo-boo feel better and

shares in her teenager’s anxieties and fears.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and

fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife,

but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him

unfalteringly.

I gave her a tear to shed, it's hers exclusively to use whenever it is

needed. It's her only weakness; it's a tear for mankind."

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**Yasmin Waljee, 38, a lawyer, from London**

Yasmin will never meet all the thousands of people she has helped.

But her belief that justice is a right for all - and that the

disadvantaged who can't access a diminishing legal aid system should

be represented for free by some of Britain's top lawyers - drives her

relentlessly on.

Yasmin, is head of Pro Bono - provision of free service by volunteer

lawyers - at top legal firm Lovells.

She helps mastermind 18,000 free hours of legal help a year

worldwide - from victims of domestic violence, victims of terrorist

attacks including the London July 7 bombings, disabled people who

are fighting for Disability Living Allowance and desperate families

facing eviction in East London because they are falling behind with

rent.

While Yasmin - married with a one-year-old son - claims modestly

that all the above is not her work alone, she also tirelessly raises

money for charity: for example, persuading her colleagues to abseil

down their building and arranging a team of lawyers to help clean up

a rundown area of Newham, East London.

Last year, working with a committee of staff, she raised £25,000 for

Save The Children through Legally Ballroom Dancing - an event

which saw 30 lawyers waltzing in front of their colleagues.

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**Chapter 5:**

***Teachings And Lessons From Animals***

A lady takes her pet Chihuahua with her on a safari holiday.

Wandering too far one day the Chihuahua gets lost in the bush, and

soon encounters a very hungry looking leopard. The Chihuahua

realizes he's in trouble, but, noticing some fresh bones on the ground,

he settles down to chew on them, with his back to the big cat. As the

leopard is about to leap, the Chihuahua smacks his lips and exclaims

loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any

more around here."

The leopard stops mid-stride, and slinks away into the trees.

"Phew," says the leopard”, that was close - that evil little dog nearly

had me”.

A monkey nearby sees everything and thinks he'll win a favor by

putting the stupid leopard straight. The Chihuahua sees the monkey

go after the leopard, and guesses he might be up to no good.

When the leopard hears the monkey's story he feels angry at being

made a fool, and offers the monkey a ride back to see him exact his

revenge.

The little dog sees them approaching and fears the worse.

Thinking quickly, the little dog turns his back, pretends not to notice

them, and when the pair are within earshot says aloud, "Now where's

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that monkey got to? I sent him ages ago to bring me another

leopard..."

Two frogs fell into a deep pit, and though they tried very hard they

could not hop out. Their comrades peered down from the top and

croaked in sympathy.

“We feel for you,” they shouted, “but there’s no way you can get out

from there!”

On hearing this, one of the frogs lost heart, and died of fear. The other

frog was deaf. He thought his comrades were shouting

encouragement. Emboldened by their faith in him, he gathered up all

his reserves of energy in one great jump that landed him out of the

pit.

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**Hang on to your own bone**

Fanny the farm dog was pretty smart, but one day she got the shock of

her life because no-one had ever told her about mirrors. As a special

treat, she was given a big bone. She took it down to the river bank to

enjoy it in peace. As she stood there with the bone in her mouth, she

looked at her reflection in the water. And what did she see? Another

dog with a bone in its mouth! She wanted the other bone as well as

her own, so she opened her mouth to bark and her bone fell straight

in and sank to the bottom.

**The rooster makes its last mistake**

Two burglars were prowling round a barn one night. They could hear

something moving inside, and ever so carefully they climbed in to see

what it was. It was a rooster. "Ah-ha," they cried. "This will do for our

supper tomorrow." They grabbed it and were about to kill it when the

rooster squawked in alarm: "Please don't kill me. I can be useful to

you. I can wake you at dawn every day, ready to start work on time."

"That's just what we don't want," growled the burglars. "If you wake

people up they'll catch us robbing their houses." So that was the end

of the rooster.

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**The jealous goat**

A goat and a donkey lived on the same farm. The goat had to find his

own food, but because he made the donkey work hard, the farmer fed

him. The goat became jealous, forgetting all the donkey's hard work.

He thought if the donkey stopped working, he would get his food. So

he pushed him into a large hole, and he was badly hurt. The farmer

sent for the vet, who examined the donkey. "The quickest way to

make him better," he said, "is to feed him with goat soup." So instead

of getting the donkey's food for himself, the goat finished up as food

for the donkey!

**Look before you eat**

You know what dogs are like. If you drop a bit of food from the table

they shallow it before they know what it is. But sometimes they wish

they hadn't. Fanny the farm dog wasn't allowed in while her master

Josh was eating with the family. But one day she crept in and hid

under the table when no-one was looking.

She kept very quiet until suddenly a big dollop of food fell next to her.

She gobbled it up without thinking. Then she let out a big bowl and

rushed outside, holding her tummy with one paw. The family was

eating a very hot curry for supper!

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**One good turn deserves another**

Fred was a farm-worker who found a young eagle caught in a trap. He

couldn't bear to see such a beautiful bird in pain, so he released it. A

few days later, he was sitting in the shade of an old wall, having bread

and cheese for his lunch. Suddenly, with a flapping of wings, the eagle

swooped and stole the cap from his head. It flew away just above the

ground with Fred rushing after it, shouting, until it dropped his cap.

Fred put it back on his head and trudged back to finish his lunch. But

what do you think? Exactly where he had been sitting the old wall had

collapsed! Each of them had saved the other.

**How to live in peace**

In the old days, farmers sometimes encouraged snakes and weasels to

live in the barn and kill the mice that ate their corn. But on one farm

there was a bad-tempered weasel and a peppery old snake, and

instead of killing the mice they kept fighting each other. The mice

thought this was wonderful, of course. At first, they just put their

heads cautiously out of their holes to watch.

Before long, they began to form a circle around the two fighters and

cheer for one side or the other. For a while, the snake and the weasel

were so busy scrapping they didn't even notice. One day, however,

they stopped for a rest in the middle of a particularly tiring fight. They

looked around them and then at each other. "Why are we wasting so

much eating time," they asked themselves. "There's enough food here

to make us fat and good-tempered." And they set about gobbling up

the mice.

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**Animals Are Parents Too**

I want to let you know about an event that changed my life many

years ago. It is a memory that periodically comes and goes, but it is

one of the most precious memories that me and my wife share. I am

thankful that we can remember it together. It's a reminder that things

are not what they seem and that angels come in many packages.

We live in College Station, Texas and we were on our way home from

Houston, Texas around the Weston Lakes area one Saturday or

Sunday morning. And when I say morning, I'm talking 1:00 to 2:00 in

the morning. We were on our way home and decided to stop at a local

gas station to get coffee and something to snack on since it was a good

hour and a half before we got home.

When we were done, we got back into our car and before I started it,

we noticed a man standing outside in front of the building. You could

tell that he was a homeless man. His clothes were tattered and worn

and it looked like he had gone in and gotten him some coffee or

something warm to drink since it was cold this time of the year. He

must have not had enough money to get something to eat. That is not

something I remember too well, because that is not what "moved" me.

The next thing I remember is a dog that walked up to the front of the

building. Being a dog lover, I noticed that she was part wolf and

probably part German shepherd. I could tell she was a she, because

you could tell that she had been feeding puppies. She was terribly in

need of something to eat and I felt so bad for her. I knew if she didn't

eat soon, she and her puppies would not make it.

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Me and my wife sat there and looked at her. We noticed that people

walked by and didn't even pet her, like most people do when they

walk by an animal in front of a store. She might not have been as

pretty and clean as most, but she still deserved better. But we still did

not do anything. But someone did. The homeless man, who I thought

did not buy himself anything to eat, went back into the store. And

what he did brought tears to me and my wife. He had gone into the

store and with what money he may have had, bought a can of dog

food and fed that dog.

I know that this story isn't as inspirational as most stories, but it plays

a great part in our lives. You see, that was Mother's Day weekend.

And a lot of people forget that some animals are parents too. And

animals as well as us are God's creations too.

It would be a better story if I could remember all the details, but even

without the details, I believe it still gets the message across. It took a

homeless man, to show me what I should have done. He made me a

better man that day.

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Sweltering temperatures are a reminder to keep not only yourselves

cool, but your pets. In the case of a Labrador, he may have been left

alone, but helped himself survive what could have been a terrible

situation.

Eleven-year-old Max is not just a dog. He's like another member of

Donna Gardner's family.

"You have to know Max. He's a very smart dog and he just does things

that I don't think a normal dog does all the time," said Gardner.

The chocolate Lab proved that a couple of weeks ago. Gardner ran an

errand and took Max with her. When she came home a short time

later, she went inside the house, forgetting Max was still in the car.

"I came in and started cleaning and about an hour later I heard a horn

blow," said Gardner.

She went outside, but didn't see anybody. "So I came back in the

house and I started cleaning again and the horn blew again."

This time, she saw Max sitting in her driver's seat.

"I rushed over and got him out real fast and he was panting like crazy.

I brought him in the house and he just dropped to the floor," Gardner

said.

Gardner gave him water and cooled him down. Her daughter called

the vet who said Max was a little weak, a little slow but otherwise OK.

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"Number 1... Max saved his own life by honking the horn to get

himself out of a very, very overheated car. Number 2, the Gardners

are such good pet owners that they looked at him first. They managed

to get his temperature down a little bit before they got here," said

Nancy Soares with the Macungie Animal Hospital.

"I don't know whatever made me forget he was with me," added

Gardner.

Meanwhile, Gardner says she will never make that mistake again and

hopes this serves as a lesson to other pet parents.

Bernadetta Henry suffers from sleep apnea, which affects her airways

and causes her to stop breathing several times each night.

Bernadetta Henry and Boris, who acts as a hearing dog Bernadetta

Henry and Boris, who acts as a hearing dog

But faithful Boris lies next to the grandmother as she sleeps and

carefully monitors her life-threatening condition through the night.

The bichon frise listens out for her - and puts his paw on her chest to

wake her when her breathing stops.

'He means everything to me. If it wasn't for him, I would be dead,'

said Mrs Henry, from Llangollen, Denbighshire, in north-east Wales.

Boris has been her hearing dog since she became almost completely

deaf as a result of a blood clot. Mrs Henry later had an allergic

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reaction to the blood-thinning drug warfarin, resulting in a brain

hemorrhage.

After physiotherapy, she was confined to a wheelchair, making her

more dependent on her family.

But, since the death of her husband five years ago, Mrs Henry, who is

in her 70s, has been reliant on Boris and depends on him to alert her

when the phone or doorbell rings and when the cooker's timer goes

off.

'I couldn't live on my own without him and we both love each other.

He's full of fun and can be very mischievous,' she said.

A 68-year-old violin maker from Zagreb has been saved from certain

death after his dog alerted neighbors when he fell into an insulin

comma.

Krsto Pekic was saved after his dog Rex began banging on the front

door and making enough noise for neighbors to hear him.

They called police and fire fighters who broke into the apartment and

took the unconscious Pekic to hospital.

He is currently recovering in Sestre Milosrdnice Hospital in Zagreb

and is out of danger, the Croatian daily Vecernji List reports.

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**Wrapping Up**

Wow! Do you feel inspired? That was a great run-through a huge

collection of inspiring stories from around the world!

We all have our own stories. It is up to us, whether we want to live

extraordinary lives which inspire and motivate other or not.

Even animals, in the last chapter have showed us that their courage is

worth modeling. Let us strive to give our fullest gifts to the world and

make the world a better place!

It is with great hope that this collection of stories has inspired you

and encouraged you to spread the love to your readers.

To your success!

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