

Your Mountaintop Awaits

Stop Wandering, Start Climbing!

Find Your Passion • Focus Your Efforts • Fulfill Your Purpose

“May your dreams be larger than mountains and
may you have the courage to scale their summits.”

– Harley King

Your mountiantop awaits. It is a beautiful place. A place where you love your day to day life. A place where you are contributing your unique gifts to the world. A place where you can focus on your priorities. A place where all of your goals are clearly defined and within reach. A place where your dreams are coming true. A place where you are your absolute best self. It's real, it's breath taking, and it's sitting there,
just waiting for you.

1. Wandering

Knowledge without action is personified in the over educated
broke and broken who wander listlessly among us.

- Dave Ramsey

It's hip right now to quote Tolkien and say '*Not all who wander are lost*'. Many creative entrepreneurial types have taken this up as a mantra of sorts. I have a few theories as to why. Many feel they are simply too young to have to worry about a "life plan" or long-term goals. Some believe that talent alone ensures them an extraordinary life, no planning required. Perhaps being a go-getter, a do-er, and a planner has become a bit "square". It does make sense, after all, for type-A, left-brained types to be naturally inclined to planning and goal setting, so maybe that turns the more right-brained types off. No hip, innovative, creative young person wants to do or be anything that could be considered "square", am I right?

Tolkien's statement is definitely true, and very warm and fuzzy, but my concern is that many will wake up years from now frustrated, confused, and disappointed. I see many talented people who I fear will look back and realize all that wandering was just wasting time. **You see, you can't reach your personal mountaintop by wandering there.** It may not be what you want to hear but it's the truth. Even if your goal is to *literally* wander the earth, you have to plan to do so! You would have to quit your job, find money to support the journey, get a map and a way of finding tools, shelter and supplies.

Almost all of us have spent some of our lives wandering. Many friends and acquaintances didn't get why I majored in graphic design when I was such a people person. I wanted to be a pop star or Broadway star, and loved to ham it up on stages of any kind. To be honest, it's a bit baffling to me as well. In my senior year of high school I realized that I enjoyed design, was good at it, and it would pay an actual salary - something singing professionally would probably never do. I was a teenager, and I

knew everything. Didn't you guys know everything as a teenager too? What a great time of life. I didn't need a music degree to become a famous singer songwriter, no training or classes for me. Can you imagine what my poor parents must have thought when I told them I'd found a more serious degree - art?! How reassured they must have felt when they saw that my security-net-degree included classes like "Art History" and "Drawing 101." After college, I immediately got a design job to start saving money for my wedding. After the wedding, I was able to start dreaming again, as I did off and on throughout my entire design career. Always restless as a designer, once I became more of a marketer and strategic thinker, work became more fun. I was very happy in what was really my dream design job. Note I called it my dream *design* job, not my *dream job*. Being on pitch teams and leading presentations got me on a stage of sorts, where I was able to perform under pressure. Still, as Associate Creative Director at one of the best agencies in the state, a job I enjoyed and did well, I was restless. **I felt like I was meant to be doing something else, something**

more. I felt listless and anxious, so I started to prepare for my journey. I didn't stay wandering for long and you don't have to either.

If you're stuck in a job you hate, you're wandering. If you're staying in a job you enjoy when your heart is telling you to quit, you're wandering. If you live for the weekends, wandering. If you've failed at your last couple ventures so you've given up, ignoring that next big idea gnawing at you, wandering. If you have huge, amazing ideas but are letting fear keep you from pursuing them, guilty! If you have gifts that you've let collect dust in the corner. Hesitating from applying for that leadership position. Waiting for your boss to give you a promotion. Waiting for your product, idea or your very self to be "ready". For the conditions to be perfect for you to start. If you think you have no gifts, that your gifts are not enough, or that you are not worthy of a passion-filled life, you are wandering.

You were created for more than listless roaming. Today, with this book, you stop wandering and start walking towards

your mountain. By the end of the book, you'll have already started your climb. Aren't you excited?! Can you smell the fresh air? Can you see the peaks on the horizon? Let's get started!