

✧ Being Audaciously Me ✧

(Introduction)

"Your dreams are waiting for you; you just have
to have the audacity to believe it."

~ Tonoa Bond

One phrase that I have heard all of my life, in some way, shape or form from people from all walks of life, is "you have the audacity to..." And regardless to how they finish this sentence, my response, both in word and in deed, has always been, "yes I do." It did not matter if I was speaking to someone in higher command during my time in the United States Army, if I was acting against my mother's wishes as a highly spirited seemingly rebellious teenager, or if I was biding my time in Corporate America expecting the same level of respect from others who thought it their right to demand it of me, I lived by the code of audacity and refused to be less than the person I knew I was created to be in order to make another person feel comfortable to be around me. I have always believed it to be my God-given right to be audaciously me, and to take the chances that this stance inspires, and I refuse to allow anyone to take said right away from me.

And let me tell you, I have done some pretty audacious things in my life. Some of the things that I have done are things that others would never dare; they are those things that have become such a part of my story, that the moniker of audacity is now a part of my brand. I am known as "The Audacity Expert", and when I boldly and bravely tell others who I AM, it means something to me. I say these words with pride because I know that without audacity leading the way my dreams are not possible. This name and title expresses to the world that I am willing to take the necessary risks to ensure that my dreams and the dreams of those around me come to pass. And it is a title that I take great pride in living up to both for myself and for others as their Audacity Coach,

helping them to learn the skills necessary to exhibit this same level of pride within themselves.

To be defined as audacious means that you possess within you a shameless boldness. It means that you are a person with a high level of contempt for being restrained, and that you possess an arrogant disregard for the conventional, "color inside the lines" or "live inside the box" mentality of others. Being audacious means that you know who you are, causing others around you to know who you are, because you would not have it any other way.

We were born audacious. We were born bold... daring... determined... and the evidence of this exists in the younger version of ourselves. That inner child in us all who jumped from places too high, who put their hands on hot stoves, tasted things that were not meant to be tasted and did things that were not meant to be done. We did not develop a concept of fear until someone taught us that there was something to fear, and even then we fought against that conventional wisdom until we were able to prove it to ourselves.

Yes, it wasn't until we fell off the top bunk nearly breaking our necks, until we got burned by the fire, or got sick from tasting something not meant for human consumption, that we realized there really was something to fear. But for some of us this did not stop us from wanting to dare... however, for many others who allowed their audacity to wane contented to live inside the boxes that life painted for them, it stopped them from taking the risks necessary to become all that they are destined to become.

Audacious people know what their purpose and mission is in life, and we are so committed to it that we would dare anyone to try and convince us to be anything other than the persons we were created to be. When we are operating as our most audacious selves, we are able to live our lives with an air of being fearless and daring. We are inspired to take risks because we know that with every risk that we take, regardless of the outcome of said risk, that we get one step closer to living the bigger, better, bolder life that our dreams are made of.

So, are you audacious? Did you recognize yourself in any of the above-mentioned definitions? Were you able to pinpoint exact moments in your life where you could see, beyond a shadow of a doubt, how these definitions applied to you -- even if they only apply once in-a-while instead all of the time? This person is within you...this person is within us all.

And it doesn't really matter if you have played big and bold in your life, or are operating in life on a bigger scale than most, because there is always a bigger playing field to play on and there will always be more to do. Nor does it matter if your audacity is lying dormant, waiting for its opportunity to shine in order for you to do those things that you are begging to do but have yet to give yourself the opportunity to do, because now is the time for you to step up to the plate of life and become Audaciously YOU!

And this is the purpose for this book. The idea for this book came to me nearly 20 years ago. My desire, then and now, was to provide a pocket manual that would help you to see into the inner most parts of the person you currently are in hopes of providing you with a reflection of the promise of who you could become. And I am honored that this book has finally come to fruition and is now my own reflection of nearly 20 years worth of thought, feelings and beliefs on helping you to become your most Audacious YOU! And this is only volume one. It makes me even happier to know that there will be more volumes of audacious goodness to come.

It is my hope that this book will remind you to be who you are in every way possible. That you would become aware of the fact that those who believe your bold appeal for a dream-filled life to be overly confident or reckless are those who really just want to control your destiny by personally constructing the box they need you to live in. And that you would use this book and the audacious contents therein, to step into becoming your most audacious self refusing to allow others to stop you from living your biggest, brightest and boldest dreams.

My Friend, your purpose is too big for any box and your destiny is too wild to be restrained. It is my hope that you will read this book as often as possible allowing your inner child to remind you of who you can be when you allow boldness and audacity to be your guide.

So be audacious; be intrepid, be daring and be bold. Commit to yourself that you will live your dreams without shame or regard for the limitations of others, and demand of yourself and others an openness to receiving the best that life has to offer! Determine right now today that you are going to be Audaciously YOU!, living the dreams that you are destined to live, refusing anyone the right to take this birthright away from you.

Because your dreams really are waiting for you... you just have to have the audacity to believe it!

~ Tonoa Bond
The Audacity Expert

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