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how one Harvard lawyer left it all to have it all...

THIS TIME I DANCE!

*Trusting the Journey
of Creating the Work You Love*

By Tama J. Kieves

Years ago, Tama J. Kieves contemplated walking away from a lucrative career as a high-powered attorney. She wanted to do something else—something that she really loved. But what *was* that thing, exactly? What if she couldn't pay the bills? What if she was making the biggest mistake of her life?

A friend's wise words proved to be the end of her doubts and the beginning of an amazing, life-altering adventure: **"If you're this successful doing work you don't love, what could you do with work you *do* love?"**

So begins Kieves' delightful and inspiring new book **This Time I Dance!** *Trusting the Journey of Creating the Work You Love* (a Tarcher/Putnam hardcover; June 2003; \$19.95 US/\$30.00 Canada). A Harvard-educated corporate litigator who was tired of her life of "pantyhose, pumps, and pretense," Kieves left to wait tables and explore her love of writing. Without a stable job, a husband to support her, or an oil well in her name, she eventually moved to her dream mountain hideaway and started teaching classes on how to live more richly and creatively.

This Time I Dance! is the story of Kieves' journey as well as her invitation to you to undertake a journey of your own. But **This Time I Dance!** is anything *but* the usual how-to book about changing careers. There are no questionnaires, no personality quizzes, no writing exercises, no checklists. Chocolate binges and naps are encouraged—as are vacations you "don't have time for," buying that weird feathered hat you've always coveted, and learning to smile Buddha-like at your critics.

Indeed, reading Kieves' book is like sitting down in her living room, drinking a cup of tea, and having your own personal mentor guide you to your destiny. She gives you smart advice and hugs. She listens attentively for hours. And before you know it, you feel awakened, electrified—and ready to dance with life.

Invoking the wisdom of Marianne Williamson, Julia Cameron, Rumi, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and others, Kieves offers fresh, witty, and profound wisdom of her own:

*It's more practical to be magical: "If you knew where your heart could take you, it wouldn't even be practical to choose practicality. Only inspiration offers you a life of passion and safety."

*There is no way out but transformation: "A problem cannot be solved at the level of the problem. Trust the process—then let creativity transport you to the borderless places, the magical spaces, where caution cannot tread."

*Critics only rattle the rattled: "Criticism only strikes a fire when we provide the wood. It doesn't matter what someone says to us. It matters that we choose to listen, agree, and seethe."

*Sometimes you have to lose the house to acquire the mansion: "Because I had to search for a sense of safety beyond dollar, privilege, and approval, I inherited the ultimate trust fund. I learned to trust in my own resources and the startling generosity of life."

*Just start dancing and the band will find you: "Guarding your gifts keeps them in the dark where they do not grow or glow. You could wait for the world to invite you to the banquet and the ball. Or you could just show up in your red dress and your headdress ready to boogie."

*...and more.

This Time I Dance! is not just for "artists." It is for lawyer-artists, plumber-artists, accountant-artists, teacher-artists, secretary-artists—for everyone who longs to create a livelihood from their natural talents, their dreams, and their love.

If you read one book this year, read *This Time I Dance!* And remember: When life asks you to dance, say yes.

Tama J. Kieves left her practice with one of Denver's largest law firms to pursue a writing career and embolden others to live and breathe their most meaningful self-expression. Today, she devotes her dynamic energy to writing, coaching, and presenting workshops and retreats nationally. Kieves lives in Denver.

This Time I Dance!

By Tama J. Kieves

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