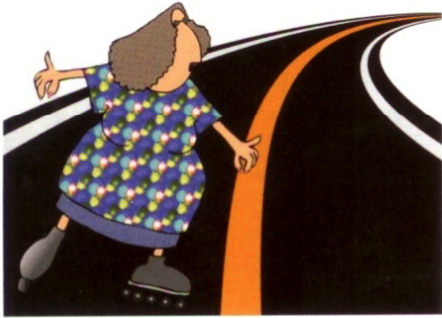


A CLOSED DOOR



The Arrow Pointing to Your True Path

By Tama J. Kieves

Recently I did a coaching session with Claudia, a new coach setting up shop. She's been a marketing tiger: going to leads groups, networking, sending out slick brochures, yet still no takers. "I'm doing everything the books tell you to do," she exclaimed. "Are you doing everything your heart tells you to do?" I asked quietly. "No," she said and filled in the details. She wanted this business to work. But she really didn't love traditional coaching. More and more she daydreamed about doing spiritually-oriented work with teenagers. "Then thank goodness for closed doors," I said. "It would be a tragedy if the wrong life took off."

I know how a door that slams in your face...can be a positive life experience.

When I practiced law, I ran into a closed door I never expected. I lost my ability to focus on my work. I was working on a bankruptcy case, but the facts and issues seemed to slither around on my desk like snakes. My "mentor" was a senior partner who answered my questions with crossed arms, razor eyes, and one word rebukes like "huh?" As he walked briskly down the hall, I always imagined him ducking into his office to dictate the memo requesting my immediate dismissal.

But I'd always been an overachiever and it didn't matter what I liked or disliked. I would achieve the goal in front of me. So I dug out the research and began to study. But I found myself staring into space, plucking at my arm hairs, staring at the words as though they were mosaics. I panicked. I'd never before had a situation where I couldn't use my willpower to do what I needed to do. But my willpower had left. All that remained was my *true* power. At the time, I didn't see this experience as true power. But I do now. Some bold part of me made it impossible for me to continue on that path. I took an impulsive beach vacation, stared at the ocean, and felt my heart cry out for freedom. I gave notice a month later.

What isn't working in your life? Maybe it's not supposed to. It could be there's a bigger life that calls you. That closed door may also be protecting you from an experience that would not serve you. Your true plum may not be behind the door you think, but behind *another* door. Perhaps a door that you won't even see until you take the wrong turn and find yourself lost . . . then found. I think the Universe loves you so much that it won't let the wrong life take off.

I know that when a door closes, it can feel like all doors are closing. A rejection letter can feel like everyone will reject us. But a closed door leads to clarity. It's really an arrow pointing us in a different direction. Because we cannot go through that door, we will go somewhere else. That "somewhere else" is your true life. GB

About the Author

Tama J. Kieves is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School who left her practice with a large corporate law firm to write and to embolden others to live their most fulfilling lives. She is the best-selling author of *This Time I Dance! Creating the Work You Love* and is a sought-after speaker and career coach who has helped thousands world-wide to discover and live their creative dreams. Visit her at www.ThisTimeIDance.com and sign up for free inspiration and support through her monthly e-newsletter. Download her free report on *Finding Your Calling Now*.

