

This is a book excerpt from **Inspired & Unstoppable: Wildly Succeeding in Your Life's Work!** (Tarcher/Penguin)

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**Your Success Partner on  
This Wildly Inspired Adventure**

Welcome, My Courageous Friend Who Is About to Soar . . .

I am honored to have you reading these words. This book is a door that can open you to the most important power in your life, the power of your inspired strength. This is what I want you to know and, maybe someday, take to the streets like a liberated fool:

*You're meant to succeed in the work you love.*

*Your desire will take you all the way.*

Welcome to this amazing frontier of good.

## A bit about my background

At the most dramatic turning point of my life, I left my career as an overworked attorney to follow my soul's haunting desire to become a writer. I had graduated with honors from Harvard Law School and worked in the litigation department of a huge, elite law firm. While there, I traded my life for societal slaps on the back, more money, and more grinding work assignments. I made partnership track. But I was desperate to be free, exhausted in my good, safe job, dying of meaninglessness, suffocating the life out of my creative soul. Finally, a friend asked me a vital question:

*If you're this successful doing work you don't love,  
what could you do with work you do love?*

I decided to answer that question with my life. I left the practice of law to undergo the art, practice, and baptism of listening to myself in this lifetime. I wrote about this amazing journey of transition in my first book, *This Time I Dance! Creating the Work You Love*.

## A bit about this book

This book is about wildly succeeding in your life's work: taking what you came here to do to the next level.

I don't know about you, but I didn't want to just "follow my bliss." I wanted to follow my bliss, say to a bank, or to a bestseller list, or to some kind of explosive expression in the world. It had never been my dream to leave my law practice to end up as an incompetent entrepreneur or a starving artist. But I also didn't leave one falsely successful life, only to turn myself into a sock puppet again, swallow my spirit, and "get with the program" so I could "make it in the big time."

I was going for the holy grail of wild success, the deluxe spirit package, passion, sweetness, and inspired prosperity. I wanted creative independence *and* security, worldly fanfare *and* peace of mind and the experience that abundance came from doing the work I came to do, *the way I came to do it*. The only problem was, I could name my desires until the cows came home—and kicked back with Netflix, cud, and apple martinis—but I wasn't sure how to create this "everything comes together" life.

Yes, I'd practiced law and maybe I *should* have known how to project business goals in the "real world." But, truth is, I have a poet-philosopher's heart and tend to process life in metaphors and fires-in-the-belly, more than data and numbers. While I'm ambitious and logical, I'm also part rebel, gypsy, and lightning-bolt bearer. That means, for instance, that when well-meaning folks suggested conventional means like business plans, I tried not to start speaking in tongues or bite them.

Still, I craved commercial success, recognition, and reach, so I turned to marketing advice, success books and popular titles in the business, self-help, and motivational world. But the more I read, the more disillusioned I felt. I had finally found a dream that gave me life—but everything I read about succeeding in it felt soul-numbing. I just knew I had the mojo, but “the getting it out there,” the pipelines to income and opportunities, seemed to be governed by a mechanical, harsh, or clannishly linear world. It didn’t matter if I had twelve thousand diamonds; the jewelers wore blindfolds. Everything made it clear that real success required what *I* didn’t have, and without a “mind meld” with Anthony Robbins, Donald Trump or, say, “The Terminator” would never have.

Like so many of us, I didn’t realize that I already possessed an inspired way to succeed. It hadn’t dawned on me yet that the electricity that inspires our dreams also inspires the means.

But this is the truth I know now: taking what you love into the world has little to do with conventional techniques, established reality, or the formulas of the marketplace. Following your true desire or calling is an initiation of soul. It’s a rite of passage. It’s a whole new game board with exciting new rules. Bring your diamonds.

This is the question that divides the paths: Will you honor your Inspired Self or will you listen to the one who talks you down from the mountain and persuades you to adjust what you desire? Sometimes the fearful, critical voice within poses as “good judgment”; it feels practical and reassuringly in sync with the prevailing culture around you. But is the opinion of an often empty, bitter, tired culture the voice of good judgment for *you*?

Let’s face it. There aren’t many voices in the world that will encourage you to follow your inner rock star or anointed one and get out there on the window ledge of ordinary life, mock gravity, and fly. Yet some of us are just called to fly. We won’t succeed through traditional means because force, fear, and standard projections do not motivate us. We are moved by bold ideas, big love, and intuitive, flawless direction. We hear new frequencies, promise, and urgencies wailing in the wind. We did not come here to do what’s been done before. We came here to expand—inspire, heal, express, create, and realize the exhilaration of being *everything* we are meant to be.

I should tell you right here that, personally, I struggled with the whole “trusting your inner voice thing,” or believing in a God, Inspired Self, Cosmic Coddler, or any energetic force beyond my five senses or the Dow Jones. A friend dubbed me “the reluctant mystic,” and it’s a true description. As an attorney I’d been trained in logic and liabilities. And as a once incredulous New Yorker, I felt like anything remotely transcendental was just a crutch for those who couldn’t cut it. But these days, I’d shout from the rooftops with a bullhorn, and elbow my way past the other fanatics to do it, because I see infinite possibility as a torch and “reality” as the crutch. Still, trusting an invisible mechanism of genius or wellspring of new resources has often nettled my overindulged intellect. I suppose it’s what makes me a good teacher. Because if you have a bundle of suspicions and doubts, trust me, I’ve had a bigger knapsack.

That’s why I’d love to assist you on this journey and make sure you get where you belong. You probably have a voice of fear telling you to play it safe, heed convention, and turn back altogether. I want to represent your *other* voice, the one that tells you to *really* play it safe, by following your desire and strength. I hope you will consider me your success partner, your paper mentor and your noisiest, most outrageous advocate screaming from the bleachers. In these pages, I hope to inspire you to live and work from your power and magnificence. Fear diminishes your strength. I plan to help you undo that fear and set free the astonishing faculties and life strategies you already have.

This book is not a cookbook of how-to steps. As a leading career and success coach, I’ve found it works better to share real-life experience, let someone come into the kitchen with me and feel the heat. Your natural intelligence will absorb what you need to know better this way. I don’t know about you, but I’ve never gotten much from the “8 easy steps” kinds of books. They made things sound so simple that even a garden-variety moron could have an Internet business, and be a billionaire by Tuesday. Me, I’d be still groping through my days, wondering how I could have graduated from Harvard Law School and yet be flunking “easy” self-help programs. Turns out, I didn’t thrive on “simple, practical advice” because intelligence is complex, and I’m a thinking, feeling, developing human being—not a robot. Go figure.

So I’ll help you move into your brilliant power. I’ll share the mental and emotional journey of this

awesome ride with you, the fears, doubts, and bogeymen that arise and how to become an unstoppable warrior for your life's work and desires. Because I know that if I can help you stay connected to your desires and shift your innermost thinking, then you will take actions like nobody's business, inspired actions that seem to fall directly out of the sky and onto your pretty plate. You will naturally outpace anything any expert could ever tell you. *You don't need the steps—when you have the moves.* Now that sounds practical to me.

By the way, I'm not saying you shouldn't have a business plan or follow an expert's marketing or financial advice. I am never negating logic, linear analysis, or any source of input that helps you accomplish your dreams. Some of you will need to listen to your business coach, lawyer, or accountant, and build temples around the columns of your spreadsheets. Others may take their cues from a late-night tarot card reading over the phone or from a neighbor's Border collie who shows up in a dream with a telegram from Atlantis or an Akashic record in its mouth. Some may rely on a passage in the Bible; others on the passages of the planets. Some of you may do all of the above, repeat, and then become a life coach, I just don't know. I couldn't possibly anticipate where your direction, clarity, and power will come from, but I do know that I want your every choice to feel alive and peaceful in the middle marrow of your bones. That's your authority and my only goal. You have your own success path and I want to keep you on it.

At this point in my career, I have traveled throughout the United States and other parts of the world offering keynotes and doing workshops in prestigious venues. I've been featured on national television, Oprah radio, and in one of those super cool TEDx talks, and have even been noted in *Forbes*, a premier business publication. As a career and success coach, I have helped thousands of others discover their own inner voice, their own unique business and creativity consultant, and take outrageously visionary steps leading to an explosion of business, success, and happiness. Through my own personal experiences and through guiding others, I know there is another way to succeed. It's a nonlinear way. It's an inspired way. I hope you'll make it your way—because it's where the times are heading.

Remember: *You're meant to succeed in the work you love. Your desire will take you all the way.* I

invite you, dear one, to use your extraordinary resources. The world awaits you now more than ever. Please know I'm holding this vision for you. I'm rooting for you in the bleachers. I'm whispering in the hard times. I'm dancing in the good ones. And though you might not feel as though you know where this is going, I do. And I'm here to remind you.