

Be Careful What You Wish For

The end of summer is here and it's time once again to move our children back to university. It's always exciting and a bit overwhelming all at the same time.

As the last of the bags and boxes are loaded onto the truck, I can't help but think that sadly I will get what I wished for. A clean house. During the hectic summer months when all the kids are home, working jobs and having their million or so friends hanging out in the house, I often look at the stuff that gets left here, there and everywhere and find myself wishing the house would stay clean.

And now my wish is being granted. With one child gone and another heading out this week, less and less is stacked, dropped or left strewn about the house. As much as I am thrilled about the cleanliness, it's a bit sad knowing I won't have the kids here on a daily basis.

I'm not the only one with wishes being granted. A gal I know lamented for years about her teenage daughter's behaviour, choices in friends and social life. In fits of anger she would often yell at her daughter, 'I can't wait until you move out!'

When she'd tell me about the latest argument, I'd remind her to be careful what she wished for. I always said it in jest and I never expected that her wish would one day be granted in such a way she'd end up crying in a devastated heap of sadness.

Her daughter left. Sick and tired of fighting with her mom, she decided to forge her own path in life. The memory of the never-ending arguments proved to be just the motivation she needed to race forward and never look back.

Now the mom never hears from her, ever, leaving a gaping hole in her heart and wistful desires to turn back the clock and do that part all over again. Her lesson was learned and she's moving forward hoping one day the opportunity will come where she can bridge the gap with her daughter, and develop a new, more loving relationship.

Our wishes aren't always about children moving out. I had a specifically hectic late spring. I remember thinking to myself that a long holiday from everything would be perfect. No work, no demands, nothing but free time to rest, re-evaluate and rejuvenate.

Then two things occurred simultaneously so that my wish could be granted. The economy worsened, at least for us consultants, and my client requests dwindled to nothing. Then my office computer crashed and what can only be described as a bizarre, movie-script-worthy tale where my computer went AWOL, I was kept from my files, email and work for weeks on end.

I suppose I should have been more specific in my wishing and how I would have preferred it to come about, but in all honesty I wasn't really thinking about the power behind making a little wish. I was more wrapped up in the dilemmas of the moment.

But, indeed, my little wish was granted and I found myself with a heaping pile of unemployed-free-time to rest, re-evaluate and rejuvenate.

Looking back I can see that something drastic had to occur to stop me from continuing with my day-to-day life so that I would take the required time to look long and deep at where I was. I will admit though, I had to work hard at keeping myself in a calm and

peaceful state rather than getting caught up in the trauma of not having clients and losing all my work-related files.

Without that specific wish being granted, even as it was, I might have missed the opportunity to see the beauty of the past, the lessons it brought about, the wonder of the future, and the changes that would occur.

This is the lesson for today. As we make our wishes, and we all do in some way or another (you can't buy a lottery ticket or leave work on a Friday night without thinking something wishful) we need to remember to keep it simple, have fun with it, and believe it may actually come true.

There is another gal in my social circles that is always making wishes about her relationship with her hubby. One day she hopes for a divorce. The next she's looking for him to be more romantic. Then she wants him to make more money or take her on a vacation. Then she's back to the divorce wish again. It's a never-ending cycle of hubby-related wishes.

One day, jokingly, I told her if there was such a thing as a Wish Factory, her production team must be in a constant state of confusion because she changes her order so much. Complete with play-by-play actions, I dramatized the poor factory supervisor starting and stopping production as each wish change came in.

By the end I had her laughing hysterically and we agreed because she had no idea what she really wanted, no one at her pretend Wish Factory would ever be able to produce a single product because they couldn't figure out what she wanted either.

Although it was a funny joke between friends, there is some truth to it. Being wishy-washy with what we'd really like in our lives is just as confusing as listening to a politician talk in circles. If you don't know what the bottom line is, how do you expect anyone else to – even the wish-granters, whoever they may be.

So then, regardless of whether there is such a thing as a Wish Factory or not, be clear about what you want. Think about what you'd like for yourself. Your family. Work, social activities, love life and even health.

Wishing is a wonderful activity as it fills our mind with positive energy and thoughts. If you don't know what the future holds, and none of us do, then it's best to imagine things that support you and your dreams rather than imagine things that don't.

If it doesn't come to be, you haven't lost anything. And you never know, there may be something in the wish that strikes your fancy enough to put an action plan into place to make it happen yourself.

Most important of all, wishing is free. So have fun, be careful what you wish for, and don't be surprised if it comes true.

Enjoy the journey,
Louise

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