Beyond Barriers to Passion and Possibility

with Denise Bissonnette

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Denise Bissonnette is an internationally renowned writer, trainer and keynote speaker. For over two decades, she has inspired people and organizations throughout North America to look beyond traditional concepts of career development and to craft livelihoods rooted in the individual "genius" of each person. Her work is a rich tapestry of her talents as a poet, writer, storyteller, teacher and career developer.

For complete information on Denise’s work and publications, please visit: www.diversityworld.com
BEYOND BARRIERS TO PASSION AND POSSIBILITY

**Questions Rooted in Barriers**

What have I done before?
What experience do I have to build on?
How much education and training do I have?

What are my problems, challenges and barriers?
What are the ways in which I am limited?
What positions do I qualify for?
How do I compete against other people?
How do I get other people to look beyond my barriers?
How am I limited by my circumstances?
What’s the unemployment rate?
What are all the things working against me?
How am I going to overcome the obstacles facing me?
How will I ever attain my goals when they seem so out of reach?

**Questions Rooted in Possibility**

What do I love?
What do I care about?
What do I value?
What makes me happy?
Where do I feel belonging?

What are my gifts, my dreams, my goals and aspirations?
In what contexts do I have the potential for genius?
What opportunities can I create that suit my needs, interests and abilities?
How do I position myself in a way that sets me apart from others?
How do I position myself in a way that sets me apart from others?
How do I highlight my abilities and potential?
What power do I have to affect my circumstances in a positive way?
What is in my control?
What local businesses could benefit from having me in their employ?
What do I have that’s working for me?
What do I have to be grateful for?
In what areas of my life do I feel fortunate?
What obstacles have I overcome?
How have I shown my strength and courage time and again?
What’s my next step?
What is completely doable and attainable within the next week?
Who can I ask for advice in planning the next piece of my journey?
BLUE SKIES

By Denise Bissonnette

Excuse me, what’s that you say,
“This interview is finished?”
Pardon me, but I’ve hardly spoken,
Don’t leave me here diminished.
I’m sorry to disappoint you,
To not have the problem you like to fix,
Instead I come with my own story,
With mystery in the mix.

You see, my hope is shallow, my fear is deep,
I have dreams I can barely dream,
But sometimes I glimpse blue skies,
Just up the road it seems.
If you’re the kind who likes things simple,
Hey, I can handle that,
But please, don’t pass me on
To another bureaucrat!

Is there anyone here who sees beyond,
Who inquires behind the smile,
Cuz there’s a lot about me you will not know
By opening up my file.
Is there anyone here who cares at all,
To whom I’m more than another case,
Who knows my life’s unfolding
Beyond this sorry face?

Is there anyone here who listens
In the rare and tender fashion,
Who’ll catch the meaning between my words,
With the net of their compassion?
Is there anyone here who gardens,
Who tends the smallest of seeds,
Cuz I feel things growin’ in me,
I am more than that list of needs!

Is there anyone here who’s a gambler?
Who’ll back a wounded horse?
Cuz I need someone with some faith in me
To set me on new course.
Do you have a coach around here?
The one who loves that final lap,
Someone who will coax from me,
Resources hidden and untapped?
Is there anyone here who’s a dreamer,
Who sees with faraway eyes,
Cuz my choices are looking rather dismal,
But I’m open to surprise!
Is there anyone here who’s an explorer,
Searchin’ for truth beyond the facts,
Who’ll focus on my possibilities
And not on what I lack?

Is there a Keeper of the Flame around here,
The one who likes to inspire?
Cuz although my world appears quite dark,
I still feel the holy fire!
Is there anyone here who believes in miracles,
Like the one with loaves and fishes,
Cuz according to you I’m going to need a lot more
Than luck and your good wishes!

You see, when I go home today
And my family asks, “How did it go down there?”
They won’t be asking about my day,
They’re waiting for me to report to them,
“Hey, I’m on my way –
Somewhere hopeful, somewhere new,
Just up ahead those skies are blue!”
Hey, if that’s not you, that’s okay,
I’m really fine with that,
But please don’t pass me on
To another bureaucrat!

So go ahead, scan the place,
Find the one who’s on a mission,
To change the world, one life at a time,
Start with mine, you’ve my permission!
Cuz my hope is shallow, my fear is deep,
I have dreams I can hardly dream,
But sometimes I glimpse blue skies,
Just up the read it seems.
I don’t need anybody brilliant,
Particularly worldly or wise,
Just send me to that someone
Who believes in bright blue skies!

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