

# I'm a Dreamer and I'm Not the Only One

By Coach Colleen Brady, The True Love Coach

Once at dinner I proudly announced to my parents I was going to be a doctor. Without missing a bite my mom said "maybe you should be a nurse." My dad said something supporting the nurse career. The tone of voice that they spoke with was as telling as their words - *little girl don't be unrealistic strive for what is realistic and practical.*

I was devastated. I had shared a new discovery, one which I was proud of, I had just told them that I thought I was a smart little girl, one smart enough to be a doctor. They not only crushed the first career dream I ever shared with them. More importantly because of their tone of voice, I would never share any lofty career dreams with them ever again.

In that one moment, I learned that for my parents life was just too hard to have dreams. I learned that practical was more valued than imagination. I learned that it was too risky to step outside of the norm and dream big. I got this message loud and clear. There was only one problem, one big, big, no one huge problem - I was a dreamer.

Well, during school that dreamer person often looked bad to the teachers, but as an adult it has actually turned out to be a good thing. I dream and dream and dream, and I actually accomplish some of those dreams. Years ago for my birthday one of my best friends gave me a framed quote:

*It may be that those who do most, dream most. Stephen Leacock*

Those six words have stayed close to my heart over the years. Every time I think I am dreaming too much, I just seek refuge in the calm of those words.

Those six words validated my dreaming. Those six words validated my life as a human being who dreams. As an adult, I know my parents did some sort of mental analysis about me being a doctor. But, they failed to convey to me was the in-depth reasoning, so I too could reason out that being a doctor wasn't the best profession for me and it was not just because I wasn't good enough, smart enough, or rich enough to pay for medical school. In trying hard at their parentally duty of guiding me they ended up showing me I was to never share my lofty (non-practical) dreams with them ever again. And, I never did.

But I did dream (and continue to dream). You know what, I've always felt a little guilty. Even as I write this emotions are gnawing at me. But, I know that lofty dreaming is good, practical dreaming is good, and reasoning and analysis are necessary too. I also know that day dreaming is a place where we can put unlike items together and try them out, see how they feel, test if they are right for us, try different scenarios. Then we can, from a place of our own personal knowing, our own personal authority chose what or who is right for us. If you're a dreamer, you're not the only one.

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