

Stay True to your Values ... and Be Free



You may have read about our dog, Joia, ad nauseum and so I am not going to bore you with her in this article. But, once again, she has been a crucial part of one of the most valuable lessons I have learned in a long time. If you have read many of my articles you will know that I am a very transparent person – I am happy to admit that I, like all of us, make mistakes and err in judgement at times. I hope you have a laugh at and enjoy this story you are about to read - but moreso I hope you learn from it and apply it into your life. Freedom is available to us all if we follow our truth ...

Laura and I are currently in the process of moving house. After quite a lengthy period of trying to find a property to rent, and after many failed applications, we finally got accepted to move into a townhouse that is just what we wanted and have been waiting for.

An error in judgement ...

As we were preparing the application for this house we were finally accepted for, we were thinking about all the things we could do to strengthen our position. We believed we were fabulous applicants, so the only reason we could come up with as to why we had missed the previous properties was because we had a dog. We imagined that the agents reviewing our applications must have seen the movie, 'Marley and Me'!



We really didn't think about it too much, but we just 'accidentally on purpose' left out that piece of information on this particular application. We knew she was well behaved and that she wouldn't be a problem, but it was because we really wanted to be accepted for this property that we compromised the truth and didn't mention Joia. Consequently we were accepted for the property and whilst both excited, I had a nagging feeling in my gut!

On Thursday just gone, Laura and I had an appointment with the agent to sign the lease agreement and pay the bond. As I sat there reading through the lease agreement, there it was in big bold letters - **'No pets are allowed without the written consent of the landlord.'** Against all my better judgement and in total conflict with my values of honesty & integrity I signed the document. We paid the bond cheque and then we left.

The internal guiding system is always working



As we were driving home, I felt sick in my stomach and I actually found it hard to breathe. We both looked at each other and we knew we had done a bad thing. Our internal guiding system (AKA our intuition) was letting us know loud and clear that we were in direct conflict with our values. But we had done it and it couldn't be undone, so the justification began. We came up with strategies, stories and looked at all the different scenarios to get ourselves out of trouble if we ever got caught out! But at the end of the day we would have to live with the fact that we lied and that we could never really relax in our new and beautiful home – it stole the joy from the whole experience.

We really struggled with it for a short while and then we finally decided that we couldn't live with this deceit and that there was only one thing left to do. That was to face the music and own up! We had already given notice to our current landlord and had to be out in three weeks and so we risked losing this townhouse and being stuck with no-where to live. But this seemed to be a small price to pay for the peace of mind and to be free from this torment.

Swallowing pride and owning up!

I got back in my car and I drove to the agent's office and sat down in front of him feeling anxious and honestly quite embarrassed. I explained the truth that we did have a dog ... A very small, very cute, very quiet and very well behaved dog at that!! I apologised profusely and tried to defend our actions – but at the end of the day I just wanted to be honest and clean the slate!

He smiled at me. In fact he started laughing at the situation – I am sure he has seen it countless times before. He appreciated my honesty and said he would do everything he could to gain the consent of the landlord. I thanked him, kissed his feet for umpteenth time, apologised again and left feeling liberated!

At that moment I didn't even care what the outcome would be, I was just very proud of myself and Laura that we had cleaned the slate and stayed true to our values. So far, it is Saturday, and we still haven't heard – but the bond cheque has just cleared so I am guessing that means the apartment is ours! Honesty always pays off! We can now move in with a clear conscience and enjoy our new home with our dog knowing that we were true to our values.

Stay true to your values and be free!!

Once we compromise our values we are trapped in a place that will require more compromise and more lies to maintain. Nothing good can come out of this place and I can tell you that for the short time we were there it was horrendous! It is far harder but incredibly liberating and rewarding to swallow our pride and own up and fix the lie – understand that our life depends on it.

Avoid the conflict! Listen to your intuition, stay true to your values and believe me you will ultimately live a life of freedom and choice.

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