



My Mom Taught Me How to Dream Big

Most people go through life making decisions based on just a fraction of their available options. They hold themselves back because they allow circumstances or other people's opinions limit their perceived choices.

When I was a kid, my mom told me stories about how I came from a family of dreamers - people who were willing to give up something good for the hope of something better. People who were willing to get creative and to pay the price to live their dreams.

My mom's grandparents were Italian. At the turn of the century, when they realized there wasn't much opportunity in Italy, they left everything behind and moved to Argentina where they became dairy farmers.

My grandmother grew up in a small town in Argentina where everyone thought they had only two career options: working at the dairy bottling factory, or working at the farm raising milk cows. Grandma's dream was to

live in a big city. Rather than stay in her native town, Grandma took a chance, moved to a big city, married a restaurateur, and lived her dream.



My dad was a chemical engineer in a small Argentine oil town. At the turn of the century his grandparents left everything behind in Spain and in France

and moved to Argentina. Back then, the US and Argentina were the richest countries in the world.

In 1968, when economic conditions got really bad in Argentina, rather than stay there, dad took a chance and moved with my mom, my brother, and I to the U.S. Leaving his friends and family in search for more opportunity was a risky and scary move, especially since he didn't speak much English back then, but in the long run it really paid off.



I lived in hot and humid Houston for over 30 years. I never liked the heat. I felt like all I ever did was drive from one AC to another. In 2010 we moved to Colorado where we get to enjoy four distinct seasons. Today I get to spend much more time outdoors than I ever spent in Houston.

The Jamaican bobsledders did the same thing. When they didn't qualify for the Summer Olympics in track and field, they got creative. Deciding to take up the bobsled was sheer genius. They didn't just take the road less traveled. They paved a new road where there had been no road before. Everyone who makes fun of them has no clue about what it really takes to succeed in life.

I'm amazed when people ask me how someone from hot and humid Houston can compete in the luge. It's really pretty simple. I came to the realization that what city I live in has NOTHING to do with what sport I can compete in. When the first cold front hits Houston, I fly out to the luge tracks. The luge tracks have never come or will never come to me.

Start looking outside your immediate surroundings for ways to realize your dream. Don't limit your options to what's obvious. Get a little creative, take a chance, and do something different. Chase your dream. Your dream will not land on your lap. You have to go out and get it. When you start getting bold and unconventional, your life will become an adventure and you'll be a lot more successful.

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