



Happy Tuesday!

The Conversation I Almost Didn't Have

Last week, after several full days of conference sessions, I almost skipped one more. I almost talked myself out of it.

Not because it didn't sound interesting, but because I had already attended several sessions that day and thought, "Maybe I'll use this time to catch up on a few things."

Instead, I walked into a workshop on advocacy and public speaking.

I wasn't the presenter.

I wasn't on the agenda.

I was simply another attendee.

During the session, someone asked a question about how to respond when your ideas are dismissed in meetings. I raised my hand, shared my perspective, and then listened as the conversation unfolded.

When the session ended, something unexpected happened.

Two women walked directly over to me and said, "I just bought your book."

A few moments later, two more attendees asked where they could find it.

Before I left the room, they were already on the website purchasing their copies.

That's when something really struck me.

None of that would have happened if I had stayed in the hallway.

It reminded me that leadership opportunities don't always come with a microphone, a title, or your name on the program.

Sometimes they begin with a simple decision to show up.

You never know who's listening—or whose life your willingness to speak might impact.

The Leadership Lesson

One of the biggest myths about leadership is that influence only happens when you're the one leading the meeting or standing on the stage.

In reality, leadership often happens in the moments no one planned.

It's the thoughtful question.

The encouraging comment.

The perspective you choose to share.

The conversation you almost decided not to have.

Every time we choose to contribute with authenticity, we create the possibility of impacting someone else's journey.

We may never know how far that ripple travels.

Book Connection

One of the themes I explore in **Show Up Like You Mean It** is communicating authentically.

Authentic communication isn't about having the loudest voice in the room.

It's about having the courage to use your voice when it matters.

That workshop reminded me of something I hope never to forget: You don't have to be the featured speaker to make a meaningful contribution.

Sometimes simply showing up—and being willing to speak when the moment calls—is enough.

Where I'm Showing Up

Last week found me at yet another conference (my third one in 6 weeks), and I'm continually reminded that some of the most valuable leadership lessons don't happen on the stage.

They happen between sessions.

Over coffee.

Walking down the hallway.

In conversations with people we've only just met.

Those moments continue to reinforce something I've believed for years:

Everything begins and ends with communication.

Visual Reminder



Sometimes the most important leadership lessons aren't the ones being taught from the front of the room. They're the conversations that begin after the session ends.

I'd Love to Hear From You

What's one conversation you've been putting off that could change everything if you had it?

Hit "Reply" and let me know.

I read every response, and your stories often inspire future editions of Leadership Unscripted.

One Final Question Before You Go...

Where might your next leadership opportunity be hiding simply because you almost decided not to show up?

Thank you for being part of this community.

Whether you've been reading since the very beginning or just joined us recently, I'm grateful that we get to learn, grow, and lead together.

Until next Tuesday...

Show Up. Do You.

Paula R Jenkins

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Lead By Example™ Speaker

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With appreciation,
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Founder, The Live By Example Speaker
"Everything Begins and Ends with Communication."

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