

Happy Tuesday, $[UD:FIRST_NAME|]$!

I talk about communication for a living. And sometimes I still need to listen to my own message. 😬

Over the last week and a half, several past clients have reached back out about working together again—some for December, others for early 2027.

Within one three-day stretch, I received back-to-back requests for meetings.

Some followed outreach I'd made a month or two earlier.

And here's what I have to own: when things got quiet, I assumed they weren't interested.

They hadn't told me that. I had filled in the silence myself.

How often do we turn what we haven't heard into something we think we know?

"They didn't respond. They must not be interested."

"They haven't mentioned my idea. They probably didn't like it."

Sometimes we need another conversation before drawing a conclusion.

I've also been reminded of what happens after the workshop ends. One executive team I worked with is talking more openly and working better together.

That matters to me. The goal is for people to use what we worked on when they're back together, making decisions and navigating the conversations their work requires.

And yet, even knowing my work has made a difference, I can still read silence as disinterest.

Apparently, knowing better doesn't mean I never need a reminder. 😂

Another person who experienced one of my workshops recently gave me a clear update. She valued my work and wanted another group to experience it, but that group had internal work to do before it was ready.

I appreciated her honesty. She told me where things stood instead of leaving me wondering.

Open communication includes the follow-up we hesitate to send and the update we haven't made time to give.

At work, that can sound like:

"We haven't decided yet. I'll update you by Friday."

Or:

"We're pausing this for now. Please don't hold time for us."

And when we're waiting:

"Has the timing changed, or should I close the loop for now?"

We may not get the answer we want. But clarity helps us decide what to do next.

Everything begins and ends with communication. I believe that when I'm working with a team—and I have to practice it in my own business, too.

This week, revisit one unfinished conversation. Ask for clarity, or offer it.

Where have you filled in the silence instead of checking your assumption?

Show Up. Do You.
Paula R Jenkins

What could more open communication change for your team?

If your leaders are avoiding difficult conversations, making assumptions, or struggling to work together, let's talk.

I'm booking 2027 keynotes, workshops, and leadership retreats focused on communication, emotional intelligence, and authentic leadership. I also welcome inquiries about remaining 2026 opportunities.

Use the booking button below to discuss your event—or reply and introduce me to the person planning it.

Book Paula to Speak

Visual Reminder



The conversation needs to continue after the workshop ends.

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LFS Consulting LLC, PO Box 118, Lake Villa, IL 60046

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