STUMBLING BLOCKS OR STEPPING STONES

Creating calm and confidence through conscious choice

REGINE ANDERSEN

Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones: Creating calm and confidence through conscious choice.

© Regine Andersen 2022

This publication contains the opinions and ideas of its author. It is sold with the understanding that the author and the publisher are not engaged in rendering health services recommended in this book. The reader should consult his or her own medical and health providers as appropriate before adopting any suggestions within this book. The author and her publisher specifically disclaim all responsibility for any liability, loss or risk, personal or otherwise, that occurred as a consequence directly or indirectly of the use or application of any of the contents of this book.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

ISBN: 978-1-922757-68-5 (Paperback) 978-1-922757-69-2 (eBook)



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

Editors: Jason Martin and Chloe Cran

Proofread by: Kristy Martin

Cover Design: Ocean Reeve Publishing

Design and Typeset: Ocean Reeve Publishing Printed in Australia by Ocean Reeve Publishing

Published by Regine Andersen and Ocean Reeve Publishing www.oceanreevepublishing.com



Testimonial

Regine has remarkably encouraged people to overcome some of life's most significant challenges. In this book, she helps her readers be brave by helping them to face their demons and conquer them through the strategies she's learned over the years and taught. Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones helps others achieve positive changes in their lives by teaching you to use conscious choice as your stepping stones. This book is a must-read!

-Josevie Jackson Author, *Thrive and Be Somebody:* 11 Steps to Maneuver Life's Obstacles with Confidence

Contents

Testimonial	iii
Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Part 1 My Extraordinary Life	xi
Introduction	xiii
Chapter 1: Our Family Background	1
Chapter 2: A Perfect Dream Becomes a Nightmare	
Chapter 3: Escaping to the West	15
Chapter 4: The West	
Chapter 5: New Beginnings	27
Chapter 6: My 'Uncle' Len, a Child Molester	45
Chapter 7: From Bad to Worse	59
Chapter 8: Orphaned	
Chapter 9: To Live or Die?	89
Chapter 10: Searching for a Meaningful Purpose	
Chapter 11: Heading South	
Chapter 12: In Canada	
Chapter 13: In Australia	
Chapter 14: Another Miracle?	155
Chapter 15: On the Edge	
Chapter 16: Queensland and Beyond	
Chapter 17: From Perth to Christmas Island	
Chapter 18: Christmas Island	
•	*

Part 2 A Self-Help Manual	227
Introduction: About the Chapters	229
Chapter 1: Understanding Entrenchment	231
Positivity Versus Negativity	234
The Strategies–An Overview	237
A Closer Look	239
Strategy 1: Practice Calm Now	242
What About Motivation?	245
Intrinsic Versus Extrinsic Motivation	248
Chapter 2: Finding the First Peace	251
Filling the Gaps	255
Strategy 2: Practice Expanding Horizons	261
Chapter 3: Strengths and Weaknesses	271
Strategy 3: Practice May I Be Free	273
Chapter 4: Food for Thought	277
Reading for Learning	277
Intermittent Fasting	278
Chapter 5: Discovering Tai Chi	285
Chapter 6: Self-Assessment	
Self-Assessment Guide	292
Part 1 of the Assessment	292
Part 2 of the Assessment	300
Potential Research	301
Bibliography	305

Preface

My book evolved from the combination of a lifelong professional career in education, academic achievements, and my endless passion for helping others create positive changes in their lives and care for our natural environment.

My story describes moments of immense joy, and in some parts, it divulges some extremely painful challenges that expose horrific events that may shock the reader.

PART 1 reveals *my extraordinary life* lived across four continents. From escaping war-torn Europe, adventures in Africa, and migration to Canada, to exploring Australia and finally discovering my paradise on Christmas Island.

PART 2 is a self-guided manual that details the key strategies I taught myself and others to use to help overcome some of life's greatest challenges.

For me, it was childhood trauma, a failed marriage, and suffering with depression that almost broke me, but everyone has their own battles to fight.

Anyone can learn and apply the targeted techniques for creating calm and confidence through conscious choice and turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones on the path to a life worth celebrating.

Acknowledgements

Having an idea and turning it into a book is both a challenging and rewarding experience. I especially want to thank all who helped make this happen.

I thank my children, first of all, for their unconditional love and encouragement; they are the reason I never gave up on life, even though I almost did. Without their support, this book would never have been written.

Writing a book is harder than I thought, and I am deeply indebted to my book publisher, Ocean Reeve—and thanks to everyone on my publishing team for their editorial help, keen insight, and ongoing assistance in bringing my stories to life. It is because of their efforts that I have a legacy to pass on where one didn't exist before

Thank you to the artist, Ewa Helzen (www.artmajeur.com), for permitting me to feature her painting 'Stones In The Water' on the front cover of my book.

Last but not least, I am most grateful for having my humble soulmate and a few close friends in my life who always stand by me without questioning my intentions and honesty, and whose names don't need to be mentioned here. You know who you are.

Some names in the story have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Part 1 My Extraordinary Life