

## CHAPTER 16

# FITTING TOGETHER NOT FITTING IN

Kev and I had planned to get married in December 2017. The two years of separation from Alexander were up on 15 November 2017, and that would give us a month to sort the paperwork. It didn't quite work out like that. My amazing lawyer advised me that it could take another three to four months to go through the process. In the end it did, and we moved the date out to March.

We had three fabulous teenage children with very different backgrounds and interests to bring together under one roof. Jasper was sixteen and had been without his mum for eight years (she had died from cancer), so he and his dad had been putting one foot in front of the other ever since. He was creative, into knives, spent a lot of time on his computer and games. He was disengaged from the local school that he went to. His anchor was his dad, youth and church. Arthur and Martha were both sporty, engaged at their private schools, liked to be doing stuff, whether it was tinkering with bikes, mowers and cars or riding ponies and had a mum, a dad and each other.

Kev and I decided to move in together over the summer holidays as we were all going to need time to settle and adjust to the new circumstances. Instead of selling both our homes, we rented out my

home on Nelson Street and moved into Kev's five bedroom home with two garages, two sheds and almost enough space to pop the pony on the lawn. It was a mission as a home with a father and son who loved to be outside tinkering with stuff was different from one with a woman's touch. So I cracked on with cleaning, tidying and clearing plies of stuff out of rooms so that Arthur and Martha could start redecorating their rooms and make this space theirs. They did a great job. Arthur had been watching "The Block" on television and was inspired by one of their design ideas for his wall. Martha had fun choosing colours, and I enjoyed helping her paint her room.

We moved in together on 5 December, which was a brave move on Kev's behalf as this was not the "done thing"; we weren't married and yet were living together. Actually, this has been an entertaining and enlightening journey from day one. I remember Kev, once he'd finally kissed me, telling me there would be "no sex before marriage" as he was a Christian. I was stoked with this at the time as I didn't want anything to do with that stuff. I still had some massive open heart wounds. I just wanted some companionship and to feel seen and heard again.

Well, that soon changed, for my part, and I tried everything I could to get Kev into bed—and failed miserably. I gave up in the end. He was sticking to his commitment to himself and God. It wasn't that we didn't have fun; we just didn't go there. And for anyone out there who is battling with this thing, I want to let you know, it was worth waiting for. I had never waited. I had always let my emotions and hormones lead the way. I had some great times, and some really dark times, when things didn't work out. Those soul ties that are made through intercourse stick. This time I waited, in the end, through choice, and the intimacy and connection Kev and I have is on a whole new level. My advice to anyone is to wait—it is so worth it. All good things come to those who wait.

Blending a family was super tough for everyone. Arthur and Martha had always had each other and Mum to themselves; they had a dad and didn't need or want another one. Jasper had been an only child with a dad working full-time and had to get himself to and from

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school, youth etc. At the ages of thirteen, fifteen and sixteen, each one of them had their own stuff going on and would all much rather have had life the way it was. I wanted to love Jasper as my own and there were moments of connection in truth and love. However, there were more times of frustration from both of us.

I was trying to fill shoes that weren't mine to fill. I was trying to have everything and everyone fit my mould and my way of thinking. I was trying to be Jasper's mum. However, I had no jurisdiction there. I hadn't given birth to him, and I hadn't journeyed through his life with him. I needed to focus on asking questions, checking in with Kev and letting him take the lead with his son.

This was a totally foreign concept to me, and it has taken me years to grasp. I am sharing this with you now as the best advice we were given was that the blood parents lead the way with discipline for their children, and the step-parent backs them up. The key to success was that Kev and I had to be on the same page. We needed to discuss and ask questions to gain understanding and then, having taken all the information into account, decide what the best course of action was.

I was grappling with the "God" thing. That was making absolutely no sense to me at all. Kev and Jasper were Christians, and the attitudes and behaviours I was seeing in Jasper didn't sit with my understanding of being a Christian. In many ways I saw Arthur and Martha demonstrating more values and the character of God. The whole thing was driving me nuts.

Thankfully, I had the summer off, as Project K was term-time only. By this point, I had handed Tupperware HB team over to the new manager, which allowed me to be present for the children and to get the house in some semblance of my order.

I repurposed curtains from our old house, recovered chairs, and we somehow managed to combine two homes into one, with double ups on just about everything, from dishwashers to dining room tables. I had to laugh when I saw a brand new ice-cream maker in Kev's pantry, which looked the same as the one I had taken to the auction house when clearing out our old home. I asked Kev how long he had

had it and where he had got it from. It was the same one—he had bought it from the auction. So much for de-cluttering and clearing out.

Christmas was my biggest challenge. We had always gone off to Taupo, staying in the family bach from Boxing Day through to early January, when the offices were all closed. This had always been an awesome time with family and friends, and I was keen for this tradition to continue. I knew how important family was and wanted my children to have fun growing up with their cousins. Handing over my children on Christmas Day at lunchtime was one of the hardest things I have ever done. I was super grateful for the extended family who helped make this exchange as peaceful and loving as possible. Going home without them was horrendous. I was so grateful not to be alone at this time.

In February, I started my role as store manager. In March 2018, we got married (big celebration that Tony had prophesied) and went to the UK for our honeymoon (the trip to the island I had so desperately wanted to do, just as Tony Saxon had prophesied).

And there I was, without knowing, fulfilling more of the words Tony had spoken over me that day in church. It wasn't until Lynette asked me about them one day and encouraged me to get the transcript that I realised how many of God's words, through Tony had been fulfilled.

We visited Kev's family and friends and mine. Talk about two opposing worlds and cultures. His friends were all Christians. Arthur, Martha I were not used to this. Our families liked a few drinks, had larger homes, big dogs and put on great spreads. It was amazing how many people put themselves out for us and went out of their way to make us welcome—in particular, my best school buddy, Shena, and her husband Nick. She has always been a better friend to me than I am to her.

It was all a bit of an adventure, with Arthur, Martha and Jasper often having to sleep on mattresses in sitting rooms. We got to see and do a lot. I think Jasper's highlight was Legoland. Martha and Arthur's highlights were spending time with Uncle Richard (who in Martha's

eyes is perfect) and hanging out with cousins James and Jilly, who Arthur got to go to a nightclub with at the age of fifteen!

This was such a messy time. Everyone was trying to do their best, trying to protect themselves and trying to make it work. There were important keys of wisdom and insight missing at this time. Knowing my why and what I was really here for. Had I known this at the time, this chapter in my life would have been a whole lot cleaner. I would have stopped trying to be someone or something I wasn't and rested in who I was. I was trying to be the glue that was going to keep us all together and to fix things. That was so not my job or role.

### **Reflect and Reframe: Why and the missing peace**

Being an Alignment Coach, there are two massive keys to the Kingdom to peace, love and calm in our lives that this chapter embodied. One of the keys is the words we speak over ourselves and others, which we looked at in chapter thirteen. Another is knowing your why, your purpose or North Star, as shared in Chapter Eight. This leads you to knowing which piece of the puzzle you are in this crazy world we live in.

Every one of us has a part to play in this rich tapestry of life. I often see it as each one of us being a thread, a colour, woven together to create something more than we could have done alone. Creating a whole new dimension and story, something that is more durable and lasts for generations, well after our time here on this planet. It all tells a story like the Bayeux tapestry.

The other way I see this is that we are all pieces of a massive jigsaw puzzle. We are each a piece, and when we are in the right place we fit together, creating a peace within ourselves and a piece of art that goes beyond what we could have done alone.

In both of these examples, if you don't know your thread colour or which piece of the puzzle you are, it is really tough to join together with others because you don't know where your place or position is. Knowing your why and your part in the bigger picture gives you a

new and inspiring perspective that creates peace, confidence, love and brilliance. And for anyone who has done a jigsaw puzzle and realised at the end that there is a missing piece, it is so frustrating. The puzzle is incomplete without it. Don't let that missing piece be you and your contribution to this wonderful world.

### **Dear Reader**

I encourage you to consider what your motivation behind your actions is. Why do you go to work? Why do you want to earn money? Why do you want to provide for your family? Why is your family so important to you? Keep asking the questions until you get to the root, which can be a pain point. My why was placed deep in my heart as a child, the yearning for peace and happiness. What hidden treasure is in you?

I believe every single one of us is divinely driven to make a difference and to make the world a better place. I believe we have not been created to wallow in pain and fear. I believe that, deep down, we all want peace and love in our hearts and lives. I am writing this book because I don't want you to fall into the traps I did. I don't want you to suffer in pain as I did. I want you to have a life filled with peace and love, kindness and generosity on a level far beyond your wildest dreams. Finding my true why was the key that helped me to unlock this.

Discovering the piece of the puzzle you are and how you fit together with others is so valuable. I no longer try to be all the pieces or squeeze myself into a space I don't fit properly and easily. I know my place. I know how important I am to those I fit together with, and I know my part in the bigger picture.

### **Call to Adventure:**

In my early days of starting up Inspiring Perspectives, I invested in some courses, one of which was Project Next with Dean Graziosi and Tony Robbins. Dean was amazing at his "find my why" hotseats. And

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he gave everyone permission to share the love and use his format to help others find their why too. Here is my interpretation of this process.

Discovering your North Star of true why is like peeling back the layers until you get to the heart, the core or the root. The heart, core or root often holds pain. Why? Because each one of us has been gifted with the answer to someone else's pain. The world was never designed for us to be lonely, lost, miserable, sick or diseased. It was designed for us all to thrive, to work together in unity and one accord for the common good. Much of this has been discussed or shared already in this book.

Today, I want to open your heart up to your why, your North Star, your true reason for being here. I encourage you to ask yourself why you do what you do. And to keep asking yourself "Why?" until you get to that pain point. You will know you have found it as it will most likely make you cry. And the tears are often a sense of relief and release that drives you to activate the power within and become the gateway for others, to set them free from their pain or problem and bring them the promise. Finding my why was like a light bulb going on.

It opened up a whole new world of understanding.

It brought me to the peace, joy and love found on the other side of the "oh fence" and into Psalm 23.

Here's my example:

### **1. Why did I become an alignment coach?**

Initially, because I didn't want amazing young people to feel lost like I did when leaving school. I wanted them to have some tools to navigate life with

### **2. Why was that important to me?**

Because loneliness is a killer. When we don't know why we are here or what we are here for, life becomes a lottery, a gamble, with no idea how it is going to pan out.

**3. Why does that bother you?**

If we are here to do something, why not find out now rather than trying to work it out with a blindfold on, hoping you'll stumble upon a gold mine that will make you rich and you'll live happily ever after?

**4. So, why is that important to you?**

People, like me, are leaving school, trying to navigate marriages or make a positive difference in the world with no guide, signposts or map.

**5. And why is that important to you?**

I hate waste. I hate the thought that people are out there lost, struggling, feeling like they don't belong, that they don't fit in and that they are not good enough.

**6. Why does this matter to you so much?**

Because I remember the pain—it was heart wrenching; the emptiness was almost unbearable. If I could save one person from that heartache, that feeling of isolation, my pursuit would be worth it.

**7. And why does that mean so much to you?**

Because I want the world I leave behind to be a better place than when I came. I want a world of peace, love and joy. I want to see heaven on earth in my lifetime and I believe it is possible.

I encourage you to discover your purpose and why today. As Rick Warren says in the *Purpose Driven Life*, "Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction and events without reason. Without a purpose life is trivial, petty, and pointless." (Warren, 2013) Enjoy discovering more about who you really are and why you are here.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (*Proverbs 27:17, NIV*)