



Words of enCOURAGE ment for tough times...

Catherine DeVrye

#### HOPE HAPPENS!

Words of enCOURAGEment for tough times

PO Box 559 Manly 1655 NSW Australia

Everest Press

First published February 2002. Reprinted 2002, 2004, 2005. This edition copyright Catherine DeVrye 2014.

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process, or any other exclusive right exercised, without the permission of Everest Press.

ISBN 10: 0-9922681-1-7 ISBN 13: 978-0-9922681-1-4

Cover photograph by Catherine DeVrye.

Every endeavor has been made to correctly identify the sources of quotes contained in this book. If errors are detected, please notify the publisher.

For my parents...and every parent and child who ever loved or was loved...

For my grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends...and for all of yours...

For those dedicated professionals and volunteers who daily offer hope and help to others facing seemingly hopeless situations.

A percentage from sales of this book goes to the Cancer Council, which is committed to helping build a cancer smart community. Each year the Cancer Helpline offers **hope** to people who call for information or support about cancer and cancer-related issues. Call the Cancer Helpline in Australia on 13 11 20.



## Introduction

I sat in the lounge of Brisbane Airport on September 11, 2001, having just addressed the World Airline Entertainment Association. I felt incredibly sad and numb, not just because of global events but, somewhat selfishly, because of bronchitis and a relationship with the man of my dreams threatening to turn into a nightmare. It hadn't just been 'one of those days' but one of those weeks, when a lot of things in my little part of the world weren't going according to plan (at least, not to my plan!)

A friend phoned to say her mother had died. Certainly, she shared compassion with thousands of people on the other side of the world, but the loss of one life weighed far heavier on her mind. To her, talk of the 'world changing' was more than a media cliché about the world changing—the world always changes—but her own life had tumbled and changed irrevocably with the death of the one person who had always been central to her world.

I couldn't help but think that, undoubtedly, global tragedy impacts on us all in various ways, from the personal to the economic. Yet, ultimately, it's the everyday tragedies in life that cause us the greatest grief, wherever we live on the globe.

My thoughts were interrupted by a vibrant young woman, who introduced herself and said she had been inspired by one of my presentations some years ago. She went on to say that she'd since been promoted to London and took only six books overseas...one being the last one I'd written, Hot Lemon & Honey—Reflections for Success in Times of Change.

'Whenever I'm feeling despondent, I delve into that book and magically find just the right words of inspiration and encouragement,' she enthused.

'Oh, what chapter was that?' I asked, before smiling at the irony.

The young woman had lifted my spirits. But, despite her claim that my book was her source of encouragement and inspiration, I personally don't believe that any one person can motivate any other, and that inspiration and encouragement come from a variety of sources—in the least expected forms, from the most unlikely people, in the most peculiar places.

I am often concerned when, after I address a room full of people, some audience members exclaim in a well-meaning way: 'You changed my life today!'

Although these comments are offered in the most complimentary vein, I'm troubled that a total stranger can think that a few words from me, or anyone else, can change his or her life. Admittedly, it's wonderful to have countless letters and emails from readers or conference attendees, stating that some words I'd written or spoken have helped them. Comments range from crediting me with 'improving productivity 40%' in a multinational corporation to 'mending a broken teenage romance'...not that I consider myself an 'expert' in either field.

I do feel truly blessed in my work and, although I would love to think that I was able to help to that extent, I'm also realistic enough to know that nothing I said actually made those differences. The impact was

made by what those individuals heard. More so, it was what they *chose* to hear at that point in time, and what they then decided to *act* upon. My words simply served as a timely catalyst for change.

Therefore, it is not surprising that I have a low tolerance for so-called gurus who claim they 'change people's lives'. No one can change the life of any individual except that individual. Certainly, others offer a greater or lesser incentive for a person to improve his or her life. Nonetheless, responsibility still rests with each one of us for our own lives!

Recently I received an email stating: 'Thanks. You kick-started my belief system again.'

This particular communication resonated more with me because we have all had times in our lives when our belief systems needed a good kick-start, and words of others can help in that regard.

You may have already heard some of the quotes in this book. Others, you will not have heard. Some may not resonate with you at the moment. Others may never do so. Some may have deep meaning. Others may have none. But there may be one that means a lot and can help you cope with your lot in life.

I've collected motivational quotes, poems and stories since my grandfather died when I was sixteen. As I was an only child, he had been my confidante and best friend and when my parents passed away a few years later, I re-visited those initial inscriptions in my diary and have since added to them over the years.

People often asked how I coped when my folks died when I was 21? What choice did I have? Cope or crumble—and, I had no intention of crumbling. Sure, there have been many crumbled days of despair since then but I've always tried to remember what Frank Jansen, a wise old man, told me when I first arrived in Australia:

'Cath...Every day above the ground is a good one.'
This was one of the first statements that made any sense to me, when nothing else did.

Because I experienced loss at an early age and *felt* I had no one else to turn to, I turned inward—to myself and to books. Two university friends gave me the first

two 'motivational' books in my library and, years later, these books are still there, although more dog-eared with now yellowing pages.

I've subsequently added many such books to my library, quickly discarded others and even written a couple myself. I've highlighted particular paragraphs that meant something to me at the time of reading and, at times, when I'm temporarily feeling despondent, I may reach for a book, to re-read a particular page. Some sentences and sentiments have made such impact that I've occasionally copied the words from inside the pages of a book to place prominently on the outside of my fridge, or on my bathroom mirror, desk or bedside table, as every-day reminders.

Even though I had not lost any loved ones on September 11, 2001 and it had been over a quarter of a century since my parents passed away, I felt a strangely similar sense of disbelief and sadness. So, once again I turned to the pages of my diary, searching for words of encouragement and scribbling some thoughts. Before I

knew it, I was gathering them into this little book—to hopefully help others work through their tough times, faster than I did mine.

Since those early dark days, I've been privileged to meet world leaders, sports stars and music icons and have been surprised to discover that, at times, they all share the same sense of loss and uncertainty as my next-door neighbour or a stranger on a bus, train or plane. Behind the facade, no life is perfect and the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence.

So, when we wallow in self-pity, it's important to remember that there is almost always someone much worse off than ourself.

Tragedy strikes all of us sooner or later. In my case, it just happened to be sooner than some. So, I've written this book for the everyday person with everyday problems in this journey called life. And, we're all everyday people! As John Lennon once said: 'Life is what happens when we're making other plans.' Today, and every day, we need to keep our plans and

our dreams alive and must not be swamped by nightmares of negativity and despair.

Hope is no magical panacea to problems we face, but hope helps us cope when the well is dry of wishes. One can only have courage if one has hope. We need both in tough times.

There will, of course, be times when, unfortunately, no amount of optimism can change the situation. Soon after the first release of this book, a friend's son died. My friend and his family never appeared to lose hope throughout his son's illness and I was lost for adequate words of sympathy.

I knew from my own experience that, immediately after the loss of a loved one, loss of health, loss of wealth or loss of a job, no words from anyone else can help a lot in the short term. But, over time, a lot of little words can help a little—if you let them.

Surprisingly, it is the simplest homespun truths that are the ones that stand us in good stead in times of strife. I trust that some of the quotes in this book will

be both timely and timeless on your journey; acting as a turning point when you've hit a low point.

Friends know and appreciate that my life has had as many ups and downs as any. Heartfelt thanks to them for their support over the years — especially the handful whose counsel I sought on this book and to the terrific behind the scenes publishing team — none of whom ever lost hope in the concept.

American humourist, Art Buchwald, once said:

'Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we have.'

Let's make every moment count, starting now. Someone once accused me of being overly optimistic and living my life by clichés. If that's the opposite of being overly negative and not living one's life to the full, I plead guilty—and you can quote me on that!

Catherine DeVrye

There are always more **choices** than you think.

Catherine DeVrye

What lies behind us and what lies before us are but small matters compared to what lies Within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Jean De La Bruyere

# Light always follows darkness.

Anonymous

There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

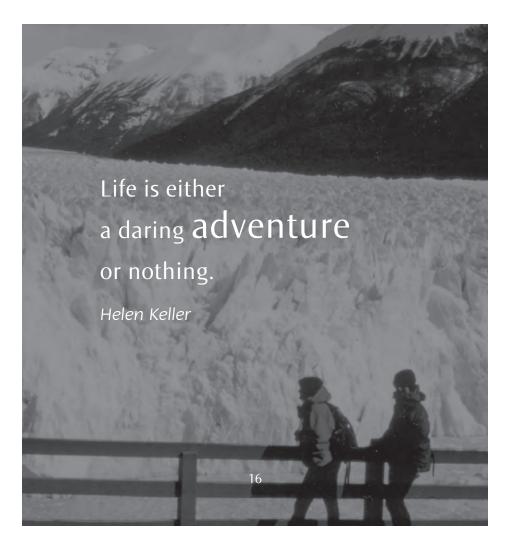
The other is as though

The other is as though everything is a **miracle**.

Albert Einstein

Yesterday's history.
Tomorrow's a mystery.
All we have is **today** and it's called the present because it's a **precious gift**.

Anonymous



In the midst of winter
I finally learned that
there was in me an
invincible summer.

Albert Camus

Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding.

Kahlil Gibran

# What the **Caterpillar** calls the end, the rest of the world calls a **butterfly**.

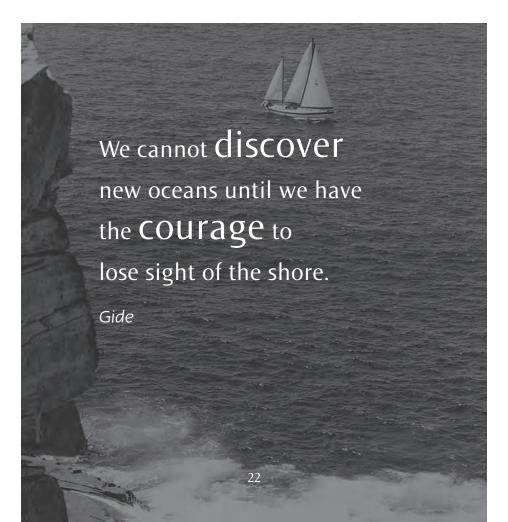
Lao Tsu

# be yourself

Do not compare yourself with others. You may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself...

...Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass...

Excerpts from 'Desiderata'



of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude.

William James

Of all the people you will know in a lifetime, you are the only one you will never leave nor lose. To the question of your life, you are the only answer. To the problems in your life, you are the only SOLUTION.

Anonymous

When a door closes...
look for an **OPEN** window...
but it may take a while
to feel the breeze.

Anonymous

You may have to fight a battle more than once to **Win** it.

Margaret Thatcher

Being defeated is often a temporary condition.

Giving up is what makes it permanent.

Marilyn Vos Savant

### future

Whatever our country by birth or by choice,

Now is the time to unite with one voice.

As we look to the future with respect for the past,

And strive in the present for dreams that will last,

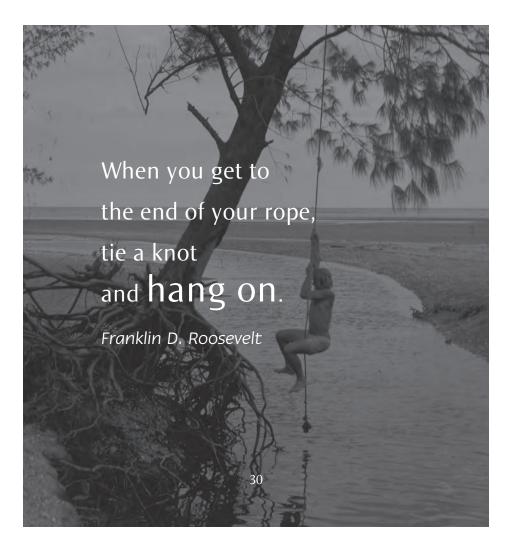
To reach our potential as one and a nation,

Giving all a fair go without hesitation.

And regardless of faith, to keep faith...

in our future, our planet and ourself.

Catherine DeVrye

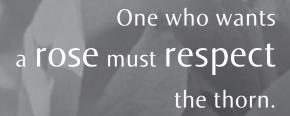


# Courageous men never lose the Zest for living even though their life situation is zestless.

Martin Luther King Jr

God never gives you anything you can't COPE with.

Rose Kennedy



Persian proverb

Life is what happens when we're making other plans.

John Lennon

The poor man is not he who is without a cent but he who is without a dream.

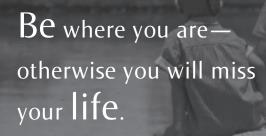
Harry Kemp

If I had my life to live over,
I would perhaps
have more actual troubles
but fewer imaginary ones,
eat more ice cream and
less beans.

Harold Kushner

Only one principle will give you COUTAGE—
that is the principle that no evil lasts forever nor indeed for very long.

Epicurus, 271 BC



Buddha

Regret for things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.

Sydney J. Harris

Whether you believe you Can or you believe you can't—you're right either way.

Henry Ford

Belief in ourselves is like a muscle—it is strengthened by constant and careful use.

Catherine DeVrye

It's not the mountain we **CONQUE** but ourselves.

Sir Edmund Hillary

appropriate difficulties and sufferings on this **JOUTNEY** so that my heart might be truly **awakened** and my practice of universal liberation and **compassion** may be truly fulfilled.

Tibetan prayer

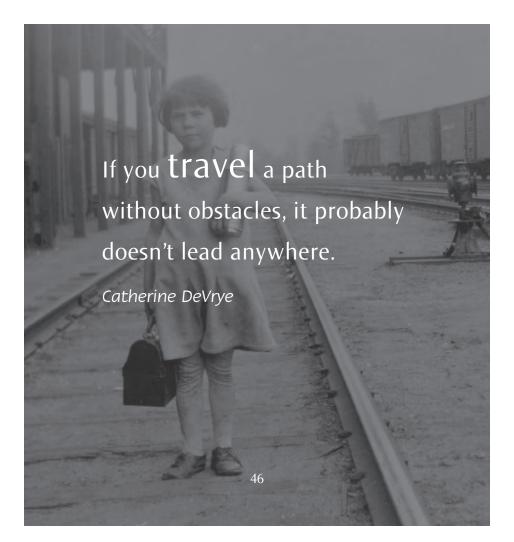
### t r u s t

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, and make allowance for their doubting too.

If you can wait and not be tired of waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated don't give way to hating and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise...

Rudyard Kipling

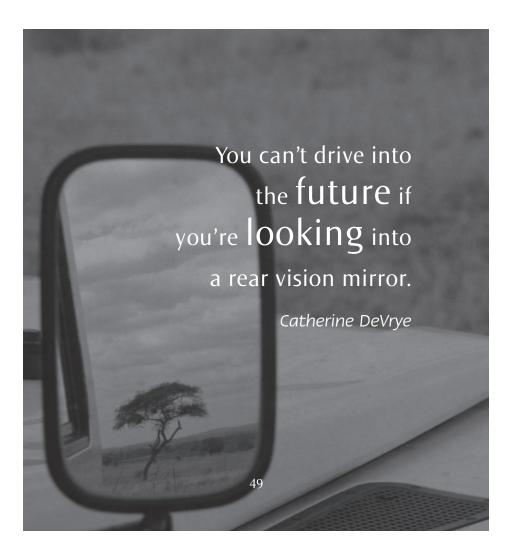


### Don't look back unless you plan to go that way.

Anonymous

Reflect upon your blessings, of which every man has plenty, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

Charles Dickens



Not everything that is faced can be **changed** but nothing can be changed until it is **faced**.

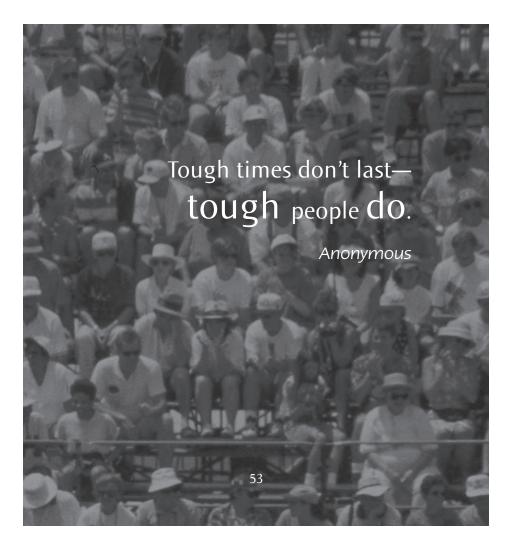
James Baldwin

# What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?

Dr Robert Schuller

The most difficult matter is not so much to change the world as yourself.

Nelson Mandela



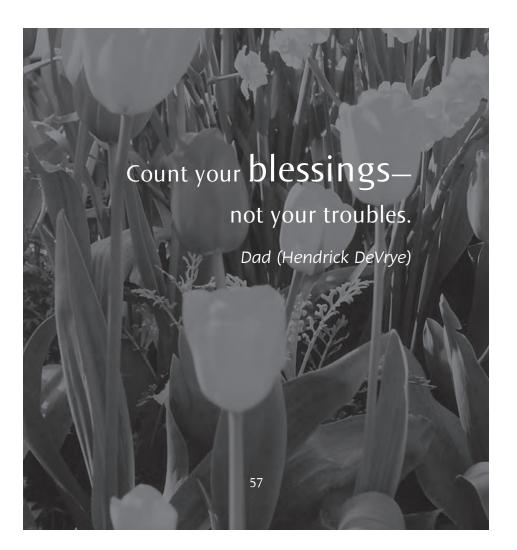


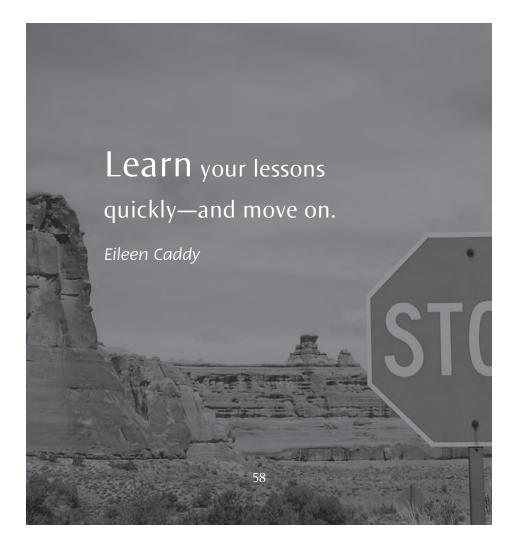
### No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Things WOrk OUT best for people who make the best of the way things work out.

John Wooden





## In times like these, it is good to remember that there have always been times like these.

Paul Harvey

a u g h

Nothing endures forever. Everything perishes in time. So laugh and love while you may, Help who you can—work while you must And when the end comes so be it. All fame ends in oblivion and

is soon forgotten

But it is fun to strive, joy to win.

It is a challenge to lose and try again

And victory always comes if you try hard enough.

To lose is not to fail.

The only failure is to lose and not try again.

Anonymous



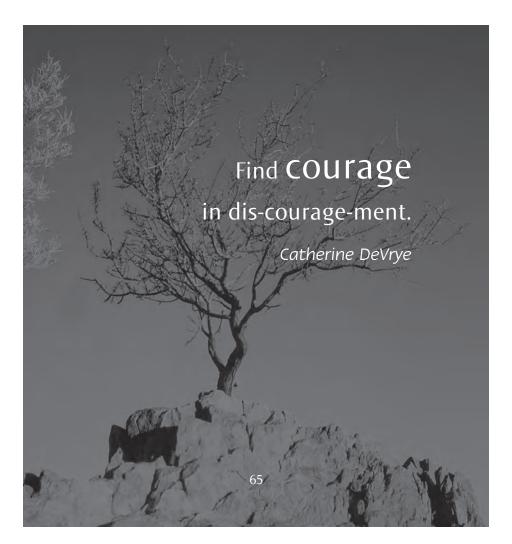
The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity.

The Optimist, the Opportunity in every difficulty.

L. P. Jacks

...Two things stand like stone, kindness in another's troubles, and COUTAGE in one's own.

Adam Lindsay Gordon



### h e a l i n g

I do not wish you joy without a sorrow,

Nor endless day without the healing dark,

Nor brilliant sun without the restful shadows,

Nor tides that never turn against your barque.

I wish you love and faith and strength and wisdom.
Goods, gold enough to help some needy one.
I wish you songs but also blessed silence
And God's sweet peace when

every day is done.

Dorothy Nell McDonald

To dream of the person you would like to be is to waste the person you are.

Anonymous

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the COUTAGE to change the things I can and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Anonymous

I may cry easily
but I
never give up.

Greg Louganis



Never.

Winston Churchill

Whether it is the best of times or the worst of times, it is the only time you've got.

Art Buchwald

# Don't ask for an easier life. Ask to be a stronger person.

Anonymous

If all people were to bring their miseries **together** in one place, most would be **glad** to take, each, their own home again—rather than take a portion out of the common stock.

Solon, 559 BC

There are **NO** hopeless situations. There are only men who have grown hopeless about them.

Clare Booth Luce

## A smile is a frown turned upside down.

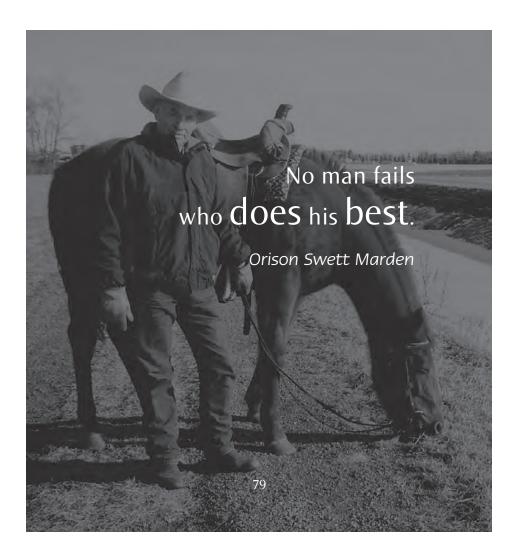
Granddad (David Smart)

# It's OK to be down in the dumps—just don't stay there too long.

Catherine DeVrye

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.

Maya Angelou



There is no education like adversity.

Benjamin Disraeli

## We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the Stars.

Oscar Wilde

The hero is no braver than an ordinary man—but he is brave five minutes longer.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time.

Some people bear three—
all they have had, all they have now and all they expect to have.

Edward Hale

Inside myself is a place where I live alone and that's where you renew your spring that never dries up.

Pearl Buck

### Men are born to SUCCEED not to fail.

Henry David Thoreau

Our fears are more numerous than our dangers and we suffer more in our imagination than reality.

Seneca



Jonathan Swift

Create your tomorrows with your thoughts and actions today.

Catherine DeVrye

#### Find purpose—the means will follow.

A billboard somewhere in India

The **great** danger for most of us is not that our **aim** is too high and we miss, but that it is too low and we achieve it.

Michelangelo

## Every day above the ground is a good one!

Frank Jansen

'I **tried** and it didn't work' is a **lot better** than 'I wish I'd tried'.

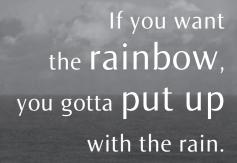
Anonymous

## There are no failures—only learners.

Buckminster Fuller

If there were NO clouds we should not enjoy the SUN.

Proverb



Dolly Parton



# Pick yourself Up when you're feeling down. No one else is likely to. Catherine DeVrye

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.

Marie Curie

# Fear is **never** a reason for quitting. It is **only** an excuse.

Norman Vincent Peale

If you can't find your Way out of any difficulty, it's probably because you're looking for an easy way out.

Anonymous

# Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.

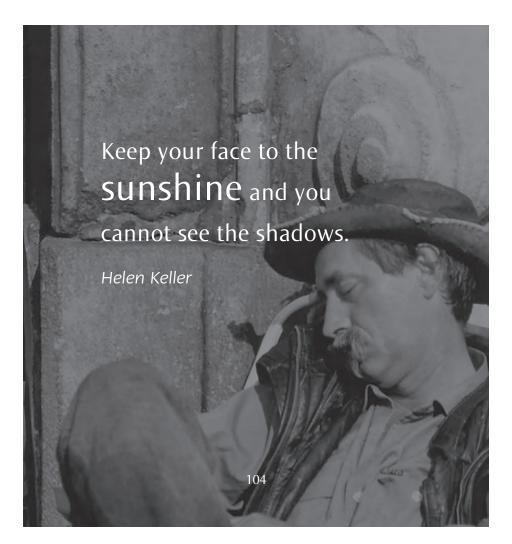
Martin Luther King

We are disturbed not by things that happen but by our opinion of the things that happen.

**Epictetus** 

# Experience is not what happens to you. It is what **YOU dO** with what happens to you.

Aldous Huxley



Each player must accept
the cards life deals him or her.
But once they are in hand, he
or she alone must decide
how to play the cards
in order to Win the game.

Voltaire

No one ever damaged their eyesight looking on the **brighter** side of **life**.

Anonymous

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.

Seneca

Don't be afraid your life will end—be afraid it will never begin.

Grace Hansen

# Fear is the thief of dreams.

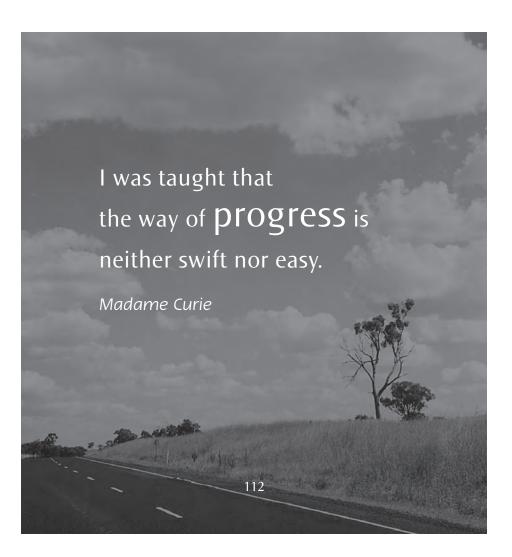
Anonymous

Every substantial grief has 20 shadows and MOSt of the shadows are of your own making.

Sydney Smith

# Be realistic. Plan for a miracle.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh



Life is not the way it's supposed to be.
It's the way it is. The way you COPE with it is what makes the difference.

Virginia Satir

## goldmine of dreams

## Hope Happens!

Hope is what happens when you first see a light

Just a distant, small star in the darkest of night.

Hope is what happens with the first buds of spring

When dawn touches the sky or a bird spreads it's wings.

Hope is what happens when a wound starts to heal

Whether skin deep or soul deep, you begin to feel real.

Hope is what happens when you're poor but not broken There's a goldmine of dreams — just not yet awoken.

Hope is what happens when someone is kind

A feeling not lost—just misplaced in your mind.

Hope is what happens when war turns to peace

After everyone prayed that the fighting would cease.

### courageous

Hope is what happens with the smell of fresh rain

When your long drought of dreams is renewed yet again.

Hope is what happens when clouds finally clear

Troubled thunder falls silent—courageous whispers you hear.

Hope is what happens when your heart skips a beat

And, so least expected, a soul mate you meet.

Hope is what happens when fresh bread is baking

And what hungers your heart, will one day stop aching.

 $D^{16}OD^{-1}$ 

Hope is what happens when kindling ignites You rediscover your passion that burns day and night.

Hope is what happens when the pain eases a bit

And deep down inside, you find your true grit.

Hope is what happens as long as we breathe For although it takes time, the sorrow will leave.

Hope is what happens long after the pain Hope is what happens — again and again.

Catherine De<u>Vrye</u>



#### Yes...Hope happens!

If you need some hope happening in your life at the moment, or in the future, open any page at random and you'll be surprised that whatever message you read may be most pertinent at the time.

It's no coincidence that this book is in your hands. I hope it helps because your life is also in your hands and...hope can truly happen, if you let it!

Catherine Devrye

#### Photographic credits

**Hope Happens!** contains an image from every continent on Earth, symbolic of the universal human spirit, regardless of race, religion or geographic location. All but three were taken by the author. Her original color negatives have been transposed into monotone. The images on pages 46 and 76 were taken by the author's father, Hendrick DeVrye and the one on page 3 by Justin Thomas.

Cover	Rajasthan, India	pp. 28-29	Plane over Midwest, USA
p. 3	Sydney, Australia (author carrying Olympic torch)	pp. 30-31	Outside Weipa, Australia
pp. 10-11	Japanese Alps	pp. 32-33	
pp. 12-13	China		United Kingdom
pp. 14-15	Hiroshima Peace Park, Japan	pp. 34-35	Budapest, Hungary
		pp. 36-37	Thar desert, India
pp. 16-17	Perito Moreno	pp. 38-39	Shanghai, China
	Glacier, Argentina	pp. 40-41	Queenscliff, Australia
pp. 18-19	Tanzania	nn. 42-43	Mt Machhapuchhre,
pp. 20-21	Kruger National Park, South Africa	PP: .= .3	Nepal
		pp. 44-45	Melbourne, Australia
pp. 22-23	North Head, Manly, Australia	pp. 46-47	Winnipeg, Canada
	Rajastan, India	pp. 48-49	Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.
pp. 26-27	Bern, Switzerland	pp. 50-51	Paris, France

pp. 52-53	Johannesburg, South Africa	pp. 84-85	Fairlight, Australia
		pp. 86-87	Manly, Australia
pp. 54-55	Serengeti, Tanzania	pp. 88-89	Phuket, Thailand
pp. 56-57	The Netherlands :	pp. 90-91	Annapurna Base
pp. 58-59	Archlands National Park, USA		Camp, Nepal
		pp. 92-93	Near Merrijig,
pp. 60-61	The Antarctic		Australia.
pp. 62-63	Victoria Australia.	pp. 94-95	Manly, Australia
pp. 64-65	Near Broken Hill,	pp. 96-97	Mt Fuji, Japan
	Australia :	pp. 98-99	Iguazu Falls,
pp. 66-67	Shanghai, China :		Brazil
pp. 68-69	Yamba, Australia :	pp. 100-101	Manly, Australia
pp. 70-71	Japan	pp. 102-103	Great Ocean Road,
pp. 72-73	Great Barrier Reef,		Victoria
	Australia. ;	pp. 104-105	Roadside, Hungary
pp. 74-75	Hakone, Japan	pp. 106-107	Stanwell Tops,
pp. 76-77	Calgary, Canada		Australia
	(author with	pp. 108-109	Sydney, Australia
	grandfather)	pp. 110-111	Singapore
	Lethbridge, Canada	pp. 112-113	South Australia
pp. 80-81	Japanese Alps	pp. 114-117	Summit of
pp. 82-83	Yokohama, Japan		Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa

#### Other titles by Catherine DeVrye

Good Service is Good Business

Hot Lemon & Honey: Reflections for Success in Times of Change

Who Says I Can't? / Serendipity Road / Hope as my Compass (A memoir)

50 Shades of Customer Service

The Customer Service Zoo

Japan: An A-Z:

A guide to living and working in Japan

Paperclips Don't Grow on Trees

Catherine's books are available on Amazon.com and via her website:

www.greatmotivation.com email: books@greatmotivation.com.