

DEFY LOGIC®

STORIES FOR THE OUTLIER

Short stories about courage, perspective, responsibility, and the decision to think differently.

THE DEFY LOGIC METHOD™

**Change Your Thinking.
Change Yourself.
Change Your World.**

A complimentary reader for the Defy Logic® community

A NOTE FROM BRYANT

There comes a point when you have to question the story you've been handed. Not because every rule is wrong. Not because logic doesn't matter. But because some of the beliefs we inherit quietly become limits we never agreed to.

Defy Logic® was built around a simple idea: challenge the thinking that tells you what is possible. Question it. Examine it. Reframe it. Then act.

The stories in this little book are original, fictionalized reflections designed to make you stop, look at your own life, and ask a better question.

You may recognize yourself in one of them. If you do, don't just turn the page. Use the lesson.

And when you reach the end, remember the question that brings the philosophy to life:

WHAT'S YOUR GOLIATH?™

1. THE EMPTY CHAIR

The chair at the end of the conference table had been empty for three months.

Marcus had been offered the leadership position twice. Twice, he had found a reason to say no. The first time, he told himself he needed more experience. The second time, he said the team was difficult. The third time his manager asked, Marcus almost gave the same answer.

Then his manager pulled out a chair and said, “You keep telling me you're waiting until you're ready. What if you're waiting for a feeling that isn't coming?”

Marcus looked at the empty chair.

He realized he had confused being prepared with being certain. He would never be certain. But he could prepare, ask for help, accept responsibility, and grow into the role.

He took the chair.

The next year was difficult. He made mistakes. He learned. He became a better leader precisely because he had stopped demanding proof that he could succeed before he was willing to begin.

Defy Logic Lesson: Sometimes the logic that keeps you safe also keeps you small.

2. THE OLD MAP

Elena kept a map in the glove compartment of her car.

It was an old paper map her father had given her when she first learned to drive. Every road she knew was highlighted in yellow.

For years, she used it to make every trip. Eventually, a new highway was built. A bridge opened. Several roads changed.

Still, Elena trusted the old map.

One Saturday, she was late to an important interview because she followed a road that no longer existed.

Sitting in the parking lot, she laughed at herself. Then she realized the map wasn't bad. It was simply old.

So are some of our beliefs.

A belief can have helped you survive one season of life and still be completely wrong for the next. The lesson isn't to throw away everything you've learned. It's to check the map.

**Defy Logic Lesson: Wisdom isn't refusing to change your map.
Wisdom is knowing when the map needs updating.**

3. THE \$7 DECISION

The mistake cost seven dollars.

A small business owner named Daniel noticed that one of his employees had been accidentally overpaid by seven dollars.

He almost ignored it. Seven dollars wasn't worth the conversation.

But he corrected the payroll record and explained why.

Months later, that employee discovered a much larger accounting error. Instead of hiding it, she reported it immediately.

Daniel asked why.

She said, "Because I watched what you did with seven dollars."

The amount was small. The example wasn't.

Character rarely announces itself with a dramatic decision. More often, it is built in tiny moments when nobody would blame you for taking the easier path.

Defy Logic Lesson: Small decisions become evidence of who you are becoming.

4. THE WINDOW

James had spent years staring at a window.

Every morning, he sat at the same desk and looked outside at the building across the street.

He complained about his job. He complained about his boss. He complained that his life had become predictable.

One morning, his daughter asked, “Dad, if you don't like it, why don't you change it?”

He gave her the adult answers: bills, responsibilities, timing, risk.

She listened and then asked, “Okay. What can you change today?”

That question bothered him because it was smaller than his excuses.

He couldn't change everything that day. But he could update his résumé. He could make one call. He could take one class. He could stop pretending that doing nothing was the same as being responsible.

A year later, he was in a different role.

The window hadn't changed. He had.

**Defy Logic Lesson: You don't always need a new life.
Sometimes you need a new first step.**

5. THE APPLAUSE

She had built her entire life around applause.

Nia chose the safe major, the respectable job, the apartment her friends admired, and the version of herself that never made anyone uncomfortable.

Everyone applauded.

She was miserable.

At thirty-seven, she finally admitted something painful: she had spent years collecting approval instead of building a life she respected.

Her first act of change wasn't dramatic. She stopped asking ten people what they thought before making one decision.

She began asking herself a harder question: "If nobody applauded this choice, would I still believe it was right?"

Not every decision she made afterward was perfect. But they became hers.

Defy Logic Lesson: If approval is your compass, someone else will always be steering.

6. THE WRONG QUESTION

A young entrepreneur walked into a mentor's office with a problem.

“How do I make people believe in my idea?” he asked.

The mentor didn't answer.

Instead, he asked, “What problem are you solving?”

The entrepreneur started explaining his product again.

The mentor interrupted. “That's not the question. What problem are you solving?”

For the first time, the entrepreneur saw the flaw. He had fallen in love with his solution before understanding the problem.

He went back to his customers, listened, changed the product, and eventually built a business people actually wanted.

The breakthrough wasn't a better answer.

It was a better question.

Defy Logic Lesson: Sometimes the fastest way forward is to question the question.

7. THE STONE IN HIS POCKET

Every morning, Andre put a small stone in his pocket.

It represented one thing he regretted.

The argument with his brother. The business he never started. The apology he never gave. The opportunity he walked away from.

After years, his pocket was heavy.

One morning, he emptied the stones onto the kitchen table.

He couldn't change what happened. But he could decide what happened next.

He called his brother. He wrote the apology. He opened the old business plan. He took the first step.

The stones didn't disappear because he forgot them.

They became lighter because he stopped carrying them as instructions for his future.

Defy Logic Lesson: Your past can inform your future without being allowed to control it.

8. THE OUTLIER

Everyone told Maya the idea was unrealistic.

Her friends said it was too ambitious. Her coworkers said people like her didn't do things like that. A relative asked why she couldn't just be satisfied.

For a while, Maya tried to make herself smaller so the idea would fit inside everyone else's expectations.

Then she realized the problem wasn't that the idea was impossible.

The problem was that everyone was measuring it with the same ruler.

She didn't need to prove everyone wrong. She needed to prove to herself that she was willing to test the possibility.

She started small. She learned. She failed. She adjusted. She kept going.

Years later, the people who once called her unrealistic called her lucky.

She knew better.

Luck hadn't carried her. She had challenged the logic that told her to stay where she was.

Defy Logic Lesson: Being an outlier isn't about being different for attention. It's about refusing to let someone else's limits become your own.

THE DEFY LOGIC METHOD™

A simple framework for challenging the thinking that shapes your life.

1. QUESTION

Why do I believe this? What assumption am I accepting without examining?

2. EXAMINE

Is it true? What are the facts? What am I adding through fear, pride, habit, or conditioning?

3. REFRAME

What else could be possible? What would I see if I looked at this from another angle?

4. DECIDE

What choice aligns with the person I want to become?

5. ACT

What is the smallest meaningful action I can take now?

6. BECOME

Who am I becoming through the choices I repeat?

The goal isn't to reject logic. It's to challenge the logic that has been keeping you stuck.

YOUR GOLIATH

Take a few minutes and answer these honestly.

What is the biggest obstacle standing between me and the person I want to become?

What belief have I accepted about it?

Is that belief actually true—or simply familiar?

What would change if I challenged that belief?

What is one action I can take in the next 24 hours?

WHAT'S YOUR GOLIATH?™

WELCOME TO THE MOVEMENT

If these stories made you question something in your own life, that's the point. Defy Logic® isn't about being different just to be different. It's about having the courage to examine the beliefs, assumptions, and limitations that shape your choices—and then build a better way forward.

Stay connected for new stories, challenges, The Defy Logic Method™ lessons, and episodes of What's Your Goliath?™.

SUBSCRIBER PROMISE

Every week, you'll get something designed to make you stop, think, and act: a story, a question, a principle, or a challenge you can use in real life.

**QUESTION THE THINKING.
CHALLENGE THE LIMIT.
BUILD WHAT'S NEXT.**

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