NAOMI SHERMAN

PART 2

SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED EVERYTHING



You are at the top. And then — empty.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Dreams came true. But where are you in this life?

18+

Naomi Sherman

Suppose Youve Already Achieved Everything — Part 2: What Comes Next?

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Suppose Youve Already Achieved Everything — Part 2: What Comes Next?What happens when your dreams come true, your goals are achieved, and the life you once longed for becomes your reality? Why, even after great victories, can you still feel an emptiness inside, as though there must be something more waiting ahead? This book is about life after achievement. It explores the search for new meaning, inner freedom, personal change, and the ability to hear your own voice beyond familiar ambitions. Through reflections and practical exercises, youll learn to look at your desires from a new perspective, understand what may truly be missing, and discover the next chapter of your life.But what if the answers you find are only the beginning?The journey continues. The next part of the series invites you to look deeper, move beyond familiar ideas of happiness, and discover what might be waiting for you behind the next door.

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Suppose Youve Already Achieved Everything — Part 2: What Comes Next?

SUPPOSE YOU'VE ALREADY ACHIEVED EVERYTHING
Part 2
What Comes Next?
Naomi Sherman

About This Book

This book continues a reflection on life after a dream comes true. Through a dialogue and ten short stories, it explores not how to achieve success, but what happens once a goal has been reached: which desires were truly our own, which grew out of other people's expectations, and how we can preserve our right to choose our own lives.

Prologue. The Question That Didn't Receive an Immediate Answer

"Can I ask you a strange question?" I asked someone close to me.

"That depends on the question."

"Imagine that tomorrow you wake up as the person you've always dreamed of becoming. Not someone who is still preparing, learning, putting things off, and hoping. You've already become that person. Everything has worked out. The version of you that you imagined back in childhood is now living your life. What will you do?"

He smiled as though the answer were obvious. Then he looked away. A few seconds passed. He began talking about money, travel, freedom, and how he could finally get a full night's sleep. Then he fell silent.

"Wait," he said. "I've never thought about that."

That was what surprised me. We can spend years talking about what we want: a house by the sea, work we love, recognition, peace, a close-knit family, our own business, the ability to stop proving ourselves to everyone. We know how to describe the path to what we want in great detail. But remove the path in your imagination and leave only the result, and suddenly your mind goes blank.

The first book in this story asked what the day after a dream comes true might look like. This book begins where that question stops being a beautiful thought and becomes a personal challenge. There is no need to prove again that dreams matter. What matters is looking at what we actually intend to do with the life we have spent so long asking the future to give us.

I spoke with ten people who shared their desires and discovered that the simple question "What comes next?" demanded much more of them than they had expected. These are composite stories built around recognizable life situations, not a statistical survey. The names do not matter. What matters is how familiar their words may sound.

Perhaps you, too, won't answer immediately. That doesn't mean you have no dream. Perhaps you have spent so long imagining how to reach it that you have barely imagined how to live inside it.

1. Ten People and One Silence

I asked the question in different ways, but its meaning stayed the same: if tomorrow you woke up as the version of yourself you had dreamed of becoming since childhood, what would you do on your first day? Not how you achieved it. Not who helped. Not how many years it took. It has all happened already. Morning has arrived. What now?

The first woman I spoke with wanted financial independence. She imagined a day when she could pay her bills without anxiety and would no longer have to ask her partner for help. When I asked about her first morning, she replied, "I'd probably check my banking app." Then she laughed.

Even in her imagined world of freedom, her first reaction was to check whether that freedom had disappeared.

The second person dreamed of becoming well known in his profession. He imagined a stage, interviews, and recognition from colleagues. When I asked what he would do after his name became known, he said, “I’d probably think about how not to lose it.” The summit did not look to him like a place where he could stop; it looked like a new height from which he could fall.

The third woman wanted a family and a home where someone would always be waiting for her. Her answer was unexpected: “I’d make breakfast. Just breakfast.” She wasn’t describing a wedding day or a perfect photograph, but an ordinary morning. And yet she asked, “What if an ordinary morning becomes boring one day? How will I know I didn’t make a mistake?”

The fourth person dreamed of leaving his hometown. He listed practical tasks: find an apartment, figure out transportation, buy groceries. Then he admitted that he had never once imagined the second week. He knew where he wanted to leave, but not what he wanted to arrive at.

The fifth woman wanted people to finally respect her. “I’d stop explaining to everyone why I’m worth something,” she said. Then she added, “But I don’t know what I’d fill my day with if I no longer had to prove it.”

The sixth person dreamed of starting his own business. His imagination was full of a logo, a first office, and a message announcing a big profit. Asked what he would do the following morning, he answered, “Check sales.” He dreamed of freedom but had not imagined how to protect it from work that could consume every hour.

The seventh woman wanted to become more beautiful and confident. She spoke about her appearance as if the right change would make awkwardness, jealousy, and the fear of rejection disappear. “I’d probably go somewhere for the first time without spending two hours choosing an outfit,” she said. Then she paused. “Although maybe I’d find something else to fix about myself.”

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