



Don't Let Anyone Else Hold the Pen

Every day, you write another page in the story of your life. Not with ink, but with your choices.

Every conversation, every challenge, every act of kindness, every difficult decision becomes another sentence in the legacy you are creating.

The question isn't whether your story is being written, but rather: **Who is holding the pen?**

Too often, we hand it off to someone else.

We let others' opinions undermine our confidence. We allow criticism to shape our identity. We permit fear to write our decisions, and our past failures to write the future. Before long, we find ourselves living a story that someone else has authored instead of the life we are capable of living.

As Everyday Leaders, we cannot afford to surrender the pen.

Leadership begins with ownership. It begins the moment we decide that while we cannot control everything that happens to us, we are always responsible for how we respond. That is where influence begins.

Only you can choose integrity over convenience.

Only you can choose courage over comfort.

Only you can choose gratitude over negativity.

Only you can choose to extend trust, take responsibility, and believe in the potential of others.

These aren't simply leadership principles—they are the words that fill the pages of your story.

The beauty of life is that every morning we are handed another blank page. Yesterday cannot be rewritten, but today is still yours to write.

Today is where your story changes.

A word of support may give someone the courage to persevere.

A difficult conversation handled with grace may restore a relationship.

A simple act of kindness may become a moment someone remembers for the rest of their life.

Never underestimate the power of a single page written well.

Your story will include setbacks, disappointments, and difficult chapters. Those moments are not evidence that your story is deficient. More often, they are the pages where character is developed and resilience is fortified.

The world doesn't need more people trying to write the perfect novel.

It needs more Everyday Leaders who choose to write authentic ones—stories marked by kindness, humility, courage, accountability, and service.

So don't let fear take hold of the pen.

Don't let your past grab hold. Don't lend your pen to disappointment or to others' opinions.

Pick it up every morning.

Write with purpose.

Lead with humility.

Serve generously.

Leave every page better than the one before it.

Because one day your story will come to an end.

People won't remember all of your titles or your accomplishment, but they will always remember how you made them feel. They will remember that you believed in them, encouraged them, and helped them become better than they thought possible.

That is the story worth writing.

That is the legacy of an Everyday Leader.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Kent Myers in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the word 'AUTHOR' printed in a small, sans-serif font directly beneath the signature.

Discussion and Challenge

- Who or what has been holding the pen in your life?
- What chapter have you allowed fear, failure, or others' opinions write for you?

- What is one intentional choice you will make today to take the pen back and write the next page with courage and purpose?

Challenge: This week, notice the moments when you begin to hand the pen to someone else—to fear, to criticism, to doubt, or to others' expectations.

When that happens, pause and ask yourself one simple question:

"Who is holding the pen?"

Then take it back.

Your life is a remarkable gift.

The story you write with it is your gift to the world.

So write a story worth reading.

And never let anyone else hold the pen.

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