

Confessions Of An Heiress

FOR A VERY LONG TIME, I THOUGHT THAT RICH PEOPLE WERE basically mean. And because of that point of view I decided that poor people must be kind. That was not my brightest moment. So, I decided that in order *not* to be like my parents and in order to become kind I therefore must also become poor. This unconscious decision created a path I set in motion for my life as a young girl.

I rebelled against the idea of marrying for money, God forbid, which is what my father recommended. I resisted that encouragement and yes, I was not aware for many years that I was actually creating a poverty consciousness in every area of my life. I created poverty in all my relationships by resisting anyone who was filthy rich. I never really thought about money too much and always expected it would be there. Some ambiguous place called “there” is where I thought money would be. Looking back, it was blind faith and also, not my brightest choice.

Up until 2008 I never really worried about money. I always had plenty and I managed a home, sent two children to private schools, lived within a budget and established an art gallery. I also contributed to my favorite charities and community all without any emotional support from family. In fact, I thought I was a self-proclaimed *super girl*.

THE NEW REALITY

Then, in 2008, two things occurred. First, the worldwide economy crashed and my portfolio suffered. Second, my unclear and unhealthy 97-year old father died, leaving behind a chaotic mess. There more wills than you can count on two hands, and just about as many lawyers involved. I was stunned, angry and confused and unfortunately, I did not have a family lawyer, or even a business advisor that I could trust to call on to give me advice. So, I asked a friend. Lesson learned? Never ever, ever ask a friend to help you make a decision about whether to challenge a will or what lawyer to use.

Before I could steady myself and get off this rollercoaster I was deep into a lawsuit, and not for the reasons I desired at all. It was all so bizarre, unreal and hideous. At 50 years old, I was shocked to find out that suddenly I had *less* money and no substantial inheritance coming from Daddy. I had fallen victim to a situation that I had never imagined was possible. Going through the gamut of emotional extremes, I recognized I had a choice to sink or swim. Wow, that was one of the most liberating results of this family dispute.

I had been correct all my life, my knowing was spot on about each and every family member. In truth, I was not liked nor cared for at all, and had I not challenged the will I would have been run over and left for dead. Once I decided to make lemonade out of all the lemons that were thrown my way, life became easier and I began to allow myself to perceive exactly how courageous I truly was. That is how I survived an abusive childhood filled with years of neglect and lack of emotional attention. I was now able to move out of survival mode and into creating a future. What did that mean to me?

WHAT WILL PEOPLE THINK?

I was no longer subject to what society thought about me. I had destroyed the lies of my past and was now able to create a future based on the person I chose to be. I chose to be

Money does not buy happiness, but it does buy opportunity. What if you thought your life had opportunities that it did not and you had to create a new consciousness with money? That’s exactly what **Houstonian heiress Curry Glassell** learned after some difficult life lessons. Here is her story that is meant to inspire with the fact that we all create our own next chapters, as told to Lance Avery Morgan.

not what my parents and their peers demanded of me. This was a great new beginning for me; more than a New Years resolution but the beginning of a new life. I decided to educate myself about money and what it took to create and generate it. I also became aware of the fact that I made some very unconscious decisions and choices. Which left questions for myself. What choices did I have? What talents did I have that I could create and generate a life I wanted? What did I desire my life and future to look like? All these quandries empowered me to keep going, keep choosing and keep questioning everything and everyone until I received more information to creating a happy and kinder life.

I began to take inventory of the people in my life and what was truly valuable to me about living. A handful of people arose out of the mud of that situation and it became clear to me that I indeed had wealth and resources I had not recognized beforehand. I asked myself *what would I like the next 50 years of my life to look like, to feel like, and to be like?* At one point I wrote my own epitaph. It was an amazing exercise and I suggest you try it. My mentor Gary Douglas used it in one of his classes.

It went like this: Epitaph for Curry Glassell. *Loving mother, trendsetter, philanthropist, alchemist and social entrepreneur. She challenged our beliefs and pushed all our buttons. She always had a smile and a hug if we needed one. She was beloved and made the world a happier place for all who could receive it.*

How has *your* life affected the world in where you live? How will you be remembered?

Once I gained insight to how my life affected others, it became increasingly easier to create, ask questions and perceive what the future could be. If you could be or do anything what would it be? If nothing was impossible, what could you create? Today I travel the world facilitating classes called *Right Riches for You*, a specialty class from Access Consciousness. I meet with clients from the wealthy elite to the average Joe and I’ve found the root of most money issues seems to be the same, no matter who you are.

CURRY CONFIDENTIAL

Lance Avery Morgan: Your financial story has been well-recorded in newspapers and the outcome was not, unfortunately, what you expected. Tell me about the strength you summoned and how that helped you survive the ordeal.

Curry Glassell: More than anything what kept me going was acknowledging that my knowing was correct all along. Not that I was right and everyone else was wrong, but that I had to choose what was true for *me*. Being willing to stand up and fight for myself was another way I changed this from an ugly confrontation into a possibility for growth, even if it was not a popular choice to make. No one teaches us to have our own back and this was my learning to do that the hard way. The news didn’t present my case in this light, but that is what it was for me.

You need answers to complicated marriage and family legal questions

You need the confidential counsel of a nationally prominent family law firm.

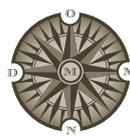
- McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing has been providing discreet and discerning guidance to families throughout Texas for decades.
- The firm's senior partner in South and Central Texas is Richard R. Orsinger –
 - Board Certified in Family Law and Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
 - Selected by his peers as one of the top ten lawyers in all fields in Texas in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013
 - Named among *Super Lawyers*' "Top 100 Lawyers" in Texas each year since 2003.
 - Selected in 2007 as the state's top Family Lawyer in *Texas Lawyer* newspaper's Go-To Guide, which is published every five years.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Visit www.orsinger.com or call
210-225-5567 for a confidential appointment.

Premarital Agreements
Commingled, Separate and Community Property
Marital Property Aspects of Trusts and Business Entities
Business Valuation
Parent-child Issues and Grandparents' Rights

A FAMILY LAW PRACTICE
1717 TOWER LIFE BLDG.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
210 225 5567
WWW.ORSINGER.COM



McCurley
Orsinger
McCurley
& Downing
L.L.P.

SAN ANTONIO * DALLAS

LAM: Your father created a financial empire from the energy business, but little was left for you to change the world and enhance his legacy. So that means you have to create your own—what do you recommend for anyone in a similar position?

CG: In truth it was my grandfather that actually laid the foundation and created the empire that was given to my father. He actually always said that he got lucky. My father expanded and continued what my granddad began with some great contacts and lots of money to help him along.

For anyone in a similar position, I recommend first to set your priorities. The next key thing is to recognize that you need to educate yourself in every area in which where you are unaware with money or business. People in my position, and especially ladies, unfortunately, are often told they won't have to worry about these things and are kept in the dark. Not a comfortable position to be in when all of a sudden your security blanket is pulled away. For me, I took classes, read books, researched online, and asked questions of every successful person I know. I found that becoming more aware and conscious about money was as valuable as my investments. I recommend to start with being honest with yourself about where you are and exactly what your life costs to run. Then create at least three targets for where you would like to be in 3, 5 and 10 years in the future. I have many other ideas which will be available in my book called *Becoming Your Own Financial Guru* within in the next few months.

LAM: Money is an energy. What do you recommend for people to create a more succinct financial energy for themselves that will, in turn, positively affect others?

CG: I recommend to begin by putting 10 percent away from every penny you receive, every month, and when you have the equivalent of six months of living expenses in the fund then you will begin to perceive feeling less stress and more at ease with money. This also helps because a lot of people are living hand to mouth and willing to make money, but not actually willing to just have money. This is a great way of teaching yourself that you can have money.

LAM: Success at the highest level is to be shared. Describe the way you now share your success?

CG: Success to me is about changing lives and opening doors for people to *know that they know* so they can create the life they have always dreamed about. That begins with asking a question. The question always empowers and the answer always dis-empowers. I would invite anyone to begin to ask questions about what success means to them exactly and what does money mean to them ... and what does wealth mean to them exactly. For me I share my success by inviting others do to as I have done and learn from the choices I have made.

LAM: Fast-forward 20 years. You're telling your grandchildren one piece of advice about family and money. What would that be?

CG: The advice would be that their point of view does - and will - create their reality. I would encourage them to not depend on anyone for money, educate themselves, and do whatever it takes to find out what having their own back is like. I would encourage them to discover and pursue where their own confidence is, to have a look and see which arena they could be an expert in or what area do they love and have so much fun exploring. I would empower them to know they are capable of creating anything, that nothing is impossible, and it is up to them to decide how that looks. ●