

# CLIMBING LAVA

SHARING STORIES ABOUT STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

MENU

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## OUR OWN VERSION OF SUCCESS

*August 2, 2020*



Words by me (Fiona) based on an interview with Nada

Image by me

Nada talked to me about stepping out of her comfort zone to find a career that aligned more closely to her values. “I think it’s so important to plan your career from the right place and not to be restricted by someone else’s version of success. I think it’s so important to really define our own version of what success means. Create that vision. Often, it’s that lack of clarity and vision that keeps us stuck. So, it’s important to create the vision of the future we want to create, and then to empower ourselves and give ourselves permission to create it.”

And Nada did just that!

“I think the biggest time I stepped out of my comfort zone was leaving the security of a well-established career and corporate role when I decided to start my own business – very much a leap of faith.”

Nada started her career as an accountant, but gradually realised that her interest lay in people not numbers! She

the person's best interest in mind when it comes to development. I saw poor leadership practices, for example, and wanted to develop these people as leaders. But I was not able to do that. Because as long as they're bringing in the money, it doesn't matter if they're burning people and there is a revolving door of new hires and departures"

Having people's best interests at the core of what she did was the driver behind Nada's move to starting her career as a career development and transition consultant.

"One of my passions was also helping people make the transitions from technical roles to leadership roles. It's not just a simple step of you've been really great at your job, well we're going to reward you now. It doesn't work that way unless there's some extra work put in developing the people skills. Helping people to find their alignment because of my long career journey of finding my way from numbers to people.

"And it's been a long hard road because I didn't really have that advice available. I didn't have that support available to help me even develop my self-awareness in terms of what are my strengths? What are my natural preferences? It was really hard to identify what's the true me versus the 'shoulds' of this is a good profession or this is a good organisation.

"Letting go of that security blanket, stepping out of that comfort zone was a really big leap of faith, as I said, but a very rewarding one. Because it has given me the freedom and the ability to do things my way, to pursue what really lights me up, but also to see that reward of lighting other people up and helping them to elevate themselves."

Some of the benefits (aside from finding alignment between her values and her work) Nada found stepping out of her comfort zone include increased self-belief and also realising the awesome determination to succeed that was a central part of her nature.

Nada also had some great insights into how careers are different in the modern day "Because we just can't rely on going to uni, learning a set of skills and we're set for life in our career. We can't tie our self-identity to that role or to that organisation. Because they're not guaranteed. So it's critical we invest this time in self-development and self-awareness, in understanding and even treating ourselves as the CEO of our own careers, not leaving it up to someone else, and not leaving it up to chance where we end up, where we drift.

"I think stepping out of your comfort zone is going to be the new normal."

You can find out more about Nada's work at [www.elevateme.com.au](http://www.elevateme.com.au), or reach out to Nada on [www.linkedin.com/in/nadamatijevic](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nadamatijevic) if you're struggling with your own career challenge.

Thank you Nada

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