

July 28, 2014

Dear Sophia Amoruso,

Hello, my name is Robin Fator. I recently finished reading your book #GIRLBOSS. Let me tell you, I *really* liked it. I have had several things click in my mind after flipping the final page:

1. From this point forward I will not apologize for being a fashion designer.
2. I am not going to feel bad about not being a “true” artist.
3. Creating products that sell is just as important as creating what is in my heart. Both require an immense amount of imagination.
4. It’s nice to know there is hope for a hard ass like myself.
5. Self-confidence is the key to making this whole life/business thing work!

I feel we have a cosmic connection, and although I’m sure you get 100 of these letters daily. Here’s a little about me:

I grew up in Redding, Ca (I unfortunately still live here) being from the Sacramento area I know that you understand the sort of panic that creeps in when you’ve been in this far northern cultural wasteland for too long. I am an only child. My parents have been married divorced and married again (yes to each other). I loathed high school and left at 15 (thank you CHSPE) and went to my local community college to study art. I played bass in a rock band with my then boyfriend (now husband). I refused to wear a bra, I bought into the Kurt Vonnegut fantasies, and punk rock promises. Although I was never a shoplifter, friends and family were convinced I would do nothing with my life. At one point my mom suggested I get a welding certificate because, “at least you would be able to do something”.

I was a photography major and a gallery director. I got married at 18, pregnant at 19, and became a mother at 20. I traded in my big city art school hopes and dreams for a 1979 Volvo and a diaper bag. I worked in an office for my in-laws, who were nice enough to let me bring my very young baby to work. On the side I ran a part time vintage clothing resale business on Ebay. I also loved the thrill of the thrift store treasure hunt and I can totally relate to the all-consuming business of finding the right key words!

In 2009 after 2 houses, 2 kids, and an economic depression, the time was right for me to mentally start over and start my own business. I jumped into being a fashion designer without a business plan, a college degree, and about \$25 of start up money. Five years and more than 1000 sales later, I feel like that #GIRLBOSS title fits like a glove. I’m running a debt free handmade fashion business while homeschooling my 13 and 8 year old boys, and being a partner and wife to my husband. Yeah, I am pretty bad ass!

My hope for the future is to move myself and my family to L.A. , where I can take my business to the next level and to hire some help. I am a Cinderella story in the making and yours is a true inspiration.

From one #GIRLBOSS to another, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Robin N. Fator

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P.S. Looking forward to hearing more about the #GIRLBOSS Foundation and at some point we should really hang out ;-)

