**Risk**

**Laugh at yourself, but don't ever aim your doubts at yourself. Be bold. When you embark for strange places, don't leave any of yourself safely on shore. Have the nerve to go into unexplored territory. *(Alan Alda, actor)***

**You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself. *(Alan Alda, American actor)***

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**Astronauts will have to make at least 46 perilous spacewalks, some lasting six to eight hours, to complete assembly of the international space station. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 27, 2006)***

**Nolan Bushnell took a chance and $500 and started a little company in 1972. He believed there was a future in electronic games that could be played on a television set. He patented a game called Pong and the next year his company sold $11 million worth of games. A few years later Bushnell liquidated his assets in the San Francisco company for $28 million. But the company is still rolling along today. Its name: Atari. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 94)***

**The most dangerous creation of any society is that man who has nothing to lose. *(James Baldwin, author)***

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**It is better by noble boldness to run the risk of being subject to half of the evils we anticipate than to remain in cowardly listlessness for fear of what may happen. *(Herodotus)***

**Hollywood stunt men traditionally have been better insurance risks than either policemen or firemen, according to the actuaries. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**A director took a chance on a slim young actor and made him into one of the film world’s great tough guys. Humphrey Bogart was always considered too small for gangster roles and was cast as a society man in his early films. When he finally got a sinister part, Bogart (his real name) electrified filmgoers everywhere. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 6)***

**Living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down. *(Ray Bradbury)***

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**Advantage of Ignorance: When comedienne Carol Burnett is asked which of her accomplishments she's most proud of, she answers, “Having survived.” Burnett was raised on welfare by her grandmother. “Luckily I was ignorant that there were any odds against my doing anything,” she says. “I didn't know I couldn't get out of being poor when I was a kid. Who would have thought I could be in show business? Nobody but me. I think it's important to take risks, to risk defeat. And to find out you can live through one or two or three -- or many.” *(Eric Sherman, in Ladies' Home Journal)***

**Researchers asked more than a score of experts to name the 10 riskiest (i.e.: most likely to fail) small businesses in the United States. Their list: local laundries and dry cleaners, used car dealerships, gas stations, local trucking firms, restaurants, infants' clothing stores, bakeries, machine shops, grocery and meat stores, car washes. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Take a chance! All life is chance. The man who goes farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The “sure thing” boat never gets far from shore. *(Dale Carnegie) 110912***

**Most of us teach our children not to take unnecessary risks. What a pity when a child looks into the eyes of his parent and thinks, “I’d better not go there alone.” *(Jim Hancock, in R aising Adults: Getting Kids Ready for the Real World)***

**Pastor Steve Breazier of Monterey, California, offered these safety tips in his weekly church bulletin: 1. Do not ride in autos -- they cause 20 percent of all fatal accidents. 2. Do not stay at home -- 17 percent of all accidents happen there.  3. Do not travel by air, rail, or water -- 16 percent of all accidents result from these activities. 4. Do not walk in the street -- 15 percent of all accidents occur to pedestrians. 5. Only .001 percent of all fatal accidents happen in church!**

**I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center. *(Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., American novelist)***

**The cautious seldom err. *(Confucius)***

**To conquer without risk is to triumph without glory. *(Pierre Corneille, French dramatist)***

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**William Gordon, president of SES, stresses that such creativity cannot happen without “the emotional willingness to risk failure.” In other words, even the craziest of ideas should be considered, since every truly original idea may look a little crazy at first. Thomas Edison, a man with 1093 American patents in his name, once confessed: “I’ll try anything – even Limburger cheese!” *(Dudley Lynch, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The great enemy of creativity is fear. When we're fearful, we freeze up -- like a nine-year-old who won't draw pictures, for fear everybody will laugh. Creativity has a lot to do with a willingness to take risks. Think about how children play. They run around the playground, they trip, they fall, they get up and run some more. They believe everything will be all right. They feel capable; they let go. Good businesspeople behave in a similar way: they lose $15 million, gain $20 million, lose $30 million and earn it back. If that isn't playing, I don't know what is! *(Faith Ringgold, in Fast Company)***

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**Bank officer to young loan applicant: “We're sorry, Mr. Hobbs, but with your credit rating, we'd require five major co-signers, full-value collateral, and you would never be allowed to go farther than ten feet from this desk.” *(Mell Lazarus, Creators Syndicate, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My friend Ron specializes in arranging loans for people who are credit risks. One day he explained to a potential customer that to qualify for a loan, he would have to provide a driver’s license and a copy of a utility bill to verify residency. The next day the customer returned, proudly waving his driver’s license and a letter from the electric company – a shut-off notice. *(Jennifer Clarke, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The riskiest of credit risks are said to be political candidates in the heat of campaigns. If they win, they know they can settle up. If they lose, who cares? So says an experienced lender. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Miss Sweet Potato Pie, the local beauty queen, was seated in the front row of the church balcony and suddenly felt dizzy during the service. Just at the minister began the blessing, she stood up, lost her balance and pitched over the railing. When her dress caught on the rail, she found herself hanging over the praying congregation. Before the parishioners could look up, the minister intoned, “If you turn to stare at this damsel in distress, God will strike you blind!” One worshiper nudged his friend and whispered, “I believe I’ll risk one eye.” *(Nathan Deal, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**The chief danger in life is that you may take too many precautions. *(Alfred Adler, psychologist)***

**In violent crime statistics, the most dangerous job is now reported to be cab driver, followed by night clerk in a convenience store. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**If you risk nothing, then you risk everything. *(Geena Davis, American actress)***

**Housework can’t kill you, but why take a chance? *(Phyllis Diller)***

**Walt Disney’s dream of the ultimate amusement park moved a step closer to reality when the McNeil Construction Company began clearing more than 100 acres of orange orchards in Anaheim, California, in August 1954. Disney mortgaged most of his belongings to finance the project, and less than a year later, Disneyland opened its gates to the public for the first time. *(Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)***

**Male drivers have a 77 percent higher risk of dying in a car accident than female drivers, according to a comprehensive new report by the American Automobile Association. Researchers say men take more risks, speed more, and are more likely than women to drink and drive. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 2, 2007)***

**If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster. *(Clint Eastwood)***

**A ship is always safe at shore, but that is not what it is built for. *(Albert Einstein)***

**Elegance is good taste plus a dash of daring. *(Carmel Snow with Mary Louise Aswell, in The World of Carmel Snow)***

**Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. *(T. S. Eliot, poet)***

**Dare to be what you are meant to be and do what you are meant to do, and life will provide you the means to do it and be it. *(James Dillet Freeman)***

**You play your hand. And, of course, all your money. You can do everything right, but there are so many factors you can't control. The question is, “Will you hit pay dirt?” Gardening is really just gambling outdoors. *(Hilary B. Price, in Rhymes With Orange comic strip)***

**Bill Gates, who regularly tempts failure at Microsoft, likes to hire people who have made mistakes. “It shows that they take risks,” he says. “The way people deal with things that go wrong is an indicator of how they deal with change.” *(Patricia Sellers, in Reader's Digest)***

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**The most dangerous thing in the world is to try and jump a chasm in two jumps. *(David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain)***

**Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps. *(David Lloyd George)***

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**God's call to me, his child, is not to safeness, but always to something more -- always upward, higher, further along. To bypass the call is to settle for mediocrity, complacency and dormancy. And should I choose not to risk, I will more than likely wake up some morning with the haunting question on my mind, “Could God have had something more for me, if only I had dared to trust?” *(Ruth Senter, in Guideposts)***

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**The greatest risk of all? Not to risk. *(Country Extra magazine)***

**The greatest risk is the risk of riskless living. *(Stephen R. Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People)***

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**Risky Business: In just three years, talk-show host Arsenio Hall has secured a spot in American pop culture. “Arsenio-isms” are as common as concrete: barking as a sign of approval, raising a twisted fist to cheer or starting tasks with “Let’s get busy.” But the kid from Cleveland who idolized Johnny Carson almost stayed in his first career as a department-store manager. “I always wanted to be a comic,” he recalls, “but I was afraid of failing. One day, I realized that nobody I admired had ever achieved anything without taking some kind of risk.” So Hall quit his job and went to Chicago, where he bombed several times as a stand-up comedian before being “discovered.” Then he bombed a few more times before finally making it big in Los Angeles. “Now, when I look back, I wonder, ‘Where would I be if I had remained a coward the rest of my life?’” *(Lynn Norment, in Ebony magazine)***

**Risky business: People who take more risks are more satisfied with their lives, a new study found. Researchers at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Germany had 450 people participate in an investment game in which they could divvy up a sum of 100,000 euros (around $120,000) as they saw fit, including putting some or all of it in a bank or in a risky investment scheme. Their choices were then analyzed according to how much risk they were willing to take. It turned out that the people who followed the riskiest investment strategies were also more likely to consider themselves optimistic and well-adjusted. Professor Armin Falk, who ran the study, tells Science Daily he can’t yet explain the connection between risk-taking and happiness. “Are people more optimistic because they are satisfied and thus more ready to take risks?” he asks. Or, are they satisfied because they’ve taken risks and gotten what they hoped for? “It’s a classic chicken and egg problem.” *(The Week magazine, October 7, 2005)***

**David Hartman, the former host of ABC-TVs “Good Morning America,” graduated from college with a degree in economics. Many attractive business opportunities beckoned, but Hartman -- who had worked part-time in college as a radio and TV announcer -- made a tough decision. He turned his back on years of academic training and, forgoing financial security, began a career in the highly uncertain entertainment/communications field. *(Robert & Jeanette Lauer, in Reader's Digest)***

**Are things going well enough now between us to risk being honest, and spoiling everything? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**It is always a risk to speak to the press: They are likely to report what you say. *(Hubert Humphrey, former U.S. Vice-President)***

**A small company in Virginia that made driving aids for handicapped people went out of business because it couldn't afford the liability insurance. Too risky. Hardly anyone makes gymnastics or hockey equipment anymore. Too risky. We've virtually stopped making light aircraft in this country; the biggest cost is the product liability. Too risky. One day, we're going to wake up and say, “The hell with it -- competing is just too risky!” Why even try to build a better mousetrap? Let somebody else do it -- and then sue him. *(Lee Iococca, from a speech)***

**It doesn't make sense. If you put two dollars on a horse and twelve thousand on a car, it's the former they call gambling. *(Robert Orben)***

**If you don’t risk anything, you risk even more. *(Erica Jong)***

**There are some things one can only achieve by a deliberate leap in the opposite direction. *(Franz Kafka)***

**Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing. *(Helen Keller) 19922***

**Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly. *(Robert F. Kennedy)***

**Weber is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the kettle grill this year. It was invented by George Stephen, who fashioned his dome-shaped grill at the Weber Brothers Metal Works and changed backyard barbecuing forever. Original price of the kettle: $50 -- at a time when the more popular brazier was $7. *(Rocky Mountain News, 2002)***

**Stephen King had a good steady job in a laundry, but gave it up because he got some notion about writing books. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Las Vegas is loaded with all kinds of gambling devices. Dice tables, slot machines and wedding chapels. *(Joey Adams)***

**Life is a gamble at terrible odds. If it were a bet, you would not take it. *(Tom Stoppard, playwright)* *\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

**Do you want me to tell you something really subversive? Love is everything it's cracked up to be. That's why people are so cynical about it ... It really is worth fighting for, being brave for, risking everything for. And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more. *(Erica Jong, in How to Save Your Own Life)b***

**It's been a long time since I wrote Roxanne a love letter. This was a lot easier before she knew so much about me. *(Ted Dawson, in Spooner comic strip)  
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**You have to find something that you love enough to be able to take risks, jump over the hurdles and break through the brick walls that are always going to be placed in front of you. *(George Lucas)***

**Talk about taking risks. After five Emmy nods (one win) and rave reviews for her eight seasons on Will & Grace, actress Debra Messing has turned away from network TV to concentrate on movies – a gamble that seems to be working out splendidly. *(James Brady, in Parade magazine, May 27, 2007)***

**Early shopkeepers were convinced the first department stores would fail because the stores came up with such a crazy offer -- the money-back guarantee. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Interest-only mortgages, where nothing is being paid on the principal for the first few years, enable many people to get started on buying a home with lower mortgage payments at the outset. But of course it is only a matter of time before the mortgage payments go up and, unless their income has gone up enough in the meantime for them to be able to afford the new and higher payments, such borrowers can end up losing their homes. Such risky mortgage loans were rare just a few years ago. As of 2002, fewer than 10 percent of the new mortgages in the United States were of this type. But, by 2006, 31 percent of all new mortgages were of this “creative” or risky type. In the San Francisco Bay area, 66 percent of the new mortgages were of this type. *(Thomas Sowell, in Rocky Mountain News, August 8, 2007)***

**If you're never scared, embarrassed or hurt, it means you never take any chances. (*Julia Sorel, in See How She Runs)***

**You’ve read that in 1859 the French stuntman Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a 1,500-foot tightrope. But did you know he took a cook stove out there, too, and proceeded to fry a couple of eggs? Comes to mind because someone has asked how he died. Rich. In bed. Of old age. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It's only when you risk failure that you discover things. When you play it safe, you're not expressing the utmost of your human experience. *(Lupita Nyong'O, Oscar-winning actress)***

**The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture past them into the impossible. *(Arthur C. Clarke)***

**Parents Magazine first came out in 1925. A 30-year-old New York bachelor named George Joseph Hecht started it. In the belief the country could use some instruction on how to bring up children. He quit his family's prosperous skin and hide business, borrowed $50,000 from personal lenders, and made it work*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**After taking his seat on the plane, a mild-mannered young man was startled to see a parrot strapped in next to him. Choosing to ignore the bird, he asked the flight attendant for a cup of coffee. “And get me a whiskey, now!” the parrot ordered rudely. A few moments later the attendant returned with the whiskey, but no coffee. “Hey, lazy,” the parrot cried out after draining his glass, “another whiskey!” Again, the attendant hurried to bring the parrot his drink but forgot the coffee. Upset at being ignored, the man decided to try the parrot’s approach. “Hey, you!” he yelled at the attendant. “Coffee now or you’ll never work for this airline again!” A moment later a burly co-pilot came over, grabbed the man and the parrot and tossed them out the plane door. As they plunged downward, the parrot turned to the man and said, “That was really gutsy, mister. Especially for someone who can’t fly.” *(Playboy)***

**Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash. *(George S. Patton)***

**When Luciano Pavarotti was a boy, his grandmother put him on her lap and said, “You're going to be great, you'll see.” His mother dreamed he'd be a baker. “Instead,” Pavarotti explains, “I ended up teaching elementary school and sang only infrequently. But my father constantly goaded me, said I was singing below my potential.” Finally, at age 22, Pavarotti dumped teaching for selling insurance, to give him enough time to develop his vocal talent. “Studying voice was the turning point of my life,” says the opera star. “It's a mistake to take the safe path in life. If I hadn't listened to my father and dropped teaching, I would never be here. And yes, my teacher groomed me. But no teacher ever told me I would become famous. Just my grandmother.” *(Glenn Plaskin, in Turning Point)***

**Wild rumors had spread through London about the play, a lollapalooza of five sets, actors playing a dog, a crocodile, pirates and Indians and a slew of other characters, some of whom flew in and out of windows by means of an unreliable mechanical contraption. Spectators, including many professional critics, packed the Duke of York's Theatre on opening night. The theater's lights dimmed. Behind the last row of seats, a small figure paced nervously. At first glance, he appeared to be a boy in an oversized great coat. But the face was that of a man -- J. M. Barrie, the 44-year-old Scottish playwright whose “Peter Pan” was being performed for the first time. Although one of London's most celebrated playwrights, Barrie was sick with worry. The improbable story of a boy who refused to grow up was a risky and expensive theatrical venture. Barrie had rewritten the script a dozen times and was aware of talk that he had gone mad. But now the playwright knew that one element he could neither rehearse nor control would determine whether the criticism was founded. As all the world now knows, the playwright need not have worried. Since that December night 90 years ago, “Peter Pan” has been in continual production (save for two years during World War II), seen by millions of people every year. *(Patricia S. McCormick, in Reader's Digest, November, 1994)***

**Gloria: “Would it kill you to pick up the check once in a while, Lance?” Lance: “I’m far too mature to risk my life on a dare, Gloria.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**A naval aviator told me that many pilots have died because they stayed with disabled aircraft. They preferred the familiarity of the cockpit to the unfamiliarity of the parachute, even though the cockpit was a deathtrap. Many people have seen their careers crash because they preferred the familiar but deadly old ways to the risky but rewarding new ways. *(Nido R. Qubein, in Stairway to Success)***

**The great thing about taking big chances when you're younger is that you have less to lose. *(Amy Poehler)***

**Client to bank-loan officer: “If I'm such a poor risk, how did I get this far in debt?” *(Marvin Townsend, in National Enquirer)***

**William Smithburg, chairman of Quaker Oats, took responsibility for two “mistakes” – the acquisition of a video-game business he has since closed down, and a pet-accessory business he bought and then wrote off. Later he told his employees: “I want you to take risks. There isn’t one senior manager in this company who hasn’t been associated with a product that flopped. That includes me. It’s like learning to ski. If you’re not falling down, you’re not learning.” *(Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus, in Reader’s Digest)***

**It’s important to realize that rockets are rockets, and rockets are still risky technology and that’s true of every type of rocket that we or any other country have ever built. *(Sally Ride, former astronaut)***

**We are all pilgrims, beings in process. Each one of us must march bravely to a personal drummer, climb our personal mountains, struggle for a destiny that is ours alone. Sometimes it seems much safer just to follow the good old beaten path. The “road less traveled” always seems so risky. But there is not “one road for all.” We are each gifted with an enormous but unique potential. However, in our rendezvous with destiny, we have to take chances, run risks, get rejected and be hurt, be knocked down and get back up on our feet. We must learn to survive defeats. It is all so wild, so terrifying, so adventuresome. *(Father John Powell, in Happiness Is an Inside Job)***

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**You've got to go out on a limb sometimes because that's where the fruit is. *(Will Rogers)***

**Don’t gamble; take all your savings and buy some good stock and hold it till it goes up, then sell it. If it don’t go up, don’t buy it. *(Will Rogers)*  
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**In 1935, Andy Nelsen of Omaha, Nebraska, gambled on a new industry by franchising the 1935 Indian line of trailers, which started at $345 for the Papoose model. A. C. Nelson RV World is America’s oldest recreational vehicle dealer. *(American Profile magazine)***

**There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar: It keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor. *(George Santayana)***

**A top executive at the American Broadcasting Company took a chance and tried acting. Telly Savalas decided to play a judge in a TV show when no one could be found with the right magisterial qualities. He went on to many movies, including The Dirty Dozen, and scored his big hit with TV’s Kojak. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 8)***

**All serious daring starts from within. *(Eudora Welty, in One Writer's Beginnings)***

**A sheltered life can be a daring life as well. *(Eudora Welty)***

**A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. *(John G. Shedd, philanthropist)***

**You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try. *(Beverly Sills)***

**If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor. *(Neil Simon)***

**Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors. *(African proverb)***

**You will never be completely free from risk if you are free. *(Edward Snowden, privacy advocate)***

**Sometimes you have to take the leap, and build your wings on the way down. *(Kobi Yamada)***

**Risk is the sort of word that is easy to discuss upfront but tough to handle when it comes to pay the piper. There will always be someone who wimps out and second-guess themselves when the pain hits, but that is a childish reaction. *(Nathan Myhrvoid)***

**After the tragic 1986 Challenger accident that took the lives of Christa McAuliffe and her crewmates, Barbara Morgan -- McAuliffe's backup -- became NASA's designated Teacher in Space. Morgan visits schools nationwide to talk about her commitment to the space program. “We've become afraid to take risks,” says the third-grade teacher from McCall, Idaho. “Kids don't see adults crossing the continent in covered wagons or sailing the Atlantic in leaky boats. Most of the risk-taking they're exposed to is on TV -- bluff and bluster: “I volunteered because I felt we needed to show kids what you do in terrible situations. You don't quit. You don't back up. You go on. As dangerous as space exploration can be -- as much of a new frontier as it is -- it belongs to everyone. A teacher in space would be, like Christa McAuliffe, a leader who shows all of us the way, by literally reaching for the stars.” *(Christopher Phillips, in Parade magazine)***

**There are no traffic jams along the extra mile. *(Roger Staubach, football great)***

**A new jewelry store is 25 times more likely to stay in business a full year than is a new restaurant. So say the statisticians. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In America, anyone can become president. It's one of the risks we take. *(Adlai Stevenson)***

**My Favorite Saying: Unless you stick your neck out, you won’t get your head above the crowd. *(John Hampsch, in Reminisce magazine)***

**He was a bold man who first ate an oyster. *(Jonathan Swift, English satirist)***

**"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door," he used to say. "You step into the Road, and if you don't keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to. *(J. R. R. Tolkien)***

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**Necessity is the mother of taking chances. *(Mark Twain)***

**Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover. *(Mark Twain)***

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**Centuries ago, when mapmakers ran out of the known world before they ran out of parchment, they would sketch a dragon at the edge of the scroll. This was a sign to the explorer that he would be entering unknown territory at his own risk. Unfortunately, some explorers took this symbol literally and were afraid to push on to new worlds. Other more adventurous explorers saw the dragons as a sign of opportunity, a door to virgin territory. Each of us has a mental map of the world in our heads that contains the information we use to guide ourselves to our day-to-day encounters. Like the maps of long ago, our mental maps also have dragons on them. These represent things that, for whatever reason, we don't want to do or push beyond. It could be a fear of public speaking. It could be a fear of going to a party where we don't know any of the people. It could be a reluctance to participate in a particular sport. Sometimes these dragons are valid. Sometimes, however, they prevent us from discovering something new. *(Roger von Oech, in A Kick in the Seat of the Pants)***

**Barbara Walters has interviewed many of the people who have changed the world in her lifetime. And she says, surprisingly, Cher is one “who says things that make me think, I must remember that.” Walters elaborates: I asked Cher what her greatest fear was, and she answered, “Professionally, not being wanted. I’ve gone through that, and it didn’t feel good. Personally, that I won’t live my life as well as I know it could be lived, that I’ll be stupid, and not have guts and integrity. That I’ll make choices that are safe.” I often think of those words because I get afraid sometimes that I will do something because it is safe. *(Chris Chase, in Cosmopolitan)***

**Dare to be brave, dare to stand tall; give life the best, get up when you fall. *(William Arthur Ward)***

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**In 1783, George Washington had returned to his beloved Potomac River plantation after the exhausting years of war, looking forward to a tranquil old age in a prosperous, independent nation. Soon, however, he became aware that the Congress established by the Articles of Confederation, adopted in 1781 near war's end, was “little more than the shadow without substance.” Now a rebellion in Massachusetts, led by a former captain in the Revolutionary Army, Daniel Shays, had fully revealed the deplorable weakness of the federal government. Should Washington go to the Constitutional Convention of 1787? As historian Clinton Rossiter pointed out, “The greatest man in America -- and, in the opinion of most Americans, the greatest in the world -- Washington enjoyed a personal prestige in 1787 that has never been matched in all our history.” He was acutely aware that he could risk this prestige in such a venture only once. What if most of the states ignored Congress? What if the delegates who showed up failed to agree? It could make a bad situation worse if people decided not even Washington could rescue the floundering ship of state. Some of his most trusted advisors urged him to stay home. For weeks Washington brooded and pondered. Finally, something deep within him said yes. “To see this country happy is so much the wish of my soul,” he told Henry Knox, “that nothing on this side of Elysium can be placed in competition with it.” On May 9, he began his coach journey to Philadelphia. *(Thomas Fleming, in Reader's Digest)***

**Listen, he was our leader in the Revolution, to which he pledged his life, his fortune, and his honor. Those were not idle pledges. What do you think would have happened to him had he been captured by the British Army? I’ll tell you. He would have been brought to London, tried, found guilty of treason, ordered executed, and then drawn and quartered. Do you know what that means? He would have had one arm tied to one horse, the other arm to another horse, one leg to yet another, and the other leg to a fourth. Then the four horses would have been simultaneously whipped and started off at a gallop, one going north, another south, another east and the fourth to the west. That is what George Washington risked to establish your freedom and mine. *(Stephen E. Ambrose, in Smithsonian magazine)***

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**I never varied from the managerial rule that the worst possible thing we could do would be to lie dead in the water with any problem. Solve it, solve it quickly, solve it right or wrong. If you solved it wrong, it would come back and slap you in the face and then you could solve it right. Doing nothing is a comfortable alternative because it is without immediate risk, but it is an absolutely fatal way to manage a business. *(Thomas J. Watson, Jr., in Fortune magazine)***

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**"Come to the edge," he said. "We are afraid," they answered. "Come to the edge," he said. They came. He pushed them, and they flew. *(Unity in the Rockies newsletter)***

**We can't be afraid of change. You may feel very secure in the pond that you are in, but if you never venture out of it, you will never know that there is such a thing as an ocean or sea. Holding onto something that is good for you now, may be the very reason why you don't have something better. *(C. JoyBell C.)***

**We want lives of simple, predictable ease -- smooth, even trails are far as the eye can see -- but God likes to go off-road. *(Tony Snow, former White House Press Secretary, when asked what spiritual lessons he'd learned while dealing with a second bout of colon cancer)***

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**When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth. So what the hell, leap. *(Cynthia Heimel)***

**After slumping a bit in September 1941, Ted Williams came to the season's final day, a double-header against Philadelphia. His average was at .39955, which would have rounded out to .400. Manager Joe Cronin gave Williams the option of sitting out both baseball games. Williams declined, and on a cold, awful day, he went 6-for-8 to finish with a historic .406 batting average. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**There is a time for departure even when there’s no certain place to go. *(Tennessee Williams)***

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**To win without risk is to triumph without glory. *(Pierre Comeille, playwright)***

**You can become a winner only if you are willing to walk over the edge. *(Damon Runyon)***

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**Good sense makes the world go round but risk is what changes it. “One person traveling opposite the flow,” Noah Ben Shea writes, “is more clearly noticed than all who travel together.” For once in your life, go against the flow! *(Joan D. Chittister, OSB, in The Monastic Way)***

**The risk of a wrong decision is preferable to the terror of indecision. *(Maimonides)***

**Chester Carlson worked diligently for years to interest various companies in his invention. Kodak turned it down. Twice the IBM Corporation studied the invention and twice rejected it, once on the advice of the Arthur D. Little Market Analysis Company. The Haloid Corporation, a nearly bankrupt company, finally decided to risk putting money into the invention to see if it could reverse company prospects. It did. Carlson is the inventor of xerography, and the Haloid Corporation is today the Xerox Corporation. IBM, although doing very nicely with computers, has never been able to equal Xerox's dominance of the office copier field. *(M. Hirsh Goldberg, in The Blunder Book, p. 151)***

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