

Foreword

We don't know when we may be seeing someone for the last time. What would you do if you suddenly faced an unforeseen challenge that changed the course of your life forever?

I found it a joy to read this book and warmly acknowledge Melanie who held her vision to write a book and inspire others, despite being legally blind while writing it. I know that Melanie's readers will be equally fascinated by her story and all that she fervently shares in the telling of it.

When I first met Melanie several years ago, she was looking for ways to fundraise for Connect 4 Life, her charity that benefits people with various abilities. I excitedly supported her in her endeavours as it takes a special person to teach others necessary life skills to thrive. Our business relationship quickly turned into a friendship, as I was drawn to Melanie's high level of integrity and humble nature. I was deeply moved by her story of how she found a way to flourish after becoming partially paralyzed and blind. She has a unique approach to staying positive in times of adversity. It has been an absolute honour to witness how Melanie has prevailed.

This narrative unfolds an amazing chronicle of misfortune—something that many of us may encounter in our lives. Melanie's story is a rare and sobering experience where you see

a teacher's goals all planned out and then, instantly, her life changes as she sinks into a coma.

While our circumstances are all different, the way most of us solve our problems is through the fundamental lessons we gain through life experience, each revealing how we can prevail and remain positive.

One of the many things I love about Melanie's message is that she comes from a place of vulnerability, humility, and integrity. As the title of her book, *My Unforeseen Journey: Losing Sight Gaining Vision*, suggests, life presents us all with unforeseen situations and challenges. Melanie offers a wealth of proven practices that address the importance of acknowledging, then taking control of our circumstances.

As an ambassador for many charities and an advocate for kindness, I immediately knew this would be a work written by a caring educator whose goal it is to inspire others.

Melanie has inspired me too, by providing an engaging approach to building resilience. She has achieved success by helping other people realize their dreams. She cares passionately for people and goes out of her way to help those who live with a disability. I have seen her speaking career prosper, along with the many lives she is impacting.

My Unforeseen Journey helps you transform what you hope is possible for your life by giving you a process and tools to make things happen. Melanie paves the road with good intentions and thoughtful advice.

I have always been amazed by what humans are capable of when they are faced with adversity. This is one of those rare stories that will benefit everyone and unite us through heartfelt

emotion and, at the same time, stark reality. This book provides us with new practical and educational perspectives to help us rise above what troubles us and triumph.

When you meet someone who cares so much about the advancement of others, despite going through her own health challenges, you know you have met an encouraging example of how anyone can overcome adversity. I volunteer with Melanie because the work she does is wonderful, and she has always made me feel appreciated. Melanie has a passion for positivity and is truly a remarkable human being.

I am thrilled that Melanie has documented her story so you, the reader, can benefit from her wisdom and unwavering desire to empower all who cross her path.

I wish you an enjoyable read as you acquire skills to give you hope, especially if you are faced with your own unforeseen journey.

Gaby Mammone
Professional Speaker, Social Entrepreneur
CEO, Kind Projects
Founder, #BeAwareBeKind Movement