

Dedicated to my dad



Out of the picture

My father got fired. Deleted from the company he dedicated his time to for twenty plus years of service. He's fifty-something. Frustrated feelings of failure and uselessness.

To find peace with the situation and to restore his self-esteem he decides to take a self-imposed leave of absence. Away from home, family, friends and business relations. Out of the picture for a while. Two months Bali in seclusion to think matters over, to put things into perspective; a time to get inspired and find new energy.

'Out of the picture' sketches the months that he was away searching for answers.

I believe it takes guts and an unconditional trust of my mom and dad in each other that – no matter the misfortune – the will to survive will result in something positive. I believe anyone can get back into the picture – whatever picture you choose to be in – as long as you pursue your own values, and have the support of those that love you.

Simone Engelen



----- Original Message -----

From: Jos Engelen

To: Simone Engelen

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 13:25 PM

Subject: Bali 3

[...]

I'm getting used to answer the question why I came here. 'I'm working on a story and was looking for a quiet and inspirational place away from home', which of course is true, but only partially. I find this reply helpfull in avoiding the usual small talk you'll encounter all over the world when meeting fellowtravellers, waiters, cabdrivers and other people that are not genuinly interested in me or my quest.

Granted, it is a bit unusual to choose to stay in a dry, deserted area for a month, while most of Bali has so much natural and cultural beauty to enjoy. But because this undevelopped part of the north-eastern coastline is lacking all the usual places of interest, I'm not at all tempted to go anywhere but up and down the beach each morning and wander about my own soul. Somehow it feels like the perfect place to take a necessary next step.

And even if my stay here doesn't produce all the answers I'm looking for – I'm certain it won't – I still believe that it will be here that I can find some peace.

The rest of my life starts today.









----- Original Message -----

From: Jos Engelen

To: Simone Engelen

Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2009 12:16 PM

Subject: Bali 32

[...]

Why did I care so much? Why did I worry so much? Does being a non-graduate explain the ever present sense of insecurity? Is showing involvement proof of commitment? Is working overtime, time after time, true dedication?

Is it maybe because each of us needs to be needed? To be necessary, maybe even – what was I thinking – irreplaceable. One should matter, no matter how small or insignificant the part one plays. It gives us the very reason for existence.

I've been thinking about this for a while now. It's frustrating and sobering to find that, after several decades of labour, almost all I have accomplished has become void. Once you're out of the picture your achievements disappear in that all consuming vortex of a fast moving business world.













