

*The Women Who Rock book series has become the new platform where powerful and inspirational women come together to share their stories that impact lives. Women Who Rock authors are World Changers, and I'm honored to know every one of them personally. Book #2 is filled with more inspirational stories that will encourage you to join the movement to change lives everywhere.*

—Craig Duswalt, Keynote Speaker, Author, Podcaster, and Creator of RockStar Marketing

# WOMEN WHO ROCK<sup>2</sup>



MORE INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF SUCCESS  
BY EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN



# NATASHA DUSWALT

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# THOUGHTS AND WORDS

*Natasha Duswalt*



Our thoughts and words are infinite in what they create and produce.

In my late twenties I attended a Tony Robbins seminar and I made a decision, formed out of a thought, backed with passion, and directed by a vision to own my own business.

I started modeling at the age of seventeen, and had traveled around the world and realized that I wanted something else, but the beliefs I had formed around my career were limiting my growth. Somewhere the lines were blurred and my personal value was based on how I looked, how my photos turned out, what size I was wearing and what clients I was booking. Don't get me wrong I had a great ride and I would not change it for the world. I loved the industry but wanted to have longevity. The trick was, what's the next step?

That question brought me to start Peak Models & Talent in Los Angeles. Even though my mind was riddled with doubt, I was able to apply all of the skills that I had picked up while modeling and parlayed that into a company where I am able to help others on a daily basis.

The thoughts and words we have behind the scenes of our lives need to be monitored in order to succeed.

To overcome fear and doubt my background mantra was to always be of service to anyone that I encountered. However, after many years I found that the responsibility of the agency was wearing me down, and I was about to face a new challenge that I certainly was not expecting . . . ever.

In October 2006 I was told by a doctor that I had Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a blood cancer. At that moment all I could think was, "What does this mean? Am I going to die? What will my children and husband do without me?" All of the thoughts came racing like a train through my head,

unstoppable, fearful, terrifying, and completely unhappy thoughts. My reaction was tears. My tears were for the kids that I had brought into this world to take care of, tears for a husband that married me to have a family with, tears for me that I might have to knowingly go down a path that could possibly result in my mortal end. All of this was overwhelming and painful.

My thoughts were taking control of my existence. This is what happens when we face life on life's terms. After battling the thoughts of despair, I finally took control of my thoughts and words. Cancer might have sucker-punched me at first, but I needed to gain control of my thoughts.

Every day I started to focus on living. Living meant doing the things I wanted to do in-between doctor visits and treatments. Living meant envisioning myself with my kids and husband well after this part of my life was over. My choice was to see my life after cancer, not to stay in the fear. My life needed to be focused on faith. The faith that I could do this, and the faith that God was with me and wanted me to continue living.

Contrary to popular belief, I was not “fighting” cancer, I was surrendering control over to God because the idea of “fighting” cancer was too big of a battle to do alone.

The point is—that no matter what happens we get to take control of our thoughts and words. My diagnosis was just that—a diagnosis that just happened to require medical care.

I decided after surrendering, that this was nothing more than a small problem that would pass through my life, and that was it.

I stopped focusing on the negative and instead focused on the fact that this would soon be over.

When people asked about my illness I simply told that that I was “diagnosed,” meaning that it was someone else's opinion that I was being treated for cancer—not mine.

Do you see how different that is?

Most people say they have cancer. I personally believe that this is not helpful. I never owned the “C” word.

After 12 rounds of chemo I was done with the process.

I have been called a survivor. That is one label. People also ask me if I'm in remission, but I believe remission implies that it is still possibly there. I prefer to say I was cured of a diagnosis back in 2006.

The rest is history. Life wants me back in full force, living a life of purpose . . . on purpose.

The thoughts and words you choose to use in your daily life are very powerful and with a few changes in your daily dialogue you will notice that you feel better every day. We all have those moments where we question everything.

When someone asks you how your day is going, think positive! If you are not in the hospital you are GREAT! The bottom line is that you get to choose the thoughts you think and the words you use, and it will feel much better to choose empowering words everywhere you go with every person you encounter.

Remember that everyone you meet is probably struggling with thoughts and feelings just as you are. Giving them something positive to think about or a kind word can really lift their spirits.

One of my favorite things to do is to ask them a question that might get them thinking of something wonderful they could be doing.

The power of thought is immeasurable. The power of our words and language shapes our feelings and outcomes as a person.

Everyone has a mind that is like a garden. Plant seeds of positive thought everywhere you go. Look for the good in every situation. I believe that every day that I am lucky enough to be here to help others, is a successful day.

My greatest personal success is realizing what empowers me, and what I am capable of accomplishing is infinite. I still have so much more to do and that is exactly why I was cured of my diagnosis in 2006.

*Natasha Duswalt is an author, speaker and the president and founder of Peak Models & Talent in Los Angeles. As an international model, Natasha has had the rare opportunity to travel all over the world in places including New York, Miami, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico and several other locations working with top designers and companies.*

*Natasha has been featured on numerous television shows including Baywatch and Growing Pains, as well as the hit movie by Oliver Stone, The Doors. She was also hired as an ESPN Spokesmodel and has appeared on numerous television commercials.*

*Peak Models & Talent has been touted as one of Los Angeles' top agencies, booking with high-end clients such as Guess, Forever 21, Six Flags Theme Parks, Kardashians, Kendall & Kylie, Intel, Nokia, Reebok,*

*Disney, ABS Clothing, Skechers, Nike, Dell, Audi, Mercedes, Honda, Speedo, Tempurpedic Sleep Systems, Starbucks, Bebe, Wells Fargo, Honda, Patagonia, Princess Cruises, Tommy Bahama, Kmart, and Target, just to name a few.*

*Natasha, a proud cancer survivor, and currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Craig Duswalt, and their three boys.*

[www.PeakModels.com](http://www.PeakModels.com)

# LET THERE BE LIGHT

*Sam Sorbo*



“Kevin, I have an idea for a movie,” I said, with both excitement and trepidation. It wasn’t the first time I had had an idea to produce something, but ideas are worth only the paper they are printed on in Hollywood, which is to say, ideas are less than a dime a dozen.

A year before, there had been little hope of getting my faith-based television program on the air without a bona fide writer, but I remained undeterred. My drive stemmed from my aspiration to see morally principled entertainment on TV. A producer-contact introduced me to Dan Gordon, who had been the showrunner on *Highway to Heaven* with Michael Landon. He loved the idea—particularly the faith-based aspect of it—and decided to work on it with me.

Sadly, early in the very involved and frustratingly slow process of show development, circumstances dictated that Dan recuse himself from the project. Our friendship persevered despite that.

With our new writer, Kevin and I pitched *Miracle Man* fervently and sold it to NBC and Sony, but timing or politics or just plain nonsense moved it onto a shelf instead of into prime time.

My attitude at the time was that, although I had conceived an excellent idea for a show, I would not be showrunning or even writing on it. True, we needed someone with a proven track record to run the show, but this experience taught me the hard way that I should never cede my power so easily. At the time, though, I focused on my nationally syndicated daily radio show. I was stretched thin, and I considered myself a liability rather than an asset.

I was wrong.

About a year later, I was in my husband Kevin's small upstairs bedroom-office, sitting in the oversized, carved-wood antique chair I had bought in New Zealand, and telling him I had a new idea. The afternoon sun was streaming through the window, lighting up dust particles in the air.

"Tell me about it," he replied, turning his seat to face me, like a good, supportive husband.

I smiled. "The world's greatest atheist has a near-death experience that completely contradicts his disbelief, and he has to rethink his entire purpose in life."

Kevin seemed a bit stunned, and after a moment he said quietly, "Interesting. What are you going to do with it?"

"I want to write it as a script, obviously. You like it?"

"Of course I like it. It's got so much potential. I love it," he confessed easily.

"I need a writer, though. My name won't sell it. Plus, frankly I'm not that good."

"Sam, you're too modest. But if you want a writer, I have a few names you can call. What about that guy we had for *Miracle Man*? Dan Gordon?"

"Yeah, I'm going to reach out to him. I'm pumped!" I got up from the chair and stood in the doorway, giddy with the power that a new idea always evokes in me.

"Good! But, Sam, can you take this on, with everything else?"

"Aw, Kevy, if only I had the choice." I leaned over his desk as I spoke. "I'd sit back and eat bonbons all day long and read. But the way this idea just came to me . . . it was a gift from God obviously, and I am obliged to see it through." I puckered my lips for a peck. Kevin kissed me and smiled, looking in my eyes.

"OK," he said, laughing. "Keep me posted!"

I called Dan Gordon. A very accomplished Hollywood screenwriter, he wrote *The Hurricane* with Denzel Washington and *Wyatt Earp* for Kevin Costner.

"Hey, Dan, I've got an idea for a movie. Would you consider writing it with me?"

"No," he answered succinctly.

"Oh," I said, embarrassed. Of course, he wouldn't need anyone to collaborate with.

Then he continued, “But, Sam, we haven’t seen each other for a while—let’s have lunch.”

Over lunch Dan regaled me with the story of the screenplay he had just sold for over \$1.25 million. Toward the end of our lunch, Dan offered, “So, tell me your idea for a movie.” I thought maybe he’d give me a tip or something.

I pitched the idea to him. He thought about it for a moment, then nodded and said, “I like it. We’ll write it together.”

Neither Kevin nor I believe in serendipity, or what some people call chance. Lady Luck, roll of the dice, karma—none of those are real. Things only appear to happen by chance because our perspective is too close to view the entire plan, until, fully executed, we stand back in awe and exclaim on its magnificence.

About two weeks after I began collaborating on the script with Dan, I had nearly finished writing the first draft.

Then, like a lightning bolt out of a clear blue sky, Kevin received a phone call from Sean Hannity.

They chatted briefly about golf and tennis, Sean’s favorite sports, and then he cut to the chase. “You know, Kevin, I’ve been thinking of getting into movie production. It’s a powerful medium, and you’ve got a great handle on it. What do you say? Do you have a faith-based project we could collaborate on?”

Later that afternoon, Kevin told me about the conversation. “That’s my movie!” I squealed, jumping up and down.

A few weeks later Dan, Kevin, and I flew to New York City. For about half an hour we pitched the film to Sean, and he decided right then and there to fund the entire project.

Of course, there is a lot more to this story—hard work and tenacity and struggles—but suffice it to say that despite all the things that can go wrong in such a complicated and creative business, *Let There Be Light* is exactly the film I intended to make!

Launching the film on October 27, 2017, we held the second per-screen box office against *Thor* and stayed the course through a little competition called *Star Wars*. Our movie was the fourth-highest-grossing faith-based movie of 2017, and it’s up for awards at the MovieGuide gala of 2018. Being appreciated by your peers is a wonderful thing, but even better are

the countless emails I've received from viewers, who say the movie profoundly impacted them and changed their lives.

The lightbulb is a world-recognized symbol of an idea because light illuminates the darkness, revealing things previously unseen and clarifying confusion. Light attracts us, helps us, and even warms us. In the beginning of time, God said, "Let there be light."

Best. Idea. Ever.

*Sam Sorbo studied biomedical engineering at Duke University before pursuing a career in entertainment. She is an award-winning actress, author, radio host, international model, and homeschooling mom to three children with Kevin Sorbo. Her book They're YOUR Kids: An Inspirational Journey from Self-Doubter to Home School Advocate empowers parents to home educate, and she frequently speaks on education across the nation. She wrote a follow-up book called Teach from Love: A School Year Devotional for Families (Broadstreet Publishing).*

*Sam co-wrote, produced, and co-starred in the 2017 feature film Let There Be Light (executive producer, Sean Hannity; director, Kevin Sorbo). Her boys also acted in the film, making it truly a family affair. The award-winning film was the fourth-highest-grossing faith-based feature film of 2017, spawning a book version of the film and the devotional, Share the Light.*

[www.SamSorbo.com](http://www.SamSorbo.com)

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