

DREAM

INSPIRING STORIES OF

IT

DREAMS COME TRUE

DO IT

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After the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* trilogies, the tables had turned. Movie executives no longer chastised Harrison, they sought him. To date, he's appeared in more than 30 feature films, with the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* movies still among the top-grossing ever made. He's received four Golden Globe nominations over the years, and he earned an Oscar nomination for best actor for his performance as the high-principled detective in *Witness*.

It was Harrison's confidence that carried him to the fulfillment of his dream — even during the lean times of his career when he was discredited, could barely pay his utility bills, and left one audition after another without a role. In the cut-throat world of Hollywood, Harrison Ford held on to enough confidence to reach his lofty dream without sacrificing his principles — and that's something to applaud.

CALE KENNEY: WILD WOMAN ON SKIS

We've all hit lows in our lives. Sometimes these lows can knock the dreams right out of us, threatening our very ability to dream. That's what happened to Cale Kenney. Her world turned upside-down in an instant when a tragic motorcycle accident took her left leg. But confidence enabled Cale to hold onto her last hope while battling excruciating pain. And confidence helped her achieve dreams she never even imagined before her debilitating accident, prompting her to become an athlete, an adventurer, and a writer. Cale shows us how large we can dream, despite our limitations.

Riding with her friend Mark on his motorcycle, 19-year-old Cale Kenney felt great. The petite blonde with the sunny smile and contagious joie de vivre had only a French final left, the last exam of her first year in college. Cale looked forward to acing her test, then enjoying a fun, relaxing summer break.

But she never got to take that exam. A car plowed into them head-on, killing Mark instantly and throwing Cale twenty feet into the air. She struck a telephone pole, shattering her pelvis and breaking both legs. An ambulance rushed Cale to the hospi-

tal where doctors and nurses worked on her around the clock. But they were powerless against gangrene: To save her life, they had to amputate. Cale lost everything on her left side from the waist down — her leg, her hip, and her pelvis. In one moment, her life changed forever.

Cale remained hospitalized for four-and-a-half months, battling excruciating physical pain. Her heart broke to pieces as she grieved the loss of her friend, her leg, and her way of life. But through the pain and sorrow, one thought stood out clearly: Cale wanted to go back to school and finish her college degree.

It was an ambitious dream. She knew that getting around campus on crutches would be arduous. Cale would have to re-master what she once took for granted — walking, climbing steps, getting out of bed without falling on her face. With only half her buttocks remaining, even sitting was difficult.

But she knew that she wanted to return to the stimulating exchange of knowledge and ideas that she missed immensely. With confidence and dogged determination, Cale turned to vocational rehabilitation to help her get back to school. By January — almost eight months after the accident — Cale was back on campus.

Her return was an amazing accomplishment, but those closest to Cale knew she wouldn't have had it any other way. Books and school had been her best friends her entire life. As a curious pre-kindergartner, she had fallen in love with the written word thanks to a creative elderly neighbor with a heart for children. "She had built a little library on her sun porch," Cale recalls. "And there we were, all the tattered kids in the neighborhood, given library cards by this neighbor to borrow her books. I remember thinking at the time that this was the neatest lady!"

The eldest of eight children, Cale had a difficult home life growing up in Revere, Massachusetts. She had to accept the death of a sister and deal with her father's schizophrenia. She served as her siblings' caretaker while her mother worked to support the family. Cale found respite across the street at the public library, where she could open her mind to greater possibilities. At the library, she could dream.

"I can't remember what book it was," she says, recalling one of her favorites, "but it had a reporter character who really caught my fancy. It was somebody whose curiosity gave them license to roam and explore the world. I thought that a reporter's experience was a privilege that the average person didn't have. I wanted that kind of adventurous life."

Compassionate librarians took Cale under their wings, and with their mentoring, she began to realize she was bright. Her ninth-grade IQ test scores verified what the librarians already knew — Cale was gifted. Previously overlooked in school, Cale moved up to the accelerated track and absolutely bloomed. She absorbed challenging material quickly and earned top grades, sending her confidence soaring.

Still, with her family living on the edge of poverty, Cale was convinced that college was out of the question. That changed after a high school teacher urged her to continue her education, and an aunt and uncle helped her apply for financial aid. With outstanding grades and financial assistance, she enrolled at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. College turned out to be everything Cale ever wanted, and more. She thrived in an academically charged environment, both before and after the motorcycle accident.

Two years after losing her left leg and hip, Cale surprised everyone, including herself. The self-proclaimed bookworm who had never been an athlete took up skiing after a friend who was also a recent amputee urged her to try. At first Cale thought: "And break my remaining leg?" But after she saw disabled skiers in Vermont — some blind, others missing limbs — gracefully gliding down powder-white slopes, something tugged at Cale's soul. The skiers were so free. Cale longed to feel that freedom and grace.

Terrified, Cale mustered the courage to give it a try. Her first attempts were far from freeing or graceful. Just getting up on one ski proved virtually impossible. Every time Cale tried to stand, she fell right back down. Progress was slow and agonizing. Time and again, Cale wanted to quit. But her indomitable spirit would not let her give up. First she worked on balance, then she tackled

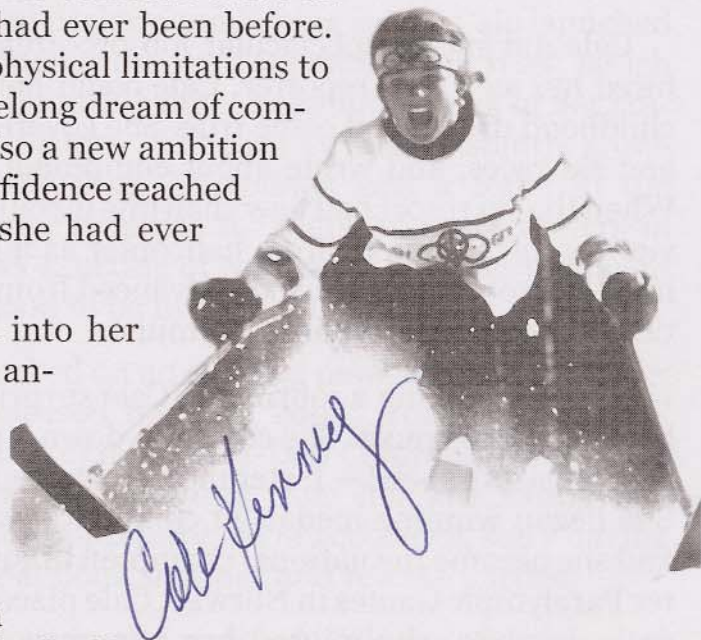
maneuvering, and finally, she began to gain speed. Each small success boosted her confidence, giving her the energy to try again. Soon other skiers smiled whenever Cale sped past emitting her “wild woman” whoops that soon became her trademark. Cale felt she’d received a wake-up call to live life to the fullest. Skiing had brought back her spirit and restored her self-confidence.

By the time she earned her bachelor’s degree with a major in English, Cale was a completely new woman. She had gradually re-invented herself into someone more adventurous than she had ever been before. By overcoming her physical limitations to fulfill not only her lifelong dream of completing college but also a new ambition to ski, Cale’s self-confidence reached a higher level than she had ever known.

Cale then tapped into her confidence to follow another new dream: to live and ski in the Rocky Mountains. This would mean leaving friends and family, and the team

of medical experts who had been treating her since the accident. Partly scared but ultimately up to the challenge, Cale moved half-way across the country to the friendly ski resort community of Winter Park, Colorado, in 1977. “Colorado has a wildness that really appeals to my nature,” she explains with a laugh.

As a child, Cale had learned to get by with little. Now that ability came in handy. She lived in a mountain mobile home on just the \$300 a month provided by Social Security Disability Income, plus whatever she could earn teaching ski classes. But she felt rich beyond her wildest dreams. Cale lived to ski, hitting the slopes every morning whether it was sunny or snowing or bitterly cold. “All of a sudden, I had this life that was just as glamorous and exciting as [the life] I had wanted with two legs,” she says.



“And I felt that it was less likely that I would have found this society if I had not had my accident.”

Skiing gave Cale the confidence to keep dreaming and to share her dreams with others. She confided in friends one dream she had long kept tucked away: to become a professional writer. Word reached the editor of the local newspaper, and Cale visited the offices of *The Winter Park Manifest*. “I went there,” she recalls, “and said, ‘You know, what you really need is a proofreader very badly!’ Since they couldn’t afford one, I volunteered my time.”

Cale did such a spectacular job proofreading that the editor hired her as a staff reporter. Cale could hardly believe it — her childhood dream had come true. She covered local magic shows and ski races, and wrote about equipment for disabled skiers. When the ski resort had new chairlifts installed, Cale had the best view in town — on board a helicopter as it dropped giant poles into the ground. Cale quickly advanced from newspaper apprentice to sports reporter and columnist.

While becoming a journalist, Cale surprised herself again by becoming a ski racer. She could zip down a mountain on one ski at an amazing speed — faster than most people could on two skis. She began winning medals at competitions for disabled skiers, and she became the national champion in 1979. At the 1980 Winter Paralympic Games in Norway, Cale placed an impressive seventh. In 1982, she injured her knee just two days before the Alpine Ski World Championships for the Disabled in Switzerland. The injury terrified her. It put her back in the hospital for two weeks, followed by seven weeks in a wheelchair with her leg in a cast. She never wanted to experience that helplessness again and so she decided to retire from competition — after one more fling, that is. At the 1983 national championships in Squaw Valley, California, Cale won two silver medals. Then she retired from competitive skiing.

Cale’s self-confidence kept pushing her to try adventurous things she had never considered back when she had both legs. She learned to sail. She boogie-boarded in Kauai’s intense surf. She walked a mile down the Grand Canyon on crutches. And not

only has Cale realized many of her own dreams, she has encouraged other women to do the same.

“I took a course called Writing The Wild Woman,” she recalls. “When the instructor left town, I took over teaching that class. And that’s when something occurred to me. I looked around and was struck by how these women were writing things that were so deep from their souls. They were good writers, but they were everyday people who weren’t published. So I came up with the idea of publishing a literary magazine.”

From a home-based desktop publishing setup, Cale launched *Howlings: A Magazine for the Wild Women of the West*, which became a vehicle for publishing the exceptional work of her students and other new writers. “The project was constantly growing and evolving,” she says. “*Howlings* was a force in the community. I’d arrange readings for many of these writers in bookstores. There was a mixing of wonderful energies that went on, and I felt really good to be in the middle of it.”

Cale has just embarked on an exciting new chapter in her life: In May 2003 she released her first book, *Have Crutch, Will Travel: The Adventures of a Modern-Day Calamity Jane*, a collection of true, humorous accounts from her fascinating life. Adding “author” to her impressive list of accolades, she’s having a ball making friends at book signings and release parties.

Confidence has continually enabled Cale to envision and reach higher and higher ambitions. Cale shows all of us that big dreams can be achieved despite tragedy, physical limitations, or a lack of money. For Cale, the desire to reach a dream, the guts to pursue it, and the confidence that she can do it have enabled her to make all of her dreams come true.

NANCY ARCHULETA: FROM HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT TO HIGH-TECH CEO

Without marketable skills or even a high school diploma, Nancy Archuleta’s employment prospects were severely limited. Confidence helped the teenage mom go back to school, build a successful career in insurance, and create the