

Rising Above Statistics: Success Against All Odds
By LaWann Moses

Step Outside the Box! Your Dreams. Your Reality.

Thrust into an unexpected situation? Unsure of your next step? Are you struggling to balance your goals and dreams with the demands of your family, womanhood, work, and life? Are you tired of the limits and labels placed on you by society? Are you ready to fight statistics, stereotypes, ignorance and reclaim power over your life? Do you need inspiration, hope, encouragement, and a plan to help you take the next step? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then this book is for you.

In *Rising Above Statistics: Success Against All Odds*, new author LaWann Moses details her journey as a teen mother who rose above society’s statistical standards, created a plan for success, and succeeded against all odds. Using stories, tips, and guiding exercises, LaWann demonstrates how you can develop a personalized plan that allows you to rise above your situation, take control of your life, and reach your goals.

In this book, you will discover ways to:

- *Achieve your dreams*
- *Live life on purpose*
- *Succeed against all odds*

If you are a woman determined to succeed and rise above your situation, then this book is for you!

ARE YOU READY TO RISE?

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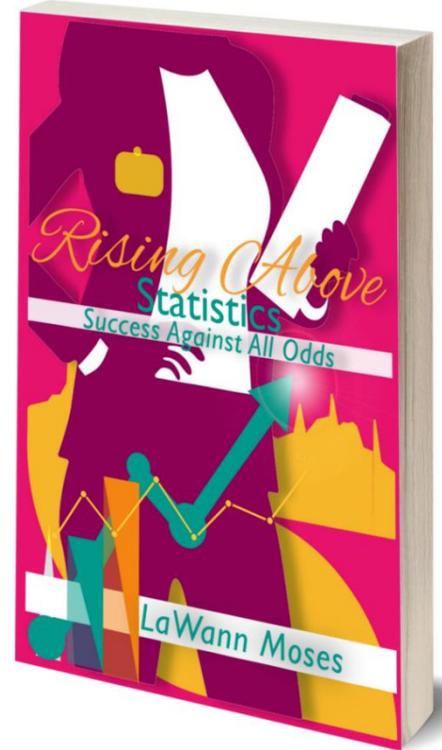
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Praise for Rising Above Statistics:

★★★★★ Love it! (Amazon Customer)

"Do you want to read an upbeat, positive story? One that fuels you with motivation to keep going? Then get THIS book!"- **Facebook Reviewer**

Great, easy read. Very inspirational and encouraging. Not just the author telling her story, but she is also pouring into her readers, giving hope and inspiration where needed. Definitely, a real story of success and overcoming issues. - **Email Reviewer**

Awesome Read! Get yours! You won't be able to put it down- **Facebook Reviewer**

Nice, easy reading book. Hope to share this book with someone who may be just at the crossroads. You made some brave moves in your journey, Blessings. - **Email Reviewer**

Additional Media:

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Excerpt #1 (170 words): "Word soon spread that she was pregnant, and people were shocked:

“How did this happen?”

“What is she going to do?”

“She does not seem like the “type” that would do this.”

“She messed up her life now.”

People had conversations behind closed doors about the girl and her situation. Some people she considered friends talked negatively behind her back. Some were supportive and genuinely concerned as to what this 17-year-old girl would do with her life while others just wanted to be messy and gossip. However, this girl was determined. She did not put much energy into the negativity and naysayers. Yes, it bothered her on some level, but it would not stop her. This girl knew that somehow and someday she would attend college and get her degree.

At first, she was a bit discouraged and uncertain of her next move, but she did not have it in her to give up. College may have been on hold, but it was still a part of her life plan. At first, she was a bit discouraged and uncertain of her next move, but she did not have it in her to give up. College may have been on hold, but it was still a part of her life plan."

Excerpt #2 (411 words): "Then one day that I remember very clearly, I lay in my dark apartment alone on my couch. Thoughts of suicide crept into my mind. I thought about my horrible life and felt I had no reason to live. Things were just too hard and I was not a fighter. I had never been in a fight in my life. I had never fought for anything before.

Things always came easy, but this was hard. I did not know how to do “hard”. I had been in my situation for a few years and nothing improved. Everything seemed worse. It got harder and harder, I could not cope. Sleep no longer helped because even in my dreams, my problems haunted me. I was so low, so depressed, and so sad. I felt I was better off dead. People would be better off without me. My parents did not have to look at their failure of a daughter and constantly wonder where they went wrong. My son could live with them and have a great life as they had given me, instead of being stuck in this way of life I gave him. His father could move on with his life and not worry about us. Everyone would be much better off without me. Those thoughts and others flooded my mind.

On this life-changing day, I dropped my son off at daycare, and kissed him goodbye. I returned to my home and sat on my couch. Lights shut off, no television, blinds closed, just me, alone in the dark. Thoughts of suicide continued to plague my mind. I had many methods I could use. This was it. That was my plan. I could not live another moment like this. As I contemplated on a method to end my life, I drifted to sleep. While I slept, my young son appeared in my dream. I remember he touched my arm, and said “Mommy, don’t go. I need you.” I jumped up out of my sleep, looked around for my son, but saw I was still alone in the dark. However, I remembered the words he said to me in that dream. I still hear those words and remember the realness of that touch. I remember that touch that forever changed my life. My son needed me. No matter how bad things were, my son needed me. Nothing on this earth was worth taking my life. I had a son and he needed me.

Excerpt #3 (946 words): "Education is one thing nobody can take away from you. This became my working principle as I continued my education beyond high school. I knew it would be challenging to go to college, work, and have a young child. However, I knew my education was the key to changing my situation. If I wanted to rise above statistics, then I had to get a college degree. Once I had my degree, I would need to decide what to do with it, but it would be mine and no one could take that from me. This was my drive, my motivation to do whatever necessary to attend and eventually graduate college.

I encourage you to complete your education. If you are still in high school, do not drop out. Many programs exist to help you. They even have specialized schools that will allow you to bring your child to school. Someone on your support squad may be willing to watch your child while you attend school. If no one is available during the day, explore enrolling in night classes. Do whatever necessary to get your high school diploma or G.E.D.

After high school, you have many educational opportunities. You can learn a trade, enroll in a certificate program, and/or get an associate, bachelor, or higher degree.

Whatever the path, choose one and commit to it. Better yourself. Better your education. Keep learning. Your education is one thing you will have forever. It may take you longer than others to complete your degree program, but do not quit. A popular quote says, “It doesn’t matter how you start, it’s how you finish”. Finishing is what matters.

You may look at the cost of school and feel it is impossible, but financial aid is available. There are scholarships, grants, even loans you can get to help with your education. Depending on your financial situation, you may not have to pay any out of pocket expenses to attend college. Look into the different types of aid offered by colleges, universities, and your local, state, and federal government. Even if you take one class at a time, do not quit. The time will pass. The years will pass, regardless. It is all about how you spend that time.

It took me seven years to get my Bachelor of Science degree. From my depression to different personal issues, switching schools, and degree programs, I ended up on the seven-year plan. But I finished. When I switched schools, I worked full-time, and went to class several nights a week. I took online, night, and even weekend classes. Whenever the school offered a class I needed that fit my work and family schedule, I took it. I traveled to different site locations for the school. I sometimes drove one to two hours to take a class and spent many Saturdays and Sundays at school. I did what was necessary to get my education. There was no greater sense of accomplishment (at least in my opinion) than walking across the stage and receiving my diploma after working so hard to get there. Go to school! Complete your education! Once it is yours, no one can take it away. Go get it!

Not only did I get my bachelor’s degree, but I also went on to complete a master’s degree program, except this time I had two children. I was in my early 20s when I graduated with my first degree, and I was pregnant with our second child. I graduated in May, gave birth to a baby girl in July, and started my master’s program in September. I always wanted to get a master’s degree, so I just kept going. Since I attended college for the past seven years, I decided to knock out another two years and get my postgraduate degree. Getting my second degree was even harder with two children, but my support squad continued to help me greatly.

I pursued my education because it was something I wanted to make a better life for myself. It is something that will belong to me forever. No one, not society, caseworkers, naysayers or even critics, can take it from me. I told myself, “If I work hard now, I can enjoy my kids/life later”. My education opened so many doors and gave me many more opportunities than I would have had if I did not complete my degree programs. My education has given me freedom of choice. I do not have to be stuck in a job I do not like. If I find a job becomes stagnate or is no longer a good fit for me, I can switch it up. My education gives me a wider spread of job opportunities and freedom to choose one

that is best for me. Eventually I desire to complete a doctorate program, but for now, I am sticking to my word of enjoying life after the many years I dedicated to my schooling.

Your education is your ticket. A ticket to anywhere you want to go, anyone you want to be, and anything you want to do. You may want to learn a skilled trade, go for it! Take classes for certain certifications, go ahead and do it! Get a college degree it is worth it! No one can stop you, but you. Do not let the labels or limitations of others get in the way. Many will doubt you, show them you can do it. More importantly, do it for you and your family. Do not let your situation be a barrier to your success. Instead, use it as a platform to success, remembering you can be any and every thing you want to be."

About the Author

LaWann Moses is an author, advocate, speaker and visionary. She has a passion for inspiring, encouraging, and empowering girls and women to make self-care a priority. She believes love is the greatest gift you can give to yourself and others. On her Eye Love Me blog, LaWann strives to empower women to reject the status quo, discover their authentic self, and live on their terms. LaWann is also manages MOcha Masterpiece where she inspires women to create unique plans for success.

LaWann has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Science in the Administration of Justice, with a concentration in Leadership & Administration. She is a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist and Victim Services professional. She currently resides in Delaware with her family.



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