

FINDING YOURSELF WHEN THE PATH CHANGES

Before my son got married a few weeks ago, he asked me what song I wanted for the traditional mother-son dance. I immediately thought of the soundtrack from Pixar's *Cars*. That was his favorite movie growing up, and we spent so many hours at Target contemplating which "face cars" were worth his allowance money.

Sure, "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts is a fun song, but maybe not quite what he had in mind for a mother-son dance! Looking through the list of songs, "Find Yourself" by Brad Paisley seemed promising. It is an understatement to say I'm not a county music fan, but after one listen, I knew this song was perfect, not just for the mother-son dance. The chorus also perfectly sums up my roller coaster year.



*Well, you go through life
So sure of where you're headin'
And you wind up lost
And it's the best thing that could have happened
'Cause sometimes when you lose your way
It's really just as well
'Cause you find yourself
Yeah, that's when you find yourself*

At the beginning of 2025, I was so sure I would retire from the firm where I worked for 25 years, only to suddenly find myself—and the rest of my team—outsourced and "rebadged" to a new company. Although I remained employed, I quickly realized it was not a good fit. Like several others from our team, I chose to resign without a new opportunity waiting. I was lost. The only work family I had ever known was now on the other side of an invisible barrier.

In that month between jobs, I found myself. I explored what Simon Sinek, author of *Start with Why*, refers to as "finding your WHY." With space to step back and reflect, I identified my core purpose: to connect people, ideas, and resources in ways that empower productivity and inspire growth. That journey of self-discovery led me to a new firm with a supportive and collaborative team, which turned out to be the best thing that could have happened. I'm now thriving in a role that is exactly what I didn't know I needed at the beginning of the year.

Over the past few months, I've heard from so many people who have found themselves stuck in a job, or with a boss they don't like, or unexpectedly out of work. Although the journey isn't always easy, it is often when we feel the most adrift that we have the greatest opportunity to discover ourselves and what we bring to the world.

To everyone facing uncertainty and personal challenges—whether you're making a tough decision, experiencing a setback, or going through a period of self-doubt—hang in there. I know firsthand how it feels to be unsure of the path ahead, but trust that you will *find yourself*. *Yeah, that's when you find yourself*.

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