

# 11 Pieces of Advice

## I Ignored

*(And It Was the Best Decision of My Life)*



**80% of professionals stay stuck because they follow 'good advice.'**

Advice that sounds wise.  
Sensible. Safe.

But in reality? It keeps you small. Invisible. Replaceable.

Here are **11** pieces of advice I was given that I ignored.

*And why it was the smartest decision I ever made.*

# 1. "Be a team player."

- ◆ *Translation:* Do the work, let others take the credit.
- ◆ HBR found that "team players" are **45% more likely to be overlooked for leadership roles**. Smart professionals **balance collaboration with self-advocacy**.

## **2. "Work hard, and you'll get promoted."**

- ◆ **Hard work is the entry ticket, not the elevator up.**
- ◆ **McKinsey's research shows visibility, strategic relationships, and executive presence drive promotions - not just effort.**

### 3. "Wait your turn."

- ◆ I watched smart colleagues wait years - only to be passed over.

- ◆ Careers accelerate when you step up before you're 'ready.'

## 4. "Be grateful for what you have."

- ◆ Gratitude is good. Complacency is deadly.
- ◆ Wanting more doesn't mean you're ungrateful, it means you're driven.

# 5. "Stay in your lane."

- ◆ *Translation:* Don't think beyond your job description.
- ◆ Leaders aren't specialists - they're **cross-functional problem-solvers**. Understand strategy, influence, and power dynamics.

# 6. "Keep emotions out of work."

- ◆ Emotional intelligence predicts **58% of job success** (TalentSmart).
- ◆ Learn to read the room, manage power plays, and influence outcomes.

# 7. "Don't rock the boat."

- ◆ Safe players become forgettable. **Challengers get noticed.**
- ◆ If you're not questioning processes respectfully, you're maintaining mediocrity.

## **8. "Networking is for extroverts."**

- ◆ **Some of the most influential people are introverts.**
- ◆ **Networking isn't about talking - it's about building trust and alliances.**

# 9. "Loyalty will be rewarded."

- ◆ Blind loyalty leads to **stagnation, not success.**
- ◆ Those who **know their worth, negotiate, and explore options win.**

# 10. "Follow the traditional path."

- ◆ The fastest career accelerators? **Lateral moves, visibility, and calculated risks.**
- ◆ The best roles aren't advertised - they're **created for those who stand out.**

# 11. "You need permission."

- ◆ No one is coming to tell you it's your time.
- ◆ The people who rise fastest act like they belong before anyone confirms it.

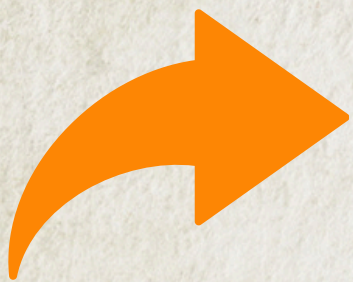


## **The Bottom Line:**

If I had followed this  
'good advice,' I'd be  
**stuck, overlooked,  
and underpaid.**

Instead, I ignored it.  
And it changed  
everything.

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