

## AN INSPIRATION



Susan Boyle is the "rage" around the world. For those of you who have never heard of her, Susan Boyle won people's hearts with her beautiful rendition of the song "I Dreamed A Dream" from the play, *Les Miserables* on the *Britain's Got Talent* television show. For those who did not see her perform on the show, Susan Boyle auditioned with the hope of fulfilling her lifelong dream by winning a recording contract.

When Susan walked on the stage she was awkward in appearance and approach -- definitely lacking that "sophisticated" star attractiveness and beauty that we expect from performers! However, she had an inner self-confidence and belief that served her well. When Susan told the judges and audience of more than 2,000 people that she wanted to be like the famous singer, Elaine Paige, the First Lady of British Musical Theatre, they all smirked and rolled their eyes as if to say "Get real!"

When Susan raised the microphone and started to sing, her beautiful, powerful and loving voice filled the hall and instantly touched the hearts and souls of all who were there. During the course of her performance, it was fascinating to see the judges' and the audience's facial expressions change from disdain and arrogance to one of respect, acclaim and applause. At the end of her performance, Susan started to walk off the stage while throwing kisses at the audience! The judges had to call her back so they could give their unanimous vote of approval on her performance.

Susan's exquisite voice and humble style moved the audience to give her a standing ovation. One judge called her performance the biggest surprise he has had on the show. He said: "In the beginning everyone was laughing at you; but no

one is laughing now. Your performance was stunning and incredible!" Another judge said: "Everyone was cynical and against you in the beginning but your performance was the biggest wake-up call ever. It was a complete privilege listening to that!" *It reminded me of the story of the ugly duckling who turned into a beautiful swan!*

In the final analysis, this performance clearly showed how we, as humans, are critical beings and we tend to immediately judge based on our preconceptions of what we believe is "right" or "normal". In reality, many of us might walk past Susan Boyle on the street and not even give her the time of day. And yet, beneath her surface appearance, is an unbelievably beautiful voice that has been waiting for 47 years to be heard by the world. Susan is a quality example of a human being who, while having seen the hard side of life, remains positive and undaunted and is able to fill her singing with her experience and insights. Her persistence and determination to never let go of her dream, hopefully, has brought her a "Dream Come True" while giving the world a lesson in hope -- that we must be open to finding beauty in the most simple and unexpected places.

Life is about achieving our dreams by using the innate talents we all have. Susan Boyle gave everyone who saw her perform an inspirational message of hope: good things can happen when we believe in, and are true to, ourselves.

By the way, if you have not seen Susan's performance or if you are in need of an inspirational "pick me up" after a tough day, go online and Google "Susan Boyle". Click on the [three minute clip](#) and renew yourself!

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