

Epilogue

by Angela Owen

Pisgah National Forest

With a breathtaking view of the Blue Ridge Parkway before me, my *Truventure* journey began on the deck of my mountain home. It was exactly one year after my departure from a thriving career incorporate America. The prior summer, I returned to my childhood community, remotely nestled in the lush Pisgah National Forest, and worked alongside my trusted colleague and friend, John Hemken, to launch our new company, TBL Leadership Partners. Now we sat together with John's best friend to build my first *Strategic Pyramid*. Since then, Mark Modjeska has become my beloved brother, trusted mentor, and co-author.

My first year as a small business owner routed me through exciting highs and depressing lows, great faith and intense doubt, audacious courage and paralyzing fear. Launching a new venture daunted me from the onset, and grew more overwhelming as a national financial crisis unfolded. Facing the pressures of stifled cash flow and uncertainty in my client base, my business was on the edge and my nerves were frayed. Something had to change.

To help me begin my *Strategic Pyramid* process, Mark gently began asking me questions. I desperately tried to "get the right answers," repetitively seeking confirmation from him and John. I soon found they were adept at flipping the questions back to me, causing me to think and rethink, assuring me that God would inform me directly and that I was totally capable of hearing Him. My internal expectations to "get it right" slowly

subsided, my muscles began to relax, and freedom to dream unleashed within my heart, mind, and spirit. A picture emerged of me being wildly successful, and I felt God's purposes for my life pressed ever more clearly within my being. The connection to my business venture surfaced in intricate yet brilliantly simple form. Dreams deep within me emerged to make their way onto my *Strategic Pyramid*, alongside practical strategies and focused tactics. Break-through began to displace despair. Clarity for my business unfolded, but the battle for my personal and professional identity had just begun.

A Warrior Princess Awakes

Identity crisis clashed within me. Doubt shadowed my most carefully laid plans. *Did I truly have what it takes to make my business successful? Would I truly believe God and all that I heard Him say as we crafted my Strategic Pyramid?* At this crossroads, would I entertain doubt and lies or would I anchor firmly into Truth Himself?

Praying through my *Strategic Pyramid* served as a platform to face the plethora of questions and worries that plagued me. In the midst of one such prayer time, God gave me a mental image that captivated me and marked my course in seismic proportions. The corner of my home office became a movie theatre where a revelation of my true identity in Christ was projected. As I saw the picture play out before me, I also heard the powerful yet tender voice of my King whisper to my heart, *You are my Warrior Princess.*

Rocked to my core by the revelation, the fire to fight suddenly flared within my heart. In the midst of my cries for help and solutions to practical matters, such as cash flow and finding clients, God adjusted my view to more fully see His picture of me being wildly successful. I knelt in prayer a woman oppressed by self-doubt and worry. I arose a woman compelled to stand on the battlefield of life.

Mark calls the vehicles he uses in *Truventure* a means to get alone with the Lover of his soul, for a strategically aligned life with his Creator. These vehicles have proven themselves faithful for me as well. Praying through my *Strategic Pyramid* empowers me to refute lies, grow in intimacy with God, and seize each day strategically.

An Unlikely Place of Covenant

I anchored deeper and deeper into God's clarion call on me as His Warrior Princess. I enjoyed my rhythmic time of praying through my *Strategic Pyramid*, asking Jesus what He thought about each block. While by no means perfect, my *Truventure* journey was exciting and full of life. It challenged me to tread further, deeper, and higher with the Lover of my soul. Additionally, Mark became a treasured business counselor with whom I interacted frequently via coaching calls. I loved listening to him share more of his *Truventure* journey as he coached me on my own *Truventure*. I found myself particularly intrigued by his covenant with God and I decided to write my own.

On multiple occasions, I sat in the quiet of my home office to pen my covenant. But not one word flowed from pen to paper. This stagnant cycle continued for weeks, completely stalling all development of my own covenant with God. I wondered if the words would ever come, and then the cork released in the most unlikely of places.

When my flight from Washington Dulles to Greenville, South Carolina, was delayed—again—the interruption to my plans threatened to swallow me into the frenzy of fatigued airline workers and stressed travelers. But the still, small voice of my King beckoned me to be still. Anxious to hear Him more, I found a remote corner of the airport and opened my laptop. My fingers typed a simple title at the top of the page: "A Warrior Princess's Covenant with her King." The words began flowing and my thoughts released to ride wave after wave of creative interaction with God. My covenant with God came to life and joy erupted as freedom to live in covenant with the One who created me and loves me best painted picture after picture within the pages of my covenant.

I share my story to demonstrate—as Mark often states—*Truventure* is not prescriptive. Every *Truventurer's* journey will be as unique as their DNA and carries the promise of an increasingly intimate and strategically aligned life with your Creator.

Pyramids, Cairns, and Ezer

The uniqueness of my own *Truventure* is also demonstrated in the shape of my *Strategic Pyramid*, which continued to be refined and eventually

took shape as a cairn. Once completed, it looked more like a set of carefully balanced rocks than a precise stack of perfectly hewn stones. As I continued to pray through my covenant with God and my *Strategic Pyramid* (now a cairn), a particular part of my covenant and one particular stone on my cairn arrested my heart for months of intense prayer and focus.

I trust my King with my marriage. I submit my marriage to the Lordship of my Miracle Maker and expectantly wait with biblical hope for my marriage to be exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that I could think or ask according to the power that works within my husband and me. (from my covenant)

Unconditionally discover, delight, and be *ezer¹ kenegdo²* to my TBL man! (from my *Strategic Pyramid*)

As anyone who has been married more than five minutes can attest—marriage is hard, and mine has been no exception. My husband, Todd, and I have walked many roads littered with pain and heartache. In the midst of our struggles, I've longed for him to experience his own clarion call of identity in Christ—just as I had when God called me His Warrior Princess. My longing grew deeper and my prayers grew louder, yet evidence of such revelation for Todd seemed to slip further out of reach. I resolved to stay in the battle alongside him, and sought my King for discernment and direction. Eventually, a radical shift did occur, and an extraordinary view was just around the *Truventure* bend.

God, the Master Storyteller, brought my friend John Hemken back into the plot to help unleash my husband into his own *Truventure*. This time we went to John's home in Wisconsin, where Todd experienced breakthrough, freedom, and truth. Very consistent with the promise that Mark unpacked in the prologue, the undomesticated Lion of Judah created no small disturbance in the life of my beloved husband and invited me along for the ride. Few things are more thrilling than experiencing the ripple effects of my *Truventure* with the man of my dreams, my beloved Todd.

The Journey Continues

We've peeked at a few of the stops along the way of my *Truventure*. The journey of learning, unpacking, writing, and praying my covenant with God and my *Strategic Pyramid* continues to thrill my heart, inform my plans, and direct my footsteps. The views from both the peaks and the valleys of communion with God still take my breath away. The depths plumbed, with my hand in His, draw me ever deeper into His heart and ever higher into the wilderness of the Untamed Lion of Judah.

I remember the day Mark asked for my help writing this book. Neither of us had a real clue what we were about to begin. This journey called *Truventure* continues to delight us, test us, and stir us further still. We pray that something within our ventures serves to stir you in your own. The Undomesticated Lion of Judah awaits your pursuit...step into your journey and experience no small disturbance of your own.