

A photograph of a weathered wooden fence with a chain-link fence below it. The sky is overcast and grey. The fence is made of vertical wooden planks and a horizontal top rail. The chain-link fence is visible at the bottom of the image.

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# The Other Side of the Fence

I left my \$100k job and conquered fear.



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## Introduction

*Are you on the “fear” side of the fence? Sitting on the fence? Or just learning there is a fence?*

**Fence:** *(ME fens, short for defens; defense; 14th century)*

**1** *archaic* : a means of protection : defense **2 a:** A structure serving as an enclosure; a barrier intended to prevent escape or intrusion, or to mark a boundary; a means of protection or confinement **b:** an immaterial barrier or boundary line

Did you happen to catch the important words in the definition for fence? Structure? Enclosure? Barrier? Prevent escape? Prevent intrusion? Boundary? Confinement? Protection?

Weigh these words against what you know about allowing yourself to dream...to dream of escaping the rat race. How long before you're slapped back to “reality,” remembering that you're (*supposed to be*) afraid to entertain some wild and crazy idea?

But what do we know about fences? They are not all the same. Some you can see over, or through. Some are not even real. They are artificial, like painted lines on a road. And we trust them because they have protected us. Or we're afraid of them because they have kept us.

# The Other Side of the Fence

There is a fenced-in yard where people play...dressed in business clothes, sitting at desks, sequestered behind cubicle walls or even real walls. People play here until the sun sets, when it's time to go in and "retire." Or until something worse happens. Or until they realize they're in the yard by choice. They can leave at any time. But most will not. They will just wait.

Maybe you're the type that's fed up with the fence and the yard and determined to do something different. So, what do you do? Wait for the fence to move? (Unlikely.) Go over it? (May seem impossible.) Find another way – go around it? (Now you're talking!) Yes, you might just have to make your own way. So don't just keep playing in that yard. Go explore!

*What follows are but the first few chapters in a new story, where you can begin to capture a freedom to succeed in entirely new ways. Isn't it time to see what's on the other side of the fence?*

## **Part 1: Being stuck in security**

My resignation statement included the words, "The work I'm doing here can't compete with my dreams." That was in January 2005. Since then, I have tried and failed "ten hundred" times. My battles have been mostly with myself. I have felt pressure and stress. I've faced uncertainty, indecision, and even depression.

Today, I am not afraid anymore.

This is my own story of coming to terms with a fear of the unknown.

For years, I wrestled with thoughts of being in business for myself and escaping the turmoil and frustration