

Q & A with Carole Drouin & Daniel Lavigne

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Defining those that are among the fortunate few.

Question and Answer

My question and answer period with Carole Drouin and Daniel Lavigne, was to the point. What makes some fortunate and others not so much?

What is your definition of “being among *The Fortunate Few*”?

If you are like me, you must be seeking to better your life; that is your career, your relationship, your financial status and wanting to attain happiness by reaching your ultimate destiny.

It is minus fourteen Celsius (-14C) outside today where I live and I am looking at pictures of couples holding hands, and walking on white sandy beaches on my computer screen. Why, tell me why is it, some are among the *fortunate*? This very question inspired me to reflect and search the answer...who are these people and how does one get to be among the fortunate few?

Why “few” ? Well, because I don’t know anyone personally who is living a life of leisure and freedom with no worries about money, actually just living a complete and harmonious life.

My quest was to find a couple who fits this definition “The Fortunate Few”, a couple who’s average, not celebrity actors, musicians or athletes; a couple who for



some reason is living a rock star lifestyle without being rock stars.

After doing a Google search I fell on a website called www.thefortunatfew.com. There they were, the two I was looking for, portraying this very phenomenon – photographed on a beach with sunglasses and drinking from coconuts. Furthermore, they claim they are among the fortunate few and wrote a book conveniently called “The Fortunate Few” in which they talk about being

financially independent (at 45 years of age) and living a dream.

Anxious to speak with them I contacted them and within an hour, to my surprise, I received a reply. They agreed to speak with me via Skype.

Today I am pleased to share their story and their definition of being among the fortunate few.

“Spending our days as we wish”

Q: First of all, thank you for agreeing to speak with me, let’s get started. You don’t come from wealthy families, you’re both young and you are living and doing things some only wish they could be, like me for example. Tell me what it is you do and what your daily life is like?

A: (Daniel) It’s our pleasure Annel! To answer your question, you are correct, we don’t come from wealthy families and we do pretty much what we want with our days. You ask what is our daily life like? Well let’s talk about yesterday. It was Valentine’s day and because we are in Costa Rica right now, we decided to explore a new area called Playa Avellanas – which means hazelnuts. This beach is well known because of a famous bar and restaurant by the name of Lola’s. So we jumped on our motorcycle and went off-roading to find this secluded Oasis. Lola’s had amazing atmosphere with reggae music surrounded with palm trees and the view was spectacular. The beach was animated and we

watched surfers showing off their skills. When we finished lunch, we found a shaded area under a tree, laid our towels down along with our back pack and went swimming in the ocean. The waves were incredible, diving through them and sometimes just allowing our bodies to float over them. In a distance we could see fish jumping and moving in school formation as if practicing for synchronized swimming. We then retreated to our shaded spot and enjoyed the rest of the afternoon as the sun reached 32 degrees Celsius. We returned home, took a dive in our pool and quickly showered in order to get ready to go out to dinner at a restaurant in Flamingo called The Beach House. They had a Valentines menu

special, for approximately 60 dollars we had a 4 course meal with wine included. The table was set up on a beach with romantic torch lighting and the meal was great. The view was a beach marina with beautiful boats floating accompanied by the rocking sound of the wave hitting the shore. The stars were glowing brightly over us and it was the perfect evening to celebrate Valentine’s. Romantic and beautiful, not to mention I was with the woman of my dreams.

But that was yesterday and you ask what we do daily. This all depends, we like to discover new beaches, we love to snorkel. We are active so we like hiking, biking, paddle boarding, love traveling to exotic places. So our days are really spent as we wish.

Q: That is why you both fit in my research on defining the fortunate few. What was the turning point for you? I mean, you talk about planning but what made you say, hey, I had enough I want more out of life and today I am writing out a plan?

A: (Carole) – It happened really when Daniel and I met and became a team, this is when the focus intensified. We met in our late 30’s and we have remained deeply in love and motivated to make the most of our life together. Although we both loved our jobs and had successful careers, we wanted more. This meant spending less time

working and commuting in and out of Toronto and living life, I mean actually living a dream! The turning point was really when we both realized there was more to life than work. We wanted to enjoy life and do the things we dreamed about, and this is when we began writing up our plan, the year we met. You’ll notice that, when you write down your

objectives and especially the “WHY” you want to reach a specific goal, you will often exceed your expectations. This is what happened once we got started – for example, within three years, we had acquired five homes. Owning five homes was in our 5th year plan however, we accomplished it in three.

“Becoming a team intensifies the focus”.

Q: I still have those images from the first question I asked, snorkeling, hiking, beaches, visiting exotic locations. I am asking you this question as just outside my door, there’s almost a meter of snow on both sides of my driveway. Is there ever a time you say to yourself I’m bored?

A: (Daniel) No in fact we did wonder if this new lifestyle would have us feeling unfulfilled. Not for a moment have we felt this way since we are

living the life of the fortunate few. Part of planning this new lifestyle has to include what you want to do with your new life. This new lifestyle

comes with so many opportunities, we love our new lifestyle and we so wish this for you too Anne and anyone reading your article.



Q: Ok back to what makes people fortunate. How do you guys describe or define those people among the fortunate few.

A: (Carole) It’s about those people that know what they want and go for it. Being among the fortunate few is definitively about a state of mind, a feeling of deep contentment, appreciation and connecting to all that life has to offer. On a more practical level, when you reach financial freedom, when you have enough cash flow to cover all your expenses and more. It’s living the lifestyle you desire, with sufficient income, without working. Of course, some people are extremely wealthy and are not in The Fortunate Few still

working long hours, not enjoying life or being in the right mental state. This is why we believe, both components have to be present.

Being among the fortunate few is about enjoying every moment. It’s about being free from the alarm clock, it’s about knowing what your real needs are and managing your wants and understanding the difference between the two, in spite of a highly commercialised society. Having a plan, setting goals and using to-do-lists to reach them will make you attain your objectives.

Being among the fortunate few is really about being happy with all components of your life and opting for change rather than resignation when you are not where you want to be: in your relationship, with your job, your dreams and aspirations. Live differently and develop other aspects of your personality and your life before it’s too late. For us, it’s about spending time together, travelling the world, learning about new cultures and new languages, and choosing to do whatever we want every day the sun rises!

“Finding tools that help you attain financial independence”



Q: You claim that anyone can be among the fortunate few and to be honest I am happy to hear that as this is my quest. So tell me more about the planning so that everyone reading this can take advantage of these tips?

A: (Daniel) Well, I’m glad you’re asking this question. In our book (chapter 3) we explain the importance of planning and how to do it right. Planning sets the guidelines for success in attaining your goal to be

among The Fortunate Few. If you look at our planning worksheet you will find the key elements in making your plan. The what, where, when, how and the most important element why. The plan must consist of a short

term and long term strategy. You will have a short term plan of 1, 2, and 3 years and a long term plan of 5 and 10 years. So your initial plan will have 5 worksheets and on this work sheet you will have many goals:

“Planning sets the guidelines for success”

The Fortunate Few
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financial, spiritual, personal, materialistic, education, family and so on. For every item, you will be detailing the what, where, when, how and the why. In the book we explain how to write out this plan and it is very important if you wish to attain the life you desire. This also allows for you and your partner to build your relationship around a clear vision of where you want to be and sets both your expectations, making you a team.



Conclusion

I must admit I loved my interview with Carole and Daniel, they were down to earth and I enjoyed their approach to life and their positive outlook. They were inspiring to me and I truly am motivated

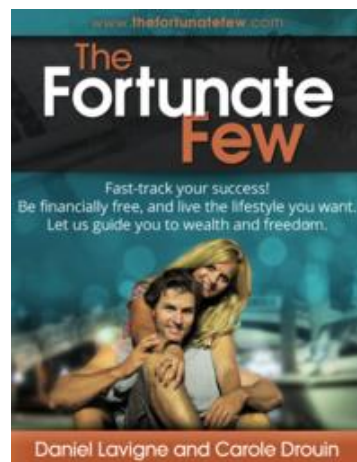
following our meeting. I believe what they say is true: we create our own destiny and by planning we can all obtain the life we desire ...even living among the fortunate few. I am ordering their book and am looking forward in

reading it. This answered my quest in defining the fortunate few and I hope they've inspired you like they did for me.

Signing off, Anne

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