

NEVER THE FINAL CHAPTER

A CFO's Unexpected Journey Into Her Passion Projects

"The corner office need not be your final goal."



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For Career Professionals



The corner office need not be your final goal.

It's never the final chapter. It's just the one you happen to be on right now.

SECTION 1

The Myth of the Fixed Identity

Why seniority can quietly convince you the story is already written

What Your Title Suggests vs. What's Actually True

What Your Title Suggests

- This is who you are, now
- The identity is settled
- Maintain — don't reinvent
- The interesting chapters are behind you

What's Actually True

- Your title is one chapter, not the whole book
- Identity keeps compounding with experience
- Reinvention is available at any stage
- The most interesting chapter might be next

The Chapters That Led Here

Restaurant Years

Ran two restaurants in the Philippines after college

The CPA Years

Became a Certified Public Accountant in Chicago

The CFO Years

Rose to Chief Financial Officer at Leo Burnett

The Debut Novelist

First book published expecting “a few readers, mainly friends”

The Chapter Still Being Written

Now: CFO and bestselling author, simultaneously



SECTION 2

My Own Unexpected Chapter

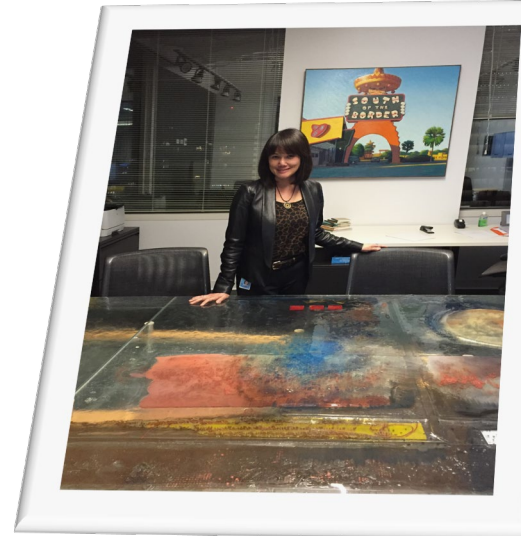
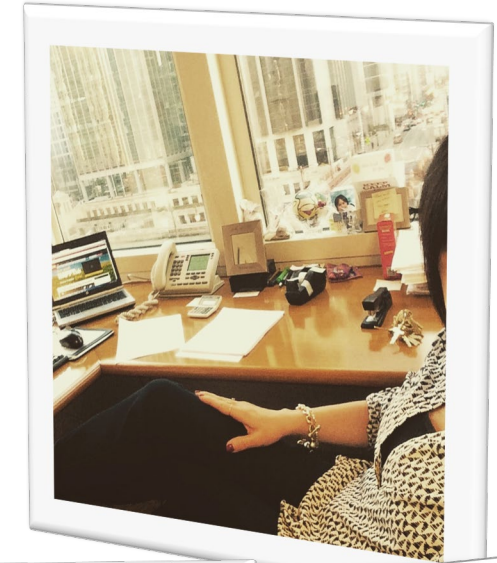
How a working CFO became a debut novelist — and kept both



The Chapter Before the Chapter

Before I was ever an accountant, I was a young woman in the Philippines who ran two restaurants after college. Then I moved to Chicago, became a Certified Public Accountant, and spent years climbing through finance roles before becoming CFO at Leo Burnett.

On paper, that's a straightforward, sensible finance career. Nothing in that resume predicts what came next.

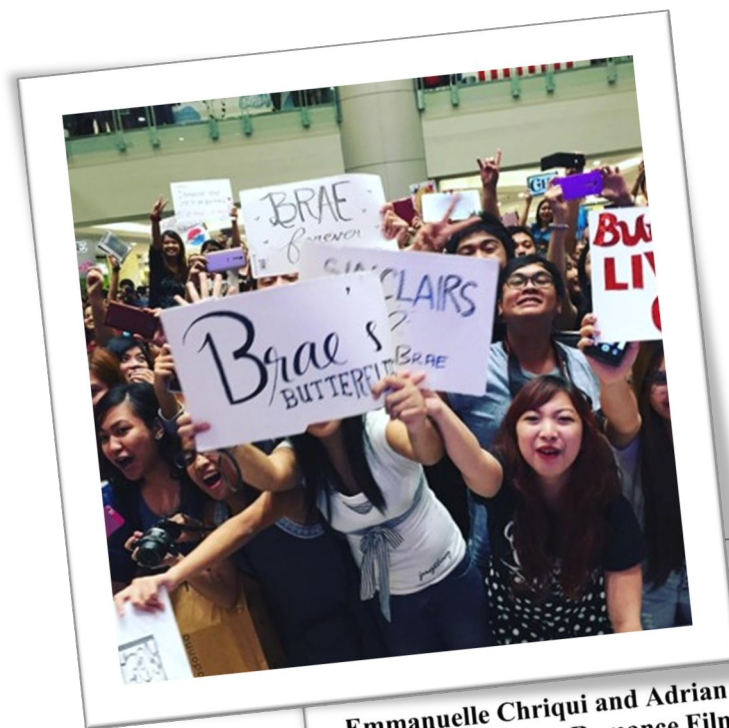




The Moment the Next Chapter Started

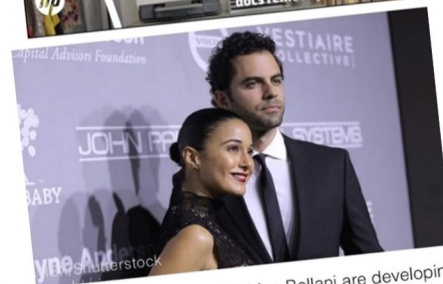
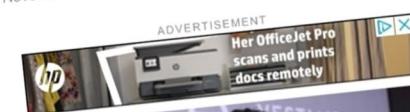
Writing wasn't a childhood dream I'd been nursing, waiting for retirement to unleash it. It started almost by accident — processing my life, my relationship with my mother, my experience as an immigrant. I expected “a few readers, mainly friends.”

Instead, I was approached by a few agents and publishing houses, and was asked to co-write a series of books with actor Kristoffer Polaha, had this series and another book optioned for film and television, and an amazing with a cover reveal in Times Square.



Emmanuelle Chriqui and Adrian Bellani Developing Romance Film 'In This Life' (EXCLUSIVE)

Dave McNary
November 15, 2016 8:23AM PDT



Emmanuelle Chriqui and Adrian Bellani are developing a movie version of Christine Brae's recently published romance-drama "In This Life," *Variety* has learned exclusively.

"In This Life" is a complex love triangle that develops



And the Words Just Flowed



The Chapter Nobody Sees: The Juggling

How do you actually do both? Prioritization. You have to manage your expectations about what can and cannot get done in a certain amount of time.

That's not a productivity hack — it's a discipline. I didn't become a writer by finding extra hours nobody else has. I became a writer by protecting a smaller number of hours fiercely, the same way I protect the accuracy of a balance sheet.





The Chapter Still Being Written

At every stage — the restaurant years, the CPA years, the CFO years, the debut novelist years, and now, the years where I do all of it simultaneously — I could have told myself the story was over.

I didn't. And the version of my life that came from refusing to close that book is, without question, the most interesting one I've lived.



AGENCIES

Meet the agency chief financial officer who is also a romance novelist

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Anna Gomez, No Fixed Address' global CFO, also has a passion for writing romance novels. (Anna Gomez)

SECTION 3

Why This Is the Right Stage for a Passion Project

The further along you are, the better positioned you are — not the worse

What Your Career Has Already Given You



More Raw Material, Not Less

Decades of decisions, relationships, and industries you've watched transform — that's inventory, not baggage.



Credibility You Didn't Have at 25

You've already proven you can commit to something difficult and see it through.



Discipline From Decades of Work

A quarterly close and a book deadline feel nearly identical at eleven at night.



Permission You Haven't Given Yourself

Nobody hands you a formal invitation to start your next chapter. You give it to yourself.

What Decades of Experience Actually Gives You



Translation

Explaining complex realities simply, for decades — that's almost exactly what good storytelling is.



Judgment

You know which risks are worth taking and which are just noise. That doesn't expire.



Tested Resilience

You've already been told no and rebuilt the plan. This won't be the first hard thing you've survived.



An Audience Already Listening

Your reputation follows you into anything new. It's not a cage — it's a running start.



“The corner office need not be your final goal.”

You have decades of material. Credibility you earned the hard way.
Discipline forged page by page, deadline by deadline.

Never the final chapter.





Thank You

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*ADD:
Contact info / social handles*