

22. Verzana Mokiem

Joke: Hi everybody. Thank you for listening today. We will be talking to my fantastic great and brilliant friend, Verzana Mokiem. Hi.

Verzana: Hi Joke. How are you?

Joke: I'm good. How are you?

Verzana: Very good. Thank you so much for having me in your podcast.

Joke: Oh my God, it's so amazing to finally talk. So tell us, who are you, what do you do, and do you have a big, scary and hairy goal?

Verzana: Okay. my name is Verzana Moki, as you said. I'm from Surinam. I moved here some four years ago from the Netherlands. Uh, I have a background, uh, as a legal professional, mostly legislation, and I've recently started to work in that, uh, area again, so I'm really happy about that. I've tried some di, some, uh, different areas, working areas in Surinam that didn't work out.

Uh, so I'm really happy to go back to my, legal roots and, um, work with legislation, uh, once again. Uh, and on the other hand, because, um, we, we all, uh, have, our multi-talented creative people here, I have also recently, uh, acquired an online bookstore, www.atlantis.sr. And, uh, yeah, I'm working, I'm working on, uh, on running that bookstore together with a good friend of mine, in Surinam, and yeah, I don't have any big goals.

Mostly becau because they are scary and hairy

I have, well since I've start, since I came to Suriname and actually a bit before that, I have started to take life little steps at a time. there have been some events where I've realized that it's not possible to plan ahead too much. Yeah. Uh, there's a saying, people plan and God laughs.

So, um, mm-hmm. I just try to take it, uh, a little bit, one step at a time, mostly from vacation to vacation.

Joke: Love that.

Verzana: That's my, uh, well longer than expected, uh, introduction.

Joke: I love it. Love it. So you're actually, your goal is to enjoy life and have more vacations

Verzana: and more memories. A lot of make a lot of memories.

Joke: Yeah. That's amazing. And it's not even big and scary and hairy. It is. It is big, but it's not scary. You're actually living your goal then. Yes, I am. Ah, it's amazing. So, go

Verzana: ahead. Someone once asked me, uh, what, what my plans are for the future, what my goal is for the future. I said, well, my goal is to enjoy life and I'm already doing that.

So yes, but you need to have a goal for the future. You need to have a goal. What kinda goal? A good job, a good house. I have a job and a house and a car. I need to be loved by my family and friends and make memories, and I'm doing that. So

Joke: yeah. So nice.

Verzana: So cool. Yeah, that's really recent, just a month ago. So yeah, I'm still learning everything and uh, it's really nice to be working with books.

Books.

Joke: Isn't that your big goal? Wasn't that your big goal? Maybe like, if you look back a few years, like, oh, I might want to acquire a bookstore. Hmm. That might be a goal of mine. Looking back, I,

Verzana: I never really. Uh, with acute awareness. Thought of it like, I would like to own a bookstore, but once I saw the, the advert for the bookstore and the post, like, who wants to acquire this bookstore?

Yes, of course. Been anything else in my life. Everything has been leading up to this moment.

Joke: Oh my gosh. So yeah, so good.

Verzana: Everything is so meant to be,

I told my father that, yeah, there's this bookstore and it's for sale. I can maybe buy it. And he said, didn't you discuss this with me last month?

Said, yeah, yeah, same thing, but it's not sold. He said, meisje girl, buy thing. Okay, dad. Oh,

oh, sorry. Fantastic. I just, but it's really nice that he just like, he pushed you. Like, what? Why haven't you bought it yet? I mean, come the same

thing we're talking about again.

Joke: So you were saying, a little back, like, um, all the multi creative, all the multi potential. Are you a multi potential? Of course you are.

Verzana: Yeah. So, so yeah, of course. In preparation for this podcast, I've looked up and did some research on the multipotentialism, and yes, of course everyone is multipotent.

Can you say Multipotent?

Joke: If you can, you can. Yeah.

Verzana: Everybody's multipotent. You need, you need to be, I think everybody does do different things. Mm. And can do different things, and I think that's really good because otherwise life would be very

boring. Yeah. If you only do, for example, if you go to school or you go to work and you get back home and then you do maybe some, some kind of interest of yours, a sport, a hobby, then you're already doing different things.

True. I go to work. I do my, I do my job as a, as a legal professional. Uh, I work with my books, I do my sports, my hobbies, different things, my little trips, uh, trips to nature. So, yeah, but everybody does different things and I think that's all the different things make you who you are. Oh, I love that. Yeah.

Yeah.

Joke: Do you ever feel overwhelmed? By all the things, by wanting to do all the things or

Verzana: by having to do things you, I'm not good at like math.

Joke: Yeah. Yeah.

Verzana: Or dishes.

Joke: Oh my gosh. Getting overwhelmed by dishes

Verzana: and overwhelmed by dishes. There are so many dishes and when, when you do the dishes and they don't fit in the dishwasher, and then they, they're just sitting at you.

Why won't you wash me?

They should do them. Do them. Yeah. At the moment, I also need to do some taxes, so Yeah, it's,

Joke: it's like math. It's, yeah, it's also,

Verzana: so just paper, some paid boring paperwork.

Joke: Yeah. But have you ever had, like, you wanted to do so many different things and being overwhelmed by those because you couldn't do them all at once?

Or does that

Verzana: not resonate? Overwhelmed, but maybe a little bit also in a good way because since started the bookstore with my, with my good friend, uh, Rishma, we are both. Quite creative and we both have a lot of ideas and we have just bought this bookstore, so we are just talking to each other. We can do this and we can,

and then we took a breath and said, okay, but maybe not right now. Yes, maybe, maybe not right this week.

Joke: That's how it

Verzana: goes. Yeah. I love it. Yeah. So now we just need to, it was a really good, um, purchase because we have, uh, a lot of coaching from the previous owner. Okay. So this month, the first month we have full on coaching, and next month we have just one, one day a week.

We, well, he, he can be available to us forever. Um, so we are really making use of his expertise and experience. So this month we are just learning how to run the bookstore. Right. Uh, but we still have a lot of ideas what things we want to do. We are, there's a book market at the, how do you say di? The, the, not the pet store.

The pound. The pound. The puppy pound. Yeah. I know where you can go to adopt the dog] they have a monthly, uh, fundraiser, a book market. Mm-hmm. So we have, uh, we've collaborated with them that we can also, uh, sell our books there. So now we have this idea that you can adopt a puppy and adopt a book.

Oh my gosh,

Joke: that is great idea.

Verzana: Need to wrap the books and put them in a. Cage in a box, so we don't can adopt them,

Joke: adopt a book.

Verzana: But yeah, everything takes time, takes work, and mm-hmm. Yeah. And maybe not this month if we can do it the other month. So it is overwhelming that I wanna do a smile, but I don't have time?

I don't. And then you just need to take a step and say, okay. Not right now, but next month or other month. Yeah.

Joke: So do you keep like a list of ideas or Yeah, we, me to Oh, you're not doing it doing that, man. You got a big list in your head. In my

Verzana: head, yeah. But uh, we need to start writing it down.

Joke: Yeah. Yeah, that, that sounds like a good plan.

Yeah. But also really amazing to hear that you are being coached to grow your, to learn all about the books there are. That's already there. Yeah. The

Verzana: trajectory has put out. That's cool. So it was his bookstore and Uh, and he really wants to make a good transfer and keep the, the service to his customers.

He has a lot of loyal customers, which is also our, in our best interest to keep them. So, um, yeah, he's, we're working closely for this. Cool. That is,

Joke: that is run wonderful to hear. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I wish I was in Surinam. I would definitely come by.

Verzana: I could

use a big mural.

Joke: we should set a date.

Yeah. So in your own creative journey, you have so many other creativity going on and we just talked about, we talked about it before we started the recording, that creativity is all around us and it's not just with handmade products or you know, if you do painting or whatnot. you have on your own creative journey.

For example, with your bookstore. I mean, that is a lot of creativity going on right there. Have you ever struggled with any of the common syndromes like, imposter syndrome or shiny object syndrome? Well, like all the ideas you wanna do, that is kind of a shiny object syndrome right there. Yeah. Or, yeah.

Does that resonate with you?

Verzana: I wasn't really familiar with the shiny object syndrome, so I think talking to you that is indeed trying to reach the shiny goals and being overwhelmed by them. Am I understanding it

correctly? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like if you, if you're currently doing this idea of adopt, adopt a book, and then while doing the adopt book you see something else you wanna do or you think of another idea you wanna do at the same time.

Yeah. But you already said like, Hey, we decided to do it. Not now. Let's keep it full later. So yeah,

that's the shiny object. Very, very much familiar with imposter syndrome.

Joke: Yeah. Oh my gosh. Oh, so how, how do you deal with that?

Verzana: I, I don't know. I, I think, I don't know how to deal with it. I just, just need to tell yourself there's a reason you are here in this time and in this place, and there's a reason and.

There's not only a karmic or universal reason, but there's also a reason in the sense that you work really hard to get here yourself. Yeah, you did your studies, you did your work, you moved abroad, you applied for this job. You, you acquired all your qualifications. That's why you are here in this place. So do your job and don't, don't doubt yourself.

This is my own pep talk and I use, I more often than not, I don't believe it, but I try to talk to myself. There's a reason I'm here. So just believe in the reasons that put you in this place. Said no. Wow. You're gonna see right. Movie. What reasons everybody studied la Everybody I know studied everybody was a bookstore.

It's not difficult.

Joke: Oh my gosh, you, you kidding me? You're fantastic. That's ongoing.

Verzana: It's not, that's ongoing. Uh, ongoing discussion with myself. Yeah.

Joke: Does it ever diminish. You say it's ongoing, but do you have like waves when it comes more? Yeah, or

Verzana: yeah, sometimes. I just think I'm really awesome. Yeah, cool.

Joke: But you're awesome because you are. I mean, but sometimes look at me with my at,

Verzana: Oh my God. I have a bookstore. Please buy my books. But don't look at me, don't look at me. I'm not here. My website, but don't look at me.

Joke: I, I totally recognize all, I don't have a bookstore, but I have my own, my own biz, of course. And it's, it's,

Verzana: I want to have customers but I don't wanna talk to you, It's so true.

Joke: It is so true. Oh my gosh. So how do we deal with that? We, we use affirmations and talk to ourselves and people look at us like, oh, you're talking to yourself. Yes. It's definitely, and write and writing stuff down. I mean, yeah. The more you write like journal or. You know, write the affirmations you talk to, you say to yourself, that helps.

Yeah. At least in my case, not all the time, but you know, the more I say it, the more I might believe it. Yeah. Yeah. That's cool. Cool. That is the goal. Hey, we have another goal. Awesome. Yeah. Yep. So tell us, where can people find you in the community? Because you, we have a creative community, but we also have like a general community where we're all creativities going on.

for your bookstore, where can we find you?

Verzana: The bookstore is on, on the website. atlantis.sr for Surinam. Uh, but in surname, most, most, uh, communication is done through Facebook. So we're also on Facebook under the same name. Uh, well Atlantis Books and more. On Facebook, and at the moment we're also really trying to expand on the, and more part.

Hmm. Uh, we, we have the bookstore, but for the, and more we, we have one of our ideas that we have implemented immediately. Is, uh, to work with pickup points. Uh, normally, uh, the books are delivered by the store, at home or at your office, but we're, we have chosen to work with pickup points and specifically pickup points that are local libraries in Surinam.

So we would really like to expand, uh, the library network, the accessibility to libraries, and to, um, make the, the, uh, library collections. And knowledge that is there, more accessible to, to, uh, the Surinamese community. Yeah. So we are often refer people who are looking for a specific book that we do not have in stock.

we refer them to our, well, we have, we have a small group. Inter Inter, yeah. interbibliothecair verkeer which is inter-library traffic. Mm-hmm. Uh, where we request all our libraries. do you have this book? And

then we can refer the person to a specific library or they can pick up their order at that library.

And once they're there, more often than not, they will also become a member of the library or purchase some other books there, or take some books, uh, on loan. And this is just a goal to get the, the book community in Surinam together and refer them to the places. There are libraries there that I haven't heard of before and I haven't been there before myself.

Wow. So I think it's really, uh, powerful that we have this network and this group and these customers and we can refer them to the libraries. Uh, so that is something that we are really doing to bring the community together. Yeah, that's

Joke: amazing. There's, there's another goal. I think you, you mentioned now three or four goals, so Atlantis.sr and Facebook, and people can sign up, like do you have a newsletter?

Verzana: We have a newsletter for our customers and, but most, most of our posts are on Facebook.

Joke: Right, okay. So everybody go to Facebook and check out Atlantis Awesome.

Verzana: Also, also possible to order from the Netherlands. No. Oh, if you want surprise. Yeah, but if you want to No

Joke: delivery in the,

Verzana: you want surprise your friends in Surinam.

We have delivery in Surinam.

Joke: So good. so you were talking about, doing some nice little extra things, like writing quotes on books. Yeah. On on packaging of books. Yeah. Um, do you have a quote you would like to share with

us?

Verzana: Well, the quote I most recently did, I have a, I have another quote, uh, for myself, but the quote I most recently did was for one of our customers, Who purchased the collective work of Oscar Wild?

So, uh, I, I went to, uh, I went to look for a nice quote for her on her package. And that was, the only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. And of course, couldn't have said it better myself, just yield to temptation. Nothing wrong with it. If you want to eat that pie, eat it, man. Life is short.

Joke: The life is short. Eat pie.

Verzana: Life is short. Eat pie.

Joke: I love that quote, life assuredly. Hi Oscar.

Verzana: But for, uh, for my own quote, and this has become a bit of a, a slogan for me and I'm using it more, more and more, my communications for the, for the bookstore is, uh, for the love of books. Oh.

So

I love that. Love that. Yeah. For the love of books.

For the love of books, man.

Joke: Yeah. And eat pie. All good.

Fantastic. Books and pie.

Verzana: both please. Yield to Temptation.

Joke: Buy Books

and eat pie.. I love that. It's fantastic. Thank you so, so much Verzana

Verzana: Thank you, Joke. Good. It was really fun.

Joke: Really cool. Talk to you soon. Bye.

Verzana: Bye.