



photo by Hanna Tetens, 2008

This is my entry to the TalysMana Be a Character contest.
<http://talysmana.com>

I connect the dots ...

I wanted to be a writer since I was a child. I scribbled with my crayons across paper, thinking I was writing what my parents read to me, from books and newspapers, from cereal boxes and street signs.

I connect the dots ...

Discouraged along the way by parents and teachers, “Isn’t that cute, she wanted to be a writer, but, no, what do you really want to do?” Embarrassed by family and a nosey sister, “oh, how funny, look at this notebook of stuff she wrote.” Each year, I grew closer to the age to pursue dream, protecting those dreams in secret.

I connect the dots ...

I had it all worked out, as young as 17, having also discovered photography. I love, and still love, to see the patterns in art and nature, large, small and microscope, then give it to the world in a different perspective. I would take my words and my cameras throughout the world, telling the extraordinary stories of ordinary people. With children in tow (I would have them young so I could be a young grandma), I would not stop traveling until school and other necessities of their lives demanded we settle down, and settle down we would, with our words and our books and our dreams. We would have a home filled with laughter and strays, stray people, stray animals, stray customs, having been citizens of the world we would stay that way, even in our humble abode.

I knew all this at 17 and it was my secret.

When I was ready to step into the world, I was not ready for the sorrow that reached my eyes and ears – a war, the protests, students dead, the lottery – and no adults were aware of how it pained me.

I connect the dots ...

Discouraged at every turn, no one said “follow your dreams” but instead, “do something practical.” I kept my dreams safely hidden and moved to acceptable forms of employment like teaching then lucked into the early dot com world of multimedia and training design. This kind turn launched me into a marketable and fun career, half geek, half teacher. Computers expanded quickly, bringing the world to my fingertips, though I ached to touch the world with my own fingertips.

I connect the dots ...

I design training for someone to do their job. I design documents to help someone make a decision. I connect the un-connectable. I translate the words of captains of industry so others may understand them. These days, I analyze data. I whisper the results of my findings in the ears of young programmers, giving them solutions to problems they did not even know they have.

I connect the dots so others may pursue their dreams. I connect the dots so some can, in the least, perform their job of the moment.

No credit, no name across the screen. I am invisible. I walk this small part of the world, with my secrets and un-met dreams.

I connect the dots for others ... its time I connected the dots for myself.

As a character in Talys Mana, I can connect the dots, whisper to others and set the balls rolling ... I connect the dots.

Hanna Tetens