



DESSI MCENTEE

**Dessi is a speaker,
survivor, entrepreneur,
toxicologist, firefighter,
and more.**

She is her most epic self.



Built from the adversities of losing a parent not once but twice, battling life-threatening illnesses, and grappling with happiness, Dessi has used her pain for power to save lives as a first responder and billion-dollar programs as a toxicologist. Today, she brings her story and allyship to ambitious audiences, empowering them to unleash the bad*ss within.

Let's dance



Authority
Magazine



MEET DESSI

At 8 years old, my mom died of pancreatic cancer, and my stepmom Janice raised me

At 15 years old, I was paralyzed with a near-fatal infection of endocarditis that came with a side order of brain seizures

At 18 years old, I fell into a debilitating depression ending with a suicide attempt

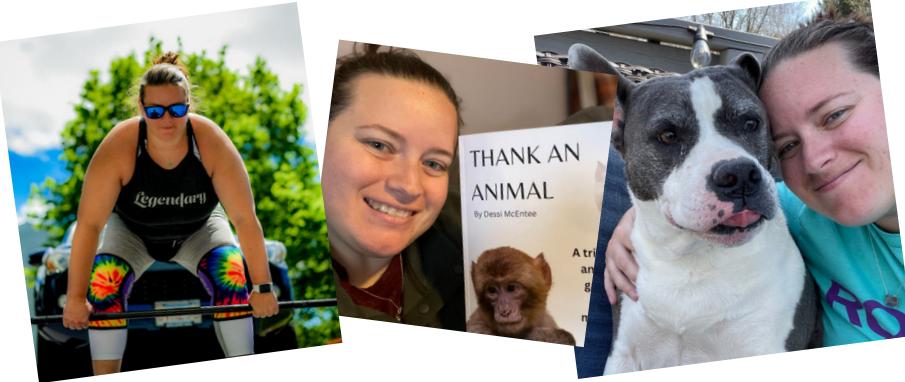
After that point, my life felt numb and motionless with intensive therapy and antidepressants suffocating my ambition



In 2021, Mike died unexpectedly of a fentanyl overdose

His death made me determined to *live* more than ever.

In 2009, Janice met her future husband, Mike
He became an ally, and he helped me use my past as fuel and my present as the engine to achieve
I became a firefighter, completed my Master's in Toxicology, and had a renewed vigor to achieve



I became a board certified toxicologist and saved billion dollar programs
I became a successful entrepreneur and published author
I became sober

I became my most epic self

Today, I'm on a mission to free others just as Mike freed me

I'm here to be an ally

I'm here to empower teams to use their **adversities as fuel and become their most epic selves**



HOW TO BE A BAD*SS: Leveraging Adversity as Fuel for Greatness



In an electrifying keynote, Dessi takes the audience on a journey through her captivating narrative, seamlessly blending her personal saga with six invaluable lessons on harnessing adversity as the ultimate catalyst for greatness. Through gripping real-life anecdotes, Dessi imparts wisdom on empowering oneself with unyielding ambition, forging meaningful connections with allies, harnessing the power of emotions as a secret weapon, embracing hardship as a path to unparalleled strength, strategically leveraging adversity for monumental gains, and embracing the urgency of living life to the fullest.

As her narrative unfolds, so too does the transformation of her audience into the unstoppable bad*sses they were always destined to become. Brace yourself for a journey of self-discovery and empowerment like no other, where **triumph over adversity is not just a possibility but a promise.**

Key Takeaways

There's No Success Without Struggle

Within our struggles lie unlimited potential. Learn how to harness this potential to work for you instead of against you.

Emotion as a Superpower

The things you feel in your heart, gut and brain all once - those things usually come from adversity and will drive you to greatness.

Creating Adversity is a Cheat Code

Creating adversity may seem counterintuitive, but understanding the right opportunities to do so will payoff in folds.

How to be A Bad*ss is uniquely tailored for each audience. Events and audiences that resonate best are those with ambitious missions and values. Examples include: professional events, high performing teams, women-dominated audiences, young professionals, and leadership events.

Testimonials

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**It's amazing how
proud you can
feel for someone**



“Empowering. Inspirational. Moving. Heartfelt and relatable. It's amazing to witness someone who has come back from such hardship to be on top. It's amazing how proud you can feel for someone.”

Chloe, Inotiv

"I highly recommend Dessi if you're looking for an inspiring speaker. I have been able to personally see a change in my mindset and how I approach situations largely due to the storytelling and lessons learned from Dessi. You will not be disappointed!"

Abby, Lockheed Martin

The way Dessi was able to captivate the audience was incredible. Her story is so moving, I can't believe how much she has been through in her life and I was blown away by how she has been able to turn every tragic event into a story of success.

Meagan, Pfizer