



The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are contact details: a WhatsApp icon with the number '+91 85914 52129*', a Twitter icon with the handle '@PlayToPotential', and a globe icon with the website 'playtopotential.com'. Further right, under the heading 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of the host, Deepak Jayaraman, with the text 'Podcast Host' and his name 'Deepak Jayaraman' in a red box below it. At the bottom left of the banner, a small note reads: '*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

Context to the nugget

Bruce speaks about how we all need to recognize that there are no linear paths to success or glory or happiness. He urges us to deal with the wolf/ogre/wilderness to get past it and get to a meaningful place. He speaks about how we may not be able to reach our potential unless we become the hero of our own story.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Beautiful. I love the way you connect it back to how we tell stories as children on the table. So simple yet so profound. Just as we wrap up Bruce, this podcast is titled Play to Potential. In all the work you have done over the last several years you have been curious about multiple topics ranging from parenting to circus to transitions and much more. What would you say in summary for us to play to our potential? What are some of the thoughts you want to leave the listeners with?

Bruce Feiler (RS): I will tell you a parenting story on my way to answering this beautiful question. So, I am the dad of identical daughters as I have said here a few times; they are teenagers now, and I used to read to them when they were young and then they started to read to themselves and I stopped reading to them at night which I deeply regret. But then when they got a little older, I started reading to them again and there is a story that's beloved by American girls called A Wrinkle in Time and I had never read this. I had like never read the canon of girl literature like A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, which is maybe the closest thing I have ever read to a perfect book. And so, I was reading A Wrinkle in Time to my daughters and as you know, it is about there's a scientist dad and there's this daughter Meg and this dad disappears and goes off into some sort of intergalactic place and then Meg has to go bouncing using physics and woopy woo's from the planet to planet and stage to stage. And so, she goes bouncing and bouncing and bouncing and bouncing and finally she gets to the inner sanctum where the dad essentially is being held hostage waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting for this and finally the girls and I have girls about this age and I am the dad reading the story and I shut the book. I have never read this book and I say to my daughters what's going to happen now, who's going to save the day? So, what do my daughters say, or what would anybody's day say? Dad's gonna save the day, dad's gonna save the day and I was like, I am your dad and I would like that to be true, but the dad's not going to save the day. Who's the hero of the story? Meg? Meg is going to save the day. Open the book and read and that's what happens. Dad and Meg are reunited, but Meg has to save the day because Meg is the hero of this story and that's the point. We want to think of our life as a fairy tale. We want to be the hero and we want to have the happy ending, but you can't get to the happy ending at first without going through the dark woods and then who shows up in the dark woods? A wolf shows up and that's what I am here to say as sad as it might sound, as painful as it might sound, a wolf is going to show up in your story. It

might be a wolf, it might be an ogre, it might be a dragon, it might be a downsizing, it might be a diagnosis, it might be a death, it might be a tornado, it might be a pandemic; but when the wolf shows up, we want to shutter our eyes and we want to look away, but we can't do that. The hero has to get over around or through or somehow get past the wolf. That's what makes it a fairy tale. Not the hero and the happy ending. It is the difficult time in the wilderness of the woods and it is the wolf. So, anybody out there facing a wolf right now your job is to get through around or over the wolf. It is not going to be easy, but I can tell you I have spoken to hundreds and hundreds of people, they all get past their wolf and that's when you become the hero because if there's one thing I learned you asked me to sum up my views, we cannot reach our potential unless we become the hero of our own story and we can and we will.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: This is a beautiful insight from Bruce. The nuance here is that we all go through the training and practice for walking on the road, but nobody really trains us or prepares us for the wolf or the dragon. Back to what Bruce says in the previous nugget, what has been personally fulfilling for me is the ability to co-narrate a story with another leader and help them make sense of what they are going through and help them get to a better place while dealing with a wolf, ogre or a dragon.

End of nugget transcription

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Playing to Potential: This playlist captures the essence of what the speaker is trying to say in their conversation. In a way, it captures the key principles with which they have approached life which has brought them to where they are today. They share their perspectives on the mindset we need to adopt as we navigate through life. You can access the playlist [here](#).

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Bruce Feiler - Nuggets

- 70.00 Bruce Feiler - The Full Conversation
- 70.01 Bruce Feiler - The Power of stories
- 70.02 Bruce Feiler - Happy Families and Agile Development
- 70.03 Bruce Feiler - What is the shape of your story
- 70.04 Bruce Feiler - Disruptors and Lifequakes
- 70.05 Bruce Feiler - Midlife to Whenever life transition
- 70.06 Bruce Feiler - Make sense from scars (not wounds)
- 70.07 Bruce Feiler - Shape-shifting instead of resilience
- 70.08 Bruce Feiler - Three phases of a transition
- 70.09 Bruce Feiler - Taking a leap of faith
- 70.10 Bruce Feiler - Role of money in transitions
- 70.11 Bruce Feiler - Role of a Sounding Board/Coach
- 70.12 Bruce Feiler - In Summary - Playing to Potential

About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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