

Adam Corneille

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Mr. Corneille had to keep picking himself up every time someone said no to him when he asked for work and a job. "The trial was finding work, the trial is being alone and not giving up." Mr. Corneille wasn't completely alone but because he was in love, he needed to have perseverance to find a job. He knew he was in the greatest country in the world so he would find a job if he just kept trying.

Mr. Corneille finally met an ally, a man who ran construction but the man didn't have any work for Mr. Corneille. Mr. Corneille kept persevering though and told "I wonder what is going to happen to me here..." Mr. Corneille's story, is a story of love. Mr. Corneille grew up in the United Kingdom, he loved to travel but always returned to the United Kingdom, his home. After returning from living in Africa, Mr. Corneille met a girl named Alexis who would take his life on a whole new adventure. They had an instant connection and started dating. Sadly, this love story had to temporarily end when Alexis moved to the United States. This relationship was hard for them. Mr. Corneille said, "I decided that I loved her alot and was willing to move to the United States for her."

In 1988, Mr. Corneille made the decision to move to New York, Mr. Corneille said, "I sold everything: my car, my house so I can buy a plane ticket to NY so I be with (my future wife) Alexis." Leaving home was nothing new for Mr. Corneille but this time leaving home was not planned "I remember thinking at the time how different it was... coming here on an airplane not on holiday but to live."

Mr. Corneille's journey to the United States was easy; he applied for a visa, got on a plane, had a meal, watched a movie, and had Alexis pick him up from the airport. When in New York, Mr. Corneille lived with Alexis. He explained that a challenge for him was learning how to trust people, "I couldn't tell who was lying to me because I couldn't understand body language." There was only one way for Mr. Corneille to learn, Mr. Corneille had to go to strangers and ask for help, ask for a job and constantly be rejected. The man he would buy him lunch everyday if he would allow Mr. Corneille to ride around with him and teach him what was happening, kind of like a translator. Together, they would visit construction sites and the man taught him how Americans work.

Mr. Corneille's hard work finally paid off, "I went out and found this nice job as a construction worker where I met an Italian guy." The Italian guy taught Mr. Corneille that in order to fit in you have to learn how to adapt to what people want. For the Italian guy, it was to speak loudly and to actually yell at his workers. Mr. Corneille said in England you didn't yell at people so it was very different for him to understand why the Italian guy did that. Mr. Corneille was working as a foreman for the Italian guy and was put through another trial to do something he never would do at home. Mr. Corneille said, "as soon as he came on the job site he would fire one of the men who was a good guy, so I just started yelling at the top of my lungs sticking up for my guy. I was more acting than yelling. From then on the Italian guy liked me."

The final obstacle Mr. Corneille had to overcome was the realization that he would never live in England again. Mr. Corneille traveled for years, all over the world but always returned home; this time it was different. The United States was his new home; he considers himself American. He now lives in Natick with his wife Alexis and their daughter Todus. This is Mr. Corneille's love story of how he got to America by following the girl he loved.

--by [REDACTED]

