

Today is Your Lucky Day, Take a Chance

By Sheila Johnson

For me, there has always been more fun in opening that odd shaped little pastry, referred to as a “fortune” cookie, than believing the prophetic script found inside of its half curl. Most of the time, I’ve already made up my mind to just ignore what may be written on that tiny little piece of paper, and I add my unopened sweet token to my collection of things to occupy the empty spaces in the fruit bowl. But to satisfy our writing challenge for today, I actually opened my fortune cookie, and it read: “Today is your lucky day, take a chance.”

First, I don’t believe in luck, and second, I don’t take chances very often in my life. For instance, I could never be the king’s or the queen’s taster for fear of eating or drinking poison that had been hidden inside of their delectables. It would be just my “luck” to die doing something I don’t do often. You would never find me standing in line hoping to fit into Cinderella’s shoe for fear of total humiliation and it would be just my “luck” to be banned from the kingdom for doing something I don’t do often, i.e., take chances. And I will never understand the rationale behind those souls who dare to play Russian roulette—taking a chance of never knowing if it was their lucky day or not.

My Beloved, the real reason I don’t believe in luck and don’t take too many chances, is that I have three adult children who have a theme song with the following verses that I’m tired of hearing:

“Mom, take a chance with your finances and buy a few high risk stocks.” I remind them to look at what happened to Bernie Madoff’s investors!

“Mom, take a chance and expand your drinking choices.” I did that and embarrassed myself when ordering a vodka tonic. I repeatedly asked the very kind waiter for Top Shelf thinking that was the name of a particular kind of Vodka. I’ll stick with wine.

“Mom, take another chance at love.” Now this verse gets my attention every time. But after careful thought, I just say to my concerned adult children: “Over the past year, I’ve kissed a few frogs and none have turned into princes. The pond is getting smaller, the algae is getting greener, and I don’t want to take a chance of getting warts.”

I don’t believe in luck, and I don’t take chances too often in my life. So much for fortune cookies!