

# Emina Mameledzija

The little weird girl Once upon a time there was a little weird girl. She was stuck in the Land of Good Enough, a small world of routine and predictability. The little weird girl was known for her annoying questions. She would question everything around her: the way people thought and the way things were done. She felt that there must have been so much more to life than what she already knew!

The other people of Land of Good Enough did not share her enthusiasm and curiosity. In fact, no one understood why she was so strange. She

had a stable job, a nice apartment, and a hobby to keep her occupied over the weekend. Why would she possibly want more than that?



The weird girl had no satisfying answer for them. The only thing she could do is to try to fit in. She stopped asking questions and kept her imagination to herself. Surprisingly, it worked for quite a long time. Until she couldn't take it anymore. Was this really how it was going to be for the rest of her life?

The little weird girl finally realized she had to do something before it was too late, before she completely lost herself in the Land of Good Enough. And so, she decided to leave everything behind and go on a big adventure! But where to go? It had to be a place that will challenge her, a place of diversity of thought, belief, and culture. London seemed to fit the description.

London, on the other hand, made it more challenging for her than she hoped for. The first day in the big city started off promising. She found herself for the first time on the red bus (and she always thought those were tourist buses!), surrounded by a mix of cultures and languages that she couldn't even recognize. Her enthusiasm was challenged only half an hour later. The bus stopped in front of a run-down, dark house. The address corresponded to the flat-share she confirmed online without seeing it first, that she would share with 4 strangers. After dragging her suitcase up the narrow staircase, she immediately regretted everything. In front of the landlord she successfully hid the horror she felt when she entered an empty, dirty room. Her new London home.

After a long first night without much sleep, the little weird girl, still tired and overwhelmed, ran out of the house. She was late! And exhausted! And disappointed! A long bus ride, a wrong bus stop, and another sprint run later, she carefully opened the door of the class room. Everyone else was already there. She felt everyone's look of disapproval. How could she be late on her first day at Cass. Was all of this a mistake?!

A couple of weeks fast forward, the story had turned. Her colleagues from 6 different continents quickly turned into friends. They established a tradition of having cultural dinners to learn more about their distinct cultures. After having had Ecuadorian, Chinese, Armenian and Thai nights out, and shortly after the upcoming Uruguayan, Chilean, and Norwegian dinners, she will help her new friends learn about her country over a Bosnian meal.

The little weird girl finally found herself amongst people who shared her curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Unconventional people who questioned the status quo, people with big dreams and determination to fulfil them. She had so much in common with all of them, although they didn't share many of the conventional similarities: they were all from different countries and continents, with different cultural and religious backgrounds. She was energized by their discussions and inspired by the ideas they shared. She was no longer shy to express who she truly was. Finally, things started to make sense to her. The weird girl was no longer weird. In fact, she had never been weird. She had just been in the wrong place.

To her surprise, the experience was far from being only intellectually stimulating. On her first day at Cass, she was asked to reflect on who she was and what made her happy. As of then, our girl started an emotional journey of self-reflection and self-discovery, learning about her strengths and building up on her weaknesses. More than

anything, Cass took a great interest in her journey and offered her support and a safe-net. Who would have thought that a business schools would help her explore her deepest emotions?

The little girl from the beginning of our story is not so little anymore. She has grown in confidence. She is determined to never again accept a good enough life. She will leave Cass with strong convictions and resilience and, most importantly, with friends in (literally) every part of the world. And in case you wondered, our girl still lives in the run-down house with four strangers from Hungary, France, the US, and Cameroon. The strangers didn't turn into friends but at least her room is now clean and furnished. Hey, no one said this was a fairy tale!