

ME, YOU, WE & DIVERSITY

47 magical ways locals and non-locals
meet each other

Susan Omondi

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Imprint

English-language first edition January 2024

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Cover design and typesetting: Wolkenart - Marie-Katharina Becker,

www.wolkenart.com

First Editor: Ruth Omondi - JAN Explore Publishers, Nairobi

Final Editor: Michelle K. Gilluly-Beham - www.targetlanguage.at

Production and publishing: Sinaveria – www.sinaveria.de

1st edition

Paperback: 978-3-910567-48-1

Hardcover: 978-3-910567-49-8

For our incredible twins, Amora and Obera, who are my enthusiastic and steadfast supporters and always by my side while presenting.

For Thomas, Sammy and my family in Germany, Kenya, Finland, Tanzania, the US, Uganda, Qatar, the UK.

For my remarkable nephew Hawi Jayden, who touched my heart by sharing the original German version with his friends, despite not speaking the language. What a powerful gesture that still moves me to tears. I just had to translate this book.

About this book

US and THEM? Or ME and YOU to WE?

Germany is a country of immigration. The number of immigrants living in Germany in the year 2022 was 2.7 million (rising from 1.32 million in 2021) as reported by Statistista. From a worldview regarding immigration, 281 million people were reported to be living outside their country of birth in 2020 (see <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/wmr-2022-interactive/>), making cultural diversity a hot topic.

I personally observe people identifying with the country of their origin. Furthermore, there are many people who identify with both their new homeland and the country of their roots or origin.

All those involved benefit from this. Nevertheless, an intriguing phenomenon can be observed: there is a willingness to provide development aid or donations and, at the same time, there is reluctance to do so when it comes to housing or jobs.

I am convinced that great things only come about when we trust everyone more in their uniqueness and are willing to change our perspective. In other words, this is a leadership task. But how can we succeed in this, with all these everyday challenges and the “non-natives”? How do we manage to engage with each other? Who should take the first step? How do we succeed in a true encounter between the natives and the non-natives? Is it enough for us to rely on laws and political correctness? Are quotas enough for us?

Don't let the first impression fool you. It's people like you and me who make this magical encounter. I am convinced that a positive attitude toward diversity, as well as dealing constructively with the challenges it brings, begins with oneself and at home, and not when we discover in companies that people are

systematically treated worse because of their gender or otherness. Each of us can take the first step. Personal experiences play a magical role in this.

It is time that we approach diversity in a more positive and effective way. It is time to use every opportunity to shape the land of diversity ourselves - from WE versus THE OTHERS to ME and YOU and thus to WE. This book accompanies you on this path. With true stories and selected anecdotes from everyday life, it summarizes for you 47 simple and magical ways to integrate - consciously as a native or a non-native, in whichever country you are.

Every person is diverse. You are diverse in your personality and talents. As you get to know yourself better and better and identify what is limiting you, you pave a wonderful path for magical encounters. This book shows you how to unleash that magic and diversity within you.

Experiencing true diversity starts with little things and chance encounters in everyday life - with surprisingly big effects - whether at home, at work, or on the road. It is my desire to accompany you with selected anecdotes.

So why should you read this book?

Because you are curious! Curiosity is the magical first step to joint success. An entertaining book with many surprising insights awaits you; it is educating, humorous and at the same time includes clear messages that will further develop you.

What you can take with you:

- You learn to discover and use magical moments in everyday life, not only within the context of being an immigrant/nonimmigrant, but as a family member, a partner, a leader, an employee, etc.
- Nothing is what it seems. You can also take the first step by questioning yourself and approaching people empathetically. This is often easier than you think.
- We are connected by more than we initially perceive. Dialogues and questions open up new paths.

It takes both natives and non-natives to make our society and environment what we want it to be for our children. It also takes every individual, in every setting – be it at work, at home, or in public places – to responsibly and consciously engage in ways that will promote more positivity in diversity.

It starts with ME and YOU, then together WE will find a better way for living in DIVERSITY for a better society. I can only expect from you what I am willing to give myself. I have to acknowledge the diversity and magic in me first so that I can acknowledge the same in others. Moreover, I can give and receive appreciation and allow for magical encounters when I am open to them.

Only through conscious diversity and integration are we successful together. Therefore, the title is deliberately: **ME, YOU, WE & DIVERSITY** - whether you have already found your home in your chosen country or not, or whether you are working on your personal growth, nurturing a relationship at home or at work. In every context, experiencing diversity remains a process.

While this book's setting is in Germany, every reader who is curious to learn about magical encounters beyond cultural differences can benefit from these 47 lessons.

This book is therefore applicable to your chosen country of residence as well. Just adapt the lessons for your area and shine.

Thank you so much for getting involved.
Welcome to Germany: a love at *second* sight.

People talk about love at first sight. But maybe the love for your chosen country has to develop.