

# Princess Juniper



## **GUIDE TO BUILDING A COUNTRY** *OR, HOW TO BE A LEADER THROUGH SOUND THINKING, STRONG RELATIONSHIPS, AND THE ART OF MAKING MISTAKES*

This guide explores the first book in the **Princess Juniper Series** by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Philomel Books). [AJPaquette.com](http://AJPaquette.com).

# Princess Juniper

## TEN STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

*Or, How to Find Your Glow & Save the World*

It's a peaceful, sunny afternoon in Queen's Basin. I've got a few minutes of quiet time (if you don't count the sound of hammering and the occasional bleating of goats), so I've decided to pen my thoughts on leadership for future royal rulers, and any others who want to take charge and make a change.

Is there something in your life that needs changing? What opportunities do you see to make your home, neighborhood, school, or world a better place?

Your greatest opportunity might also be your greatest challenge and your greatest risk. Are you up for the challenge? I think you are! Are you taking a risk? You might be. But that's what leadership is, after all.

And you? You're a leader. I can see it in your eye.

Follow these tips to get you the rest of the way there. ~ *Princess Juniper*

## TEN STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

### 1) FIND YOUR OWN GLOW

I set out to build this kingdom because I wanted a place where each one of us could feel important, where we could all find our own bit of glow. What is your glow? What matters to you most deeply? Now ... what can you change to help bring that wish to life?

### 2) ASK 'WHY?'

On my 13th Nameday, a curious thing occurred to me. I asked, "Why? Do things really have to be this way?" Real leaders are not satisfied. They don't accept the ways things have always been. Real leaders dig deep, seek answers, and don't give up until they get them. The question 'Why?' is a little key that can unlock very big doors of change!

### 3) GET ADVICE

Where would I be without bookish Erick or fierce Alta to help me along my journey? Even the Queen can't do everything by herself. Of course, you'll be the one making the final decisions about your chosen tasks, but take the time to get advice from those you trust. You might not always like everything your advisors say, but listen.

### 4) FEEL DAUNTED

Some days you might not feel especially royal. You might just feel like a kid on the edge of a cliff facing a big dark ocean of uncertainty. Want to hear a secret? It's okay to feel daunted, or worried, or overwhelmed. Really! When that happens, take a deep breath and remember that you don't need to go it alone. Go find those advisors and friends. Together, you can take the next step and cross that vast ocean in a boat of your own making.

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### 5) LEARN FROM YOUR ENEMIES

Now, you might not have a rival for your throne, but chances are you have some kind of Cyril in your life. Is there a bully or someone who is telling you and others that you're all wrong, or that your goal can't be reached?

First off, pay attention to the criticism. If you strip away the meanness of what your rival has to say, is there any truth there? Ask your closest advisors what they think, too. If you find nothing but mean, then brush it off and move on with your head held high. If you find a kernel of truth, though, that's valuable. Take that bit of truth to heart. Now grind all the rest of the meanness into the dirt and be done with that bully once and for all!

### 6) FIND YOUR TIPPY

It always helps to have a friend who will smother you with kindness when you need it most. Even the strongest among us have times when we need friendship and comfort. When Tippy tells me, "Mistress Ladyship Juniper of Everything, you are the most righteous queen ever to live."—well, it helps. It helps a lot.

### 7) EXPRESS GRATITUDE

My Comportment Master loved to lecture, and one of his favorite lines was, "Your royal gratitude is best expressed by your silence." How I hated that instruction! Does it seem right to you? It sure doesn't to me. So: Don't be afraid to tell those around you what you appreciate about them. Be specific! (I promise not to tell my Comportment Master.)

### 8) TRANSFORM GROUSING TO GIDDY

Once you've created your change-making team, give them time to grow together. There's going to be times that your people will complain—or, as we call it in the princess world, grouse. Make your grouse speak up! If they have a complaint, they should tell it to you. What to do next? Explain your point of view. Then ask them to help you come up with a solution. The solutions are not all up to you. If you all figure things together, everyone will end up giddy!

### 9) MAKE MISTAKES

Don't make mistakes on purpose, of course! But remember that you will make mistakes. I made a big one here in the Queen's Basin and I had to apologize to everyone. Remember, there's nothing weak about apologizing—on the contrary, it can fill you with hot new strength. (And it makes your team respect you even more!)

### 10) KEEP A BALANCE

Your career as Royal Ruler, Team Leader, or World-Changer will be one of dedication, trial, and triumph. Remember to keep your life in balance. There's no end of work to be done. But you should always be ready now and again to crank up the music, put on your swankiest outfit, and dance your ball slippers off!

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## BUILDING YOUR COUNTRY

To be the ruler of your very own country, or the leader of your own movement for change, you will need: a purpose, a location, and a name. I do love to make lists! Let's make one together, shall we? To start, answer these questions.

*~Princess Juniper*

Why do you want to be the ruler of your own land or the leader of your own group? Why do you want to lead?

What changes would you make to this new land of yours or to the community you live in?

What real or imagined space would you like to rule from? Where would your headquarters be? (Up a tree? Down in the basement? Across the world on a white sand beach? On a wooded mountaintop?)

What will you name your new kingdom? (Think before you name it after yourself. You don't want your subjects to think it's all about you!)



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## YOUR ROYAL SUBJECTS

It is impossible to establish a kingdom without a group of royal subjects. Likewise, you can't be a leader for change without first gathering a team of clever and faithful friends.

What works needs be done? What are the skills needs for each task? Who might be able to fill these positions?

You may not have names to fill every job. We left for Queen's Basin with a pretty small crew. But look how well things turned out! We made do with who we had, and some subjects' hidden talents were revealed in the process.

Who will your subjects be? Begin assembling your team below. *~Princess Juniper*

What Needs to Be Done...	Skills Required for the Task...	Name

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## OUTFITTING YOUR DOMAIN

Choosing the right outfit to wear is very important. In the same way, you want to outfit your kingdom, business, or world-changing organization by choosing the supplies needed to run it. Dress for success—that goes for you and your new domain!

What does your business need to get started? Making a list always gets me in the mood to start something new!

*~Princess Juniper*



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## MAPPING YOUR ROYAL DOMAIN

If you choose to rule your own land, what will it look like? Does it have a swimming hole like mine? A grand treehouse for holding dance parties? Sketch out a map of your domain below!

If you choose to start a club, organization, or project, what will your work space look like? You might also draw a picture of your community after you make the changes you have in mind.

Think big! Think like a royal ruler! ~ *Princess Juniper*

P.S. Want to do more? Try turning your drawing into a 3D model using items from your recycling bin, Legos, old toys, or software.

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## GETTING IT ALL DONE

Your mind might be absolutely bursting with ideas for your new country, business, or project. It is always best to get your ideas down on paper. Who knows? You might need an entire notebook to fit them all.

Are you ready? Then let's get started with the business of ruling our own world!

*~Princess Juniper*

