



Issue #4: Why "Perfection" is the Silent Killer of Female Leadership

🌟 The Inspiring Icon: Reshma Saujani



I've been studying the work of **Reshma Saujani**. She's the powerhouse who founded *Girls Who Code* and *Moms First*. Reshma famously says, "**Teach girls bravery, not perfection.**" She argues that men are taught to take risks and "fail forward," while women are often socialized to be perfect to avoid criticism. In male-dominated sectors, this "perfection trap" keeps us playing small. Reshma's leadership shows us that "Commanding" doesn't mean having all the answers; it means having the bravery to start before you're ready.

📖 The "Commanding" Read: *Brave, Not Perfect* by Reshma Saujani

If you feel like your inner critic is the loudest voice in the room, you need to read this. Reshma breaks down how to "build your bravery muscle." For women in technical or high-stakes roles, this book is a permission slip to take the messy shot rather than staying on the sidelines and living authentically.

🎧 If you prefer to listen to the [Podcast](#)

 **Nikki's Tip: The "80% Command"**

When I set up this coaching company, I sat with self doubt as to whether I was good enough and would people want to listen to what I had to say. "There are plenty of coaches out there, why would they choose me?" I had to tell myself what I coach to others and just take the leap and stop looking for perfectionism.

My tip: Practice the "**Bravery Sprint.**" Once a week, speak up on a topic you're only 80% sure of, or hit "send" on a proposal that still has a rough edge. Leading with "Care" means trusting your team to help you polish the idea, rather than carrying the burden of being "flawless" alone.

If there is a specific leadership challenge you're facing, DM me. I'd love to help you navigate it in a future issue.

Commanding with Care,

Nikki McNicol

The Compassionate Leader

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