

# 'I Can,' and She Did

People cheer and are inspired when they see someone demonstrate courage and tenacity in the comeback from tragedy.

Such is the story of Mary Lawrence, told in *Seize the Day* by Danny Cox and John Hoover.



Lawrence almost lost her life when her car was hit by a reckless driver. Her injuries looked so grim that the medics thought she was dead and simply carried her to the ambulance. Only a chance pulse check before driving off showed that she was still alive. At the hospital, the doctors expected her either to die or to survive without being able to move or even think normally.

But Lawrence had decided to survive, somehow, and focused all her energy on it. She faced incredible tests: two major operations on her face without anesthetic and 15 root canals. She also had to deal with not being able to recall names or even simple thoughts.

How did she respond? First, she adopted the simplest and yet most difficult of mottos: "I can." Then she set high goals. She astonished everyone by launching into studying for a real estate license. She often had to read material more than 50 times in order to comprehend and retain it. Yet her commitment to her goal helped her to not only pass the test but to do so on her first try.

She found work as a real estate agent, but nothing came easily. She failed at two firms – and responded by setting her goals even higher: the Million Dollar Club that her third employer reserved for its most successful agents. Right away, she bought a beautiful evening gown to wear the night she anticipated being named to the club. She looked at the dress every day as she pursued her goal. By this point in the story, you won't be surprised to hear that she won entry to the club and wore her dress right on schedule.

Courage is a theme in Mary Lawrence's story, and so is "I can."

But just as important is another simple phrase: "Every day." That's how often the courageous say, "I can."

– Beecher Hunter