

She Turned Her Thoughts into **Reality**.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY KIRBY SOCKER

In 2017, Kirby Socker was a twenty-year old college student with determination but no direction.

“I’ve always wanted to move to California and make a name for myself in the entertainment industry,” said Socker. “But as soon as I graduated highschool, I realized I had no idea how to make that happen.”

Socker was born and raised in a small town in Syracuse, New York, alongside her mother, father, and two siblings. Her mother is a school teacher and her father is a farmer.

“Her father and I wanted to support her dreams, but we didn’t know anything about the business,” revealed Socker’s mother. “The whole idea of *Hollywood* seemed like a huge risk, so before she made any major moves, we urged Kirby to attend college and earn a degree.”

Socket graduated highschool in 2014, and went on to attend the State University of New York College at Oswego where she studied Mass Communication.

“When I applied to the SUNY Oswego, I knew that a lot of people interested in working in news attended the school, but it wasn’t until my first semester that I understood the full extent of it all,” Socket remarked.

The State University of New York College at Oswego is where Al Roker, NBC’s *Today* weather anchor, attended college. After he landed his role at one of the top rated news networks in America, the Communications program at the university became very popular among aspiring broadcast journalists.

“It became incredibly clear, very early on, that I did not share this passion for hard-hitting journalism with my classmates,” said Socket. “Nobody took me seriously when I shared my future goals, so eventually I started doubting myself and what I wanted.”

Despite her passion for entertainment, Socket succumbed to the peer pressure presented by her classmates and decided to give the news industry an honest effort. During her junior year as an undergraduate, she began interning for NewsChannel 9 WSYR, a local news station in Syracuse, New York.

“The first day on the job, I was sent to the scene of a hit and run, involving the death of a two year old child,” Socket shared. “In hindsight, that should have been my first and last day at the news outlet, but I chose to stick around for another eight months trying to gain experience.”

One day while walking on campus, Socket noticed somebody had written on the sidewalk. The concrete read; “All that we are is a result of what we have thought.” This is a famous quote by Guatama Buddha, the founder of the world religion of Buddhism.

“At first, I couldn't figure out where I had heard the saying before, but as soon as I got back to my dorm, I started remembering this idea that my friend from highschool was obsessed with,” shared Socket. “It was called the Law of Attraction.”

According to Neil Farbor, Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University, “The Law of Attraction is the belief that the universe creates and provides for you that which your thoughts are focused on.”

Over the years, numerous books have been written about the phenomena that is known as the Law of Attraction; ultimately, opening the door to many different interpretations. However, the general census behind the concept is that your thoughts manifest into reality.

Socketer's friend is not the only individual to believe in the idea that one is able to manifest their dreams through a shift in mindset. In fact, millions of others across the globe stand by this theory, including celebrities like Oprah and Jim Carrey.

"I took the writing on the sidewalk as a sign," Socketer shared. "The only reason I was working in the news industry was because I didn't believe in myself, and it seemed like the only thing to do at the time."

Before beginning her internship at NewsChannel 9 WSYR in January 2017, Socketer had visited several on-campus career advisors in hopes that one of them would be able to help guide her in the right direction. She informed them of her interests, and made it clear that she wanted to work in entertainment television. Regardless of her sincerest efforts, the advisors with whom she met, informed her they did not have any contacts in the entertainment industry, and that it would be in her best interest to continue on with broadcast news.

"I let go of the fear that had been instilled in me through the negativity and doubts of others," she said. "I wasn't aware at the time, but that day on campus was a huge turning point in my life."

From that moment on, Socketer began each day with a new mindset. She was no longer afraid of failing and allowed herself to believe that everything she wanted was hers for the taking.

"It was sometime in the middle of April, only a few nights after my sidewalk revelation, when I was on Youtube watching *The Late Late Show's Carpool Karaoke*," said Socketer. "I found myself thinking, 'This is the kind of job I want.'"

[*The Late Late Show with James Corden*](#) is an American late-night talk show hosted by Broadway, television and film star, James Corden.

Socketer immediately began scouring the internet for any possible internship listing or volunteer opportunity but inevitably found nothing of the sort. In the entertainment industry, job postings are few and far between. This is a result of the high volume of applicants they would likely receive. A majority of hires are done through referral. That's how the industry saying, "It's about who you know, not what you know," came about.

Despite her lack of connections, Socketer was not deterred from continuing to go after what she wanted. She dug deeper and after many hours spent in the darkest corners of the internet, Socketer eventually stumbled upon the email of *The Late Late Show's* executive producer's assistant.

“I sent the assistant a short email saying I was a fan of the show and would love the opportunity to apply for an internship with them,” Socker said. “It was a long shot, but I didn’t see the harm in trying.”

A week after sending the email, Socker received a call that turned into an impromptu interview for an internship with CBS. Days following the phone call, she was invited to Los Angeles to intern with *The Late Late Show*.

“It was just like that, and I essentially had everything I’d ever hoped for,” she recalled. “I turned my thoughts into reality.”

Socker went on to quit her job at NewsChannel 9 and move to California to begin her internship in September of 2017.

“I’ll never forget my first day on the job,” Socker reminisced. “I had just arrived at the CBS lot where the show is filmed, and before I could even get inside of the building, the drummer from the *Foo Fighters* stopped me and struck up a conversation. I immediately thought back to my first day at the news station and couldn’t believe how far I’d come.”

Since interning in 2017, Socker has been hired full-time as a field segment producer at *The Late Late Show*.

“I went from watching *Carpool Karaoke* every night in my tiny dorm room, to working directly alongside James Corden in organizing the entire segment,” said Socker.

September 2020 marks her three year anniversary working at *The Late Late Show with James Corden*. While at the show, Socker has not only made a name for herself in the entertainment industry, but in 2019, she appeared in a fifteen minute segment on the show, [‘Late Late Live Tinder’](#). The segment has since received over 5 million views on Youtube.

“Three years ago, nobody knew my name. Today, my face is plastered all over my old college campus, right next to Al Roker!” Socker marvelled.