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Messages from Cape Town

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Cape Town, South Africa

December 11, 2018

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I interviewed Remano De Beer, the owner of Twelve Eleven Studios. I was most surprised by how similar Remano and I were in terms of our beliefs. There were no giant differences in our perception of the world. I found that our biggest differences existed in our concepts of the workplace. Remano is very similar to others within South Africa in that he doesn't prescribe to the U.S. panic surrounding work. I say this because here in the States, a lot of people believe the more you work the better and keep very extended hours at their jobs. Remano is very busy but he also seems to have a much more relaxed view and has no problem taking an early day or a midday break without becoming overly guilty.

One of the most interesting similarities between Remano and I was our perceptions of having an accent. He and I shared the common experience of feeling less intelligent when speaking in an accent and therefore making an effort not to. I find this fascinating as we are both the minority in our country, although it is very different being white and Afrikaan in South Africa than it is to be tan and clearly Latina in the U.S. This experience showed me that there are conservative pockets anywhere in the world and that often creatives struggle to find their voices in such communities.

I was encouraged to see how much more peaceful Remano was living in Cape Town and being able to work in his chosen field.