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### When The American Dream Goes Too Far

What is the American dream? Many people will say that the American dream is the idea that a person can completely change their social status. People will generally offer the opinion that hard work is the American dream; anyone willing to put in countless hours in any skill or jobset can eventually reach the top of that particular skill or jobset's playing field. However, that is not necessarily the whole definition of this term. More factors than hard work wired into this complex idea, including natural talent and other people who have the same goal. These factors make it arduous for just one person to have the perfect life and obtain all of the goals that they have wanted to accomplish through the mere principle of hard work. In correlation with that observation, people also have to consider what happens after one obtains his or her dream and how they move on with their lives. The effects can be quite disastrous if that person cannot find the right outlet to obtain more fulfillment in their life. A good example of this concept is the life of a woman named Lori Loughlin. This woman's story proves that one can obtain the American dream and then lose it throughout their life. Loughlin started out in a middle class home, and with a great deal of hard work and some natural talent, she became a big star, only to ruin it by making a mistake that will affect her children, her friends, herself, and today's society itself.

Lori Loughlin is 55 years old and has already had a very eventful life; she has been a model, an actor, a mother, and now a possible criminal ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). To give

one the full perspective on Loughlin's life, one needs to go back to her childhood, where the famous actress grew up in a middle class family that did not make an immense income ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). People get the assumption that the Loughlin's family had enough money to survive, but not much more outside of that domain. The fact that Loughlin's family had just enough money to survive was the reason that her father made her put schooling in front of modeling when she started to be a print model at the age of eleven ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). As young Loughlin grew more and more popular, eventually she starred in some commercials while she was in high school, which lead to bigger roles in her acting career ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). She was starting to want bigger projects in the acting business, now that she was on TV, and this caused the trigger that started her on the road toward the show of *Full House* ("Lori Loughlin Biography").

Loughlin had several acting roles that led up to her biggest role as Rebecca Donaldson-Katsopolis in *Full House*, including the soap opera called *The Edge of Night*, which was Loughlin's first role that truly showed her acting talent ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). Her role in *The Edge of Night* was responsible for some of the other acting roles that took place before she was a character in *Full House* ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). After *Full House*, which lasted seven years and ended in 1995, Loughlin continued to get lead roles in many popular movies as she became more prevalent herself ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). Throughout the time she was highly visible on television, she married twice and had two children with her second husband, Massimo Guannulli ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). As Loughlin raised her two daughters, she realized that she had completed most if not all of her dreams that she had as a child; now she could pursue her children's dreams in place of her own. Loughlin's drive shows

the public that her work ethic never went away fully as one can see through her actions regarding her involvement in the college admissions scandal that came out early 2019. There is no denying the fact that Lori Loughlin had a very successful career because of her drive and ambition, but will that ever be enough for a person as dedicated and successful as herself?

To answer this question, one needs to look at the facts of the scandal and see that they suggest that no amount of success that either her family or herself achieves will ever be enough for Loughlin. In the past few months, allegations of a college admissions scandal of huge proportions has surprised everyone with the amount of people involved. Loughlin and her husband are part of that group, as they were recently accused of paying \$500,000 dollars to get their daughters Isabella Rose Guannulli and Olivia Jade Guannulli into the University of Southern California(USC) on the basis of having crew team scholarships, instantly ruining their daughters' futures and their own futures (Sager). Loughlin's husband was an incredibly successful fashion designer and Loughlin's daughter, Olivia Jade, was an aspiring YouTuber growing in fame (Nilles). Even though the couple pleaded not guilty, no one will be able to overlook the huge spectacle that was made of the accusations, as Loughlin and her husband now face up to forty years in prison because of their original plea (Sager). All of this mess is putting a lot of strain on the family, and problems are still arising even though the case was brought to light months ago.

The relationship between Loughlin's family is so strained that Olivia Jade has moved out of the house completely, as she is immensely angry with her parents for ruining her career (Nilles). An inside reporter has told Eonline news that "it's going to take a lot to repair their relationship," leading readers to assume that Loughlin's other daughter, Isabella feels the same

hostility toward her parents as her sister does to some degree (Nilles). After all, the fact that Loughlin did not have enough faith in her daughters to let them use their own means to make their future is adding even more problems to the dysfunctional relationship that is building in the family. Unfortunately, Loughlin's daughters are not the only people who are having issues in the family. Loughlin and Massimo Guannulli have had a lot of problems with their relationship and it is not hard to see why. When one looks at all of the problems that comes out of being the suspects of a major felony that would mean that the couple would have to spend almost the rest of their lives in prison, marriage problems start to make sense (Nilles).

The bottom line is that Loughlin is going to have to work very hard to keep her family together. However, there are many issues to tackle alongside Loughlin's family drama including the many relationships that she has built up in her career. Relationships with friends have also taken a hit during this difficult period of time in Loughlin's life (Nilles). Loughlin has had over fifteen roles in productions and had the friends to prove it, until the scandal made its way to the news ("Lori Loughlin Biography"). Now her friends are dwindling down to a small number, and the ones who are sticking beside Loughlin are having a hard time doing so (Nilles). Both John Stamos and Bob Saget have made statements to the media on how they are dealing with the scandal that Loughlin has found herself in, and from the way they worded their statements, it sounds like they are hurt by her actions, but will continue to be supportive of her (Nilles). In the words of Saget, "You know, you love who you love in your life," signifying that even though Loughlin betrayed his trust, he will always be there for her simply because he loves her (Nilles).

It will be a lot easier for Loughlin's close circle to forgive her than the general public - for that reason. The general public did not spend extensive one-on-one time with Loughlin,

making it harder for them to see her good side through this confusing and hard situation. The fact that Loughlin has betrayed their trust would be bad enough for the majority of people, but she has also done something that can affect the general public negatively as well. Loughlin used her own wealth to allow her children an unfair advantage in life that most people will not be able to give their own children. By using her wealth, she lied and cheated the system that is supposed to give everyone an equal opportunity at success. This betrayal must be even harder for most people to overlook when they consider that Loughlin herself came from a family that did not have an advantage and was one of the people lucky enough to make it up the ladder of success.

Another famous person who misused the public's trust was Felicity Huffman, who entered a guilty plea to an accusation similar to Loughlin's and has to serve a short term in prison (Alfonso). The difference between Felicity Huffman's case and Lori Loughlin's case is that Huffman accepted that she did something wrong, and owned up to it (Alfonso). Huffman did not make excuses about not knowing what she was doing was wrong in contrast to Loughlin's behavior. This contrast shows that the fame of Loughlin's career has gone to her head, changing the character of her younger self who would work endlessly toward her goals. Now, after years of amazing success, Loughlin is the type of person who uses her wealth and status to further give herself the advantage, despite how she grew up.

Loughlin ignored the consequences to her actions until they were staring her right in the face, and she is paying for it now. She has hurt herself, her family, her friends, and even an entire nation of people for the unjust cause of bribing her daughters into USC: a college where everyone is supposed to have equal opportunity. As Loughlin tries to fight the accusations and make excuses for her actions, people need to keep her example in mind and think about her

example from time to time. Everyone needs to take a nice, long look around at their own lives and keep themselves from becoming dependent on the advantages that most people take for granted. The American dream can come true, but once it does, people cannot stop working for things as it would significantly damage society. If every single person in the world just stopped working to better themselves, society would stop flourishing, and that would be a truly terrible event to see.

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