

MADE ME OPEN SECRET BEAUTY ADDRESSES IN THE HEARTLANDS!

IF YOUR AHAVA CARD IS MISSING, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR VENDOR



**ROAD TESTS** LOCAL BOUTIQUE HOTELS MANUAL CITRUS JUICERS HIGH-DEF CAMCORDERS

STEAM IRONS

MEALS TO COOK

FREEZE & REHEAT

When you're at the lowest point in your life, it sometimes takes just a moment of truth to turn the situation around. Four women tell JUSTINA TAN how they heeded their instincts and now live happier, fuller lives.



PEOPLE > FEATURE

"I BECAME AS LIGHT AS AIR I THOUGHT THAT IF YOGA COULD MAKE ME FEEL LIKE THIS, I WANTED TO FIND OUT MORE."

YVETTE TEE

"I FOUND ENLIGHTENMENT ON A BEACH" YVETTE TEE, 38, YOGA TEACHER

SEVEN YEARS AGO, a troubled Yvette Tee decided to take a resort holiday in the idyllic Thai island of Koh Lanta Yai to contemplate a difficult period in her life - she had just made a career switch, but even more life changing was the fact that she had recently separated from her husband.

She had embarked on the trip with him, hoping to sort out their marital issues and to reconcile. At the resort, she signed up for a beach voga session and one lesson was all it took to kick-start a new phase of her life, despite being a complete newbie.

"There were a few times when I was in posture with my eyes closed and I just felt at one with the whole world - I could smell the seawater, I could feel the breeze on my skin. I could feel my breathing and I became as light as air. I thought that if yoga could make me feel like this. I wanted to find out more." says Yvette, smiling.

In the end, the couple weren't able to work through their differences and decided to split up. Upon her return. Yvette started taking yoga lessons while undergoing divorce proceedings. She felt so much clarity and peace

of mind, and felt so good about her improved mental and physical health that she went on to teach voga part-time, even while working as assistant director of corporate communications at Banyan Tree Holdings. Finally, in 2006, Yvette decided to follow her heart and devote her life to voga.

Currently teaching kryoga - a form of voga with martial arts influences - exclusively at Spaboutique, Yvette also leads regular classes at True Yoga and

gives private lessons to women and corporations. Yoga, she says, helped her to open her heart and to love again

- she tied the knot again last year Although she now earns half of what she used to. Yvette says yoga has given her riches that money cannot buy. "Yoga has given me so much - I'm more confident, I look and feel better, I am happier and calmer. I'm lucky to be able to make a living out of what I believe in while helping others at the same time. I believe all these things happened for a good reason to make me who I am today and I'm thankful for it."

## Yvette's three tips on finding inner peace

- 1 Love yourself. Without self-love, you can't love anybody else.
- 2 Be passionate about what you do. Whether you are a homemaker or CEO, find joy in it.
- 3 Be true to yourself. Don't have an image that you think people will like, but be true to who you are

SIMPLY HER AUG 2008 81 SO SIMPLY HER AUG 2008