EP. 8 - Fail FAST and Get Out

Overview

This session focuses on the concept of "Fail Fast," emphasizing the importance of recognizing when a job or situation isn't working and taking swift action to either get out or adapt. Jordana stresses the significance of maintaining the right mindset, understanding when to quit, and, equally, when to persevere and learn quickly in order to succeed.

Key Points:

1. **Fail Fast - The Importance of Early Recognition**:

   o If early signs indicate that a job or role isn't the right fit, it's better to accept that reality and move on rather than stay and hope things improve. Staying in a misaligned role can negatively impact your mindset and performance.

   o A "Fail Fast" approach isn't about avoiding failure but recognizing it early, adapting, and moving forward with wisdom.

2. **Personal Stories**:

   o Jordana shares two stories to illustrate the importance of knowing when to leave a role. In one, she quickly quit a call center job after realizing the environment and role didn't align with her strengths. In another, she stayed in a company despite early misgivings but adopted a survival mindset while actively seeking a better opportunity.

   o These examples show the value of either quitting when necessary or adopting a mindset of learning and preparing for the next step when quitting isn't immediately possible.

3. **Mindset of Survival and Optimism**:

- o   If you can't leave a job right away due to financial or personal reasons, shift your mindset to one of survival. Focus on learning from the situation while actively working towards finding something better.

- o   Use the experience as a lesson to avoid repeating mistakes, such as not asking key questions during the interview process.

4. **When to Stick It Out**:

- o   There are situations where you should not "fail fast." If you've entered a job without all the necessary skills but have a chance to learn, focus on quickly gaining the required knowledge. This requires determination, self-teaching, and taking initiative beyond standard expectations.

- o   Quick recovery in the first few days, asking questions to avoid mistakes, and learning from early missteps can help you succeed even in challenging situations.

Conclusion:

The "Fail Fast" approach is about recognizing when a job or role isn't the right fit and taking swift action to either adapt or exit. Jordana advises adopting a survival mindset if you cannot leave immediately, using the time to learn and prepare for better opportunities. At the same time, it's essential to know when to persevere, especially when you have the opportunity to develop new skills and prove your value.