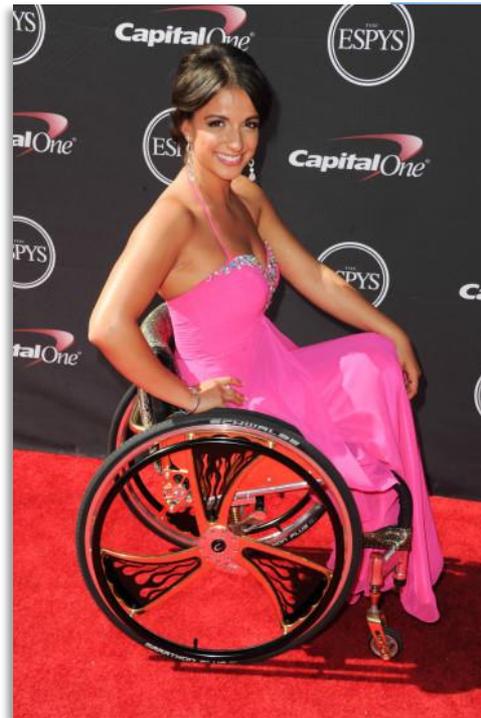




## Victoria Arlen

- ESPN Host & Reporter
- Motivational Speaker
- Paralympic Gold Medalist & World Record Holder
- Dancing With The Stars Semi-finalist
- Author
- Social Media Influencer

*Face it. Embrace it. Defy it. Conquer it!* Victoria Arlen





In 2005, Victoria was 11 years old when she came down with two rare neurological disorders, Transverse Myelitis and Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis. She fought for her life for five years, including four years in a vegetative state where she was 'locked' within herself, unable to communicate with those around her. At times, she suffered seizures for more than 20 hours per day. She was paralyzed from the waist down for a decade and incredibly, regained the ability to walk in 2016.

**Watch Victoria's remarkable story here:**

<http://people.com/tv/dancing-with-the-stars-victoria-arlen-espn-paralympian-exclusive-video-blog-vegetative-state/>



A lifelong swimmer and athlete, despite her illness, Victoria never gave up her childhood dream of competing in the Olympic Games.

In June of 2010, she returned to the pool for the first time in over ten years. Two years later, she qualified for the 2012 London Paralympic Games in four different events. There she won a Gold Medal, setting a World Record, and three Silver Medals.



Not long after the Paralympics, Victoria realized another dream, becoming one of the youngest on-air hosts ever hired by ESPN.

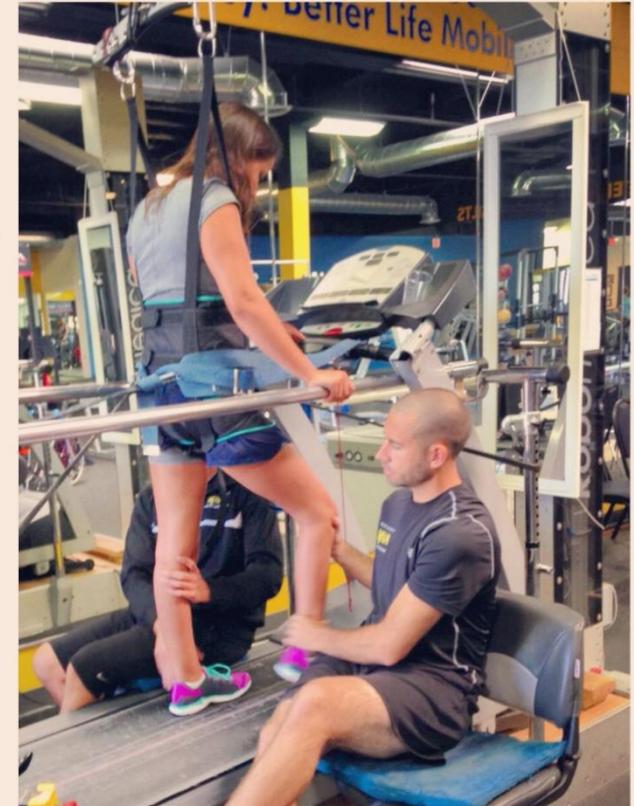
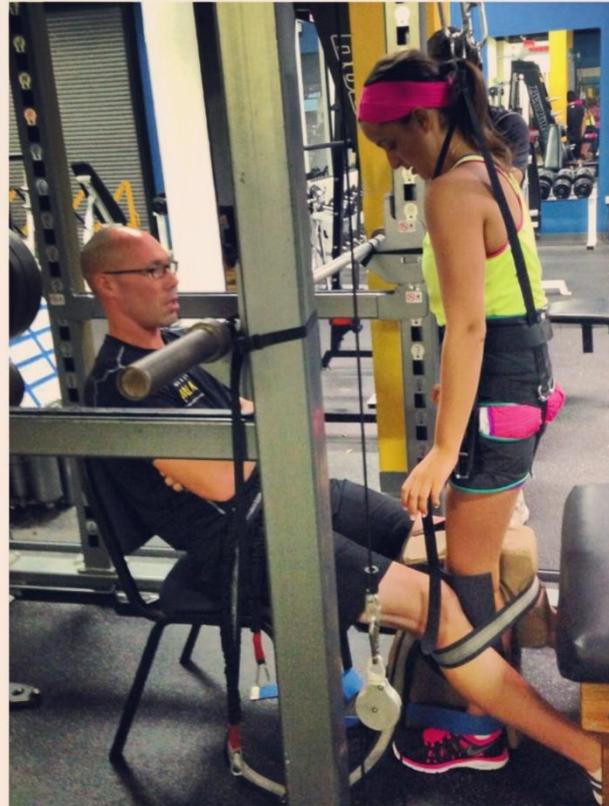
Today, she reports for numerous ESPN programs including X-Games, Invictus Games, The ESPY Awards, espnW, Frozen Four, Special Olympics World Games and Sportscenter.



After emerging from four years in a vegetative state, Victoria remained confined to a wheelchair for ten years.

Determined to walk, she began aggressive activity based paralysis recovery therapy at Project Walk San Diego.

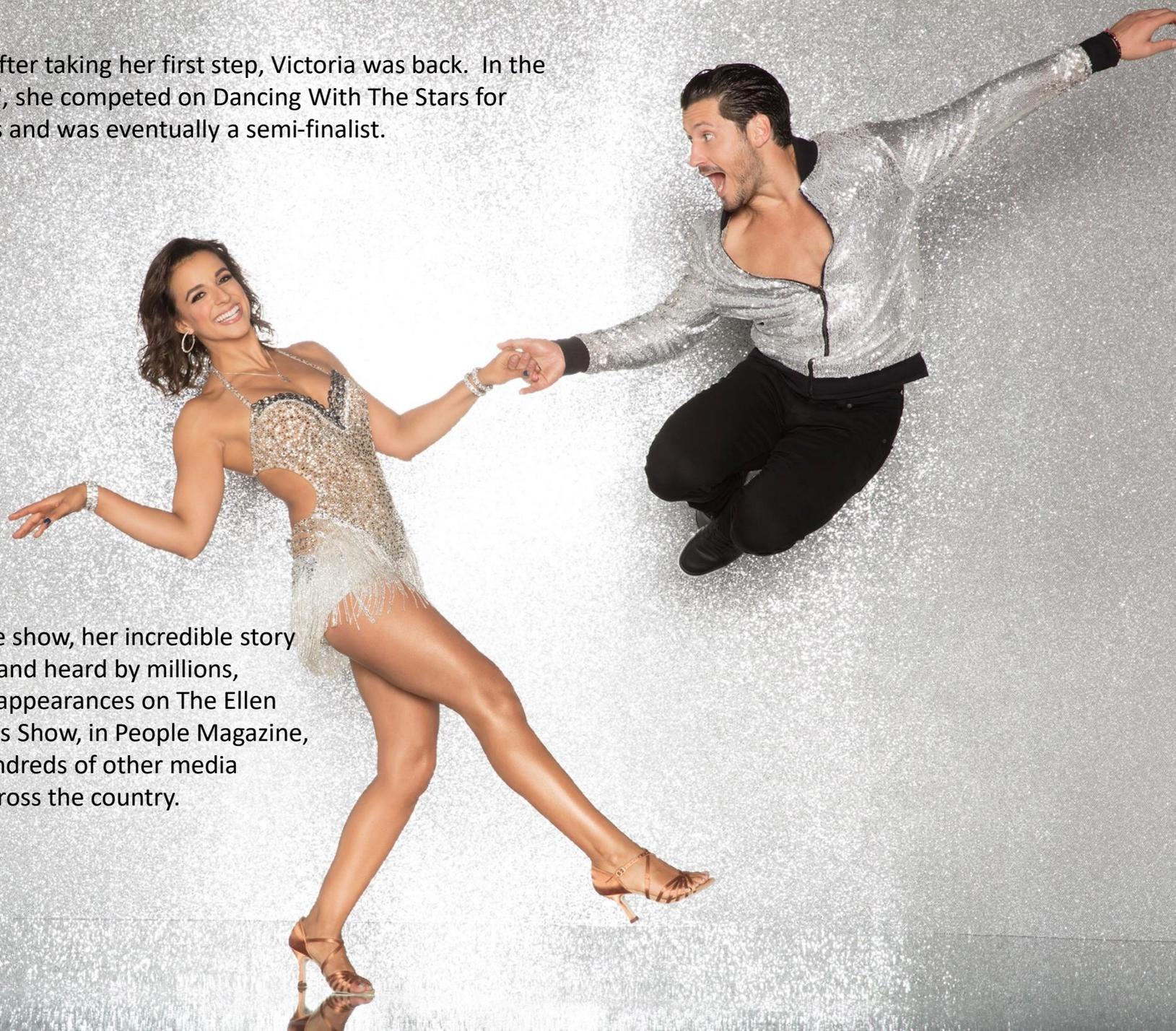
Later, her family opened Project Walk Boston, and there, after two years of therapy, she took her first unassisted step on a long and remarkable road to recovery.



**I'm possible**  
it's true, nothing is impossible...

One year after taking her first step, Victoria was back. In the fall of 2017, she competed on Dancing With The Stars for nine weeks and was eventually a semi-finalist.

During the show, her incredible story was seen and heard by millions, including appearances on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, in People Magazine, and in hundreds of other media outlets across the country.



*"...and Victoria Arlen's talk was incredible, humbling, and a perfect close."*

*"...the guest/motivational speaker Victoria was fantastic. The absolute highlight of all of DTA."*

*"...The motivational speaker Victoria Arlen was wonderful and it was inspirational to hear her story."*

*"...The special guest speaker, Victoria Arlen, was by far the highlight of the session, and in fact the whole conference for me."*

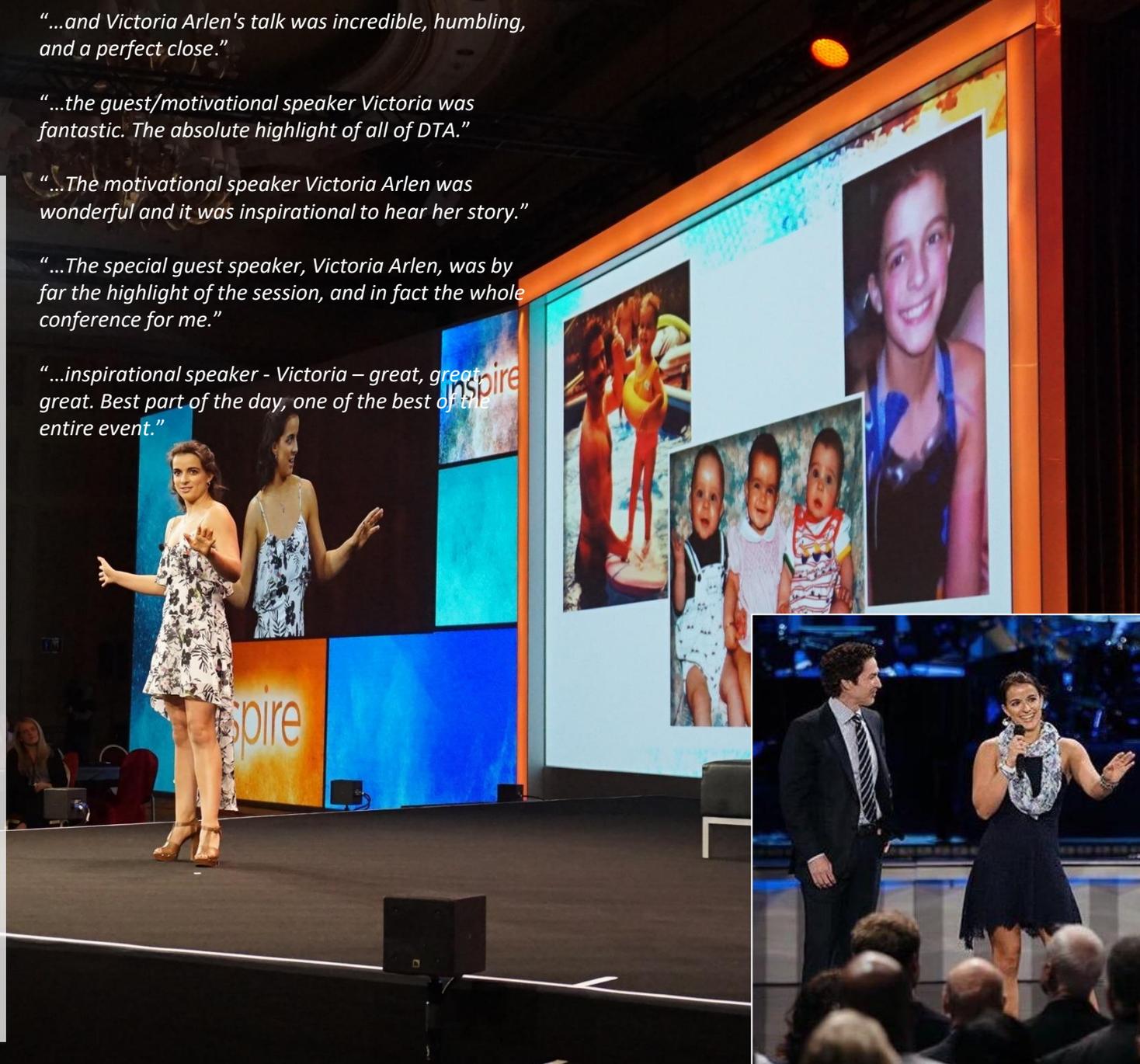
*"...inspirational speaker - Victoria – great, great. Best part of the day, one of the best of the entire event."*

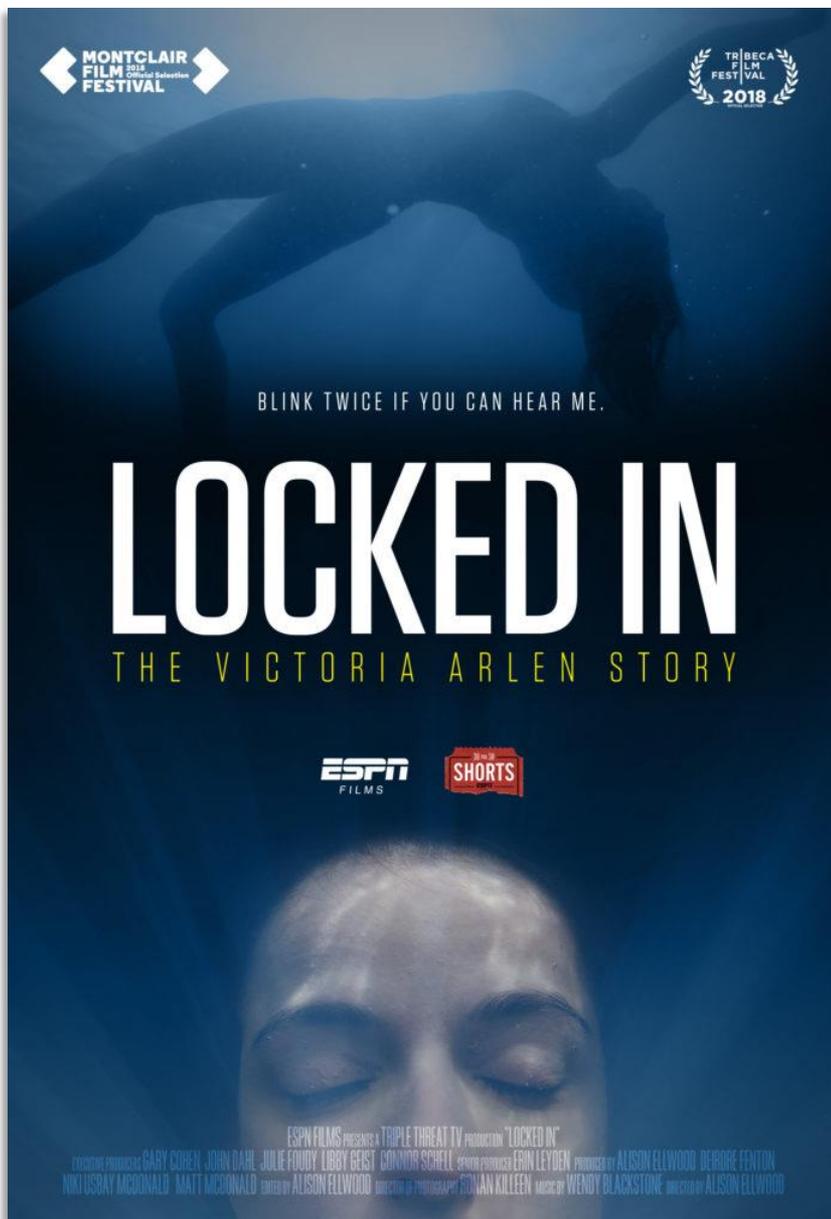
## Motivational Speaking

Since winning her gold medal in 2012, embarking on her broadcasting career with ESPN, and gracing the dance floor of Hollywood, Victoria has been invited to share her incredible story across the country and has honed herself into emotionally powerful keynote speaker.

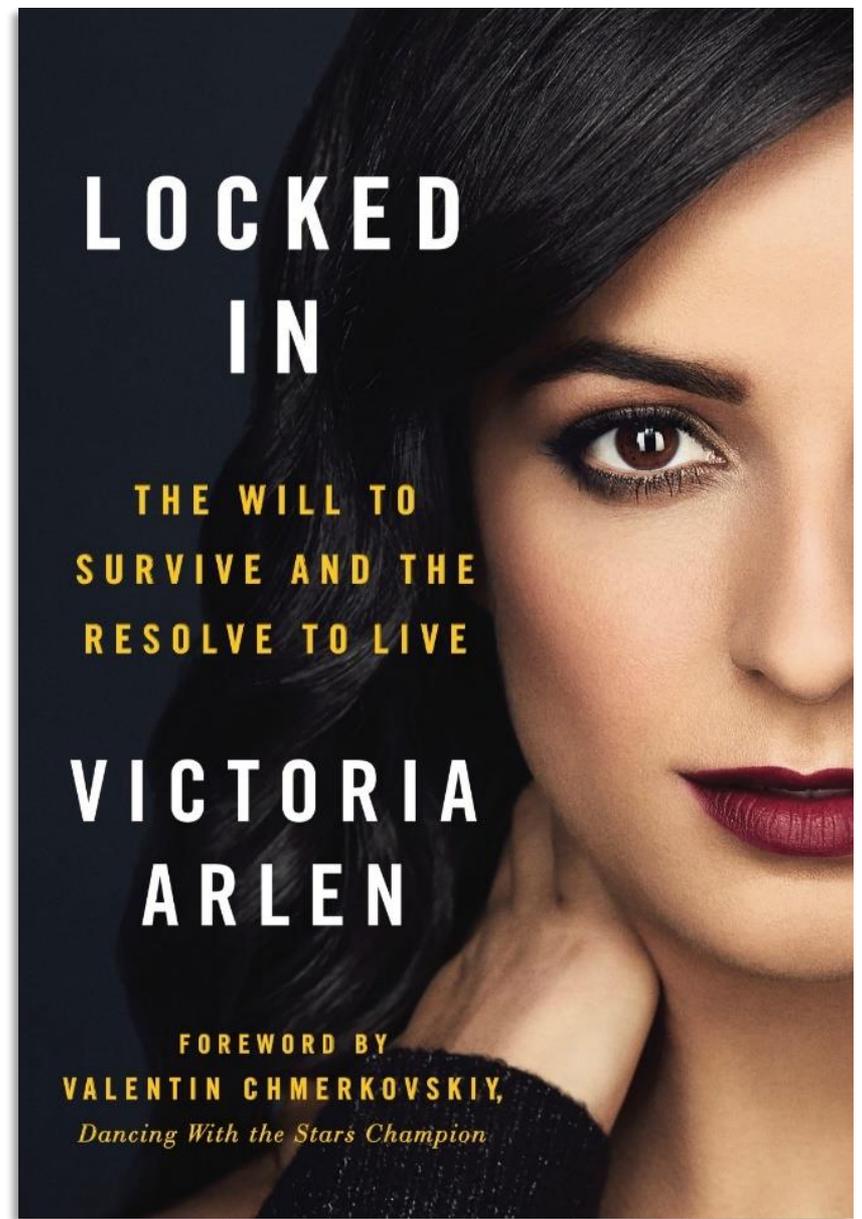
She has been a featured TEDx speaker, shared the stage with Preacher Joel Osteen and delivered the keynote address for numerous Fortune 500s including Pfizer, Disney, Microsoft, General Mills and Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Through her own heart-wrenching story, Victoria shares her **BREAKTHROUGH FORMULA** for overcoming even life's darkest challenges. She talks about finding gratitude, alternative perspective, creating hope, and the power of unrelenting effort. She shares her recipe for using the obstacles in life to create leverage for long lasting, meaningful change through a story your audience will never forget.





Victoria's movie  
JULY 2018 - ESPN's 30for30 Films



Victoria's book  
Augusts 2018 – Simon & Schuster



# victoria's victory

FOUNDATION

The Victoria's Victory Foundation was founded by the desire to help others rise above challenges and achieve their own personal victories.

The foundation supports people living with mobility challenges and special needs, providing grants for training and recovery sessions, home, adaptations, wheelchairs, vans, ramps, medical supplies, and access to adaptive sports and dance programs.

For more information visit:

**[www.victoriasvictory.org](http://www.victoriasvictory.org)**



Victoria Arlen was about to spend her 23rd birthday fulfilling her childhood dream of competing on *Dancing with the Stars*. But instead of celebrating in the hours leading up to the live taping, the ESPN host found herself crying in her trailer. "I called my mom and said, 'Come pray with me. I'm in this weird headspace,'" she says. Arlen's mother, Jacquelyn, reminded her why birthdays are an emotional time: Arlen had spent four of them paralyzed in a hospital bed due to the effects of a rare autoimmune disease. "I'd thought

"She's incredible," says Valentin Chmerkovskiy (on DWTS Sept. 18).

DANCING WITH THE STARS VICTORIA ARLEN

# Her Amazing Recovery

PARALYZED FOR YEARS BY A RARE DISEASE, THE ESPN HOST STUNNED DOCTORS BY LEARNING TO WALK (AND DANCE) AGAIN. NOW SHE HOPES TO INSPIRE OTHERS WITH HER STORY *By* PATRICK GOMEZ

*Victoria*

**VICTORIA ARLEN**

After spending four years in a vegetative state, gold medalist and motivational speaker shows the incredible power of keeping faith



SHOW 'EM WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

#ShowEm your Jockey

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ARLEN: SHANNA FISHER; CHMERKOVSKIY: JEFFREY MAYER; DWTS: GUSTAVO MACHANELLES



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VICTORIA ARLEN

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