



# slack

# VARIETY PACK

Episode 14: Stuffing Pack

Host: You are listening to the Slack Variety Pack. A collection of stories about work, life, and everything in between. Brought to you by Slack. If you don't know what Slack is, head over to Slack.com and change your working life forever.

On this episode, when the barrista always botches your name:

"Anus, it's your latte."

When Black Friday could make or break you startup:

"So, I guess it's like, you know, 20% chance to be super, super successful, 30% chance, you know, we sort of land in the middle of the road, and then 50% chance that everything goes downhill."

The benefits of Agile software development, for parenting:

"Brush teeth, check. Bathroom, check. Pack school bag, check. Make bed, no."

But first, apps versus test kitchen, it's time to talk turkey.

Slack Variety Pack?

Yeah.

Cool.

Okay.

Making work less worky.

Reporter 1: I just received an app update, and it wasn't for my work calendar or my fitness plan, it was from Butterball Turkey.

You see, for Thanksgiving, I've looked to the app-world to help me make the perfect bird. And believe me, there are a lot of turkey apps out there. Gogi Thanksgiving, a Bon Appetite manual to Thanksgiving, The Thanksgiving Dinner Planner, and so on. But it all seems so appy, when I just wanted to get to the main course. So I reached out to the one guy that could cut through all the digital noise and Google-gobble.

Dan Souza: We're here in Massachusetts, where the first Thanksgiving took place, so we take it very seriously.

Reporter 1: This is Dan Souza, from America's Test Kitchen and the Senior Editor of Cook's Illustrated. His job is to perfect food, and he is willing to talk-a-the-turkey.

I want to pit the test kitchen against the tech kingdom to see which can help me make the best turkey, man or machine.

Dan Souza: I love apps, if they're really useful. I'm not sure I need one for something that I cook more or less once a year.

Reporter 1: So, let's start with buying. One app says to go frozen. Another app wants me to go organic. Dan's got his own opinions.

Dan Souza: In terms of the turkey you buy, you can buy kind of the Butterball self-basting style turkey, but we tend to not really like their flavor. We find them a little bit wet and squishy. Really, the best options are if you kind find air-chilled turkeys. They're great. They're not dumped in a cold-water solution to chill them, so the skin doesn't take up extra water, so it crisps up a lot nicer, and they don't kind of taste washed out.

Another good option is a Kosher turkey. During the Koshering process, a lot of salt is applied, so you don't need to brine or salt the Kosher bird, it's basically already done for you.

Reporter 1: I bought two birds. Brand name, and a pricey heritage beauty.

Okay, I've seasoned both birds up nice. The first one's going to go in at 325 degrees, like most of my apps say. The second one, I'll do like Dan says.

Dan Souza: We start the turkey in a 425 degree oven, with the breast down, so the back is facing up, and we blast it that way for about 45 minutes. And that really helps to kind of jumpstart the dark meat, which takes a little longer to come up to temperature, helps render some fat out, while protecting the breast underneath.

Reporter 1: Then, and you know I've been kind of dying to say this, you apparently flip the bird for the rest of the roasting. And I did this for both. And here's the real difference that sticks out to me. Most of my apps push for hourly basting. Dan keeps it dry.

Dan Souza: So one kind of secret that is, I think a lot of people would potentially do because they saw their mom or their grandmother do it, is basting the bird. So, using a bulb baster, picking up some juice and putting it over the top. We don't really recommend doing it. For one thing, it actually slows down cooking. You put moisture on it, it evaporates off and that evaporation causes cooling on the surface. It also adds moisture to the skin, which our entire goal is to drive off moisture so that it can brown and crisp really nicely.

Reporter 1: Is that clean? Okay, here's me basting the first bird. It looks traditional and Grandma-like. It looks pretty good.

While I wait, I'm playing some turkey game apps here. I'm getting pretty good at Clucker and Turkey Meadow.

And when both were complete, I totally get it. The basted bird isn't nearly as crisp as the other.

Listen to this crunch. Ah, man, it's good.

Which brings me to doneness. The Food Network app says to go two hours, then crank up the oven after that. But Dan says, keep cooking until it's 160 in the breast and 175 in the thigh.

Dan Souza: So it'll stay hot for even longer after that. And that's going to allow some of the juices in there to redistribute, so when you carve it, it doesn't all come rushing out onto your cutting board. It stays in the meat.

Reporter 1: I think I'm sold. The artist trumps the app. The turkey advice on my device sort of gave old-fashioned tips. And that bird didn't turn out half as well as my test kitchen turkey. Plus, are we forgetting that cooking with your phone while having dangerously raw, poultry, germy hands is swiping suicide?

Dan Souza: I would say the most advanced piece of technology we require on Thanksgiving is a good digital instant-read thermometer. I would go for that. I would ditch the app, spend some time with your family, and enjoy the Holiday.

Host: Slack. It just works.

Channel change. Start-up channel.

Reporter 2: Fitbit. Jawbone. Garmin. AppleWatch. The fitness wearables industry is a pretty crowded space with some Goliaths of tech. Meet one entrepreneur, who's decided to aim his slingshot at the big guys. But it all hinges on how he does this Black Friday.

Black Friday is the single biggest shopping day of the year. Over 55% of Americans go shopping on Black Friday, spending over \$50 billion dollars in a single day. This year, Black Friday is also the day that will decide the fate of Peter Li's brand new fitness tracker business, Atlas Wearables.

Peter Li: Black Friday, Christmastime Season is a huge season for wrist-worn devices, among other consumer electronics, these days. So for us, shipping before then gives us the opportunity to prove to the world and to the market that this is feasible and this is possible in a product that you can buy, so that we can also catch-on to the early New Year's resolution January wave, as well.

Reporter 2: The Black Friday stakes are enormous. If Peter's Atlas Wearable is a Holiday hit, it could become the next Jawbone. That company was valued at over \$3 billion

dollars in its 2014 IPO. But, a hit in the world of wearables is anything but a sure thing.

Peter Li: So, I guess it's like, you know, 20% chance to be super, super successful, 30% chance, you know, we sort of land in the middle of the road, and then 50% chance that everything, you know, goes downhill.

Reporter 2: That's right. Imagine you've got a 50-50 shot of your business surviving. And it all depends on one blockbuster day of shopping. And just to make it that much more daunting, the competition is fierce. You might have heard of some of them before. Small, unassuming companies like Apple, Fitbit, Nike, Under Armour, and Garmin.

And those big competitors also have big Black Friday advertising budgets. Peter, not so much.

Peter Li: So, not magazines, but Facebook, Instagram, maybe Twitter, digital. Everything digital.

Reporter 2: This is a true David versus Goliath story set in the wearables' industry. And, just as David has a slingshot, Peter has proprietary 3D exercise mapping technology.

Peter Li: I think another component of our, sort of, slingshot to success, is really what we can do with this type of data with these sensors is really something that no one else has been able to replicate. Patents have been awarded, so we're very much ready to go.

Reporter 2: The road to Peter's wearable fitness tracker began in a swimming pool.

Peter Li: Here we go. It's so cold.

Reporter 2: A former competitive swimmer, he used to track his workouts on a soggy notebook. He knew there had to be a better way.

Peter Li: We never wrote down what times we got during practice, we never wrote down what our heart rate was the whole time, so we didn't actually have access to any of that data, except for maybe once or twice a season, we would have someone physically time it all for us.

Reporter 2: So, Peter decided to build the Atlas, a wearable that would solve all his fitness tracking problems. It's an LED heart rate monitor you wear on your wrist, with a 3D mapping sensor. So, the Atlas knows exactly how many pushups or jumping jacks you did.

Peter Li: Average heart rate was 144, a 10% increase from last time. Says my form was a C. It's been a while since I've been in the water.

Reporter 2: With Black Friday approaching fast, the Atlas is now ready to move from the water to the world.

Peter Li: The last two years of work has really culminated to this launch.

Reporter 2: And, despite his 50-50 shot of making it beyond the launch, Peter's got a fantastic attitude.

Peter Li: It's, like, before a race or before any sort of competition, you get sort of get a little bit of butterflies, but it's sort of more excitement and anticipation than fear, I'd say.

Reporter 2: And, so, armed with optimism and proprietary technology, Peter is ready for his David versus Goliath Black Friday battle.

Peter Li: Thankfully, not that many people say we're crazy.

Reporter 2: Will Peter and his Atlas Wearable make it past this Holiday Season, Or, will Black Friday break him? What'll he do if he ends up on the losing side of that 50%? We'll be tracking the fitness of his business and we'll give you an update on the next episode of Slack Variety Pack.

Host: Slack. Working better, together. Coming up, a woman who literally pulled a new career out of a hat:

"I never, ever, would have thought that this was going to be my thing in life. Ever. But it is, and I love it!"

The weirdest things you've ever bought online:

"A cat puppet, and Amazon now things I'm obsessed with cats and puppets and that's all they show me."

Channel change. Coffee channel.

Reporter 3: What's in a name? According to the person calling out your coffee order, not too much.

Barrista: Got a Latte, for June. And [inaudible 00:12:23], for John.

Reporter 3: The journey your coffee takes from roasting to brewing, from steaming to pressing, all the way to that moment where the marker hits the cup, so much can go wrong.

Coffee Name 1: Well, I'm Stefani with a F, so PH all the time. Don't blame my parents!

Coffee Name 2: My name is Zora, so often it's Zoro, Zooney, or any other name that they're familiar with with a Z.

Coffee Name 3: Nicole, and they've put, N-I-C-H-O-L-E.

Reporter 3: Just, Nic-Hole.

Coffee Name 3: Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

Reporter 3: Recent name botches are all over the Net. There's even a theory that suggests misspellings are encouraged for viral marketing on Instagram. Sofie become Sofa. Mark becomes Pork. And Anne Louise somehow becomes, Anus. All true.

Barrista: Anus, your latte.

Reporter 3: But, honest mistakes still happen in the highly caffeinated, high turnaround world of coffee service. But, sometimes, it's just a matter of culture.

Coffee Name 4: My real first name is, Prem. P-R-E-M.

Coffee Name 5: My real name is, Hubert. It's usually butchered by any non-French speaker.

Coffee Name 4: Bram, Perkin, Pram, Prim, Graham.

Reporter 3: Graham?

Coffee Name 5: They basically go from, Uber, it's the most common one, so it sounds like they're calling for a cab. To Yubear, Yubar.

Coffee Name 6: I'm from Dublin, in Ireland. It's almost like the challenge to see who has the most unique Irish name, and what it ends up being. With the Irish name, Siobhan, which is spelt S-I-O-B-H-A-N.

Reporter 3: That's pronounced, Shiv-on! Shiv-on! No Starbucks speller stands a chance with that one.

Coffee Name 6: You'll often get, S-H-I-V-A-W-N.

Coffee Name 4: So, now, it's just more of my own game. Which is really for the Instagram pleasure of my friends.

Coffee Name 5: Never, I probably give up on giving my real name, and I have fake coffee names. One is going to be Mark, another one is going to be Dave. In Australia, it would be Bruce, because it's very common there.

Coffee Name 4: Some friends of mine, I have one friend who calls me Graham. Who's been calling me Graham for six months. And I respond to it, now.

Reporter 3: But here's one, for you. What if you couldn't even hear the mistaken call out? This is Eli. E-L-I. A deaf, coffee drinker, telling her story through her translator, Kevin. Pretty cool, eh?

Coffee Name 7: My two problems are my name, tends to be more, like, a masculine name. The other problem is that because I'm deaf, I can't hear when they announce my name or call my name that it's ready. And I usually ask them, "Do you mind having the barrista wave when they're finished making my drink? They can just wave." So they write on the cup, Wave. W-A-V-E. And, then, they'll announce my name and they'll shout out, "Wave! Where's Wave? Who's named, Wave, here?"

My legal name is Elizabeth, right? And, occasionally people will look at my credit card name on, you know, instead of what I tell them, and they'll look at my credit card. So, one time there was a woman who wrote down, Lizard, she wrote down, Lizard on my cup. And I was trying to figure out how she got, Lizard, from my credit card, but, you know. Elizabeth, Lizard, that was a little strange.

That was interesting.

Reporter 3: But, just as much as latte-breath and laptop use are part of the coffee bar deal, the misnaming of orders is part-and-parcel of the experience, too. I think we all kind of like it.

Coffee Name 4: You know, sometimes I'll say things like, Wonder Woman, because it's like, "Wonder Woman! Your coffee's ready. Wonder Woman!"

Coffee Name 7: It's just something unexpected. It's interesting to see how people react to that. So, it's almost like a psychological study, in some ways.

Coffee Name 5: It's almost a joke, at this time. It's like a little surprise and you're like ... Some coffee shop they'll write a little joke or a drawing on your coffee. Me, they just have this special way to say my name, and it's constantly different. It's very creative.

Coffee Name 4: It think they should keep doing exactly what they're doing, because, I think they're in on it.

Reporter 3: Reporting for the Slack Variety Pack, I'm Jordan. Or Jason. Gordan. Todd. Simon. Archie. Helmut. Fabiano. Doug. Maurice. Neil. Donny. Potsy. Richie.

Host: What's your botched coffee cup name? Tweet us, at Slack HQ.

Channel change. Family channel.



Reporter 4: Ever since Dr. Spock published his ground-breaking work on baby and child care in the 1940's, expert parenting advice theories have filled many a book and magazine. One new way of approaching parenting is taking a different cue from software development.

Here's how to iterate, adapt, and evolve your daily family routines.

Try for 10 minutes, okay. We've got to be out in 10 minutes.

Leave the dog alone, get ready for school, okay?

Kid 1: Do we have to walk?

Kid 2: We're not walking, right?

Reporter 4: No, we're not walking. Guys, put your stuff away, brush your teeth ...

This scene unfolds pretty much exactly the same way every, single, school day at my house. It is complete and utter chaos.

I'm literally leaving the house in 3 minutes. Shoes on, get your coat, go. Okay. C'mon. Let's go. We're going to be late. See you later.

Bye. See-ya.

That's why I called this guy.

Bruce Feiler: I'm Bruce Feiler. I'm a columnist at the New York Times, and I'm the author of, "The Secret to Happy Families." I sort of wanted to go out and talk to people who are bringing non-traditional ideas into their families, and see what they were doing. I didn't, basically, I copied from them!

Reporter 4: Pretty soon, Bruce found a winner.

Bruce Feiler: I was sitting with a friend, and she said to me, "What you need to manage the chaos in your life is what we use to manage the chaos in Silicon Valley. You need, Agile."

Reporter 4: Agile was a philosophy used to develop software. Instead of bosses telling developers what to do, developers got to decide how to best do their work. And instead of a fixed project plan, Agile embraces and accommodates constant change. And there's lots of open communication about what's working, and what's not.

Because the developers, or, in this case, the children, are empowered with Agile, it's pretty much the exact opposite of most traditional parenting.

Bruce Feiler: So, how does this work in families? So, I went to a small town in Idaho, and met a software designer and his wife. They had 4 children. And, one of the principles of Agile is you have what's called, an information radiator. It's a big board where everybody knows what everybody else is doing. And, so, they had one of these things, they called it a morning checklist. One by one, her kids came down, checked the list, made themselves breakfast, checked the list again, put the dishes in the dishwasher, checked the list again, gathered belongings, and went to the bus stop.

It was the most astonishing dynamic I'd ever seen, and when I insisted this would never work in my house, they said that's what they thought. And I have to say, the week we introduced one of these morning checklists into my house, it reduced parental screaming in half.

Reporter 4: This sounds too good to be true. At least, too good not to try it with my own family.

So, we are going to try something out on the big chalkboard. We are going to write down all the things that need to be done in the mornings.

Kid 1: That's the thing you were telling me about that guy, who you interviewed with?

Reporter 4: That's right! The guy I interviewed! I interviewed the guy, and now we're going to do it in our house! You guys are in charge of being ready. What do you think about that?

Kid 1: I don't like it.

Kid 2: I don't like it.

Kid 3: Sure.

Reporter 4: So, let's put all of the ideas on the board.

Kid 1: Brush your teeth.

Reporter 4: Brush teeth.

Kid 2: Pack bag.

Reporter 4: Pack your school bag.

Kid 3: Turn off the lights.

Reporter 4: Turn off lights. Good one, [inaudible 00:20:42]

Parent: We're going to start first thing tomorrow.

Kid 1: You have to write every time, though.

Reporter 4: No, this is the same list everyday. It's not, one day it's going to be like, you know, like, comb a donkey or something like that.

Kid 2: Comb a donkey?

Kid 3: Comb a donkey!

Reporter 4: So far, the kids are clearly suspicious of the information radiator chalkboard in our kitchen. But everybody seems motivated by the idea of less nagging, from me and my wife.

Mostly, me.

Bruce Feiler: The paradox of parenting is that we, our children are born and they are entirely dependent on us. And it is our job to make them entirely independent from us. And that is challenging. If you have not given your children practice in making decisions, in getting used to making mistakes and learning how to overcome those mistakes, the child has no practice.

Reporter 4: Agile's core idea of empowering the people doing the work, is a big step in building that decision making and independence. Another big part of Agile is open communication. And in parenting, an Agile software team meeting becomes an Agile family meeting.

Bruce Feiler: We have a weekly family meeting, we do it on Sunday nights, it takes about 20 minutes, we ask three questions: what worked well in our family this week, what didn't work well in our family this week, and what two things will we agree to work on in the week ahead.

Reporter 4: Here's a short sample of what my first family meeting sounded like.

What are two things that we'll agree on as a family that we're going to work on this week?

Kid 1: Our family time.

Reporter 4: I like that our family time is a goal for the week. [crosstalk 00:22:16] I think the dog just threw up out there. The family meeting's been cut short by the dog barfing up a pencil. This may help us make our other one for the week, don't leave your pencils and everything on the floor. Can we work on that? Family meeting adjourned.

Kid 1: 6:47.

Reporter 4: Much like the dog throwing up during our first meeting, even the best laid plans go astray. And that's kind of what Agile's all about. Expect change, be receptive to change, and accommodate change.

Bruce Feiler: It is laughable to do what I did when I first became a parent, which is, "Oh! Okay, I'm a Dad. I'm going to have a few rules and I'm going to be, like the, you know, I'm going to be the strict one, and we're going to follow these rules and it's all going to work.

Well, it doesn't work that way. If you're doing the same thing today that you were doing 6 months ago, you're doing the wrong thing. If you want your tennis game to get better, you've got to practice. But, somehow, we don't work on our families. We just sort of say, "Oh, it's supposed to happen naturally, right?" If you think about your family as something that can get better, it will get better just by taking small steps and accumulating small wins.

Reporter 4: As for my Agile experiment, it's still early. But, I love the idea of empowering my kids and making improving our family an open conversation. And I'm already seeing small wins with my family. Maybe, even more than small wins.

Kid 1: Brush teeth, check. Bathroom, check. Pack school bag, check. Make bed, no. Make lunch, yup. Make breakfast, check. Got done everything, or, except make my bed.

Reporter 4: It's going pretty well, so far. I'm happy about this. All right.

Host: Share this story with friends. Go to [soundcloud.com/slacksingleservings](https://soundcloud.com/slacksingleservings).

Channel change. Big picture channel.

Many people are faced with tough choices when they immigrate to a new country. Not least of which, is finding work in your chosen profession. For this woman, she realized that her true calling lay in a whole new career, in a very unlikely industry.

Meet The Hat Lady.

Reporter 5: Walking into this humble hat shop is like walking back in time. And as you'll soon hear, the head hatmaker's journey to get here is one for the history books.

MJ Hatter: My name's MJ. This is the Hastings Hattery. We're a fully-functional working hattery. We make everything by hand, there's no machines.

Reporter 5: This is not your hipster hat company.

Customer: My dear old dad used to, he had one of these.

MJ Hatter: Greek fisherman.

Customer: Yeah!

MJ Hatter: Yeah, they're all ...

Reporter 5: It's an old tiny shop, with two-peas-and-me, kind of place. Creaky wood floors, dark shelves lined with bowlers, Stetsons and berets. And then there's the passionate hat history that MJ is brimming with.

The prohibition-style.

MJ Hatter: The Fedora is timeless, and there are hundreds of them. It was actually a lady's hat to begin with. It was in a play that was starring Sarah Bernhardt, and the main character she played was Princess Fedora Romanoff. And then slowly it got taken over by the men.

Reporter 5: What women were to garden parties.

MJ Hatter: This is very popular for ladies, which is the cloche, which is from 1908, made famous by Coco Chanel.

Reporter 5: And the history of the top hat in England tops them all.

MJ Hatter: The first time it was ever worn, the guy who wore it got arrested for breaching the peace, because the women were swooning, the men were up in arms, and the children were screaming, because nobody had ever seen a hat that tall before.

Hats generate so many memories for people. It's generally grandma and grandpa, right?

Reporter 5: When it comes to milliners, MJ is as serious as they get.

MJ Hatter: Anybody can block a hat, but to make a good hat, you have to be passionate about it. And as long as you know how to manipulate materials so that they catch the light in the right way, and they pick up the colors in the customer's eyes or hair, it all makes sense. It's enough.

I love making hats. There's, for me, it's the thing that I was always supposed to do.

Reporter 5: But, wait! That's not entirely true. MJ doesn't come from a family of milliners. It wasn't her life-long training. This career is something she literally pulled out of a hat.

MJ Hatter: When I lived in England, I was working as a psychologist in a high school.

Reporter 5: That's right. A psychologist. A different way to play with heads. But when MJ and her teacher-husband decided to move to Canada, immigration rules prevented both of them from practicing in their field without going back to school.

MJ Hatter: And as immigrants, we couldn't afford it, to be brutally honest. I applied to several places, literally every week, and the disappointment was, it was huge, because that's what I thought I devoted my life to, and I was good at what I did, as well. I went from working in a high school as a counselor and working in a children's home, to working into a pharmacy store, and to be honest, it was so destroying. It was mind-numbing.

Reporter 5: Then she found a funky little hat shop.

MJ Hatter: I started working for this company and I'd never worked retail in my life. And I used to hide behind the hat trees so that people wouldn't talk to me. And then, slowly I started to get interested in watching how hats were stretched, and how they were being cleaned ...

Reporter 5: With hard work and a lot of practice, MJ essentially turned her immigration roadblock into a brand new, who would have thunk it, career.

Each custom hat takes five to seven weeks to make by hand. MJ chooses the wooden block, steams, nails, and trims.

MJ Hatter: I remember the first time I cleaned a cowboy hat for this chap, and he looked at me. Big tall guy. And he was like, "You're from England?" And I'm like, "Yeah." And he's like, "I don't want to leave my hat with you." I'm like, "Give me a chance." And now he only brings his hats to me to be cleaned.

The nicest thing ever is when I had an old lady, and her daughter had commissioned us to make a hat for her. And she came in, and it fit perfectly, and she looked amazing, and she cried. You just, feel, yeah! This is it! This is, I can't do any better than this, because nothing for me could feel better than this.

Reporter 5: Scissors, thread, stingy brims, wide brims, high crowns, low crowns, tier drops, rabbit fur, beaver fur. These things couldn't be as far away from a school counselor's office in England, if you tried. And MJ says, it's worth a go.

MJ Hatter: Just try it. Just, you know, have a look around. You don't have to leave your job or whatever you're unhappy in at the moment, but you can try other things.

I'd never, ever, would have thought that this was going to be my thing in life, ever. But it is, and I love it! It's just my thing. It's my mid-life crisis without a crisis.

Host: Slack. Bring yourself to work.

The Holidays are right around the corner, and you know what that means? Shopping insanity! We asked you about the weirdest purchases you've made online, and here's what some of you had to say.

- Reporter 6: What's the dumbest or weirdest thing you've purchased online?
- OnlinePurchase1: I bought throwing knives once. I went to Amazon, I wanted to learn to, and then they came and they were tiny and it annoyed me. I think I threw, I ended up throwing them out. I tried them once and I was like, this is dumb, and threw it out.
- Reporter 6: You threw out your throwing knives.
- OnlinePurchase1: I did, I did.
- OnlinePurchase2: Dumbest thing I've ever bought online. I bought a squirrel nutcracker. It's pretty dumb.
- OnlinePurchase3: A hippo head for the garden for my dad's girlfriend because she loves hippos. So, that's what I bought, and it's actually fantastic. It's in the ground, and it looks like it's a hippo on the surface of the water, and it's awesome.
- OnlinePurchase4: A bubble tent. It blows up like a bubble and it's transparent, you know? It's pretty cool.
- OnlinePurchase6: Do you think you're going to get an honest answer?
- Reporter 6: It's all anonymous. No one will ever know.
- OnlinePurchase5: A cat puppet, and, then, Amazon now thinks that I'm obsessed with cats and puppets, and that's all they show me.
- OnlinePurchase6: I buy a lot of shoes. Like an abundance of shoes, but ...
- Reporter 6: You're the Imelda Marcos of Amazon?
- OnlinePurchase6: Yeah, to my husband's chagrin, yeah.
- OnlinePurchase7: I bought, I had an upstairs neighbor who I didn't like, she was such a (bleep) so I bought a 10-inch suction cup (bleep) to stick to her door.
- Reporter 6: Do you have anything cleaner that you could share? Because that's pretty weird, and I don't think I can use it.
- OnlinePurchase7: But that's literally the weirdest thing I've ever bought online.
- Reporter 6: How about the second weirdest thing?

OnlinePurchase7: Well, like, you asked, I answered, I though this was just an open, I don't think anything I have that's weird is going to be okay for this. I'm sorry.

Reporter 6: You buy a lot of stuff that's not, say, for work?

OnlinePurchase7: Yeah. I'm just one of those people.

Oh, I actually bought my husband that underwear that has, like, the mint patch? So that his gas doesn't smell so bad.

Reporter 6: That's the best one, yet! That's the best one, yet. You win.

OnlinePurchase7: Yeah! I win something.

Host: You've been listening to Episode 14 of the Slack Variety Pack.

Next episode.

Finding out where that warm and fuzzy feeling of love comes from during the Christmas Season, and how to make it last:

"And, so, when you say to me, what is, what happens in the body with love? Everything happens. It's more important than any medication any of us have in our medicine cabinet that we're prescribed, and the neuroscience is just, it's everything."

Office Holiday gatherings can be uncomfortable. But not as uncomfortable as this one:

"She's like, Oh, you, you know how a sauna works, right? So, later I learned everybody's naked together, coed, and that was what we were doing as a company."

A roundabout route to doing what you've always wanted to do:

"To dedicate my life to leave behind a great Christmas song that kind of encapsulates that message, is just my life's calling. I get to live Christmas everyday. I mean, who wouldn't love that?"

The details: our stories are called single servings, and each single serving is shareable. Go to [soundcloud.com/slacksingleservings](https://soundcloud.com/slacksingleservings) and share your favorite stories. You can also share the whole episode at [soundcloud.com/slackvarietypack](https://soundcloud.com/slackvarietypack).

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