

081: Your One True Calling Doesn't Have to be One Thing: Emilie Wapnick

[Music playing]

E You don't want to work, but also like part of you is afraid, and part of you is excited. And that is not the right time to quit. The right time to quit would be if you'd been at it for a while and it was once exciting. You kind of got through that deep, early difficult stage; and, then, it started to get a little bit easier. And I find that multipotentialites don't usually quit when things get hard. They quit when things become too easy.

[Music playing]

A Welcome to *The Portfolio Life* with Jeff Goins. I'm your host, Andy Traub, and this is the show that helps you pursue work that matters, make a difference with your art, and discover your true voice. Emilie Wapnick made a word. And she spent the last five years proving it's true. Emilie coined the phrase, multipotentialite. And she defends it in her writing at <http://Puttylike.com>. In this conversation with Jeff, Emilie explains why we should embrace our different gifts, and how creativity is fostered when we are willing to work in different fields. If you struggle with feeling like you should do one thing, then this conversation will relieve that pressure. Here's Emilie Wapnick and Jeff Goins.



[Music playing]

J Emilie, welcome to the show.

E Thanks for having me. I'm really excited to be here.

J Yeah, well, you know, credit where credits due. The biggest piece of feedback that I get on this show is, "Oh, thank you so much for this idea of *The Portfolio Life*, that you don't have to do just one thing." And you have been saying this for a long, long time, as long as I've known you. But you have a different word for it than portfolio life. What is that word?

E That word is multipotentialite. I mean, it's very similar, if not identical idea, but it's more, I guess, the identity, or the role, people like to identify as that word. So, it's kind of coming at it from a different angle.

J You know, I don't know how long we've known each other, but it's been a while. We've known of each other, and been Internet friends for a long time. People will ask me, "How do you know So-and-So?" And I just sort of like roll my eyes. It's like the same way I know like everybody which is just the Internet which was creepy 15 years ago. It's just sort of normative now.

E Right.

J But when it comes to being a multipotentialite, this is what I want to talk about this. And I really want to talk about your journey. But I remember when you started your Website, <http://Puttylike.com>, years ago. It seems like a long time ago.

E It's been almost five years.

J Gosh, yeah. My own blog feels like it's been around for decades. Does it feel like a long time for you?

E Yeah, yeah. It's interesting. Yeah. It feels like a long time.

J [Laughing] Well, when this first – when you kind of came up with talking about multipotentialite, honestly I think I kind of rolled my eyes. Because I was like, “Yeah, like to me that sounds like being flaky.” And what about mastery? And, obviously, I've come around and I warmed up to this idea. But I think you've done a really good job, especially in your TED^x talk. You very eloquently kind of lay out why this is a practical path to fulfillment and also success in today's world. But being a multipotentialite and mastering a craft, I don't think you would say are actually mutually exclusive. I don't want to put words in your mouth. But how do those actually fit together?

E I think they fit well quite nicely, actually. I think we have this idea in our culture that if you are a jack-of-all-trades, you are master of none. And if you do many things, you're going to suck at all of them. And I've actually found that there is this very vast middle ground between just doing one thing and being excellent at it, and doing everything under the sun, being kind of bad at everything. A lot of people are very good at several things. And that is not – it's a lot more common than you'd think. And to think that we can each only be great at one thing is really undervaluing what humans are capable of.

J Yeah. No. I agree. I think it took me a while to warm up to this idea, because I had to chase one thing for a while. I had to chase writing for a while. And, then, I quit my job, and I had eight hours a day to write. [Laughing] I actually didn't want to write all eight hours of the day. And I found that when I focused just on one thing I wasn't doing my best work. And I think we've all read the productivity reports and studies about task switching. When you switch tasks too quickly, you kind of lose this momentum, and you're not as productive. This is why when we get interrupted all day long with email or whatever, you actually don't accomplish many things of value. But I found that there is, as you said, a middle ground when you switch from one task to maybe a related task, or something that's sort of complimentary, brings this invigoration to the work that you do. So, every 90 minutes to two hours, I'm kind of switching from writing, to preparing a speech, to – I don't know – figuring out some Web design thing, or whatever. And I find that by creating this portfolio of stuff, I'm growing in my skills. But it's a lot more fun. It's a lot more fulfilling work. But like I said, it took some time for me to warm up to this idea that I didn't just have to do one thing, and things could sort of complement each other. I'm curious, how did that begin for you? Because I actually don't know that I know the full story. So, when did you discover this? Because I know you've done a lot of different things, that you were a multipotentialite.

E I think it was in my mid-20s when I really started to warm up to the idea. I had this kind of gnawing sense inside throughout my teen years, and in my early 20s that I was unable to stick with

anything for the longterm. And this really bothered me, caused me a lot of anxiety. And I actually really wondered what was wrong with me, or why I can't I just commit? What's my one true calling? Why can't I seem to find that? Do I even have one? So, those were the sorts of questions that were going through my head. And I really viewed it as a negative thing for a long time, something that I was ashamed of. And, then, in my mid-20s as it actually, it's funny, I got comfortable with it through <http://Puttylike.com> and through writing about it, and through talking with other people. Because I just wanted to see if I could flip this, if I could find a way not to just like live despite it, but to use it, to have it enhance my work. So, I started talking with other people who were making a living doing multiple things, who were happy and financially comfortable and started writing about these ideas. And through doing that, I think I became more and more comfortable with it. And, now, I see it as a tremendous strength. Because it's true what you're saying about how there's a synergy in my work, just like yours, where you're working on multiple projects, and you're switching between different areas, but yet they all kind of come together into this one big thing that you're building. I would also add that sometimes taking a break and doing something radically different can really help you with productivity and creativity when you come back to whatever task you were working on before. So, if you're writing and you take some time and go play the guitar, or you get outside and go for a jog or something, that can really – just flipping mediums can completely enhance your other work.

J Yeah, I totally agree. And there's something in me that certainly resists that, because it feels like lazy, or like I'm dodging the work. But every time I do it, every time I don't actually work eight hours straight, but I go for a walk, or even sometimes like breaking up the day with a conversation, or a phone call, or whatever, as you said, there's this energy that you kind of bring back to the work. And I think we just think that all hours are equal, that if I write for eight hours, I'm going to be more productive than when I'm writing for three hours, taking a jog, then coming back and doing something for another hour and a half and calling it a day. But that's not the case.

E Yeah, it's very American way, I think, of looking at work.

J Yeah. So, you've, in your career, you've switched a lot of tasks. I was reading your bio. And you even kind of referred to yourself as a shape shifter and talk about how your interests have evolved. And you're a musician, and you've done business, and you've wrote this book, and you've done career coaching. And I kind of want to go back to the beginning. So, when you were a little girl, when you were growing up, did you know what you wanted to do?

E Definitely not [laughing]. I can't even remember how I answered that question.

J [Laughing].

E My parents always – they're great – they always encouraged me to explore as a little kid. And I'm sure they had – I didn't have like 10 activities going on at any given time. But I remember taking all kinds of different classes. And they would take me to cultural events and stuff like that. So, they always really encouraged me to explore. I think the pressure to narrow my focus and specialize really came from the culture outside of my home, and in the school system. I talk about this in my Ted^x talk. But just that romantic notion of destiny that we're all supposed to find that one thing that we're great at and just do that. I really picked a lot of that up from the culture. Yeah, my childhood was pretty great. And, then, of course, in my teen years I got very angsty and had a lot of self-esteem issues like many teens. And in a way my projects are like a space for me to escape all of that. And I had a band

that I was really serious about. I taught myself Web design. This was like the mid-to-late-'90s. So, it was a new thing.

J So, when you were being angsty, I mean, is that when you started playing music? Because that's when I started playing music [laughing].

E Well, I grew up playing classical violin. But that is when I switched from classical violin to like punk guitar. So, yeah.

J Yeah, totally. And, then, you went to college, right? So, what happened there? I mean, college and even grad school is all about picking a career path and sticking with it. So, what did that look like?

E Yeah. So, I started out by studying art and music. And, then, kind of switched around and ended up majoring in film and just getting really into that, and making these short films. Then after that I randomly ended up taking a law class in my last year of undergrad. And it was Communications Law. So, it was about copyright policy, and they got into some other stuff like torts and contracts. And I was like, "Ooh, law. This is so different from anything I've ever studied. Maybe I'll go to law school." So, I actually ended up going to law school, getting a law degree. Of course, while I was at law school I found myself getting involved in all of these creative projects, because I think the right side of my brain wanted a little action. And, then, yeah, after law school, or towards the end of that I was like, "I don't think I really want that life." I was interesting in the law thing. It's been fascinating and difficult, and I think I'm ready to put it aside and started getting interested in entrepreneurship and kind of moved in that direction.

J In that same year, I think, you started your blog, is that right?

E That's right, yeah.

J And so what have you been doing since?

E Oh, wow! What have I been doing since? [Laughing] I've gotten into speaking as you know.

J And you're great at it.

E Well, thank you.

J Your Ted^x talk was amazing.

E Thank you. That did not come naturally to me. But I had this message that I wanted to share. And, so, it was like, "I have to get over myself and start doing it." Launched a few courses and eBooks and such. See, I'm writing a book right now and kind of putting together the book proposal. I'm going to do the traditional publishing thing this time. I've moved quite a bit, though I'm firmly in Portland, Oregon which I'm very happy about. I have gone on some adventures. I bought a travel trailer and camped for a while and explored the Northwest a little bit. Outside of <http://Puttylike.com> I took a chemistry class. I wrote a couple of albums with a friend. We have this friend where once a year we get together in a different city. And we write and record an album in a month. So, we've done that—

J Wow. Cool.

E Yeah. So, various things.

J Yeah, of course.

[Music playing]

J Do you feel any more settled, or any more like secure in what you're doing now than say five years ago when you were coming out of law school? I don't know if things felt the same then as they do now. But I imagine myself five, 10 years ago. I was way more insecure, you know, back then and being a version of a jack-of-all-trades I don't love that moniker, but doing a lot of different things. As you said, there was this shame, this struggle for a lot of your life, because of external pressure. Are you more secure in what you do now just because you've been doing it for a while?

E Definitely. And not just because I've been doing it for a while, but because I've really embraced that title of multipotentialite. And I'm really proud of it. I see it working in my life. And I get to do a lot of different things, and it's really fun. And I'm paying the bills. And it's great. And I think that five years ago I didn't really know what was up with me. I didn't really know why I couldn't stick with one thing. I really worried how I was going to make a living, and what people would think when they looked at me and they looked at all of my work which was all over the place. Yeah, it couldn't be more different actually.

J Uh-huh (agreeing). So, I'm glad that you brought up business and making a living, because I can imagine somebody listening to this going, "Oh, that's great. That's great for her. She lives in Portland, and that's what they do up there in that weird part of the country. [Laughing] But that wouldn't work for me," right? I think everybody is sort of maybe tempted to do multiple things and be more creative with their lives, but that all just sounds great and dandy, but how do you actually make a living? So, how do you answer that, Emilie?

E So, this is a question that I've been exploring for the last few years. And I've actually – I interviewed dozens of people about this exact question in preparation for my book. And I wanted to interview people who were both happy and also financially comfortable who were doing multiple things. And I just wanted to know how they did it. And I found that there are these four commonly used work models that allowed people to get variety in their careers. The first is the group hug approach. That's what I call it. And it sort of when you have one job or business that allows you to integrate several of your interests into your work. And that's if you work at a company. Maybe it's a smaller company, and you wear a lot of different hats. And you kind of have bigger say into the direction of the company, and you're given a lot of creativity and freedom. Or like we were talking about earlier, if you run your own business, it's a little bit broader, and you get to bring in your other interests. That's the group hug approach.

Then there's the slash approach. And this is people who have multiple separate and distinct revenue streams. So, maybe they've got one or two businesses that are a bit more narrow. They've got a part-time job that they really enjoy, but they wouldn't want to do full-time. They sell their art. They're a yoga instructor a few hours a week. This is like because you're not trying to combine your interests. You've just got several things that you kind of flip between, and you really enjoy for different reasons.

Then there is the Einstein approach. And I call it this because Albert Einstein worked at the patent office. And this was a very stable, secure job. But it did not take up too much of his time or creative energy. And it gave him free time to be able to work on his theories outside of work. And

even think about them at work. Because it was this notoriously slow-paced job. So, these are people who have a day job that they're happy with, that they enjoy, but that doesn't completely drain them. And then they explore their other passions on the side, on weekends.

And, then, there is the sequential approach. This is someone who dives into a field for several years. And, then, after a while just shifts to an entirely new field and gets involved in that and dives deep into that. And I found that there are a lot of people are kind of hybrids, most people kind of fit into one of these, or maybe they do one of these models for a while and switch.

Yeah, and it's interesting. People really have found all kinds of different ways to get variety into their careers.

J OK. So, let me just recap that. Because I love models, and sometimes they're sort of forced. But I felt like those make a lot of sense. Group hug: you got a job that is just a great job where you're able to do a lot of different things under one job description. And, I guess, that could be like you're employed by somebody else, or you're self-employed, right?

E Yes. They all can be.

J Slash is you play a guitar for *Guns & Roses*. You do two very different things, but you like doing them both. So, yoga instructor and chemistry teacher, or something?

E Two or more, yeah.

J Yeah. Einstein is basically like you have a job that doesn't require all of your time, or all of your focus, and you can use the security of that to work on something on the side, did I catch that right?

E Yep.

J And the Sequential is just doing something for a season and, then, moving on? From thing to thing to thing.

E Yeah. And some people will do that for like several years. And other people will do it for once they've gone like a six-month contract, or a one-year contract.

J Right. And that's – if I'm understanding right – is that kind of what you do? You do something for a while, because you're interested in it. Then you move on to the next thing?

E I'm somewhere between a Sequential and a Group Hug. I mean, I think, those two can be blended pretty well. So, right now I'm really focused on the multipotentialite. I have been for many, many years. But it's also a very multifaceted project. So, I haven't quite hit my point of boredom or wanting to do something new yet, because it is very multifaceted.

J When you said the Group Hug thing, I thought, that's kind of what I do, because people sometime ask me about what I do. And they don't understand that I'm not just a writer. I'm a writer, and a marketer, and an entrepreneur. And, actually, like wearing all of those hats. And sometimes I talk to creative people who think they just want to make art all day long, and that will actually be fulfilling, not really having experience with it. And I've done that and realized, "That's great, but I want to do other things." And those other things, I think, actually work together to make all of the work better. But I love that Group Hug approach.

So, if you are listening to this, I think it would be fun. We don't normally do this. But I like quizzes. I like where people can self-select into categories. So, if you are listening to this, go to <http://GoinsWriter.com/multipotentialite> which is fun to spell. But as I think I've heard you say this before, you just break it down: multi, potential, ite, i-t-e at the end. And tell us which one of those you are: Group Hug, Slash, Einstein, or Sequential. I think it's fun to give things names.

So, I want to go back to you, Emilie. Because you wrote – you talked about moving on from some things, but also kind of sticking with something for a while. You said this in your About Page: “Once I no longer feel inspired in a field, I simply move on. Some people call this quitting. I call it growth.”

So, I want to talk about excellence, discipline, grit, you know, lots of different words for it. But a lot of people today are talking about the secret to success is perseverance, sticking with things, which is the exact opposite of what you just said which is, “When I don't feel inspired by anything, I move on.” But there are certain things, I think, especially playing an instrument – I play a guitar, too. And I remember I started and quit like six times in six months before I finally stuck with playing guitar. And you know how that goes. Your fingers hurt, especially probably more than playing on the violin. I don't want to speak for that. But steel strings. And you're going, “Oh, my gosh, my hand is throbbing.” And the pain of starting is so much that it's easy to quit. And you stick with it long enough, it becomes comfortable. And, then, it's easier – it's no longer painful. It's fun.

So, you've obviously done that. And, so, talk to me about the practice process when things kind of suck, and are hard, and you push through them to get to a point where you go, “This is more fun than it is difficult.” And just like where does discipline fit into that? Because I don't think you're an undisciplined person, and you're doing things with excellence. But at the same time, when you don't feel inspired or something, you're moving on. Is that a tension for you?

E Well, I think maybe the way I phrased it on my – I mean, on my About Page, is a little simplistic. And, so, I'll dive a little bit deeper into what I mean by that. So, for me there's like a difference between when you're getting interested in something, and there's like that hard part you feel like you're just struggling. Usually that, even though it's difficult, I'm still interested. You know? It's kind of resistance, for example. It's like you don't want to work. But, also, like part of you is afraid. And part of you is excited. And that is not the right time to quit. The right time to quit would be if you've been at it for a while, and it was once exciting. You kind of got through that steep early difficult stage. And, then, it started to get a little bit easier. And I find that multipotentialites don't usually quit when things get hard. They quit when things become too easy.

J Yes.

E So, it's kind of noticing – it's confusing sometimes. But noticing that difference between resistance and like the hard, early stages, and your true natural end point which is when you got what you came for, and you just – there doesn't feel like there's that much left for you to discover. You're just ready for something new.

[Music playing]

J That makes sense to me, because you stressed, “I quit something when I'm no longer interested in it.” And the things that I'm often interested in are not necessarily the easy things. They

tend to be difficult things. And as you said, as they become easier, comfortable, I do become bored with it. So, either I have to get to the next level. "OK, I want to learn how to play this song," or, improvise in this style, or whatever. Like you have to keep raising the bar. Otherwise, it does get boring. So, in that sense, I guess, you continue to grow even if you stay in the same craft.

E Yeah, definitely. And I think that the tendency is to want to stay past that date of expiration. And a lot of us have done that. I mean, I remember with song writing I was doing it for so many years, and it was such an integral part of my identity. I was like, "I'm going to be a musician. This is it." And, eventually, my songs just started to get really stale. And I was having a really hard time writing. And I was really trying to force them when, eventually, I just decided, "I need to try a new medium." And I went to film school, and it was just new, and exciting, and fascinating – I don't know – inspiring. And, then, I eventually came back to music. And, now, I've written songs more recently. But, yeah, that's not quitting. There's a lot of, "Ooh, don't be a quitter." We hear this all the time in our culture. But sometimes when you leave something behind that frees you up to learn a whole lot more. And this just takes your life in completely new and fascinating directions.

J Yeah, it opens up room certainly for you to learn new things, or have more time, more space to try something new. Let's talk about quitting a little bit more. Because I think it's fascinating. And, you're right. I think, especially in American culture, and Western culture by and large, I think there is this idea that you succeed by not quitting things. Like you pick something you went to school for, and you do it for 40 years, and you become great at it. And, unfortunately, I feel like this is a myth. And it's perpetuated by stories of some successful people saying, "When I was three years old I knew that I wanted to do this, and now I'm doing this. And you can, too, do the thing that you thought you were going to do when you were three years old." But if you can't remember it—

E Yeah.

J —you're out of luck, apparently [laughing].

E It's also not very in line with how the economic world is anymore.

J Huh-uh (no). Yeah, no. It seems to me that more often than not, people quit their way to success. And it's very dangerous for you to hold on to something you're kind of good at, or pretty good at, that, frankly, isn't that marketable. Or, as you said, is starting to grow stale. But you're, "Well, I've been doing this for so long I've got to keep doing that." And as you mentioned, with the economy, and the job market, I think more than ever that's a really dangerous thing to do. You've got lots of people, sometimes in the middle of their careers going, "Well, what else can I do? Because I've been doing this for so long, but I just got laid off."

I'd love to talk a little bit more about that. How do we practically avoid getting stuck in the wrong thing? What I loved about your Ted^x talk is that being a multipotentialite – and I thought you framed it really well, because when I started to follow your work initially it felt very niche-y to me. Like, "This is for people who are weird and feel like they're jacks-of-all-trades." But, now, I feel this is for the world. Like this is what's going to save our economy and save lots of people from unemployment. And, incidentally, is going to be probably a more fulfilling way to live for lots of people.

So, when it comes to quitting, and not staying stuck, and even job security, what are practical things that we can do to embrace our various interests. I don't know if you would say this, Emilie, but I think in a way we're all multipotentialites. So, how do we embrace that?

E Yeah, I think we are, too. And I think a lot of the specialist orientation, a lot of that gets hammered into us somewhere in our teen years. And some people have an easier time going with it than others. And well, I think, staying curious and constantly exploring and actually I encourage people if they're really focused on one thing right now, but there are all these other projects, and subjects that are kind of piquing their curiosity, I encourage people to set a timer and just kind of go down the rabbit hole and start exploring and just set aside some tinkering time. And, you know, practical things like having more than one revenue stream, you know? Stuff like that. So, that all of your eggs aren't in one basket. Developing skills that might be marketable and also that you're interested in. And connections. Definitely relationship building and just making friends with interesting people who are doing different things from what you're doing, you know?

J So, let's say I want to become a multipotentialite tomorrow [laughing] like what's the first thing I do when I get up in the morning?

E Well, you already are one.

J/E [Both laughing]

E If you are a multipotentialite, then you're a multipotentialite. Then there's a matter of like the lifestyle aspect—

J Um, huh.

E —integrating your various interests into your career, into your life. What do you do in the morning?

J Many things probably [laughing].

E Yeah, it depends on what you're going for. It depends on what your goals are, really. Which of those work models you're trying to fit into, or maybe that's the wrong terminology, because I try not to tell anyone to fit into any one thing. But a lot of brainstorming, honestly. When people come to this for the first time, they're like, "OK, where do I start?" It's often like a lot of brainstorming, making lists of — making a master list of all of your interests, and passions, and curiosities. And kind of seeing how they fit together, kind of seeing how you can pair together different services, and products from within that. Looking to see whether there are some interdisciplinary fields that exist that include a few of your different interests. And just kind of brainstorming, and exploring and experimenting, and trying things out, and having fun with it.

J I love that. I'm giving you tough questions, and you're doing great. Brainstorming is a great — I think that's a great, practical thing to do. I think sometimes we're surprised by the things we're interested in. Again, because there's this idea that, well, you've done this for so long, or this is what your parents expected of you, or this is what you got your degree in. Therefore, you've just got to suck it up and keep doing it. Do you ever find that because you're constantly curious, and you're not beholden to any certain discipline for the rest of your life, that something that interests you surprises you? I mean, does that still happen?

E Yeah. Definitely. I never camped growing up. I was not an outdoorsy person. And I've recently become interested in – yeah, in all that. I want to do a bike tour of Ireland next summer. And I've never done anything like that before. To go woodworking class. I've never thought I would get interested in that. So, yeah, I'm still definitely surprised.

J What do you think about people who are – they're going through their career. I mean, I see this a lot. You probably see this with your peers as well. And they start approaching 30. This happens to a lot, I think. Or they start approaching like 50, or 60. And they feel like they need a reboot. Like, "Man, the thing I went to college for, grad school for, or whatever, it was wrong. It was all wrong. Now, I better understand who I am," Or, "I understand what the job market requires. I need to go back to school." Is this a good idea?

E It depends. I think there are a lot of different ways to learn these things.

J Yeah.

E And whatever route you choose may or may not include formal education. I definitely don't encourage people to go back to school simply because they don't know what else they want to do.

J Yeah, right.

E Unless they live in a place where school is a lot more affordable than it is in the States.

J Sure. I think that's great. So, Emilie, you're constantly doing new things and staying curious. What's next for you?

E Well, right now I'm working on this book proposal as I mentioned. I'm preparing for a bike tour of Ireland next summer. So, just learning about what that entails, because it's brand new to me. What else? You know, it's funny. I don't really know what interests I'm going – like, you know, check into me six months from now. And who knows what I'll be doing.

J [Laughing] Yeah.

E Yeah, right now I'm focused pretty heavily on the book. And I'm running my first in-person putty retreat at the end of September.

J Cool.

E Yeah. So, I'm working on that, too.

J Do you try to just do one project at a time? Do you feel like you've got a certain capacity?

E I usually have about three or four projects on the go at a given time. Sometimes I try to like – I'll try to do one. But, then, I can't, you know? There are other things that are important going on in my business. And, for me, that sweet spot is like two to four projects.

J Well, Emilie, thank you. It's been a pleasure chatting with you. And if you're listening to this wondering if you might be a multipotentialite, we encourage you to think about those four different types. And we don't want to force fit you into something. But you might be a Group Hug, or a Slash, or an Einstein, or a Sequential type or method. I'm not sure what we should call those. But we encourage—

E Yeah, they're methods of getting variety into your life. Yeah, I would say so. And, you know, some people like the idea of trying one of those out for a year, and then switching to another one for the next year. And, so, there is really no one-fits-all model here. These are just different ideas for structuring your career in a way that is – so that you get that meaning, variety, and money into your life which, I think, are three really important ingredients.

J Yes, get more money into my life.

E Well, you know, it's like those – yeah, you need money in some degree, right?

J Totally.

E It's an ingredient. It's not the whole picture, but it's part of it. And, then, meaning. You need to be doing things that feel fulfilling and feel like you're contributing to the world and helping people. And, then, variety. For me, those are the three pieces.

J Absolutely. Thank you so much for answering your one true calling to not have a one true calling.

E [Laughing]

J I think it's important, and it's encouraging to me. I know it's got to be encouraging to plenty of other people. So, thank you.

[Music playing]

A Multipotentialites don't quit when things get hard. They quit when things get too easy. What a life-altering statement for so many of us. Are you a multipotentialite? Well, let us know if you are and the things that you do by finding this episode on <http://GoinsWriter.com> or by mentioning it on Twitter. Be sure to use the hashtag #PortfolioLife. Thanks to today's guest, Emilie Wapnick. You can check out all of her writing at <http://Puttylife.com>. I am Andy Traub, and on behalf of Jeff Goins, thanks for spending some time with us. Now, go build your portfolio.

[Music playing]

E So, you know, if you're writing and, then, you take some time and go play the guitar, or you get outside and go for a jog or something, that can really just flipping mediums completely can really enhance your other work.

Resources

● [Puttylike](#)

- *Why Some of Us Don't Have One True Calling* (Emilie's TEDxBend presentation)