



careergasm

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**WEIRD
IS GOOD**

People are weird, don't you think?

Sure, we look pretty normal-ish when we're dressed in suits and jackets on the way to work, but when we get home and let loose with the people we love, we're a bit kooky. **We're kung fu masters, party planners, gadget builders, creative writers, puppeteers, Tough Mudder champions, urban farmers, and yarn bombers.**

There are a lot of wackadoodle talents out there, and that's a good thing! Those weird and wacky talents of yours offer some clues about your best career path.

WHAT ARE YOUR WEIRD GIFTS?

By weird gifts, I mean anything that you're good at that you love to do. And I mean *anything*. **Juggling. Arranging flowers. Sewing costumes. Making photo collages of your cat. Hula hooping. Doodling. Making the perfect green smoothie.** You'll probably come up with things that have no fathomable connection to making you money. That's good. We're going to get creative here.

To get your gears turning, here are three of my own weird gifts that are (seemingly) unrelated to my work:

- **I'm crafty.** Not the sly and underhanded kind of crafty, but the ink stamp and glitter glue kind. I can whip up a handmade Christmas card like nobody's business. Don't even get me started on collages.
- **I can recommend exactly the right book to the right person at the right time.** About once a week I get an email from someone saying something like, "Holy shit, Sarah! That book is EXACTLY what I needed. How did you know?"

- **I'm suuuper organized.** Like, borderline OCD organized. From my computer desktop to my home, there's a place and a system for everything.

Do these weird gifts mean that I should start a line of stationary, or a book recommendation service, or a closet design company? Well, that's one way to go. But let's dig deeper and see what's behind these weird gifts.

DIG DEEPER

When you dig deeper, my crafty nature is really rooted in the fact that I'm a visual person. I don't have the chops to be a designer, but I can assemble and arrange visual objects in really interesting and creative ways. One of the ways I use this weird gift in my career is when I help people craft and interpret career vision boards for themselves.

My bizarre ability to consistently recommend good books for others is really rooted in my ability to listen and relate to people. I'm able to listen to their concerns, notice what they seem to be yearning for, and recall a piece of information from a book they might relate to. As it turns out, listening is also one of the most important skills I use when coaching my clients.

What about my freakish compulsion to organize everything? Well, I happen to get geek-out giddy when using systems. I see the world in ordered systems. I put this to use when I design a course or help an aspiring entrepreneur develop her business plan.

YOUR TURN

Maybe you get a high from spreadsheets and numbers and making sense of complex data, even though people think you're nuts.

Maybe you're a plant whisperer, and people are always shocked and amazed when you can bring anything green back to life.

Maybe people are always coming to you for advice and guidance – even people you just met – because of the nurturing energy you radiate.

Embrace your weird gifts.

List three of your weird gifts now. The more unrelated they are to the world of traditional work, the better. Think abstractly. If you struggle with this, ask some of your closest friends to give you a hand.

My weird gifts:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, I want you to dig deeper like I did. What talent or skill does this weird gift stem from? And how might that weird gift provide value for someone else? You don't have to know what your exact career would look like yet, but how could your weird gift somehow help someone else?

One of my weird gifts is (#1)

When you dig deeper my weird gift is really rooted in my ability to

One way that my weird gift could provide value to someone else is

Another one of my weird gifts is (#2)

When you dig deeper this weird gift is really rooted in my ability to

One way that my weird gift could provide value to someone else is

A third weird gift that I have is (#3)

When you dig deeper this weird gift is really rooted in my ability to

One way that my weird gift could provide value to someone else is

And there you go. You're one step closer to figuring out how those wackadoodle talents of yours could play into a future career.