

That is our egg shaped snow globe, with a cute little spring seen inside with sparkly confetti, that moves around when you shake it. It plays, "Here comes Peter Cottontail." This is episode 12 of Exactly Enough Time.

Exactly enough time is about playful creativity, and other things like curiosity, happy colors, holidays, stories, and dark chocolate. I am going to talk about chocolate one of these days. I am your host, Stacy Julian, and I'm a life enthusiast, and a believer. In this podcast we talk about people, places, things, and solutions. As we do, I hope you will find inspiration for living your life, and telling your story, because you have exactly enough time.

So, we put out that snowglobe every single year. And my kids, even as they've gotten older, are like, yes, the snow globe! I have no idea, of course, when I purchased it back in 1994 on a whim at Costco, felt like a total splurge, at the time. I had no idea it would become a necessary part of our Easter celebrations or at least decorations. That's how things go. This episode is going to be one of those, sort of random recollections and ideas and I think it's kind of like an Easter mashup. I do really love holidays and Easter is right up there, it's one of my favorites, for sure. In fact, for the last six years, I have hosted a neighborhood Easter egg hunt in the park that sits right behind our home. It started small, with just this idea, like, I want to do an Easter egg hunt where, you know, it's not all over in 15 minutes and there's 1000 kids. I wanted it to feel more personal and more intimate. So I printed this invitation, you probably have listened to last week's episode on starting because this is so how I do things. I printed this invitation and I went, walked up and down my street and stuck it on all of my neighbor's front doors. I told them they could bring their kids on Saturday morning at 10am, and all they had to do was drop off 12 plastic eggs filled with candy for each kid that they were going to bring to the Easter egg hunt. And guess what happened? I opened my door the next day, and there were already filled plastic eggs in the bin, the big Rubbermaid bin on my porch. I was like, we're doing this, we are hosting an Easter egg hunt and you know what? It's grown. It was small and it's gotten bigger. Each year, I've learned new things. Ways to improve the Easter egg hunt, on year number two, I learned that I needed to

get a megaphone. Well, I learned that on your one so that by year two, I had a megaphone. And I learned to create areas kind of blocked off for the cute little little kids, so they wouldn't get trampled by the big kids. And then I learned in the big area where most of the eggs are hidden, I learned to tell the kids that are over five years old, I learned to tell them. "You guys, you are so fast, I want you to run out past the middle, where most of the eggs are hidden." That's so that the little toddlers who can't run so fast, would actually be able to get to the eggs before the big kids did. And you know what I did on year three? So fun, got on Amazon, ordered, not even kidding, a giant full sized adult Easter bunny suit. Yep, most of my boys have been made to wear this suit. And because my house sits on this little like slope up above the park, and because you can stand in my office and look out over the park than when the Easter egg is pretty much wrapped up, the Easter egg hunt. I call all the kids together and I go "okay you guys, now let's sing, "Here comes Peter Cottontail" and kids still know that song. Isn't that crazy? And I say to them, "if you sing it loud enough, then the Easter Bunny might come walking right down those steps." Oh my gosh, totally cute and magical.

That's how you host an Easter egg hunt, you just print the invitations and invite some neighbors, and then it becomes a thing. And you know what, this year, that neighborhood, what's it called, the, the association, right, the, yeah, whatever, the homeowners association, that's it. They reached out to me and they said "you know what we hear you do this thing and now we want to do it and make it bigger, we want to make it for everybody that lives in this development." No way!? My little Easter egg hunt that I started is becoming a bigger thing. That's awesome. Something I started is going to live on. This year, all I'm in charge of is the three prize baskets that you win when you find one of the three golden eggs. Yes- so fun. Oh my goodness.

When my cute mom was a very young mom. She couldn't afford to buy my brother and me a fancy filled chocolate egg, like the kind from See's Candy, you know, the kind that you, that's that takes both hands to hold. And they take icing and they write your name on the top. And, you know, she went to my dad and got a budget, you know for Easter baskets and there just wasn't enough. So she invented something. She started a new

tradition, of course she had no idea how this tradition would grow, and now in this second generation, it would become a total thing. A really cool thing, unique to our family. My mom just drew this silhouette shape of a bunny on the brown grocery sack and she cut it out and then she rolled out our gingerbread dough and then she laid the pattern on top and she cut around the pattern and she baked these ginger bunny cookies. And then she used icing to write our name on the cookies, and that's how, in the morning when you wake up and the Easter bunny has brought you a basket, but you don't know where it is and you have to search for it through your house. That's how you know when you find a basket, and it has a cookie with your brother's name on it- you don't say anything. Shhhh. And then you just keep on hunting until you find the basket that has your ginger bunny cookie in it. My mom is brilliant. I just made our ginger bunny cookies yesterday, and I even mailed two of them, one for my cute missionary boy and one for his cute companion, because it's a tradition- it's what we do. Love that!

So, a couple of years ago, more than a couple of years ago Stacy, more like probably 10- I don't even know where it found this idea because I'm not sure Pinterest was around, but...oh I bet someone did it to us. Yep. We opened the front door. Yep, that's what it was and there was this piece of paper stuck to the front door and it said you've been "egged." And then the little paper says yeah, there's 12 eggs hidden in your yard. But don't worry, one of them doesn't have anything in it, and that's a symbol of the empty tomb, but it's this cute little saying and it rhymes and we totally love to do that. I posted this idea and a free printable PDF to my blog the other day. We love to do that during the week leading up to Easter, we love to fill three or four sets of 12, eggs, or 11 eggs, and then we go to neighbors, I let the kids choose one or two families. And we go "egg" their houses.

So one year, the Easter froggy came. Yeah, my kids still talk about it. The Easter froggy came, everything in the basket was green, a lot of it was frog related. I think the Easter Bunny, found some of this stuff, like at World Market, and for whatever reason, there was just a lot of frog stuff so the Easter Bunny actually wrote a note and she left it, he/she definitely she left for the kids and just said how she was really had a lot to do

with feeling a little bit overwhelmed and a little under the weather and so she had her friend the Easter froggy take over for our family that year. Of course there was a stuffed Easter froggy wearing bunny ears, sitting on the kitchen table with a note.

I know you have stories like these, traditions, things that are a part of your Easter or other holiday celebrations. So, have you documented some of them? Whether you're a declared memory keeper/scrapbooker or not, these things have meaning they develop over time and they're worth recording. So I have some thoughts about that. I have sat next to friends, far too many times they've said something like, "I gotta show you this cool picture", and then I sit next to them for like, sometimes five minutes, and they scroll-scroll-scroll. I want people to be able to find the photos that are illustrations, that are evidence of these unique aspects of our lives, especially of celebrations that we love. I want people to find them easier. It's one of my passions, one of the things that I love to do is teach people how to find the pictures they want to find when they want to find them. I have an iPhone, but your smartphone will be similar. I'm going to describe some things that you can do on your iPhone when it comes to pictures, especially pictures related to important holidays, events and celebrations. So one thing you can do, like everybody knows how to do, is scroll through all of your photos. You just open up your photos app, and you just start scrolling and we all are really really good at that. That's not the only way. Did you know that you can also access your photos in groups or collections? Yeah, if you hit the back arrow, then, it kind of creates these collections of photos, first by location and then by date and then eventually by years. That way you can scroll back quickly or quicker anyway, you can scroll back to 2014. Goes much faster that way, you probably know how to do that.

You might even, on your phone, because these phones just keep getting smarter and smarter. There might even be groupings of photos that are like for you, they're automatically created for you, kind of along the lines of "On This Day" and then it will have a date, maybe on a day when you took a lot of photos that were similar, right, they group it together for you the smart algorithm thing does. Or there might be trips to such and such. It might be your trip to Disneyland. It kind of gathers all those photos together

and you can look at them together. And this of course is created when the phone uses the location and date code tools that are a part of the software. It creates these awesome groups of photos tailored to your life. Now, if you have ever taken the time to mark a photo with a “heart”. That's what it is on an iPhone or some other way to designate it as a photo that you like a little bit more than the photos next to it. You've turned it into a “favorite”, you can actually access just those photos on your phone or your iPad or other device. Yeah, I know, it's true. You're like I know Stacy I've done it. But how are you doing it regularly? I love the idea of just creating an event almost in your phone, an appointment-rather, a time on maybe a Thursday afternoon, or some other time regularly when maybe you have maybe you're waiting for a child at a weekly appointment piano lessons, something like that. Set an alarm or a reminder to go through your recent batch of photos, delete the ones you don't want and mark, some of them 10% or less, maybe as “favorites”, then you can use the search tool and just see your favorites. Oh, my goodness, so much more fun, more interesting than scrolling through the entire photo library is scrolling through your “favorites”.

Okay, gets even better right about now. You can also do your own, curating, this is the best and the most magical way for you to see pictures that will help you understand the stories that you most want to tell. Whether you just want to share them in person, whether you want to create something with them, post them to social media, learn how to set up an album on your phone. It's not hard. There's probably some “plus” sign, there's probably a little button at the bottom that says albums and then when you click on it then there's some “plus” sign and you just hit the “plus” sign and create a new album, give it a name for example, Easter. Create an Easter album. Because this is what I've observed and what I've learned in my own life- telling great stories has a lot to do with three things.

Here we go- the three things.

#1. Telling great stories has a lot to do with finding the photos that you've taken over the years, again finding the photos that you want to find half the time we can remember them, we can see them in our mind's eye. We just got to find them. So being able to tell

great stories has a lot to do with number one, finding the photos you've taken over the years.

#2. Knowing the elements of an event or holiday in this case, Easter, that you want to photograph, perhaps because you haven't yet, photographed it or perhaps because you've photographed it a number of years in a row, and you want to photograph the most recent version or iteration of this photo. That's awesome. So telling great stories has a lot to do with knowing what elements of a particular event or holiday that you want to include in that story.

#3. Telling great stories has a lot to do with remembering that the best and most unique stories are unique to your family, culture. Stories about holidays and traditions develop over time.

So, before I go forward. Okay, right now, take a deep breath. Just put all that pressure, all that angst, that giant list of all the things that you might be trying to do right now while you listen to this podcast, to make this upcoming holiday perfect. Put all of those things just put them in a big bubble I like to say put them in a big bubble and blow it away, but maybe more appropriate put them in a big plastic egg and just stomp on it. Because you guys you girls you mothers, there is no *perfect* holiday, if you've been around long enough you know this. You won't remember to do or to choose to honor every tradition every year and it's not actually supposed to work like that. That's too stressful and too prescribed. It's supposed to be a little more loose, free flowing. That's not how successful families even operate, so you can let go of that idea, I give you my permission just let go of it. This thing, this holiday thing, this expectation thing, it ebbs and flows. Some years we do more in one area, and some years we do less and we focus our efforts on another aspect. But guess what- a few years down the road, like where I am now, you get to look back and see dozens of happy memories captured. Funny moments and common repetitive themes. And it's a beautiful, beautiful thing! So let go and let it unfold in a natural way.

But telling great stories has a lot to do with finding the photos you want to find. Knowing the elements of an event or holiday that you most want to capture and document, and

remembering that these really awesome stories that feature connection across time actually take time, they take years, and that's okay. So I was actually thinking I could give my listeners an assignment this week. Should you choose to accept this assignment and it is not a Mission Impossible- it's very possible, Here's what I want you to do if you've never done this, and even if you've done it in the past, I want you to set up an album on your smartphone and let's just go ahead and call it "Easter." But if you're listening to this podcast down the road, call it whatever the next big thing in your life is okay and then create that album. Then use that same smartphone and set a timer for 15 minutes. Create an Easter album on your phone. Okay, and then set the timer, and then use the search tool to locate photos from either March or April, for every year that you have photos. Easter, of course, falls in either March or April, so if you'll search for example, March 2016 and scroll through and see if you see Easter photos and if not then search for April 2016. Eventually you'll find the Easter photos, and if you have already designated a few of those photos as favorites, just select them and drag them into the newly created Easter album on your phone. And if you don't have favorite photos, no big deal, just select a few maybe just five to 10 photos from each year, and add them to your Easter album, it's easy. You have time to do this. And maybe you don't get it all done in the first 15 minutes, so pick another day and another quiet moment and set another timer for 15 minutes. That's just about all it's going to take and you know what, I just did this just to prove to myself that I could totally give you this assignment and you will be successful. I now have 57 Easter photos on my phone in my Easter album that I can look through. And it's so awesome. Now I have a whole other system for organizing photos and we'll talk about that a little bit at the end. But this is a quick way to get in and see what time can show you about this upcoming holiday, whatever it is.

Okay, the next step. The next storytelling step, is to make a photo list. Just sit down for a second at your table or in your car, on your notes app or whatever and start a list of photos that you would need to take. If you were going to document Easter and what it means. So, make a list: what are your Easter traditions? Does the Easter Bunny bring baskets? What about, I mean my family always takes a family photo on the front porch

either before or after church. In my kids Easter baskets, there's actually always an empty plastic egg. It has significance- has religious significance for us. What are some of the things that generally show up in your kids Easter baskets? Candy, of course, but what kind? There's lots of different kinds of Easter candy. I bet that there are certain kinds of Easter candy that always show up in your kid's baskets? Take a picture, put them on your list. Maybe there's a stuffed animal. Maybe you could find some other stuffed animals from past years and have a kid hold them all together in his arms, her arms, take a picture. What about Mad Libs.? I love Mad Libs, they often show up in Easter basket or a new card game, or maybe a new book. Okay one year, like it's totally got the book "Runny Babbit", it's like bunny rabbit. Only the first letters of each word have been reversed. It's a billy suck, as opposed to a silly book, written by Shel Silverstein. You guys talk about the brilliance of Shel Silverstein.

I'm just going to read you the opening page and pawn to this book.

(Oh by the way the book is dedicated to Mary Lawyer, and not Larry Moyer. giggle.)

"Way down in the green woods where all the animals play. They do things and they say things in a different sort of way, instead of saying purple hat, they all say, hurple pat, instead of saying feed the cat, they just say key the fat.

So if you say, let's bead a roo, that's Billy as can see you're talking running Babbitt talk, just like mim and he."

Okay, seriously. I love books, I love giving my kids new books in their Easter basket.

I love that spring is a time of spring cleaning and freshening things up, and new life and things like that. I mean, flowers and new little animals and, you know, the world is coming back to life after a long, at least where I live, winter. So in my kids Easter baskets they often get things that are about cleaning and freshening. I have boys, that means, deodorant, and cologne. Addie this year, don't tell her, is getting like a little room freshener and a candle, and one of those little things you plug into the wall socket. that makes the room smell good. I love finding crayons and colored pencils and little notebooks in my kids Easter basket. Have you ever thought about taking a cool grid

style photo, like, take a big white poster board okay and lay out everything your kid gets in his Easter basket. Lay it out Mike Martha Stewart magazine style and then take a picture, straight down. That's a good idea! Wouldn't it be fun to see what the generation before us, got in their Easter basket, as compared to now? I guarantee you it's more now. I think these holidays grow in magnitude, over generations. But that's a cool idea. I haven't done that, I think I might want to do that this year. The other day, I got an email from persnickety prints- super cute. It's a free download and it's just, you know 3x4 journaling cards that you would use in pocket style scrapbooking. I'm totally putting the link in the show notes, but I printed this PDF, and I cut out these cards and I tied them up with a cute little ribbon, and I'm going to tuck them into Addie's Easter basket. How fun would that be to sit down with Addie and have her journal some of the things that Easter means to her, and then use that to create a scrapbook page. What sorts of things are new this year, or in the last few years? How has our life changed? It seems like technology is at the heart of change much of the time. Did you know that you can actually ask Alexa to tell you a random fact about Easter. "A random fact about Easter is President Rutherford B Hayes hosted the first White House Easter Egg Roll in 1878." Did you ever, ever as a child, imagine that your future kids would have a little round device that could talk to them? What?!? Why not take a photo of them holding their alexa or spot or whatever it's called, and then record a random Easter fact. Would that be fun!?

So then there's food, of course. What's the traditional food at your house on Easter or Easter weekend? Is it ham? Does your family make deviled eggs with the eggs that you color? Do you color eggs? Perhaps take a family poll about hard boiled eggs, because we're kind of right down the middle on the "liking boiled eggs" or not question. And then of course there's deviled eggs that would be interesting, because I've got some mayonnaise eaters and some very adamant non- mayonnaise eaters. I actually recently made my deviled eggs with avocado. Oh my goodness, it's so delicious- so you just scoop out the yolks you put in the mayonnaise and I love healthy mayonnaise, that's a whole nother episode, and then you mash up a ripe avocado and mix it in a little bit of seasoning. Oh delicious! They're green, of course, so don't let that turn you off. But

what is it that your grandma brings to Easter dinner? Or if Grandma's not with us anymore, do you still have a recipe that she always created? Or do you have a recipe or another member of your family? I used to make this crazy salad every Easter when my kids were super little, I think it was like called "six cup salad", and it was just six cups of one of the one cup was like the pastel colored marshmallows and then there was a cup of mandarin oranges and a cup of fruit cocktail, and a cup of coconut and sour cream and I'm sure I'm forgetting something. But you just put it all together you made it the night before because the flavors kind of have to mix, except for the marshmallows-you add those in right at the end. And it's so colorful and so kid friendly, and I can't believe I made it because it's like, kind of crazy unhealthy, but that was back then. But what is, what are those foods? I should probably look up the recipe and just make it. I would make my teenage boy Taff so happy if I served six cup salad this Sunday, so I will probably will do that.

In my family, our faith is an important part of Easter. Actually that's totally mis-statement. Our faith is actually the point of Easter. I love this quote from Gordon B. Hinckley, for me, it puts Easter in perspective, especially with the holidays, you'll see what I mean. He says, "There would be no Christmas, if there had not been Easter. The babe Jesus at Bethlehem would be just another baby, without the redeeming Christ of Gethsemane and Calvary, and the triumphant fact, of the resurrection." I love that. I love that we all get to choose what we believe. So whether your celebration is religious or involves some religious elements, or whether it's strictly secular celebration of spring. I want you to look back on how you traditionally honor this holiday, and see if there are consistent things across time. I'm looking back, recently looked back on lots of cute Easter scrapbook pages and realized, you know I did a lot more than I thought I did. But I haven't adequately represented this aspect of faith, this foundation of faith in my family stories at least around Easter I haven't, it's not adequately represented. So I'm wondering, is there something in your scrapbooks that when you look back isn't quite right, sort of under representation? And something that you could correct, maybe by taking more photos of that aspect this year. Very often for me it's just taking more photos of the people I love together to show the relationships. I tend to be really good at

taking pictures of food, and the cute decorations, and the table setting and then the people show up and I forget. Put that on your list, put a reminder on your phone that pops up after the people are supposed to arrive and then maybe you'll remember to go around and take pictures of people. It's not too late, you can totally correct some of these things. But on my list that I'm creating this year. I realized, Easter isn't Easter for me until I go to church and sing Christ the Lord is risen today. So, whatever it is that makes Easter, Easter for you. I want you to prepare to be present with it. And, and photograph it, document-it really experience it. That will make you a better storyteller.

And you guys this week, Notre Dame. Whoa. I've never even been to Paris. But seriously, wow, this is a world thing. It's not just a Paris thing or a France thing. I think the message that's being made clear, at least for me, as I watch news stories and see posts, etc, on social media. I actually especially enjoyed the PBS news hour coverage that reminded us of the 1000s, if not millions of prayers that have been uttered inside and around Notre Dame, over a period of 850 years. That is truly a symbol of an enduring faith. And the fact that it has suffered so intensely during this Holy Week for Christians. I loved watching, you know the mayor, Mayor Macron/McCrone? Is that how you say it? He said we are going to rebuild. Like, he actually said something like, I'm telling you, this tonight with force. We are a people-speaking to his people in France- we are a people of builders. We will rebuild Notre Dame. The PBS news hour also quoted a Lucinda Laird who's a professor at the American University. She said, "this is the week that we walk through death to resurrection, that cathedral," she said, "will be restored. It will be different, but it will still be at Notre Dame and this season of ashes and mourning becomes a season of rebirth. And it will become a part of her story again." Wow.

Final thoughts...I had this conversation with a checker at Walmart. At first I thought, oh now, I have one of those chatty checkers and, you know, how am I going to let her know that I really don't want to have a conversation with her and then I thought "oh Stacy -stop it, just be nice and friendly," and so I engaged in conversation and she said something super interesting to me, she said. "One thing I don't get about Easter," she said this kind of out of the blue, not knowing that I was thinking about Easter. She said

“at Christmas time, there's like, groups of people and, and foundations and charities that are set up specifically to create Christmas for children especially but for families that might not be in a position to provide Christmas for themselves” She goes, “what about Easter? What about the children whose parents can't afford Easter baskets?” I've been thinking about that conversation ever since I had it with her on Monday. And this morning I decided to reach out to a friend who's in a position to maybe help me to know who I could help. I'm hoping that I get to create an Easter basket. I used to make five Easter baskets, you guys, I'm down to two. Imagine, if I could create a couple of Easter baskets that would surprise and delight, a couple of kids that might not expect to be surprised or delighted. I totally love holidays. I love that it seems to, they seem to bring more energy to me. I seem to find more time because I want to do good things. I want to create happy memories for my own family, and I want to reach out to other people. That's what holidays do. They really are magical if we can set aside some of the crazy expectations. I hope that you can take some of the ideas that I've shared and use them and adapt them to you. I actually have a free class at StacyJulian.com. That is an introduction to the principles that I use in my own life. That enables me to be the storyteller that I want to be. This class is called “the principles of photo freedom”. And you just exchanged your email address for access to this class. And I'd love you to join the already hundreds of people that are using that information. As an introduction, of course I'm working on a refreshed version of the class that I've taught for years, that is simply called “Finding Photo Freedom”. I hope you have a fantastic Easter weekend. You have exactly enough time to make it what you want and need it to be.