

# Field Trip: My Butt, a Colonoscopy Ride Along & How-To Ologies Podcast

## April 13, 2023

Okay, up top, just so you know, this is a weird episode... Topic is weird. Format, weird. Audio, weird. Stick with me, it's worth it to the end, I promise.

Oh hey, it's your friend's kid who is hitting you with a pool noodle, Alie Ward. And come with me, as I research, prep for, get a colonoscopy, and then learn some alarming results. Will you?! Okay, so I'm proud of you, number one, for being here, it's an investment in your health, or maybe you're just here because you like butts, or you want to hear some hot gossip about mine. Maybe someone who cares about you sent this as a friendly, encouraging valentine, straight up your rectum.

But here's what's up. I needed a colonoscopy and, like one would imagine, I was not thrilled at this prospect, but I have lost a few loved ones to colon cancer, and I've seen firsthand how gnarly it is to have cancer in your guts. And little-known Ward trivia, so my dad had blood cancer for nine years, but his chemotherapy had the side effect of causing colon cancer, possibly. And it was actually that, undetected for too long, which ultimately took his life. So, this episode is personal, really like in every way possible, and maybe for you too. 1 in 16 people in America will get colon cancer and 0 in 16 like talking about it. But if it's caught too late, the survival rate is around 5%.

So, if this intestinal odyssey helps one person get screened, I guess it's worth the potential embarrassment. And trust me, there's a lot of embarrassment in this. One of my favorite things that I've learned from PodMom Jarrett Sleeper is that something is only as embarrassing as you let it become. Because when you're embarrassed, people get embarrassed for you, but when you don't give a fuck no one feels bad for you. So, you just own your colons, so what? Shrug it off, let's get started.

But first, thank you to everyone at [Patreon.com/Ologies](https://Patreon.com/Ologies) for supporting the show, thank you to everyone who passes this along to a friend, and those wearing merch from [OlogiesMerch.com](https://OlogiesMerch.com). Thanks to everyone who subscribes, and rates, and reviews, which helps so much. I read every review. And this week, there are such sweet ones, even though someone named BortMuppet, Margaret, meant to leave five stars but left one star. But that's okay, it happens, I didn't take it personally. Also, BBell971720, thanks for the review that said:

*I love science? I thought I hated science my whole life until this podcast and it has shifted my view of absolutely everything.*

BBell, Margaret, everyone who left a review, thank you.

Okay, either way, let's get into it. Let's get into... let's get into me. So, we're going to cover how to prep for a colonoscopy, the best tips from people who have been through this, why one must even prepare for a colonoscopy, butt cameras, history, pathology reports, advice from drunk strangers, how a colonoscopy is like a frat house rager, and more. This episode might save your life, so come along, let's take the back entrance in this field trip to my butt, a colonoscopy ride-along and how-to. [softly] Ding.

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**Aside:** Let's start in my kitchen, the Saturday afternoon before my Monday morning colonoscopy.

**Alie:** Okay, so I was supposed to get a colonoscopy a year ago, but I was too busy taking care of my dad who was dying of colon cancer. So, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. I had the prep and everything and it's been

stashed in the CVS bag in a cupboard above my refrigerator for a year. So, let's dig into this and see what the instructions say. I hope to *god* I wasn't supposed to start this yesterday. Okay. [*deep breath*] Oh boy. GaviLyte G. "Take as directed one time only." As though you're going to be like, "I've gotta get me some more of that. I gotta shit my brains out again."

Okay so, this was filled last year... Cool.

**Aside:** Okay, so I've had this large paper bag from the pharmacy sitting in the cupboard, stapled shut, it's been above my refrigerator in the cabinet for over a year, and I finally cracked it open.

**Alie:** [*rustling of bag opening, Alie laughs*] You open it up and it's just a gallon, it's a gallon jug. Oh no. [*through laughter*] Oh no, oh no! [*laughs*] It sucks. [*pained laughter*] Okay, it's GaviLyte G, there's a lot of polyethylene glycol, sodium sulfite, potassium, okay. So, you're supposed to fill to the top of the bottle- You've got to drink this whole thing?! Oh no-o-o. And then it comes with a flavor pack, it's a lemon flavor pack, I guess this part is optional...

"When reconstituted with the water to a volume of four liters," which is a gallon. So, "This preparation can be used with or without the lemon flavor pack. Add lukewarm drinking water to the fill mark on the bottle, no solid food should be consumed for the three-to-four-hour period before drinking the solution, but in no case should a solid food be eaten within two hours."

[*whispers*] Oh my god. "Drink one 8-ounce cup of the solution rapidly every 10 minutes. A loose, watery bowel movement should result in approximately one hour. Continue drinking until the entire contents, 4 liters, have been consumed, or as directed by a physician." It says, "Note, the solution is more palatable if chilled in the refrigerator before drinking." Wow. [*deep breath*]

[*whispers*] I cannot believe how much liquid this is going to be... I don't know why this is... I think I'm so scared, I'm doing the thing where you start to giggle when you're so scared. This is so... This is so horrifying to me that it's funny. And I know that it's not actually funny and if you barf this up or you have dizziness, you're supposed to call someone immediately. "You may experience some abdominal bloating and distention before the bowels start to move, so don't eat solid foods on the day before your colonoscopy and until after your colonoscopy." [*chuckles*] I doubt you're going to be in twilight and be, like, eating a hoagie or something. [*"Who wants a sandwich?"*] Just like a Philly cheesesteak on the table. "Drink only clear liquids." So, clear liquids are water, clear fruit juices without pulp like apple, white grape, or white cranberry, strained limeade or lemonade, coffee or tea without creamer, clear broth, clear soda, gelatin, popsicles without fruit pulp. "Do not eat or drink anything colored red or purple."

**Aside:** Okay, so you don't want to eat anything with red dye in it like red or purple drinks or Jell-O because residue of that can look like blood or a lesion in your intestines. So, help the docs out and avoid, like, fruit punch. Also, five days before the exam, start a low-fiber diet. It's antithetical to everything you know; you want to avoid fruits, and veggies, and whole grains. So, a week before, you're eating mashed potatoes, you're having crackers, et cetera. But the day before the exam, no solid food of any kind. It's just you and the gallon jug plus as much clear broth, and Jell-O, and clear pulp-free juices like apple juice.

So, I had an early appointment on a Monday morning, checking in at 7 AM, so I was supposed to start Sunday night, 4:30 PM, and drink half a gallon over two hours. Just chug this thing down the hatch, alongside some Dulcolax, just for some added action. And then, wake up in the middle of the night and drink the other half of the gallon between 3:00 and 4:00 AM, like hours before the procedure. So, your timing might be a little different but the moral here is just take the day off; you're going to be tired, you're going to be peeing out your keister, by design, maybe by accident. I was warned that no farts are to be trusted, sit on a towel, or per the instructions...

**Alie:** “You may consider wearing Depends adult diapers on the way to your procedure to avoid an accident with your bowel movements.” Okay. [*“This is fine.”*] They include some FAQs here. [*“Thanks.”*] “Why does the solution taste so bad? A certain concentration of salt and electrolytes is needed to effectively clear the colon. As a result, unfortunately, these solutions do taste bad.”

**Aside:** And why so salty? So, because this sodium and potassium and magnesium sulfate solution is what’s called, hyperosmotic, that means it sucks water into your intestines to swell up your guts and then that causes muscle contractions called peristalsis, which is kind of like pressing the fast forward button on evacuation. So like, everybody out. But there are other methods other than this GoLyteLy gallon, though. There’s MiraLAX preparation, there are smaller, salty BORGs, that are just a half gallon and then you need to drink an extra liter of water right after, or you can do salt tablets that you chase with water. But most likely, you’re going to get this big jug that I got, and that’s what insurance will cover. But talk to your doctor if you want the usually-more-expensive but less voluminous prep. What they care most about is a clear view of your personal sewer system.

**Alie:** “How do I know if I’m clear for the procedure? So, this typically occurs after a significant amount of solid, dark liquid stool has been eliminated, and then liquid stools become progressively clearer, to the point where you can read a newspaper through them.”

**Aside:** That seems so specific and also, not really a metaphor for the digital generation. And I wondered, who came up with that edict? And I accidentally fell down a porta-potty hole of info about John de Arderne, who was a 14th-century surgeon known as the father of proctology, who I think he used leeches on hemorrhoids and would sometimes have patients swallow a thread and then when the front end surfaced out of their south port, he would pull it back and forth to cut out tumors and fistulas, kind of like dental floss for your innards. But I don’t think that they had daily newspapers back then, or even camera wands, in the 1300s. But it turns out that the modern colonoscopy was birthed from scientists at Tokyo University around... 1969. [*whispers*] Nice.

But as for that guideline that you should be able to read a newspaper through your watery emissions, the closest source that I could find for that was a bunch of articles saying that the proper pasta dough should be thin enough to read a newspaper through. So, maybe that oft-used colon prep phrase was just the suggestion of, like, an Italian proctologist, I’m not sure. But pass the salt... and magnesium.

**Alie:** “Your colon is six feet long and has a large collection of mucous, intestinal fluids, solid and liquid waste. A clean exam is the best way to ensure high-quality procedure. Colorectal cancer is typically the second or third leading cause of cancer mortality in the US.” I mean, trust me, no matter what happens or how much I’m on the toilet, or how disgusting this stuff is, it’s not as bad as having fucking colon cancer so...

**Aside:** So, most doctors suggest regular screening to start at age 45, but if you have a family history of colorectal cancer, you may need to get screened as early as your teenage years. And if you have IBS, or colitis, or celiac or something, you might be in there for totally different reasons. So, I figured, lot of people might need to do this, the best advice would come from someone who has already been through it. So, I did like, the sanest thing that a chill person can do, and I brought a recording device to a bar on a Saturday night to ask strangers about their butts, I think.

**Alie:** [*car signal clicking*] Okay, now that I’m getting ready to park, I’m getting nervous, it’s very crowded and everyone looks attractive, so maybe this is a bad idea. Am I a buzzkill? I might as well. Who the fuck cares. People love to help.

Hi, how are you?! What are you doing here?

**Aside:** Seconds into this and I run into people I know from my years as a newspaper journalist. They are hip, young, they're wearing cool clothes such as leather jackets. I did not anticipate this.

**Alie:** Stop it, how are you? Oh my gosh!

**Spk 1:** I just sent you a TikTok the other day, the algorithm said: Alie Ward.

**Alie:** Aww, I'm so sorry. I'm not good on that.

**Spk 1:** No, no. You're actually pretty good at it.

**Alie:** It's funny I should see you guys here. I am not here to meet up with anyone. I'm here completely alone.

**Spk 1:** I think you're going to meet up with us.

**Alie:** Here's the deal. Husband's out of town...

**Spk 1:** Okay.

**Alie:** He's at a bachelor party. I have a colonoscopy on Monday.

**Spk 1:** Okay.

**Alie:** And I'm doing an episode, like a Field Trip episode. I'm like, "As long as I'm going to go get my butt probed, I'm going to make"..."

**Spk 1:** Oh my god.

**Spk 2:** You're going to produce.

**Alie:** I'm going to produce. And I was like, I wonder if anyone would give me advice about a colonoscopy...

**Spk 1:** I've never had one...

**Alie:** That's why... I know, I was like, I need-

**Spk 1:** I wish I could tell you. I should have.

**Spk 2:** No! I need to get one... Chadwick died at 35. They say 40 but a lot of people are dying at, like, 33, 35, 36.

**Alie:** I know!

**Spk 2:** It's coming down, the butt cancer.

**Spk 1:** I feel like I should get out there.

**Spk 2:** You and I are on the same shit. I'm with you!

**Alie:** I don't want to get this thing at all. And then I was like, no one does. So, maybe a gift to the world can be anyone...

Hey, I have a question for you.

**Spk 3:** TMZ.

**Alie:** Yes, this is being recorded but I can strike anything from the record. Have you ever had a colonoscopy?

**Spk 3:** I have.

**Alie:** Do you have any advice for anyone who is getting one?

**Spk 3:** Go to Beth Israel.

**Alie:** Go to Beth Israel? That's your only advice? What if they don't have that health plan? What if...?

**Spk 3:** You're fucked.

**Spk 1:** Have you actually had a colonoscopy?

**Spk 3:** I can't be saying that.

**Alie:** He can't be saying it. Okay, so go to a hospital you trust. All right, that's what we're going to glean from this... Have you guys ever had a colonoscopy?

**Spk 4:** No, thank god.

**Alie:** No? [*"Move it along."*]

**Aside:** I ventured inside toward the bar. So, defeated, I just got in line, and I bought a white wine for courage. It was a clear liquid... [*loud ambient sounds of a busy bar*] I lurked toward the back patio to ask strangers about their buttholes, but I stumbled into a whole birthday party, like, in full swing.

**Alie:** I don't want to encroach... Oh wow, happy birthday!

**Spk 5:** Thank you!

**Alie:** That's exciting!

**Spk 6:** You get anything good?

**Alie:** Not at all. I got nothing. No one wants to talk to me about their buttholes on a Saturday night.

**Aside:** Then... I met an angel.

**Spk 7:** Oh wait, have you had a colonoscopy before?

**Alie:** Never.

**Spk 7:** Okay, this is your first time. So, then I would use the prep that they give you, but I would go to the store. I would go, if you can tolerate it, seltzer water. How is that on your gut?

**Alie:** Great.

**Spk 7:** Good? Okay, so get Pedialyte. They have, you know, tons of flavors, I typically like the berry, tropical flavors, they are a little bit less sweet. But I cut it, I still cut it and I make kind of like a mocktail about it with seltzer water. Just because I actually have IBS and a really bad history of gut health, so that just helps cut it. But if you don't have seltzer just do regular water with some ice. Cut it, but I would use the prep and the Pedialyte, I wouldn't just do the prep. It's just like... it's gross. [*Alie laughs*] And I'm not going to lie, just drinking that for like, I mean what, 24 hours?

**Alie:** Yeah.

**Spk 7:** You'll be going to the restroom a lot so don't make any plans. You're just going to have to be- [*Alie giggles*] No, but truly! You're going to be nesting. I wouldn't eat too big of a- Wait, it's Monday so today...

**Alie:** Tomorrow is my prep day.

**Spk 7:** Tomorrow is your prep day. Because I was going to say, you don't want to eat heavily for your last meal because then that will make the day before worse, obviously. I mean, a lot of people just use the prep and they're fine. From my experience, I just like Pedialyte better, it's got a little bit more taste and also, it gives you something to switch off and on. And then for after the procedure, I

would get another extra bottle of Pedialyte and some Gatorade; just anything with electrolytes. So, if that's coconut water, whatever, bone broth, bone broth is great. Just really nourishing things for the gut, you know?

**Aside:** Okay, since your body is gathering up a bunch of your water and just forcing it out like a poop hole power washer, you are going to lose electrolytes, which will make you feel like death and can be potentially bad for you. So, replenish during the colonoscopy prep and then after it's all done.

**Spk 7:** There's now this Gatorade series that's in a square bottle that has less sugar [*Alie squeals excitedly*] and more electrolytes. So, if you go the Gatorade route, I would do that. But if you can, Pedialyte is always my go-to.

**Alie:** Thank you for that advice!

**Spk 7:** Of course!

**Aside:** Confidence up, I approached a small gaggle of college-aged athletic-looking hunks.

**Spk 8:** Everyone's been like, "There's some girl asking about colonoscopies."

**Alie:** Fuck!

**Spk 8:** I've not had a colonoscopy...

**Alie:** No one's had a colonoscopy? You get a camera up your butt.

**Aside:** One guy's wife had had a colonoscopy; he knew the deal.

**Alie:** How was the prep? Did she disappear into a toilet for two days?

**Spk 9:** Yeah.

**Alie:** Yes, right?

**Spk 9:** She had to drink this fucking weird shit. So, they give you like a prescription of some shit, and it's all you can drink for two days. I dropped her off and I picked her up and she was like, "That was kinda weird, I felt it go into my asshole [*Alie laughs*] and then I fell asleep." [*And it went perfectly.*"]

**Alie:** I saw this TikTok where this woman was like, asked for a nurse she's like, "Is today the day to have butt sex or not?" And her nurse was like, "It's actually not."

**Spk 9:** So, in her head it was just, like, mega poppers?

**Alie:** I think so. [*laughter from the group*]

**Aside:** I will say that one of those guys turned out to be an *Ologies* listener and then we sent a video to his brother, so I may have redeemed myself. Heyyyy.

But let's circle back, real quick, just to butt sex. Sorry, everyone. Turn this down if your mom or my mom is listening, whatever. But public service announcement. You don't have to have surgical grade colon cleansing to have fun things up your butt. Realistically, penetrating for playtime only happens in the lower end of the colon, the sigmoid portion. And unless you're, like, actively retaining a turd in there, the rectum should be clear of poop because all of that is housed a bit farther up in the colon.

But there exist anal douches, some of them very sexy looking, they're like a rubber bulb. They also make showerhead butt-cleaning nozzles. And I looked this up for us, and the general proctological protocol is to put a leg on the toilet or do it in the shower, take lukewarm water, suck it in the bulb,

squeeze the air out, and then intro that into the bum and squirt the water, but not too much water, and not too far or you're going to hit the storage area, you feel me? So, a couple of times, not too much water, not too forcefully, then to the toilet, or I guess the shower you go. Let it out, repeat a couple of times until things are solid free. However, you can upset the balance of your poop shoot and you can wash out protective slippery stuff in there. And also, things can continue to drip or bubble out for about half an hour.

So, in researching this for us, I paid a visit to the Reddit forum, AskGabeRose. And one person, who is a nurse and a bottom, said that the best way to douche is not at all. Eat a high-fiber diet the day before you're planning on bottoming and the day of, have a satisfactory BM then hop in the tub and sit in some warm water, let your muscles loosen up. Gently insert either your pointer or middle finger into your butthole, swirl it around, and bring it out and clean your finger. So that's another way, not enough for a colonoscopy but if you're thinking about butt sex, advice from an elder. Other folks said that psyllium husk or Metamucil and staying hydrated will naturally keep things tidy for your anal adventures. Go slow, if you love it, lube it, and be safe. HPV is a sexually transmitted infection that can cause anal cancer, so consider that another good reason to wrap it up. So, you don't need medical-grade colonoscopy prep for butt fun. And also, the day of your colonoscopy is not a good time for that.

But the biggest lesson here is never, ever equate a medical procedure with a sexual identity or with behavior that you think your community would frown on. First off, consenting adults can do whatever they want and it's none of anyone's business. Secondly, these long-held stigmas against parts of your own body could kill you if you're too shy or ashamed to get a screening. And also, being afraid of your own butthole is a senseless deprivation of free fun, see the Urology and Sexology episode for more anal stuff, and prostate milking, you're welcome. It's your house, you deserve to use the back door any way you like.

But yes, in all, I got good advice from one person, I made some new friends, I made others uncomfortable, but hopefully this episode will find them when they need it.

**Spk 9:** But I feel like you maybe have kicked me in the ass enough to know that I should probably get a colonoscopy.

**Alie:** And you know what? When you do, there will be an episode waiting for you. All the tips and tricks.

**Aside:** So, armed with advice and maybe too much googling, I went to Target the next morning, my official prep day before the procedure, to stock up on seltzer water and electrolytes, things to flavor my water like those MiO drops, Dulcolax per the doctor's orders, I got some probiotics, I got some mega rolls of the softest toilet paper, and diapers. And I had a full cart and I looked up from my gruesome shopping list to see a man I had dated over 10 years ago, and he was with his beautiful blonde wife and their two perfect children. We all made eye contact and I offered a quick, "Hey man, how's it going? You guys have a great day, 'kay?" And then I ducked into the soup aisle, and I sprinted to the checkout. I went so... like I was on Guy Fieri's *Grocery Games*. ["Let's take it to the judges!"] I got home, I unloaded my loot. After the break, we're going to taste test them.

But first, a quick word from sponsors of the show who make it possible to donate to a cause each week. And this week, I'm doing something a little different. A close, close friend of mine actually was just diagnosed with colon cancer, early 40s, he has three kids and is getting surgery on April 17th. So, the money that we'd send to a charity, I'm just going to send his way to help with whatever he needs to be a little bit more comfortable. So, thanks to sponsors of the show.

[Ad Break]

Okay, let's grab my gallon for a vacation to toilet town.

**Alie:** This is pretty much like a... What was the jug that the kids drink? A BORG.

**Aside:** Just a quick aside. So, a BORG stands for a Blackout Rage Gallon and it's something that the youth are doing for their nocturnal social festivities. So, you take a gallon of water, you pour some out, and then you add your alcohol of choice, then flavorings, electrolyte or vitamin packs, and shake it up and then you give it a name like a sourdough starter, you can write it in Sharpie.

And I know carrying a Blackout Rage Gallon, having your own BORG, it sounds terrifying to people who are imagining their children in college, carrying 128 ounces of blackout rage tonic. But when compared to yesteryears' Rubbermaid trash cans full of mystery jungle juice, a BORG can be a really good thing for harm reduction. It can ensure hydration; it sets an upper threshold of alcohol consumption; it's got a sealed lid that's less likely to be spiked or drugged; and people can choose not to add any alcohol, and no one will know or judge. So, thanks Gen Z, you're fixing everything.

**Alie:** Now that I'm thinking about it as a BORG, I'm actually excited about it. I feel like I got a lot of the items a person BORGing might get, like the electrolyte drops. I definitely purchased more diapers than your average tailgater. I've got to name my BORG. Moira Schitt's. I'm so stoked about getting hydrated, if this weren't immediately coming out of my anus. Here are some of our options. So, I'm going to do this unflavored and then I'm going to try a couple different flavorings. We good? This is going to be so fun, I'm so excited, this is going to be delicious.

**Aside:** I got some little glasses, and I lined them up for a taste test; a flight, if you will

**Alie:** So, I got some Crystal Light, I got some of this MiO stuff which I've seen people put in their BORGs. And then this comes with this flavor pack of lemon, which I hear is pretty gross but I'm going to try a little bit of it in one of the cups. I will say, from my experience of having a few people in my life die of colon cancer, no matter what this tastes like, it's better than getting colon cancer. Because here's the thing, if you get colon cancer, you have to do this even more. You're better off doing it one time, having them snip off a polyp, and then not having to do this every time your cancer returns.

**Aside:** Okay, let's raw dog it first. Just unflavored, straight up. Let's see what we're dealing with.

**Alie:** Okay. Here it is... [*"Bottoms up."*] It tastes like salty plastic.

**Aside:** Let's try this MiO flavoring, which comes in a little bottle that you squeeze. And remember, nothing red or purple. I got a lemon/lime flavor.

**Alie:** Urgh, gross, that's too much, I think that's too much. Oh god, it tastes like gas station bathroom cleaner. Clearly my percentage is off. I can do this though; this is not as gross as I thought. The fear was definitely worse than the flavs.

**Aside:** Just me and a medically-issued gallon jug of salt water that I'm cradling in my arms.

**Alie:** Thanks for helping me clean my colon. All right. Oh, I'm already feeling some rumblings. [*giggles*] I can do this. I've had cocktails that taste a lot worse than this. This tastes like margarita mix actually, like if you had a lot of salt on the rim. It's pretty much just a virgin margarita that will make you absolutely shit your organs out.

**Aside:** Okay, let's try it with the pharmacy-issued lemon flavor packet, in which I have no faith.

**Alie:** That's not good. No, no. Blergh. I don't like that. That tastes like licking velvet; it's got a viscosity that doesn't please me.

**Aside:** Okay, so we tried the plain, we tried the MiO, and the prescription-issued flavor packet. Now, let's try a sample with some Crystal Light Lemonade and see if we can do this.

**Alie:** That's so far the winner. That's good. I can do this. I'm going to put it over more ice. Down the hatch peeps. Down the hatch and out the hole.

**Aside:** So, after all that fuss, all that complaining, all the whining, all the fear, all the talking to strangers, it was so much easier than I expected. I drank the salty lemonade, I alternated with a few quarts of to-go pho broth from a local Vietnamese place, which was clutch, 10/10, get some of your favorite to-go broth, definitely worth it. And yeah, yeah, I spent some time on the toilet, all right? But not as much as I thought, at all. And I think the low-fiber diet in the week proceeding and the really light meals on Saturday helped my Sunday prep day, and then I got to pig out afterward. So, definitely consider that if you can.

So, then it was off to the appointment early Monday morning. Here we go, it's showtime.

**Alie:** Okay, I'm in the hospital... It's 7:45 AM. I'm wearing diapers, full disclosure, I didn't chance it. And now, getting into my hospital gown, I'm in a room with a bunch of screens, this is where the magic happens. My gown is very open in the back, commando underneath it. I could keep my socks on though, that rules. Oy-oy-oy. This is not an easy way to earn a nap, I gotta say. We're going to just take a nap. There are 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 screens in this room. They're going to see some shit... Hopefully not any real shit. Okay, they're going to dose me up soon.

**Aside:** I really should have left it rolling and TBH I was worried that it was illegal. They pumped just a few little vials into my IV and like, within a minute I started to go night-night. Right as I was going out, I was like, "Whoops! There's a chilly lubed up tube going right up my bungus," And I was like, "Oh I thought you'd wait 'til I was fully out, but okay." I didn't miss the big moment.

And I kind of... I was out pretty much completely. I kind of roused a few times during being like, "Ooh!" It was like just having a really gentle dream about curious aliens. Before I knew it, it was all over, it happened in a flash, and I was just groggily coming back to life.

**Alie:** [*groggy voice*] All right, I did it. I'm hooked up to some monitors and machines. I think they gave me Propanol? Propofentanyl? Not sure, but it was definitely nap time. Couple times in the middle of it I was like, "Definitely some people up my butt right now." But I'm so hungry and they snipped off a polyp and they said, "See ya in five years, lady." And... Now I guess I put on the diaper I came in with and I go... get something delicious. TLDR, it really wasn't that bad... The drugs help. Crystal Light and Fentanyl, or whatever they've got me on. Those are the real VIPs.

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So, it turns out, according to my post-procedure report, I was actually on a combination of Meperidine and Midazolam. And according to the 2020 study, "Comparison of Fentanyl versus Meperidine in Combination with Midazolam for Sedative Colonoscopy in Korea," Fentanyl will knock you out faster but has a longer recovery time, like an extra 10 minutes. Also, my post report had pictures of my colon and that was a great souvenir. And it said that my colon prep was excellent. [*DJ airhorn*]

However... Here's the news you're waiting for. They did find a polyp up there, a 2mm growth way far into my large intestine. And the beauty of the colonoscopy is that they can snip those little ones out as long as they're in there. So, you get a twofer, you get a BOGO there. And they did, and they sent it to pathology, and it came back... [*drumroll*] pre-cancerous! So, your girl did her homework, drank her BORG, had an intestinal exorcism, and then saved her own life by getting that thing plucked like a little lint ball before it turned into a colon poltergeist. So, all is well that ends well. In all, it was way easier to prep than I thought. The procedure was fine, I didn't even need the diapers I was wearing, and I got rid of something that could have turned into cancer in a few years. But I do have to go back in five years.

Also, when it was over, because you're not allowed to drive for the day, Jarrett picked me back up and we went to a diner and I got a breakfast burrito. And I was so hungry I also got banana pancakes, and it was the tastiest meal I can remember.

So, ask not what your butt can do for you but what you can do for your butt. Get screened if you need to, drive a friend to theirs, eat well, get your checkups, treat your bod like the friend that it is. Now, thank you for coming along on this journey with me, it wasn't an easy one to make. It's a little vulnerable but I hope it helps someone. And honestly, if you have to get a colonoscopy, do not be afraid of it. It's *not* as bad at all as anyone says. Just throw some lemon Crystal Light in there, chug it down, get a book and let me know how it goes. I'll post pictures of my BORG on Instagram @Ologies. We're also on Twitter @Ologies, I'm on Instagram and Twitter @AlieWard and on TikTok @Alie\_Ologies.

Thank you to Erin Talbert who admin's the *Ologies* Podcast Facebook group with assists from Shannon Feltus and Boni Dutch. Thank you to Emily White of The Wordary who makes professional transcripts. *Smologies* are available, they're short kid-friendly versions up at AlieWard.com/Smologies, that is linked in the show notes. Thank you to Mercedes Maitland and Zeke Rodrigues Thomas for working on those. Susan Hale handles OlogiesMerch.com, which has shirts, and hats, and bags, and totes, and all kinds of things and she does *so* much more. Noel Dilworth does our scheduling including scheduling and rescheduling my colonoscopy. Kelly R. Dwyer makes our website. Mercedes Maitland usually lead edits but, other medical news, she is COVID-struck this week. So, send her your good vibes as well and stepping in for her and hauling my actual ass to the hospital for this episode, the hunktacular Jarrett Sleeper, who himself got a colonoscopy, not the same day but previous to mine, and was adorable waking up from Fentanyl. Nick Thorburn wrote the music.

And if you stick around, I'll tell you a secret. And like, this whole episode was TMI, and I don't think anyone is hungry for MI, but in case you are, this one's from my dad. I remember he finally did have to get a colonoscopy and he had to take the prep and everything and I remember him saying, [*laughs softly*] my dad was a very reserved person that didn't talk about this stuff very much. [*laughs*] But I remember him saying that, he's like, "Man, I saw a sandwich I ate in 1973," and it made me laugh, and I thought about that, and I hope that that stays with you. So, if you need to get a colonoscopy, do it for my pop... I miss him every day. You can do this, you got this. We're *behind* you. Okay, berbye.

*Transcribed by Aveline Malek at TheWordary.com*

### **Links to things we discussed:**

Find out more about colorectal cancer [here](#)

[Your colon can explode if you don't prep](#)

[Masterclass: How to Anal Douche](#)

[John of Arderne, The Father of British Proctology](#)

[Colorectal Cancer—Patient Information](#)

[Comparison of Fentanyl versus Meperidine in Combination with Midazolam for Sedative](#)

[Colonoscopy in Korea](#)

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Editing by Mercedes Maitland of [Maitland Audio Productions](#), [Jarrett Sleeper](#) of [MindJam Media](#) and

Mark David Christenson

Transcripts by Emily White of [The Wordary](#)

Website by [Kelly R. Dwyer](#)

Theme song by Nick Thorburn