

# THE IDLE FILES

Welcome to Volume 1 of the Laborious newsletter.

As we prepare to launch the Laborious Community, we want to keep you, our fans, partners, and advisors as well as future community members informed of what's happening.

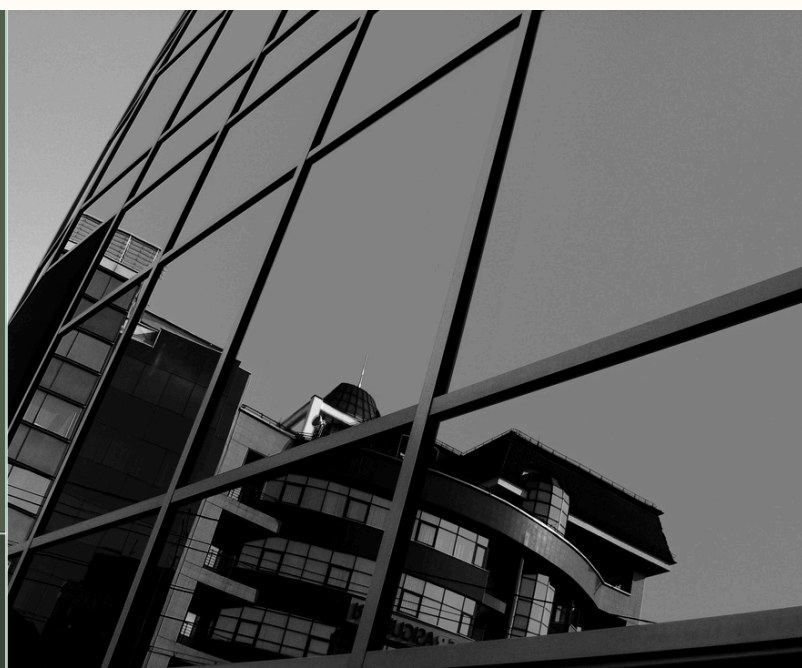
## IT'S NOT YOU...

It's really them.

Since 2007 the rate of layoffs has become a little bit insane.

When we lose our work, we lose more than just a paycheck.

THE EMOTIONAL COST OF WORK LOSS [➔](#)



## FOUNDER STORIES

Meet Rachel, our Laborious CEO. Her career's peaks and valleys have been quite a wild ride. But the worst moment on the roller coaster was in 2007, the day her husband was given a 3% chance of survival and her employer acted as they often do - they got rid of their "problem".

PINK SLIP [➔](#)

## The Emotional Cost of Work Loss

When National Public Radio announced they would cut 10% of staff with a month's notice, Yowei Shaw, who hosted a popular NPR podcast, found herself in a state of limbo.

If you work hard, you'll be safe."

This belief, she explains, stemmed from both her immigrant family background and the broader American myth of meritocracy.

Her response? It includes teeth grinding and sleepless nights.

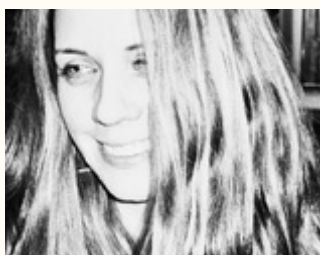
**We can relate.**

[Read the Article](#)

THE  
ANXIOUS  
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"ANYBODY CAN GET LAID OFF... EVEN THOUGH I INTELLECTUALLY KNEW THAT, EMOTIONALLY DEEP DOWN, I THINK I THOUGHT I WOULD BE SAFE, AND THAT'S WHY IT WAS STILL SUCH A SURPRISE AND SHOCK.

YOWEI SHAW



Rachel Petzold, circa 2008

## The Pink Slip

Hi, I'm Rachel. I'm honored and humbled that you've joined our group of supporters and hope you know you are worthy, valuable, and that things WILL be different than what they are today. I can promise this because I have lost my job 5 times in 17 years and I survived every one of them.

Early on, I spent my work days focused on contracts so I could spend time with my kids and volunteer at their school. My husband was in a high pressure career in sales that required him to travel a lot. The constant selling and hunt for customers took a toll on him and I worked to make home a calm, peaceful place to come home to at the end of his days.

In the summer of 2007, he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and, as the doctor that met me after the testing said to me, "Are his affairs in order?" We were in for a fight and I was ready to face the diagnosis head on. I had accepted a permanent, full time job at the time and could cover work, kids and household so he could fight this disease.

### The first one was the worst one.

When I returned to work and requested time off for his surgery? "No problem". When I asked for permission to work remotely two days a month so I could take him to chemotherapy? I was "laid off". This was not the last time I lost work, but it was the last time I believed that any employer would have my best interests at heart.

This is my WHY as we prepare to launch Laborious. You should never be alone when disaster strikes. Nobody is going to save us so we're going to save ourselves and each other and work to change the outcomes. We're glad you're here.

**We WILL be OK together..**