

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Down. I'm so happy to be here with you today. Happy Monday before Christmas. We've got a great show in store for you. It's day 12 of the 2021 Christmas Party. 12 shows in a row. I cannot believe how these 12 days have flown by. It's been so fun.

If you haven't been able to listen to all of them all along, you'll get to catch back up in some of your off time over the holidays. I promise it is worth it. I mean, every one of them has meant so much to me. It's been such a great conversation. I especially hope you heard Father Mike yesterday.

The soundtrack of our party is *Little Drummer Boy* from our friends for KING & COUNTRY. And yes, of course, Luke and Joel will be on the pod early in 2022. Don't worry. And this song is on their album *A Drummer Boy Christmas*. And it's so good. Be sure to check it out.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to take a moment and share about one of our incredible partners. This podcast is sponsored by [BetterHelp Online Therapy](#). We talk about BetterHelp a lot on the show. And this month we're discussing some of the stigmas around mental health.

For example, some people think you should wait till things have gotten to a breaking point to go to therapy. No, don't do that. That's not a good solution. Therapy is a tool to utilize before things get worse and it can help you avoid those lowest lows.

And so many of us have been taught that mental health shouldn't be a normal part of life. But that's wrong too. We take care of our physical bodies by going to the gym and the doctor and careful with our nutrition. We should be taking good care of our minds too.

I've been seeing a counselor for several years. Some seasons when there's a lot going on, I see her weekly and sometimes it's more maintenance and I see her monthly. And regardless of frequency, I'm so grateful for her voice and my life.

BetterHelp is customized online therapy that offers video, phone, and even live chat sessions with your therapist. So you don't have to see anyone on camera if you don't want to. It's much more affordable than in-person therapy and you can be matched with a therapist and under 48 hours. Give it a try and see why over 2 million people have used BetterHelp Online Therapy.

This podcast is sponsored by BetterHelp, and That Sounds Fun friends get 10% off their first month at betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun. Again, that's betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun.

Intro: Now before we gather up our coats and start saying goodbye to close out our little Christmas party, we have got a very special guest today. He really needs no introduction since we're all very familiar with his work and have been since we were kids.

We love to do a TSF Q&A episode where you all send in your questions and we talk through the answers here on the pod. We've done TSF Q&As about faith and fasting with Christine Caine and Aundi Kolber and Jada Edwards. We did one on the Sabbath on reading the gospels, indigenous cultures with Charles and Siouxsan Robinson.

And you can find those actually in a playlist on our Spotify account. That's linked in the show notes. But you can find a whole playlist of our TSF Q&A episodes as well as a whole playlist of episodes with Mike Kelsey. And our That Sounds Fun Christmas music that you've been hearing our guests talk about, we have got a playlist of that too. It's all over on Spotify. You can follow on the link in the profile below.

But today I get to bring the hard-hitting Q&A questions from you guys to the big guy himself. This is our TSF Q&A with Santa Claus.

And here is how it is set up, just for every age of ear that is listening. We started the show with questions from our MiniBFFs. So the start of the show before the first break is very kid-friendly. Okay? Is everybody with me? That is the part that is for kids. That's MiniBFF stamped and approved.

And then you will hear a break and we will come back and you get to decide who listens to the show after the break. Whether it's the whole family or just the grownups or whatever. But before the first break, kid-approved. MiniBFF, yes. After the first break, your call. Hope we're all on the same page. It's only because I love you I want to be very clear. Clarity is kindness, friends! Clarity is kindness.

So here's my Q&A with our friends, back again, Santa Claus.

[00:04:22] <music>

Annie: Santa, welcome back to the podcast.

Santa Claus: Oh thank you for having me again.

Annie: It is always-

Santa Claus: You're giggly.

Annie: Well, just getting to be with you. Just getting to be with you. I can't.

Santa Claus: Touche.

Annie: I mean, you've sat down and you got yourself a packet of Liquid IV.

Santa Claus: And a paquet. And a paquet.

Annie: Both. You got your packet of Liquid IV dumped it into a water bottle and you're off to the races. I did not know you are such a fan of Liquid IV.

Santa Claus: We wrapped the sleigh this year with a Liquid IV that they sponsored.

Annie: A sponsorship?

Santa Claus: Yeah.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: I want to stay hydrated.

Annie: That's important.

Santa Claus: The eggnog can only go so far.

Annie: Certainly. Certainly.

Santa Claus: Some of you need to hear that message. By the way, they're listening. I'm going to say it again. The eggnog can only go so far. Okay, let's not push it. But make good decisions.

Annie: Let me explain to you a little bit about our... I mean, I know you're a listener of the show, but let me explain how our Q&A episodes go. We've collected 100 or plus

questions from our audience that are for you. I've separated them into category as we always do. We've got a couple of audio ones. I think we start with one of those while we're talking about eggnog because there is a really important question from Lucy.

Santa Claus: Okay, let's hear Lucy.

Annie: Right. I know.

Lucy: Hey, Santa, I was just wondering if you like regular milk or chocolate milk better. This is Lucy.

Santa Claus: Oh, Lucy. Here's a fun fact. Not many people know about the North Pole and really the history of milk. Milk originally started as chocolate milk.

Annie: What?

Santa Claus: Yes. It was before white milk. Napoleon before he would go out to battle they were just down a ton of chocolate milk, and then it would give them a sugar boost, made the fight shorter. So that's all I knew for thousands of years. I'm really more into almond milk.

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: Yeah, it's easy on the gut. Real talk.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: But always prefer it. If you're going to leave something at the chimney, please, chocolate milk.

Annie: Okay.

Santa Claus: And it can be, you know, you can pour little quick in there, it can be genuine chocolate milk from a chocolate cow. You know, any of those things.

Annie: Sure. Ashley is here with us as well. Hey, Ashley.

Ashley: Hi.

Annie: Sorry, I forgot to introduce you at the beginning. You are always on our Q&A episodes. So we're glad you're here. Ashley, I think what we should do, Santa if you're okay with this, I think in order to keep the show appropriate, let's lead with some kid questions. And then we'll ask them adult questions so our parents can decide how much of the show-

Santa Claus: Choose your adventure.

Annie: That's right. So Santa, what I'd like to do is just kind of blaze through these questions from kids. We'll start with Jace. He's seven. "Can you bring me an iPhone 12 for Christmas?"

Santa Claus: Oh sweet Jace! We have some rules that we're trying to attend to at the North Pole about phones and ages.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: So I'm trying to be sensitive.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: So I really can't answer that question.

Annie: Will, he's a fishing obsessed Idahoan, six years old. He wants to know if they'll be able to see you from the ring doorbell camera because they don't have a chimney.

Santa Claus: Well, you know, this one is tricky. We have a lot of new technology that helps us-

Annie: You do as well.

Santa Claus: Yes, of course. Because once the rings popped up, we start to get some chatter. And so we have to be very careful. We cloak ourselves so we can't be seen most of the time. But every now and then there's a slip-up and oh, boy, who's that?

Annie: Joshua, five years old. "Do you know what Legos are?" That's his question.

Santa Claus: I invented them

Annie: Right. Sissy Grace: How old are you?

Santa Claus: Well, in human years?

Annie: Yeah, if that's okay. 50,927 in two days.

Annie: You keep a close track. Leila Kate, nine years old wants to know what's your real name?

Santa Claus: Oh, Herbert Johnstone. If I can remember. It's been so long.

Annie: It's been so long. Nathaniel, age four. Will you please save me a cookie? I'll eat it for breakfast.

Santa Claus: Ooh, nope. Sorry. I'm so sorry. That's not being mean. I just have to eat them if I see them. Now I'm going to eat them.

Annie: Braden, age nine, wants to know, how do you have so many elves?

Santa Claus: We just need them. Truthfully the workforce is, you know... they get a lot of things done. So the more we have the better. I'm not great at making toys. That's not really my skill set, you know. Sort of phase of the operation. So we have to have a lot of workers.

Annie: Tilden age 4. Just how do you do it, Santa?

Santa Claus: Oh, so many people ask me this question. Probably the most asked question. It's a lot of work, a lot of core strengthening. I do a lot of planks and quick sprints in the summer. Winter I got to get a bulk up so I can be quite fit. And then just a general Joie de vivre, if you will.

Annie: I will. Hey, speaking of... This is a non-kid question. One of our friends did ask... let me look in my Santa section. One of our friends did ask if you speak Spanish—Jessica—and French.

Santa Claus: Oui.

Annie: Okay. Okay, yeah, I believe it. We have one more question from a kid. Well, it's actually a double thing for children.

Kevin: My name is Kevin and I'm five. And Santa, what kind of animal do you like?

Jaron: My name is Jaron, I'm seven and almost eight. And I wonder what's your favorite toy to make? Hey Santa.

Annie: That's from Kevin and from Jaron. And so, Kevin, again, what kind of animal do you like?

Santa Claus: I love all animals, except snakes. I would say my favorite animal is a dolphin.

Annie: Surprising.

Santa Claus: I'm a big aquatic guy. Not many people know that.

Annie: No.

Santa Claus: Very fascinated by the underwater things.

Annie: That makes sense that you work in the sky.

Santa Claus: I'm so far away.

Annie: Right. Right.

Santa Claus: It breeds curiosity.

Annie: Do you have a toy?

Santa Claus: Yeah, Jaron asked my favorite toy. It's changed. I used to love the little horses, the little wooden horses. Those were so fun. They've kind of gone out of vogue, so to speak. Now, it's really fun to... I'm trying other little puppy things this year.

Annie: Oh, yeah, they're like stress toys.

Santa Claus: Stress toys, yes. I get a little worked up. I find myself just a little intermittent... It feels good. It's good for the things.

Annie: Do you have elves who test those?

Santa Claus: I have elves who test me. I'm looking at you little elf. You know, he listens. He's thin ice. Yeah, probably the little whatever those are called. Stress poppers.

Annie: That's the one this year.

Santa Claus: Yeah, I like those.

Annie: Okay. Santa, if you could give a message to any of our MiniBFF, any of our young friends, what's your message for 2021?

Santa Claus: I'm always watching. No, I'm joking.

Annie: Oh, boy!

Santa Claus: That's just little Santa joke. Is just to remember mommy and daddy sometimes feel overwhelmed. And so sometimes it's nice for the little kiddies just to be kind and patient and know we're all doing our best. And Santa is at work making fun toys for everyone and doing his best. So maybe stop judging him or hold him to such a high standard because he's just a very old human. But just a human too. Just maybe think about that.

Annie: Sounds like you're a little stressed.

Santa Claus: Okay, back off. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It's been long year. It's been a very long.

Annie: Has it? Longer than 2020, did it feel like?

Santa Claus: I think 10 times long.

Annie: Why?

Santa Claus: A lot of people want a lot of things. So I'm really having to double down this year. I think everybody's really looking for some relief via toys or escaping mentally. So I'm really having to make sure I deliver. Maybe more than ever.

Annie: Wow. Okay.

Santa Claus: Or at least since the Dark Ages, that was hard. That was literally dark. But since then, probably not.

Annie: Yeah, this had been the hardest like that. We're going to go ahead and put a little break right here so that our parent friends who are listening can determine whether their kids get to keep listening. But that was certainly the section that our MiniBFFs are welcome to listen to as you're answering their questions specifically.

Santa Claus: Absolutely. Yes.

Annie: Now, you can kind of know. Now it's on-

Santa Claus: Let it be a go as we say.

Annie: Yes, you can.

[00:13:07] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! That is the end of our MiniBFF section of the interview with Santa. And we're interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, [Olive and June](#). It is a fun and busy time of the year with holiday gatherings and concerts and family get-togethers all going on and I love how having my nails done really finishes an outfit, right?

Olive and June's Mani System has every single thing you need for a gorgeous at-home manicure. And it's all in one box. With how fast my brain moves and in a million different directions, I am here for anything that makes us process simple. And Olive and June Mani System does just that.

Five simple steps, all the tools including the poppy, their patented brush handle that you can switch out on all their bottles, it makes it so easy to hold and paint smoothly with both hands. No more oopsies that end up with my nails looking like one of my MiniBFFs was experimenting. Nope.

Instead what I end up with is nails that look professionally done but without that Salon at price tag. The Mani System with six polishes breaks down to about \$2 a manicure. I know. I know. Way less than it could cost.

Their polish color options are beautiful. They even have glitter options. You know how happy that makes me, and that signature top coat, that's so shiny and does not chip like for a week, you guys. I mean that never happens. But with Olive and June, it does, and it can for you too. Getting beautiful salon-perfect nails at home is now a dream come true with Olive and June. Your new nail life is here.

Visit OliveandJune.com/THATSOUNDSFUN and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN for 20% off your first Mani System. What a great gift as well. This is an exclusive offer that you can only get here. That's OliveandJune.com/THATSOUNDSFUN. The code is THATSOUNDSFUN for 20% off your first Mani System.

And now we're back to our conversation with Santa. Again, the MiniBFF-approved portion is complete. This is now an all scape. So you get to decide who listens in your family from this moment forward. Okay, come on Santa.

[00:15:10] <music>

Mattie: Hey, guys, it's Mattie Jackson Selecman, author of *Lemons on Friday*. My favorite Christmas song is *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

Annie: And now back to finish up our conversation with Jolly Old St. Nick.

[00:15:25] <music>

Annie: All right, Santa. Let's jump into some categories of questions that have come in if you're ready for that.

Santa Claus: Let's do it. Yes, I am.

Annie: I actually would like to start... one of our podcast friends who you know as well, Bran from *Deck the Hallmark-*

Santa Claus: Of course. Of course.

Annie: Great show.

Santa Claus: Great show.

Annie: Bran has a pretty intense question.

Santa Claus: What a great name for a show. *Deck the Hallmark*.

Annie: Right?

Santa Claus: So good.

Annie: You've loved it.

Santa Claus: I love it.

Annie: We're going to hear a question from Bran real quick and then we'll talk a little bit about *Hallmark*.

Santa Claus: Oh, love it.

Bran: Hey, Santa, it's Bran from your favorite podcast, Deck the Hallmark. I'm a big fan. A first-time caller though. And I got a question for you. I once thought it would be a good idea to do this challenge where for everybody who bought a book that we wrote, I'd eat a cookie on their behalf. I didn't make it very far into the challenge. It was probably the biggest mistake of my life. And I didn't go around the world eating cookies.

So I want to know if the story is true you eat cookies and milk. Everybody puts it out and you eat it and stuff. How do you do that? Because I've tried and it's tough. Do you train throughout the year? Do you got some sort of magic, dissolving power? I don't know. Whatever. Let me know. I want to know. Merry Christmas, Santa.

Santa Claus: Oh, Bran, thank you so much for that question. I will say this. We know that's not your biggest mistake. Remember Suzanne. You should have asked out in ninth grade. And that's a real regret and that's okay. It's a safe place. But you still think about her. Appropriately. I would say for me, we have to get my metabolism to that like a baby cheetah.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: Yeah. I have a certain amount of workouts I do. I take a lot of natural supplements. It's just basically engine room down there just really cranking. And so the night of Christmas, it's like a tree chipper. I'm just muddling through cookies. And the milk helps it. It sort of like if you've just even seen the eating contest with-

Annie: With a hot dog.

Santa Claus: Yeah, they put the hot dogs in the water and whaaap. That's basically what I'm doing. You don't want to see it. You don't want to.

Annie: No, I don't want to watch it. No, I'm not interested in that at all. Let's talk about Hallmark movies for a minute. We have a lot of questions. Margaret, Kelly, Laura, Isaac. Everyone wants to know, there's two big questions in the movie category. One of them is, do you like Hallmark movies? Do you watch them? Do you have them on?

Santa Claus: All the time.

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: Yes. During the summer, spring-

Annie: Just keep them going. They're just inspirational.

Santa Claus: They never end. Literally, we've tried to watch all of them and we still haven't.

Annie: Mm-hmm. The other main question about movies is there are a lot of Christmas movies featuring Santa and a lot of people are interested to know, do those represent you well?

Santa Claus: Harumph!

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: Don't get me started.

Annie: Harumph is what you said.

Santa Claus: Listen, I for a time had an agent.

Annie: Oh.

Santa Claus: Hmm. Because I was so badly misrepresented for so long.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: I thought, "Just let me be in the movie."

Annie: Right. Certainly.

Santa Claus: And I don't want to quote them exactly but one person said, "He's too handsome."

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: That was like, "Okay, I can't do anything about that." But it was going to take away from the star of the show. And all of a sudden the kids aren't watching for him anymore. Mark-Paul Gosselaar, I think, was the star of this particular show. And so it's hard because you-

Annie: So they were saying you're hotter than Mark-Paul Gosselaar. You're hotter than Zack Morris?

Santa Claus: Well, of course, than him. But even anyone in the show. It was just you're just like a tractor beam pulling us all in was the exact quote from the agent.

Annie: Yeah, that's what I heard.

Santa Claus: So I can't be in them. I guess too much of a luminary. Sort of like a black hole just pulling all the attention-

Annie: A black hole of attractive?

Santa Claus: No. That was on my card for about three years and Mrs. Claus was like, "Uh," after we got married. But yeah, it's been hard because they're not my vibe. They're some that have done better than others. But you know, it's hard. It could be like someone casting who you're supposed to be and "Hey, this is going to be Annie in our movie," and you're like, "There's nothing like me."

Annie: Right. Right. Wow. So none of them really feel like a good representation of you?

Santa Claus: *Miracle on 34th* was close. I really enjoyed that performance. You see the pain too. That's a big thing people misunderstand. Like, "What's going on in here?"

Annie: Let's stick with the Mrs. Claus category.

Santa Claus: Okay.

Annie: Because wow is how people have questions on Mrs. Claus.

Santa Claus: Oh dear! Oh, dear! It's about to get spicy.

Annie: Kids, be gone.

Santa Claus: Get out of here.

Annie: First of all, a lot of people... Christine, Bethany, a lot of people are saying, How did you and Mrs. Claus meet? I don't know this story either.

Santa Claus: It's an app called Winter instead of Tinder. It was just one of those moments I just could feel I was ready to settle down and I needed some help. You know, there's a lot going on.

Annie: How do you feel about online dating? We have a lot of friends listening who we've-

Santa Claus: It's great. I mean, listen, I'm a product. I'm a successful story.

Annie: You're a successful story from Winter.

Santa Claus: Yes. Now, this is thousands of years ago. It was in newspapers. It was on like Papyrus. And you would just get a match and you just put swipe, and there'd be a crude drawing of a woman and you'd have to guess that's what she looked like.

Annie: If you throw them to the right or throw them to the left based on-

Santa Claus: One was the fire, one was the files.

Annie: Yeah.

Santa Claus: Fire, files, fire. It's a drawing of this woman. One of her legs was shorter than the other in the picture. She didn't have an arm. But I thought, "I'm curious about her." And so I traveled 16 miles on foot to a cabin and knocked on the door and her father came and we had a discussion. And there she was just radiant. We sat and ate mutton together and talked about bear pelt, which was such a fascinating story. She knew so much.

Annie: Did she also live in the North Pole, or have y'all relocated there?

Santa Claus: No, we've relocated, yes.

Annie: Got it.

Santa Claus: She was in what's now Miami.

Annie: Okay.

Santa Claus: Hence the fascinating bear part. It's so warm here.

Annie: Yeah. I cannot believe y'all grew up in Miami.

Santa Claus: She did.

Annie: You grew up 60 miles.

Santa Claus: I traveled to see them.

Annie: Oh, good.

Santa Claus: And I have the slate of time, so it's quick.

Annie: Oh, got it. Okay.

Santa Claus: A lot of my Winter interests were everywhere because we get there.

Annie: Oh, yeah. Your like location radius?

Santa Claus: Oh, yeah, it was huge.

Annie: Global.

Santa Claus: Anywhere other than Baltimore.

Annie: Tell me more.

Santa Claus: No, I can't. It's legally bound.

Annie: Okay.

Santa Claus: Yeah, I can't.

Annie: Just you never wanted to date a woman from Baltimore.

Santa Claus: No, I did. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Anyway, I'm probably getting sued for that one.

Annie: Okay. You and Mrs. Claus met on Winter in Miami, relocated to the North Pole?

Santa Claus: Hmm, true. Sorry, I giggle because it's a funny story.

Annie: It's a good memory.

Santa Claus: It's a bad memory but now it's a good memory.

Annie: Sure. What's one piece of marriage advice you and Mrs. Claus would give?

Santa Claus: Just to keep the main thing the main thing.

Annie: Which is candy?

Santa Claus: Well, it changes. That's why this is tricky advice because it's always changing. The main thing is always changing, isn't it? But you know, I think it's when you're running a conglomerate like I do, it's hard to remember like this is person I need to invest in as much as I am. You know, the New Game Boys, you know, Nintendo's, Nerf bats. Just whatever... fill in the blank. We do a lot of trips together. We'll go see her family in Miami which is always really fun.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: Different locale.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: I try not to be spotted but it's very hard. Summer travel for us is easy because people aren't looking for me.

Annie: Sure. They're just like, "Oh, there's a guy who looks like Santa.

Santa Claus: "That's a really handsome guy that looks like Santa." That's really good. So that's easier. But we just try to keep moving and interests are the same. We build snowmen and sloman. They don't go anywhere. That's the nature of the... anyway.

Annie: Grace wants to know what's your favorite meal that Mrs. Claus makes you and why?

Santa Claus: She is not a great cook.

Annie: Oh-oh.

Santa Claus: Oh-oh. She doesn't listen to this, sorry, so I can say that.

Annie: I know. She is not listening.

Santa Claus: She burns a lot of things in the oven. So I have to fake "Oh, this is delicious." And guess what I'm eating? You can't tell by looking at it. That's never a good sign. But I will say she does a good... She does a pizza. And it's edible at times.

Annie: Okay. She does a pizza. Let's jump to the elves for a little bit. We got a collection of questions about the elves.

Santa Claus: Here we go.

Annie: And the hot topic as you can imagine-

Santa Claus: Restroom. I knew it. I knew it.

Annie: There was a follow-up question from a few years ago about whether you've gotten the elves appropriately sized toilets.

Santa Claus: We did and it took a while. We had to change some things.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: But yes, we did.

Annie: Sorted.

Santa Claus: Sorted out. Yes. Finally.

Annie: Elf on the Shelf. We got some questions about those guys. Do you decide which ones become the elves on the shelves?

Santa Claus: So here's the funny story. That started in the... it was a statue actually. There was an elf who had one... he was probably the most well-known elf in the North Pole. Belphanticus was his name. We just called him a Little Belly, which it was ironic because he was very skinny.

So we made a little statue of Belly and we put him up on a shelf where people could see him. And he was very cute, and everybody would pay homage to him. He's very wonderful, respected elf. And then one year, we noticed he was missing. And I thought, "Well, where's..." This is what I said. "Where's the Elf on the shelf?" That's what I said.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: And someone had hidden him in a different room. So it became this fun game. And I was like, "Well, where is he?" I was so excited because there's not a lot of excitement at the North Pole. A lot of work. And so I ran into the other room, and sure enough, someone put it next to Christmas tree. We have a Christmas tree in every room. Every three feet actually. There's a ton of Christmas trees. And it looks like little inside forests. I said, "Well, what's he doing here?" And someone confessed, "Oh, I moved him." And I thought, "Well, isn't this a fun game?"

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: And so now Little Belly, at the end, someone said, Santa!" They have high voice. They actually have American accent. "Santa, why don't you put elf on a shelf in a box and send it to the children?" And I fired him because he made some noise a little bit. But he had a great idea. Terrence was his name. And we packaged it and it has just been such a triumph.

Annie: Yeah, it has truly been a triumph. They are everywhere.

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: That is amazing. Okay, thank you for answering that. That was kind of our main question about elves. But Katie wants to know if you were to give an above and beyond 2021 award to a member of your team, who's going to go to?

Santa Claus: Mrs. Claus.

Annie: Really? She's done it. She's had a year.

Santa Claus: Well, she's just such a supporter. And also if I don't say that she will be mad at me.

Annie: Great. Let's jump to some cookie questions.

Santa Claus: Of course. I love that.

Annie: Great. I mean, Rebecca, Tammy, a handful of people are saying, What is your favorite type of cookie? Suzy wants to know the answer to that question.

Santa Claus: Rebecca, don't call him back. I'm sorry. Go ahead. I just had to say that.

Annie: Oh, wow. Right.

Santa Claus: Keep going.

Annie: You had to get it out there.

Santa Claus: Yes. Keep going.

Annie: Favorite cookie. Everybody wants to know.

Santa Claus: Fudge stripe.

Annie: From the elves? From the Keebler elves? We've discussed this, the different elves.

Santa Claus: I know. I know. Listen, this is a hot topic. But if I'm speaking from the heart-

Annie: Truly.

Santa Claus: I would say, I mean, without really a doubt it'd be a fudge stripe.

Annie: Wow. Least favorite cookie. That's another question.

Santa Claus: Anything with nuts.

Annie: Oh, you're out on nuts altogether?

Santa Claus: Listen, I do it for the children. But woof, it's not.

Annie: Right. I mean, as you were telling Bran, it's not easy.

Santa Claus: Yeah. Yeah.

Annie: But nuts. Just forget it. Don't put anything out there.

Santa Claus: Listen, you know, I'll eat it. Will I give you gifts next year? Probably not. I'm kidding. I'm kidding. I'm kidding. But not a big fun.

Annie: Crunchy or soft cookies?

Santa Claus: Oh, soft. Is there any other kind?

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: I'm a crunchy kind.

Santa Claus: You're a crunchy?

Annie: Yes.

Santa Claus: I mean, I knew that.

Annie: Right. Right.

Santa Claus: They're just like hockey pucks.

Annie: I like it.

Santa Claus: Can I just say?

Annie: Yeah.

Santa Claus: I've noticed there's a big obsession with salt on cookies.

Annie: Yeah. What is that?

Santa Claus: And I love it.

Annie: Oh, do you? You're into it?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: This was not a thing for thousands of years. And then all of a sudden, I remember being at this one chef and she had made some for the kids and you could tell the difference. And I thought, Well, that's a savory little punch on the old tongue there. And I loved it.

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Okay. Did you take it back and tell everybody in North Pole?

Santa Claus: Well, I tried but that's old traditions.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: And I was judged a lot. But it's slowly gaining ground. There's a little pop up. You know, little situation up. This one's doing them and they're doing okay.

Annie: Oh, y'all have like, pop up restaurant and that kind of stuff?

Santa Claus: Sure. Sure.

Annie: So someone's doing-

Santa Claus: Trials.

Annie: A salted cookies situation. .

Santa Claus: Yeah. Well, no one's getting assaulted. That's a joke I make every time someone says that. Every time. I'm glad you laughed.

Annie: Do you remember the name of the pop up restaurant that's up there right now?

Santa Claus: Oh, I have to think about it. Okay, there's so many. The one that is selling the salted cookies I think it's... I'm trying to remember. This is tough. It's not assault me, not. It's something that has a com that I'm forgetting. I can't remember off the top of my head. They've got dot com too, which I'll try to remember.

Annie: Yeah. We'll put the link in the show notes.

Santa Claus: Okay.

Annie: That's great.

Santa Claus: Oh, unsalted mysteries. Something like that.

Annie: Yeah, that's very good.

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Oh, quick question from Elizabeth. If you know you're going to move in 2022, how early in the year do you need to know our new addresses? Is there a change of address form?

Santa Claus: No, no. That's just kind of how it works.

Annie: Oh, great. Okay.

Santa Claus: If I know when you're sleeping and I know when you're waking up, I know where you are. It's hard for everybody else.

Annie: That's good. That's good. Taylor says, "What is the best thing about snowglobes?"

Santa Claus: Hmm, this is a tough one. The kind of misrepresentations, honestly, if I think. I just don't like the violence. You're shaking to get snow. It's such a violet-

Annie: I've never thought about that.

Santa Claus: Give me joy, but shaking and disrupting this polar home. So I like them. I don't love them. Although one of my favorite Christmas songs is *Snowglobe* by Matt Wertz. I love that song.

Annie: Oh, that whole album really.

Santa Claus: So great.

Annie: That is interesting you bring that up. Let me find it on my list of questions. We have a whole bunch of questions specifically for you and about you. And one of them is what is Santa's favorite Dave Barnes Christmas song? Because Dave Barnes just had a new album come out.

Santa Claus: I know.

Annie: A new Christmas album.

Santa Claus: I financed it in more ways than one. I've told you this before. He kind of can't do wrong. I'm at the mercy of his whims. I just really enjoy everything he does because he's a genius. A handsome genius. A handsome, humorous genius.

Annie: Say the name of his new album. It's called *I Wish It Would Snow*.

Annie: *I Wish It Would Snow*. Santa, Doug's asking this as well as Robin, Santa. How does Santa feel about the podcast Dadville. And will he ever be a guest?

Santa Claus: Listen, again, anything Dave is a part of, I just love. I just can't get enough of.

Annie: You can't get enough. You can't get enough.

Santa Claus: No, no, no. It's like looking in the mirror. Do you know what I mean? Sometimes?

Annie: Is it?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: What a guy. It's probably my favorite podcast.

Annie: Yeah. Really?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: That's tough to hear.

Annie: But I understand it. I understand it. I just don't love it. There was a question about Pastor Phil Luginbottom, who is also a friend of the show. Dave knows him really well. I assume you know him.

Santa Claus: I do.

Annie: What do you think Pastor Phil is going to be getting for Christmas?

Santa Claus: You know, Pastor Phil is a bit of what we call a hot mess. And so he's asked for some signed... He wanted to get all of the Gaither vocal band signed posters, which was tough. That was some tough sledding. I couldn't-

Annie: Because you can't sled in the past.

Santa Claus: Well, there you go. And I tried to tell him and he got really emotional.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: So he said he would settle for all of the members of Avalon.

Annie: Oh, that's awesome.

Santa Claus: Which was easier. So I was able to do that.

Annie: They both are beautiful things to get at Christmas. Get in my life.

Santa Claus: And then he also wanted... and this I couldn't do. I couldn't find it. He wanted all the video... specifically, he said, "I want only the DVD of *Dallas*."

Annie: He wanted VHS of the show *Dallas*.

Santa Claus: All the episodes. And he asked for two of the last one. I don't want to give it away. And I was like, listen, "I can do so much. But that's a big ask."

Annie: You know him so well.

Santa Claus: Yeah, I do.

Annie: Your ability to know.

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Yeah, that's good. Okay, let's say in the category of Santa things. Retirement. Is that something you consider? We got a couple of questions about retirement.

Santa Claus: That's kind of a dirty one.

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: You don't retire. You're gifted not working is how we feel.

Annie: Okay, got it.

Santa Claus: And then the next Santa will, you know, I'd say reign. Although that's truly how I feel for the next you know, maybe 10,000 years.

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Santa Claus: So I still have got a good 4,000 left.

Annie: Oh, great. Oh, great.

Santa Claus: And the retirement it's a great setup they have, you know, just the way it all works. And health insurance is great. It's really good.

Annie: Yeah.

Santa Claus: Again, kind of gotta be quiet about how all that works. Not quite the Trinity. It's a little more understandable. But it's in the same realm. The same people did it—set it up. It's some of their work.

Annie: Right. Right. Right. The same founding system.

Santa Claus: Look at me doing another language. Sorry. I forgot I was in America. My time in a time clock is all jacked up.

Annie: This is a little bit of a serious question. What is the hardest thing about being Santa?

Santa Claus: I just want to acknowledge first I feel seen. Not a lot of people ask me them. The weight fluctuation is a doozy.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: That is a real doozy. Just carrying that for that month-

Annie: So you still go up and down?

Santa Claus: Oh, yeah. No, I'm solid 165 in the summer and ripped. I mean, I'm in really good shape. And then boy, just not there. That's tough I think. Just not feeling like anybody knows the plight—what it's like to be... you're having to please everyone all the time.

Annie: Everyone.

Santa Claus: And what if Santa wants something? Santa doesn't get "Ask Santa what he wants?" I'm sorry, that's why we do this. But you know anyway, and just animal maintenance in general. That's a doozy.

Annie: Because it's just the keeping up with the reindeer.

Santa Claus: Good Great. Stinky animals. Wonderful. So heartfelt. They really are dedicated but woof.

Annie: One of our friends did ask if there are more than nine.

Santa Claus: Oh, we have this triples. And we keep it in the family line so Rudolph is you know, it's his son and then he'll have another... You know, because if they get sick or have sniffles... that's an old joke.

Annie: Yeah.

Santa Claus: Rudolph. Anyway.

Annie: You may not want to answer this, which is fine. We can always cut. So this is not like-

Santa Claus: This is going to be how much I'm worth. Because I cannot answer that. But let's just say a lot. Anyway.

Annie: Mrs. Clause knew what she was getting herself into.

Santa Claus: She was a little bit of a gold digger.

Annie: We got a couple of questions in that we're kind of doing some fact-checking on reindeer. Because apparently in the winter male reindeer actually lose their antlers and it's the females who still have them which would imply all the reindeer are actually female that are flying with you.

Santa Claus: Oh, here we go.

Annie: I don't know that we can talk about it. But I wanted to ask in case we could.

Santa Claus: Let's just say I'm not saying yes, but I'm not saying no.

Annie: Well, I mean, at some point we would like some representation.

Santa Claus: I will have someone call you. My representatives.

Annie: That's exactly right. Thank you.

Santa Claus: Oh, I'm sorry. I misread that. Usually, that's where this goes.

[00:37:06] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, Simplified and their [Simplified Planner](#). Simplified was started by one of my BFF Emily Ley. Y'all know and love her.

When she was young, busy overwhelmed mom, she needed somewhere to write out her thoughts and her to-dos to help her keep it all together. And what she created helps keep us all together. Simplified's mission is to equip and inspire women with the tools they need to simplify their lives. And their Cornerstone product is the Simplified Planner.

Get everything out of your head and onto paper so you can spend more time focusing on the things that matter. 2022 editions are available now. I've already started filling mine out. And the level of peace I feel just knowing that I can take a few days off for Christmas, and not be worried about forgetting something or any important ideas or meetings falling through the cracks, oh, it's priceless.

If you're not a paper planner person, I get it. I don't relate, but I get it. Simplified also has tons of other beautiful products to help you simplify your life too. Notepads, baby books, art prints, journals, and more. Just go to emilyley.co/thatoundsfun and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN15 for 15% off your order. Again, that's emilyley.co/thatoundsfun and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN15 for 15% off your order.

Sponsor: And I've got one more amazing partner to tell you about, Chime. Okay, is it just me? Listen, we've talked about this. Are overdraft fees absolutely out of hand? Y'all, in 2019 traditional banks charge people \$11 billion in overdraft fees. Can you believe that?

Well, thankfully, Chime does things differently. Chime is an award-winning app in a debit card that has saved us, members, more than \$10 billion in overdraft fees with their SpotMe fee-free overdraft. Eligible members can overdraft up to \$200 on debit card purchases and cash withdrawals with absolutely no fees. It's like having friends looking out for you and your money. Now you deserve to have financial peace of mind.

Join the millions of Americans already loving Chime. Signup takes two minutes and it does not affect your credit score. So get started today at

chime.com/thatoundsfine. That's chime.com/thatoundsfun. Banking services provided by and debit card issued by The Bancorp Bank or Stride Bank N.A.; Members FDIC.

SpotMe eligibility requirements apply. Overdraft only applies to debit card purchases and cash withdrawals. Limits start at \$20 and may be increased up to \$200 by Chime. Chime members overdraft fees savings based on eligible members' use of SpotMe versus \$33 average overdraft fee. Overdraft fee data based on bank rate checking account survey and CRL June 2020 overdraft fees.

[00:39:54] <music>

Dallas: Hi, my name is Dallas Jenkins. I'm the creator of *The Chosen*, and my favorite Christmas song is *O Holy Night*. "A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices" is one of the most beautiful sentences ever written. And that's why *O Holy Night* is my favorite Christmas song by far.

Annie: And now back to finish up our conversation with Jolly Old Saint.

[00:40:14] <music>

Annie: We're going to call this section the complaints since we have that.

Santa Claus: Oh-oh. Oh, dear!

Annie: This is an audio one.

Santa Claus: Can we just call it the naughty list?

Annie: Yeah.

Annie: Oh, that's great. This is the naughty list because we do have a couple of questions. So the reindeer conversation that can be on the naughty list. We also have an audio question for you from a friend.

Santa Claus: Okay, here we go.

Woman: Santa, I've been watching Hallmark for years now, and they would have me believe that you're a wonderful matchmaker. However, thus far, you have been wildly unsuccessful in being my matchmaker. What's the deal, dude? What do I got to do?

Annie: We got a couple of those Santa, a couple of people looking for partners and asking you for them.

Santa Claus: Yes. First of all, try Winder.

Annie: Right? I can't believe that we haven't tried that-

Santa Claus: Very expensive joining.

Annie: ...Papyrus app. Papyrus? You said it earlier. I don't know how to say it.

Santa Claus: I say it a million ways.

Annie: Do you know how to say it, actually?

Santa Claus: Papyrus.

Annie: Papyrus?

Santa Claus: Papyrus.

Annie: Okay.

Santa Claus: You know, the matchmaking is tricky first of all because I think the tone... we could see maybe someone's on the naughty list already by just the tone of the question. It doesn't sound very respectful. Sounds a little judgy. Which may be let's work on that part of our personality before we go on a matchmaking, right? Listen, sometimes we need to hear hard things, people.

And it's tricky, you know, because we did that for a few years, about 50 years where we match made. And some were great and some were really, really bad.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: And so I just thought, "We're not going to do that anymore." So I've just gotten out of that space.

Annie: Yeah, yeah. That's great. Let's stay on the naughty list questions. Mayson is asking: are cats on the nice list or naughty list?

Santa Claus: Both.

Annie: Interesting.

Santa Claus: Only animal to be in that.

Annie: Really?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: The only animal on both, the nice list and the naughty list.

Santa Claus: Same cat. It's very confusing as Santa. Because woof it swings so fast as do the tails.

Annie: Becky wants to know... this is a hot question. Once you're on the naughty list, how do you get back on the nice list? Help us.

Santa Claus: People ask me this. It's easy to go from nice to naughty-

Annie: Oh, certainly.

Santa Claus: ...than from naughty to nice.

Annie: That feels true.

Santa Claus: If you go to Santaclaus.go\edu.mindspring.net43729_Q912, there's a 50-page manual. It's a PDF. You can download it. And if you follow every one of those to the tee, that begins the process of getting you back on the nice list.

Annie: Wow. That is tough.

Santa Claus: Well, listen, we take it seriously.

Annie: And you got yourself there. Get yourself out of it.

Santa Claus: There we go. There we go.

Santa Claus: Thank you, Annie. Thank you.

Annie: We're going to stay in the naughty list category. But this is not a person's problem. This is Abby saying, "Santa, how are you doing with all the supply chain struggle? It's real."

Santa Claus: It is very hard. I was on the phone with Bezos two days ago about this very thing. We supply a lot of their products and so he was in my...he was chipping at me.

Annie: I'm sure.

Santa Claus: You know, just mad. And it's not much I can do. I mean, we're doing the best what we supply but we can't... you know, the things that are coming from overseas, I got to do so much about.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: I can try to threaten. I don't really threaten you know, but-

Annie: Probably.

Santa Claus: ...it doesn't. I'm just a nice guy.

Annie: By nature, you're a nice guy. I'm sorry to hear that. I was imagining that was true. What's the most asked-for gift in 2021?

Santa Claus: 2022. I get a lot of that. "Can we just get through?"

Annie: "Can we finish this thing?"

Santa Claus: "Can we just start over?" You know, that and husbands and wives. Yeah, that's a big, you know, we get a lot of like... and that's even with people who have them. I mean, that's a tricky one. Whoops! You know who you are.

Annie: Sarah says, "I know that the elves make toys. But where do puppies come from?"

Santa Claus: Hmm. So when a mommy puppy and a daddy puppy love each other and they're dedicated. Oh, sorry. I read that wrong. There's a part of... we kind of have a zoo at the North Pole. We have a lot of animals.

Annie: Sure. Yeah. The animal maintenance is your number two hardest thing about being Santa.

Santa Claus: It's so hard. It's so hard.

Annie: Yeah.

Santa Claus: Puppies and sort of... we call it the cute area. The cute zone is technically what it's called. And there are a lot of puppies there. And they stay puppies. That's something people don't know is they don't actually grow until we deliver. They stay in sort of puppy state which is just-

Annie: They're frozen in puppyness.

Santa Claus: Yes, that was the name of my first actually album. Which it didn't sell a lick.

Annie: But those puppies licked.

Santa Claus: Oh, hey, now. Hey, now.

Annie: That's it.

Santa Claus: Like a whole city salt block. But they just stayed. So it's fun because if I have a stressful day, I'll just go over to cute town and hunker down with some puppies.

Annie: Oh, they stay puppies until they're delivered.

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: But you can make them all year long and they just stay puppies until they're dropped off.

Santa Claus: That's one of the best things about... It's probably one of the things I'll miss the most here in 4,000 years.

Annie: Wow. Oh, gosh, that is a really cute idea. That makes me very happy. We're going to switch now to some spiritual things.

Santa Claus: Ooh, yeah.

Annie: We've got a whole section of Jesus question. So let's all remember what we're doing here. Let's all remember. If you have concerns about what we're about to say, the email is santaanniefdowns.com.

Santa Claus: No, no, no, no, no. Go to that website I told you about earlier.

Annie: Yeah. If you go there there's also a complaint department. I bet you have to do some more clicking though.

Santa Claus: It gets circled right back to your own email.

Annie: It's a boomerang. I mean, Isabella is right. Her question is, are you and Jesus on good terms given that you're both stars? There's someone say rivals of Christmas day?

Santa Claus: Oh, never rivals.

Annie: No.

Santa Claus: He's the head honcho. I'm the John the Baptist to His Jesus literal Jesus.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: No, He's still running things. We do check-ins and see how things are going. I'll say, "Should we do this?" He's great. They have a lot invested in the company. We're on great terms.

Annie: How often, Ashley is asking, do you and Jesus talk about what to get each person? Does he sometimes tell you what people need?

Santa Claus: When I get confused, I'll send up a little kneemail and he'll tell me, "No, you know, she's trending in the wrong direction." It's kind way. He says it.

Annie: He says things nicer than-

Santa Claus: And then I'll, you know, no puppy this year. That's one more I get to play with.

Annie: They surround up there. "How do you celebrate Jesus' birth? Do you go to His Christmas Eve service," Kendra's asking?

Santa Claus: Well, it's tricky because that's my busiest day. We kind of do a celebration about a week before. And it's great. We'll fly talents in sometimes. It's a really big day.

Annie: We've talked a version of this for I've never heard that talent flies up there. Like none of our friends have ever told me that but I bet there's an NDA, and you just can't talk about it here.

Santa Claus: Well, I shouldn't say this. You know, you may get a call from my representative about this. But if you've seen *Men in Black* the movie, you know how they did a little bit of forgetting little stick thing.

Annie: Getting stick, yeah. I'm with you.

Santa Claus: Which I'm writing in the middle of that book right now. It's a children's book about discipline. But-

Annie: You almost got a spit take from me Santa. That was very gross.

Santa Claus: But yes, we will kind of we bring them in and they do a big show. We had Michael Bolton last year and huge. He's a huge guy. And then sadly on the way... that's why he asked me, "Mike. Well, you played North Pole..." I wish I have. But we pop and then drop them back off and they never know what for the where.

Annie: Best show. Who's the best has come through?

Santa Claus: Bolton was good. I mean, I didn't know we could wrap. That was a-

Annie: Gifts or?

Santa Claus: Touché. I did mean gifts. But he did actually do a wrap in the middle of the... while he wrapped.

Annie: He wrapped while he wrapped in the middle of his concert.

Santa Claus: He was amazing.

Annie: Wow, that is impressive.

Santa Claus: He did *Lose Yourself* by Eminem.

Annie: Oh, he did *Lose Yourself*?

Santa Claus: Yes. He couldn't remember most of it. But the part he could was amazing.

Annie: This is Holly and Maya. Jesus had his top three friends. Who are your top three best friends, Santa?

Santa Claus: Oh, you know, it's hard when you're as old as I am. Abe Lincoln and I had a great relationship.

Annie: Oh, that's good to hear.

Santa Claus: He was a good man. Terrible at basketball.

Annie: Surprising. I heard he was tall.

Santa Claus: No, that was why I drafted him, and then boy, just bricks. Yeah, you know, just brick after brick. Also, he would say, what is basketball? Because he wasn't-

Annie: Sure. You're asking him to play a game that didn't exist. Wow.

Santa Claus: Ronald McDonald. The original man. They've named it after a man who had nothing to do with the restaurant.

Annie: Wow. But he was great.

Santa Claus: Wonderful man. Great swimmer. And then it just fluctuates, you know.

Annie: Making new friends.

Santa Claus: Mrs. Claus is always... You know, she's the OG. She's number one.

Annie: Certainly. We have audio question from one of our friends about Jesus.

Emma: Hi, Santa. This is Emma. What kind of things did Jesus asked for from Santa when He was a boy?

Santa Claus: You know, it was more chats.

Annie: Oh, yeah, there we go.

Santa Claus: Now He didn't really need anything. So we could just do check-ins.

Annie: Oh, friendship.

Santa Claus: He won't need anything and he'd be like, "Well, just ask daddy." That was a joke because he knew I can't do anything. But admittedly thought of me.

Annie: Oh boy! That's right.

Santa Claus: Just to be considerate.

Annie: Yeah, that is sweet. All right, Santa homestretch. We've got just a handful more. Are you doing okay?

Santa Claus: Oh, yeah, I'm doing great!

Annie: Anything we're not talking about that you want to make sure we cover?

Santa Claus: I'll think about it.

Annie: Okay. You just keep jumping in. This is a big question. What kind of socks do you recommend with boots? As you have much experience with the best boot sock combo in the North Pole.

Santa Claus: Thick ones. You want some really heavy-duty socks. I have found Bombas.

Annie: Oh.

Santa Claus: Am I saying that right? Bombas.

Annie: I believe so. Very comfortable. Very comfortable.

Santa Claus: Bombas. I didn't know if it was a French pronunciation. Bombas. Or maybe Brazilian.

Annie: How would they say it?

Santa Claus: Bombas.

Annie: Oh, same?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Wow. What does that word mean in Portuguese?

Santa Claus: Quicker foot.

Annie: Wow, quicker foot. Yeah, that makes sense.

Santa Claus: I can't remember if it meant baby giraffe. It's one of the two. It's how you say the b in the middle. Not the first one. You got to come in tough on that one. But those are really great. Those are wonderful.

Annie: Okay. Robert wants to know how fast is the sleigh go? Do you have a seatbelt?

Santa Claus: You know, we've clocked it at around three lightspeed.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: We tried to get it up to five but they're worried about my face just melting right off the butt. Whoopsy. Quick way to lose weight, however. What was the other question?

Annie: And do you have a seatbelt?

Santa Claus: It's very complicated. It's like a full-body thing sort of. We tried a magnet for a while. Yeah, but it works pretty well. Every now and then I'll fall but it's quick. They whip around your enemy.

Annie: You're right. It's fine. Why did you decide that red and green should be the Christmas colors?

Santa Claus: Well, here's what's fun. We did a lot of swatches.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: We tested a lot. We tried things. A lot of it has to do with if we pop into a home and there's an animal, it needs to be able to see me because we do colorblind things.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa Claus: We found that red and green tend to be the most easy, especially big and scary dogs.

Annie: The red and green are the easy.

Santa Claus: There you go.

Annie: Oh wow. What made you pick a red suit over a green suit?

Santa Claus: Honestly, it flatters me more. Just being completely 100%.

Annie: Skin tones, face, all things.

Santa Claus: Yes. Yes.

Annie: I get it. I get it. What would you like for Christmas is a big question people are asking.

Santa Claus: It means a lot you'd ask. Peace on earth is probably number three. Number one would be if I'm being serious I'll do Apple Watch.

Annie: Really? Your need. What's wrong? Is it just old or is it...?

Santa Claus: Ah, I just like the new. It's something new?

Annie: You're just... what's it called? The person who adopts the tech. You're an early adopter in technology.

Santa Claus: Oh, yes. I've had them for years. And then I would say maybe two is just a good edge trimmer. I can't find any that I love.

Annie: For the yard?

Santa Claus: Yes. Yeah. And we have a lot of greenery.

Annie: Oh, we have trees every foot.

Santa Claus: Oh, dear Lord, so many.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: So peace on earth. Let's move peace on earth two.

Annie: Okay. And who goes down three? The edge trimmers?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Okay. I mean, fine, but I feel like you could get the hedge trimmers.

Santa Claus: Let's keep it at three. Okay.

Annie: Jane, this is a big question. How do I get my two-year-old twins to not be terrified of you?

Santa Claus: Jane, let me ask you a question. Are you terrified of me? And is that something they're learning from you? I think we both know the answer to that.

Annie: There you go.

Santa Claus: There you go.

Annie: Ashley, do you have any questions for Santa while we've got him here. I mean, you've never gotten to sit in on one of these before, these conversations with Santa.

Santa Claus: I'll answer this because I know you want to ask it. You didn't get it because it was something you did. And you know what I'm talking about.

Annie: I know.

Santa Claus: I want you to put that to rest. Here we go. I know. I know. I know. You're welcome. You are welcome.

Annie: Santa, we're going to end with one last question from one of our friends. I understand why they sent this one as an audio. Because I think you need to hear what they're saying and we need you to respond.

Boy: Santa, you better watch out because my friends are trying to catch you?

Santa Claus: Oh, dear! Here we go. Here we go.

Annie: I mean, I appreciate the warning. I mean thank you for calling and just warning you.

Santa Claus: Yes, I know exactly who that is and I know exactly where they are and they are doing a splendid job of trying. But the old man still has some tricks up his sleeve. So good luck. Also, please put the barbed wire up. That is dangerous.

Annie: That's not going to work. That's hurtful. I mean, I'm thankful that our friend called in.

Santa Claus: Oh, yes.

Annie: I feel like that friend seems to me like someone you know.

Santa Claus: Oh, of course, yeah. Of course, I do.

Annie: Anything we didn't talk about that you want to make sure you ask or discuss this year?

Santa Claus: I don't think so. I mean, I'm working on a book. But no, don't ask. No stop. Stop.

Annie: Don't hold back.

Santa Claus: I know. I know. I know.

Annie: Guests do this all the time. They wait until I say anything else and that's what they tell us about the tour and that's when they tell us about the thing they're working on.

Santa Claus: I know. Well, I do have a tour of gifts. That's an easy one. I think that's a match. All the stops would be huge back that would just... boy, just tiny print, you know, for day. But I have-

Annie: A book. A novel or nonfiction? We'll just softball a couple of these.

Santa Claus: Truthfully both.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: The nonfiction is loosely based on my life.

Annie: Sure.

Santa Claus: And the nonfiction is based on my life.

Annie: Wow. So the novel is like a loose version of what you're experiencing and then not fiction is...

Santa Claus: Very tricky to write both at the same time.

Annie: I would imagine so.

Santa Claus: It's really hard.

Annie: How do you have time?

Santa Claus: I dabble. We'll have a stop where the reindeer need to eat or something and I'll kind of jot some ideas down.

Annie: Are you working on your computer? Do you take your laptop with you?

Santa Claus: It's all in my head. I'm always clocking away up there.

Annie: You'd be shocked how many people write books just like that. They just do it in their head.

Santa Claus: Well, you know, hey, what do you think they got it from?

Annie: That's a gift you've given them.

Santa Claus: There we go.

Annie: Eventually you're going to write it down?

Santa Claus: Probably not. I'll just recite it to someone and they will... my eyes go in the back of my head and I just started talking into all that.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: And then they'll typewrite it. Oh, it's, I guess, computer now.

Annie: I mean, depending on what you have available.

Santa Claus: Better than Papyrus, trust me. No, thank you.

Annie: That got you the wife you were looking for.

Santa Claus: Highly flammable. As is Mrs. Claus.

Annie: Oh, boy.

Santa Claus: I know. But yeah, working on those books and then, you know, doing this little... I'm hoping to catch Dave Barnes on tour. But I think it's going to be too late. I saw him too live and it...

Annie: Really? I actually get to go tonight.

Santa Claus: Oh, that's exciting.

Annie: I cannot. It is one of my favorite nights of the year. The Schermerhorn horn. I never know how to say it.

Santa Claus: Schermer. Schermer. Schermerhorn.

Annie: That's it. That's it. You should try to catch him. Will you be out touring next year at all?

Santa Claus: We hope so. The world and mass. We hope so. We are the world and we are hoping he will be out.

Annie: Yeah. You know, we started a podcast network last year. That Sounds Fun Network.

Santa Claus: I know

Annie: Dadville, etc. This is my chance to ask you, is there a world where you want to start a podcast?

Santa Claus: How much money do you have? I'm kidding, but not really.

Annie: I don't know the answer. I don't know what you need. Just a negotiation conversation. We can have that.

Santa Claus: Let's just say my representatives-

Annie: Yeah, will call me.

Santa Claus: ...will call you. Yes.

Annie: And just to be clear we don't pay our podcasts. We do advertising but-

Santa Claus: Okay, my representative. You may sound a lot like me.

Annie: Just make call.

Santa Claus: Just make call.

Annie: So it's an option. You've thought about it?

Santa Claus: I'm not saying no.

Annie: I mean, we're really looking for a marriage pod. So having you and Miss Claus do some more of that advice might be very interested.

Santa Claus: That could be very helpful.

Annie: The parenting spot is taken obviously by your favorite shows.

Santa Claus: I would if they'd ever had me on.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: I've said too much already. And I immediately regret saying that. Because boy, do these questions coming in that I cannot answer.

Annie: That's the problem when you're just talking to a bunch of parents-

Santa Claus: Oh, yes. O, dear Lord.

Annie: As always, thank you for making time.

Santa Claus: Oh my gosh, I love it.

Annie: It is just such an honor Santa.

Santa Claus: Such a fan of what you're doing here.

Annie: Well, mutual. You've really been-

Santa Claus: Keep fighting the good fight.

Annie: Will do. You are the last show of our 12 Days of Christmas. The only thing we have even left this year is your old friend, my old friend, Eddie Kaufholz, doing a year in review on the last Wednesday of the year.

So let me ask you a question. One thing we've done that everybody's heard this whole Christmas season is we've asked everybody what their favorite song is, their favorite Christmas song. What is your favorite Christmas song?

Santa Claus: I'm particularly fond of two right now.

Annie: Oh, good.

Santa Claus: One is *Mary and Joseph* by Dave Barnes.

Annie: Oh, the one that Tim McGraw sang to?

Santa Claus: Yes.

Annie: Both versions. I love them both.

Santa Claus: Love it. And then I really love his other song, *I Wish It Would Snow*. I find myself listening to those on loop.

Annie: Yeah, certainly.

Santa Claus: I've even recorded some versions myself. Just for fun.

Annie: Wow.

Santa Claus: On my phone. And it's terrible. Who can sing like him?

Annie: Right. Right, right. That's a great answer. The last question we always ask. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Santa Claus: Vacation.

Annie: Oh, you're almost done. You're almost done. Yeah.

Santa Claus: Almost close. So close.

Annie: Where are you going to go this year?

Santa Claus: We're looking at Turks and Caicos.

Annie: Oh, wow. I heard it's beautiful.

Santa Claus: Fiji. I'm sorry. You pronounce it Fiji now. Yes. Either one of those. Or maybe just a weekend in Gatlinburg.

Annie: Oh, who can beat it?

Santa Claus: O come on.

Annie: Who can beat it?

Santa Claus: Those mountain racer things, so fun.

Annie: The fudge.

Santa Claus: Oh.

Annie: Get in my life.

Santa Claus: Get in my guts.

Annie: Yes, that's it. Okay, last show of our Christmas, send us out with some big advice and big hopes and big help.

Santa Claus: Listen, it's nice to be nice. But sometimes it's nice to be naughty. Guys, can I say that? I don't even know if I can say that. Is that legal?

Annie: I think that's it. I think that's perfect.

[01:01:19] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't he the best? He's just the best. I'm sure we're on the nice list this year. I mean, I know y'all. You're some of the nicest friends I could ever ask for. Completely unrelated, you should definitely check out my friend Dave Barnes' new Christmas songs. You heard how much Santa loves them. And you know, you could always follow Dave if you wanted to for totally not related reasons.

If you need anything else from me, you know, I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that's how you can find me. And I think that's it for me today friends. In fact, after these 12 days in a row of amazingly fun shows, that's it for me and my team until after Christmas. So if you need to catch up, this is your chance to catch up.

So go out or stay home, do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is those last few things. I need to buy for Christmas gifts. I'm ready. I'm ready to go shopping. So that is on my to-do list.

You guys have a very Merry Christmas. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for being with us for these 12 days and this whole year. Our first live shows, another amazing EnneaSummer, a bunch of couples we got to talk to in February. We have had an awesome year and I'm so thankful.

We have one more show for you. Don't worry. On Wednesday, December 29., you know how it goes. We got to do our year in review with your pal in mind, Eddie Kaufholz. So y'all have a great Christmas. We'll see you back here on December 29.

[01:02:49] <music>

Carey: Hey, it's Carey Nieuwhof, author of *At Your Best: How to Get Time, Energy, and Priorities Working in Your Favor*. My favorite Christmas song is from Relient K, *In Like A Lion (Always Winter)*. They've got an awesome Christmas album called *Let It Snow, Baby... Let It Reindeer*.

Madison: Hey guys. My name is Madison Prewett and my book is called *Made for This Moment*. And my favorite Christmas song is by Justin Bieber, *Mistletoe* but he also kills *Silent Night*.