

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. It is time for our Year in Review. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. We've got a great show in store.

The music you're hearing in the background is from our friends for KING & COUNTRY. It's their version of *Little Drummer Boy* from the album *A Drummer Boy Christmas*. Be sure to check it out. We're so thankful to them for sharing their music with us this season. It's been awesome.

If you've missed any of our 12 Days of Christmas episodes, be sure to go back and check them out. I think you'll love them. And if you haven't gotten your tickets to the That Sounds Fun Tour, remember you can find all those details, and even there are some VIP tickets left in some of the cities over at [Anniefdowns.com/events](https://anniefdowns.com/events). I'd love for you to join us for one of these shows. It's going to be a great part of my 2022 and yours, I hope. It's going to be such a blast.

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.

Things like the idea that you should wait until things become completely unbearable to go to therapy. No way, you guys! Therapy is such a valuable resource before things get bad. It can help you avoid situations that feel unmanageable.

And so many of us have been taught that mental health isn't a thing to majorly prioritize as a part of a normal everyday life but that is misguided. I mean, we take care of our physical bodies with exercise, nutrition, and health care; we should be taking good care of our minds too. Y'all have heard me share what an important place counseling has held in my story and our guest today, as you know, has shared before how much his therapist through BetterHelp has helped him.

So here's the deal. If you haven't heard me share it before, BetterHelp is a 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 to see why over 2 million people have used BetterHelp Online Therapy.

This podcast is sponsored by better help and That Sounds Fun friends get 10% off your first month at betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun. That's betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun.

Intro: Today on the show, in keeping with tradition, we're going to usher out the year of our Lord 2021 with our good friend Eddie Kaufholz. We just like to touch base, take a look back at the year, some highlights, some life updates, and things from the list. So without further ado, here is our 2021 year in review with the one and only Edward Kaufholz.

[00:02:38] <music>

Annie: Edward Kaufholz, welcome to That Sounds Fun year in review 2021.

Eddie: Annie is just so good. I love this!

Annie: I love this too.

Eddie: We started this in 2016, yes?

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: '17?

Annie: '16, I think.

Eddie: It's a long time.

Annie: That is a really long time. We've reviewed a lot of years. We have reviewed a lot of years. I need to tell you what happened when I walked into the office. For starters, for our friends listening, for about a year and a half you and I did a show called Annie and Eddie Keep Talking.

Eddie: Nailed it.

Annie: So in history, when we do a year and review, we're literally just doing a year and review. We're catching up on some big hot topics. But you and I have a whole new rhythm now where we just have a list and I just need to tell you some things, etc. I hope you brought a list today.

Eddie: I brought a list and it couldn't have less to do with the year in review.

Annie: Same. Same.

Eddie: And if anybody wants our year in review, just go ahead and listen to when we talked every single week in real-time.

Annie: Yes. We will at least review the first half of 2021 with you twice a week. Yes.

Eddie: Right. Absolutely. Now listen, you've been eating apple slices pretty aggressively pre-show. Are you going to-

Annie: This is what I was going to tell you.

Eddie: Go. Tell me.

Annie: I walked into the office and walked up to Lillian, who you have not met yet but you will adore. She is our new Chief Annie Officer.

Eddie: No doubt.

Annie: And I said, "This is so outside of your job description but I need a couple of things. I need an apple sliced, I need eggs peeled, and I have to go to the bathroom. And I can only do one of those and I need you to do the other two."

Eddie: So I'm going to hang on and do the eggs.

Annie: I was like, "I'm so sorry. I will promise I won't become The Devil Wears Prada boss who like expect my tea on my desk when I get here. But I really need you to slice this apple and peel these eggs while I go to the bathroom before we talk to Eddie."

Eddie: "And I'm going to eat this right now."

Annie: Oh! But that's not bad, right?

Eddie: No. That is asking a friend for a hand.

Annie: Just for help.

Eddie: I would hope that if I was there and just sitting around waiting for the show to start and you really had to go potty, you would say, "Hey, can you cut me up an apple real quick." And be able to say, "Can you make me a snacky because-

Annie: Yeah, can you make me a little snacky peel real quick.

Eddie: "Because it's 9:41 and I need my hobbit breakfast or second breakfast."

Annie: That's right. You wish it was my second breakfast. Unfortunately, this is my first hit. I put energy multiplier from Liquid IV—this episode is brought to you by Liquid IV—into my water bottle. And if I drink that stuff without food, Eddie-

Eddie: Bye-bye.

Annie: Holy bananas!

Eddie: Yeah, my metabolism skyrockets.

Annie: Nobody needs, nobody needs what happens to me. I become the Energizer Bunny full tilt already with that stuff. But when I... man, yeah. What's your morning been like? It's 10:41 where you live.

Eddie: 10:41, Annie. We took Brienne to the train station, took the kids to school.

Annie: What a metropolis thing to say!

Eddie: Took to the train station. And I need to tell you we drove our new car.

Annie: I didn't know you have a new car. Yes.

Eddie: And there's a lot apparently that I haven't told you.

Annie: Yeah, no kidding. What did you sell?

Eddie: We sold our CR-V.

Annie: Also my apologies for assuming you sold a car. There's a world where you just bought a third car.

Eddie: It is fine to assume that. I'm not going to own three cars. So I'm going to peel your apple. There's just certain things you can ask me.

Annie: Okay, so you sold the CR-V.

Eddie: Hold on. Do you do like a hard-boiled egg? Is that what you're talking about?

Annie: Yeah. I go two eggs, one apple for breakfast.

Eddie: What a breakfast!

Annie: Right.

Eddie: A little salt on those eggs? A little hot sauce?

Annie: I would have. I did not ask Lillian for that because I felt bad. So I just am going naked on both. There's no PB, there's no salt.

Eddie: Respectfully to Lillian who's not listening. But she's like one more of these in productions. So she's, on more of these actions and she's done, right? Yeah, because I mean-

Annie: One more time when doesn't read my mind and she's done.

Eddie: Mama likes salt. I've called you mama like three times. I need to click out of that. It's like a weird ticky thing and I don't need that to start.

Annie: It's a little bit of a thing. Okay, CR-V.

Eddie: Sold the CR-V, got a Kia Telluride.

Annie: Wow!

Eddie: Third row.

Annie: Third row? Is this a pregnancy announcement?

Eddie: No. There's a lot of things you can know about me.

Annie: One is that you are not pregnant.

Eddie: I'm going to peel your apples. There are no more children entering the house. But you know, there's plenty of room for the dog in the back and plenty of... The kids need a little... We're a good road trip family. We really would prefer. And so we've got a nice... But I need to tell you a couple of things. Can I just talk about this car a little bit?

Annie: Yeah, go. I'm googling it right now so I can picture it.

Eddie: Kia Telluride. It's moss green color, moss green, and we call it Donna. Do you understand that joke?

Annie: Moss green Donna Telluride. I don't.

Eddie: Donna Moss from the *Westwing*.

Annie: Okay. Oh, yeah. Sorry. I was going Donna from *Suits*. Y'all watched *Suits*, didn't you?

Eddie: I think Brieenne did. I did not.

Annie: Okay.

Eddie: Okay. So we get this Telluride, and so we're driving the car... And it's pretty hard to get a car these days. I don't know if it's a racket but supply and demand. Like one new one... Gone are the days where you go to a lot and there's fields of cars and you pick one and you drive that one home. So we finally get one in and okay, yeah, this car is coming in. We're going to get it before our Christmas road trip. And we got our trade-in ready. Our CRV is a lot of miles. Very old. It's lived a lot of life.

Annie: Yeah, you've done a lot of work in that.

Eddie: Yeah. And they've given us a very generous price for it. So I'm like, "Okay, great." So find this out: next morning we're going to get the car and I go and pick up some Ethiopian food for our family because there's Ethiopian food close to the train station. We live in a metropolitan area and I back into a telephone pole. And just-

Annie: Eddie.

Eddie: I mean, it wasn't even a gentle backup. It was Boom!

Annie: Oh my gosh!

Eddie: Telephone pole didn't come down. But I had to just-

Annie: Did you think it by? Did you hit it that hard?

Eddie: I thought pole is coming down. I thought car was totaled. I didn't know if Bri and I were hurt.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Eddie: Like it was "I'm going to leave this spot now. To hell with what's behind me. I'm driving now." So boom! Hit a telephone pole hard. Just hit it hard. So now we're going the next morning to pick up this car. And I have to call the guy and I'm like, "Hey, you know that car that you valued and you gave it really good price for? I'm so sorry but I just backed up into a pole and popped it." Ended up saying like, "It doesn't matter, we're going to wholesale the whole thing anyhow. We'll give you the same price." And it was totally fine.

Annie: Won't the Lord do it?

Eddie: I mean, it was just absolutely ridiculous. But I need to tell you what I love about this car. There is a function from the front seat where I can say, like, "messaging," and it puts my voice into the backseat. Like it throws my voice into the back. So I will say-

Annie: What? You have an intercom system in your vehicle?

Eddie: Yes.

Annie: Holy cow!

Eddie: How useless is that? It's not that big a car.

Annie: Fantastic.

Eddie: It's not like driving a yellow school bus. But then to one of our children chagrin, they can't talk back. So I can say, "Lucy, we're coming up to the train station. We're going to exit out the right side. Let mom out." I can say that kind of stuff. But there's no like, "Hey Dad, let's sing Christmas carols together" over the intercom. It's a one-way communication device.

Annie: It a what? Wow. So it's not a walkie-talkie. It's literally an intercom.

Eddie: It is an intercom. Cheers, this show is brought to you by Kia.

Annie: When I come and visit, I am only sitting in the back. I will only be talked to. I will not speak back.

Eddie: We will give you a little tour. "Coming up to the right. We're going to pull over and go and see the Lincoln Memorial."

Annie: Oh my gosh!

Eddie: And we'll read you facts and all that kind of stuff. And if you have something to say to us, say it but we can't hear you. Mom and dad are listening to music upfront, you're back there with the kids and we are up there and just... here we go.

Annie: This feels great actually. This feels like the experience Lucy, Eve, and I want, is we want you in Bri in the front living your best lives, us three in the back hanging out talking books, talking facts, and then you're touring us.

Eddie: I'm just telling you things I want to tell you, singing songs to you, whatever.

Annie: This is great. Congratulations! New car.

Eddie: Big day. New car. Love it.

Annie: Can you give life in DC a score? Like 1 to 100. 100 perfect, A-plus, going to Harvard.

Eddie: Okay, I would say in terms of a city and my recommendation for people, I would give it like a 90. It's a little bit wonky to get around in a car because there's just a lot of people and you really got to... it's a little expensive. So you're either paying a lot in tolls or you're paying a lot in Metro. But once you kind of get that figured out, I love it here. I love our house. I love our city. I love our neighborhood. I love our school. We've met great people. I absolutely love it here.

Annie: Great. A 90?

Eddie: Like I would highly recommend. And it is not as cold as everybody told me it would be.

Annie: Well, December 2021 is not as cold as everybody told us it was going to be. So let's get three winters under our belt, and then I'd like to hear your thoughts.

Eddie: And you and I have always been very anti-science.

Annie: Pro emotion.

Eddie: Global warming isn't happening. You and I have always said no, no, no, no. This is the natural progression of the earth. And it's good this way.

Annie: This is how it's always been. That's what I say.

Eddie: Why wouldn't there be eternal spring? What could go wrong?

Annie: Listen, I need you to know I sat at a coffee shop yesterday morning. One of those rich people coffee shops that has the doors that open like garage doors. You know what I'm talking about.

Eddie: Oh yeah, they're owning three cars.

Annie: It's called Barista Parlor. It is the bougie one in town.

Eddie: Oh, okay.

Annie: I got invited there. I did not make plan. I got invited there.

Eddie: Who did you get invited by?

Annie: Ellie Holcomb actually.

Eddie: Oh, okay.

Annie: Yes, I don't mind name dropping that-

Eddie: She's a lovely person.

Annie: ...because we were meeting with Shana who runs Nashville's Corner To Corner program, which you will... It is the number one training and releasing program for black entrepreneurs I think in the country.

Eddie: Wow.

Annie: They put \$10 million worth of money back in the economy, the graduates of their program. They are 500 graduates. It's the most incredible program you've ever seen. I'm like dying to tell the world about it.

Okay, anyway, the three of us had breakfast, and when they opened those things I literally said, "You know what? I think I'm good with how December is turning out this year. I don't mind it not being freezing. I'm not a cold weather person though.

There are people that live up near you and up up up that are listening to us that like love snow and they live for it. I live for mild. I live for mild. Put that on a shirt.

Eddie: I'd like a cute little inch of accumulation like on Christmas or something.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Eddie: But generally I'm not prepared yet to live in that kind of situation where there's snow everywhere.

Annie: And we all know February is coming. February is coming. It's going to be cold and it's bad. It's going to be February.

Eddie: But not for us, Annie. It's going to be warm in the glow of friendship.

Annie: You know why? Because we're going to be in Baltimore.

Eddie: Yes. Are we allowed to say that?

Annie: Yeah, we can say that today because everybody... Oh, no. Well, yeah, we can. Nobody knows. But now they know. They can know 1 out of 13.

Eddie: Yes. So year in review, we were going to get to be in Baltimore together.

Annie: In October.

Eddie: We got COVIDed. Like we didn't get COVID, but that tour needed to be postponed.

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: So it has been postponed. So now we get to be together in February in Baltimore in person. I can't wait.

Annie: I can't wait.

Eddie: I can't wait.

Annie: It's going to be so fun. I have a couple of questions from our AFD week in review.

Eddie: Go. Go. Go.

Annie: People that I just would love to present to you.

Eddie: Please.

Annie: Lucy, not your daughter, age 12 would like to know how long we've known each other.

Eddie: Oh, Lucy, age 12, I love you.

Annie: She's lovely. She has some great questions for Santa as well.

Eddie: Lucy we have known each other, Lucy age 12, most of your whole life.

Annie: Yeah, most of your life. I don't know our start year. 10?

Eddie: No, no, no. I think it was for '14 or '15. That's when I started at IJM. My last year at RELEVANT was '19. You and I... Okay, so I think it was-

Annie: '14?

Eddie: I'm going to go '14. Our breakthrough podcast where we were like, "Oh, we like podcasting together," we were like text buddies. We were like, "Hey, what's up?" It was 16. So I think 15 is when we started and then-

Annie: Yeah, '16. We'll link to this show in the show notes. But our very first ever show... I knew we were destined to be friends forever because you talked about how much you hate sandals. And I remember where I was sitting. It was when I still recorded the podcast at my dining room table. And I had to lay my head on the table. I was laughing so hard.

Eddie: Yeah. We didn't quite know what to expect. And that was basically the premise for all of our future podcasts was-

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Eddie: ..."What are we going to say to each other?"

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Eddie: So Lucy, age 12, happy holidays.

Annie: Happy holidays, Lucy.

Eddie: I'm not afraid to say happy holidays.

Annie: I will not be intimidated by culture. I will say happy holidays.

Eddie: I will. I will Xmas because I think it's awesome.

Annie: I did get politely asked to correct it when I said Xmas the other day. The friend who asked they just said, "Do you know that some of us feel weird about Xmas?" And I was like, "Okay, yeah, I hear you." When people ask politely, game on.

Eddie:

[00:16:18] <music>

Sponsor: Hey, friends just interrupting this conversation real quick, where we already told you how much we love Liquid IV about one of our incredible partners, [Liquid IV](#). As we prepare to head into the new year, I'm not really one who likes to set new year's resolutions. You know this. I like to do experiments instead. See, everyone sticks around to see what comes of an experiment, right?

Well, one of my experiments in the upcoming year is going to be about how well hydrated I can stay. And our old friends at Liquid IV have my favorite hydration tool ready to help us kick off the new year feeling great. One stick of Liquid IV mixed into my water bottle hydrates faster and more efficiently than water alone.

Liquid IV has so many awesome hydration flavors like tangerine or lemon lime, strawberry, pina colada, you guys, and it's just part of my daily routine. Well, honestly part of the morning routine for pretty much all of us here at the office. It's those flavors, it's so many more. It's delicious.

Liquid IV contains five essential vitamins. B3, B5, B6, B12, and vitamin C and three times the electrolytes of traditional sports drinks. It's non-GMO and free from gluten, dairy, soy, so no allergies to contend with. And as if helping us feel our best

isn't enough, Liquid IV is on a mission to change the world. They've donated over 19 million servings globally. Isn't that awesome, you guys?

So grab Liquid IV in bulk nationwide at Costco or you can get 25% off when you go to liquidiv.com and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN at checkout. That's 25% off anything you order when you use the promo code THATSOUNDSFUN at liquidiv.com. Experience better hydration today at liquidiv.com, promo code, THATSOUNDSFUN.

And now back to our conversation with Eddie.

[00:18:00] <music>

Annie: Jill has a great question for both of us. I'm dying to hear your answer. I'm dying to share with you mine. How do you feel about your Hatch alarm clock?

Eddie: Okay, first of all, is she also 12? Because I'm way more into talking to Lucy, age 12.

Annie: No, sorry, Jill seems to be adult. She seems to be. I can't be sure.

Eddie: Well, I'm going to only answer to Lucy. Lucy age 12. Hatch alarm clock. I'm going to tell you real talk about the Hatch alarm clock.

Annie: Okay.

Eddie: I love it.

Annie: There's a comma.

Eddie: Oh, no, no, no, no. It has nothing to do with the clock. But when we started the Hatch alarm clock deal, it was Eve and Lucy sharing a room and Eddie and Brienne sharing a room, as one does.

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: We have since moved and Eve and Lucy have their own room. The Hatches have made their way into each of their rooms. So Eve and Lucy love their hatches.

Annie: You don't have grown up Hatch?

Eddie: We do not have a grownup Hatch.

Annie: Wow.

Eddie: Annie, please don't say to me another hatch. You have over hatched.

Annie: The eggs are hatched.

Eddie: The eggs are hatched. I love it. What about you? Are you still time hatching?

Annie: Oh, every night. I love it so much. I'll tell you that thing I like the most. I mean, I like everything about the Hatch alarm clock. This episode is brought to you by Kia, Liquid IV, Hatch alarm clock. I love my Hatch so much.

The evening I really like because I have it set for 20 minutes. So that's when I read. Well, like you hit it the first time and the reading light comes on for 20 minutes. So I read for 20 minutes. And then if I want to read again, I just click through the rest of the routine. So after, it reached me, and then it'll do like a little short thinking meditation where it's like think about your day. It's really sweet and very spiritual for me in a good way.

And then the morning it does the sunrise thing. Did you have it set on the sunrise?

Eddie: Yeah. I didn't like the yellow to red.

Annie: Yeah, I changed color.

Eddie: It's like bluey green, I think.

Annie: Mine I have it to like orange to yellow. So it looks like a sun.

Eddie: Oh, that is nice. Yes.

Annie: So like five minutes before my alarm really goes off at 6, at 5:55 the room starts to light up.

Eddie: And do you find yourself waking up?

Annie: Yeah, I just roll over and I'm like, "Oh, okay, I have five minutes till my alarm goes off. Okay, I can wait here for another minute." And then I wake up. It is exactly what Hatch promises. It's a very gentle awakening.

Eddie: Listen, you're getting up at 6 a.m.?

Annie: Every morning, man.

Eddie: And you're getting eggies and apples three hours later?

Annie: Yeah. Well, today I got a little crooked because I'm teaching at CrossPoint on Sunday. I'm preaching at CrossPoint on Sunday, whatever word you would like me to use, I will use that there. I am on the stage at CrossPoint on Sunday talking about Jesus. And I had to finish my outline this morning. And so my rhythms for breakfast were a little bit off because I had work to do earlier than I usually do.

Eddie: Oh, okay, I understand.

Annie: So that's why I've run in here with breakfast.

Eddie: I will say I've overthought your breakfast this morning. But I just want to make sure you take care of yourself.

Annie: Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Next question of our 15 to 20 questions we got about nine of them are this. People want to know what job life like for you in DC? What do you do? And like everybody's kind of like, what's Eddie's professional life these days?

Eddie: Yes. So the short story is that made a decision end of August to leave IJM. Not leave supporting IJM. They're still my people. I still love IJM. But had done like a good seven years there and just kind of felt like, "Okay, I'm curious about what's next."

I took a job that was with a great organization that I am not going to talk about because it has not been the right fit. And so this has been a very actual weird transition time in DC, because being in DC corresponded almost to the week leaving IJM, which was a place I'm deeply connected to, community and mission. I mean, so much of things that I've felt most valuable about contributing to the world still sit in IJM. And like love them. And I encourage people to like be Freedom Partners, and whatever. But-

Annie: And if people haven't listened to your Esther series that you did, it's on new activist, right?

Eddie: Yes, ma'am.

Annie: We'll link to that because it's one of the most incredible audio experiences I've ever listened to. You did incredible work for IJM.

Eddie: Thank you. And you've been sweet about... just been amazing talking about that. But that also is like I go back and listen to that show. And that was one of the most profound experiences of my life that just so happened to be captured and edited and is still readily available for people to listen to. So made the decision. The transition to this new role was pretty quick that it was the right organization, but not the right fit for me. And that was really hard. Because I stopped trusting my judgment a little bit.

Annie: Wow, Eddie.

Eddie: Like the level to which I was wrong about this... this is like nothing I guess-

Annie: Do you think you were wrong? I don't know. I don't know about that, Eddie.

Eddie: What do you think? You know behind the scenes of all this. What do you think? Because it's like I've been in that thing for months. And punch line, by the time this show comes out, I will have one day left there. I have resigned. It's been a very comfortable, sweet resignation. But I'm done. I worked at that place for four months in like a real big boy job and it's just very apparent that it's not the right fit for me. So what do you think? Because I feel like I don't trust myself.

Annie: First of all, I want you to hear me say I totally hear you and I am in a similar thing that you know about where I'm like, I don't know that I can... I literally said to my mentor, Nancy, I am most worried about my reputation with myself.

Eddie: Totally.

Annie: Like I'm a little bit worried about my reputation with my people who are walking with me through this story that I'm walking through. But I am mostly worried about my reputation with myself, being able to know if I can know that I'm making the right decisions and stepping the right way and putting my hope in God but in stories that I'm living, you know.

Eddie: Right.

Annie: So, here's what I will tell you is one of the most impactful sermons I've actually ever heard in my life was from Chris Nichols at CrossPoint. And it was Christmas of 2016. And he said, When the wise men followed the star that God put in the sky, they did not end up in Bethlehem where Jesus was. They ended up in Jerusalem. It was the wrong city, but it had a purpose.

And when they get to Jerusalem, they go and tell me... they know what they're doing. They know the star is going to take them to the Messiah. So they're walking around Jerusalem, and they are saying, "Where's the baby that's been born? Where's the baby that's been born?" And it says in Scripture the whole town knew the Messiah had been born. In fact, to the point that that's why Herod killed all the babies who are under two years old because he had heard. Right? The star reappears in the sky and leads them to Bethlehem.

So it says to me that we can be obeying God and end up in a place we did not think we are going to end up that is not the right final destination. But God takes us there for a purpose to tell more people about Jesus somehow. And so that has impacted me.

I mean, I can retell you the whole sermon. That has impacted me so greatly. That you can follow the star to Jerusalem, and it's not Bethlehem, but it's the right thing.

Eddie: Annie, that's interesting.

Annie: Right?

Eddie: Yeah. I mean, that makes more sense than anything else. Because I've been just like, who stops a career at a dream job? The number of people that I know that have tried to work at IJM and just haven't gotten the chance to yet is way more than the people that have worked there. Dream job, dream place, an incredible team. I mean, literally nothing but amazing things about IJM. Just up and decides to leave, then goes to a place after four months realizes it's a great place, I'm the wrong fit for it. And then leaves.

So that is helpful because it just makes me... This has felt like a big misstep. That is an interesting reframing of that. So to Lucy 12 and everybody else-

Annie: And to Jill.

Eddie: ...I do have another role at an organ... You know what? I probably can say it, right?

Annie: I mean, you can. I think people will love it. But also you could wait-

Eddie: I do too. I just want to make sure... Okay, so I'm in the process of realizing that the role that I'm currently transitioning out of was not the right place. I was like, "Oh, what am I going to do?" It's really hard to find a job ever, much less find two in a year. I got the opportunity to interview... You know, Eugene Cho, yes?

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: Of course you know Eugene Cho.

Annie: He asked me for your phone number.

Eddie: There'll be a deal. Eugene Cho and Kevin Mac's have both called my phone.

Annie: And I only connected you with one of them. The other one found you himself.

Eddie: One time.

Annie: I mean, when Eugene emailed me and said, "Can you connect me with Eddie Kaufholz?" it took the breath out of my lungs. I was like, "Oh my gosh."

Eddie: Well, the thing was I was handed his book like just to do like an interview years and years ago and did not... I knew of him but it was just like the total book interview. Like run of the mill. He was doing 15 of them in a day. And so I'm asking him questions. His book *Overrated* came out in 2014 and it dropped in my lap at the right time when I was spiraling with everything that had happened at a church and I was about to join IJM. I've always really loved Eugene.

Anyhow, I got to interview him for a few times for RELEVANT and then Activist. And just love him. And then we got to talk. He is the CEO of an organization called Bread for the World, which works out of DC to help basically eradicate hunger around the world through impacting legislation. Anyway, I'm joining their creative team starting January 3.

Annie: Awesome.

Eddie: They have the best creative team, the best marketing team. I mean, they're just these incredible people. And I get to sit right in with them.

Annie: And legislation that's such a new wing for you.

Eddie: Totally.

Annie: Like to work toward governmental change versus getting every man like me to become an activist.

Eddie: Yes. It is going to be new. It is also cool that it's based out of DC. So I feel like I'm going to use this locate... It's definitely-

Annie: Is there an office?

Eddie: There is an office. They're still remote for a little while. But there is an office and it is right overlooking the Capitol dome.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Eddie: It is rad, Annie. When you come to DC, I'm going to take you to the office. It's beautiful. So I just feel really, really lucky. Because who gets to do two things that they want to do ever in much less multiple things? And Bread is just the real deal. Eugene and his team are the real deal. And I just feel crazy fortunate. So January 3 I will start with them. I will of course post up on social. It's exciting.

Annie: What an incredible boss! I mean, to work for Eugene Cho, my gosh master class.

Eddie: You know what it's like to be with him?

Annie: No. I do. I do know what it's like to be. I thought you meant like a job interview. I was like, no, but yes, I do. I have interviewed him on the pod.

Eddie: Job interview?

Annie: No.

Eddie: Oh, man. He just has a gentle question and then sits back quietly.

Annie: Oh, yeah, I believe that.

Eddie: Oh, this guy is smart. And the whole team is just smart. So I feel super grateful. I feel a lot of mixed feelings about this crazy four months that it's been but I appreciate people asking. I couldn't really update the last time we talked. It was sort

of in flux. And it all felt too raw and too soon, but no, it's not. I did make a big mistake in the interview process, though.

Annie: Oh, no.

Eddie: I had some people that I care about a lot who were kindly my professional references. Someone I had worked with at IJM, someone who owns That Sounds Fun, and I forgot to thank any of them or tell any of them that I actually got the job. And so Annie I'm really sorry that I'm basically telling you right now. Because you've done two references for me in the course of a year.

Annie: Yes, yes. To be fair you did just tell your daughters last night that you have a new job. So I'm 12 hours behind.

Annie: So the intercom went to the middle seat first and then it went to the back seat.

Eddie: It went to the back seat.

Annie: So it's fine.

Eddie: "Up here on the right we're going to be passing the Lincoln Memorial."

Annie: "Here's the new office for Bread."

Eddie: Bread for the World, which I will be a part of. All right.

Annie: It's good. Okay, my next topic and then you can throw in a topic. I'm going to tell you a sentence. I'm so sad they haven't even started filming Season 3 of *Ted Lasso*.

Eddie: They haven't?

Annie: No one saying if they have. No one's posting whether they have.

Eddie: Well, I know they're... no, they're in pre-production. I know that writing. Because-

Annie: That means we aren't going to get it till '23.

Eddie: You probably won't. It's probably once a year, right? Because the first one came out-

Annie: We are going to get it in '22? I think we got two seasons in '21.

Eddie: No, I think the first season was '20.

Annie: Oh, okay.

Eddie: Because it was like height of pandemic.

Annie: Right, you're probably correct.

Eddie: You and I were well into doing our show when *Ted Lasso* was hit. And we were a little... like people have been telling us for weeks "You got to watch this show."

Annie: That's right.

Eddie: So it had been 2020, then '21. So yeah, I think at '22. Because I know they're in pre-production. They're writing now.

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: We talked a little bit about this when we got to do-

Annie: On our live event, yes.

Eddie: Yes. But I go back and forth on the second season.

Annie: Yeah. I will be interested to see where they take it. My favorite part... I have some non-favorite parts. My favorite part is the development of Ted. I really like how they're striking him. They're peeling back the layers of the onion.

Eddie: And had to because there comes a point where, as all of the characters around him become more and more real, he becomes less and less... his endless optimism is less and less believable.

Annie: Yeah, that's right. That's right. I agree with them. This is a spoiler alert. Did y'all like the... so everyone if you have not finished *Great British Baking show*-

Eddie: No. I haven't either. Stop. We haven't gotten to it. We got into-

Annie: Y'all had like three episodes to go last time I was texting y'all about it. And y'all just stopped?

Eddie: But it's Christmas movie season.

Annie: Okay, then we'll just save that for Baltimore.

Eddie: We watched the second season of *The Morning Show*. The fun thing with the *Great British Baking Show* is there isn't anything to replace it. And when you need that show, you need that show. When you need that warm blanket that's not overly thought-provoking-

Annie: Can y'all finish it by Baltimore, though?

Eddie: I can commit to that.

Annie: Okay, so everybody listening if you're coming to Baltimore, then you need to have it done because we're going to spoil it. We're going to spoil it so hard.

Eddie: And listen, I can see your face so just don't react. But there's no way the Italian guy doesn't win. Like that guy is so wildly talented.

Annie: He is wildly talented.

Eddie: I mean, I may embarrass myself by saying this, but this is the only season where it is just so clear that there's a lot of good bakers that person is the champion. So I'm on record saying that. Go. No, you go. You have stuff.

Annie: *Repair Shop* is coming to Paramount Plus.

Eddie: Do I have to get that now?

Annie: Yes. I don't want to either. But let's just split it like we do Disney Plus.

Eddie: I'll do this one. I'll do this one. Although you got to promise me you come up with a good, funny username.

Annie: Uh-huh. Oh, 100%.

Eddie: I want to start doing that for all the people with whom we cross share things.

Annie: Yeah, yes.

Eddie: Paramount Plus?

Annie: Yeah, I know. What else is on that? Is that *Yellowstone*?

Annie: *Yellowstone*? Yes. And I haven't watched it either. So we at least get to watch *Yellowstone*. And then *Yellowstone* there's a new one coming that you know has lit my fire called *1882* about going out west. I was like, well, you know. I'll tell you how Paramount plus know they can give me a Western. Give me a western series and I'm interested.

Eddie: Yes, I love a good western.

Annie: Oh, I love the western.

Eddie: You really love because I dive-bombed with that book I tried to get you to read.

Annie: *Pioneer*. I know I tried it. Well, it ended up being more about people on the Mississippi River, which I love. I love both sides of the Great Mississippi but it was not the gold rush, which is kind of my favorite.

Eddie: No.

Annie: I did watch a Western that will not be named that was on television. Yes, it was on my television and it was absolutely so violent and I did not like it. I was so sad because I was like-

Eddie: I know.

Annie: "It's such beautiful era."

Eddie: I do not love violence. I'm not like morally super opposed to it and if people like good violence shows like, all right, fine. I just don't love. Like some of the Quentin Tarantino stuff, I can appreciate the art but is so-

Annie: I mean, when the whole thing is meant to be kill kill kill kill kill, I'm like, "No, you didn't give me a single story to care about. You just gave me a guy want to kill a guy and he's got to kill the guys to get to the guy." I'm not here for it. I'm not here for it.

Eddie: I understand.

[00:35:35] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friend! Just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about one of our amazing partners, the *Redeeming Love Movie*. You guys. Okay? Do you love getting caught up in a great love story as much as I do? If you enjoy a good romantic film with beautiful cinematography, then you're going to love *Redeeming Love* in theaters in January 2022.

Based on the international best-selling novel by Francine Rivers that, yes, I devoured as a younger Annie, *Redeeming Love* the movie is set during the California gold rush of 1850. Y'all know how I feel about the Gold Rush. I love the adventure of that era.

It tells the story of Angel, the most notoriously sought after a woman in paradise, a little town in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Just as she's about to give up on finding freedom, Angel meets Michael and encounters a love that's unlike anything she's ever experienced. But shame about her past causes Angel to run away from the very thing she's always wanted. Michael won't give up on finding her, and as a result, Angel discovers there is no brokenness that love can't heal.

Redeeming Love features Abigail Cohen, Tom Lewis, Nina Dobrev, Eric Dane, and Famke Janssen. It's rated PG 13. And it premieres January 21 in theaters nationwide. So gather up a big group of friends or make a date with someone special to go see *Redeeming Love*. For more information or to find tickets to a theater near you just visit redeeminglovemovie.com. Again, that's redeeminglovemovie.com.

And now back to finish up our conversation with Eddie.

[00:37:00] <music>

Annie: Do you have a topic? Sorry, I'm just dominating.

Eddie: I do. No, you're not dominating at all. There's two things I forgot to tell you. One real quick is-

Annie: You got a new job.

Eddie: I got more Kia news. The Kia news. It has users on the screen so that you're like... you have one of the touchscreens now where you can see maps and stuff on it.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Eddie: But you have users. And so I'm on the front seat with Eve. And Brianne has already created her user and she has named herself Brianne because that's her name.

Annie: She's a lawyer.

Eddie: Well, she's very funny, but she's just... it asks what your name is, she writes in Brianne, right?

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: And she's just in there doing it alone, setting it up, or whatever. I don't know when she did it. But then I'm in there with Eve. And Eve and I are in there just playing with it and trying to figure out new car stuff. I was like, "Hey, what should I call myself? Should I just call myself dad, Eddie?" And here's the name she suggested. Because she loves the dog a lot. It's for daddy. So that's what I am.

Annie: No, you did it.

Eddie: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. So in our Kia, it's for daddy. There's like so many layers of why that is super weird. Because like on a kid's layer it's kind of funny. But then you're sort of like for daddy.

Eddie: Ew.

Annie: Ew. Oh, boy!

Eddie: Anyhow, that's not really what I wanted to bring up or whatever.

Annie: That's good though.

Eddie: It does have to do with animals. But Eve and Lucy if you were listening to the show right now, and it is... Well, no, it should be after Christmas.

Annie: That's right.

Eddie: Okay, you can keep listening because we're going to talk about a Christmas present. But you can't, Annie, is you know before Christmas we're getting them... No wins here. I don't have to whisper we're getting them a cat.

Annie: Oh, you're getting them a cat. They're going to love it. They're cat kids. They are cat kids there.

Eddie: And they just love animals. Have you ever had a cat?

Annie: Yes, Fred.

Eddie: No.

Annie: We named him Fred after Fred from the Mickey Mouse Club.

Eddie: Annie, we have recently crossed over into getting them a cat is because our neighbor here asked them to watch their cat for a week over Thanksgiving. And every single day and spent hours with Fred.

Annie: Oh.

Eddie: The best cat ever.

Annie: That's amazing. That's weird. That's a weird story.

Eddie: Fred on the Mickey Mouse Club.

Annie: Yeah, Fred Newman from the Mickey Mouse Club. And he's now on *Prairie Home Companion*. He makes all the sounds on *Prairie Home Companion*. He was my mom's closest friend in college. Have we talked about this?

Eddie: We've talked about everything up until mom's closest friend in college.

Annie: Yes, yeah.

Eddie: Your mom's closest friend in college was Fred Newman.

Annie: Yes. They were like best pals at University of Georgia.

Eddie: Did he make...? Okay.

Annie: And now he...

Eddie: Did he make noises then?

Annie: I don't know. I've never asked. Yeah, yeah, yeah, he was funny. I've told you this. I think I've told you this part. Their Christmas card is our lifelong favorite one to get every year because it's always so creative. Him and his wife and his kids... they send like the coolest Christmas card. Okay, sorry. Go ahead about the cat. What are y'all going to name here?

Eddie: We don't know.

Annie: Okay, I guess the girls get to do it, huh?

Eddie: Yes-ish. Except that Brienne has come up with the funniest name and the best name ever for a cat.

Annie: Okay.

Eddie: Waffles.

Annie: Oh yeah, that's a great one.

Eddie: Waffles Kaufholz. It's the only word that rhymes with our last name.

Annie: If you started telling people publicly Kaufholz like waffles, people will start spelling your name K-A-F-F-L-E-S. And that's not right.

Eddie: Well, at least they would say correctly. Plus, you have to say Kaufholz wrong to make it rhyme with waffles, but it's close.

Annie: It is close.

Eddie: To make it truly rhyme, it'd be Wafholz.

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: So anyhow. But I gotta tell you. I put something on Twitter a couple of weeks ago and it's like, "Hey, don't say anything. We're getting a cat. What do I need to know?" Because I've never owned cat breeds never. I've just had to read like... I don't know how to train them. I don't know anything about them.

Annie: I don't think you get to train them.

Eddie: Twitter 100% did it for me. People were like, "Buy this. Buy this thing. Do this." We made a chewy order with what everybody said, all the toys I thought were good, boom. So Twitter basically supplied all of the Christmas presents. So what we're going to do is give them all of the cat stuff, then we're going to North Carolina for a couple of days to see my parents, then we're going to come back and like, you know, rescue a cat around.

Annie: Oh, that's great. We're going to go out in the back, see if we can find one of the woods. We're going to go take Fred.

Eddie: Just go around. Yeah, can we have Fred? I'm going to get a sticker that say, "Who rescued who?" And they'll be the cat paw in my hand interlocking.

Annie: Interlocking. Who rescued who? Oh my gosh. Oh, that's so funny. That's great. The girls are going to love it. I picture both of them obsessively loving what a cat requires?

Eddie: Which is what?

Annie: Like a lot of snuggles, a lot of sitting next to each other. Also, I think they are going to like that a cat has its own like domination of a home. I mean, I think they're going to like that. I feel like your people are going to love Waffles Kaufholz.

Eddie: Yeah, I can't wait for Waffles. And also we need to talk about peloton.

Annie: Oh, that's the other thing on my list.

Eddie: Yes. You've kind of whispered across it in text with me and Bri. But we need to really get into it.

Annie: Yes. Yeah. Because people are wondering how your knee is?

Eddie: Oh, they are?

Annie: Yes. Three different questions about your knee.

Eddie: How did you get these questions?

Annie: We have an email that goes out on Fridays called the AFD Week in Review, and in it it's the only place we tell who's coming on the show the next week, and then everybody can submit questions. It's super fun.

Eddie: Well, first of all, I'm very embarrassed I did not know that email existed. Because I would be reading that because I'm like a fan of your stuff.

Annie: Thank you. It does exist. We link in the bio. We link below people can always join. It's always there.

Eddie: Hit that link.

Annie: That's right. How is your knee? And then let's talk peloton to close this puppy out?

Eddie: Yeah, knee is okayish. It's a little wonky still. It's not quite right but the peloton has been super helpful. I miss running terribly because I just liked an hour of quiet getting out. I love a peloton for its practicality. I do not love being inside. I thought it was going to be a lot colder here right now. I wish I could take... so long walks have been good.

Annie: I was about to say, are y'all walking?

Eddie: Yeah, and taking as much advantage of just because.... yeah, it's going to get colder. So yeah, it's okay. I keep toying around with I want to run the marine half but I don't know if it's like a good idea. So we'll figure that out. But it's like okay, and you know we love our peloton. But you got the running peloton.

Annie: I got the treadmill. It's the best.

Eddie: Like so on the bike one, if somebody doesn't have one, they're like speed up, slow down, more resistance, stand up, sit down. So there's a lot of variables on a bike. How did the variables work on a peloton running?

Annie: On your left-hand side is the incline dial.

Eddie: Oh.

Annie: And so you go up and down incline. On your right-hand side is the speed dial. And so on a walking class... I really actually like the walking classes. This won't surprise you at all. Because they're walking is usually my jog. Their running is my injury. Their running is my injury.

Eddie: Really?

Annie: I mean the running ones are like six-minute mile kind of running one. And that is twice what I can do. Half what I can do. Which one? That's half what I can do. So the walking one... I mean it'll be just like the bike. They'll start and say, "Here's where we're going to start on your incline and here's we're going to start on your speed." And they'll give you a range. 0 to 1 on incline, 2.0 to 3.0 on your speed.

And then they'll say Okay, for this whole song, we're going to go up to this speed. Now, bring up your incline. And now we're going to sprint for 20 seconds, so push up to this speed. That kind of thing.

Eddie: Okay? And is it autotrak speeds? Like it speeds up and slows down if you want it to automatically do that?

Annie: No, you do it by hand.

Eddie: Okay.

Annie: I think, same as the bike, it would be dangerous if your treadmills sped up on its own.

Eddie: Yes, yes, that's right. That's right. Because you're always pushing the bike. So the bike has like a locking feature where you can follow the resistance. So they're like, Let's turn the resistance to 50. And all of a sudden, your bike clamps down and it becomes hard to pedal. You can't speed up a treadmill because you don't know if you're going to flip somebody off.

Annie: That's right. That's right. At the bottom, it tells you your speed. What I'm used to measuring when I'm running outside is my miles per hour, how fast my mile is. Yes.

Eddie: Yeah. You're like notorietying.

Annie: Right. How many people notice me? That's what I'm measuring.

Eddie: Where are we at? Like autographs. Yes.

Annie: And it has been really fun to be like, "Oh my gosh, I just did faster than I've ever done outside for a whole song." So it makes me excited for when the spring comes and I can mix being outside and inside and see if I'm actually faster outside. Because you can use this app and the same classes outside.

Eddie: Oh. So you can just go on your trail and go on-

Annie: And have the same directives in there.

Eddie: That's cool.

Annie: I know. And there's like boot camp classes which I think are true for the peloton bike too where you're on the bike for... I'm sorry, you're on the treadmill for three minutes and then you're off doing weights for 10 minutes and then you're back on for a three-minute thing. And that is really... I mean, I love them.

Eddie: Do you like the social part of it where people are like high fiving you and all that?

Annie: Do not. Absolutely, do not. Do you?

Eddie: Me neither.

Annie: No, I hate it.

Eddie: I turn it all off.

Annie: I'm like, "If I was here to make friends, this would be a different thing."

Eddie: And some people are, and bless them-

Annie: I know. I do kind of like that I am competing with someone all the time. Because even if you take classes that are old, there's always someone else taking it at the same time even if they're not in the same place in the class as you.

Eddie: I just heard your producer cough in the background.

Annie: Poor Johnny. He said he's sorry.

Eddie: Well, sorry doesn't cut it, Johnny. Strike one, you guy. Do you have any idea the star power on this podcast? And you're just coughing over as we're talking about peloton? I love it.

Annie: My other peloton thoughts is there is not a single faith class. Meaning they don't use any faith music. There's no faith-based meditation. So I called a mutual friend of ours, Sadie Robertson, who I know you are very close to.

Eddie: One of my closest friends.

Annie: And I was like, "Sadie, I need you to start training to be a peloton instructor because we've got to... it just blows my mind that there's no any faith. There's no Christian, there's no Jewish, there's no Muslim. There's no faith forward classes and there's thousands of classes."

Eddie: Yeah, just take it outside of even of your desire at all. The market... If they're looking at the market, I'm like, Yeah, you're going to want some country classes. You're going to want some faith-based classes.

Annie: Yeah, I just am so surprised I can't find one. Because one of the reasons I got it is because walking has been such a spiritual thing for me this year and my walking and praying. And so I thought, "Well, I'm not going to give that up." But there isn't a training that gives me any kind of... I mean, there's meditations but I was very surprised there was nothing faith-based for any religion.

Eddie: The only one I found is the Jay Z ride.

Annie: And that's spiritual for you?

Eddie: That really works for me.

Annie: Yeah, that will do it. My Lizzo runs feel similar to me to be fair. And the Hamilton runs. No kidding. The Hamilton run is like getting done.

Eddie: I love that. Beyoncé. Oh, there's a Tina Turner ride.

Annie: Oh, is it great?

Eddie: Oh, it is everything. It is Schitt's creek. It is all of it happening.

Annie: Oh, that's great.

Eddie: Tina Turner's just the best.

Annie: Yes.

Eddie: But they started with *What's Love Got to Do With it*. So your warm-up is that you know the opening of the song. It's like ding chch, ding. And then it's wooah. And you're like, Yes!

Annie: That's exactly right.

Eddie: Okay, well, is that our show?

Annie: That's our show. We've done it.

Eddie: Annie, oh, I could do this every day with you. I love talking to you.

Annie: It's the most fun. I'm glad we get to do it again in Baltimore. Spoiler alert for everybody listening who does not... and also we'll go ahead and spoil this too. Baltimore is not the live stream event this round. Because every tour there's one that we get to live stream and it is not the Baltimore one. So if you want to see me and Eddie, you got to be in Baltimore. None of that-

Eddie: That will be fun.

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: And also it's very heartwarming to me that people ask questions about things like because I never know what to talk about outside of silly stuff. But thank you for asking my job. Lucy aged 12, thank you for asking about how long Annie and I have known each other. Just thank you. It's very sweet.

Annie: I appreciate it. Eddie, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Eddie: Oh, what sounds fun to me. You know what? A big long car ride with my family, listening to music, going in North Carolina, and disconnecting for a little while. We're about to do that. In this season of monster change, it has been abundantly apparent how much I miss and need and look forward to familiarity. Something that just like my parent's house is like that family, community. Like I am living for that a little bit.

Every time we talk this year... I'm about to go to North Carolina. But this year it has special meaning because my brother is going to be there

Annie: Uncle Jimmy.

Eddie: Uncle Jimbo.

Annie: We love Uncle Jimmy around here.

Eddie: Oh, someday we got to bring Jimmy on the show. All he'll do is sit and laugh. What about you? I know it's your show but what sounds fun to you?

Annie: That's a great question. Thank you.

Eddie: What hits you like right now?

Annie: At the end of 2021, what sounds fun to me... oh, man, what sounds fun to me... We have had a tough couple of weeks.

Eddie: I'm sorry.

Annie: That's okay. And so what sounds fun to me is just a going... This is going to show everybody how much I'm like... can I hit the escape Hatch for a minute? I would love to go to a movie. I haven't been to the movie theater in a while. And I think if I could go watch something that like I can be a little bit numb about like *You've got Mail* or *Notting Hill* or *Pride & Prejudice*. Something that I know really well so I can pay attention but not not know what's going to happen. I just need to not not know what's going to happen for a minute in something.

Eddie: That's fine.

Annie: Do you know what I mean?

Eddie: I need to probably go watch the new *Spider-Man* that's coming out, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: I'm going to swing around. There's going to be some danger and everything is going to be fine.

Annie: For two hours before 2021 ends, could I know how this thing's going to end? Because there's just a lot of places where I don't know how things are going to end. So I would like to know how it's going to end. So I'm doing Christmas a little different this year. Our schedule's a little bit different. So I have a lot more time in Nashville than I normally do.

Eddie: Oh.

Annie: And so I think I'm going to watch a lot of the *Harry Potters*. I've never done thing that everybody does, where you watch through all of them. I think I'm just going to do it.

Eddie: Annie, a little escapism isn't a bad thing.

Annie: Yeah, that's right. As long as you know why you're doing it and other people know you're doing it. Right?

Eddie: And watching *Harry Potter* is like a healthy, lovely thing to do.

Annie: Yeah. You know I don't buy Oreos without texting somebody. So I know my escape hatches and I let other people know I'm pulling them. So I'm telling you, Eddie, I think I'm going to watch a lot of *Harry Potter* this week. And that is okay.

Eddie: I love that. I mean, I think both of us picked ones that are fairly immediate and not hugely profound. But sometimes that's just sort of what you need is what's going to help just give a little fun to today?

Annie: That's right. Are you excited about '22? I'm really excited.

Eddie: Mmm, I don't know yet. '21 has been... I mean, we did scratch the surface on this, but 21 has been a monster of a year. I am tired. Right now I am looking forward to... I mean, yeah, I don't know. You are? You're feeling good about '22?

Annie: I think so.

Eddie: Is it like more personal or professional?

Annie: In both areas, '21 felt manic. From what I can see today, when I look at my professional schedule of '22, it is not manic. There will not be super high highs. There'll be really great highs. We hit New York Times in 21 and I did my first headlining tour in '21. So that kind of manic. You know what I mean?

Eddie: Yeah.

Annie: And '22 looks like discipleship and friendship and moving things forward. Advancing is our word for '22. And so advancing feels good even if it's a war term.

Eddie: No, totally. Sometimes the hope for average doesn't feel like settling, it feels aspiring?

Annie: Yeah, that's it.

Eddie: I would take just a nice 2022.

Annie: We got good things done, but-

Eddie: Yeah, because 2021 will go down in my life in infamy. I feel you. Just not as manic.

Annie: Yeah, yeah.

Eddie: Yay to 2022 Yeah.

Annie: Yay to 2022. I love you, buddy. Thanks for doing this.

Eddie: Annie, this was such joy. I love spending time with you.

Annie: Same. I bet I'm going to get in real trouble with somebody for telling about Baltimore. But bye.

Eddie: What are they going to do? Fire you?

Annie: That's right.

Eddie: There's people that slice apples and there's people that don't, Annie. And you got to remember which one you are.

Annie: That's right.

Eddie: You receive the apples.

Annie: No, I'm both. I'm both. I hope.

Eddie: I know. I know. You couldn't even let me ha-

Annie: I can't. Let's end this the way we like to end and then keep talking. So you guys-

Eddie: I literally wouldn't know how to stop a podcast unless we did it. So go.

Annie: Y'all go out and wash your hands. For real, go wash your hands. Stay safe. Y'all have a great New Year. And we'll see you back here next time.

[00:55:40] <music>

Outro: Oh, friends, listen, isn't he the best? Good old, Eddie. What a great update, you guys! And wow, y'all got some insider information. Nobody else knows who our guests are on tour and nobody else knows Eddie's new job. And you get to know both of those things. So that's exciting.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, or 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. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I'll do the same.

You already know what sounds fun to me because I just told Eddie and y'all. Happy New Year, friends. I love this time of year and the reflection and expectancy it holds. I hope you have an awesome next few days as you welcome 2022. And we'll see you back here on Thursday, January 6 for epiphany. It's going to be a really special show.

And remember that you're invited to join us as we fast a meal on the 6th. It's something we talked about on our TSF Q&A about faith and fasting back in November. It's just a chance for us to give up something we love, namely food, though it can be whatever you choose, for something we love more—God's presence. Just spend a little extra time talking with Him and listening to Him and asking Him to move in our lives and our churches and our cities and our nations.

I hope you'll join us. I'll be fasting breakfast on the 6th. So if you want to go ahead and add that to your calendar right now so you don't forget, I'm doing it too. So again, happy New Year, friends. And God will and we'll see you back here on Thursday, January 6 for epiphany.