

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Sponsor: Here at That Sounds Fun and at the That Sounds Fun Network we love learning new things about podcasting and continuing to improve in the work that we do. And that's why we are so glad to learn about [Anchor](#).

If you haven't heard about Anchor, it's seriously the easiest way to make a podcast. Let me explain. Not only is it free, yeah, that means you paid \$0 for it, but it has simple-to-use creation tools that allow you to record and edit your podcast right from your phone or computer. And Anchor will distribute your podcast for you. So people will be able to hear your content on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and all the other platforms that they love listening on.

Anchor even has ways that you can monetize your podcast with no minimum number of listeners. It's everything you need to create a podcast in one place. We hear from people all the time who have great ideas and are looking for how to get their podcast started. Well, Anchor is what we use all across the That Sounds Fun Network. And we are just huge fans of how easy they make it to create a great podcast.

So just download the free Anchor app or go to [anchor.fm](#) to get started. Again, that's [anchor.fm](#) or you could download the free Anchor app.

[00:01:02] <music>

Intro: Hi friends! Welcome to a very special episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. We have a great show in store.

And just a reminder, we're going to spend the entire month of April on the pod focused on prayer, including another TSF Q&A exploring your questions about prayer. So you have a part to play in that episode. Just visit the link in the show notes to submit your questions about prayer. I can't wait for us to learn and grow together.

Today on the show I get to chat with the incomparable Kristin Chenoweth. She's an Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress. You probably know her as the original Glenda in Broadway's *Wicked* or from *Pushing Daisies* or from *Glee*, or from *A Christmas Love Story* on Hallmark. Or you know how I love her role in *Schmigadoon!* or from any of the other amazing projects she has done.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

On March 8, just a couple of days ago, Kristin released her first children's book called *What Will I Do with My Love Today?* It's so precious. It's like the most heartwarming story about a young girl named Kristi Dawn, who shares her love through all these acts of generosity around New York City. It is so sweet. I'm 100% positive that all our MiniBFFs are going to love it.

She's lovelier than you can imagine and I am beyond excited to share our newfound friendship with you. So here's my conversation with Kristin Chenoweth.

[00:02:36] <music>

Annie: This is the second time we've been in the same room. You're ready?

Kristin: Oh my gosh! Tell me.

Annie: I was at the night that Broadway reopened at *Wicked*.

Kristin: What?

Annie: And you came out in the best dress I've ever seen.

Kristin: Christian Siriano.

Annie: It was amazing.

Kristin: I can't believe you were there.

Annie: Yes. Ginna Claire is one of my dearest friends in the world.

Kristin: What?

Annie: Yes. You know her parents are here. She grew up here.

Kristin: I did not know that. And I love that child. She knows how I feel about her.

Annie: She's amazing.

Kristin: I cannot believe it.

Annie: Ain't that so funny? I know.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Will you tell her I said hi.

Annie: I will do it. I will do it. Tell me what that night meant to you when Broadway reopened? Because you're so close to that community and what they had been through for 18 months.

Kristin: First of all, thank you for asking about it because New York, I believe we got hit pretty hard. Maybe, oh, the hardest. And I thought in my ignorance that it would be a couple of weeks and then we'd be getting back to normal.

So when Broadway finally opened and Stephen Schwartz, who's the composer and lyricist to *Wicked*, asked me to come to the curtain speech to welcome everybody back, first of all, I felt guilty because I had tickets to *The Lion King*. But I said, "Yes, but I gotta get in and out because I gotta go see *The Lion King*." I thought he was going to have a heart attack. But-

Annie: Did you show up at *Hamilton* that night too?

Kristin: Oh, no, but I did later.

Annie: Yeah. I was like, I remember seeing you doing a couple of things.

Kristin: Listen, some people do a lot of different things. I need from my soul to be where live entertainment is. It just made me happy. So I showed up the night it reopened. And honestly, they gave me a list of things they wanted me to say. I just gave them the piece of paper back. I said, "Listen..."

Annie: "I own the Gershwin."

Kristin: "I got this. Let me speak from my heart because I'm always better when I do that." And to see the crowd... Of course, when I come out there as the original *Glinda* they stand up. But that's not what I mean. What I mean is there's a special relationship between an artist and/or a cast, depending on, and the audience. And I missed it.

And you know what? The audience missed us. And I prepared them and said, "Y'all are getting ready to see people do what they do and we've not been allowed to." And you could feel the energy was palpable in the room. You were there. So I could feel the energy behind me, which I think I said, going on behind the curtains at five minutes before plays is a big magical time I always think.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: Really?

Kristin: Yeah.

Annie: Surprisingly, no I've never been there for the five minutes before. So what's it like? They're just standing waiting to start?

Kristin: We're at plays is because the downbeat has to happen at eight o'clock because of cost and our crews. We ain't late. Not on Broadway. We don't be late. So I just could feel the cast. And right before I walked out, I went over and I probably did the wrong thing by hugging everything. I think I hugged one of the trees. I was like, "I'm happy to see you." But it was amazing.

We've had a big hit. I mean, we've taken a big hit. And let me just say this. New York is still fighting. Our numbers are low but Broadway is... we're selling but we're not selling out yet. So my prayer and my hope is that in another year or two we get back to completely normal.

But one thing that can never be put down or one thing that always rises is Broadway. I have the same feeling about Nashville musicians. I'm just going to do that-

Annie: Go.

Kristin: Because it feels like at some point you kind of... I'm not supposed to say this anymore. But you know, you pull up your big girl panties. That's what we do on Broadway. And I get the feeling that Nashville, because I lived here in '87 to do Opryland USA when it existed, it's the same feeling. It might be done in a softer or gentler way but it's like, oh, you don't be sick. You show up. You figure it out. I don't know why I'm kind of proud of that.

Annie: I think so. I mean, the energy that night in that theater, I've seen a lot of Broadway shows, I'm a TPAC subscriber here, so I go a lot.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: Oh, I love it. I'm seeing the prom tonight. I can't wait.

Kristin: Oh, it's so good.

Annie: I don't know anything about it except the little paragraph under.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Ready.

Annie: So I can't wait.

Kristin: Get ready.

Annie: But I've never felt a crowd respond... I mean, you were still there probably when Ginna Claire came down in the bubble and she says it's nice to see me.

Kristin: I saw it online because I was at *The Lion King*.

Annie: Oh, yeah, you went to *The Lion King*. Was the crowd as insane at *The Lion King* too?

Kristin: Oh, the minute we heard "Aleleiya," we went... Well, actually the downbeat of the orchestra, we went crazy.

Annie: My body has never felt anything like that moment. It felt like everyone needed each other.

Kristin: We did. That's right.

Annie: We were yelling and clapping because we were saying to the actors, "We've needed you. We've needed you." Right?

Kristin: You can't even imagine how it felt for the actors.

Annie: I would imagine.

Kristin: I saw Ginna Claire come down in a bubble and I saw the reaction and I cried. Because it was later that night, I said, "I just want to see" because again, I had to rush off to *The Lion King*. But I just wanted to see the reaction. These are my brothers and sisters. It's family on Broadway. It's family on Broadway and Nashville. It's family here. So we take it very seriously. And so thank you for supporting the theater.

Annie: Oh, I love it. Our friends listening kind of knows. But I always have like a sideways dream to move to New York but I don't want to because I have a great life here. So I asked myself, What is in New York that you want here? What could you

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

get here? And TPAC was one of the answers. Being a theater patron was one of the answers. I was like, "Well, here's the thing that I love up there that I can do here."

Kristin: Amen.

Annie: It's so fun. I sit by myself in the balcony. My two friends have like fourth row seats because I want to see the orchestra-

Kristin: You want the whole picture.

Annie: Yeah. So we separate and I go sit by myself.

Kristin: I love that you know where to sit.

Annie: One single ticket right in the middle.

Kristin: People are always like, "I'm in the balcony." I'm like, "You don't even know how good you it."

Annie: Best seat. Best seat. So 1987 you lived here and now you're back.

Kristin: Yeah. I just moved to Nashville. I'm keeping my New York place obviously. I'm always going to be a New Yorker. I can't help it. I've been in New York now longer than I have... I mean, how does it go? I don't do math. But I've been there half my life. However, I prayed and prayed, if that's all right to say-

Annie: Oh my gosh, yeah,

Kristin: I think so. Here it is, Annie, with you. I prayed, "Lord, I've always loved it there." You know, my fiance lives here. And I just thought, what more signs do we need? In the summer, we bought a place and we'll be dividing our time.

And also—I'm from Oklahoma—there's something about the feeling of going home. It's going to be lovely to get to, of course, be in New York when I need to be doing Broadway and things like that. But it's also going to be nice to have home.

I live in LA too but I've rented... I don't mind talking about any of this, by the way. I think it's important to talk about real life. I rented my apartment there. Most of the things that I shoot for television or film is shot in Canada and/or Atlanta.

Annie: Oh, okay.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: And soon it'll be Oklahoma because we have Prairie Surf now.

Annie: Oh, yes.

Kristin: Yes. I'm working on a TV show that's set in Nashville. So, oh, yeah, I'm here.

Annie: That's great.

Kristin: I'm here.

Annie: Now that you can zoom out a little bit, 1987 to 2022, what's the big story? I mean, that means God wove into your story in '87 and turned the pages 30 years later, and said, "I'm going to make a note that she'll come back here."

Kristin: I cannot believe it. I want to hug you so bad. I have goosebumps. When I left Opryland USA, my dad said, "You got to go to OCU. You got to go college." I said, "No, I'm good." He said, "No, you're going to go." I said, "No, thank you though." He said, "Get in the car." That's how I went. I left kicking and screaming.

Annie: And Opryland USA was an amusement park, right?

Kristin: Yes. It was the biggest in our country as far as live musicianship. You could go to Disney but it's all tracked. We had real musicians and we all sang live. We didn't lip sync.

Annie: I did not know that. I didn't get here till 2008. So it was gone by the time I got here.

Kristin: So if you got accepted to Opryland, especially at that time, it was like nobody got. It was the hardest job to get. And I auditioned for it because I wanted to go to Nashville. But as I left and my dad—You know, we always prayed before we get in the car for a long trip—he said, "You're going to be back here. It's going to be okay." I'm crying, my eye is out. I said, "No, I'm not. I'm not. I'm going to have to go to school for the rest of my life."

But here I am at 53 and I'm sitting across from you, Annie. What is that thing while you're busy making plans the Lord is doing His thing? I'm not getting it right.

Annie: No, no you're right.

Kristin: That's what happened.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: What do you know about God this time that you didn't know when you were here in '87?

Kristin: Oh, wow. Oh, that's a good question. For me, it was a more innocent time. Okay, if I may say, we're in a very tricky time in the world. I just always felt like the Lord was right next to me, like my best friend. And I really felt that way in Nashville.

The answer to your question is more of what the lesson I learned, which is when you move to New York, and you start getting in the grind there, I call it the grind, don't forget who your best friend is.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: I guess I've just learned that no matter where I am, and that's the best part... I'm probably talking too much about God-

Annie: No. No. It's up to you. It's great for us.

Kristin: Okay. I've learned that when I don't feel as close to the Lord, for me, it's the Lord. I'm a very open person. Everybody needs to understand that. Some people are going to turn off the radio. But I'm very open and accepting of all people. I'm a large gay rights supporter.

So with that being said, being a Christian, having to remember why you started in the third grade, you were told at church camp you're going to be a missionary. And I thought, "Oh, I'm going to be going to Africa and India." But what God really had in mind for me was to be an actress, singer, dancer in New York." I never saw television or films. I had no idea that could even be a possibility.

So for everybody listening, if you just keep close to your best friend. And remember I have been... Goodness, how do I say it? I've been put through the wringer. This is a life I chose though. And that's important to say. It's not all rainbows and unicorns, and happy all the time. There's some misconception about me. But if I keep remembering my best friend, I'm good.

Annie: That is a gift of an answer to people. That's just beautiful. It is interesting to me to hear all of that knowing... So let's talk about *Schmigadoon!* for a minute.

Kristin: Oh, please.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: It's hysterical. But your character on *Schmigadoon!* is the worst version of the person in your church in third grade and the person in my church in third grade. I mean it is the person who is a pastor's wife that is so hateful-

Kristin: She's so hateful.

Annie: ...to everyone who doesn't... So it's fascinating that you got to play that role in a very silly but interesting show. I mean, not silly in a bad way but just hilarious.

Kristin: No, it is silly. It's silly.

Annie: The *Corn Puddin'* is on.

Kristin: *Corn Puddin'*.

Annie: It kills me.

Kristin: I know.

Annie: So when you get roles like that, how often do people say, "I bet she's really like that?" How often do they know when you're fiction and when you're not fiction?

Kristin: This is how I decide whether to take a role or not. I read the script, and I go, "Is this Kristin Chenoweth and nobody else? Are you going to be mad if you sit home and watch it and somebody else is playing your role?"

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: Yes. The answer would have been yes. Barry Sonnenfeld and I have worked together a lot. He was the director of our Season 1. He's so funny. He's just this awesome Jewish guy and I'm this Christian. And he's like, "So tell me about the rapture."

Annie: You're like skipping to Revelation.

Kristin: I'm like, "Really doing that? So we'll be sitting here, right, Barry? And I'll be eating a donut and you'll be telling me what to do and then Jesus will return, and I'll go away and you'll be there. And then you'll have seven years to decide what you want to do."

Annie: "I'm pre-trip, so you're going to have seven years."

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: I'm first class. We love each other so much.

Annie: Oh my gosh. You also said Season 1. Please tell me that means we hope for more seasons.

Kristin: I cannot confirm or deny but you probably are correct in what you assume.

Annie: I hope so because that thing made me... I mean it came in such an important season for I think all of us.

Kristin: It was joy. It was joy.

Annie: It was a joyful show. And I would get home on Friday afternoons from work because we weren't traveling so I was never out of town, and I would get home from work and it'd be the first thing I'd turn on.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: I would do that and *Ted Lasso* back to back and be like, "What a great end of the week?" Because they both released on Fridays.

Kristin: I love your taste. *Ted Lasso*.

Annie: Oh, man. It felt like such a season. When I think back on it, this is a funny word, that season felt so warm.

Kristin: Thank you for saying that. I felt like it was timely. Again, the Lord was like, "Okay, Kristin, we need to laugh right now." And stepping into Mildred Layton's shoes, first of all, Barry said... I had an 18 Page patter song, meaning a lot of words and fast. And he said, "And I want to do it in one," which means no cuts. Which means no cut.

Annie: You have to have the whole thing memorized and not make any mistakes.

Kristin: No mistakes and no cuts. He knew he was challenging me. I like a good challenge. And I said, "All right, if I can do the Joker maniacal lips and have the Milda Pierce haircut and a too tight corset, I'm her." And I know women and men for that matter who get caught up in it. I've been related to some of them. Who get caught up in "It's either this way or none." And instead of leading with love, it ends up leading with hate. And that's not what we as people of faith want to lead with.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: Right. Right.

Kristin: But it was fun to play her.

Annie: Oh, I bet. I mean, it was hilarious to watch. It was great. Your songs were great. Your role was great. You know, I think that love-hate thing is fascinating because when people say it may not feel like love that I'm giving them but it is, I'm always like, "Nah." If they don't feel loved-

Kristin: It's not.

Annie: ...you're probably not loving them. Jesus got in a lot of trouble for people feeling loved by Him.

Kristin: Amen. Oh, preach.

Annie: If I go down for people feeling loved, okay, fine.

Kristin: I'm fine with it.

Annie: Fine. Fine. If I love them but they don't feel it, I'm not real sure I love them.

Kristin: If I could leap across the table-

Annie: I feel the same way. We would be in the middle. We would be in the middle of the podcast table.

Kristin: We sure would.

[00:18:55] <music>

Sponsor: Y'all know we're all about fun around here. If you're looking for a fun and funny, light-hearted movie to watch with the whole family, make plans right now to see [*Family Camp*](#), y'all. It's the first feature film by the Skit Guys, and it'll be exclusively in theaters on May 13.

Okay, picture this. Two families who could not be more different find themselves sharing a cabin for an entire week at family camp. United only by their competitive drive to win this camp trophy, the dads end up lost in the woods and deal with a

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

whole trail of literally hilarious mishaps while everyone else is desperately trying to find them. They end up having to work together to find their way back. You get it.

Y'all, it's such a fun movie for the whole family. And our friend Heather Land who some of you got to know in Baltimore and Columbus on the That Sounds Fun Tour, she makes an appearance in the movie and she is so funny. So you guys, grab your tickets to see it in a theater near you by visiting familycampmovie.com. Again, that's familycampmovie.com

Sponsor: And I've got one more amazing partner to tell you about, Nutrafol. 30 million women are impacted by weakened or thinning hair. It's so many of us, you guys. If that's something you're dealing with, know this: you're not the only one. There is a solution you can trust to deliver results.

Thousands of women, including your girl AFD, have taken back control of their hair with Nutrafol, with many users raving that the supplement not only transformed their hair but restored their confidence too. That's so sweet. Nutrafol offers two targeted formulas for women that have clinically shown to improve hair growth and thickness with less shedding through all stages of life.

Healthier hair growth does take time, but you'll begin to experience thicker, stronger, faster-growing hair in three to six months. In a clinical study, 86% of women reported improved hair growth after six months. More than 1,500 top doctors recommend Nutrafol as an effective and high-quality solution for healthier hair.

You can grow thicker, healthier hair and support our show by going to nutrafol.com and entering the promo code TSF to save \$15 off your first-month subscription. This is their best offer anywhere and it is only available to US customers for a limited time. Plus free shipping on every order. You guys get \$15 off at Nutrafol.com. That's Nutrafol.com and the promo code TSF.

And now back to our conversation with Kristin.

[00:21:25] <music>

Annie: So even your new kids' book, let's talk about that for a second, *What Will I Do with My Love Today?* I mean, you've written a lot of books. Forgive me that I didn't know that was a part of your repertoire. As a New York Times bestselling author yourself, tell me why a kid's book?

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Oh, okay. First three weeks of the pandemic, I'm like, okay, vacation.

Annie: Were you still in New York?

Kristin: Yes. I live across the street from a hospital. And it's important for me to say this.

Annie: You watched it.

Kristin: I saw it happen. In the middle of the night, my fiancé and I would go get our groceries so that there would be less people at the grocery store. We had to think like that immediately. There were trucks outside of the hospital as you can imagine, and I saw it.

I'm not afraid to talk about depression at all because that's something you just have to give over to God. But I went down, really down, because I thought, "Hey, I need to at least be out there singing or helping somebody. I'm not supposed to breathe on anybody, touch them, hug them, do all the things that come natural. I'm not supposed to do any of that.

So after seven weeks, I go 180 miles per hour. I'm sure you can tell I can talk.

Annie: Both of us, yeah.

Kristin: I do many different types of work. And I asked the question to God, I said, "What am I going to do with myself now?" That's what started. What am I going to do with myself? I'm not good enough just being here. And He said to me, "Excuse me, two ears and one mouth. Listen harder, speak less and it will be revealed."

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: I'm in my LA place and I was like, "Okay." So the question then turned into "how can I show my love today"—because I can't touch or hug—

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: ...then it became "what will I do with my love today?" And I thought at first it was going to be a song. But just so happens right on time, just how God does, my literary agent said, "You've been wanting to write another book. Why don't you do it?" I said, "I know what I want to do. I want to do a children's book. I want to call it *What Will I Do with My Love Today?*"

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: He told you to listen because He was ready to give you a book.

Kristin: And that's what happened

Annie: That is incredible.

Kristin: That's how it happened. It does involve my dog and I.

Annie: Yes, so sweet.

Kristin: She's so cute. I rescued her and I'm adopted person myself, so there's an underlying tone of rescue and adoption, and what a beautiful option that can be.

Annie: I talked to you before we started. One thing I say about *What Sounds Fun to You?* that you say about *What Will I Do with My Love Today?* is today more people have finished that kid's book of mine than any other book I've ever written.

Kristin: I feel like a genius.

Annie: I know. I'm like, "How many people have finished it?" But it felt like in a children's book, when we find out that the little girl is adopted was like a plot to it. I was like, "Who puts a plot in a kid's book?"

Kristin: Me.

Annie: It's beautiful. But I didn't know that was your story too. So that makes so much sense that you would write that in. You told me it took a year to write.

Kristin: Well, because of meaning with rhyming and how I wanted to do it. I'm no Shakespeare. I'm just no Shakespeare. But I wanted it to rhyme and yet I wanted it to speak what I needed it to speak. So I'm that girl that wakes up in the middle of the night, has the journal beside my bed, and scribbles things down and like-

Annie: Spinach and finish.

Kristin: That's exactly right. I was like, "Does it work?" And my poor fiancé, I see him the next day and he's like... At this point, by the way, we were stuck together during Covid. I was headed to Philadelphia Orchestra, he was headed to play with Ty Herndon at the Jazz Birdland in New York. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. I have an apartment in New York that has two bedrooms.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

And Josh was like, "Hi..." I mean, we had been dating for a year but you know, he toured, I toured. I'm like, "Hi."

Annie: Every day.

Kristin: "Good night." But if you really want to find out whether a relationship will work, is be stuck in a pandemic together.

Annie: You're right. Pandemic together. That's exactly right.

Kristin: And it works for us also. We have similar beliefs to me. Again, this is said with no judgment, only love. I have dated outside my faith many times and it just didn't work for me. To each his own. It just didn't work.

Annie: It didn't work for you. I had a non-Christian friend tell me one time, "You're going to marry a Christian, right?" And I was like, "I wonder why he's asking me that." And I was like, "Yes, that's my plan." He had been married and divorced. He said, "My first wife was a Christian and I'm not." And he said, "And we always had different maps."

Kristin: See.

Annie: And he says, "I think you should be a Christian because me and my first wife always had different maps." And I was just amazed at that concept from a person who doesn't believe everything I believe going, "Hey, I know how the map you want to live your life on. The easiest route, not the only route, the easiest route..."

Kristin: Because life is hard enough.

Annie: Life is hard enough.

Kristin: Thank you for that. What did he say something maps?

Annie: He said, "We didn't share maps. Marry someone who use the same map with."

Kristin: Yes. It's really important.

Annie: How did you and Josh meet? I don't think I know that.

Kristin: OM.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: Oh, I can't wait. Encourage me. I'm not married yet. Tell me everything.

Kristin: Oh, it can happen.

Annie: I believe you.

Kristin: But we get to decide when, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Kristin: So Runaway bride twice. Not proud of it.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Kristin: Been to counseling. Now I get it.

Annie: You know how you like to eat your eggs.

Kristin: Scrambled with cheese.

Annie: Ain't counseling such a gift?

Kristin: Oh. There's something about being from where I'm from. It's almost like, No, no, you pray and you don't need a counselor. I personally did need someone to talk to and also somebody that's like-minded and like-spirited. So that helps me a lot. I forgot your question.

Annie: How you and Josh met. Sorry.

Kristin: Oh, it's the best story ever. My niece, Emily Chenoweth, was getting married. She asked me to sing at the wedding. She also was a big fan of this band that had played at her sorority at OU called Backroad Anthem. So I show up. I'm supposed to sing a song called the *Underdog*, which I did not know that they did with him.

And I'm singing at the wedding and so I have to go early to do soundcheck with him at the reception. It was in Denver, Colorado. I swear 120 degrees. I didn't find it funny.

Annie: No, no, that's a very weird turn of events. I didn't know Denver got that hot.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Neither did I. Hair and makeup ready, for those of you understand, I felt like Tammy Faye Baker. I was like, "Jesus-

Annie: Sweating in a shade of makeup.

Kristin: Correct. "Jesus take the wheel literally" or "Jesus, what's the deal?" or "Jesus, why these heels?" All of them. So I show up and I'm like, "Mm-hmm." Now, I'm dating somebody. And I'm thinking, "I feel like I'm drawn to that person." And I get to know the band, I become friends with them because they're my people. I'm the one that comes to the kitchen too to sing at events.

So I meet them all, we become friends. I immediately go to Canada to shoot a show called *Trial & Error* that about five people saw and Josh slid into my DMs-

Annie: Attaboy!

Kristin: I didn't even know what DMs were. I was like, "Is he saying BM? Because that's uncool." Anyway, he wasn't. He was saying DM. And I checked it. I figured it out. I was struggling during that time in Canada. I was just tired. I was overworked. We were friends and we got closer and closer and closer. We became really good friends.

The I—unrelated—broke up with the person I was dating. Unrelated, he broke up with the person he was dating. Skip to a year and a half later my nephew gets married.

Annie: A year and a half later.

Kristin: Zach Chenoweth gets married, my nephew. And he said, "No offense, Kristin, but I want Backroad blah blah blah. I don't want you to really sing because you're a deal in my deal." I was like, "Thanks, I'll take that as a..."

Annie: "I'll attend the wedding instead of working it."

Kristin: And you know what? I loved his honesty. It kind of hurt but all right. "I don't need you to sing but like your music, blaargh. I was like, "Ouch." But I love you, Zach.

Annie: You're like, "I'm the rest of the world to you. But it's okay. It's fine."

Kristin: I loved it. I just was like, "You gotta love the kid." And I got to enjoy the wedding and not be stressed out. So anyway, there they are again. Well, Josh and I have been

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

texting. The second I got to that reception, I took off my little sweater and I'm with my parents. I'm 53. At this point I'm 50. I'm with my parents, ladies, and gentlemen.

I said, "Dad, move far away from me. I'm busy. I don't want you to bust my mojo. I need you to move far away." He's like, "What are you talking about?" I'm like, "Go away." I search and search and search. I'm like, "Has anyone seen Josh Bryant. I'm looking for the band." They're back in the barn. So I go to the barn and he's there. He comes running up to me, hugs me. I'm like, "Okay. Okay."

But then this is the best part. At the end of the night, you know, they're working. I'm out there dancing to Garth Brooks. We are just having a great time. I was so glad actually I didn't have to sing. But at the end of the night, I say goodbye and he's like, "I need to see you again. I would like to court you." I said, "What is this? 1930?"

First of all, I got weird. I just got weird. I said, "I'll text you later," because I've been hurt and I've done the hurting and all of that. So I go to the Marriott which is where we're staying and he text me and he said, "I really wished that you were staying where we were staying." Because Backroad they shared a room.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Kristin: Like all these guys shared a suit. And I said, "I just wish we could make some music." And I said, "Well, I don't know where you're staying." He goes well, "I figured you were staying at the Chenoweth House." I said no, "I'm at the Marriott." And he goes, "What floor?" I was directly beneath him.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Kristin: He said, "Get your butt up here." And they all were there. We got up the guitars. We all sang. We sang until 3 a.m.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Kristin: And then he goes, "May I walk you back to your room?" And I go, "No, I don't need... I am. No." One of the musicians, Zach, goes, "Kristin, let him walk you to your hotel." I mean, it's an elevator ride.

And I really then realized, "Okay." So I let him. We got to the door and he goes, "Where are you next week?" I started in with, "I'm very busy. I don't have any

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

time." I said, "I don't date much. I do date but I don't have time for a relationship." I did my all excuses. And he said, "Where are you going to be next weekend?" I said, "I'm going to be in Boone, North Carolina, sir and I don't have time." He shows up, comes to see my show, and we went to the Waffle House.

Annie: Oh, Josh, I love you already.

Kristin: And that was the end of that.

Annie: Shooting the shot and then taking you to the Waffle House.

Kristin: Yes.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: That's the love story.

Annie: And that was how long ago now?

Kristin: He's really good at dates. I'm going to say we're coming up on three years.

Annie: And how soon do y'all get married?

Kristin: As soon as you can imagine. I mean, I did a weird thing with my ring. We went ring shopping. I said, "I don't need a big diamond." I did my whole lecture. There are poor people. There are people that I want to help that I'd rather money... Well, of course, I walked in, found the biggest diamonds. I was like, "That's pretty." And he's like, "But you said..." I was like, "I did say that."

But the best part about this ring... And it's not a big ring. It's not big diamonds. It's big. It's not huge. But there's three diamonds. The one in the center is the biggest. I wish I could show it. But the reason I say it is because I looked at the ring and he looked at the ring and says, "That's my favorite ring." I go, "Me too." And I go, "It's the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost."

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: It's the Trinity. And I'm not sure how Jesus feels about being diamond encrusted-

Annie: I'm sure He loves it.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: ...but I love it. It just reminds me... I look down my hand, I go he led me to the man later in life.

Annie: Is that how it feels? Does it feel like the Lord led you?

Kristin: Oh, there's no question.

Annie: Really?

Kristin: No question. And not to mention that I met a fellow Christian person. Not to mention that he accepts me, the good, bad, and the ugly.

Annie: What happens as y'all go forward and you're here? Do you make music together? Is he still on Backroad Anthem? Does it keep going?

Kristin: They're getting ready to... They lost... I'm sure you know this. But right between those weddings, their lead singer passed away.

Annie: Oh, I didn't know.

Kristin: Craig Strickland.

Annie: Yes. I do remember that.

Kristin: In a hunting accident ironically in Oklahoma on Grand Lake. I remember it was a storm of literally the century. Anyway, they're kind of "We are lost." They're finding their way back together now. And I've always said to them because there's a part of me that is a mama bear, and I am older than Josh. I struggled with that at first. I'm 13 years older than he.

And I said, "Lord," literally, "Lord, I mean, I've got to explain who ABBA is to him." I mean, do I need to put him in bed at a certain time? Are you sure, God? I'm going to age and I don't want him to see that. And that's a very vain thing to admit." And every day during the pandemic, he'd say, "I don't know how it's possible, but you get more beautiful every day." It's like all the things that I secretly feared he would talk about.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: So during the pandemic we did binge every true crime documentary. I mean, we've seen everything. Name it. I played the piano, he played the guitar, and we wrote, we

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

wrote, we wrote, we listened, we did covers. We stayed up all night. In fact, in my LA apartment. Because after eight weeks, this is important to say, at the seven-week mark, a friend of mine, like a brother, decided to take matters into his own hands. Also a Christian. So I needed to change. I couldn't take New York anymore.

I said, "Would you risk getting on a plane with me?" Because remember we're watching people pass away. And he said, "Of course, wherever you go, I go too." And we got on a flight, thank you Delta. There was like six of us on a huge jet. I was like, "Even better."

We get to LA, where I can walk and remove my mask a little bit. I'm a mask wearer because I was in New York, and I saw it. But at the same time, I needed to be able to remove my mask and walk free and breathe. Also, I could hear God better. It was by no mistake that when he said, "Wherever you go, I go too." If I'm not misinformed, I've heard my whole life wherever you go, I follow. So it just felt like God to me.

He is the first man that I've dated who asked me on the first date, "May we pray before we eat." Now, I've dated all kinds. A lot of good men and some turds. I mean, you can shine up a term but guess what?

Annie: That's right. It's still.

Kristin: It's still a turd. I have dated Christians, non-Christian, I've been outside my faith, inside my faith. But this guy was the first one to say... And this was at the Waffle House. And I couldn't believe it. And that's what... I mean, he constantly surprises me.

Annie: What is the gift of having someone that shares your industry and your faith?

Kristin: Oh, first of all, I call them the people not in the industry civilians?

Annie: That's it. Okay, do you know one time I was in a thing with a road guy and we would say, civilian time versus work time. We would say, "Are we going to see each other like civilians this week? 100%."

Kristin: So you know what I'm talking about?

Annie: It's so funny. It's so funny. Kristin, that's exactly what we said.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: You know.

Annie: Yes.

Kristin: I personally have been with people that aren't in the business and people that are in the business. In this industry, I should say. It works better when they're in it for me.

Annie: Really?

Kristin: Because I need them to understand the wacko schedule. And the fact that he can play the guitar, I mean, you understand that starting to sell a Christmas album like I just did last fall and sing in studio with no band because of the rules. And Josh became my one man manna.

Annie: Oh my gosh.

Kristin: I'm pretty sure he has more followers than me though. I'm not sure if I'm mad about it or-

Annie: That Christmas album is beautiful, by the way. Thank you for making that for us. It's amazing.

Kristin: Of course. Thank you for listening. I love any chance I get to sing Christmas music.

[00:39:18] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation one last time to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Third Love](#). Y'all know how I feel about my sweatshirts. They are business casual, I could live in them. The comfort, the cozy. No need to break them in. They just feel amazing the moment you put them on.

Well, for Third Love that's their 24/7 classic t-shirt bra. It's their number one bra for a reason. It offers unbeatable comfort, thanks to every unique detail and its fit, style, function, and design. Loved and worn by millions of women, it doesn't pinch or dig and you won't want to take it off the moment you walk in the door.

The 24/7 t-shirt bra is designed to fit and form to your body because every detail has been made with ultimate comfort in mind. It features ultra thin memory foam cups and lux straps that never slip, and it's so smooth that it looks invisible no matter what you wear. It's legit. My favorite.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Third Love does comfort so you can do you. Their bras, underwear, activewear, and feel-good all-day wear are designed to hug better, hold stronger and support longer. Third Love obsesses over each stitch so you never have to think about how something feels, looks, or wears. The 100,000 5-star reviews do not lie to you guys, neither does your friend Annie.

Third Love is also into giving back. They're the largest donor of undergarments in the US. Partnering with organizations all over the place, Third Love has donated over \$40 million worth of bras to help women in need. Ain't that awesome. Feeling is believing. So get the 24/7 comfort and support you deserve. Upgrade your bra today and get 20% off your first order at thirdlove.com/soundsfun. That's 20% off at thirdlove.com/soundsfun.

Sponsor: And I got one more fun sponsor to tell you about. As crazy as you all are about the Snack Show with Jami Fallon, our newest podcast on the That sounds fun network, I'm betting you love cereal just as much as we do. That crunch and that sweetness, what a great way to start a day!

Well, I've learned a thing or two about how gluten affects my body. Boring. And that is why [Catalina Crunch Cereal](#) has come into my life at the perfect time. Aside from the fact that it tastes delicious, Catalina Crunch Cereal is zero sugar, keto-friendly, and low carb. They've even got variety packs so you can try out all their awesome flavors to decide which ones will be in rotation on your pantry shelves.

Okay, the cinnamon toast with some almond milk has become a go-to for me as part of my breakfast rotation or really anytime I'm feeling snacky. If you're trying to get more protein without extra empty carbs like I am, Catalina Crunch Cereal has the crunch you crave. Zero sugar but tons of flavor, low carb, high crunch, keto-friendly with 11 grams of plant-based protein and nine grams of fiber per serving.

Over 10,000 customers have rated Catalina Crunch 5 stars, and I bet you will too. Choose from their eight incredible flavor options. You decide if it's chocolate peanut butter, dark chocolate, or cinnamon toast whichever is calling your name. Or for sure try that variety pack and save yourself the decision fatigue.

It's gluten-free, grain-free, non-GMO. Only real clean ingredients. Nothing artificial, nothing to worry about. To see why Catalina Crunch Cereal is the fastest-growing cereal brand in America, just go to

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Catalinacrunch.com/thatsoundsfun for 15% off your first order plus free shipping.
That's Catalinacrunch.com/thatsoundsfun.

Not sure which flavor to start with? Try a variety pack. And check out their delicious cookies and snack mixes while you're there. Again that's Catalinacrunch.com/thatsoundsfun for 15% off your first order plus free shipping.

And now back to finish up the conversation with Kristin.

[00:42:52] <music>

Annie: I was asking Ginna Claire today about y'all's friendship, and she said one of her favorite things is you always include hymns on your albums.

Kristin: Oh yeah, I do.

Annie: Do you feel connected to hymns and modern-day worship or is it mostly the good old thing?

Kristin: I have to be honest.

Annie: Yeah.

Kristin: I love worship music, but I like, and this is probably my age, hymns. I remember an artist, Evie Tornquist, that was a big huge influence on me when I was a little girl. She had a song "I'm only four feet eleven, but I'm going to Heaven, and that makes me feel ten feet tall." I thought, "Well, holy crap. I'm not even four foot eleven yet." Can you believe it? And then Amy Grant and then Sandy Patty.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: In that order. Actually no order. But hymns, that's what I learned to play the piano with. I always go back to every concert I do, there is a hymn in it. It's important for me if I'm going to speak to an audience through music and talk about lost love, like I mentioned before, being hurt and doing the hurting, forgiveness, which is really hard, love, friendship, I have to be able to be authentic and sing about my faith. And I always say to the audiences, "Listen, if you're not a believer, this will be over in three minutes." And it never gets old.

Annie: "This will be over in three minutes."

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: It never gets old because it would be inauthentic of me not to. I love that Ginna Claire said that, that she knows that about me because... I made her come be on Broadway with me before and said, "You're singing *Popular* with me." But I want the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart to match up. Have I been perfect? Am I a saint? No, ma'am.

Annie: Me neither.

Kristin: No, I'm not. I mean, when you're on the cover in a bikini of a men's magazine, and your dad says, "I can't go to church or 7-Eleven ever again." Now at this point I might have rethought that decision. But sometimes we have to learn as we go.

Annie: Yeah, that's right. When people say things like they probably says you far more of "what's it like being you?" I'm like, "I haven't missed a day of sin. So I've been in all of them in my life, so I know exactly who I am. Y'all don't know but I haven't missed one."

Kristin: "You need to write a song." That's a title right there. "I haven't missed a day of sin."

Annie: That's it. I haven't. I haven't missed. There's not one. I haven't missed a sin in my life. So I know who I am. So it's that same thing of like we're going to look back and wish we'd written a few words different in our books or said a few things different from stage. But if we aren't allowed to grow publicly in front of people, then we weren't honest in the first place.

Kristin: I love you so much. You get it. Annie, you just get it. Can I just talk about something recently that's been on my mind?

Annie: Yes.

Kristin: Because I feel that I can. You're very special person. I'm struggling with... I never ever used to curse. It's just not my thing. I don't do it. I was raised not to. And I started noticing on the road. And every type in my band too, Christian, non-Christian, I mean, I've got them all. Because I want that. I like a diverse group.

But I noticed that I started using a word that starts with "hit" a lot. And I was like, "I don't know why. Why?" And I said, "Josh, why am I doing that?" He said, "Because you're around it. You're around it all the time." I'm not dissing my band, but just life. And I was like, "That's not something I want to... I'm silly but I've just started..." We have a quarter jar-

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: Do you?

Kristin: ...in my house. We have one on film sets, too. But I'm always like, "I gotta get another quarter." Because that's not me.

Annie: I'm going to tell you the whole truth that I haven't said out loud to anybody publicly. One of the things I gave up for Lent was cussing.

Kristin: I love you.

Annie: I'm the same. I don't do it a lot. But I noticed that the more I get squeezed, what is in me comes out. And I was feeling really stressed for the last couple of weeks for random different things and a little bit of heartache and whatever. And I was like, "Oh, I'm saying things that I don't want to say."

Kristin: Correct.

Annie: And so I was like, "Well, I'm going to give it up for Lent and then not pick it back up." But I have a quarter jar in my mind of where I'm like, "Hey, you said for Lent..." That doesn't mean on Sundays I'm going to feast and really let her rip tater chip. Maybe. Maybe. But that's part of what I'm doing for Lent. It sounds like I have to rein this back in because it's telling me... What you're saying I think is the same. It's telling me what's in my heart.

Kristin: Exactly. Thank you for sharing that.

Annie: Thank you. You gave me the gift of going second, which is really kind.

Kristin: First of all, I'm raised in Oklahoma. I'm a genius second place.

Annie: So what is it in us that is drawn to that stuff? There's so many of our friends listening who are like, "Yeah, I say one word. I don't say all of them, or I do say all of them." But we know as faith people, it's just not the best representation. How are you getting it out of your system? And why does it matter to you?

Kristin: It matters to me because I have people of all faiths or non-faiths around me. And if I say that I'm a Christian, which I am, and they see something different, I don't like that. God doesn't like that either. I'm always like, "Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. Please forgive me." But I think, a, we've noticed. So that's the first thing.

Annie: That's it. That's the Holy Spirit calling on both of us.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: That's the knock on the hearts. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

Annie: Right. Because the first invitation to be obedient is an invitation. Then the rules start changing if you don't... I mean, disobedience cost you something.

Kristin: It does.

Annie: And if the Holy Spirit is going to knock on my door like 9 of 10 times to answer the first time.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: Right?

Kristin: Yes.

Annie: I've done enough of not obeying quickly and those are checks I don't want to keep writing.

Kristin: I love you so much. You are literally speaking... It's like you're in my mouth. I have learned a lot.

Annie: Today was meant to happen. We both believe this.

Kristin: It was. It was.

Annie: What are you working on next? You have another book coming out. Do we get to talk about it today?

Kristin: Can we please?

Annie: The *I'm no philosopher*. What's the rest of the title?

Kristin: *I'm No Philosopher, But I've Got Some Thoughts*.

Annie: It comes out in 23.

Kristin: Yes.

Annie: Okay. Please come back and talk to us about it on 23.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: I will. I will. And Annie I have another book coming out.

Annie: Oh, yeah, you have a one with a bunch of other women?

Kristin: Yes. It's called *My Moment*. Chely Wright is a dear friend of mine. We got in a conversation. She was like, "Do you remember the first time you ever took up for yourself as a woman?"

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: And I couldn't answer her.

Annie: Really?

Kristin: Until weeks went by and I finally told her, which was a hard story to tell, and we decided to do a coffee table book with Linda Perry and Kathy Najimy, all of us very different.

Annie: Kathy Najimy?

Kristin: Yes.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: Yes.

Annie: There's a hundred... How many? 106 of y'all? Is that right?

Kristin: That's right. And it's everybody from Carol Burnett to Dove Cameron. We've got all.

Annie: Dolly?

Kristin: Oh, we've got Reba.

Annie: Listen, you and I have a deep love for Jesus and Dolly.

Kristin: I wrote a song, *WWDD*. It was on my failed country record. But I don't care. I'm so proud of it.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: It is not fail. It exist.

Kristin: I love her with my whole heart.

Annie: Now that you live here, I mean, I'm sure this was true when you were here before but the things people whisper about how she donates and gives and creates, you go, the world will actually never know how much Dolly does for Tennessee or for the nation, or... I mean.

Kristin: And also it's not like she's leading with "Look what I've done."

Annie: No, ever. They tried to build a statue to her like two years ago, and she won't let him, here in town.

Kristin: I love her so much even more.

Annie: I'm like, I'm trying to build a statue for me and they're telling me no. She's the humble one, I'm the worst. You know what? She's been a preacher to me.

Annie: Really?

Kristin: Yes. Like I said, I work with all different types of people, all different types of beliefs. Some things I understand and some things I don't, but it doesn't matter. It's not for me too. It's for me to show love. And Dolly Parton and Reba, frankly, are two examples of women. I have the best Dolly Parton thing and I'm sorry if this offends anybody. Dolly did say this.

A young gentleman went to her and said... I believe he said something like, "I'm gay and people are going to hate me, my family, I'm Christian, and I'm going to be an outcast. And not only that, I feel like I'm in the wrong body and I might want to transition." And you know what Dolly Parton... This is Dolly Parton. She was like, "Well, all I can say is, Honey, don't get caught in the rain in your heels and wig."

Annie: That is her piece back.

Kristin: That is Dolly. That says so much without saying, "Hey, I don't want you to do that for you because that's just going to be hard life or whatever." Whatever her thoughts are, I don't even know. But she's been the best example of someone of faith. Also, how she handles this business is this is a business and it's been hard for me to learn.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: So two books coming out in the next year besides the kids' book that comes out this month?

Kristin: Correct.

Annie: And then TV. A show about Nashville?

Kristin: Yes. We've set it in Nashville. And yeah, I'm really excited about it. It's one of three projects I've sold as a producer for televisions. So my goal, if I may, I just want to be in Nashville and work here for a second. I have a lot of very good friends. Kathie Lee Gifford is one of them. A mentor to me.

Annie: Oh, I adore her.

Kristin: Me too.

Annie: When she prays, I mean, she's got some sort of red phone.

Kristin: She's direct line. Direct line.

Annie: When I've talked to her about prayer, I've been like, oh, you actually have been doing this in the silence and in the secret place for decades to be like this now.

Kristin: The other day I was with her and she started to explain to me "El Shaddai" and all the exact meanings of things. And I thought, "Here I've learned German, Italian and French and I don't know this."

Annie: Well, I think Hebrew can be on your list. It doesn't have to be at the top. But if you start a Hebrew class, I'll sit there with you because I want to learn too.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: I just love when we know the original meaning of things. It's beautiful. And she just knows it. But I think she studies all the time.

Kristin: She does. She studies and works at it all the time. She's probably the closest person that I know very, very well that has... when I first hit I should say, some people say "made it," but when I first kind of hit, she grabbed my hand-

Annie: Because you were both in New York then.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Yes. And she said, "I'm here. This is going to be hard. Buckle up. But I got you."
And she's never left.

Annie: And now you're both here.

Kristin: Well, she's been telling me for years, "Kristin, get your butt back to Nashville." I
just want to go to the San Antonio Taco Company place.

Annie: Oh, yes. Come on. Y'all pick Satco. Have you been to Ladybird yet? The new Taco
place?

Kristin: No.

Annie: We must.

Kristin: Oh.

Annie: This will be our next friend date. You must.

Kristin: Okay, fine.

Annie: It's incredible tacos as well.

Kristin: What?

Annie: Sorry. It's on 10th. It is.

Kristin: I'm going. Please, can we go?

Annie: Please.

Kristin: Okay. I'm going to hold you to them.

Annie: I'm going to hold you to them. We need to taco. We need to taco 'bout it. Oh boy!

Kristin: That's the name of the next book.

Annie: I know. I'm the worst. Okay, I'll ask you two more questions and then we'll be done.

Kristin: We need to taco.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Annie: I would love to ask you, when our friends are listening to this whether they're on a treadmill or they're in the shower or they're driving their kids to school or whatever, doing a surgery, when they think of you, what do you want them to pray for you? What would you like people to pray for you?

Kristin: I would like for them to continue to pray for the mission work I'm doing. That's where-

Annie: Oh, you're a missionary. It's incredible.

Kristin: I just need that prayer. And I've even said, okay, I'm ready to stop now. But it just keeps... "No, my child. I am not finished with you yet."

Annie: Yes. You're not off the field yet.

Kristin: Correct. And that comes through with mentorship. Now, I was the mentee for so long now I'm the mentor. I'm just seeing how important it is.

Annie: I think a lot when people hear it's like you said, the beginning when people hear the word missionary, or when they hear the word teacher, they think there's one route of that. Ang God is like, "No, no, no, I'm giving you the umbrella. How this gets executed could be 10 different things, 100 different things in your life."

Kristin: Amen.

Annie: So you are one of the missionaries that have come on our show.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: I just think that's incredible.

Kristin: Thank you.

Annie: Is there anything we didn't talk about that you want to make sure we cover?

Kristin: No. No. I do want to say one thing to you.

Annie: Okay.

Kristin: One of the things that's so special and fills me up as an artist, because I want to continue to be... I had a confrontation moment with an airline. It doesn't matter. But

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

I said, I speak to you now—to this other person that had a problem. I said, "I speak to you now as a child of God, a, and what I'm about to say might come off wrong." That's the prayer. And that's what I feel with strangers texting me or Instagramming me or twittering me and saying, "I'm praying for you. I know that you need it and why."

The fact that I get to sit across from a table from... Sorry, everybody or if I may, a young lady who is not just so prepared and wonderful, but I can honestly say of like spirit with no judgment about some of my wackiness is such a gift. And when I say thank you to you, it's important for me that you understand that I mean thank you. Because this is very rare in the industry.

Annie: Wow.

Kristin: At least my path has been I've been a missionary. So thank you for saying what you've said. I've learned a lot today. Believe it or not, though, I can talk. We know I have diarrhea of the mouth, two ears, and one mouth. The little simple things you've said, I will take with me. And it's important for me to know that you just accept that.

Annie: I do. That is really kind. That means a ton to me.

Kristin: I mean it.

Annie: Thank you. It is an honor to get to sit with you for the way your voice has led me. Very rarely do we finish a show like this. And I think God is doing more here than we know.

Kristin: That's right. Thank you. He is... or they whatever you prefer-

Annie: All three of them.

Kristin: But He really, really is. And so thanks.

Annie: I hope you feel very welcome here in Nashville, but also here.

Kristin: I do. Thank you.

Annie: So you're very welcome. That means a lot to me. My dad loves when people say "good question." So he's already going to text me before he's even to this point and say, "Kristin Chenoweth said you had a good question."

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: You did. I mean, for a second, I was like, What? You're awesome.

Annie: You're awesome. I'm glad we're neighbors now.

Kristin: Me too.

Annie: Let me ask you our final question. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you?

Kristin: There's some many things. Why I'm pausing is because, and I know the answer but there are so many things. In one sitting, a Krispy Kreme donut, a chocolate milkshake and we've talked about it before. I love Mexican food, so a taco or burrito, it doesn't matter in one sitting with pants that have an elastic waistband.

Annie: Soft pants.

Kristin: That's what I want.

Annie: Remember how minutes ago you said "you're talking from my mouth?" I feel like you're talking from my mouth. I feel like you're talking from my mouth. Oh, a taco and a donut and a chocolate milkshake and soft pants.

Kristin: I need it.

Annie: That sounds like an after show bus food. After show bus experience. Like, I'm out on my work clothes, I'm into my soft pants, the crew is still putting everything away, I'm alone on the bus and they left these tacos and these doughnuts-

Kristin: And the shake.

Annie: And the shake.

Kristin: In one sitting.

Annie: Oh, that's great.

Kristin: That sounds fun.

Annie: Nashville will provide that for you.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Kristin: Oh, I know.

Annie: Thank you for doing this today.

Kristin: Of course. Thanks for having me.

Annie: I appreciate it. This sounds fun. I've never said this but I genuinely love you.

Kristin: I feel the same way. I'm like, are we allowed to say love you, bye?

Kristin: Yes we are.

Annie: That's how I feel.

Kristin: No, I feel the same. And you know, I've been asking the Lord, "Please, I want more people in my life that are similar." And so here you are and here I am. And I mean it though.

Annie: I do too.

Kristin: I will be a stalker.

Annie: When you have your first date on the books, it gets real. So we're doing this.

Kristin: Okay. You said it on air.

Annie: Yes, I did. Love you, bye.

Kristin: Love you, bye.

[01:00:36] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't she the best? Oh my gosh. I mean, what a journey that conversation was. I just adore her. I'm really thankful she lives here. Be sure to grab your copy of her new kids book, *What Will I Do with My Love Today?* Follow her on social media. Tell her thanks so much for being on the show.

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. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same.

Episode 375: Kristin Chenoweth That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs

Today what sounds fun to me, oh, I think I'd like burger up for lunch. That's what sounds good to me. Here's my thing right now. The kale salad with salmon and some fries on the side. Because if you aren't eating fries with your salad, I don't know why. So try them both together.

Have a great week and we'll see you back here on Thursday with your buddy and mine and truly the only Florida Gator football player we have ever had or will ever have on the podcast. It's our friend Tim Tebow. We'll see you guys on Thursday.