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**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. I hope you are having and have had a lovely Memorial Day weekend and that if you're listening to this on the day it comes out, that it's a fun, restful day with your people. I'm sure grateful for all those who sacrificed in order for us here in the states to have the freedoms that we do. We have got a great show in store for you today.

But before we dive into the conversation, I want to take a moment to share about one of our incredible partners. This podcast is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). Life can get overwhelming, and when we don't deal with the things that feel overwhelming, it can lead us to get burned out and feeling unmotivated, helpless, trapped, and tired.

For myself, one of the surefire ways I can tell that I'm feeling overwhelmed is when I think I'm getting enough sleep but I still feel tired, you know? One of the ways we can guard against burnout is with therapy. I'm so, so grateful for how my counselor has helped me process overwhelming seasons over the years. It's honestly something I want everyone to get to experience.

BetterHelp is customized online therapy that offers video, phone, and even live chat sessions with your therapist. So you don't have to see anyone on camera if you don't want to. It's much more affordable than in-person therapy and you can be matched with a therapist in under 48 hours. That Sounds Fun friends get 10% off your first month at [betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun](https://betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun). That's [betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun](https://betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun).

**Intro:** Today on the show I get to talk with my sweet friend Catie Offerman. She's one of the up-and-comers in country music that I just know you're gonna go crazy over. She's a Texas native, has been playing like every instrument, including the accordion since she was a kid.

Her debut track *Happyland Trailer Park* is out now as well as her new song *Don't Do It In Texas*. Y'all, it's such a great song. Both of them are. I just love her. She's also a married woman now too. You'll hear this but we recorded this conversation a couple of days before her wedding. It was so beautiful.

Y'all may have seen the pictures. I was so honored to get to officiate her wedding to my friend Kolby. I mean it was like, oh, so special. I'm just over the moon excited for y'all to get to know her and her music.

So here's my conversation with Catie Offerman.

[00:02:28] <music>

**Annie:** Catie, please start. You just have to start that there's a bird... It is your wedding week, and there's a bird in your house.

**Catie:** There's a bird in my house. Last night we were heading to dinner, we're going to a great new spot, Lyra. Lyra. I don't know how to pronounce it. It's in East Nashville. You gotta go. If you go, get the big hummus platter.

**Annie:** How was the hummus? That's what I was going to say. Hummus.

**Catie:** The hummus, oh my gosh. They do woodfired oven pita. So it cooks in there. Instead of pizza, it's just the pita bread.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Catie:** And it is melt in your mouth. Make sure to get the large portion because there's a small and a large, and the large is everything you need.

**Annie:** Do they put stuff in it?

**Catie:** Yes.

**Annie:** Oh, what else?

**Catie:** It is loaded. I don't even know but I loved it. It was like homemade falafel but it was really crispy. There was these pickled turnips, which I wouldn't think I'd be into but it tastes like a potato, so super into it. Anything like a potato.

**Annie:** Right.

**Catie:** You know, need some of those pre-wedding carbs. And it was just glorious.

**Annie:** We gotta be ready for Sunday.

**Catie:** I know. 100%.

**Annie:** That's right. We gotta really get our carbs up before we do Sunday.

**Catie:** But anyway, I was supposed to meet my parents there because they're in town because the wedding's coming up. And Kolby and I were waiting in the restaurant

and I'm just like, "Where are my parents?" They're always up to something. My dad's involved in this probably just like a three ring circus.

And I get a notification on my ring camera and it was like, "Familiar face at your door." And I pull it up and I'm like, "What are they doing?" And it's them and all the neighbors circled on this tree. I'm like, "Oh, what are we doing?" Because I knew there had been this bird incident early in the day. My mom was like, "Your dad almost broke his neck. He climbed up the tree."

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** And all this stuff. And I'm like, "That's all I need."

**Annie:** Your dad climbed a tree?

**Catie:** All the way up the tree. He had a stepladder and he was hanging from a limb. But there's nothing my dad can't do. He's that kind of guy. But my mom was like, "That's the last thing we need is you paralyzed before the wedding." Anyway, he's just quite the risk-taker. So anyway, they finally get to dinner. And they're like, "We saved a bird and the neighbor took it. We need to pick up some ground beef for it and whatever."

**Annie:** So there were three baby birds. Two of them didn't make it?

**Catie:** Two of them didn't make it, so my mom's super depressed. She's in a really dark place last night. She was. I mean, she barely looked up. She was just like, "I'm really stressed."

**Annie:** Did she come to eat with y'all?

**Catie:** She did. But she didn't want to. I called her on the phone and she was so emotional about it. She wasn't crying, she was just in a dark place. And I'm like, "I really do feel free animals but..." I mean, obviously, I'm a super big animal person but I'm like, "All right, at the end of the day, there's not much we can do about it. It would hurt more obviously if it was a dog or something for me. But you know, of course, we saved this bird. So the neighbor took it while we were at dinner and we come back and she's like, "I've got it. I'll sleep with it tonight." So the neighbor slept with the bird. Not in her bed. Next to her.

**Annie:** Maybe.

**Catie:** You never know. So this morning the neighbor texted me, he was like, "I called every wildlife place in town and nobody will take it. So can I just drop it off

because I have a busy day." And I'm like, "Yeah, I've got nothing going on. I'm doing nothing. You know, I'm not getting married. I'm not releasing music. It's fine. Just bring the bird." So keep in mind we have four Chihuahuas and a Frenchie.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh. That's right. Your parents brought all their dogs.

**Catie:** So how can we not get the bird killed in another way? So anyway, needless to say my mom is a little stressed right now. She's just camped out the house. She is monitoring the bird. She's monitoring the dogs. And my dad and I are in charge of everything else. And I was like, "Mom, why don't you just stay home today?"

**Annie:** Did they drive from Texas for the wedding?

**Catie:** Yeah, they did. And they don't drive unless they have the dogs. So they have four chihuahuas, and they bite your heels. They're like anything you imagine in a Chihuahua. But it's just really special because they really are the coolest and best parents in the whole world.

**Annie:** And you're an only child.

**Catie:** Only child.

**Annie:** So those are like your people. You and them forever.

**Catie:** My best friends. I don't know if anybody else has ever felt this way. I mean, I'm sure because it's just human nature. But I think sometimes I'll just go in my mind of like, I just can't imagine a life without them. And I picture what that will look like one day. I know you end up adjusting, but it's like they're everything to me, you know?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Catie:** It's also just, you know, interesting over the years, especially being an only child, it's just like we are each other's people. But at some point, when you get older, I feel like life kind of goes full circle and you start taking care of them and you realize that they're not superheroes. They are in like... I know if I was lost in China, my dad would come find me. He's that kind of dad.

**Annie:** Totally.

**Catie:** And I know that whatever I did, whatever I did wrong, whatever great thing I did, my mom would be there. It wouldn't matter. She's so unconditional. But they're not perfect people.

**Annie:** Sure.

**Catie:** And it's interesting realizing how we're all just human and we're all trying to just figure it out.

**Annie:** And now you're all adults.

**Catie:** Yeah. Even though I feel like not much has changed my brain since I was like 18.

**Annie:** Right.

**Catie:** I don't know if you feel that way.

**Annie:** Yes, I do.

**Catie:** But I'm like, "When do you really feel like you're getting older?" Like now I'll put on a shirt in a weird way and be like, "Okay, well, they're just on my shoulder for about a week." So you feel old physically-

**Annie:** But your brain is like, "Am I 17?"

**Catie:** Yeah. I'm 28 now and I thought that when you got close to 30 that that was a monumental age, you would have everything figured out. And I think I just began, you know?

**Annie:** Yeah,

**Catie:** So I think that's kind of an interesting feeling of like, "Do you ever feel like you've grown up?" I don't know.

**Annie:** I don't know either.

**Catie:** Oh, I hope you don't because maybe that'll just keep you young.

**Annie:** I don't know this answer. What would you be doing if you weren't doing country music?

**Catie:** Oh, man. My mom probably wishes I had a really stable job—a good ol nine to five. If I had to do something else, I would probably do something in... Well, another hard business, something involving food.

**Annie:** Oh really?

**Catie:** I love to cook. I love to eat. That's my-

**Annie:** You're a very good cook.

**Catie:** Thank you for eating my food.

**Annie:** It makes me so happy when you make me dinner.

**Catie:** I love it because I always cook like 20 servings for me and Kolby.

**Annie:** So good.

**Catie:** And he's like, "Why are you doing this?" I'm like, "I like a good presentation, tons of food and everything." I don't know, I think it'd be so awesome to have a restaurant or write a food blog or do a Travel Channel show of going out and trying food and things like that. Otherwise, I would probably want to do hair and makeup. Creative.

**Annie:** It's interesting because what I've learned about you in friendship is you like to serve people.

**Catie:** I do.

**Annie:** But that actually also plays out in your music. It feels like you give us things in your music.

**Catie:** What? Thank you.

**Annie:** So it's kind of like you've got one gift or one calling that you found a bunch of ways to put it out into the world.

**Catie:** Well, thanks. That means a lot. I think for me there's a lot of feel-good music out there, and yeah, I mean, some of my songs have more substance than the others. But for me, I want there to be meaning in whatever I do. And I think that I want to be a friend to people that maybe weren't a friend to me growing up. Like I didn't grow up with a ton of friends, was super unpopular, grew up on a ranch, only child, was homeschooled in the tack room of our barn. Not on purpose, but just kind of isolated. Animals were my best friends.

I mean, I definitely had days, not to sound emo, but definitely like lonely days where you're kind of like, Man, this kind of stinks. My parents always gave me the option of going to real school, but every time I thought about sacrificing the time

that I had for my music, I would rethink. And I love that they gave me that choice because I think that made me feel like, "I really have to think about this."

**Annie:** How old were you when you knew you wanted to do music as a career?

**Catie:** Well, I started playing music when I was four.

**Annie:** Oh, I'm gonna make you tell about that, about what kind of music you used to play.

**Catie:** Well, here's the thing. Another reason why I was unpopular was that I played polka music.

**Annie:** But like big time famous in Texas polka music.

**Catie:** Man, I grew up in New Braunfels, Texas, and we have this festival called Wursthfest. It's just one of America's largest German festivals. We also have America's largest waterpark. So I don't know if it's a lie-

**Annie:** You do?

**Catie:** Yes, we do.

**Annie:** Is there some fun?

**Catie:** Well, it was fun until the last time I went and I lost my bathing suit. And I haven't gone back since. So it was like an uncomfortably 13. It's just like old enough to know and just "let's get out here fast."

**Annie:** Did you ever find it?

**Catie:** Yeah, I got it back on.

**Annie:** Great.

**Catie:** Well, they have this thing called the Boogie Bahn. It's basically just a manmade way to end up nude. Like there's no other way to say it. It is pushing water against you. You're supposed to surf. But when water is shooting at like 100 miles an hour off your top, there's just... So the top came off and the bottom came down and it was just like, "We need to leave ASAP." And I'm with my dad and my best friend. They're just up there, like, "Get the suit back on." And you're like, "Oh, no, oh, no." So haven't gone back since. I'm a really big fan of the river.

**Annie:** Right. Right.

**Catie:** We have the Comal River there, and that is just way more my jam. But yeah, polka music is just really big down there because it's a German town. My family's German. My dad used to speak German actually. And-

**Annie:** What instrument did you play in a polka band?

**Catie:** Well, fiddle. Fiddle always paid the bills up until recent. So I always played fiddle but I was playing accordion. And that is how I met Terry Cavanagh. He was my accordion teacher, and he had just lost his fiddle player and he was touring schmaltzy duo. Terry, I mean, what a... He's a peculiar man. He's been playing polka music his entire life. He is like 65 single. I mean, just that has to be such a unique-

**Annie:** Human.

**Catie:** ...brain. I owe everything to Terry because I was taking accordion lessons from him and he knew I played fiddle and I was like 10 years old at the time, and he was like, "How is your fiddle playing?" And I was only doing Suzuki classical, and I was like, "I don't know." He's like, "Well, why don't you just bring your fiddle to your next accordion lesson?"

**Annie:** Is a fiddle and a violin-

**Catie:** Exactly the same.

**Annie:** It's just how you play it.

**Catie:** How you play it. But yeah, your attitude, the clothes you're wearing, the vibe of your personality.

**Annie:** So you can buy a violin and learn violin and also learn fiddle?

**Catie:** Turn it into a fiddle, yeah.

**Annie:** Okay, thank you for clearing that up.

**Catie:** I'd say growing up, I was like, Oh, you know, my dad took me to the violin shop and bought a violin, but now I'm a fiddle player. That just makes me seem like a much more approachable person.

**Annie:** But can you do classic violin as well as fiddle playing?

**Catie:** Yeah. So that's really what I did my whole life. I don't do that much anymore, so I wouldn't be... I mean, for example, a couple years ago, maybe like six years ago, gosh, now when I moved to town, they had asked me if I wanted to do the CMA Country Christmas thing or whatever. So I was like, "Heck, yeah, you know, make some money." And you're kind of just like back there faking some string parts, whatever.

And I remember going to the [Gaile's? 00:13:16] house, because you still had to audition. And I showed up and all I was doing was country, western swing, that kind of thing. And I walked in, and she's like, "Okay, well, what concerto have we prepared for today?" I'm like, "Concerto? "Who wants to play some Bob Wills, maybe some country music? Ray Price or something?" She's like, "Oh, man, I think you're in the wrong spot." So we just politely agree that it was not the right fit. But for me, polka music opened all the doors in my life, which seems so silly.

**Annie:** No, that's right.

**Catie:** If you want to make some money, get in polka music. I made way more than I do now. Maybe because not as many people do it. Not everybody is rushing to play polka music. So yeah, I started playing accordion, I was playing fiddle with him. And he was like, "Just come along. Come play with me. I'll pay you 300 bucks. We'll go play this duo gig together.

In six months I had to memorize half the songs, whatever. And I go and do this gig and it opened my world to there being possibilities other than sitting in an orchestra and playing and for me feeling uninspired. And I truly don't know if Terry wouldn't have ever offered that to me, I may not have continued music because I just didn't see that there was a whole other world.

**Annie:** Will you talk about your parents driving you to those late night Music? I mean, this is like a fan show for your parents. But I think it's incredible.

**Catie:** Well, my dad was my Mr. Mom. He was one who homeschool me. He did everything in my life. We were just best friends. I mean, he would do jobs. He was a horse trainer when I was born. So my mom told him, like, "I have the real job, you are in charge of Catie." Which is awesome.

I can't even... I think my mom knows this. I'd say this to her face. I think I would have pulled my hair out if my mom would have homeschooled me. I would have been a completely different breed. I think my dad is such an out of the box thinker. He's so relaxed. He's creative. He's just worldly smart. He was never book-smart. He didn't have a degree, he couldn't even type and he was like, "I'm gonna teach you." I'm like, "We'll see how this goes."

And it evolved over the years. And this goes back to just their involvement in my music. In that early age, my dad was the one taking me to all of my polka gigs. We bought a really old bus and my dad spent time kind of redoing it. We took the polka band on the road.

**Annie:** Like a tour bus or a school bus?

**Catie:** A tour bus. Can you imagine a school bus?

**Annie:** Wow. Did he take out the seats?

**Catie:** It would not surprise me. No, he bought a really old tour bus.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** And he converted the whole thing. It wasn't fancy, but like it did the job. And it was such a cool experience. And I'm like 12 at this point. I started playing professionally when I was maybe 11. So we're going down the road with all these just old polka people. And then there's just me and my dad and my dad's driving the bus and we would just go all over the United States playing Oktoberfest and eating bratwurst. Obviously not beer in that age.

**Annie:** And wearing Lederhosen.

**Catie:** Yeah, they wore the Lederhosen and I wore the Dirndl.

**Annie:** Oh, sorry.

**Catie:** Right. As much as I'm in the Lederhosen, it wasn't really my vibe at the time. So at one point, probably around... I started college when I was really young. But my dad ended up getting a job because our health insurance had just gone out. My mom had some health issues and so it was kind of that realization that roles have to shift a little bit. And it didn't really matter what he did or how much he did of it, but we needed health insurance that wasn't out of my mom's pocket. So he applied to every single place, and the only place that hired him was to be a correctional officer, prison three hours away.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** So he knew that's what he had to do. It was important for the family. So my mom took over at that point. So he was driving down working a couple days a week.

**Annie:** He would do a three-hour drive?

**Catie:** Yes. Just for the sake of... Because our health insurance account was like three grand a month, and it was like, that's just not feasible for us. So I think it just was such a testament to just how both my parents just go the extra mile and it's like, whatever has to be done. He didn't want to do that. He didn't want to be a correctional officer. I can't imagine anybody who wanted three hours every day to a prison.

**Annie:** Right.

**Catie:** But I think he saw it as an opportunity. I think it was great for him too because he hadn't done anything for him in a while. It had been like a good... I was probably 14 at that time or something. So he had devoted so much of his life to me. And it was like, "This is his chance to do something for him." And he worked his way up in law enforcement and did investigation. He's still in that stuff now and he just loves it so much.

But at that point, my mom became the parent in charge. I remember when I was probably 15, a buddy of mine, this guy, David Beck, his dad plays for Robert Earl Keen, he's the one who got me into songwriting. And David was in this band with this guy Paul Cauthen that was called Sons of Fathers. And before he got in that band, he was doing his own solo stuff in Austin, and he'd be like, "Come play fiddle with me." He's one of my best friends.

He called me one day and he's like, "Man, I got this gig at the Saxon Pub." And he's like, "It starts at 1 am." And Austin is an hour from my house and my mom still has a real job. So, I mean, there was never even a question. My mom was like, "100%, I'll take you. We'll just play in our Starbucks runs, we'll get a little espresso on the way and we'll go."

**Annie:** How long did you play at the one o'clock set?

**Catie:** It was like 30, 40 minutes.

**Annie:** So y'all drive an hour for you-

**Catie:** To half the time.

**Annie:** And then drive an hour back in the middle of the night.

**Catie:** In the middle of the night. So we would always stop... there's a Starbucks on Oltorf exit, and we would grab a Starbucks, we would head there. And she would come in or sometimes she'd read out in the car. And she just stay away.

**Annie:** She would just read a book.

**Catie:** Yeah. I mean, when you've seen the same set about 20 times or a couple of times, she'd be like, "I'm gonna take a little nap," you know, whatever. But they're just the best parents. I think I'm lucky because they're not managers, but they're supportive to the core.

**Annie:** I think is one of those things when you see people when new artists of the year, you're like, Actually 15 years ago, their parents were driving them at midnight to play a set. Nobody is a new artist of the year who is new artists of the year.

**Catie:** No. And I think that's the thing we struggle with these days. It's so easy to judge or come to assumptions by just looking on Instagram or... Because I'll be honest, I'm quick to hear about or see some new little TikTok chick or something like that and be like, "Oh, so she's just gonna pop out of nowhere here and think she's hot stuff?"

But it's like, "You know what? I don't know what her story is." Because some people could say that about me and look at my thing and be like, "Oh, okay, she's on label and bla, bla, bla. Looks like her life is pretty easy. And it's like nobody knows the blood, sweat, and tears that goes on behind the scenes because people usually don't tell that story online.

**Annie:** Yeah. We had Walker Hayes on and he's both of those, right? He's the guy who's worked at this for forever. And he told the story about how he was working at Costco, and kept seeing people while he was working that he had been in meetings with.

**Catie:** Wow.

**Annie:** And then TikTok does launch him into this new sphere.

**Catie:** I know. I know.

**Annie:** So he's like the both... it is such a wild... Everybody thinks everybody else's story is easier.

**Catie:** 100%.

[00:20:43] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about one of our incredible partners, [Awana's Talk About](#) discipleship resource. Raise your hand literally if you want to have a solid spiritual conversation with the kids in your life? Yes. Mine is in the air. My hand with my cast on it. My little brace on it is in the air. Now, raise your hand if that feels a little intimidating to you. Yeah, me too.

I know all of you who are parents or have MiniBFFs in your life want to have spiritual conversations with kids. But you don't always feel like you know where to start. Right? Well, I'm so happy to have a good answer to that need, Awana's new Talk About feature.

Awana is a trusted organization that has been resourcing churches with great scripture-based curriculum forever. And their new Talk About discipleship resource is so cool. With questions answers and Bible verses to discuss, Talk About provides parents and caretakers, and Annies with the tools you need to have discipleship conversations that help you deepen your family's faith.

Since each family and child is different, Talk About also has a wide variety of suggestions for family fun. Kids can draw or act or sing about and explore each week's content in a bunch of fun ways. You can get Talk About as a subscription for only \$5.99 a month with all kinds of faith filled content for families that will be conveniently delivered via email once you've logged in with your subscription.

And my friends, that's you, will receive a free month when you use the promo code TSF, like That sounds fun, at checkout at [talkaboutdiscipleship.com](http://talkaboutdiscipleship.com). Again, that's talkaboutdiscipleship.com and the promo code is TSF. And just a reminder, we always list these codes for you down in the show notes and also in our AFD Week in Review email every Friday. You can sign up for that in the show notes as well.

**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.

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

And now back to our conversation with Catie.

[00:23:33] <music>

**Annie:** So *Happyland Trailer Park* was your first single out, now *Don't Do It In Texas*.

**Catie:** *Don't Do It In Texas* is out.

**Annie:** Talk about the two songs we can listen to. Start with *Happyland Trailer Park*. It's so fun.

**Catie:** Oh, thank you. I appreciate that.

**Annie:** It's like fresh and good summer pop.

**Catie:** You know, everybody's mildly depressed after COVID, and so I'm like, "we need something that puts a smile on people's face."

**Annie:** Did you write these?

**Catie:** I did. I write all my songs.

**Annie:** Really?

**Catie:** Yeah. Co-write them obviously.

**Annie:** I was about to say, do you have other writers with you sometimes?

**Catie:** Yes. So this is something I wrote with one of my best friends Joe Clemens and then Rodney Clawson.

**Annie:** Oh, we love Rodney and Nicolle.

**Catie:** We love the Rodneys. I love them. And the funny thing is Nicolle I wrote *Don't Do It In Texas* with, with Ryan Beaver.

**Annie:** Oh, good. Nicole has been on the show because we had her kind of tell us how to throw parties. No one knows she's one of the prolific songwriters in our town. We had her talk about how to throw a good party.

**Catie:** I need to know how to edit my Instagram videos too because she is the queen of all the aesthetic things.

**Annie:** You wrote with both Clawsons on the songs?

**Catie:** Yeah. At totally different times over the pandemic.

**Annie:** Oh wow.

**Catie:** We actually wrote *Don't Do It In Texas* first. It was over zoom. It was in Texas. I was home over the pandemic like at the start of it. It was kind of like what the heck is going on kind of thing or I guess we'll just uh, you know, writing on Zoom. And then *Happyland Trailer Park* I was over at their house.

It's funny because everything happens for a reason. Me Rodney and Jessie Jo Dillon were supposed to write and she had something come up. So Rodney was like, "Well, why don't we just wait? We'll write late tonight. Come over the house and just bring anybody you want over?" So I invited my buddy Joe over, and I was like, "Just come over." I don't think they had written before. And we ended up writing the song.

It says in the song, "Everybody's got a different definition of the good stuff," and I just feel like we are all so worthy of finding that thing in our life that puts a smile on our face and makes us happy and kind of keeps us going. Because I don't know... I feel like after the start of the year, all my friends were kind of in a funk and feeling kind of mildly down and out just with everything last couple years. And I wanted this to be something that put a smile on people's face and reminder not to take life too seriously and find that thing in their life worth searching for.

Because for me, I'm such a free spirit in a lot of ways. *Happyland Trailer Park* isn't just a trailer park. It totally can be. And since we wrote this song, I looked up *Happyland Trailer Park*, United States, and there are a couple. I'm going to be going to them. So if you want to do a road trip-

**Annie:** You are?

**Catie:** Yes.

**Annie:** Oh, that is so smart.

**Catie:** I know. We should totally do that. There's one in Canada, and then there's one in either Oklahoma or Kansas.

**Annie:** Oh, I love it.

**Catie:** So maybe if we need to get away sometime we go to the Happyland.

**Annie:** With pleasure.

**Catie:** One looks a little creepy. Like there might be spooky clowns there.

**Annie:** Okay, good, good.

**Catie:** But I'm also kinda down for it. But it's like, wherever that place is. Maybe that place is sitting on your couch with a loved one or having a cup of coffee. Whatever that is. It doesn't mean you have to actually leave your house to find that spot. But I just encourage people to find whatever that is.

I think the cool thing about Don't Do in Texas being the next song out is I think it dives a little deeper into just my authentic Texas side. I grew up on a lot of George Strait and like I said, Ray Price or George Jones and just sort of classic country. And so for me this is like... this is so me to the core and just little throwback, you know, still current. If I could be like female George Strait.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Catie:** Man, George and I we need to be friends. So I'm putting that. I'm manifesting that too.

**Annie:** Out to the world.

**Catie:** Yeah. Did I tell you that I met George once? Did we talk about that?

**Annie:** Yeah. You told me at church one Sunday, but I really want you to tell the story if you want to.

**Catie:** Yeah, of course. George, if you're out there-

**Annie:** Remember me.

**Catie:** Remember me at the hair salon.

**Annie:** This is such a good story.

**Catie:** Oh my gosh. We just talked about my mom and those Saxon Pub gigs. So we had one of those. I played, we come home, you know, we didn't get home till like 3 a.m. My life is so non-traditional. But I was around 15, 16 this time so I did that for about a year. I had taken a year off of school because I had already been in college at that point and I was kind of already-

**Annie:** You were already in college at 15?

**Catie:** I started college when I was 11, which is super weird.

**Annie:** Catie, what?

**Catie:** Another reason I didn't have friends. So strange. I know. It's a really weird thing about me. And I feel like I don't act like somebody who could be capable of taking college class when they were 11. That seems like something that... I don't know. If I thought about a history thing now or doing a math problem like, Whoa, I don't think I could do that.

**Annie:** You were 11 years old taking college courses.

**Catie:** Yeah.

**Annie:** From home?

**Catie:** No. I'd go-

**Annie:** You were going and sitting in classes as an 11-year-old?

**Catie:** Yeah, it'd be me in the front and my dad in the back-

**Annie:** Catie!

**Catie:** ...because they required him to go. So it was-

**Annie:** What school?

**Catie:** Texas Lutheran University in Seguin outside New Braunfels. I mean basically I was taking... that was my violin... I'm saying violin now not fiddle. But I was taking violin from a professor there and she was like, "You seem like bright in music and

it'd be cool if you took some music theory classes," something like that. And I'm like, "Oh, that seems fun." And I'm like 10 at this point.

And my dad's like, "That'd be like a fun idea. Something good for Catie to do, you know, get her wheels turning." So we go and we talked to the school and we're like, "Catie is 10, can she come take some music theory classes?" And they're like, "No. Does she have an SAT?" "No." "Does she have a GED?" "No." Does she have anything?" I was like, "No. I'm still out playing in the grass with my goats." I mean, not that I was an idiot, but I was at no-

**Annie:** You were 10.

**Catie:** I was 10. I was just chilling out and enjoying life. So my dad's like... Again, he's the out-of-the-box thinker and he was like, "Well, are there any other options?" And they are like, "Well, if you want to get a court order to get her GED, because you can't get your GED unless you're 16, or juvenile delinquent." And so I was like, "Well, I couldn't get my GED." And they were like, "Can she take her SATs?" And I was like, "No."

So they said, "All right, well, you've got a couple of recommendations. Let us go back to the Dean of School and just see if there's any options." Because I said I can monitor the music class, but I wouldn't get any credit. And you have to pay full price.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Catie:** So it was like, No.

**Annie:** No

**Catie:** It was a private school. It was too expensive just to do that. So somehow, they came back, and they said, "We will consider admitting you to school if you write 10-page paper about where you want to go in life and what your aspirations are." So I wrote this paper. I don't know what I said, but I must have said something decent.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Catie:** Then they said, "We will accept you into the school. You can only take three classes a semester. You can take anything you want. You can take math, you can take music, you can take whatever the heck you want to do. Your dad has to come with you, and you have to make all As."

So it opened up a whole different world for me. My mom was not in favor of it openly. She was like, "I just don't want to put Catie in that position of being kind of a misfit." And going from homeschooling to being so young, like being 10 and 11 in these classes with 22-year-olds, and you have your freaking dad in the back, you know, it's like, "Oh, my God."

So as a family they gave me the option. I was just like, "That sounds like a fun idea. I don't know." If I knew what I knew now, I'd go, "Okay, we should not be doing that."

**Annie:** Did you get a degree?

**Catie:** Yeah. So basically, I'm just being open with you here. The funny thing is, is they told me, "We're going to hold your credits until you take your SATs." I took three classes a semester for several years from like age 11 to 15. At 15, and I'm the homeschooled... like, I would do college math and then first grade biology or whatever. So I'm like, "Oh, wow." You know, just super weird.

At 15, I remember my parents... Maybe around 14, 15 my parents sitting down and being like, Okay, Catie's life is super weird. She's playing polka music, she's in college, but still kind of in whatever grade you're in." I don't know. I have no idea about grades. I really don't. I have no idea. Like, if you're 12, I have no idea what grade you're in.

**Annie:** Catie.

**Catie:** I really don't.

**Annie:** If you're 12 you're a junior in college, so that's the problem.

**Catie:** I don't know.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** So my parents I remember having this conversation of like, "How can we get Catie back to more of a normal place? And I still couldn't drive.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh. I did not know any of this.

**Catie:** So my mom was like, "I think Catie should just go back in just being a dual credit program." At 15, enter college and just kind of like, start fresh. So my dad's like, "Oh, okay. All right." So we checked in into this program that San Antonio Community College offered, and it was for dual credit students. I don't know.

We went to TLU where I was going at the time and my dad just went up to the counter and said, "I'd like to get a transcript from my daughter." Because I had, I don't know, over 30 credits or something like that. So if you have 21 credits, you're a transfer student. So I never still had taken my SATs at this point. But we go up to the office, and they're like, "Oh, yeah, we'll just print it out. Here's your transcript."

And it just said I was a transfer student. So then when we go to try to enroll in the dual credit program, they just put me as a college student, because I'd taken this with me. All I know is I went to the bathroom, I thought my dad was gonna roll me in the dual credit, and I came back and he's like, "I'm pretty sure I just enrolled you in college full time." I'm like, "What?"

Then I was in college from there on out. I've been to like four colleges and I've never had a GED or SAT or anything. I have a bachelor's degree.

**Annie:** This is fascinating. You have bachelor's degree and no GED.

**Catie:** No GED and SAT, no ACT, whatever. There's all those just horrible tests I've never had a ticket. Hopefully I won't get in trouble if somebody finds this out.

**Annie:** They can't unbachelor degree you.

**Catie:** They can't take it away.

**Annie:** No.

**Catie:** Sorry, Berklee.

**Annie:** Berklee?

**Catie:** I moved to Boston. That's where I graduated from when I was 16. Because I was like-

**Annie:** Oh my gosh!

**Catie:** I was like, "I need to finish this out."

**Annie:** Catie!

**Catie:** And when I was done, my mom was like, "Do you think you'd ever want to get a master's degree?" I was like, "No, I want to get the heck out. I'm so done."

**Annie:** I've been going to college for eight years.

**Catie:** And then also, how was I in college for like... I graduated when I was 19. But I'm like, how was I in college for eight years and only have a bachelor's? I should be a doctor, you know? But here's the thing. Not a lot of people know this because I think if they knew... I think it'd just be easy to assume that I was smarter than somebody else or something like that.

At the end of the day, all I can say is I don't know how to convince somebody of that but I'm not. I think that it was an attitude thing. It was like, This sounds fun. This sounds intriguing. It's unique. I did not have a typical upbringing and it was like, this could be just a life changer and something that nobody else has done. I don't know if I fully realized at the time, but I had to study all night, every day. It was so hard. But there was never a time that I was not happy that I chose that route.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Catie:** And then I got to graduate early and move out to LA and have extra years in my life. So I think if anything, it didn't make me any smarter. It just gave me more perspective.

**Annie:** That's so sweet. That is so sweet. Catie, you were in college as a 12-year-old. I promise you're smarter than me as a 12-year-old.

**Catie:** No.

**Annie:** Catie Offerman, I'm telling you, I knew myself so well at 12, there's not a world where I was doing any more than seventh grade.

**Catie:** Is that what you were in?

**Annie:** I think. Yeah. I think I was 14 as a freshman. So yeah.

**Catie:** Gotcha.

**Annie:** Catie. We got here because you were telling us about when you met George Strait.

**Catie:** Oh, wow. Okay. Well, anyway, I was back to playing The Saxon Pub gigs. And I was taking the year off of school. I had to let you know that because I didn't want you to think I was just floundering around and not doing school.

**Annie:** Yeah, none of us think you were floundering around.

**Catie:** So I took a year off because a girl needed a break.

**Annie:** So when you're 15, 16 you took a year off?

**Catie:** Yeah, from 15 to 16. Because I knew it was gonna move to Berklee when I was like, I don't know, between 16 and 17.

**Annie:** Incredible.

**Catie:** So I was just like, "All right, taking a little time off, taking..."

**Annie:** Every single college got bamboozled. They all got bamboozled by a transcript.

**Catie:** I went to Texas State, Texas Lutheran, San Antonio Community College, Berklee. I have no idea. So I'm like, "Come and get me now. It's too late." My mom took me to The Saxon Pub, I played that gig. We come home, it's like 3 a.m. I remember I was... I don't know why but I wanted to sleep on a futon at that time of my life. Now I'm like, "Oh my gosh, my back." Again, we're getting old.

Mind you, we went to this girl who did hair, her name was Kim, she was in San Antonio and kind of her claim to fame was doing George Strait's hair. I told you this before, I was like, "How can doing George Strait's be a claim to fame when there's not much hair there and he wears a cowboy hat or whatever?"

**Annie:** All the time.

**Catie:** Right. So it's like, I don't know. It doesn't represent somebody's color or balayage when it's George. So anyway. But whatever, I was proud to go to her.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Catie:** So she'd always talk. She was like, "At some point when George is here, I want y'all to meet." I'm like, "Oh, that'd be awesome. I love George." I'm not starstruck by anybody but George is somebody that I've just been to several shows, I just think he's the king of country music in this lifetime.

Anyway, I didn't have Kim's cell phone number because I'd just call the salon and make an appointment. So I didn't get to bed like 3 a.m. I wake up just like in a fog, maybe around 8:30 or something like that. And I remember seeing all these unknown texts from this one number. And I was just like, "Screw that. I'm going back to bed." So wait back up. It's like 10 o'clock or something. And we live an hour away from San Antonio and this is on the far side. Her salon was kind of out by where George lived.

So I get up, I look at my phone and I read the text and it was like, "Can you be here for a hair mask treatment at 10:30?" No name. It didn't say like, "This is Kim." It didn't say, "George is here." It just said hair mask treatment. But like, when is anybody ever texting you about hair mask treatment?

**Annie:** Right. Right. When someone offers for you to come in.

**Catie:** She had texted me at 8 a.m. but I failed to look at it.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** So I just knew. I was like, "This is George." Not George texting me.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Catie:** Like this is my time to meet George. so I run downstairs and I'm like, "Oh my god, dad, I got this text. I think I'm gonna meet George. Oh my god, what are we gonna do? I need to get some dry shampoo. I need bla, bla, bla. We need to get there."

And he's like, "We are an hour away. She said to be here at 10:30 and we haven't texted her back. So I just texted back and was like, "On my way." And I had just gotten to a point where I felt decent about myself. I put some dry shampoo and put some mascara on, put on my boots and jeans. And I was like, "Let's go."

So the whole way over my dad is like managing my expectations and it's just like, "You know what? This may not happen because we're probably gonna be late. You're probably not gonna meet George, whatever." And like, "It's fine, dad." He's like, "But make sure to pack CDs." So I got the CD. My album was called *Gone*. It was me carrying a suitcase in a field and I was leaving. So classic. But I was ready to give it to George.

So we are pulling into the salon and I see Kim's car and I see a Range Rover. And I was like, "Well, it's got to be George." So I walk in and there's this gal at the reception desk and then there's all these kind of beads separating the salon area. It's a teeny salon. There's only like three chairs. I can definitely see a man getting his hair done through the beads." I'm like, "This can't be George."

So I go up and I'm like, "Am I supposed to be like, 'I'm here for George and my mask treatment.'" I don't know. Am I just supposed to be like, "I don't see you. Just playing it cool. Am I making eye contact? Am I nodding? Am I going to be like, "Sup, George?"

So I asked the gal, I'm like, "You know, Kim texted me..." I'm trying to whisper because they're like four feet away between these beads. And I'm like, she texted me about a mask treatment. But I think it's actually about George. Is that George?" You know, it's already getting awkward. And she's like, "I don't know."

Anyway, sit down and she's like, "I'll find out." So then, all of a sudden, she comes and gives me she's like, "All right, I'm gonna do a mask treatment on you." I'm like, "Okay, so she takes me, I walk right past George. I'm like grazing his back." Kim doesn't say a word to me.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** I'm like, "Awesome. So here I am." Just total awkwardness. And I go right past George and she puts me in the bubble hair dryer chair and it's facing George. There's three chairs facing the mirror and then one bubble chair looking at them. And I'm like, "Okay, well, I guess I'm just gonna look down. I'm going to get on my phone." And I'm sitting on the bubble chair. Nothing is happening at this point. I'm in my jeans and boots.

Well, she comes over, she gives me a cape. And she's like, "Okay, well, I'm just gonna apply this mask real quick." And she has... it's like an icing tube, but except it is filled with what looks like chicken fat. And she pulls my hair up, puts the chicken fat, what I like to call chicken fat, all over my hair and then wraps... Like not cotton balls but cotton swap.

**Annie:** Yeah, the cotton ones.

**Catie:** The cotton string.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh.

**Catie:** And it was wrapped all of my hair to-

**Annie:** And you hadn't met him?

**Catie:** No.

**Annie:** No.

**Catie:** But here I was locking in moisture in my hair when I was facing one of my favorite artists of all times. Then she puts a bonnet on me. Chicken fat is oozing out. The cotton swab is like coming out a bit. And I'm just like, "Please, Lord, let me not

meet George today. This is not my day." Because I grew up, my mom was like, "You don't leave the house without lipstick on."

I was kind of like, "You gotta have your hair done. You gotta have this." So for me going with dry shampoo, I was like, that was pushing it. And now with chicken fat, I was like, "No, I need to die right now." Anyway, I see him finishing up and he goes up to pay and I'm like, "Thank You Lord that did not happen."

And then all of a sudden Kim comes and gets me. She's like, "I'm so glad you came. Are you ready to meet George?" And I'm like, "Yeah, totally. Let's go." So I go up and George was just so nice." He was in this little boat outfit and like Hawaiian shirt. And there I was in my cape and bonnet. We had like a 30-minute conversation and we just talked about music we love.

**Annie:** With your hair just up in a bonnet?

**Catie:** Right?

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh.

**Catie:** Oozing. And then in the end of course I'm like, "You know what, I think I might have a CD in the car." Just casually like, "There might be one in the glovebox." And I remember running out and my dad openly told me, like, "You looked unrecognizable." He was like, "I literally thought you worked here or something?"

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** It was bad. He was like, "I feel sorry that you had to meet George looking like that." I was like, "Thanks, dad." But you know, such a good memory. And I've seen him at a couple shows since. We've kind of seen each other and passing and we've never brought that back up. So I've been like a new person every time. Like if we ever do a duet one day or... So back to *Don't Do It In Texas*, it mentions, Don't wanna end up an ex in some old George Strait song. My dream, I'm manifesting this to you right now, is to have the music video at Gruene Hall in Texas-

**Annie:** I've been there.

**Catie:** You have? What did you see?

**Annie:** Green is not spelled green.

**Catie:** It's Gruene.

**Annie:** Yeah, it's Gruene. I went there in a daytime and we ate lunch at the place.

**Catie:** At Gristmill?

**Annie:** Yeah

**Catie:** Love it.

**Annie:** Love it.

**Catie:** Their fries are amazing, chips and salsa and queso.

**Annie:** So good.

**Catie:** So good. So he's going back and over the years and done some really cool shows there and just like packed it out.

**Annie:** And it's the oldest dance hall in Texas.

**Catie:** In Texas.

**Annie:** I grew up like five minutes from there So we'd go there, we'd do swing dancing on Tuesday. It just feel so much like home to me. So I'm manifesting we're gonna have the music video there, George is gonna be the bartender. He'll be pouring his Codigo, tequila, and then the rest will just be history.

**Annie:** For the song *Don't Do It In Texas*?

**Catie:** For *Don't Do It In Texas*.

**Annie:** I think it's great. I feel like Nicolle Galyon can make that happen for you.

**Catie:** 100%. She is capable of a lot of things. Parties and George.

**Annie:** And writing number ones and getting George into your music video.

**Catie:** Exactly. So I'm just excited for this because I feel like it's very authentic to me. I think I always want to have a nice balance of like I'm not too serious of a person, but I always want to be authentic. I want to make sure there's some seriousness because life isn't all roses.

**[00:45:11] <music>**

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting one more time to tell you about another one of our amazing partners, [Pair Eyewear](#). I shared with y'all not too long ago some of my feelings that come up for me when I'm doing a photoshoot. It's a little more complicated than it seems, right? Fun with hair and makeup and clothes, not so fun with some insecurities.

One of my favorite things about this group of friends we have here at That Sounds Fun is how much y'all welcome me to be always Annie and show up and express the real me. Well, Pair Eyewear gives us the same permission. You can celebrate all that you are and explore fun different looks too with customizable prescription glasses from Pair Eyewear.

I have the twain frames like Mark Twain because I'm trying to be brilliant, you get it. I have twain frames from Pair Eyewear and I just love to slide them on during the later part of the day when I can use some help blocking that blue light.

But the cool thing about Pair is that you can super easily change the look of your glasses by adding on one of their magnetic top frames. So my base frame is a clear blush tone but I have top frames that are dark and sparkly. I can change them out depending on my mood or my outfit. It's so fun how Pair Eyewear is based frames and magnetic top frame combos make it easy to switch up your style.

The base frames start at just \$60 including prescription lenses. And they come in so many different shapes from square to cut eye. You get it. Whatever makes you happy. And then there are hundreds of top frame designs to match whichever base frame you choose. You can change your glasses just like you change your clothes.

Pair wants us to get to express our individuality and they lead by example because they design all their looks in house. And for every pair purchase, Pair provides glasses and vision care for children around the world. So get glasses just as unique as you are one pair infinite styles starting at just \$60.

So go to [paireyewear.com/thatoundsfun](https://paireyewear.com/thatoundsfun) for 15% off your first purchase. That's 15% off at [paireyewear.com/thatoundsfun](https://paireyewear.com/thatoundsfun).

And now back to finish up our conversation with Catie Offerman.

[00:47:12] <music>

**Annie:** Have you written any songs that talk about your faith yet?

**Catie:** Great question. I have. I love writing hymns.

**Annie:** Do you? Really?

**Catie:** I do. I do. I wrote this song called *Resting Place* and it is with Natalie Hemby, Ryan Beaver, Aaron Eshuis. We just all sat down. We kind of wrote for like two days straight. I told them, I was like, "I really want to write..." I've written a couple that kind of... You know, I've written this other song kind of sounds like *Go Rest High*. And that was kind of my first dabble of like, This feels just like I'm really into this.

I'm never gonna be a Christian artist, or anything like that. But I think it's just important... If you're going to be genuine, you might as well show all sides of you. My faith journey has been kind of in and out. You can imagine me in homeschool. Chances are you're probably going to church like 8,000 times a week, which I did. You also sow your own button socks. It's just what you do when you're homeschooled, and you go to church and everybody has like 10 kids each as the only child. So church and just believing in God was kind of something that was... Force-fed sounds negative. But it's kind of decided for you.

**Annie:** Yeah, of course.

**Catie:** And at some point in your life, you gain knowledge and maturity, and you kind of have to step away and go like, "All right, I now want to learn and believe and do all this on my own." I think that there were definitely years that... I never lost my faith, but I think I just drifted away from feeling close to God and practicing and reading my Bible and praying and really feeling connected to my faith. And when I met Kolby-

**Annie:** Your fiancée.

**Catie:** Yes. Soon to be hubby.

**Annie:** Soon to be husband.

**Catie:** Yes!

**Annie:** Very soon.

**Catie:** I know. He just was so strong in his faith and he loved the church that he went to. I kind of had a negative experience with my church just because they would tell me I was probably going to go to hell because I sing country music and because I didn't sing opera kind of style. And I think that it took me a while to discern the difference between Jesus and Jesus followers and the church, you know, the church compared to God, and it's like, only one of those is perfect, and it's definitely not us.

**Annie:** That's true. Right. It's not the human part.

**Catie:** So I think it's easy to kind of mix the two a little bit and put the blame in the wrong spot. But Kolby really reopened my eyes to my faith. We started going to Cross Point together. That was one of our first dates. It just kind of reignited everything for me. So I remember being in this place in my life where I'm sitting down writing and just feeling so thankful. Feeling thankful that... I never strayed away. It's not like I ever even was worshiping the devil or was not into God or was doing... There's never anything extreme. I had lost that spark.

And I think *Resting Place* was written out of a place of appreciation for just being able to come back home to that safe sacred place. So I definitely plan on releasing it at some point. I think it's something that people have to be listening before I release it. I gotta get some country tunes out there and then little aha, and then we'll bring in the spiritual side.

**Annie:** Bring in Him. That's right.

**Catie:** Because I'm openly not a person that will just go in talking to somebody and I'm really bringing up God or something like that. I just hope that people can see my heart through my music, whether that's *Happyland Trailer Park* or whether it's a song about drinking beer. I think it's all in our actions and our words and conversation with people. And hopefully through the music, it'll connect with people.

And I hope to be a friend to those... I mean, I've never had girlfriends growing up. So I want to be that girlfriend to other girls that never had that. I just hope that people realize that I'm more like them and not... That's the thing is it doesn't mean you have to have the same story. I'm weird. I'm super weird and I'm just not the norm. So everybody's a little weird out there. And I feel like I can relate to that so much. I can relate to misfits, I can relate to just not feeling like... All my life I just wanted to be a cheerleader.

**Annie:** Where is that song? Have you written that song?

**Catie:** No.

**Annie:** That's a great first line. Take that to Nicolle Galyon.

**Catie:** Exactly. That sounds like a Nicolle song.

**Annie:** That sounds like a Nicolle song.

**Catie:** So everybody's got a different story. But I just feel like, You know what? I so much just like anybody else. I always want to be approachable. Music is everything. I never did it to be famous, never have done it to, you know, this is what's in my blood. I never had to choose it. Music chose me. I think God put that in me to seek out the rest of my life.

**Annie:** I think so too. You get married this weekend.

**Catie:** I also get married this weekend.

**Annie:** I mean, oh my gosh.

**Catie:** I'm so lucky because a lot of people never find their passion, and they never find that person. And those are two really big things. And I just feel so thankful because, you know, Kolby is so supportive. He's there every step of the way. And it's just fun that we get to do this life together. I love that he does music but does it in a different capacity. So it just makes both of us able to be so understanding to whatever's going on.

**Annie:** For our friends listening, Kolby is a manager. So he's in the industry, but he is not an artist.

**Catie:** Yes. I don't think I could do that.

**Annie:** Me neither.

**Catie:** I did this kind of songwriter guy in town, and he just couldn't stop showing me his demos. I'm like, "I don't want to go ride in your car and listen to your demos. I'm so done with your demos." I try to be mindful of COVID. I'm like, I don't want to be that person that's just like drowning you in demos.

**Annie:** I had a friend recently call it demo jail.

**Catie:** Yeah, it is. It is.

**Annie:** Is it you who said that to me?

**Catie:** No. But Kolby has told me about this.

**Annie:** Someone locks you in demo jail, and you can't get out and you have to listen.

**Catie:** Oh, my gosh, I needed to be freed from that many times.

**Annie:** Okay, so I got two more questions for you.

**Catie:** Yeah.

**Annie:** First one is, for our friends listening, we have just done a whole month in April on prayer. So we are working on our prayer lives. How do you want our friends... when they see you on TV, when they go and see a concert, when they're listening to your music, how do you want them to pray for your career and for your marriage?

**Catie:** Man, that is so nice. Can I give you a quick story about the power of prayer?

**Annie:** Yes, do it. I love this.

**Catie:** I'll keep this short. Basically, we're getting married in a couple days and the weather has been saying that it is 96 and rain. And I'm like, so basically a sauna, wet sauna. I love that.

**Annie:** Sounds great.

**Catie:** It helps me detox a little bit, but I don't imagine that in my wedding dress. And we were at church last Sunday literally watching the church, looked at the weather because Kolby has been a little bit obsessed about the weather situation. He also is really into weather, he's a weather radar in our house and every day he goes like, Bi bi bi, National Weather Alert, checking the test system whatever. That just pisses me off. He's just looking out for us.

**Annie:** That's right. That's right. And we walked into church and our phone said 96 and rain. We go to church, have a sermon afterwards, Kolby says, "I really feel like we need to go and have Kevin pray with us just over our marriage and everything like that." And I was like, "I was like, oh, I'm just not really a person to ask anything of anybody." And he's like, "No, I'm really feeling this." I was like, "You know what? You are leading the way, I support you. Let's do it."

We go over there, Kevin prays for us. He was so kind. It was really awesome. And we walk out those doors. I checked my phone and it said, 74 and sunny.

**Annie:** The Lord!

**Catie:** I'm like, "Pray people." I've been praying ever since. I'm like, "Good skin. No fever blisters, you know, everything, my health, green grass, just the whole thing. I'm like, "Pray, pray, pray." No, I think that I am trying to be more mindful of prayer and be intentional.

And also just praying for other people. And also more gratitude, because I think it's so easy... I found myself for several years only praying when I needed something. And that was the extent of my faith. That's how I kind of felt like in those years. It was like I wasn't practicing my faith but I would sure think to pray when I was in a bind. And I'm like, I don't know what's right but I know that this thing was supposed to be.

I would just hope that people would pray for contentment and not taking things for granted. Because the thing is all I wanted when I was 14 was to get a publishing deal. All I wanted when I was 16 was to get a record deal. And now all I want is a song on the radio. And then when I get the song on the radio I'm gonna want the the CMT Award. The CMT is going to be the CMA and the Grammy, then you get the... you know, it never ends. And I doesn't mean I don't want all those things. I do. But I just I never want to forget that I'm right where I want it to be.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's good.

**Catie:** I just pray that, you know, just never losing that joy that it brings me. Because my grandfather was the reason why I started playing fiddle. And we lived with him for several years because he had cancer, and we lived with him until he passed away. And music is so powerful. He had lost all memory, lost his entire mind but I could go out on the patio, and I could bring my fiddle, and I could turn on George Strait record or Bob Wills or whatever, and he would know every single word.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Catie:** And he would come to every single gig that I play. It wouldn't matter how old he was, you know, like 95 on his deathbed still coming out to my shows. And I'm like, I pray that I never forget why I started doing this and what an impact it can be. Because it's so easy to get caught up in all this little deal here in town of like, So and so is doing this. Music is much bigger than this town and our group of friends and just all that stuff. It's just way bigger than that.

So I pray that I keep my eyes set on the real reason. So I'm just excited to see what happens mainly. I just feel lucky. Some days... I mean, catch me on a bad day and I'll be like, "Oh my God, I am so over this." But I am. I'm just thankful.

**Annie:** Everybody have those.

**Catie:** Everybody is allowed to have those. You have to give yourself space to just... and not compare your problems to others. You know what? Allow yourself whatever you're going through, you know, somebody has it worse, feel what you feel. Oh, I'll

be super in the dumps some days but then the next day something always happens that picture me back up, and it shows you like this is why you're here. I know this is what I'm called to do. God's given me that gift and so it's my job to carry that out. I would be doing myself a disservice to look any other direction.

**Annie:** All of us. All of us. If you didn't do the thing that you were called to do, we would all miss out.

**Catie:** Thanks.

**Annie:** Okay, the last question we always ask. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

**Catie:** You know what sounds fun to me? My honeymoon.

**Annie:** Yeah. Tell everybody where you are you going so we won't be able to find you.

**Catie:** We're going to Santorini and we're going to Positano. Oh my gosh, what sounds fun is just like a bucket load of pasta and sourdough bread and butter right now. That's my love language. I don't need sweets, but I do need butter bread.

**Annie:** It's going to be so good. Oh my gosh.

**Catie:** We are just travel junkies. We have this sense of adventure, and I'm so glad we both have that, where every year I want to go hike somewhere new. That's kind of a goal for myself. So two years ago we did Utah. Last year we did Sedona. We've done different places in Colorado. And Kolby has just made a list. We're making a list and every year trying to check one off. I definitely-

**Annie:** Can you hike in Italy? I mean, I'm sure you can hike in Italy.

**Catie:** I'm sure you can.

**Annie:** Our Italian listeners are like, "Annie, of course she can hike in Italy." But I mean is that part of the goal?

**Catie:** Probably like backpacking?

**Annie:** Right.

**Catie:** That's not... My goal there is to eat. Shop, eat-

**Annie:** Warm enough to lay outside by the pool or by the ocean, by the Mediterranean. Oh boy, I'm gonna get emails.

**Catie:** I'm not sure what that is. I told you. I'm not as smart as you think. It goes out the window fast. But just enjoying the time I have with my family sounds fun because-

**Annie:** It's gonna be fun.

**Catie:** ...you realize as you get older too life is short, nothing is given. You can't expect anything and it's not for sure. So I'm looking forward to having fun with our families. I feel so lucky we all get along. And then after the wedding and all that stuff, we'll be back playing shows. So that is what sounds fun to me is getting on the road. So I'm doing some shows at Park Macomb this summer. And that's-

**Annie:** And we can find all that at [Catieoffer.com](http://Catieoffer.com).

**Catie:** Sure can.

**Annie:** Right. Okay.

**Catie:** There's not many key Offermans out there.

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Catie:** I'm excited for it all. Everything sounds fun right now because there's so many great things. I just feel so lucky.

**Annie:** I'm a huge cheerleader for you and Kolby. You know that. I just love y'all. And I love spending time with you.

**Catie:** Thank you.

**Annie:** And I love that we all get to watch this career now.

**Catie:** Thank you.

**Annie:** I mean, we've come in the middle. You've been doing it for a decade and a half.

**Catie:** We're still grinding. I know.

**Annie:** But there's a lot more to go.

**Catie:** I know. We're just getting started.

**Annie:** We're just getting started. It's very fun. I love you, friend. Thanks for doing this.

**Catie:** Thanks for having me. I mean, I can't believe I didn't know you like nine months ago.

**Annie:** I know. It does not feel like that.

**Catie:** Now you're stuck with me for a long time.

**Annie:** You're stuck with me. You know I say that. You're stuck with me.

**Catie:** Exactly.

**Annie:** Oh, I love you, friend. Thanks for doing this.

**Catie:** Thank you for having me. You're the best.

[01:01:42] <music>

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, don't you just love her? She's just the best. Also, she went to four colleges. Listen, that whole story has blown my mind. I think about it a lot. She's just awesome and brilliant. And her singing, y'all just have to go listen. Wherever you love to listen to music, go pull up Catie Offerman, C-A-T-I-E, listen to *Happyland Trailer Park*, listen to *Don't Do It In Texas*, everything. Just subscribe to Catie Offerman.

Wherever you love to stream your music, listen to her, follow her on social media. Tell her thanks for being on the show. That will also help you know where she's on tour so you can go and meet her and hear her sing live. Y'all, she's insanely talented. Hey, be sure to share this one with one friend or a bunch of friends, the more the merrier, who you think would adore Catie as much as we do.

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'll do the same.

Today what sounds fun to me is being at the pool. I am outside on my Monday. I hope you are too. Again, Happy Memorial Day. Have a great week. We'll see you back here on Thursday with my friend and another one of our favorite voices around here, Brandon Heath. We'll see you guys then.