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**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you today. Here in the month of July, we've been calling it the TSF Hall of Fun series, and we're bringing back some of our favorite episodes from over the years for you to listen to.

Some of you have been around since day one of the podcast back in 2014 and will remember a lot of these. And this one particularly is a lot of people's favorites. But there are lots of you who are new around here. So we thought this month we'd share a lot of favorites that are ours and yours and this one today is at the top of the list.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This episode is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). Whether you're dealing with decisions around your career, relationships, or anything else in your life, therapy helps you stay connected to what you really want while you navigate life so you can move forward with confidence and understanding.

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And today on this special TSF Hall of Fun episode, you get to hear my conversation from Episode 108 with my friends Mary Kate Morrissey and Ginna Claire Mason Moffett. If you've been around for a while, you know these two are two of my best friends and I know y'all love them too. They're incredibly talented singers and actresses and Broadway stars, who have both starred in *Wicked* on Broadway and used to be on the national tour of *Wicked* together.

If you've never seen *Wicked*, it's basically the backstory of the *Wizard of Oz*. So since Ginna Claire has played Glinda the Good Witch and Mary Kate has played

Elphaba, we lovingly call them the double-name witches. That is also the name of the company they run that helps train other people in musical theater.

I first met Ginna Claire and Mary Kate when the national tour was coming through Nashville back in April of 2018, and our friendship just clicked immediately. At the time of this episode, they were still on their national tour and I flew to San Antonio to see them perform together one last time. And they were gracious enough to let me sit down and record with them as well.

As both of their contracts were coming up with the traveling national tour of *Wicked*, it was really important to me to get to sit down and hear what they were processing in that moment. All of the shows we've done, there are a handful, a small handful that I consider really sacred. And this is one of them. I will never forget it.

We were in the Theater in San Antonio in Ginna Claire's dressing room with one microphone sitting on the floor between us. So it may sound a little different than you're used to. But I am so glad we captured this moment and this moment in time and this moment with God. It is... I'm telling y'all this episode is extraordinary. These friends are extraordinary.

So here's my TSF Hall of Fun conversation from October 15, 2018 with Mary Kate Morrissey Blake and Ginna Claire Mason Moffett.

[00:03:52] <music>

**Annie:** Mary Kate Morrissey, how does it feel to be a guest on what you call-

**Mary Kate:** My favorite podcast.

**Annie:** Your favorite podcast. I'm so thrilled about that.

**Mary Kate:** Oh my gosh, it feels so good. It feels like you're right here in front of me. Like I can see you.

**Annie:** It's really happening now. I know.

**Mary Kate:** It's like I hear your voice so much. Now here you are.

**Annie:** I'm so glad to finally have you on the show because as soon as we fell in love with Ginna Claire, everybody fell in love with you immediately too. It's needed to happen.

**Ginna Claire:** We come as a group. It's a group here.

**Mary Kate:** Greatest team it's ever been.

**Annie:** Double-name witches. What are the chances? So we all, as listeners, as friends, as we like to call ourselves, know-

**Ginna Claire:** I know that.

**Annie:** I know you know, girl.

**Ginna Claire:** Now we're real-life friends.

**Mary Kate:** Everybody is-

**Annie:** It's right though. Can you back us up just a little bit and tell us how you got onto *Wicked* touring cast?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I started as the standby. Just how GC started as a standby on Broadway, I started-

**Annie:** Will you explain that again? Because understudy, standby is hard for my brain.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, Yeah, yeah. So the standby is off-stage the whole time just sitting there.

**Annie:** But she's not grained out.

**Mary Kate:** No.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** No. And the understudy is in the ensemble. So the standby is like the first chain... The chain of command is standby and then understudy. So if there's something wrong with the standby, then the understudy goes on.

**Annie:** Okay. So like tonight the main Fiyero is not feeling well, so Sam, who I adore-

**Ginna Claire:** We love you, Sam Gravitte.

**Annie:** Is Sam the understudy or the standby? Because he is in the cast.

**Ginna Claire:** It's different.

**Mary Kate:** I mean he has two understudies, Fiyero does. And just how GC out here has two understudies and they switch back and forth.

**Annie:** Oh, okay.

**Mary Kate:** But because there's more risk of like an Elphaba to call out mid-show or to call out more often in the touring company, then there's only a standby for me out here. But on Broadway, there's a standby for-

**Ginna Claire:** Glinda and Elphaba.

**Mary Kate:** Glinda and Elphaba.

**Annie:** So when you were the standby on Broadway, you literally sat dressed?

**Ginna Claire:** No.

**Mary Kate:** No. Just in your clothes.

**Ginna Claire:** Usually-

**Mary Kate:** You're in your pajamas.

**Annie:** So you just sit here.

**Ginna Claire:** You're doing a crossword.

**Annie:** But you do rehearsals and you are at everything that main Glinda is at. But you just do the show when she is sick or on vacation or-

**Ginna Claire:** Hopefully going away to do something fun like a wedding.

**Annie:** Okay. So you started as the understudy on-

**Ginna Claire:** Standby.

**Annie:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Standby on the tour.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. Yeah. I remember my first mid-show call out... It's interesting I love having been to standby first because I've had to call out mid-show, and so now I know how a standby feels like.

**Annie:** And everybody is saying like the show starts and it's you.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. And something happens in literally the middle of the show and the Elphaba switch, it's a new Elphaba.

**Mary Kate:** Exactly.

**Ginna Claire:** If you think about it, she has to sing such huge songs, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** Like *The Wizard and I*, and then there's multiple songs between that. But then another huge number, *Defying Gravity*, and then she sings more, and then she has to sing another huge 11 o'clock number, *No Good Deed*. And so if someone is singing *Wizard and I*, and they're like, "I don't know if I have *Defying Gravity* in me today," they could be like-

**Mary Kate:** You definitely don't have *No Good Deed*, so you gotta get out of there-

**Ginna Claire:** Get out.

**Mary Kate:** I mean this is 15 years long now, this show-

**Ginna Claire:** It's been running.

**Mary Kate:** Right? So it's not an uncommon thing. I mean, I remember people being like, that girl used to call out mid-show once a month. Like, don't feel so bad. You know what I mean? Things like that. So my first mid-show when I was a standby, the girl I was standing by for had... it was like her last week and she hit the *Wizard and I*, and she didn't have it and we all heard it over the loudspeaker.

And me and my friend, [Tricky?] Kelly Lafarga, our dance captain, we were doing a crossword and I was eating a frozen burrito in my pajamas. Literally taking a giant bite out of a frozen burrito, and then you hear the end of the *Wizard and I* and you're like, Oh my God, this is gonna be... it's gonna happen right now. It's gonna happen."

**Annie:** Because you could hear her voice not hitting like it's supposed to.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. So my friend Tricky looks at me and she goes, "Take off all your clothes right now." So I took off all my clothes and I'm standing in the women's ensemble dressing room naked. Just like-

**Annie:** Just waiting.

**Mary Kate:** Just shaking, just scared. Like, Wow, what's gonna happen? And then all of a sudden I hear OB, our psm come over and he goes, "MK to the greening room. MK to the greening room," which is like the Elphaba dressing room." And I'm like, "Oh my God, this is real." So I walk across the hall, sit down at the Elphaba chair and I'm like, "Oh my God, this is real." So someone's painting me, Annie's pin curling my hair. There were just people like all around me. They got me ready in like probably eight minutes, I would say.

**Ginna Claire:** It's incredible.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. Because-

**Annie:** And on a normal day it'll take half an hour.

**Ginna Claire:** Hour and hour.

**Mary Kate:** Hour and hour. And it's because the Elphaba has already made the decision she's not finishing the show. So it's get her out there as soon as possible so that there's the least amount of damage done and there's the least amount of head damage done.

**Annie:** For the audience. Oh, and for Elphaba.

**Mary Kate:** Taking care of your star, really.

**Annie:** Yeah, for sure.

**Mary Kate:** So she ran off after *Popular* and I ran on.

**Annie:** So did they announce the crowd like, Excuse us-

**Mary Kate:** They have to announce at intermission.

**Ginna Claire:** At intermission.

**Annie:** At intermission. Okay. Because they don't stop the show and go like, Toss, toss. By the way, this is a different Elphaba." No.

**Mary Kate:** No.

**Ginna Claire:** They'll be like, "As of this scene and for the remainder of the show, the part Elphaba will be played by Mary Kate Morrissey."

**Annie:** Okay. And that was it. You jumped in.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. And it was funny because-

**Ginna Claire:** Standby superstar.

**Mary Kate:** ...because then it's like some of the cast... They has us all on stage so they don't know what's happening. So then you run in and everyone's like uuurr. Like totally gagged that you're on and green just like, hi.

**Ginna Claire:** Honestly, it's Broadway magic.

**Mary Kate:** It's Broadway magic. And I had to remember that as the lead Elphaba when I've had to call out mid-show to be like, You know what? The show must go on. It just has to go on. No matter how bad you feel about it in the moment, like the little baby Elphaba standby is saving the day and you gotta let her have that.

**Annie:** How long were you the standby?

**Mary Kate:** I was a standby for 14 months.

**Annie:** Okay. So you've been with the tour for over two years then?

**Mary Kate:** My *Wicked* journey is like three years long, but I took a year off in between.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** So did y'all overlap before this?

**Ginna Claire:** We didn't, but we were standbys at the same time in different places. So we knew of each other because the musical theater world is small-

**Annie:** Everybody knows everybody.

**Ginna Claire:** ...and the *Wicked* world is even smaller.

**Annie:** I mean, it amazes me that because of y'all I know Amanda Jane Cooper and Jessica Boss. Like I have all these witches in my life but it's because it's such a very small little world. Just in. I'm totally in. It's the craziest.

**Ginna Claire:** We're teaching her the spell.

**Annie:** That's right. Ginna Claire's story, if people haven't heard, they can go back and listen to your episode because it's so fun. In like the second day of our friendship.

**Ginna Claire:** I know.

**Annie:** Now we're like half a year into our friendship

**Ginna Claire:** It's fun that we are just getting to know each other then.

**Annie:** I know. It's been such a gift. We aren't gonna cry yet. Listen, Mary Kate, when you were little, did you have a connection with *Wicked* back in the day too? Or when did you start...? Or did you just audition because you wanted to do musical theater?

**Mary Kate:** People always told me that I was gonna play Elphaba and I just never believed them.

**Annie:** Really?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. Like when I was in college, Julia Murney, who was this famous Elphaba, came to give a masterclass and the faculty made me sing the *Wizard and I* for her.

**Annie:** Uh-uh.

**Mary Kate:** And I was like, "Why are they making me do this? Why is this happening? Why do people keep doing this?"

**Annie:** Where did you go to college? Syracuse?

**Mary Kate:** Syracuse University. And then I went in for them once and they were like, "Nah, you can't do it." And I was like, "Great, I can tell everybody that I can't do it so that I don't have to. Can't do it. Can't do it." Right?

**Annie:** Mm-hmm.

**Mary Kate:** And then I went in for them again and they were like-

**Annie:** Who's "them"?



**Mary Kate:** The casting directors.

**Annie:** Okay. For?

**Mary Kate:** For the cast.

**Annie:** And they cast Broadway and the touring cast?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. Mm-Hmm.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** And I remember I... I told you this story. I had to sing *Defying Gravity* like six times the end of it. And by the end of it I was like, "This doesn't sound good." I don't know why they're having me sing this again and again and again. And then that casting director was like, "Well, I'm not gonna be the one that tells you you can't do it." And I was like, Okay.

**Ginna Claire:** And passed her along the next round.

**Mary Kate:** And passed me along to the next round.

**Annie:** And that was it.

**Mary Kate:** And that was the time I got it.

**Annie:** Okay. That's when you got standby.

**Mary Kate:** Standby.

**Ginna Claire:** Mm-hmm.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** And I think that with Elphabas it's like such a... *Wicked* is such a machine. Your standby journey is the company investing in you to understand how to play Elphaba, to learn from the Elphaba who's doing it then, and watch the creative visits to sing during the show, to get better, to give yourself... I feel like especially on tour, it gives the Elphaba time to fail and then... like fail forward. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** Learn what doesn't work so you can figure out what does work. So I'm so grateful for my standby dumb, you know? Truly.

**Annie:** I mean 14 months. And y'all have done another... how long have you been on this round as Elphaba?

**Mary Kate:** I'll finish it 14 months here again.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh, that's really interesting.

**Mary Kate:** Including my rehearsal.

**Annie:** But you live in New York?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** But you get to go home-

**Mary Kate:** Never. Never. I haven't seen my apartment since May of last year.

**Annie:** May of '17 is the last time you saw your apartment?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Mary Kate! How is that real?

**Mary Kate:** I think so. Does that sound right?

**Ginna Claire:** Mm-Hmm.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, that sounds right.

**Annie:** You Just haven't gone home on any of your off days.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, because I can't. Because you can't run the risk of... there's so many outside risks of getting sick or fatigue. The show is so demanding as... I wanna give the best possible show I can every single time I do it. Otherwise, it doesn't feel good.

**Annie:** Right.

**Mary Kate:** You know what I mean? It's not the dream if you're not really feeling like, "Oh, this is it. And you can feel it from the audience too when they're like, Aaaaah. Do you know what I mean?"

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** The risk of getting sick or the risk of going home and being tired isn't worth the reward of seeing my apartment for a day.

**Annie:** Me neither. Just to see it. Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** I know it's gonna be there. I know it'll be when I come back.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Mary Kate:** The hardest thing is not being able to see my family or being away from them for so long.

**Ginna Claire:** But they come to visit us a lot.

**Mary Kate:** But they come to visit us.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh, your parents come to-

**Mary Kate:** I see my parents more now than I have since I like left home for college.

**Annie:** Because they come every city.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** That is amazing.

**Mary Kate:** I know. They're empty nesters. They love fun too.

**Annie:** They're my people. I'm sad I've missed them every time because when I see them on your Instagram, I'm always like, Ugh. They go to a fun restaurant in every city. And in San Ant... Nope, we're in San Antonio. We are currently in San Antonio. In Albuquerque, they're like throwing a party for the whole cast.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** That's so fun.

**Mary Kate:** Because they feel like it's been a such a big experience and part of their life too to get to... I mean they get to come and see me be green. They were used to coming out and praying I would go on.

**Annie:** Oh sure.

**Mary Kate:** You know what I mean? And just being like, maybe today.

**Annie:** Did they come as often when you were standby?

**Mary Kate:** No.

**Annie:** Mm-mm.

**Mary Kate:** They would only come to big cities that they wanted to see.

**Annie:** So how many times do you think your parents have seen *Wicked*?

**Mary Kate:** 25 at least, I would say.

**Annie:** I mean we asked your husband, Ginna Claire, I asked Eric the other day and he was like... he didn't even have a number. He just said-

**Ginna Claire:** No. He lost count.

**Annie:** Less than your mom. That's what he said. Less than Jules.

**Ginna Claire:** My mom comes every city too. My dad comes out a lot too. But if they can come together, they will but sometimes work only allows for mom to come because they run a small business together. But mom definitely likes to make it out every city. And she'll just play the lottery because we have a lottery before every show.

**Annie:** And just hope to get it. And if they don't, they just go back to the hotel and wait for y'all to be done and then meet up to eat.

**Mary Kate:** My mom buys a house seat. She calls them her box.

**Annie:** Every city.

**Mary Kate:** She is like, "I like my box seats." You know what? I'm like, "Mom, you earned that. You do that." And it's so funny. At the end of this contract now, I feel like our parents are in funny moods after the show sometimes. I feel like your mom always

comes back and says like, "That's the best one you guys have ever done." She says that every single time.

**Ginna Claire:** Your dad says that too though.

**Mary Kate:** My dad says that. But now my dad is critiquing.

**Ginna Claire:** Oh yeah.

**Mary Kate:** My dad is going, "This is new. This is different. I didn't see this before."

**Ginna Claire:** "You tripped on that step."

**Mary Kate:** "You tripped here. You did this this time." This last time he said, he was like, I can tell you guys just had your last creative visit and you were just enjoying yourselves. This is fun."

**Annie:** Which is when your bosses come out and, and y'all do rehearsals, and they-

**Mary Kate:** Rehearse us and everything. Because he is like, It feels like you guys are just having the best time up there now. It feels like there was a wait on you and now there's not." I was like, "Yeah, dad, we're just literally living our best lives."

**Ginna Claire:** Something that's really crazy is last time Annie and I recorded an episode, I was like, Oh, I'm finished in six weeks. I'm going home. I can't wait for my plates. I can't wait for my bed, hang out with my husband." We stopped recording and I got a-

**Annie:** Literally.

**Ginna Claire:** Literally stopped recording and I got a phone call from my manager. Annie was in the room and my husband was in the room. And it was the call that they wanted me to stay. And that was so cool because it meant that you and I got to keep going down this road together. And then now our end date lines up.

**Annie:** It's the exact same.

**Ginna Claire:** It's the greatest gift in the world I think for us to... because we've been doing it together for over a year now. And to end on the same day-

**Annie:** I mean, eight shows a week-

**Ginna Claire:** ...feels so right.

**Annie:** ...for over a year.

**Mary Kate:** Mm-Hmm.

**Annie:** So how many of y'all done together? Do you know?

**Mary Kate:** I don't know how many we've done together.

**Ginna Claire:** A lot.

**Mary Kate:** A lot. So many.

**Ginna Claire:** Hundreds.

**Mary Kate:** Hundreds.

**Annie:** Oh yeah, it'd have to be hundreds. Your first rehearsal together or first show together, did it feel as magical as it is or has this grown. Or both?

**Ginna Claire:** Definitely grown.

**Mary Kate:** Definitely Grown, for sure.

**Ginna Claire:** But magical at the beginning but always-

**Annie:** Because y'all done this with other... Ginna Claire, you've been with other Elphabas and you've been with other Glindas.

**Mary Kate:** How many Elphabas have you been with?

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, I think seven.

**Mary Kate:** I think I've been with seven Glindas too.

**Annie:** Y'all are using a lot of sevens and multiples of sevens. 14 months. 14 months. Yeah. I'm just saying.

**Mary Kate:** Oh wow, that's weird.

**Annie:** That's the number of completion.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** It's God's favorite. His favorite number.

**Mary Kate:** Oh, that's so interesting.

**Annie:** Right?

**Mary Kate:** Oh, something about that makes me feel really good right now.

**Ginna Claire:** Good. So something that's been cool is sometimes we've lived together in certain cities and as our friendship has grown off stage, it's inevitably informed our relationship on stage. Because you better believe like the first time we had a tiff, that wasn't like it showed up on stage or like... Because we've gotten to share so much. And that informs every moment.

**Annie:** I just wondered because I've never done anything like what you are doing. And it's not just an Annie observation. This is like a *Wicked* worldwide observation that y'all have something in this part that people really love seeing. So I just was curious if-

**Ginna Claire:** We Really love doing it.

**Annie:** It feels like it. I mean, I've seen the show with one of you and not both of you, and I've seen it with both of you and it is just very clear that there is a special connection. I didn't know if that was automatic or if it had grown.

**Mary Kate:** I think there was a part of it that was automatic, but I think that we were both feeling each other out a little bit at the beginning because I've never had a friend like Ginna Claire before and I don't know if you've ever had a friend like me before. [both singing] I ain't never had a friend like you. I had to add the boop.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm glad you did.

**Mary Kate:** But I don't know. I think that the more that I learned to like... I mean Ginna Claire accepts people like this a little bit.

**Annie:** Open-handed.

**Mary Kate:** Open-handed and palms open. Just like, Here's my arms and my heart.

**Annie:** Yeah. I was gonna say, what makes her a friend like you've never had before?

**Mary Kate:** Ginna Claire is this ballerina musical theater, soprano, ingénue, loving, super kind, wears pink all the time. That's what I saw. I saw she's really, really nice, she's from the south, she loves God. She is a really good Glinda X, Y, and Z. And I was like, great. That's Glinda Claire. But then as I got to know GC on a deeper level, I was like, Oh my God, she's so layered in so many other beautiful, interesting dynamic, unbelievable ways that make her such an incredible friend and sister, and all of these other things. And it also makes her a really good scene partner on stage. And the more that I learned that about her and could open myself up to trust her, I feel like it's been so special.

**Ginna Claire:** Is it time to start crying yet?

**Mary Kate:** No. No. I'm like, don't cry. I'm like, don't cry.

**Annie:** You're doing great. You're doing great.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm not doing great.

**Annie:** You're not doing great.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm not.

**Mary Kate:** I'm a baby though. I always sound like a grandpa.

**Annie:** Right. You just cry like a grandpa?

**Mary Kate:** Sometimes, yeah.

**Annie:** That's okay. Drink water. You know if you drink water while you're crying, it makes you stop crying.

**Ginna Claire:** It does?

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** Okay. I'm gonna drink this water.

**Annie:** I do it a lot on stage-

**Ginna Claire:** You do it?

**Annie:** ...if I'm speaking and I think I'm gonna cry.



**Mary Kate:** Annie, the last time we sing *For Good* in Albuquerque on October 28th, could you just be there with water bottles-

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Ginna Claire:** Just sitting at our feet. So like in the middle of us do you could just-

**Annie:** Do y'all publicly talk about what happens at the end of *For Good* or no? Do you wanna tell people?

**Mary Kate:** You can tell people.

**Ginna Claire:** Oh yeah.

**Annie:** Just because I think for anybody who's gonna be in San Antonio for the next week... Well, this comes out next Monday, so you have one more-

**Mary Kate:** A week of shows.

**Ginna Claire:** We'll be in Albuquerque then.

**Mary Kate:** Albuquerque.

**Annie:** Okay. So the only city who's gonna get to see you-

**Ginna Claire:** It's two weeks in Albuquerque.

**Annie:** It's two weeks in Albuquerque. So if you can get to New Mexico, get to New Mexico to see this. But when y'all finish singing *For Good*, Glinda and Elphaba hug and y'all do something special in that.

**Ginna Claire:** Well, Mary Kate started it, so I'll let... Well, maybe I should tell. I thought at first she was just kind of tickling my back like a sweet little, you know, friend back-

**Mary Kate:** Good job. We made it through.

**Ginna Claire:** Back tickle, like an affectionate little moment. And then, I don't know, I think you asked me, you were like, "Did you realize what I'm writing?"

**Annie:** Oh, you did. You said, "Did you realize what I was writing?"

**Mary Kate:** No, I think we went live on Instagram or something and you were like, Back tickling, blah blah blah. I was like, No, I'm writing. I love you on your back because it's my love you song.

**Ginna Claire:** Figured it out during an Instagram.

**Annie:** Oh wow, during Instagram live.

**Mary Kate:** I know. Because I remember you being like \*gasp\*.

**Ginna Claire:** "What?" She writes "I love you" on my back.

**Mary Kate:** Because I feel like *For Good* is that big 'I love you' song. It's like, here we are, we overcame all this stuff and now we actually have to go different ways. But before we do that, can we just stand on the stage together for a second with no blocking, no anything and just be like, "This is how I feel. This is how you changed me. This is how... I will never be the same because of the way we are."

**Annie:** Don't look at her. Don't say that.

**Mary Kate:** I know. I know. She'll drink some water.

**Annie:** What does it mean 'no blocking'?

**Mary Kate:** Like there's no dancing, there's no-

**Annie:** There's nothing else going on.

**Mary Kate:** There's no block around. It's just these two actors on the stage in the light, in a pool-

**Ginna Claire:** Having a solid, grounded moment. It's a couple skate.

**Annie:** Yeah, it's a couple skate. So there's no paying attention to what else is going on.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. It's like, here, just stand here and sing this song and people will be moved by it because they'll be thinking of the person who has been their best friend or their sister, their mom. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** The person who has been there for them through all of the mess up and all of the-

**Ginna Claire:** That's why that song is sung now at every high school graduation.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. It's all because of that one scene. The first time I ever heard it, I think was Glee.

**Mary Kate:** Really?

**Annie:** They sang Glee. Maybe seven or eight years ago. Mary Kate just said you've never had a friend like her. Is that true?

**Ginna Claire:** I mean, there's no one like Mary Kate in the whole wide world. So I definitely there's no friend like her. I hope that's a good thing.

**Annie:** I don't have any other friends like you.

**Mary Kate:** That's a good thing.

**Ginna Claire:** Mary Kate is so fun. She is so passionate. She's so present. I can be controlling about so many things. I want things to be perfect or tied up in this little bo bow. She's helped me let go of a lot of that and challenged me and helped me to have fun. I love that she's a "yes" woman. I love that even if we're exhausted she's always game to like, go to a 24-hour Mexican place and get stale-

**Annie:** She is. That is... we did it.

**Ginna Claire:** I mean especially... You know, in New York it's a little bit different because people have their lives, their real normal life there.

**Mary Kate:** They're working at home.

**Ginna Claire:** Your church, your grocery store, your friends, your-

**Annie:** Oh, you mean when you're not on stage.

**Ginna Claire:** When you're not on tour.

**Annie:** Thank you. Okay.

**Ginna Claire:** So you finish your show and you go home. But on the road, the tour is your family, the company is your family. So to have someone who is so adventurous and so game to like go and do, that's really cool and has made these last 12 plus months... I mean, if people look and see that we're having fun and we're having slumber parties, it's real. It's not to say that it's not super hard work because doing

eight shows a week is super hard work. But to have a partner who gets it and is there for you and wants what's best for you and has your back on stage and has your back off stage.

You saw it today. She's like, "I'm going to Walgreens. What can I get for you?" She's always looking out for people around her. And then something I really love about her... I was telling her this the other day. She is so crazy generous with everything she has, her food, her clothes, her heart. I've seen it happen time and again with me and anyone in this company that if she's got a cool jacket hanging up in her room and someone comes in and is like, "Oh, I like that." She's like, Oh, you should borrow that. It looks so good on you." She loves to share. We actually have an iCloud-shared album called *Sharing is Caring*. And she's like-

**Annie:** I mean, last night you, we were doing laundry and you found this black skirt that you were wearing and immediately you said, "Can I borrow it?" And you said, "Yeah, let me wear it one time because I thought it was lost. And then you can borrow it." I loved it.

Ginna Claire, tell me what you have learned about God from Mary Kate.

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, that's a good question. Definitely, a lot of the qualities that I was just talking about are quality I see in God. God's graciousness and God's open heartedness. And I love that Mary Kate's on her own faith journey and learning and discovering and uncovering new things. I like getting to be a partner with her in that and someone that... I don't know. I feel like you trust me with what you're discovering and that's really special.

Also, I believe in heaven and I believe that we have these brothers and sisters in Christ on earth. But there's no doubt in my mind that she's my sister. She's my sister in this life and forever. I grew up with three brothers too. So to have a sister is huge. And I love my three brothers.

**Annie:** No offense, brothers.

**Ginna Claire:** I also think God knows exactly what we need. And even before we know that we needed it. So it's like I didn't know that I needed a sister in my scene partner. But to have been given that, it just feels like the greatest gift.

**Annie:** What about you? What have you learned about God from her?

**Mary Kate:** I think that it's interesting because talking about sisterhood, this sisterhood that you and I share and it's kind of like I brought my own sister, my sister Tara Claire into it

too. It's interesting in my head when I think about God, the two sisters I have in this life are so connected. They have direct lines. You know what I mean?

**Ginna Claire:** I remember the first time you told me about Tara, you were like, "She wants to be a nun and she's got a direct line to God."

**Annie:** Yeah. That's what you said to me too.

**Mary Kate:** I'm always like, can I have a prayer? Can you say Hail Mary for me? So that has been something that's like... I mean, like Ginna Claire said, I've had this kind of... I went to Catholic school and was raised really Catholic and I'm also clear and there's all of these things wrapped up in the perception of that. And it's kind of made me wanna push like what that is away, especially religion.

So finding a sister in Ginna Claire and her being so faith-based in her life has opened me up to seeing how good it can be and how people are actually inherently good. And I know that we're born with whatever this original sin is or whatever, but just to think that people are inherently good and goodness is where it all comes from, that I can get on, that I'm down with, that I believe in. And there have been a couple times where I'm like, Ginna Claire, I need to tell you this thing. Like, I saw these birds, you know-

**Ginna Claire:** Tell them about the birds. Tell them about the birds.

**Mary Kate:** I was running and I saw these birds and I was like, God has a plan for my life and that's it. And I just saw it and I was like, but that's not something I would say to myself. I would never be like-

**Annie:** You didn't tell me that story.

**Ginna Claire:** You have to back up because you were running and you were feeling really worried, right?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** You were stressing about... We were kind of in the midst of being like, Oh my gosh, what's... I think it was first starting to hit us our contracts were ending and we were in that actor headspace of like-

**Mary Kate:** "What are we gonna do?"

**Ginna Claire:** "What's next? What's gonna happen? What's waiting for us in New York City?"

**Mary Kate:** Just the hustle and bustle. Yeah, just like going back to hitting the pavement, you start from ground zero again. You're not Elphaba anymore. You're just MK, which is okay, you know? Which is enough. But it's also you don't have a job associated to you that makes people wanna be around you all the time. So I was just running and I was just running and just sad and thinking about it. And I just saw these birds take off like this. In my head, I was like-

**Annie:** What? Describe it.

**Mary Kate:** It was like if they all just-

**Ginna Claire:** A flock.

**Mary Kate:** ...flocked off of a line and started flying away right in front of me as I was having this thought, like, what's gonna happen to me?

**Annie:** What city were you in?

**Ginna Claire:** Detroit.

**Mary Kate:** Detroit.

**Annie:** Oh, Detroit. Okay.

**Mary Kate:** On the river walk right there. And literally as they flew, I just said to myself, "God has a plan for my life," but that's not in my vocabulary. Which is why I was like, "I have to tell you this thing" because I feel like in that moment I was experiencing that inherent God that we have inside of us. Like God speaking to me, being like, "Hey, it's okay. Like this is what's happening right now, but it's all part of this plan. So this is what it is."

And I remember Ginna Claire was like, "Thank you for telling me." I was like, "I just had to tell you. I feel it." Because you had said something to me about... what we were talking about? I don't know. Anyways-

**Ginna Claire:** We started praying together back in probably Florida. She like noticed... Can we tell the prayer story?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** I pray for my food before I eat-

**Annie:** Oh, she stopped me last night. I started eating my tacos and Mary Kate was like, "Annie, we gotta pray." I was like, "Gosh, I forgot, Mary Kate. I'm sorry." You've really trained her to pray for her meals.

**Ginna Claire:** I was always taught to pray. Obviously, we bless our food, but also it's a moment to remember God, if you will.

**Annie:** If you will.

**Ginna Claire:** ...and check-in. My husband comes to visit me every week and she saw us praying for-

**Mary Kate:** Because we were living together.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, we were living together.

**Mary Kate:** You'd be like praying over your yogurt in the morning. You're like making my protein shake. Like, oh crap. Because I've already eaten like half of my cereal and you guys sit down to pray and I'm like, "I missed it again."

**Ginna Claire:** But Mary Kate came to me with a really good idea. Do you wanna share your idea?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. Well, I was saying that maybe we should tell Eric because I noticed that Eric was usually leading the prayer, which I thought was really sweet. I was like, maybe could you just tell Eric that we could pray while we're unpacking the groceries. That way-

**Ginna Claire:** Or at the grocery store.

**Mary Kate:** Or at The grocery store over all the food. I was like, I just never know when we're supposed to pray. Am I supposed to pray over this protein shake? What if we just prayed over the spinach and the bananas when we're unpacking them and putting them away there? It's covered. It's covered in prayer. We did it. We did it. That way, any other prayers after that is just a bonus.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. That's right.

**Mary Kate:** Bonus grace. So then we found that video of like, If it comes in a cup, no need to bless it up.

**Ginna Claire:** If it doesn't have dressing, no need for a blessing.

**Mary Kate:** But actually now that I'm thinking about it, like prayer has been kind of constant in this *Wicked* journey. I remember like in Nashville thinking like, "I'm not gonna be able to get through this show. Will you come and pray for me?" And I'll never forget being in the bathroom-

**Ginna Claire:** I know.

**Mary Kate:** ...there were all these people because Ginna Claire had so much family coming in and out in Nashville. I was just about to go on vacation, I needed a vacation so bad. My voice was so tired. And she came in and I was like... I must've been in my under dressings and-

**Ginna Claire:** Mm-hmm.

**Annie:** And y'all's dressing rooms were connected.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah. Thank goodness. That's the best.

**Mary Kate:** But we were in this little, little tiny bathroom, the tiniest bathroom you could ever imagine.

**Ginna Claire:** The bathrooms that are just a toilet.

**Mary Kate:** Just a toilet. And people are hustling and bustling in my room, and Ginna Claire wraps me up in her arms and she just puts her hand on my back and she goes, "Dear God, blah blah. Dear God and dear God, blah blah, blah, blah. And she prays over me. And I'm like, okay, I can do the show. Okay, I'm gonna do the show. And then your mom did it. I remember your mom prayed over us once.

**Ginna Claire:** Mm-hmm.

**Mary Kate:** And then my sister said-

**Ginna Claire:** Some of the Grits came and prayed for us too

**Mary Kate:** Some of the Grits came in and prayed for us.

**Annie:** Like mom's best friend group.

**Ginna Claire:** My mom has this friend group called the Grits and it's 16 ladies and they've been friends for a long time and they take care of each other and it's community.



**Annie:** Yeah, in like a real way.

**Ginna Claire:** It's finest. They are there with meals and prayers and gifts and fun and they do like girls' beach trips.

**Mary Kate:** That was so fun.

**Ginna Claire:** But the Grits showed up a lot when *Wicked* was in Nashville and took care of us.

**Mary Kate:** We had some Grits pray over us. I remember it was before press night and we were just tired from traveling.

**Ginna Claire:** That's right.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I remember hugging the Grits afterwards and being like, "Thank you for coming." Oh my God. I remember halfway through my contract or probably a couple months in, I was suffering from so much anxiety and panic attacks and anxiety attacks because I was so overwhelmed with playing the role and all the things you need to be able to do it and to give the best show you can and feel like it's enough and things like that. So I was panicking nonstop. And my sister told me, "Every time you feel like you're gonna panic, breathe in the Holy Spirit and then breathe out the song." And I took that with me for the rest of my contract.

**Annie:** Really?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. And I think that one of the really special things too about you, Ginna Claire, is that you never made me feel like less than or stupid or anyway about where I was on my faith journey. You know what I mean? Which I even now say in air quotes because I'm still like, you know, fumbling, you know? But that's been really special that-

**Annie:** You're not fumbling, by the way.

**Mary Kate:** I know but it's-

**Annie:** We're all doing the exact same thing.

**Mary Kate:** But it's nice to feel like it's okay to be where you are, you know?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** Even if you're only looking at cracks of light, it's like still shining in. It's still on its way.

**Ginna Claire:** That's right.

**Annie:** How has it changed you since that bird story? Are there moments when you've gone back to that and gone, Okay, God has a plan for my life?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I just feel relief. I just feel like I can't make anything happen that's not whatever that plan is. I can't force a life to happen for myself. I just have to be the best version of myself I can be, and then hopefully I can trust that good things are gonna come. I can trust that by my life so far, how blessed I am and how many good things have come into my life, how many good friendships, how many good life experiences, and how full and round it is, that if I'm just like constantly trying to be good, that like baseline good, good things will happen to me.

**Annie:** When I think of this year, you're one of the people that God has brought into my life. It's made my life better.

**Ginna Claire:** I feel that way about you too.

**Annie:** I know. So before I say this, I wanna say that so that you know that when I think about who God's brought into my life to my life better, you're one of the people. And I think it is so clear that God wanted you to know that He sees you because He surrounded you with me and Ginna Claire and your sister and all these people who genuinely adore you.

**Ginna Claire:** To know Mary Kate is to love her.

**Mary Kate:** And are on their own faith journeys too. How is she not crying and we're a mess?

**Ginna Claire:** I got one little cute one over here.

**Mary Kate:** It's a sparkly one.

**Annie:** Meanwhile-

**Mary Kate:** It's funny too, Annie, you say that, because I remember when Ginna Claire brought you into my life, I was like... and we connected so instantly. And I was like, "This is my person."

**Annie:** Literally instantly.

**Mary Kate:** But then I've had those thoughts that have been like, why does Annie like me? She's surrounded by all of these incredible people and... You know, your podcast is my favorite. Like why did she pick me? Why is she investing in our relationship? Why is that a thing? But I just have to trust that-

**Annie:** Because I adore you.

**Ginna Claire:** And I adore you.

**Annie:** It's so easy. It's just so easy. That's why. I mean, any friendship that... I mean Ginna Claire and I said it from day one of like, What is this that we've been handed? We have been handed something. And I feel like the exact same thing about you. I just think I don't care who you're starring as, MK is in my life from now on. This isn't an Elphaba relationship. This is an MK relationship. So yeah, I just think what a gift you are to me and how much fun. I'm like, let's go to every city. Let's do every... We've done Toronto, we've done San Antonio.

**Mary Kate:** Two seven slammed by the seat of our pants.

**Annie:** Right.

**Ginna Claire:** It'll probably be New York next.

**Annie:** I hope so. I mean, it will be. In November I'll be there.

[00:38:34] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation to share about one of our amazing partners, [Liquid I.V.](#). Guys, it is hot outside. It is hot. And it is more important than ever for you to stay hydrated. It's time to get your Liquid I.V.. And you know we're big fans have been around here.

Liquid I.V. is the number one powdered hydration brand in America and it's now available sugar-free. Y'all, we have tried it. I have tried it. It is so good. They have some new flavors, the white peach, and the green grape. Y'all, the green grape, it is just like white grape juice. It is so good.

Years in the making hydration multiplier sugar-free uses a proprietary zero sugar hydration solution with no artificial sweeteners. Liquid I.V. has three times the electrolytes of the leading sports drink, plus eight vitamins and nutrients for everyday wellness. And it hydrates two times faster than water alone.

Plus Liquid I.V. believes that equitable access to clean and abundant water is the foundation of a healthier world. Same. Same. So they partner with leading organizations for innovative solutions to help communities protect both their water and their futures. To date, Liquid I.V. has donated over 39 Million servings y'all in 50-plus countries around the world. That is awesome.

Real people, real flavor, real hydrating. Now sugar-Free. Grab your Liquid I.V. hydration multiplier, sugar-free in bulk nationwide at Costco, or get 20% off when you go to [liquidiv.com](http://liquidiv.com) and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN at checkout. That's 20% off anything you order when you use the promo code THATSOUNDSFUN at liquidiv.com.

**Sponsor:** And one more amazing partner I get to tell you about, [HelloFresh](http://HelloFresh). Okay, are you tired of thinking of what to make for dinner this summer or are you in a rut with the same recipes that you always rotate through? I get it. This summer HelloFresh is here to take the work out of eating well and I am here for it.

Figuring out what to make is the worst. HelloFresh delivers mouthwatering chef-created recipes and fresh ingredients straight to your door so you can spend your summer doing whatever you want. With HelloFresh, you get farm-fresh pre-portioned ingredients and seasonal recipes delivered right to your doorstep. Their meals are so good, y'all.

Skip those trips to the grocery store and count on HelloFresh to make home cooking easy, fun, and affordable. Also, let's talk about all the options. They offer 40 different recipes to choose from every single week so you'll never get bored and you can always find something new to try and love. If you're hosting your friends this summer, make your home the hangout place with the crowd-pleasing eats, from a backyard, bratwurst bar to tangy key lime pie. Hellofresh market makes summer entertaining a breeze, you guys.

So go to [hellofresh.com/tsf50](http://hellofresh.com/tsf50) and use the code TSF, like that sounds fun, TSF50 for 50% off, plus free shipping. Hello you guys, 50% off. That's [hellofresh.com/tsf50](http://hellofresh.com/tsf50) and use the code TSF50. HelloFresh, America's number one meal kit.

Okay, now back to our TSF Hall of Fun conversation with Mary Kate and Ginna Claire.

[00:41:47] <music>

**Annie:** Tell me, when you think about what is coming next, neither of you totally know what's coming next. Rest comes next. So what does it look like to rest after running

a schedule like this and doing the show for this long like this? What does it look like to rest?

**Ginna Claire:** That's a hard question. And it's something I was talking to Amanda Jane about this on the phone the other day. I was like-

**Annie:** Who is the Broadway-

**Ginna Claire:** Glinda.

**Annie:** Glinda currently

**Ginna Claire:** And someone who's been a source of wisdom for me. But I was like, what is rest tangibly look like? Because it sounds like such a good idea and like going to the beach sounds fun. But I am such a mover, shaker goer that how do I tangibly take time to rest and how long do I have to rest and when can I get up and start going again? I feel like it's gotta be more than just a quiet time in the morning. But how do we, you know, tangibly find time.

I'm definitely gonna go home to Nashville and visit family there. I'm definitely gonna spend time in New York with my husband... or sorry, we moved to New Jersey, the Garden State.

**Mary Kate:** I love New Jersey.

**Annie:** We're all great with you-

**Ginna Claire:** We're all definitely going to see Iowa City to Mary Kate's-

**Mary Kate:** And the beach.

**Ginna Claire:** ...to Mary Kate's ocean house.

**Mary Kate:** It's interesting that you say that because I feel like when I think of rest, I don't think of it as quiet.

**Annie:** No. Because you don't have to conserve your voice.

**Mary Kate:** Because my life right now is so quiet because I have to be quiet all day so that I can do the show. So when I think about rest, for me it's not like taking a nap. It's like I can't wait to have conversations with people for like hours or-

**Ginna Claire:** Because you don't have to sing for three hours that night.

**Mary Kate:** Or like yell at the ocean for fun and be like, Why do you think you can be this beautiful? Who gave you the right? Like to the ocean just for fun. Right? You know what I mean?

**Annie:** I mean, please-

**Mary Kate:** Have it yell back, you know.

**Ginna Claire:** It's crashing of the waves.

**Annie:** Please talk about when we sat down on the rollercoaster yesterday and what you said to me.

**Mary Kate:** I was like, "I'm not allowed to scream."

**Annie:** "Don't let me scream, Annie. Do not let me scream."

**Mary Kate:** Do not let me scream. So Annie did not scream in solidarity and then the three of us were on the rollercoaster, just like lightly he he he he.

**Ginna Claire:** Giggling.

**Annie:** Front car of a rollercoaster is silent because it's us.

**Mary Kate:** But you wouldn't know by the pictures.

**Annie:** No, you wouldn't.

**Ginna Claire:** Because mouths were wide open mouth.

**Mary Kate:** My mouth is wide silent screaming. So rest feels like-

**Ginna Claire:** Roller Coasters?

**Mary Kate:** Roller Coasters and running. I'm gonna run again for fun instead of just running to warm up for the show.

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, because you can't run now.

**Mary Kate:** Because it's so much ener... I mean, I used to run like miles and miles and miles before I got out here because I love to run outside. But here it's like if I run more than three miles. I'm like dead for a show.

**Annie:** Will you just stay in New York for a little bit and just kind of hang with your people?

**Mary Kate:** I think so. Probably. I don't have a plan.

**Annie:** That's Kind of fun though.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, it's really fun. I'm gonna spend the holidays with my family.

**Annie:** I was about to say, the beautiful thing about it ending at the end of October is you literally have two months full of... it's not like it's April and May where you're like, What do we do now? It's like, Oh, we have Thanksgiving and Christmas and visiting people. So you don't have to stress about getting it all worked out right away, huh?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I mean, we saved money and it's, you know... you don't have to feel... I don't feel like I have to go and do something right away. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** I feel like I can... let me gather my bearings and remember how to sing for fun and not just sing for work so that I can know how to approach a song again that's not Elphaba. You know, things like that that I'm gonna have to get my... it's gonna take a little bit of mixing to get back into the world first, you know?

**Mary Kate:** And that is all in yourself, you know, like, ugh, how does MK think not Elphaba?

**Annie:** Yeah, right? Does it feel like leaving a friend a little bit to leave Elphaba?

**Mary Kate:** A little bit. Because I feel like I wanted people to see my Elphaba and wonder where I stop and Elphaba begin. I wanted people to believe that Elphaba was a person on stage. Like, well-rounded and had all of these feelings. That's what I wanted. So in doing that, I feel like I invested a lot of myself in the way that I see that character. So I think it'll be hard to be like, Oh, now I'm playing something that's not...It's gonna be hard to play the next part and be like, Wait a minute, I don't get to meet the Wizard?

**Annie:** "Wait a minute. Ginna Claire? Ginna Claire."

**Ginna Claire:** Where's my bubbly best friend? We're gonna be in each other's future contracts, everyone.

**Annie:** Oh, man, y'all should just start writing that in. One witch for the price of... Well, two witches for the price of two witches.

**Ginna Claire:** Two witches for the price of two witches.

**Annie:** But we come together. We're a Pair.

**Mary Kate:** I just need a stipend.

**Annie:** There you go.

**Mary Kate:** I need a taco stipend.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh. A taco. If Eric will bless my food. Ginna Claire, what does it feel like to walk away from, you know, the road Glinda?

**Ginna Claire:** I feel like I've thought about that less than I've thought about leaving this season with her specifically. So maybe I should think about that question more. Glinda's so fun but I've also been in the, I guess, the headspace of this role now for almost three years. I feel like there are a lot of similarities between me and Glinda as well. I'd like to be more like her. I think she's got-

**Mary Kate:** I feel like she needs a little bit to be more like you. I feel like you bringing yourself to her makes her-

**Annie:** A better person.

**Ginna Claire:** Thanks.

**Mary Kate:** Remember when you were like, Is she human? Remember you said that the other day? You were like, Is that right? She's a psycho.

**Ginna Claire:** She's got really high highs and really low lows. And that's what is getting pushed a lot directorially. Sometimes I feel like she's a little psychotic because the highs are so high and the lows are so low. But I do think she is really strong and really brave. And I feel like I've learned a lot from her.

**Mary Kate:** She has superpowers like you do, you know?

**Ginna Claire:** But she actually has no power. She successfully does zero magic-

**Mary Kate:** Except that it's like everyday magic.



**Ginna Claire:** But she has a really pretty wand.

**Mary Kate:** It's everyday magic. Don't-

**Ginna Claire:** Don't underplay that?

**Mary Kate:** Don't underplay that. Because the magic that you have, which is like being able to soften things the way that she does is lik... Ginna Claire can make something really sharp and make it soft. She can take something someone said that's really mean and she can make it all fine. She can take something that doesn't taste good and make it taste better. She can see things in life, like experiences in life being like, this is a bad living situation. Let me see how I can make this better. Or this blah blah, blah. And that's exactly what Glinda does. And that's like a real-life superpower. So I don't think I would sell that. She doesn't have power. Like she can't fly, but-

**Annie:** You're like, Listen, only one of us can fly. You just get it.

**Ginna Claire:** Well, she has a bubble.

**Mary Kate:** She's got a bubble's... She's got a bubble.

**Ginna Claire:** She does a little flying. With theater magic. Mary Kate though, I mean, Elphaba just flies. That's all magic.

**Annie:** Yes. That's all real.

**Ginna Claire:** That's all real.

**Mary Kate:** That's actually just me.

**Ginna Claire:** I want to be very clear. I want to be very-

**Annie:** You bring to the role.

**Mary Kate:** It's what I bring to the role.

**Annie:** I could fly.

**Mary Kate:** I want to be very clear. Elphaba-

**Ginna Claire:** [singing] I believe I can fly.

**Mary Kate:** Not skills. So yes, I will be sad. I will be sad to leave her. But you know, I don't know how much we've expressed, but the roles are incredibly challenging each for their own reasons. But like I wake up every morning and the first thing I'm aware of is my feet throbbing from wearing three-inch heels 24 hours a week.

**Annie:** Really?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah. But it's a joy in its own way. But it's also, you know, definitely I'm aware of the challenge. I remember I went on vacation for a week and I was like, My body doesn't hurt anymore. But you know, you wear 20-pound ball gowns, which is like the dress I dreamed of longer than my wedding dress. But it takes a toll on your body. It takes a toll on you vocally, physically, emotionally, spiritually.

**Annie:** Everything.

**Mary Kate:** Living with Ginna Claire is like always having peas in the freezer and not being able to eat them.

**Annie:** Right. Because-

**Mary Kate:** She's always icing her body.

**Annie:** And you always have bruises.

**Mary Kate:** And I'm covered in bruises.

**Annie:** And slices.

**Mary Kate:** And I can't talk until like two or three. That's right.

**Annie:** I think one of the things I've learned from watching y'all's lives, because I know this will shock both of you, I didn't really have Broadway humans in my life before this. For y'all are my first Broadway friends in my real life. But I didn't know how much you had to sleep. I have talked to so many people about why are the rest of us who do... Because I sometimes work for three hours on a Friday night and then I get up for a flight at 5:00 am on Saturday. And y'all don't.

**Mary Kate:** No.

**Annie:** Because you can't.

**Ginna Claire:** Mary Kate is an Olympic sleeper.

**Annie:** Sleeper. It's so impressive.

**Ginna Claire:** It's so impressive.

**Mary Kate:** 12 hours last night.

**Ginna Claire:** And I hear it from so many people who are playing principals in Broadway shows, whether it's touring or in New York, that they sleep a lot. And it makes me think, and I have no scientific evidence to back this up, but I just feel like special magical healing is happening to your vocal chords or in terms of recovery-

**Annie:** When you're sleeping.

**Ginna Claire:** ...or something when you're sleeping that you can't get when you're awake. It's like no matter how much water you drink.

**Annie:** That has to be true.

**Mary Kate:** I read Elphaba say that and that's why I make myself sleep so much.

**Annie:** You read, huh?

**Mary Kate:** I read interviews with Elphabas. Like, what's something that you need, blah, blah, blah? Like Elphaba's past. And everyone being like, sleep, nap, sleep however you can. I remember being like, "I'm gonna let myself sleep however much I can, whenever I can.

**Ginna Claire:** You try to take power naps even on between shows.

**Mary Kate:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Oh, on like a Saturday or a Sunday when you have two a day. Yeah, you'd have to just to let everything rest.

**Ginna Claire:** Even if it's just a power nap.

**Annie:** Do you de-green between shows?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. You have to because the makeup changes.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Ginna Claire:** Stage one and two is different.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh. That's right. So you have to start over every Saturday, Sunday. You do it twice.

**Mary Kate:** I do.

**Annie:** You and Ms. Joyce. She does your face two times. I have not known that.

**Mary Kate:** I know.

**Annie:** I mean, your skincare regimen must be bananas.

**Mary Kate:**

**Ginna Claire:** Your skin is so pretty too?

**Annie:** It's very beautiful.

**Mary Kate:** I don't have any makeup on.

**Ginna Claire:** She's glowing. You guys, she's not wearing any makeup on and she's glowing and just been crying.

**Mary Kate:** I'm just shiny.

**Ginna Claire:** You're beautiful.

**Mary Kate:** But you get into the process of, okay, now I have to take the coconut oil and then you wash and then you, you know... Everyone's got their thing.

**Annie:** It's been one of the joys of this half year too I've gotten to help you de-green a few times.

**Mary Kate:** I know.

**Annie:** Get the green off of you.

**Mary Kate:** You got the green off my back, I couldn't reach it.

**Annie:** I love it. It's amazing.

**Mary Kate:** Like, can you help me? Here's a loofah!

**Annie:** It's great. What's your dream role? Do you have one that... or do you...?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I would like to help create dream roles for myself. My big one that I can't ever get outta my head is that I really want to play Joan of Arc.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** I want to play that warrior. I know it's like warrior for God. I did David Byrne's Joan of Arc at the public. I was the standby. And that was an incredible experience getting to immerse myself in all of the literature around her. But I just feel like I want to write it or I want to sing it differently. I want to see Alice Paul on stage. You know what I mean?

**Annie:** I don't know who that is.

**Mary Kate:** It's the original suffragettes.

**Annie:** Oh, sure, sure, sure. Sorry, sorry, sorry.

**Mary Kate:** In all of this voting stuff right now, I want to see these historic, iconic women on stage. And that's kind of what I want to see. Like a female soldier in the Civil War who went undercover because women were not allowed to fight. So dressed up like a boy and then fought. Because they were like, "This is my country too, and I believe in freedom." So any kind of role or the fight and the... I want to play the heroes. I always want to play a hero kind of, you know?

**Annie:** Why?

**Mary Kate:** I don't know. Maybe it's because I'm like an unlikely hero in life because I'm like a little derpy and I'm like clear and you know-

**Ginna Claire:** You're not derpy.

**Mary Kate:** No. But I just want people to... I feel like I want people to see that the hero doesn't always have to be the big, strong guy. I can be the kind of derby best friend, you know, like actually.

**Annie:** Is there still a dream to be Elphaba on Broadway?

**Mary Kate:** For sure.

**Annie:** And like West End and those-

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, of course.

**Ginna Claire:** Ooh, what's that?

**Mary Kate:** Especially now having done it out here on the road and seeing all these different cities and seeing how people react to it, I'd love to take it home. I'd love to live and work in the same place. I'd love to do it with Ginna Claire. I think it'd be harder to do in New York in some ways because-

**Ginna Claire:** Really?

**Mary Kate:** Just because it's a different... I don't know. I don't know why I feel that way.

**Ginna Claire:** In some ways, I feel like it'd be easier because you wouldn't have the stress of that comes along with traveling with the planes every few weeks-

**Mary Kate:** But you don't have a family dynamic of the road, which-

**Ginna Claire:** You have your New York City family.

**Mary Kate:** I know. I've never worked in that capacity at home before and I'm dying to. I'd love to take some months and figure out more about myself and life and how I operate as an artist and what makes me better or worse, things like that. And then return to it with a clear vision of how I'm gonna approach it in a different way, you know?

**Annie:** Yeah

**Mary Kate:** That's what I would like to do.

**Annie:** Okay. Yeah. Do you have another dream role?

**Mary Kate:** I have dream roles support for Ginna Claire.

**Annie:** Do you? What are they?

**Ginna Claire:** Okay, keep going, Mary Kate.

**Mary Kate:** I want you to play on Saint Cecilia.

**Annie:** In what?

**Mary Kate:** She's the patron saint of music.

**Annie:** Oh wow. Is there a musical-

**Ginna Claire:** Are you gonna write it for me?

[crosstalk]

**Mary Kate:** Oh, I'll write for you. Oh, and also I want to write this musical about these plants and Ginna Claire's gonna play the-

**Annie:** I do love it.

**Mary Kate:** ...Dolly Parton plant.

**Annie:** I do think that in the long run we may see win like Tony's for what you've written as much as what you performed.

**Mary Kate:** I would love that.

**Ginna Claire:** I would love that.

**Annie:** I think that's really in your guts to like make it.

**Mary Kate:** I just have to make it down and make it. Yeah. Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** Getting the hands dirty.

**Annie:** I like that.

**Ginna Claire:** I do like the idea of getting to originate a role. I remember being in college and there was this upperclassman named Barrett Weed. And I remember we were having a conversation, I thought she was so cool, And we were talking about dream roles and I was like, "Well, I want to be Glinda in *Wicked*." And I was like, "What do you want to do, Barrett?" And she's like, "I just want to originate stuff." And I was like, "Oh." And it's interesting because that's what she's done. She's only originated roles.

**Annie:** Really?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah. And now I'm like, "Oh, that's so cool to you know... I've had the chance and so has Mary Kate to be in workshops and labs where something's being played out for the first time and you're getting to-

**Mary Kate:** Develop it.

**Ginna Claire:** ...decide how you want this character to be and where you want them to go and how you want them to sing this song. And you get to be part of the process. I mean, as an artist it's so fulfilling. And as a storyteller to be part of really shaping that and hopefully, you know, bringing something interesting or different to the table, it's really cool.

**Mary Kate:** It's juicy.

**Ginna Claire:** It's juicy.

**Mary Kate:** And what makes good people good storytellers and good at that foundational level is being super well-rounded too and having a point of view in life. And I think that that's so important for like... especially art that's being created right now and not like museum pieces, not like golden age musicals coming back up. But to have artists working on it with a specific point of view. No matter what that point of view is. As long as it's strong. Because we need to be reflecting what's happening on stage right now, I think.

**Annie:** Okay. I've never written a play, but I'll sure try. Let's just do it.

**Ginna Claire:** Yes. Can you do it?

**Annie:** Let's just do it. Let three of us just write one.

**Ginna Claire:** Okay.

**Annie:** Okay. You heard it here first, people.

**Ginna Claire:** Collabing.

**Mary Kate:** We could definitely do that.

**Ginna Claire:** Collabing, yeah.

**Annie:** No question we could do it. I'm not worried about us being able to do it.

**Mary Kate:** You gotta play guitar too.

**Annie:** I can. I'll do a little something for you.

**Ginna Claire:** Eric plays guitar. My husband plays guitar.



**Annie:** Oh my Gosh. We're just gonna be one big family band. We're about to.

**Mary Kate:** Like New Partridge Family.

**Annie:** I just need to read more on Joan of Arc. I just don't know her enough.

**Mary Kate:** Oh Man, she's cool.

**Annie:** Tell me what to read. Do you have books you've loved about her?

**Mary Kate:** Yeah. I'll send you some.

**Annie:** Okay. Just send me a list and we'll just get them. What else do I want to know? How are you both feeling about... As when people listen to this, it's two weeks left, when I'm with you, three weeks left. 20-some odd shows left.

**Mary Kate:** 24 shows left, right?

**Ginna Claire:** 24.

**Mary Kate:** I'm good at math.

**Ginna Claire:** Really good at math.

**Mary Kate:** I'm terrible at math.

**Annie:** You're like, "I can do it. I can do it."

**Mary Kate:** Yeah, 24 shows left. It doesn't feel like that much. I know it is a lot of shows. It's too many shows to push through but it's just-

**Annie:** You can't just go, we can finish. Don't worry about your voice. That's a lot of shows.

**Mary Kate:** But it is at the point where I find myself when I run out on stage, Elphaba's first entrance, she runs through and she stops and looks up and is supposed to be experiencing this big, like, I made it out and finally I'm in a place where I could possibly belong. This like, Oh my God. And every time in that moment I'm like, this show is a gift. For the rest of the show, just remember that this show is a gift. And a month from now-

**Ginna Claire:** We're gonna wish we had rehearsal.

**Mary Kate:** You're gonna be wishing that you were doing this exact thing. So just be happy right now, no matter how tired you feel, no matter how worn out you feel. This moment is like everything.

**Ginna Claire:** Annie's a vision. She has her star dress on and she has a crown on.

**Annie:** Like a real crown. They need to know this isn't like a small... This is the crown you wear - when? When you were engaged?

**Ginna Claire:** When you're at the top of the show.

**Annie:** Oh, this is the beginning. This is the bubble.

**Ginna Claire:** Yes, the bubble dress.

**Annie:** Perfect.

[00:59:07] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friend! Just interrupting this conversation one more time to share about another amazing partner, [Allie + Bess](#). Okay, listen, are you looking for some new fun jewelry? Listen, either for you or if you're looking for the right gift for a friend, you have got to check out the cute jewelry from Allie + Bess. I am head over heels. I wore one of their bracelets while we were out on tour and y'all it is so cute. It is so cute.

Their style is everyday go-to jewelry that is functional and trendy and easy to mix and match. I love it. And it was started by two best friends in Dallas, Texas. How fun is that? You can create your own style with their mix-and-match pieces or find your favorites with their birthstone or summer collections. There's literally a piece for every occasion.

And fun fact, the flat color beads used in a lot of the jewelry are made out of recycled vinyl records. Y'all. And they were the first bead to inspire Allie + Bess to start designing. How cool is that? Plus they employed local refugees as their artisans, which is so great.

My friends can get 20% off any order to [alliebess.com](#) with the code ANNIE20. That's alliebess.com and use the code ANNIE20.

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Hiring is such a challenge, but Indeed helps you rise to that challenge. With Instant Match, over 80% of employers get quality candidates whose resumes on Indeed match their job description the moment they sponsor a job, according to Indeed Data US. Indeed is the hiring platform where you can attract, interview, and hire all in one place. Instead of spending hours on multiple job sites searching for candidates with the right skills, Indeed's a powerful hiring platform that can help you do it all. Plus what's even better, Indeed's the only job site where you only pay for applications that meet your must-have requirements.

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And now back to finish up our TSF Hall of Fun conversation with MK and GC.

[01:01:42] <music>

**Ginna Claire:** Annie, what's your dream role? In life or on stage.

**Annie:** I always wanted to be the mean lady in Les Mis.

**Mary Kate:** Oh you did. Thénardier?

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah. I just thought I could do her really well because she's an alto and she's just so a handful. I just thought she would be the role I think would be the most fun on all of Broadway shows I've ever seen. There's not a real good *Wicked* role for me because-

**Ginna Claire:** You could be our Nessa.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh. I could just wheel in and out. I'm here. And you're like, Annie, you don't have to do anything except sit there and sing one song and yell.

**Mary Kate:** And wear awesome shoes.

**Annie:** And wear magical shoes. And they get smooshed by a house.

**Mary Kate:** And they get smooshed by a house. And then we won't mourn.

**Ginna Claire:** Annie, are you okay that people who are listening are going to be led to believe that you are a *Wicked* super fan?

**Annie:** I mean, for sure people have gotten to that conclusion. But I also think our actual friends who are listening know what we know is that this started about *Wicked* and it's just not about *Wicked* anymore. This is the vehicle that gave us space for friendship.

**Mary Kate:** How cool!

**Annie:** I think we'd have found each other either way.

**Ginna Claire:** I think so.

**Annie:** It just feels like that's what's really true. But *Wicked* was the vehicle to give us a friendship that has been such a gift to me since the show.

**Ginna Claire:** And she is coming to the show tonight.

**Annie:** Yes. And I am going to the show tonight. I mean when I saw it in Toronto by my... I was by myself. You came out, Mary Kate came out and sang, *Wizard and I* tonight, and I was weeping. I was like, "My friends are so freaking talented. This is unbelievable." So yes, I'm gonna be at the show tonight. I can't wait sitting with your in-laws and your husband.

**Ginna Claire:** Are there any shows that you're like, Oh, I really want to see?

**Annie:** The two of you do?

**Mary Kate:** Or the three of us.

**Ginna Claire:** Or the three of us.

**Annie:** I haven't seen enough to know.

**Mary Kate:** You gotta come to New York and we'll just go and we'll see a lot of shows.

**Annie:** Yeah, we'll just go. I mean, if we could find a reason to be in *Mean Girls*, I think it'd be fun.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, for sure.

**Annie:** And y'all would both be very good in *Mean Girls* and I could tag along.

**Mary Kate:** I think we're just gonna have to write it.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, me too.

**Annie:** That's all I can figure.

**Mary Kate:** Going back to rest and us talking about our rest, you've just had this huge, like huge-

**Ginna Claire:** This is a big week.

**Annie:** You were my rest.

**Mary Kate:** Is this how you rest?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** Is this your-

**Annie:** Yeah. It's being with y'all. I knew when I... You are gonna make me cry. You did that on purpose.

**Mary Kate:** I didn't do that on purpose. I was honestly just asking, I promise.

**Annie:** I knew when *Remember God* came... and when we were talking about dates, I knew after Toronto I wanted to see y'all one more time. And I knew Albuquerque would be full of humans. Sometime before Albuquerque. Because I knew that y'all would have higher feelings in Albuquerque. There would always be people there. I didn't want it add to the speed of Albuquerque. So then I was like, What if you got to see them right after *Remember God*?

Because when I came to Toronto, even when I'm here, we take a day and just play. And I've been learning about myself than I'm better at taking a good... Thank you for getting my tear. I am better at taking a day off when my friends step in and they're taking a day off too or they are resting in some capacity too and nobody's on their phones except Insta Story and nobody's checking email and nobody's working.

So I knew if I could be with you on a Monday, that we would get to do that. So I thought, "What if I could go the week after *Remember God* launches?"

**Ginna Claire:** Because we were super honored when we realized that-

**Annie:** I didn't even realize until you said that.

**Ginna Claire:** ...the date your book came out and then the date that you were coming, it's like, well that's how she's gonna end the week of her book release is to come play with us.

**Mary Kate:** Ginna Claire said that to me. What'd you say though? Like at the end of last week?

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah.

**Mary Kate:** And I was like, Oh my god. Yeah.

**Annie:** It was on purpose because I was like we have so much fun and we're so.... having fun with y'all is easy.

**Mary Kate:** It's easy, yeah.

**Annie:** It's super easy. Okay, last question that we always ask. Well, first I want to give you both space and have a recorded place to say that anything-

**Mary Kate:** [singing] Because I knew you.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. Just say what's been the best and just say what's been the best, so we all just have this recorded memory of how you feel about each other.

**Ginna Claire:** I've been thinking about a story the whole time we've been recording so I feel like I should tell it. Mary Kate had just started performances and we decided to skip the show store and go out for a drink and burgers and decompress and get to know each other better. And it was a magical night for a lot of reasons, you know, just diving into our friendship.

But there's something you've said to me that night that changed my whole perspective on the tour, and it's helped me probably more than anything else anyone has said to me with this contract. Which is when you got there, I think I was feeling a little beat down about feeling isolated and feeling like, Oh, I want to do this job and I want to show up and do my best. But I feel like in order to do that, I can't be as invested in community, I can't go out into the towns, I can't call my friends because I need to preserve my voice. And I just felt so selfish.

**Mary Kate:** I remember when you said that and I was like eeh.

**Ginna Claire:** I was like, I feel like I'm not able to love on people the way that I want to. I go home and I'm by myself. And the whole day is spent. Like everything revolves

around... about being prepared to do the show. Anyways, Mary Kate looked at me and said, No, there's a lot of people counting on you and you can't let them down. And I'd never thought about it in that way. I don't know. I think it's true because-

**Mary Kate:** It's not selfish, it's selfless.

**Ginna Claire:** Then I know that, I started counting on you and I felt okay to do that.

**Mary Kate:** I think that for me, the best thing has been like, I can see back to so many times where we crawled into each other's laps and we're like crying at different moments.

**Ginna Claire:** Exhausted.

**Mary Kate:** Just exhausted. Remember in Toronto you were like, "I just need to know it's gonna be okay," because you were going through all that stuff. I was like, "It's gonna be okay."

**Ginna Claire:** We've gone through some really big life changes in the last year with our families and personally.

**Mary Kate:** I remember many times you being like, "I just don't know if I can do it," and me being like, "It's gonna be okay." And learning how powerful partnership can be and how powerful it can take you through the whole show. And it's a beast. It's not something to be taken for granted. You know, it's something to cherish and to honor.

Sisterhood, deep connected friendships are so valuable I think in the world. I know as a single person, it's like your deep friendships fill up your life in such a beautiful way I think. And it's not that you're not missing a partner or you don't want that, but it just helps.

**Ginna Claire:** Someone said to us too recently that resting by yourself is different than resting with community. Like resting with someone else and to have a partner in rest really, you know. To say, okay, well we're gonna go home and we're gonna rest our voices and steam. But I have a buddy that sit here and watch *Breakfast at Tiffany's* with me and have a cup of tea.

**Mary Kate:** Make frozen waffles.

**Ginna Claire:** Yeah, make frozen waffles with gummy bears.

**Annie:** I mean, that's why I'm here because I like resting in community better than resting alone. And I'd rather rest with y'all at SeaWorld than rest alone.

**Mary Kate:** Going to roller coasters.

**Annie:** Yeah, I'd rather go ride on roller coasters and not scream with y'all. The last question we always ask and we have to ask because this is your first time, but not your last time on That Sounds Fun. What sounds fun to you?

**Mary Kate:** In the immediate future, what sounds fun to me is putting on the bubble dress.

**Annie:** Do you get to do that? Do you ever trade these dresses?

**Mary Kate:** Probably not. But I'm gonna try to make it happen. I wanna do a witch switch. That sounds fun.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Mary Kate:** I want to paint Ginna Claire green and I want to put on a blonde wig and I want to pretend I'm Glinda and I want to sing *Popular*.

**Annie:** You should do that before you leave.

**Ginna Claire:** It would be so fun.

**Annie:** Have you ever done that before?

**Mary Kate:** That sounds fun.

**Annie:** That sounds so fun.

**Mary Kate:** It has been done before.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Mary Kate:** So we know that it's possible.

**Ginna Claire:** It's possible.

**Annie:** There you go. Okay. That sounds very fun.

**Ginna Claire:** I think it sounds fun to be at my house and eat on my plates.

**Annie:** I know. You're so close.



**Ginna Claire:** And since the last time we recorded I moved to a new apartment. I didn't even get to say goodbye to my old apartment. So I feel excited about finding my new apartment. I loved hearing you talk about having to share walls with your neighbors. So I'm excited to meet my neighbors but then, I mean we have friends who are starring in shows in New York and we've just been outta the city for so long and haven't gotten to see a musical.

**Mary Kate:** Oh my gosh, I haven't seen a show in so long.

**Ginna Claire:** And I love doing musicals, but I really like seeing them too because before I was ever in them I was a fan.

**Annie:** Right, Right.

**Ginna Claire:** I have so many I want to see. I wanna see *Island*.

**Annie:** Oh. I saw it. I saw it.

**Ginna Claire:** You did?

**Annie:** Yes. I saw it with Jonathan Merritt. It was so great.

**Ginna Claire:** I want to see the *Frozen*. I wanna see *Mean Girls*.

**Annie:** Can we go see *Frozen* when I'm there? That's what I want to see.

**Mary Kate:** Let's see everything.

**Annie:** Let's see everything.

**Mary Kate:** I want to see *Hamilton* with Treco in it.

**Ginna Claire:** We gotta go see our friend Gregory Chico. What else do you want to see?

**Mary Kate:** I want to see-

**Ginna Claire:** I want to see everything. My friend's playing Jasmine in *Aladdin*. I was like, I gotta go see her play jazz. She's a Disney princess. I gotta go see Her.

**Mary Kate:** Diane Paul has just directed a Gloria Steinem piece.

**Ginna Claire:** I want to see *Anastasia*.

**Annie:** Oh, I want to see *Anastasia* too.

**Ginna Claire:** *Kinky Boots* is closing so I want to go see that one more time.

**Mary Kate:** I didn't know that.

**Ginna Claire:** It's closing in the spring. And we gotta go see Corey Mach in that.

**Annie:** Y'all got a lot to do. I like you're having plans together. That's good.

**Ginna Claire:** That's good because at any point in time you can be like, "Hey, we're meeting at Alice's teacup. tomorrow at..."

**Mary Kate:** I really want to do a fun like 54 Below show with Ginna Claire too. That sounds fun.

**Annie:** Tell us so that me and all my friends can come. I mean for sure I'm coming. But then we'll tell all the people so they can come too if they want.

**Mary Kate:** I have plans for it too. I want to know what happens when... like the end of *Defying Gravity*, Elphaba swings the broom around and says, "Hop on, we're getting outta here." And then we sing the end as an epic duet. We sing the last 'bring me down' in harmony.

**Annie:** For sure.

**Mary Kate:** I just really think it'd be so fun.

**Ginna Claire:** That's happening.

**Annie:** That's so happening.

**Ginna Claire:** Have you been to 54 Below?

**Annie:** No, let's go. I mean, I'm in. When do y'all go?

**Ginna Claire:** It's such a cool New York music venue. And we've done some-

**Annie:** I've been to a show. I've been to a Byrne show at City Winery, but that's the only concert I've been to there. So we're also gonna try to see Mumford & Sons. Right?

**Ginna Claire:** Yes.

[crosstalk]

**Ginna Claire:** Can we put this out into the universe?

**Annie:** Dear world.

**Ginna Claire:** Okay, this is what sounds fun to us.

**Annie:** We would love to see on...

**Ginna Claire:** December.

**Annie:** December 10th, we would love to see Mumford & Sons at Maggie Rogers Garden.

**Ginna Claire:** Oh, Maggie Rogers is-

**Annie:** Maggie Rogers is-

**Mary Kate:** It's gonna be an epic show.

**Annie:** I know.

**Ginna Claire:** You love Mumford & Sons.

**Annie:** We would love to go. If anybody can help us.

**Ginna Claire:** It's that Madison Square Garden. Who has ticket connections.

**Mary Kate:** I know.

**Annie:** We'll pay. We don't mind using our money, we just are scared about getting tickets at all. But if you have them for us, we'd be happy. I lied. I said that was my last question. I changed my mind. And then this really is my last question.

**Ginna Claire:** Okay.

**Annie:** Tell us both of you, but I'll start with you Ginna Claire, tell us for my friends who do pray, what can they pray for you in the last couple weeks of the show and in transitioning back to life?

**Ginna Claire:** Definitely for strength to... I want to finish strong. It has been such an epic 20 months on the road now. I want to finish strong. It has happened in the past that, which has kind of go down in flames at the end of the contracts.

**Annie:** Oh, wow.

**Mary Kate:** We're trying to stay away from that.

**Annie:** Oh, not gonna have that.

**Ginna Claire:** Because people push, push, push, push, push. And then when you see the light at the end of the tunnel, I think-

**Mary Kate:** Your body starts to be like, Now I can rest. Like you still have a bunch of shows left.

**Ginna Claire:** So Mary Kate and I... I know we definitely want to finish strong. And then definitely just transitioning from tour life back to normal life. Not to say that this isn't normal life because it very much has been our normal life for quite some time now. Going to my new apartment in a new state and living with my husband full time... He's come to visit me every week, but, you know, it's different.

So much of my life on the road, you know, he's here for a couple days a week. But I guess maybe that selfish mentality of like, what do I need to do to be able to get through the show tonight versus being back at home and being like, how can I love and care for my husband and support him? He's on his own new career path training to be a pilot. So I want to finish strong here and I want to transition into hopefully being the best wife I can be and partner for him.

**Annie:** What about you, Mary Kate, for our friends who pray?

**Mary Kate:** I usually ask for Hail Mary to get through *No Good Deed*. So I'm at a loss for a second of, if I don't have to get through *No Good Deed*, what do I need?

**Ginna Claire:** Say a bunch of Hail Marys for you to get through *No Good Deed* every night.

**Annie:** 24 more times 20.

**Ginna Claire:** Can I please have 20... The penance.

**Mary Kate:** I feel like what I need most right now, if people could pray for is patience with... I feel like because this job is so heavily focused and extreme that once I'm done, I'm not gonna know about anything. I'm gonna have trouble making decisions or I'm, you know-

**Ginna Claire:** Because we have so much structure out here.

**Mary Kate:** So much structure. So patience with kind of the reemergence into a different way of life.

**Annie:** Sure.

**Mary Kate:** You know, a different than this. And also patience and grace when people are asking me, why don't you have another job lined up already? Why don't you do this? Why don't you do that? It's like, well I just-

**Ginna Claire:** Actor life.

**Mary Kate:** I just really did something really hard and I'm gonna honor that for a second.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Mary Kate:** And I'm gonna let that door close before I open myself up again before I'm ready, you know?

**Ginna Claire:** Right.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Ginna Claire:** I think too with your bird story, I think it is so easy to spiral, searching for and striving for whatever is next because you know, every show ends, every contract ends. So to be able to actually not just say like, I'm trusting God, but to actually trust God with our worries and to trust Him with our hopes and our dreams.

**Mary Kate:** That's what I would say. And maybe you say prayer for my sister too because she has midterms

**Annie:** Done.

**Ginna Claire:** Tara.

**Mary Kate:** Tara Claire.

**Mary Kate:** I'm worried about her.

**Ginna Claire:** We love Tara Claire.

**Mary Kate:** I sent her \$30 on Venmo for groceries.

**Ginna Claire:** Pay attention to me.

**Annie:** Buy green things so that you can work your brain.

**Mary Kate:** Get through that anatomy class!

**Annie:** That's right.

**Ginna Claire:** What's in our future is an epic girls trip with Annie F., Tara Claire, Mary Kate and Ginna Claire.

**Mary Kate:** Oh my God, that would be so fun.

**Annie:** Done. I'm so in. You don't have to even... I'm gonna bug you about it is what's gonna happen here.

**Mary Kate:** Can I go to Alaska?

**Annie:** Okay.

**Ginna Claire:** Alaska.

**Annie:** Why?

**Mary Kate:** To see the whales.

**Annie:** We've already seen them.

**Mary Kate:** Wait, I don't need to go to Alaska anymore. I went to SeaWorld until... Okay.

**Ginna Claire:** Actually, where I want to go on our girls' trip is London. I really want to go to London. I really want to go to Seattle City.

**Mary Kate:** Seattle city, that should just be wherever you wanna go.

**Annie:** That's just easy. Can you drive there from New York City?

**Ginna Claire:** Yes.

**Annie:** Okay, great. We'll just do it.

**Ginna Claire:** Fry in, I'll pick you up.

**Annie:** We'll go.

**Ginna Claire:** I'll pick you up.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Ginna Claire:** We'll go.

**Mary Kate:** There's so many beds.

**Annie:** Oh, I can't wait.

**Mary Kate:** Probably 12 or 13 beds in my dad's house. It's the best.

**Ginna Claire:** You're all invited.

**Annie:** The first eight of you because there's four of us already taking up beds. You know what sounds fun to me is for us to eat something before your show. So we should go do that.

**Ginna Claire:** Acai bowls? Acai bowls.

**Annie:** I love you both. I'm so thankful. Thanks for doing this.

**Ginna Claire:** We love you so much.

**Annie:** It's such a fun Thing. What a gift! Right? If nothing else, we get to show our friends who are listening that sometimes God drops friendships in your life out of nowhere that really matter. So grateful.

**Ginna Claire:** I just want to say too, I feel like you call everybody friend on the podcast and that's so cool. But for all of you that have any questions of whether or not Annie is a good friend, the truth is that every... the friend that you think she is from the podcast, she's like all that and more. But seriously-

**Annie:** Wow. You're very kind.

**Ginna Claire:** ...I know for on a day-to-day basis you have so much under your plate and the fact that you drop everything to come play with us makes us feel so special. And it's such a gift. You're such a gift to us.

**Annie:** I love y'all.

**Ginna Claire:** We love you.

**Mary Kate:** What's your number again?

**Ginna Claire:** Last time, I think I said I was a two now I think I'm a three-wing two. I don't know.

**Annie:** You're just a couple of seven over here.

**Ginna Claire:** I'm on a journey.

**Mary Kate:** It's like a grilled cheese.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right. That's right.

**Mary Kate:** Seven-

**Ginna Claire:** Seven, three, seven.

**Annie:** That's right. All Right, let's go get an Acai bowl. I love y'all.

**Ginna Claire:** Love you.

**Annie:** Everybody happy?

**Together:** Good hug.

**Annie:** For sure. That's perfect.

[01:19:07] <music>

**Outro:** Oh you guys aren't they just the best? I love them both so much. Okay,, listen, if you are headed to New York this summer, Mary Kate is currently the standby for Elphaba and *Wicked* on Broadway. So you gotta go see *Wicked*. You just might catch one of the shows that she is in. But regardless, go follow Mary Kay, go follow Ginna Claire and tell them both thanks so much for being on the show and just for being good friends to us. I'm really grateful.

So we heard what sounds fun to GC and MK, now we get to hear what sounds fun to one of our friend who is listening just like you.

Okay, Bethany, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.



- Bethany:** What sounds fun to me is going outside, coffee in hand, preferably in the mountains, and birdwatching.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh, I don't think we've ever had a bird watcher on. Do you track them? How serious are you about your birdwatching?
- Bethany:** I would say I'm pretty serious but I wouldn't consider myself an expert. But I will figure out what bird it is if I do not know what it is.
- Annie:** How do you figure it out? Do you have an app or something?
- Bethany:** I do have an app.
- Annie:** Yes! Okay, what is it? Should we all have it?
- Bethany:** It's literally called Smart Bird ID. So you can type in kind of identifiers and then it will give you a list of what it could possibly be.
- Annie:** Brilliant. And then do you keep track of what you've seen?
- Bethany:** Yes. Yeah.
- Annie:** Bethany, this is the coolest thing. Do you have a favorite bird?
- Bethany:** Oh, I knew you were gonna ask that. And I was just like, How do I even pick a favorite bird? Because I love them all so much.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh, this makes me so happy
- Bethany:** I am pretty partial to Cardinals, which-
- Annie:** Same.
- Bethany:** I feel like that's a generic answer, but I don't know. I see a lot of God in Cardinals. The way that the male Cardinal... something he'll do is he pursues the female cardinal and it just kind of... It's a good reminder that like God is always pursuing us. So...
- Annie:** Very good. Okay, that is an incredibly fun answer. I really hope you get to do that sometime soon.
- Mary Kate:** Yes. I'm so too.

**Annie:** All right, if y'all need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find most of the time. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that's how you can find me. Except not right now because I'm on my Summer Sabbath until Monday. But I will be back. Don't worry. I'll be back in August.

And don't forget that you can find the That Sounds Fun podcast on Instagram. There is a great conversation going on over there about these Hall of Fun episodes. That is @thatsoundsfunpodcast on Instagram.

All right, I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun today. I will do the same. Y'all have a great week and we'll see you back here on Thursday with our TSF Hall of Fun episode with our dear friend Joe Saxton. We'll see y'all then.