

[00:00:00] <music>

**Annie:** Hi friends! Welcome to a very special episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you one more time before the end of the year. We have got a wild show in store for you.

Before we do anything, I want to invite you to go through the Gospels with us in 2024. You can subscribe to the Let's Read the Gospels podcast wherever you're listening to this. We're going to read one chapter a day from the NIV starting on January 1st. This will take us all the way through March. So go text a friend to do this with you too, and go subscribe and grab the free reading plan at [anniefdowns.com/gospels](http://anniefdowns.com/gospels).

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This show is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). If the holidays brought up all the feelings and now you're looking for a place to process all of them, I get it, give BetterHelp a try.

As you think about 2024, what would it look like to pursue therapy this year? Well, I'll tell you, BetterHelp's made it incredibly easy. It's entirely online, designed to be convenient, flexible, and suited to your schedule. Your session can be done from right at home.

To get started, all you do is fill out a brief questionnaire—we love a quiz—to get matched with a licensed therapist. And you always want to find the right fit so you can switch therapists anytime for no additional charge.

I'm stepping into 2024 as a better Annie because of the work my counselor has helped me do throughout this year. And I know a lot of you will feel the same as you discover the freedom and healing and clarity that you can find in therapy.

In a season where we've all been given a lot, give yourself what you need with BetterHelp. Visit [betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun](http://betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun) today to get 10% off your first month. That's [betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun](http://betterhelp.com/thatsoundsfun)

**Intro:** Today on the show, we are continuing our annual tradition of looking back at the year and doing a Year in Review with our good buddy, Eddie Kaufholz. Eddie and I have been podcast friends and real-life friends for almost a decade. Y'all also know him from Annie and Eddie Keep Talking and his own show, Doing the Best We Can.

It is so fun to get a chance to take a look at 2023 together. And we have some really fun Eddie news to share with you in this episode. Y'all are going to love it.

So here's our 2023 year in review with our pal, Eddie Kaufholz.

[00:02:27] <Music>

**Annie:** Eddie Kaufholz, welcome back to That Sounds Fun.

**Eddie:** Hey, thank you.

**Annie:** Pew, pew, pew.

**Eddie:** I have not been on a microphone in quite some time.

**Annie:** [Wowie Zowie button]

**Eddie:** Oh.

**Annie:** It's my nephew, Sam. He says wowie zowie.

**Eddie:** Oh, that's precious on a little button.

**Annie:** Most people have to earn them, not you. You just get them for being here.

**Eddie:** I just get it. Annie!

**Annie:** You haven't been on a microphone in a while?

**Eddie:** Oh, no, not since last episode of Doing the Best We Can. I literally had to blow the dust off of the little cover before. I like that you're bringing like Zoom morning vibes today.

**Annie:** I do kind of have radio host vibes, don't I?

**Eddie:** You do. You're really bringing it. Hold on. I'm going to move the screen closer so I can make eye contact.

**Annie:** Oh, okay.

**Eddie:** Does that feel like eye contact? I've been trying to get better at this. Hold on. Look, look, look. Listen, I have...

**Annie:** Eddie.

**Eddie:** Yes, go.

**Annie:** Say what you have. You have what?

**Eddie:** I have something exciting for you. And that is today I got... this isn't an ad of course, but new Warby Parker glasses.

**Annie:** They look cool.

**Eddie:** No, no. These are the old ones.

**Annie:** Oh, great.

**Eddie:** So I want you... Is this okay to do? This is your show.

**Annie:** Sure. I mean, auditorily we're going to pick your new glasses. So do I get to describe them?

**Eddie:** I already have the new glasses. The new glasses just showed up in the mail and I thought, I'm going to wait to put them on until I'm with Annie so you can see my 2024 face because my eyes are regressing-

**Annie:** Okay, okay. It's gonna be different.

**Eddie:** ...and every year I get new glasses, right, because I have to get a new prescription and the insurance. And we don't have to get into all this. But I thought you'd want to see the new glasses. So for those listening, I love... this is your show. I just love that we're in it. Okay.

**Annie:** No, this is us.

**Eddie:** Remember me. Look at my face.

**Annie:** Okay, I see what you look like.

**Eddie:** 2023.

**Annie:** I can't imagine how different it's going to be.

**Eddie:** I'm going to reveal 2024, okay?

**Annie:** For our auditory friends, I'm going to say we have a tortoise shell 2023.

- Eddie:** Just what your average white cisgender male, 43-year-old would be wearing. Just unremarkable.
- Annie:** You, me, David Platt, we're all the same age, and David Platt and I had this same conversation about how much we need new glasses.
- Eddie:** A hundred percent. Okay. So close your eyes and then here's the big reveal.
- Annie:** Eyes are closed. I did not see you switch. You tell me when to open.
- Eddie:** All right, I'm putting on my new glasses. Are you ready?
- Annie:** Auditorily my eyes are closed.
- Eddie:** Now open those eyes.
- Annie:** Those are so different, but they kind of look the same.
- Eddie:** The prescription is so different. I've increased. But do you like my new 2024 face?
- Annie:** Yeah. Golly.
- Eddie:** I can even see you now.
- Annie:** How different! How different those! I mean, you can tell those tortoise shells were made from the same tortoise.
- Eddie:** Thank you. Sorry.
- Annie:** Same tortoise.
- Eddie:** I wanted [inaudible 00:04:59] and I had to remember, be generous, generous. Let other people have their own joke.
- Annie:** Hey, speaking of being generous, how generous have you been to us? This is your one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten... 11th time on That Sounds Fun. You are officially in the Hall of Fun.
- Eddie:** I know. I can't believe that. I...
- Annie:** Look at it. There you are.

**Eddie:** There are so many things I need to see in the office. I can't believe I made it the Hall of Fun. Who else do we know on? I mean, you know everyone else. But-

**Annie:** Well, Santa Claus. So everybody knows him. He was just on right before you, people lost their minds.

**Eddie:** We love him.

**Annie:** Dave Barnes, totally different conversation, but Dave Barnes.

**Eddie:** Two completely different things.

**Annie:** John Mark Comer, because nobody tells me to slow down in my life and be a better person like John Mark Comer.

**Eddie:** Who would be the person that you would have not suspected to...?

**Annie:** You know who? My friend Jennifer Colquitt. Because we did so many Hallmark Christmas episodes and then she was on a friendship episode during our Build Your Board series and she was an Ennea Summer person. It's the only podcast she's ever been on and she's on the Hall of Fun.

**Eddie:** She burned hard. I had to earn that over 11 years. She just burned it out in the summer.

**Annie:** Yeah. It's great. It was so fun. I thought that was hilarious. When they put hers on there, I was like, huh? Jen Colquitt, well done.

**Eddie:** That makes sense.

**Annie:** So Carlos Whitaker, She Reads Truth girls on there, Pastor Kevin, the pastor of the pod, Michael Ware, who you and I both love.

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** God, he's brilliant. Have y'all ever seen each other? You're neighbors kind of.

**Eddie:** No, we've never seen each other. We've talked on social media and been in each other's orbit, and I think I interviewed him at one point. But it's never been like, Hey, let's hang out. I should probably-

**Annie:** What's it called? The DFW, the DW?

**Eddie:** DMV.

**Annie:** The DMV.

**Eddie:** Which is DC, Maryland, Virginia. It's also the-

**Annie:** Because he's Baltimore and you're Virginia.

**Eddie:** Right. Now that is 1 million light-years away. He is not in the DMV. Baltimore is the next thing up, but the best chicken sandwich you've ever had in your life.

**Annie:** But it is Maryland. So for those of us who don't know, that is deceptive.

**Eddie:** It is deceptive. But there's just sort of a circle like, okay, around DC. I have another thing. What is it about having your face or a name on a thing that's printed? Like I saw an Instagram picture of the Annie and Eddie... like all of the logos for the podcast. That was the most solidifying moment of both of the shows I've done with you to see Annie and Eddie and Doing The Best We Can up there. Why is that? Why is it so special? It already existed, but there's something about seeing it printed on a wall.

**Annie:** I know. I know. That's one of the reasons we have the wall in the network office. I just love it.

**Eddie:** Yeah, it's sweet.

**Annie:** I mean, our Annie and Eddie graphic is one of the funniest things in the world. It still smells like COVID because we were standing in our houses and did a photo shoot with Jeremy Cowart from our homes during COVID. Wild!

**Eddie:** I'm wearing totally different glasses in that one.

**Annie:** You can't even recognize you. It's the difference.

**Eddie:** 100% chance I'm wearing this shirt or one of the 11 others.

**Annie:** You are wearing that shirt and I'm wearing a black shirt, which is before I knew my colors... Eddie, we haven't even talked about... we got to recap 2023. One of them is, I know what colors-

**Eddie:** What is it? What is like... A season, right?

**Annie:** Yeah. I'm a soft autumn. So everything. I would live for a live video of you getting your colors done. You would still wear black. But soft means everything I wear looks like it should have gone through the washing and drying machines like five or six times. So no sharp colors. And autumns are what you would imagine, browns or like oranges. Woof. Some pinks, some greens. That's great. Anyway, I was wearing black and that is not in my color wheel.

**Eddie:** It's hard though because you like black, you like a thing. So you just kind of slowly transition as you're buying-

**Annie:** Lindsey at Created Colorful is great about like, if you want to wear black, wear black. Like I'm not telling you what you can't wear. I'm just telling you, if you get to choose between black and Navy, you will look better in Navy. Also, did your mom have this done in the 80s? Because I feel like I experienced this as a child.

**Eddie:** It was. It was totally a thing that 80s moms did. What do you think? What do you think I am just looking at my palette?

**Annie:** Oh, I could never know.

**Eddie:** Is this like guessing someone's Enneagram or something?

**Annie:** Yeah. Which is against the law. That's against the law. Suzanne Stabile gets in a police car and drive straight to your home and it puts you under Enneagram arrest if you make somebody-

**Eddie:** I would put myself as an oppressive summer.

**Annie:** Oh.

**Eddie:** It's just like-

**Annie:** You hate oppressive summer.

**Eddie:** It's just one of those summers that's like so hot and it's just the rain isn't coming and it's just hot. And I think that-

**Annie:** Which you don't have to deal with in DC, right?

**Eddie:** Right. A lot of neons, a lot of-

**Annie:** Put a percentage on how much you miss Florida versus... like if it was a slider and 100% was "I don't think about Florida and Florida is not my Roman empire, I don't

think about it ever, 0%, and the... So that's a 100 is I'm all the way in DC or Virginia, I never think about Florida. Zero is where we have sold our house, and we're going back.

**Eddie:** That is a complex answer and I won't overcomplicate it. Because when we think of the state of Virginia... sorry, the state of Florida, the weather, all of the... you almost spit-took.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. I took a sip of water, and then I thought, are you thinking I'm asking you to compare Busch Gardens to Disney World? No. I want to know your life.

**Eddie:** Our life, I would say it's about, like, on the slider, we're about seven... I'm about, like, 60, 70 Virginia and the rest of it's Florida. Like, it is hard to... Like our house, the seasons, what's around, the stuff to do. I mean, well, you know, you just came back from New York, you could never eat at all the restaurants, you could never see every show. It's just endless. And there's culture and people, and diversity, and it's all the things. We have a big city.

And we live in a suburb right outside of the big city. We're probably moments away. We're the closest neighborhood to D.C., so we've got it all, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Eddie:** Nothing will replace the closeness of 40 years' worth of deep friendships.

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

**Eddie:** That is impossible, so thank God for Xbox Live, and chatting with my brother, and Uncle Jimmy, and all that kind of stuff. So, that's the part that's, like, in no way do I want to come to Florida, go back to Florida, and we won't, but holy smokes, do I miss the folks. We're also doing it here.

**Annie:** Can I play that game? Can I do New York and Nashville? Because as soon as I asked you, I thought, I want to do that with Nashville. I think I'm like 57% Nashville.

**Eddie:** What's the 7%? What's the?

**Annie:** Because I'm not 50-50. I mean, I am really... Here we go, Edward. Let's recap 2023.



- Eddie:** I wanted to ask you about New York, but I didn't know how much of it was for a later time. So I want to talk about it now. Also, you're messing around with something down there. Are you okay?
- Annie:** You know what? I can't sit because I hurt my back.
- Eddie:** Did you?
- Annie:** I'm making a note to make sure I say something, so I was leaning.
- Eddie:** Oh, no.
- Annie:** So I'm standing for all my interviews this week. It is way better today, but I'm standing for all my interviews.
- Eddie:** Oh, your a little back, huh?
- Annie:** Yeah, you know. 43, man. Give me some glasses and a back brace. Just riddle me into my 40s.
- Eddie:** You're just in it.
- Annie:** That's it.
- Eddie:** Okay, so, New York.
- Annie:** Okay, so, the thing that I cannot figure out... Now, something I will talk about more as we keep going is I am gonna spend significant time up there next year, but I'm not moving there because I like my life here. And so I can't do 50-50. That doesn't feel healthy for my calendar, it doesn't feel healthy for my job, it doesn't feel healthy for my relationships.
- So when I'm thinking about time-wise, it'll be like 70-30: 70 Nashville, 30 New York. When I think about what I'm wrestling with, it's 57. It's like, man, I cannot make one city the other city.
- Eddie:** No.
- Annie:** Right? That's my problem is I can't... I can park as far away at the grocery store as I wanna park in Nashville, and it's not the same as having a walking life in New York. But I am doing that. I am parking as far away as I can park. I am adding as much walking as I can. But I mean, Eddie, I don't know if you heard, but I did an episode about my body on Annie on AFD and NYC. And like my body felt so

different in New York, and I never thought about my body in New York. And it was fascinating.

**Eddie:** Huh?

**Annie:** What do you do?

**Eddie:** I didn't listen to it. What's the thesis of that?

**Annie:** What do you do? I mean, I don't have the answer. The question thesis is, what do you do when your body is better in a city that you don't want to live in full time?

**Eddie:** Do you think it's because you're forced to move so much more?

**Annie:** Yes. I think it's because you just have to move all the time. I mean, I was getting 10,000 steps every day on accident. I wasn't doing anything. So then when I was working out, the pressure to work out, I feel a lot of pressure in myself to work out because I wanna be healthy and I wanna be 100 and all these things, and I didn't feel any of that pressure because my life was doing it, so anything else was gravy. It's wild, Eddie. It is wild to process.

**Eddie:** Did New York ever not feel like vacation?

**Annie:** Yeah. One of the reasons Manager Kelly told me to do two months instead of one, because when I first came back in January of last year and presented the idea, I planned on doing one month, and she said, "I think you should do two so that you have bad days. Otherwise, it will just be a long vacation."

**Eddie:** Long vacation, yeah.

**Annie:** And I for sure had bad days. I mean, I had complicated work days. I had complicated relational days. I had days where I was really frustrated with I couldn't get somewhere fast enough, I didn't get there on time, it was a bad use of my time, the train I was supposed to get on just didn't run because... I was supposed to get on the C train one day. Someone four stations up from us had misbehaved, and the police had stopped the train. Well, then I'm in the train station, and I don't know when the next C is coming, and do I go up and get an Uber? So stuff like that just made me mad.

**Eddie:** I understand, yeah.

**Annie:** So yeah, I certainly had bad days. And I had to figure out groceries and live in a budget. I mean, I had to do all that. Because two months is a pretty long time... It

went by very fast and very short, but it's a pretty long time to like, I won't worry about salt and pepper. You know, you don't need to own salt and pepper.

**Eddie:** Did you have a bodega? That's my dream is to have a bodega close.

**Annie:** No. The short answer is no. It had the skinniest aisles you've ever experienced in grocery store. Very close.

**Eddie:** It is amazing what they are able to pack into a space.

**Annie:** Shocking.

**Eddie:** Like that grocery store, I know it. I don't know what it is, but I know it. And it's got everything a super Walmart has.

**Annie:** That's exactly right.

**Eddie:** And somehow it's in the size of this guest bedroom. And I know where it is. Yeah, it's crazy.

**Annie:** I can't remember if I told this on an AFD and NYC episode, but I had this wild experience that will tell you the level of frustration, especially right when I got there. My first two weeks I ran out of deodorant. And so I was like, okay, I'll go to my local tiny grocery store... or skinny aisle grocery store. It's not tiny, but skinny aisle grocery store.

And I walked all the way through and I was like, "They don't have deodorant. That's so weird." So I look on my maps and I go to a pharmacy and the first pharmacy doesn't have it either. And I'm like, Well, that is really weird. So I go to the second pharmacy and it is like \$8. And I was like, Are you joking me? I was like, "Well, what choice do I have? My little grocery store doesn't have it. So I've got to."

As I am walking home, the grocery store does have it, it's just hidden in the window and I have to ask someone to get it for me. Well, I didn't know that. And it was cheaper. I stomped home. I stomped home. I was so mad.

**Eddie:** Are you a specific brand of deodorant or are you just any Portnastorm kind of deodorant?

**Annie:** Well, listen, any Portnastorm in general, but I am a child of the 80s and I wear Secret.

**Eddie:** Oh, you are.

**Annie:** I know I should wear one of the ones that doesn't have aluminum. I hear everyone. I hear everyone. But the journey to go... Have you ever tried to go to a natural deodorant?

**Eddie:** Oh, oh, not only did I try, but that was the moment I found out that I have a massive skin allergy to 99% of deodorants. So I'm just like rubbing on allergens. So I've got the Native one. I know it smells fine. It's like, whatever, lavender leather and something. I'm like, oh, this is great. And we're like 24 hours in and my body is rejecting it. So I have no choice. I can use Degree deodorant.

**Annie:** Great. Child of the 80s.

**Eddie:** All the 80s Degree.

**Annie:** Or that feels like high school. I feel like I knew high school. When I was in high school is when I learned that people wore Degree.

**Eddie:** Yeah, because we didn't do Axe in high school. That was beyond us. No, what was in high school? Oh, oh, oh, oh. It was a lot of... what's this liquid that you spray on yourself that smells good? What's that? I can't come up with the word. It wasn't like perfume. Cologne.

**Annie:** Cologne? Yeah. I thought you were looking for a brand. I was like, surely he doesn't mean cologne.

**Eddie:** No. But that was like, everybody's like the gap blue cologne and then-

**Annie:** Oh, totally. So do you follow Simon Holland on Instagram?

**Eddie:** No. Tell me.

**Annie:** He's super funny. A lot of people follow him. He and I went to high school together. I've known him for 30 years or whatever at this point. 25 years. And he did a post recently about back in the nineties, everybody gave Old Navy pullover fleeces as Christmas gifts. And I wanted to be like, I watched you do that. I literally watched you do that in the chorus room in 1995.

**Eddie:** That is true.

**Annie:** I remember... you know? I was like, oh, Old Navy. I walked into Old Navy... Eddie, have you been in an Old Navy lately?

- Eddie:** Oh yeah. They have a nice jean selection for a man of my stature.
- Annie:** I haven't been in one in a while. I went in six months ago in the summer. When I tell you I walked in and it looked so much like the Old Navy of 1995. I had all the same insecurities. Suddenly I was like, I hate my body. No, I don't. What are you talking about? I mean, oh, it was awful.
- Eddie:** And it's not Old Navy's fault. They're doing fine. It's just that when it hit, you and I were at a terribly delicate time. So we're going in and we're seeing the blue truck with the dog in the window and we're just sweating because they're not going to have an XXL on my size for a 15-year-old.
- Annie:** The button-down... they didn't have button-downs for myself.
- Eddie:** And you don't know your colors. You're dressing like Paula.
- Annie:** No, I didn't know my colors in 1996.
- Eddie:** Were you dyeing your hair at that point?
- Annie:** Aha, yeah.
- Eddie:** So was it too dark?
- Annie:** I had all sorts of hair colors. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. I felt the whole thing. The dresses I was like, I think I had this dress. I think Old Navy is keeping up with the trends. Again, they're not doing anything wrong. They just literally hit control, repeat, copy, paste from their catalog in 1995.
- Eddie:** I can still buy a plaid button-down and a pair of cargo pants or shorts. No problem. That would have been-
- Annie:** Unfortunately, me too.
- Eddie:** God. And now having a middle schooler who I think dresses supernormal appropriate, you're like-
- Annie:** She's so cute.
- Eddie:** But you can't avoid it. There's something she's gonna look back and go, Oh, my, that was such a 2023 thing.

- Annie:** That's exactly right. And it just made me feel all the insecurities.
- Eddie:** All the insecurities.
- Annie:** Wow, we're really doing it here.
- Eddie:** But listen, are you going... well, we don't have to get...
- Annie:** Yeah, we can talk about New York.
- Eddie:** Well, there's just a little bit more like, how do you split that? Like, how do you... I mean, are you just okay having sort of two home bases where Nashville's clearly like home-home and New York's... Are you feeling like that's where...?
- Annie:** And New York's gonna, yeah, help me write a book. Okay, we said it. New York's gonna help me write a book next year.
- Eddie:** Yeah, why wouldn't you?
- Annie:** So, yeah, I think it'll be kind of my home base is here, I have a place there that I call home.
- Eddie:** What do you think the factor is? Do you think it's something about New York or do you think you would have had the same experience if it was like Chicago or was it just-
- Annie:** Such a good question. Philly-
- Eddie:** Was it just getting out of your skin?
- Annie:** ...any of them. Yes. We had this conversation at dinner this week of like, is it New York or is it anywhere? And I think for me, it's New York. I do think it is New York. Because I've lived in Edinburgh and when I left... and Edinburgh is a big city. And when I left, while I adore my friends there and I love going to see them, I didn't have what I feel right now for Edinburgh after I lived there for six months.
- Eddie:** But you are a very locationally influenced person. I mean that in okay... in a good way, but like you've talked about...
- Annie:** In okay way.
- Eddie:** Well, but I mean you've talked about Scotland like with... you talk about seasons of your life very often rooted to place and location.

**Annie:** That's about right.

**Eddie:** Like the moving to Nashville was not only a big moment in your life, but it was like a transformational thing. These kind of like moving-

**Annie:** Do you not feel that way? Was that not true for you with Virginia?

**Eddie:** The location doesn't get me as much because I just kind of feel like I would leave Virginia. If there was a reason and all factors aligned, I would leave. No big deal.

**Annie:** Do you think part of that is having a family...

**Eddie:** A hundred percent.

**Annie:** ...versus me going by myself?

**Eddie:** I think it's certainly-

**Annie:** Maybe.

**Eddie:** I don't know if it's a psychological thing or if it's just a practicality thing. Like we're just thinking of four different lives instead of one. So I think it just could be a little bit easier. But I also...

**Annie:** And they are your home too, right? Those three ladies and the cats.

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah. Wherever they are. And singular cat, but yes, Waffles. We do foster sometimes and I consider them my kitty cat babies.

**Annie:** You foster. So don't act like there's only one cat in that house right now.

**Eddie:** She's in this room somewhere.

**Annie:** How many are there?

**Eddie:** There's only one cat because we're not fostering right now, but we will foster.

**Annie:** You took the holidays off from fostering.

**Eddie:** Well, you never take it off. It's just they all get adopted.

**Annie:** Oh, good.

**Eddie:** So it's great. But then the adoption levels go up, so you foster cats instead of just sitting. And they're just sweet angels and I love them.

**Annie:** Oh, that's great. It actually makes sense to me there's no cats to foster because probably a lot of little boys and girls are getting kitties for Christmas.

**Eddie:** That's right. Right. And adults. Adult mammals. Adult men who love cats.

**Annie:** Cat daddies, as you call them.

**Eddie:** Yeah, who never knew he could be loved in such a way. Unlocked. There was a cat-shaped hole in my heart.

**Annie:** We know. Anyone who follows you on Instagram knows.

**Eddie:** It's weird.

**Annie:** Absolutely knows.

[00:23:20] <Music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation to tell you about our amazing partner, [Liquid IV](#). If one of your goals is to be more hydrated in 2024, Liquid IV will come to the rescue. And you guys know we love it around here. Our office is stocked with it.

They have so many fun flavors and I'm pretty sure we've tried every one of them. My current favorite flavor is green grape. Y'all, it is so good. And y'all, know I love that energy multiplier.

Liquid IV has three times the electrolytes of the leading sports drink plus eight vitamins and nutrients for everyday wellness. It hydrates two times faster than water alone. It's all in one single stick that you just add to your water bottle.

And now their hydration multiplier comes in three really fun sugar-free flavors: white peach, green grape that I just told you about, and lemon lime. There's no artificial sweeteners, zero sugar, and it's also non-GMO and free of gluten, dairy, and soy.

So grab your Liquid IV hydration multiplier, sugar-free in bulk nationwide at Costco, or you can get 20% off when you go to [liquidiv.com](https://www.liquidiv.com) and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN at checkout. That's 20% off anything you order when you



shop better hydration today using the promo code THATSOUNDSFUN at liquidiv.com.

That link and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for are in the show notes below. So be sure to check those out.

**Sponsor:** Y'all are always so kind to compliment my hair. And number one, thank you. And number two, you need to know it's [Prose](#). You know, we love a quiz around here, and Prose has a hair consultation quiz where you answer questions on everything from the climate where you live, the issues you are having with your hair, your hair type and texture, and your eating habits.

And then they analyze 85 personal factors and handpick clean ingredients that get you closer to your hair goals with every single wash. I'm telling you, I've taken the quiz, gotten my shampoo and conditioner, and I love what Prose does for my hair.

Their made-to-order hair care is the absolute best. And their "review and refine" tool allows you to change your answers if you need to. So if your hair has changed or you moved or the climate changes, you can tweak your information so you can make sure you're getting the most helpful-to-you formulas.

Custom-made-to-order hair care from Prose has your name all over it. Take your free in-depth hair consultation and get 50% off your first subscription order today, plus 15% off and free shipping every subscription order after that. That is awesome. Go to [prose.com/thatsoundsfun](https://prose.com/thatsoundsfun) for your free in-depth hair consultation and 50% off your first subscription order.

**Sponsor:** Okay, when I'm thinking through what I need in my house, [Thrive Market](#) is literally my go-to for getting all of my groceries handled and stocked up on my household essentials as well. You just can't beat the convenience of picking out everything online and then it magically arrives at your doorstep.

I really love that Thrive Market carries brands with the highest quality ingredients and their filtering system is super easy to use so you can sort based on your lifestyle needs. Whether you're looking for organic kid snacks, low-sugar alternatives, or gluten-free pantry essentials, you can curate your own shopping experience really easily.

And as a Thrive Market member, I save money on every single grocery order. Like an average of 30% each time, you guys. They also have a deals page that changes daily and it always has some of my favorite brands on it. Plus, when you join Thrive Market, you are also helping a family in need with their one-for-one membership matching program. You join and they give.

Join in on the savings with Thrive Market today and get 30% off your first order, plus a free \$60 gift. Go to [thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun](https://thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun) for 30% off your first order plus a free \$60 gift. That's [thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun](https://thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun).  
[Thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun](https://thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun).

Okay, now back to our conversation with Eddie.

[00:27:03] <Music>

**Annie:** Okay, one of the things we're doing here in our recap this year is you... I love this. And we're going to go big to start. And by start, I mean 21 minutes in. You wanted a bold prediction for 2024.

**Eddie:** I want to hear it. Just something?

**Annie:** Do you have one too?

**Eddie:** No. I was planning on just coming up with it. But I want something that is based in no reality and isn't weird. Like I don't want to know any deaths or any weird stuff.

**Annie:** No, no, no, no, no. I'm not going to do deaths or breakups. Here is my bold prediction. I think the election cycle is actually going to be calmer than we think because I think people aren't going to put up with it.

**Eddie:** Oh, interesting.

**Annie:** I think the politicians will scream and yell into a black hole and everyone who has common sense will go, Okay, keep doing that. I'm going to pay attention to what you actually are saying on your website about what I'm voting for and that's how I'm going to vote. So again, you said not based in reality, and so I tell you, I think the election is going to be calm.

**Eddie:** Yeah. Well, that's a bold prediction because-

**Annie:** I know. I know.

**Eddie:** ...everything about all of planet earth would say that that is not going to happen.

**Annie:** That's why you said not based in reality.

**Eddie:** But wouldn't it be a nice change? Okay, I'll do two.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Eddie:** One, I think there's going to be a really surprising revolutionary new social platform. Something like when Instagram started.

**Annie:** Oh, that people like?

**Eddie:** Yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** Oh, interesting.

**Eddie:** Like when Instagram hit, we were all like, "Oh, we don't like Facebook. We actually like this." I think there'll be something by the end... I think there's like a hole in that kind of connection that Twitter has left and Facebook has left and Instagram is just too big and TikTok is...

**Annie:** Are you still doing Twitter?

**Eddie:** No. No, I haven't.

**Annie:** Me neither.

**Eddie:** It's too unsafe. I didn't care about it. I didn't like that if people cared at all to get an update from me, they would have to be on that platform to get it. It just didn't feel safe for everyone. I know no social media is safe, but it felt particularly toxic. You're done?

**Annie:** Yeah, I think so too.

**Eddie:** You're done?

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah. I've been done since June of '22. I haven't opened it since June of '22. Someone on our team, Lani, who helps us run all the marketing stuff... I do my own Instagram, right, and all that and Facebook and stuff. But she just will put on updates on Twitter. But that's it.

**Eddie:** Do you miss any aspect of it?

**Annie:** Nope.

**Eddie:** I only miss the news.

**Annie:** Oh, you miss the news. You want me to tell you if I'm being a brat what I miss? I miss when I said something funny and a lot of people liked it.

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** I miss that because there's not an easy way to do that on Instagram and I'm not going to start threads. So they're in a funny way to write up one little quippy sentence and have it shoot out. But that ain't worth it to me. That only feeds my pride and doesn't...

**Eddie:** I mean, I do think part of it is like it's fun to be funny. What are we doing right now? We're not just talking to each other. We know we're being recorded. It's fun to enjoy this. So part of it is like, I liked the writing aspect of it. But I'm with you.

**Annie:** Me too.

**Eddie:** I do also miss something like following Knox and Jamie and all of those folks during the Oscars and just real-timing commentary.

**Annie:** Right, me too.

**Eddie:** I felt like I could choose any of my friends to have... Well, friends. I don't know. No. But like, people to have a running commentary of some gathered moment like the Oscars. I miss that, but...

**Annie:** Speaking of Knox and Jamie, we have to talk about, if you do their BFOTs, their best friends of the show, for a year, Eddie, they have recorded five episodes about the Disney princesses. And like, did they have friends in real life? What? I can't wait. I can't wait. It automatically made me want to... I already am a BFOT, but I already was like, oh, yeah, I'm for sure doing yearly next year, because I want those five episodes where they deep dive on them as women, not on the movie. Ain't that the best?

**Eddie:** I love that. I love them.

**Annie:** I think they're so funny.

**Eddie:** Their ability to continue to render fresh material. Because they could just rest on their laurels. They could just hit play. Just be clever. But they just all of that kind of stuff... I love their-

**Annie:** So good.

**Eddie:** So yeah.

**Annie:** Okay, that makes me want to ask you, what other pods did you listen to in '23? Do you have anything that I need to be listening to?

**Eddie:** I do. Listen-

**Annie:** Okay.

**Eddie:** You listened to, of course, Strike Force 5, right?

**Annie:** I did listen to some of them. Not all of them, but brilliant. Absolutely brilliant.

**Eddie:** Okay, just real quick, backstory for people listening. It was during the Screen Actors Guild... oh, no, no, the writers' strike, all of the late shows went dark. A lot of the late show hosts got together, John Oliver, all the, you know, big ones, Jimmy Fallon, all of them, got together, did a show they called The Strike Force 5. They did a couple of episodes. Episode five where Jimmy Fallon attempts to host a game show on it, and it derails-

**Annie:** I didn't listen to that one.

**Eddie:** They shred him for an hour, and he laughs. You remember, like, sitting in the high school lunchroom, and you're ripping on somebody, and everybody's okay. The person who's being ripped on, you're... like, it's just funny. I have not enjoyed a podcast just a single moment.

**Annie:** And what a beautiful thing to model for us. That five people who should be competitors are doing a podcast together, and all that money from ad sales went to their writers at their shows.

**Eddie:** Yeah, that's right.

**Annie:** Brilliant.

**Eddie:** Love that. The other one is, okay-

**Annie:** Can we go back and listen to Strike Force 5, meaning it will still be interesting even though the strike's over?

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah. Oh, it's mostly them just being ridiculous. It's not time and present... Yes, it's great. Okay. Do you have one? I have one more.

**Annie:** Yeah. The Town. Have you listened to The Town? It's an entertainment business.

**Eddie:** Is it scary?

**Annie:** No, no, no. It's an entertainment business podcast where they're... it's from Hollywood, and he's kind of telling you some behind-the-scenes-y things going on in Hollywood, but it's not gossipy. It's about the business.

So they just did one, Eddie, on the state of podcasting and why listenership is going up, which we're all... here's what we're all experiencing across. Not listenership going up, sorry. The amount of podcasts going up, the listenership of each podcast going down, which we're experiencing across the board, across the network, across my shows, there are less people listening than a year ago, because there's more to listen to. And business is trying to figure out how to be sponsors, so sponsorship money has gone down in 2023. And they kind of explain why and where it's going in '24. It is brilliant. I love their stuff.

They talked a lot about the strike. But I don't love gossipy shows. But I like an entertainment business show. I thought it was really interesting to watch.

**Eddie:** I'm into that.

**Annie:** So The Town. The other one, Films To Be Buried With, hosted by Brett Goldstein. Do you know who Brett Goldstein is?

**Annie:** I do know who Brett Goldstein is.

**Eddie:** Roy Kent from-

**Annie:** Roy Kent. In his real life, is, you know, a stand-up comedian. He is a gentle, sweet man. He is lovely. And he has a guest on and the whole premise of the show is, you know, he'll chat with the guest for a few moments, and then he'll say, "Oh, I have bad news. It turns out you've passed away." And it's the same format. "How did you die?" And then it's kind of an improv-y thing, but like, what's the one film you'd have with you? What's the... and he basically...

**Annie:** Brilliant.

**Eddie:** It's just talking about movies. But I love... he is so sweet, and he's just such a good host, and it's so funny. That's my other one.

**Annie:** Do you know what has affected all of us as podcasters? It's celebrities getting in the game.

- Eddie:** Oh, yeah.
- Annie:** Speaking of, Jamie Golden said on her Instagram story one time, celebrities and podcasting start on third base.
- Eddie:** Oh, yeah.
- Annie:** And that is so true. And that's a great show, a great concept. And for every reason, we should listen. And also, everybody will listen to the first five episodes of a Brett Goldstein podcast because he's Roy Kent.
- Eddie:** Well, and it's hard because with that concept, some do it well. Example, Smart List. Everybody loves Smart List. We all listen to it, right? Some, it's like, oh, you only have a show, and this is only doing well... and I'm not gonna give an example. But like, there are some that are like, oh, you skipped the line because you are famous, but this isn't as good. You're not doing the work. You're just...
- Annie:** And you're like, PR team said you should start a podcast because that'll help you with the next movie, to have a place to promote, blah, blah, blah.
- Eddie:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.
- Annie:** Yeah, the town talk. I'll text you that episode, Eddie. I think you'll really enjoy it.
- Eddie:** I'm in. I'm in.
- Annie:** Okay, next topic, TV shows that you enjoyed.
- Eddie:** I have so many, but I have one that I wanted to go push all chips in with this. Did you watch season two of *The Bear*?
- Annie:** With my whole heart. Yes.
- Eddie:** I have thought about this for months. I think it is the best single season of television I've ever seen.
- Annie:** 100%. Now, I think you need to watch Season 1 to appreciate Season 2. But 100%. The Amsterdam episode.
- Eddie:** Oh, my God.
- Annie:** The Christmas episode.

**Eddie:** Oh. Which is, for folks... okay. So, there's a thing called a bottleneck episode where-

**Annie:** Oh, I've never heard of this.

**Eddie:** Okay, so, they do this on all TV shows where in order to reach an aggressive production schedule, they shoot their normal shows, normal series. So, *The Bear*, *In the Kitchen*, da-da-da. But then they have one of those weird episodes where, back in the day, they used to do clip shows where, you know, it's all the women of *Facts of Life* sitting down, thinking about it, and then they show clips from old shows.

So, basically, they make a show that lets the other main production continue on and buys a week of time, and they can have a separate production doing a single show.

**Annie:** What? Oh, my gosh.

**Eddie:** So, every show has bottleneck shows where it's like the weird one-off that kind of supports the story, but it's not necessarily linear inside of the story so it can sit-

**Annie:** Because what we don't see is they're recording another episode of *The Bear* while we're watching the episode of *The Cousin* at the restaurant. Oh my gosh.

**Eddie:** So, if, for example, they have a production schedule set where they could only do five shows, they can now do the same production schedule with six and do a second. So, they have a bottleneck. So, that's the Christmas episode. Now, it was a well-designed Christmas-

**Annie:** But there were so many people in the Christmas episode.

**Eddie:** Yes, but they were all different people. So, for this episode, is this the one with Jamie Lee Curtis...?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Eddie:** Are you talking about the...?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Eddie:** So, it's all not-

**Annie:** I just would think it would be one of the ones that Jeremy Allen White wasn't in. But I guess you're right. He isn't in that one a ton.



- Eddie:** It's a whole different set. It's a whole different set of people except for a few characters. And you notice most of the folks from the main show aren't on it, except for Jeremy Allen White who has to be.
- Annie:** Well, because I'm wondering now about season two of *The Bear*. There's like three or four of those. So, I wonder if they had a whole second production team that was running these other episodes. Because there are ones he's not in at all.
- Eddie:** Right. Yeah. And then also with stuff like that gets...
- Annie:** Dude.
- Eddie:** ...where they have X amount of money where they like lose a star and then bring on... like e Morning Show Season 3, which...
- Annie:** I have not watched it yet.
- Eddie:** It's horrific. I mean, it's just one of the...
- Annie:** Oh, shoot.
- Eddie:** It's a bummer. It's worth watching because it closes the loop. But like-
- Annie:** Is it done after season three? Is this the end?
- Eddie:** I think they've done it.
- Annie:** Okay.
- Eddie:** But season two of *The Bear* is a perfect thing.
- Annie:** Extraordinary.
- Eddie:** The characters, like the brother... if you haven't watched it, it's okay. But there is a brother who goes from a tormented soul and kind of realizes his life and goes off.
- Annie:** Cousin. Cousin.
- Eddie:** Cousin. That's right. Cousin.
- Annie:** I was like, the one who isn't alive?

**Eddie:** No, no, no.

**Annie:** Cousin. Oh, gosh. Beautiful.

**Eddie:** It's just extraordinary. And the other chef that's with him and the way they...

**Annie:** That's probably my favorite episode is when the cousin goes and works at another fine dining restaurant.

**Eddie:** Do you know? Speaking of New York, what that was all modeled after?

**Annie:** No.

**Eddie:** One of my favorite books this year, *Unreasonable Hospitality*, is the...

**Annie:** Someone mailed that to me. My friend Craig Cooper mailed that to me.

**Eddie:** Annie, you would love this book. It is about the guy who ran front of house, so, like, the service and stuff at... What's it called? 11 Madison Park? Park Madison? And how they, like, redefined... He, like, had this idea of redefining service.

And so they would do stuff like... The famous example that they both do in *Unreasonable Hospitality*, but then they do again in the show is, like, they hear someone at a table talking about how they were about to leave New York, and they were sad because they didn't have a New York hot dog. And so they hear that, and then they send one of the runners, they get a hot dog, bring it back to the chef, the chef makes a platter out of it and brings these people out a New York hot dog, and it melts their brain. They did it with pizza in *The Bear*.

But it's just this idea of hospitality to a degree that is both tenable. You can do it if you're paying attention, but also just overwhelming. And so...

**Annie:** What's the reason for those of us...? Like, why did you read it? Why do I read it? For those of us who don't run a restaurant, what's... what kind of hospitality does it encourage you to do in a normal person life?

**Eddie:** Well, I think the first time I read it it was just because it was, like, I knew it would be fun, great stories. Like, you get a little chill. You're like, oh, my gosh.

**Annie:** Like, it's a good one to read this week while we're not working and everybody doesn't remember what day it is.

**Eddie:** They brought them a hot dog. For me, I read it because... I mean, I work in creative and I work in marketing and I'm constantly thinking about, like, how do we deliver a thing that you didn't expect? What's the little... You're opening up a folder at a conference, right? It's such a boring thing to design. Who cares, right? What's the little thing that we could do?

I think it does translate to, I think, hospitality overall. Like, you hear someone say something, you remember it for later, you write it down. I'm not as good at that, but I feel like it's just this... It's also just this peek into another world of fine dining that I'm like, I lived there for a little while. You'll love that book.

**Annie:** Okay, I'm going to read it. Because I'm also thinking, like... Well, one thing, like, our mutual friend, Carlos Whittaker... One of the things Carlos does is if someone gets mad at him in his DMs, he will often just make a video back with his face. And just go, "Hey, I totally hear you. I bet that is hard based on what your experience. Tell me more about your experience." And it shocks the person because they thought they were just yelling into a canyon, not realizing Carlos' face was gonna respond.

But I'm also thinking about, like, while I was in New York a family stayed at my house in Nashville that needed it because a family member in town is sick. Her parents stayed at my house. So I'm also thinking about when I'm not in Nashville, when I'm not in New York, if someone else is staying in the place that I call home, how do I surprise and delight them just because they're staying in my home?

**Eddie:** And so much of it is rooted in the power of not only just the desire to do exactly what you just said, but listening hard to a person, and knowing, like, this is how I would specifically get inside your soul. You know?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Eddie:** This little gift, this little thing. I mean, some of it is like, you know, love language kind of stuff. But it's the real presence of it.

**Annie:** Okay, what other shows?

**Eddie:** Other shows? That was literally the only one I wrote down.

**Annie:** Oh, that's the one.

**Eddie:** Tell me, what do you love?

- Annie:** Did you get DM'd like, I got DM'd that Repair Shop is on YouTube or something, four seasons?
- Eddie:** I did and didn't watch a second of it.
- Annie:** I didn't either. What is wrong with us? That is on my Christmas to-dos this week when we all forget what day it is. But I will remind you that when our friends are hearing this today, on Thursday the 28th... For the Downs family, this is Christmas Eve. This is our Christmas Eve.
- Eddie:** It's happening.
- Annie:** So I don't have the week after Christmas for me is not the week where I forget what day it is because I have Christmas Eve and fake Christmas Day. So, we do the 28th and the 29th this year. But I am going to watch Repair Shop.
- The other thing that I think you will like if you haven't already watched it is *All Creatures Great and Small* on PBS.
- Eddie:** Tell me.
- Annie:** It's about an Irish or Scottish veterinarian who goes to work in a little English town. And it's set in like the 40s. The girls... And he's a vet, so he's helping animals all the time.
- Eddie:** Is it age-appropriate for kids? Do you know?
- Annie:** Totally. It's PBS. It's great. I mean, forgive me if there... There's no sex. There's no violence. And they don't cuss because it's the 40s. It's set in the 40s. So, I don't think any of the things that you would have to have a follow-up... I mean, there's a birthing of a cow that is traumatic for all of us. So, a calf.
- Eddie:** Man.
- Annie:** But it might as well have been a cow.
- Eddie:** Eve watches these vet shows all the time.
- Annie:** I think they'll love it.
- Eddie:** But the things that, like, I'll pass through a room and see, it's just like, oh, my God. I mean, just full animals being in surgery. And she's just sitting there, eating a Cheez-It, kind of studying it all and I can barely handle what she can take in.

**Annie:** So, I think they'll really like it. I mean, and because it's PBS there's really beautiful Christmas specials. It's a great... And it's a book-

**Eddie:** And soft intro music.

**Annie:** It is a book I think first.

**Eddie:** It's like a warm blanket PBS.

**Annie:** It's great. PBS shows, they just don't miss. Sanditon... I mean, they just don't miss.

**Eddie:** Because even if they're not good, they have the right tone for when you want to watch a PBS show. It's always going to do that. It's like, whether you're into NPR or not, if you're in that vibe to hear, like, "Welcome, na na na." Like, it's always going to sound and feel just like it's supposed to.

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

[00:44:06] <Music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about another amazing partner, [Earth Breeze](#). Listen, if you're doing chores and laundry while you listen to this episode, part one, me too. Part two, I've got the best laundry tip for you.

Okay, think about how you have to work out how much detergent to pour when you're doing laundry, and the workout your arms get from pouring a heavy plastic jug, only to then get it all over the place. Now, imagine something that looks like a dryer sheet. It's a pre-measured, liquidless laundry detergent sheet that dissolves in all wash cycles, hot or cold.

Earth Breeze really is totally my new favorite detergent. It's dermatologist-tested, hypoallergenic, and free of all bleaches and dyes. Most importantly, Earth Breeze fights all your stains and odors, and you still get a powerful clean. Let's go.

I also have full control to adjust, pause, or cancel my subscription of Earth Breeze without hidden fees or penalties, which I really love. And this is also what I love. With every purchase, Earth Breeze donates ten loads of detergent to a charitable cause of your choice.

Right now, my friends can get started with Earth Breeze and save 40%. Go to [earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun](http://earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun). That's [earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun](http://earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun) for 40% off

your subscriptions. You guys, 4-0, 40%. Go and do this.  
[Earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun](http://Earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun).

Okay, now back to finish up our conversation with our good buddy, Eddie.

[00:45:33] <Music>

**Annie:** Biggest news story of the year that we haven't talked about yet, Travis and Taylor.

**Eddie:** Okay, that's my second prediction. I think they're married by the end of the year.

**Annie:** I would be 0% shocked. I'm so happy they seem happy.

**Eddie:** Yeah, because there's still real people behind that. I know there's PR machines swirling in the whole planet, but they're still...

**Annie:** Yeah, this hasn't hurt either of them, for sure.

**Eddie:** Oh, no. And the Kansas City Chiefs, which no one... I mean, the Chiefs did some work on their own, but this took them to a stratosphere. This will change that team. This is changing the NFL. You know there's a camera. Did you see this? The networks install, now, a permanent camera that shows... the Taylor Swift camera.

**Annie:** It's on the box she's in?

**Eddie:** Yeah.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Eddie:** So they can cut to it whenever they want. It's not like, hey, can we get a shot of Taylor in the box? Like they always do.

**Annie:** I think I'd hate that if I was the Taylor. Would you hate that? Well, you for sure would hate that.

**Eddie:** I for sure would. I think she's got to have some measure of being used to it because of the wild level of fame that she's experienced.

**Annie:** I mean, person of the year.

**Eddie:** Yeah, a billion-dollar tour. First ever. Can you believe it?

**Annie:** It's wild. Yeah, it's wild.

**Eddie:** Have you watched Eros? Did you? Oh, did you go...?

**Annie:** I went to the show. I went to the show in Nashville.

**Eddie:** Okay. I have a theory about it that's not really a big theory. But I'd love to know, like, what'd you think of the show? I saw the movie with Eve. So, what did you think of the show?

**Annie:** I liked the show. I mean, I liked most of her albums. I thought some of it dipped into, like, when she did *Evermore*, it did kind of a witchy vibe. I thought, this is a real witchy vibe. I don't know that I love what all might be involved here.

Also, guess what? I'm the same girl that talks about *Wicked the Musical* all the time, and it's about witches.

**Eddie:** I know.

**Annie:** So, I hear myself. I hear myself.

**Eddie:** But things hit differently, right? Like, some people had a strong reaction to *Harry Potter*, some people didn't. There's not an inherent right or wrong.

**Annie:** Other than that, I thought it was beautiful. I thought the creativity was extraordinary.

**Eddie:** Couldn't believe it.

**Annie:** The dancing. I mean, I thought it was really well done for a concert.

**Eddie:** Yeah. Do you think... I know that probably everybody realizes this, but I had never seen any of Taylor's stuff like everybody else heard the big songs. I'm watching this show and realizing that every iteration, every era is just like, what's your favorite Taylor Swift? Right? Like, every girl and guy, but everybody watching is like, oh, I'm... like, you could just pick your favorite one. And it's all her.

**Annie:** And you knew it was gonna happen.

**Eddie:** But I'm like feeling reputation, or I'm feeling this, or I'm feeling 89. But the branding of it all is so... so, my question is, is it premeditated? Is she thinking, I haven't hit this segment of people, so I'm gonna do the red version? Or I haven't hit this segment... Because she just literally goes through every kind of middle school or high school or now aging into, like, are you the kind of drama kid? Are you kind

of the introspective, quiet kid? Are you... Like you can get a Taylor Swift to match all of the big archetypes. Do you think it's premeditated?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Eddie:** I think she is that smart. I do think it's premeditated.

**Annie:** I think she's that smart. I think there's an interesting side to it, too. So, let me tell you one more downside, is there are people who legitimately worship her. Like, we were paid to worship, people are gonna worship something. And I did watch that at the show, and I thought, man, you have picked a God that will fill you. And I feel for you in that journey. So, that was hard for me. But the interesting businesswoman conversation I'd like to have with you as a businessman is...

**Eddie:** I like being called a businessman. That makes me feel good.

**Annie:** You only get to do an Eras tour one time. She doesn't ever get to do an Eras tour again. She doesn't get to sing every album ever again.

**Eddie:** I know. So, strategically, why was 2023 the year she covered everything she's ever done? Because now you have to move forward. You can't do this again. You can do a Greatest Hits tour in another ten years, probably. But your next tour in three years, you don't get to do, no matter what, come dressed as your favorite Era person, Taylor.

**Eddie:** I know. I don't know. I wonder how she will handle that.

**Annie:** I know. Well, she's gonna get married.

**Eddie:** To find a new thing, right? Like, this kind of tour is now a kind of tour that we will see so many people do.

**Annie:** I hope.

**Eddie:** Where you're not like Billy Joel, who you can see performing his greatest hits. You're midstream and you do...

**Annie:** Mumford & Sons. Dear Mumford & Sons, what I would give if you started with *Sigh No More* and went all the way through?

**Eddie:** All the way through. Give me your Eras tour. Okay, great question. I want everyone to tell us this in the comments on Instagram.



**Eddie:** Who would you want...?

**Annie:** What artist would you want to do their Eras tour?

**Eddie:** Oh, okay. So, I'm gonna do like an old fogey 40-year-old answer.

**Annie:** That's great.

**Eddie:** But R.E.M.

**Annie:** Great answer.

**Eddie:** I love them, and they went from college rock band to like out of time and further. I would love to see them work through their catalog. I love them. And I felt like they evolved so much. I'm trying to think of something more new.

**Annie:** More what? That doesn't have to be new.

**Eddie:** Who would you air?

**Annie:** That's great. Mumford & Sons is for sure who I would air.

**Eddie:** Mumford & Sons, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Annie:** But I'm also thinking through like... I mean, Garth does kind of do that. Garth plays a lot, but he doesn't intentionally do it. He just plays his hits. So that's the difference, everyone. When you're telling us who you want on your Eras tour, who you want to do an Era tour, we're not talking about greatest hits. We're talking about they actually change the stage, they actually do something from every single album intentionally in order.

**Eddie:** And I would believe that Garth does it when Chris Gaines opens up for him.

**Annie:** Garth has not done an Era tour until we see Chris Gaines on the stage. 100%.

**Eddie:** Or he just says, hey, I want to welcome out a special guest, and then he walks to the left, and then out comes Chris Gaines.

**Annie:** Chris Gaine.

**Eddie:** Unless he embraces that and does it.

- Annie:** Also, I don't want to tell anybody who Chris Gaines is that doesn't know that's listening. I just want you to Google it. Was that the craziest thing that has ever happened?
- Eddie:** When I think of all celebrity stuff ever, the fact that the, at the moment, the biggest... Now, this is hard, because I bet you know... you have at least connections to... Okay, good. You don't know anything, so we can just talk, okay, freely.
- Annie:** I love him. I would love for him and Tricia to be on the show. It just hasn't happened yet.
- Eddie:** Oh, love Garth, his music 100%.
- Annie:** But took a big swing.
- Eddie:** In the middle of the height of his power, he comes out with a whole different name, doesn't hide it, a whole different persona. And I don't even know if the quality of the music was good or not. I'm sure it had value. It's just, who thought they could do that?
- Annie:** Right. I mean, what if Taylor does that next? What if Taylor Chris Gaines us next?
- Eddie:** Yeah. I also think, finally, you and I have talked about Chris Gaines. We've been waiting. It's been 11 years.
- Annie:** Hundreds of episodes, however many, yeah. 11 years, is that right?
- Eddie:** Is that right?
- Annie:** Did you say 11?
- Eddie:** No, no, no. No, that can't be right. No, because-
- Annie:** No. '14.
- Eddie:** 2014 was the first one I got to do.
- Annie:** Here's what. Do we tell them right now?
- Eddie:** I don't know. I didn't know. You'd know.
- Annie:** So, next year, being the 10th anniversary of That Sounds Fun, Edward, I have officially...

**Eddie:** Congratulations.

**Annie:** Well, thank you. We are very excited. We have a big year ahead. I don't want to spoil too much, but let's just say you are going to help us maybe monthly reflect on the 10 years on That Sounds Fun.

**Eddie:** I got a new studio light for it. So, we're ready.

**Annie:** Yeah. People can get plenty of us. They can go back and listen to Annie and Eddie Keep Talking, Doing the Best We Can.

**Eddie:** Zoom morning show.

**Annie:** I hate that that show ended. Has it ended forever?

**Eddie:** Doing the Best We Can?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Eddie:** I don't know. I'm like Mary Poppins, right? Like, I just...

**Annie:** You come when we need you? Like, you just show up with an umbrella when we need you?

**Eddie:** There's a wind from the east. What happened before is going to happen again? Hey, look, there she is.

**Annie:** Okay, okay. Well, that's what we're doing with you on That Sounds Fun next year.

**Eddie:** Was she real? Was she a figment of what, you know...?

**Annie:** Yeah. You're the Mary Poppins of That Sounds Fun. That's for sure.

**Eddie:** Did Jane and Michael make it in order to deal with their stuff of their own family?

**Annie:** Wait, is that an option?

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** Do some people think Mary Poppins was a visible friend that Jane and Michael made up to help?

- Eddie:** You can't really prove the existence of Mary Poppins in any of the movies outside of-
- Annie:** What?
- Eddie:** There are those that believe in her and those that end up believing in her. But there's a mystical nature to Mary Poppins that they addressed in the second movie. And also in the movie about P.L. Travers where the Tom Hanks movie-
- Annie:** You're talking about Saving Mr. Banks that made me sob like a baby.
- Eddie:** That movie was real killer, wasn't it?
- Annie:** That's one of the best movies I've ever seen.
- Eddie:** Tom Hanks is perfect. And then what was...? Emma?
- Annie:** Emma Thompson.
- Eddie:** Oh.
- Annie:** Plays P.L. Travers, yes.
- Eddie:** She's 100%.
- Annie:** Colin Firth as her dad?
- Eddie:** Oh, as the dad. And the dad's trying to add joy and fun into their lives, even though they're going through hell.
- Annie:** Meanwhile, dying. Meanwhile, he's dying of some consumption sort of something in the early 20s or something. I don't know.
- Eddie:** Consumption.
- Annie:** Something that we would take DayQuil for.
- Eddie:** Right. Consumption.
- Annie:** Gah. Gee, I know. That's not the right word. I know.
- Eddie:** No, but that's exactly what they called it. People were just clicking out left and right, and they're like, we've never heard of cancer. It's just...

**Annie:** No. Okay, there's a big New York thing we did not talk about. I think because I'm gonna be up there more next year, we really gotta go for SNL tickets.

**Eddie:** So, listen...

**Annie:** You've tried every year.

**Eddie:** Well, I mean, I've done the normal person route. I have never needed whatever, like, fame you've got for my own. Like, I... All the coattails I've ridden have been a joy, but I don't need it. If you can get, and I'm gonna have to say it this way, me and Bri, into SNL...

**Annie:** Oh, planned.

**Eddie:** That's everything. It would be the whole thing.

**Annie:** Dear anybody, three SNL tickets for any time in 2024.

**Eddie:** And either, it could also be dress rehearsal. I'd be fine. It would be the...

**Annie:** I would prefer dress rehearsal, because you're done at 10.30.

**Eddie:** Right? I'm the guy kind of napping on Brianne.

**Annie:** It's 8.30 to 10.30, so I'm interested in the dress rehearsal. Also, Scuttle. I heard that last weekend, there was a part that one of the cast sang that originally Cecily Strong sang in the dress rehearsal, and then she pulled out of the show and wanted to wait till... Everyone will know because they've already seen, but Kate McKinnon hosts this weekend. And apparently, she wanted her comeback to be Kate McKinnon's show, so she pulled out after the dress rehearsal. It may have been Knox and Jamie who told me this. Is this a Knox and Jamie fan pod?

**Eddie:** That is a juicy, juicy... Hold on, who was it that she would have not been on?

**Annie:** Someone sang in the cold open.

**Eddie:** Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, uh... Oh, it was Adam... was it Adam Driver's episode?

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah.

**Eddie:** And he sang.

**Annie:** Anyway.

**Eddie:** Wow.

**Annie:** So I need you to know how hard I tried when Nate Bargatze was the host. I thought, a podcast guest. A person I know. A person I'm one degree from, and zero degrees from, as we know who each other is. And there just were none tickets. There were none tickets to dress rehearsal.

**Eddie:** I have to feel like everybody who Nate has ever come in... I wonder what it's like to be an SNL host. Everybody you've ever known.

**Annie:** Because you're trying so hard to stay focused and to like learn your lines and do the skits, which... Was that or was that not one of the funniest episodes of the year?

**Eddie:** I'm biased because of how funny I think he is. I think it was one of the few 100% episodes I've ever seen.

**Annie:** I agree. It was so funny.

**Eddie:** The George Washington bit.

**Annie:** The George Washington skit!

**Eddie:** Oh, man.

**Annie:** I mean, they wrote it. I mean, that is to the writers. Because the writers wrote an episode that was perfect for Nate.

**Eddie:** Did you hear him talk about the episode afterwards?

**Annie:** No.

**Eddie:** He's like, I submitted a sketch, and he talks about it. He's like, it wasn't...

**Annie:** Oh, he talks about it on Nateland? On their pod?

**Eddie:** He did talk about Nateland, and he also talked about it on Dana Carvey and David Spade's show.

**Annie:** Oh, okay.

- Eddie:** He's like, I didn't write a word of SNL, except for the stand-up at the beginning. He's like, they wrote all of that. He's like, that's why those writers are wizards. He's like, they wrote a show for me. And that George Washington thing? That's like his jokes.
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It couldn't have been any better.
- Eddie:** Couldn't believe it.
- Annie:** The personality of George Washington was exactly Nate in his stand-up life, you know? Oh, I thought it was brilliant.
- Eddie:** Oh, what a good show that was. That made me very happy.
- Annie:** Me too.
- Eddie:** Annie, SNL, you know, we talk about this whenever. We gotta do all we can.
- Annie:** This is the year. '24 is the year. So, if anybody knows anybody, please help us. This is the... Eddie, what would it take? What would it take? You want Eddie on That Sounds Fun once a month next year? Fine. Fine, we'll give it to you if you'll give us SNL tickets.
- Eddie:** Oh, yeah. What do you want? A picture? You want me to send you a video?
- Annie:** Yeah. You want us to make you 54 cameos while we're there? Fine.
- Eddie:** Yeah, I got a sweet, special kitty cat. She can be on it. She's not on the pic. She's not in it.
- Annie:** You need a cameo from Waffles? It's yours if you get us tickets to SNL. Again, dress rehearsal is fine with us because we'll be in our 44s by the time we're there.
- Eddie:** And you get to see the sketches that are cut and they still record it, and it's all like a real SNL.
- Annie:** That's me. I like watching the sausage get made and things like that.
- Eddie:** I would love it.
- Annie:** Oh, Eddie, while I was in New York, I got to watch the first-ever front-to-back run of a musical in a workshop.

**Eddie:** How was that?

**Annie:** The first time they ever... Mary Kate Morrissey is in it.

**Eddie:** Yeah, yeah. How?

**Annie:** And so she invited me to... Because I got to see... Like, you know the Greatest Showman videos?

**Eddie:** Yes.

**Annie:** Where it's in a workout... I'm sorry, where it's in a workshopping room and you see... What's his name? Hugh Jackman getting so excited about her singing?

**Eddie:** Yeah.

**Annie:** It was that for a new musical.

**Eddie:** I have to ask, how was the quality of it? Because these are the people that are the greatest in the world.

**Annie:** When I tell you, sitting across from me... I'm on the second row because I had to leave early, of course, because I had a meeting, which is fine. I know my job. I picked it. There's a row of actors. There's only probably ten actors. One of them, Aaron Burr in *Hamilton*. Yes. One of them was in *Merrily We Roll Along* the night before. I saw her the night before in *Merrily We Roll Along* and then at 3 p.m. or 2 p.m. I'm watching her do this brand new musical about... And Mary Kate posted it, so I feel fine saying it.

It's about electricity. It's about the start of electricity. So it's all the people involved. And Andrew... No, I'm sorry, Thomas Edison. It's a beautiful musical. And I'm like, if this thing wins a Tony, I saw it the first time. And there's still years from it being a show that anybody gets to see on Broadway.

**Eddie:** Oh, that's neat.

**Annie:** It was so cool. I love watching that. So if we get to watch the dress rehearsal of SNL, I want that more than I want the show.

**Eddie:** I am just amazed. I'm sure that their raw talent was stunning. Their ability to just render it from a piece of paper, something that they probably... they could be sight-reading. It is so good.



**Annie:** It was beautiful. There was a guy who was about our age, Eddie, in it, and I asked Mary Kate later, and she was like, "Oh, he's been in like nine Broadway shows and he's starting in this new one next." And I thought, "That guy did it. That guy did the thing. He told himself when he was in high school, when we were, that someday he'd be on Broadway." And my gosh, here he is, a married dad of six or something, I don't know.

**Eddie:** Have you asked Mary Kate...? And you don't have to tell me what she said. But have you had a real friend-to-friend conversation about Corn musical, whatever it's called?

**Annie:** *Shucked.*

**Eddie:** Have you talked to her?

**Annie:** Corn Musical.

**Eddie:** Have you gotten? Because I haven't seen it, but I saw a bit of it on Macy's, and I wondered what was happening.

**Annie:** Yeah. You know, it's written by a bunch of Nashville... or not a bunch, but a couple of Nashville writers. I did not go see it because here's what happened. As my two months continued, I had to reassess which shows I was seeing, and had to say to myself, If you've only got time for X amount of shows, you need to see ones that will never come to Nashville. And so the ones that don't travel. So that's why I saw *Merrily We Roll Along*. That's why I prioritized *Gutenberg* because those won't ever tour. And *Shucked* is touring in '24, in January.

**Eddie:** I don't need to know what she says. I just want to know you had the conversation with her.

**Annie:** Yeah, everyone...

**Eddie:** You can stone-faced tell me.

**Annie:** Well, yeah. What I can tell you is, I did ask a lot of opinions about what show I should bring my parents to.

**Eddie:** Oh.

**Annie:** And that was not *Shucked*.

**Eddie:** Oh, because, oh, like too adult-themed, like weird sitting next to your parents themed?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Eddie:** In a million years, would you have thought a musical about *Shucked*, Corn?

**Annie:** About Corn.

**Eddie:** Oh, but is that a joke, even the title of it?

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

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

**Annie:** I'm hearing that for the first time, and hearing it. Here's what we're going to do when you and Brie come to New York for SNL. I also need you to see *Gutenberg* and I need you to see *Merrily We Roll Along*. And I kind of need you to see... I don't know how we do three. I kind of need you to see *Pearly Victorious*. I don't know about any of this, so I would love it.

**Annie:** I'll tell you so fast because we are doing what we do. *Pearly Victorious* stars Leslie Odom Jr. It's a play. It's like 90 minutes, no intermission. And it is set in the early 1900s in the southern part of Georgia. And he is part of a family that was slaves, and they still live on the landowner's property. They're sharecroppers now. And he wants to buy back the church building that his grandfather was the pastor of.

**Eddie:** Wow.

**Annie:** So, that's the story. Everyone sobbed. It's so beautiful. Leslie Odom Jr., I give him every Tony.

**Eddie:** He is magical.

**Annie:** I give him every Annie. He gets it.

**Eddie:** He's magical.

**Annie:** Okay, *Gutenberg* is Andrew Randles-

**Eddie:** Oh, it's him and Olaf.

**Annie:** Yes. Yeah, it's him and Olaf. It's him and Josh-

**Eddie:** Josh Gad.

**Annie:** Gad. And they are pretending to... well, the play is, we've written a show about Johann *Gutenberg*, the printing press.

**Eddie:** Oh, right.

**Annie:** And we are presenting it to all of you in hopes that there is a Broadway producer in this room. We do not have the money to have other actors, so we will play every part of this musical.

**Eddie:** I see.

**Annie:** So they interact with the audience a good bit because they recognize we want y'all to buy this. We hope there's a producer out there. And then every night there's a celebrity in the audience that they bring on stage that gives them a Broadway contract.

**Eddie:** I've seen that social. That's like on social. What a fun thing! So, you saw it?

**Annie:** Yeah, twice. That is what I took my parents to.

**Eddie:** Do you remember your-

**Annie:** The first one was Betty Who, who's a pop artist. I did not know her either. I thought it was Ashlyn Harris from the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. They look very similar. They look very similar. And then Chuck Schumer. When my parents were there, it was Chuck Schumer.

**Eddie:** Chuck Schumer. I said to my dad, "I think it must be a political person because I think that's like security behind the seat." There's like a seat that that person always sits in. And it was Chuck Schumer. Was he funny? Did he try?

**Annie:** No. I mean, they give him the line to say. That's a great show. And then *Merrily We Roll Along*. And then we will move on from this. *Merrily We Roll Along*, Jonathan Groff, who is also from *Frozen* and *The King* and *Hamilton*.

**Eddie:** *Hamilton*, yeah.

**Annie:** *Harry Potter*.

**Eddie:** He's in *Harry Potter*?

**Annie:** No, no, no. Sorry. Harry-

**Eddie:** Daniel Radcliffe.

**Annie:** Daniel Radcliffe.

**Eddie:** I'm tracking.

**Annie:** And then Lindsey Mendez who's like a Broadway celeb.

**Eddie:** Oh, yeah.

**Annie:** So, here's how the show works, Eddie. It's a revival. And then it starts at the end of the 1970s and these three people are best friends, and their best friendship implodes, and they will never be friends again. And then it goes backwards to the day they met. And it will make you...

People said, you're gonna cry so much. I didn't cry one time in the theater. But for three days, it crescendoed my sadness. And on the third day, I got teary. I was like, that is the worst thing, best thing I've ever seen.

**Eddie:** You went forwards after they were done going backwards. Is Daniel Radcliffe great?

**Annie:** He is great. If you go listen, they just put out the soundtrack, and his song... he does a song that's really fast. It's Sondheim. It's a Sondheim show. So, it's ta ta ta ta. And he does it... I mean, it's really impressive. The role he is playing is a great role for what we think he is and what we experience of him, whether that's who he really is or not.

**Eddie:** He's a charming guy. I just saw a documentary on HBO with him and his *Harry Potter* stunt. Oh, it's a...

**Annie:** Who's in a wheelchair, right? He got paralyzed being a *Harry Potter* stunt double.

**Eddie:** Oddly, not the heartbreaker of a thing you think it is. Like, it's a pretty charming, fantastic story of their friendship. But like Daniel Radcliffe, I'm like, good dude.

**Annie:** Yeah. Good. Okay. So, we'll see those.

**Eddie:** Those are very exciting.

- Annie:** All right, we've done a full hour. Is there anything else we got to cover at the end of 2023?
- Eddie:** So, the good thing is I usually feel a sense of pressure, but we will be able...
- Annie:** I'll see you in a month.
- Eddie:** We will keep talking. So, we will be able to do this. So in a month. And we're going to be... I'm excited about this, Annie.
- Annie:** Yeah, thanks for agreeing to do it. I think it'll be really, really fun.
- Eddie:** I can't wait. I don't want to tell...
- Annie:** I love it.
- Eddie:** We're not telling the format of it, but it will be...
- Annie:** No, no, no.
- Eddie:** It's fun. I can't wait.
- Annie:** But it's next year. You are our Mary Poppins.
- Eddie:** I've always wanted you to say that.
- Annie:** I know. The thing I cannot wait on is what people are about to tell us is the artists they want to see do an ERAs tour. I can't wait to see this list.
- Eddie:** I know. That is a fun one.
- Annie:** That's a great thing to think about.
- Eddie:** That's a great one. It has to be, though... The thing with ERAs is it can't just be retrospective. So it can't just be Snoop Dogg. You're right. It can't be Greatest Hits.
- Annie:** No, it's not Greatest Hits.
- Eddie:** They're midstream. That's why R.E.M. didn't really work.
- Annie:** They're still making music.

**Eddie:** R.E.M. didn't really work. That would be a reunion. But I'm going to stick with that.

**Annie:** Yeah, you can stick with that. I think we allow that, but what we'd like is a current musician making music who has an album that they want you to listen to, but they're also going backwards.

**Eddie:** And really doing it, yeah.

**Annie:** And really doing it. They got a house and there's different rooms for every album.

**Eddie:** Garth Brooks and Chris Gaines was 100% for me.

**Annie:** You nailed it. Okay, well, you end our show as we like to end shows-

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

**Annie:** ...and send people into 2024. We won't see them again until Epiphany. I have an episode coming out on Epiphany, so they got about a week and a half off.

**Eddie:** Okay, any reminders like washing your hands or anything like that?

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

**Eddie:** Yeah.

**Annie:** All right, everybody. Go wash your hands.

**Eddie:** Bye, buddies.

**[01:08:25] <Music>**

**Outro:** Oh, you guys, isn't he the best? All right, head over to Instagram, tell Eddie thanks for helping us recap this year, and let him know how excited you are to hear more from him in 2024. And coming on January 6th on Epiphany will be our Epiphany show we've done the last couple of years where it's just me talking to you. There will be a lot more information about our 10th anniversary of the podcast, what's going on here at work, but also a lot more information about what's going on in my life. So you will hear way more New York-y things coming up January 6th.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. Anywhere you need me, that's where you can find me.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you and I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me, well, you know in my family, today is Christmas Eve. This is the day that we celebrate Christmas Eve with all of our extended family, that's really just our family. And so today is Christmas Eve and tomorrow is our Christmas Day. So Merry Christmas Eve from the Downs and Strother families. We are very happy to be together.

Y'all have a great New Year's weekend. Stay safe. Get excited about 2024. I am just the most grateful to get to do this job, close out another year with y'all and our team. I cannot thank our team enough for all they do for That Sounds Fun and for Let's Read the Gospels and next year for MiniBFF podcast as well.

I cannot believe this is the life I've been given and I truly am so excited for all we get to celebrate together in 2024 with the 10th year anniversary of That Sounds Fun podcast. I cannot believe that.

As a team, we're resting from the podcast and from work this next week. So I'll be back here on Saturday, January 6th for that Epiphany episode. I'm gonna let you in on all the fun things. Well, almost all the fun things happening in 2024. I can't wait. Love y'all. Mean it. We'll see you back here in 2024.