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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.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors. This show is sponsored by [BetterHelp](#). We're going back today and talking about 2014. I wish I could tell 2014 Annie how much therapy would change her for the better. We talk about it today.

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Intro: Today on the show, we are taking things back to 2014 with our buddy, Eddie Kaufholz. Okay, if you missed the news, in honor of this being the 10th anniversary of That Sounds Fun, every single month this year, we're gonna go back and do a year in review of each year the podcast has existed, starting today with 2014.

We're going to talk about what happened in the news in 2014, top songs, some snacks that came out, what happened on the podcast, what happened in our own lives, and of course, because this is me and Eddie, we also get rabbit traileed a couple of times about some important things going on right now.

This is gonna be an adventure back to all the things we've forgotten about 2014 and the memories that have stuck with us too. Y'all, this is so fun. It's so fun. So here we go, our year in review of 2014 with our good pal, Eddie Kaufholz.

[00:02:36] <music>

Annie: Eddie, welcome back to That Sounds Fun.

- Eddie:** I like this. I like just knowing that it's gonna happen every month now.
- Annie:** Every month.
- Eddie:** I like it.
- Annie:** I'm so glad. This was the highlight of my Monday.
- Eddie:** Annie, this was the highlight of my Monday. Thank you for inviting me to do this.
- Annie:** Well, listen, we have got 10 years to recap.
- Eddie:** It's crazy. I mean, we'll get into it but 10 years is a banana's amount of time.
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah.
- Eddie:** And in podcasting world, you're like-
- Annie:** Dog years.
- Eddie:** Yeah, it's dog years. I can't believe you've done it.
- Annie:** I can't either, honestly. Okay, first, before we recap 2014, which is today's goal, we gotta recap the end of '23 and the beginning of '24 because your life, my friend, has been-
- Eddie:** A little underwater. A little-
- Annie:** I was gonna say wet.
- Eddie:** A little wet. December 16th, I come back from a swim. So I think it's important to note-
- Annie:** That's interesting.
- Eddie:** ...I'm trying to swim, you know, taking care of the joints. Mr. Rogers watched the Mike Birbiglia special. I thought, you know, it's probably good. Come back, get a text from Brienne the basement is flooding. To which I respond-
- Annie:** Was it raining? Was it like-
- Eddie:** It had rained the day before, but not like crazy. It wasn't like-

Annie: Okay.

Eddie: It was just like rain. To which I respond like, "Oh, is it...?" You know, we have a finished basement and our heater's down there, hot water heater, furnace, washer, dryer, everything. And I'm like, "Is it past the, you know, whatever, is it past the fridge?" I don't hear from her. And I come back to Lucy girl in full waders. There is eight inches, maybe up to a foot of water, whole floor of our basement. And we have a big basement... yeah, no big deal. Living that basement life, brah. And Lucy's in waders, and they're handing stuff to each other, trying to salvage what they can.

Annie: Of course Lucy's in waders, by the way. Of course, she is.

Eddie: Now, the great thing is-

Annie: Where did all that water come from, Eddie? I, this whole time, thought it had rained, it was outside in.

Eddie: Mm-mm. No. Over time there was like a... I don't know, there was just a little bit of leaking. One, we immediately had to go and stay at a hotel. We stayed at the Homewood Suites. Lovely, lovely, right before the week before Christmas. Because there's no heater. Our heater died. We got no-

Annie: Oh, because all that's in the basement, so it all gets flooded.

Eddie: All destroyed.

Annie: Dude.

Eddie: Heater, hot water heater, all destroyed. So we stay in the Homewood Suites. Not that bad. And yeah, we have good insurance and it's been worked on. But we got a sump pump. You know what that is?

Annie: No.

Eddie: I didn't either, because we're from the South. Basically they take out all the concrete in the floor of the basement and they put a French drain around it and then a pump. So now water can still come in, but it goes right down into this French drain. And basically it'll be dry forever. Everybody around here has sump pumps. We didn't because we have an old house and now it's dry. So we had crazy rain-

Annie: So the water came from rain?

Eddie: The water came from rain.

Annie: Okay. So it was like outside soaked up through the concrete.

Eddie: That's right. And it was just too much. And it kind of came in through the walls and it just kind of broke the dam. So here we are.

Annie: So did Bri hear it first?

Eddie: No. It was Lucy Girl's going down there at seven o'clock to get her backpack and stuff for school. And she's like, "Before I turned on the light, it was shiny, and then I turned on the light and there was water."

Annie: Oh, God love her.

Eddie: And of course, she's just like, "This is crazy. We should try to kayak in our own basement." I think we're having a different experience, but...

Annie: One of the biggest times my sister, Tatum, and I ever got in trouble that I remember with precision clarity is there was a room in our basement that was carpeted and we could jump on it and it would squirt water up. And so for... I can't tell you how long. We would just go in there and jump and then come out and dry our feet on the hallway carpet and never tell our parents. We just didn't think about it. We just thought it was so fun.

And then one day we told Mom and Dad and they were like, "What? what are you talking about?" We were like, "Yeah, you just jump on the carpet." And I remember it was very similar to you where they're like, "This is a different experience for the grownups and the kids."

Eddie: Yeah. Oh, this is different.

Annie: I remember the lesson being, if you ever feel water on the floor of a house, you tell them.

Eddie: You see something, you say something.

Annie: See something, say something, 1986 version.

Eddie: Annie, though, this is a little on the nose, but I also have to know like 2014, you... anyhow, the reason we bring this up at the beginning is because people are going to hear banging. Sweet Craig the engineer is going to do all he can, but it's been silent in this house since September. And a few hours before I'm recording the only

podcast I'm set to record for this whole month, a crew of people come in and I can't kick them out because we got to get the basement.

Annie: What are they doing?

Eddie: It's a reset. The whole basement is down.

Annie: Are you doing anything new?

Eddie: Yeah. Yeah. We're redoing the whole basement. It'll be all furnished. We're painting it a dark green with like dark green ceiling and everything. It's going to be cozy and moody. And we found a great sofa. I'm very excited.

Annie: Great.

Eddie: Like insurance, say what you will about insurance, it gets kind of rad. It's not been fun, but we're like, we weren't going to remodel it to this degree. But now we're like, all right, let's do this.

Annie: Yeah, that's great. Are you changing the rooms around down there? Will there be like now there will be a guest room or now there will be a... or is it just...?

Eddie: I would like to throw away your entire question and tell you what I'm actually very excited about.

Annie: Okay.

Eddie: Sorry, I just mean to usurp it. No, it's going to be a den and garage storage area. But I had an old workbench down there that came with the house. And of course everything's insured. They gave me an absurd amount of money for it and I'm buying—this is my dream thing—one of those tool chests. It's like six feet tall and five feet wide and it's got like 22 drawers. Oh. That is-

Annie: And it's all metal. It's like really loud metal when you open and close it. Yeah, yeah.

Eddie: Yes, yes. All little things can be perfect. So yes, we'll have it. No, it'll be like den room, hangout room, and then laundry room and storage and all that kind of stuff.

Annie: That's great.

Eddie: I'm tickled. Okay.

Annie: But tragedy is tragedy. What a pain. What a terrible experience!

Eddie: It has not been in your words, cute, since until today when it was like, okay, cool, now it's a new thing. But it has been-

Annie: Now there's a timeline it will end.

Eddie: Yeah, it's been a thing. It's been a thing.

Annie: Awful.

Eddie: I know this is on the nose, but you've had a flood before. And I know this because I looked at your 2014 thoughts. What happened in 2014?

Annie: A pipe burst in the cold in my house.

Eddie: Oh my gosh.

Annie: And in the house I lived in at the time, I didn't know where the off was, like the water main to turn it off. So it literally burst in the hallway—thank God I was in the house—and I heard it and I thought, "My roommate and I are both standing in the kitchen. Who's taking a shower?" So then I was like, "I should go look." And I turn around the corner and the hallway is just a deluge of water coming down from the ceiling.

I call the landlord and they're coming, but because we don't know how to turn it off, we just get everything out of the hallway and we build a dam with towels and just let it dam up. Yeah, we built a dam with towels.

Eddie: I mean, you gotta do something. It's better than just like-

Annie: We just didn't know what else to do. All I could think of is what they do in New Orleans when they put sandbags everywhere. I was like, we have to sandbag the living room and protect the water from going in the living room. So we literally blocked one end of the hallway with towels and then we blocked the other end with a pool of towels. And it just started... what Lucy saw. It just started getting shiny. Just probably ended up being three or four inches deep.

Eddie: Do you know where the water off is now? I just need to check in on that.

Annie: Yeah, new house, part one. And then this house I for sure know where it is. The guy was like, "Why didn't you turn the water off?" And I was like, "Where is that in the manual? Tell me where in the manual you're supposed to know how to turn all the house's water off."

Eddie: No, right. And when you need it, you're in complete panic mode. And it's the worst possible time to consider, okay, well, that water inlet is probably here and the first outlet is this sink, so it's gotta be somewhere in between. It's just panic.

Annie: You just said a whole sentence I still don't understand. Inlet and outlets? I didn't know we had inlets. So yeah, I can't believe that was also 10 years ago. That's so funny. Because I've told that story from stage a bunch, Eddie, because after they repaired it, the guy came over to me, I was sitting at my desk, the guy came over to me and said, "Do you want to see the burst pipe?" And I was like, "Oh yeah, show it to me." And I thought it was gonna be this gaping wound. And when I tell you the burst in the pipe was less than an inch long, and I was like, Huh, isn't that a thing?

Eddie: The water came in through our house in little tiny... I mean, there was no hole. It's just crazy how fast water can get through.

Annie: Water and fire, man. There's a reason they're two of the forces of nature.

Eddie: What's the metaphor? What do you get to though? Do you know?

Annie: No, I don't know.

Eddie: You said you stayed on stage-

Annie: Oh, I'm sorry. I just thought you meant right now. I was like, I don't know.

Eddie: No, no, no.

Annie: There's a one particular talk I did a lot 10 years ago, about eight years ago that I would do again about the power of your words and how it just takes a little thing to make a big difference. So that was my example of the little thing that makes the big difference of like... it was the pipe that he cut was the size of a hot dog. And I thought he was gonna tell me that that whole hot dog came undone. You know, like, here's what happened. The hot dog came out.

And instead it was like there was a gash that would not have gotten you stitches in the hot dog. And I was shocked. I was totally shocked. And then Eddie, I went on the road that weekend. I'm so glad you're bringing this back to my mind. I went on the road that weekend, they repaired the ceiling, the walls, all the things. And I came back and they had not closed a single door or covered up anything when they were sanding. I opened the door and my house was dusty. It was like a cloud in my house.

- Eddie:** You were finding that till you moved. I mean, they can try to clean it up but-
- Annie:** 100%, 100%. I paid once and they paid once to have it clean, deep cleaned. And it still was dusty for the rest of my existence there. And I moved out in 2018. I moved out four years later.
- Eddie:** Okay, so it's 2014 and you're on the road. Are you already speaking places in 2014?
- Annie:** Yeah. So my first book came out in '11. I am traveling pretty full-time '12... I'm sorry, my first book came out in '12. I'm traveling pretty full time '12, '13, '14 school year on the Girls of Grace Tour. And then after the Girls of Grace Tour ends in spring of '14 is when I started the podcast in the fall.
- Eddie:** Yeah, fall of '14 like November-ish, right?
- Annie:** Yeah, the very end. We just got in on that 10-year anniversary, just barely.
- Eddie:** Just sweeping.
- Annie:** Okay. I think one of the fascinating things is we did not know each other in 2014, right?
- Eddie:** Oh no. I was pitching you in 2014, but I did not get to know you until... because I started listening to your podcast... I heard about it early, early, early, early. And then we started podcasting together in like what? '16?
- Annie:** '16, I think. When did you join the Relevant Podcast? '15?
- Eddie:** No, no, no, no. Before that. It was '11 or '12. 2011, 2012.
- Annie:** Oh wow, okay. So we were fans of each other in 2014, but we're not friends yet.
- Eddie:** Yeah, we were like social media jokes every once in a while.
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Eddie:** I feel like you-
- Annie:** That is wild.
- Eddie:** ...were on Relevant at some point, but it was always like you had been interviewed for the book maybe, or no?

- Annie:** That's right. I got interviewed for *Let's All Be Brave*.
- Eddie:** But it wasn't me. It was somebody else probably.
- Annie:** No. I think it was Tyler.
- Eddie:** Oh, Tyler.
- Annie:** Which, by the way, speaking of Relevant, people, I got a text today from our friend, Tyler Daswick, from back in the Relevant days.
- Eddie:** How is Tyler Daswick?
- Annie:** I don't know. He said he's gonna call me later. I can't wait. Oh, Das.
- Eddie:** I love him.
- Annie:** I like him too. We have so much to thank Relevant for.
- Eddie:** I agree. I still.
- Annie:** I'm really grateful. I'm grateful that we got to do that, and that they told people about my books, and let me be a part of that show. I mean, I remember the audition... we should probably talk about this in our 2016 episode. But the one episode they let me on at Christmas, I didn't know it was quite an audition, but I remember hanging up and being like, "That was the most fun I've ever had, and I will cry myself into next year if I don't get to do this again."
- Eddie:** Yeah, no.
- Annie:** And then we got to do it for years.
- Eddie:** I'm deeply grateful to it. I mean, I was looking at my 2014, I was in the midst of doing my first writing column, which they let me write, and you know-
- Annie:** Was it in the magazine or online, or both?
- Eddie:** Both. It was mostly online. Every once in a while, we'd go over to the magazine. But it was like an advice column, Life 101, you know?
- Annie:** Life 101, is that what it was called?

Eddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I look back and look at some of the questions that I answered, like the one from...like this... that I saw was like, I'm 30, why am I still single?

Annie: Oh boy.

Eddie: I look at it and cringe, and I'm just like, "Oh, that dude." Like, you've got to look back at 10 years, like things you were saying 10 years ago, and be like, There's been a journey in this decade, right?

Annie: Yeah. I mean, it's one of the weirder things about books, is someone can meet us today, and they can go back and listen to our first ever episode on That Sounds Fun, or go back and listen to us on Relevant, or go back and read your old articles, or read my old books, and go like, Oh, is that who she is? And I'm like, No, that was the best I had to offer in 2014.

Eddie: It was the best, yeah.

Annie: But I've grown for 10 years. So I want you to read the old stuff, because I think there's nuggets in it, but also allow people who make public art to grow and change over 12 years of a career.

Eddie: Oh, yeah, and the lifetime that is a decade, especially... I don't know in my life. I hope not. But I can't imagine in my life that there will be another decade as profound as this.

Annie: Is it because it was our 30s?

Eddie: I don't know. I think it's that. I think it's life circumstances happened. I mean, it's just like a lot happened in this last decade. And I know for you as well. It's crazy to think about. So you're going back, you listen to that girl. I looked at your post. I looked at your post when you announced. First of all, it's so... I don't know. I don't wanna... It's precious.

Annie: When I announced that there was a podcast and all?

Eddie: Yeah.

Annie: Yeah. We'll share that today and let people see it.

Eddie: Oh, yeah. You're like, you guys, question mark? I started a podcast. I'm nervous and dorky and having a great time. Hope you like it. #eeplincolnprofile.

Annie: Eep Lincoln profile. Oh, the good old days.

Eddie: Oh, it's just so like, hi.

Annie: I know.

Eddie: What made you...? Hold on. Is this the format of what we're supposed to be doing?

Annie: Yeah. We're just talking about it.

Eddie: We're just doing it. Okay.

Annie: We're also gonna talk about the world in 2014 because it was awesome.

Eddie: It was wild.

Annie: It was awesome.

Eddie: It was wild. So you're speaking, you've got the book. Like there's already like this sense of like, I've got a thing to say. But when does the podcast start to percolate?

Annie: So at this point, *Perfectly Unique* was out, *Speak Love* was out, *Speak Love Revolution* was out, and *Let's All Be Brave* was out. So we had three books for teen girls and one nonfiction for adults I had written at that point.

I mean, I write about this a little bit in *That Sounds Fun*, but I mean, I don't remember who all I listened to besides *Relevant*. I listened to *Relevant*. I don't remember who else I was listening to. *This American Life*. I listened to *This American Life* at the time.

Eddie: Act One.

Annie: Oh gosh.

Eddie: Sorry, that's all I got.

Annie: Ira Glass is the best. I remember Ted Dekker's PR people reaching out to me and asking me to interview him. Because they had seen me hosting an event somewhere and had seen me interview people on stage. I did not have any skill. You and I both have our 10,000 hours at this point. I did not have my 10,000 hours in 2014.

Eddie: I mean, you had charm and a way about you, but you hadn't interviewed. You weren't just-

Annie: No skill. That's right. That's right. I had talent, but no skill yet. And I remember being like, yeah, where do you want to release it? And I think I've told you this story before, but I was like, "I have a blog and I have Twitter and I have Instagram, this new thing." And then the girl says, my friend Jennifer, she says, "Have you thought about starting a podcast?" And hand to heaven, I said, "That sounds fun." And I was like, "That sounds fun."

Eddie: Done.

Annie: Huh?

Eddie: The first idea is usually the best idea.

Annie: That's it. I went home and searched it and got That Sounds Fun, and reserved it somewhere. And I was like, there we go. And I built my own graphic. And you can tell. You can tell.

Eddie: No, I think it's sweet. So the picture is like a photo-

Annie: I think it's sweet too.

Eddie: It's so funny to me though, like for as young as it is, and as much as you're dipping your toes in the water, it's still kind of formed. There's a progression of that to now that makes sense. It's not like when you look back at the first season of the Simpsons and it's like, all the voices are different, everything's like... Homer is all like, rah, rah, rah, you know, like odd. This is still kind of like you 10 years ago, which is interesting. You were kind of out of the gate. Have you listened to the first episode? I mean, have you even heard your song?

Annie: Not in a long time. I don't know if I can do it.

Eddie: I wonder if you had like the... who edited it?

Annie: I should maybe do it.

Eddie: Oh, I think.

Annie: Oh, who edited it? I can't wait to answer. Me.

Eddie: What did you use? Like GarageBand or something?

Annie: Yes. The reason there's only two episodes in 2014 and very few in 2015 is it would take me 40 minutes to do the interview and it would take me seven hours to make the show.

Eddie: Oh, yes.

Annie: And then when our buddy Chad Snavelly moved to Nashville, I immediately was like, "Chad, what can I pay you?" Because I got to the point where I was like, "Okay, people are listening to this. It has to be better. It is worth me putting money into because it has to sound better than what I'm able to do." Like the fading in and the fading out, oh, it makes my stomach hurt, thinking about it, so hard.

Eddie: Well, and also techwise... I mean, you and I are connected on a platform right now that allows us to podcast and record. There are any number of platforms you can record in high quality, we've got fancy mics, whatever. This did not exist in 2010, or in 20-

Annie: This didn't exist in 2020 when we started Annie and Eddie Keep Talking.

Eddie: Yeah, yeah. So were you just like on your computer mic and stuff?

Annie: No, I bought a Yeti, a blue Yeti off of Amazon.

Eddie: Is that still in your office somewhere?

Annie: And I would take it places. Yeah, it is.

Eddie: That's awesome.

Annie: It's over in the cabinet over there. It's just this little silver-blue Yeti. I just sat with it at a table with people. Now, when I did Ted Dekker, I went to a recording studio because his PR people set it up.

Eddie: Oh, okay.

Annie: So I went to their studio and he was on audio, but not video. So I was in a tiny booth with the door closed by myself. He's in my ears and I'm talking into a microphone, but I can't see him at all.

Eddie: And he just-

Annie: I was so nervous.

- Eddie:** Oh, you can imagine how nervous you were, right?
- Annie:** Mortified, yeah. I was just like, what am I doing? This is like going up to bat and your first pitcher ever is a Hall of Famer and you're a rookie. And you're like-
- Eddie:** You're really doing it.
- Annie:** The first guy I have to hit against is a Hall of Famer? They're working on your basement.
- Eddie:** Oh, they were working real hard down there. The dry walls have fallen down.
- Annie:** That's right. Yeah, it was a pro. I couldn't believe it. I mean, a novelist who I've been reading for a decade already. I just loved. Do you remember it? Did you read any of his stuff?
- Eddie:** I know I did because as soon as I read the name, I was like, Ted Dekker? He writes like... is it kind of fiction-y?
- Annie:** Yeah, it's all fiction-y, most all fiction-y. And the stuff that I loved is he had a series called *Black/Red/White/Green*.
- Eddie:** Oh.
- Annie:** And it reads in a perfect circle. So it does not matter which book you start with.
- Eddie:** Those people. How did they do that?
- Annie:** Who thinks of that?
- Eddie:** What kind of brain does that?
- Annie:** So it released in some order that I don't remember, but when he released the last one, he said, "it's a circle.
- Eddie:** Oh my gosh.
- Annie:** Unbelievable. Unbelievable.
- Eddie:** That is a beautiful mind.
- Annie:** That's Hall of Fame stuff, yeah. That's a beautiful mind, right?

[00:23:19] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation to share about one of our amazing partners, [Hiya Health](#). I've seen my friends trying to bribe their kids to take their vitamins, and I know that's not an easy battle to win, but have you guys tried Hiya Health yet?

It is the children's vitamin that both tastes good and doesn't have a bunch of junk in it. A lot of children's vitamins end up having unnecessary sugar, unhealthy chemicals in them. So Hiya Health was created so you can feel great about what you're giving by MiniBFFs.

Hiya Health is not candy in disguise either. Instead, it's pressed with a blend of 12 organic fruits and veggies, then filled with 15 essential vitamins and minerals. And your first shipment comes with these fun little stickers for your kids to stick on their bottles. Hiya Health is sent straight to your door, which means you don't need to run one more errand. Bless the Lord.

We've worked out a special deal with Hiya for their best-selling children's vitamins. You get 50% off your first order. That's like five-zero, you guys. To claim this deal, you must go to hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun. That's hiyahealth.com/thatsoundsfun, and get your kids the full body nourishment they need to grow into healthy adults.

Sponsor: And one more incredible partner I get to tell you about, [Earth Breeze](#). Okay, have you ever wondered why laundry detergent comes in massive plastic jugs? They're heavy and messy and hard to store. And the worst part is that 91% of plastic doesn't get recycled. That's unbelievable. So this leaves laundry jugs to sit in landfills for centuries to come. No, thank you.

But my new favorite detergent solves all of that, Earth Breeze. 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 is dermatologist-tested, hypoallergenic, and free of bleach and dyes. The packaging is a cardboard envelope that saves so much space. I can fit 720 loads of sheets, where I used to just fit one 60-load detergent jug.

And listen, let me tell you why that pays off, because the place I'm staying in New York, I just shipped a box of Earth Breeze up there so that we only use a little bit of space for my detergent. And most importantly, Earth Breeze fights all your stains and odors, and you still get a really powerful clean.

This is also what I love. With every purchase, Earth Breeze donates 10 loads of detergent to a charitable cause of your choice. Trust me, there is no reason not to switch, you guys. Right now, my friends can subscribe to Earth Breeze and save 40%. Go to earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun to get started. That's earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun for 40% off. [Earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun](http://earthbreeze.com/thatsoundsfun).

Sponsor: Y'all are always so kind to compliment my hair. 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 hand-pick 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. That's prose.com/thatsoundsfun for your free in-depth hair consultation and 50% off your first subscription order.

And now back to our conversation with Eddie.

[00:27:09] <music>

Eddie: So you do it, you upload it yourself. I mean, you're just-

Annie: Oh yeah, I did it all. And then I did the same thing I did with blogging. You'll remember this. I did the same thing where I looked at the map of like, Oh my gosh, someone in Miami listens to this podcast? Wait, someone in Michigan listens to this podcast? And then by the time I got to like a thousand downloads, I was like, Wait a second, this is something. And I really enjoy it. And so that's-

Eddie: Annie!

Annie: I know.

Eddie: That's nuts.

Annie: Crazy. 10 years ago. Little Annie, little 30-something, 34-year-old Annie, 33-year-old Annie.

Eddie: You couldn't have thought at that point. I mean, maybe you did. I don't know. You couldn't have thought that it was gonna be-

Annie: You know what is really true about me is I do not know where things are gonna go, but I have a pretty clear vision of success from the start.

Eddie: Gosh.

Annie: So I don't know that things are gonna succeed, but when I made that graphic, I knew that that graphic was right. Do you know what I mean?

Eddie: Wow. That's a different... I like that. That's a cool skill.

Annie: My gut is pretty trustworthy about that kind of stuff. It's not about everything, but it is about that kind of stuff. So I didn't know we'd be doing this, I didn't know the show would look like this, but I certainly knew I was tapping into... And you remember this about me. I mean, when I was like five, before I could really read well, I was riding my bicycle around our pond at my house interviewing myself. And I remember that.

Eddie: Yeah, yeah. You've said very many times, like you would like to be the next Jimmy Fallon. There's always been that like... there was something about talking to Ted Dekker on a mic that was both new and very, very practiced.

Annie: I'm like, Here it is. Yeah, yeah. It was more like, I don't know how to do this, but I've always known I was gonna do this.

Eddie: Yeah. There was something in there.

Annie: I feel that way about frontiers we haven't gone to yet, like TV. Where I'm like, I don't know how we'll do TV, but once we start doing TV, I'll know that we were doing TV.

Eddie: Oh, I want that for you. I want you to have a studio in 30 Rock.

Annie: Oh, right. Can you imagine?

Eddie: A couple floors down.

- Annie:** I think I've told you this privately, but when I was in New York, one of my big goals was going to live recordings of TV shows. And it was purely, what's it called? A&R? No. Research into R&D. Research and development. It was all R&D. Because I was like, "I need to see how Drew Barrymore does this. I need to see how Seth Meyers does this.
- Eddie:** It's a machine.
- Annie:** Because I want to see if it... yeah. And it is nothing like you think it is. Or it was nothing like I thought it was. I don't know what you think it is. It is nothing like I thought it was.
- Eddie:** Because I've seen a few of them, but it is very different.
- Annie:** And you've been on one per se.
- Eddie:** Oh, interesting. We'll bring that up in 2020.
- Annie:** Okay, okay, okay, yeah. Our 2020 list is going to be longer, but get ready for that episode in September.
- Eddie:** I don't mean to be too amazing a podcaster, but this was the year that Jimmy Fallon started according to our list.
- Annie:** 2014? You're right.
- Eddie:** According to the list of things that we've got, Jimmy took over the Tonight Show in 2014.
- Annie:** You're exactly right.
- Eddie:** Do you remember watching that?
- Annie:** I remember watching the last episode of The Late Show. Did he have Muppets sing with him or something? He had-
- Eddie:** I think so.
- Annie:** I feel like he had something funny sing along with him, like a farewell.
- Eddie:** Who was his first guest? Was it-
- Annie:** Oh, I don't remember.

Eddie: I feel like it was Will Ferrell, but that can't be right. Will Smith? That can't be right. I don't remember who the first guest was.

Annie: No, I think Will Smith might be right.

Eddie: All I remember is he had a bunch of people come out and wish him good luck. Like, good job taking over the Tonight Show. One of them was Joan Rivers, and she had been banned from the Tonight Show since the days of Johnny. But anyway.

Annie: I think a really interesting thing about thinking about 2014 is it does not feel that long ago.

Eddie: Right.

Annie: In so many ways, it does not feel that long ago, and yet there are like Instagram reels of how we dressed in 2014. I'm like, like this, right?

Eddie: Different.

Annie: Wait, did we not... Oh gosh, what?

Eddie: It was different.

Annie: But a lot happens in 10 years in culture. Like Jimmy Fallon taking over. I can't believe he's done the show for 10 years.

Eddie: It's crazy. It's crazy.

Annie: That's crazy.

Eddie: Yes, Jimmy Fallon, yeah.

Annie: The other big news was Taco Bell finally introduced a breakfast menu. Bless the Lord.

Eddie: Now, that one was different to me, because if you had asked, I would have said inside the last two years.

Annie: Have you ever eaten it? I've never eaten it. I eat Taco Bell on the regular, and I've never eaten-

Eddie: Do you?

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: Side note, even Lucy just had Kentucky Fried Chicken for the first time last week.

Annie: Really?

Eddie: Yeah. We'd never done it. And they had always seen it, and they're like, "Can we get it?" So we got like the family thing with the bucket.

Annie: Great. What did they think?

Eddie: Very neutral to the chicken.

Annie: Oh, did you get extra crispy, or did you just get regular? Were you just giving them the initial experience?

Eddie: Regular, family. They were kind of into the mashed potatoes.

Annie: Yeah, certainly.

Eddie: Macaroni and cheese was gone immediately. And the biscuit was, you know, out of here. So it was just basically an order of cartons.

Annie: Great. You didn't do the green beans.

Eddie: I didn't see them on the menu.

Annie: They aren't.

Eddie: Okay.

Annie: But they have them.

Eddie: Oh my God.

Annie: Here's what I need you to know. After I teach at Cross Point... I have a rhythm of fasting around when I preach at Cross Point. When I am done preaching, my first stop after the 5:30 is at the Kentucky Fried Chicken across the street from the church, and I get green beans. That is my breaking my fast meal is always green beans from KFC.

Eddie: Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. You only get the green beans?

- Annie:** Yeah, because you gotta ease back in, you know?
- Eddie:** No, I do, yes. Okay. How do you know? Why do they have a secret menu item that's the only healthy thing they may offer?
- Annie:** Right?
- Eddie:** That I have a feeling they still put it in ham or something, but-
- Annie:** Butter. I'm sure. Yeah, they put it in ham. Like, it's just a vat of ham that they add green beans to.
- Eddie:** It's like a beef wellington.
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's not a salad, but it is vegetables. And it is my favorite of all the vegetables. And so, man, I get it. I think I get like a quart. I think it's like a quart container. And that's usually my dinner on the Sunday nights after I preach.
- Eddie:** I love knowing that.
- Annie:** It's so sweet now, because so many of my friends at church know that's my rhythm. So like before the 5:30, they'll be like, KFC, I like green beans. They're coming. They are coming. Okay, let's talk about the top songs of 2014. This is wild.
- Eddie:** I love this.
- Annie:** I know.
- Eddie:** Okay.
- Annie:** *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. Has that song not just always been? I thought that song had always been.
- Eddie:** That is one of those songs that as soon as you heard it, you're like, I love this. I will dislike this and then love it again. And you're right, it has always been.
- Annie:** It has always been. Also, *Shake It Off*, Taylor Swift.
- Eddie:** Really?
- Annie:** Yes, 2014.

- Eddie:** Oh. Also used as the number one trolling song by NFL teams that are playing Kansas City-
- Annie:** It is.
- Eddie:** ...which is awesome.
- Annie:** Can we just talk about the cultural phenomenon?
- Eddie:** Don't want to talk about anything else in this podcast except for what we're about to talk about.
- Annie:** It is amazing.
- Eddie:** I watched Kansas City Buffalo last night. Sorry to [inaudible 00:34:23].
- Annie:** No, no, no, this is great. Everyone knows. They're hearing this on Thursday. We recorded on Monday because I was in Africa last week. So we're recording the Monday after the Chiefs beat the Buffalo Bills.
- Eddie:** Yes. I'm gonna tell you also that there is now another construction worker, just to update you, walking towards the front door. Don't know what they need.
- Annie:** Oh, cool.
- Eddie:** There's a solid chance that I'm gonna walk away from this podcast to answer this. So anyhow-
- Annie:** You watched the-
- Eddie:** Travis Kelce. Yes. But I'm like, cultural phenomenon.
- Annie:** Amazing.
- Eddie:** Tell me everything about this. Like, what are your feelings about it?
- Annie:** As a sociologist in my heart, just watching Jason Kelce with his shirt off and Taylor right behind him, and we know who they are and we care because they're our favorite brothers with the top podcast in the world. Like, what?
- Eddie:** When they cut to Jason Kelce after that first touchdown and he is shirtless, he is wearing a pair of yoga pants, whatever.

- Annie:** He has on sweatpants.
- Eddie:** Sweatpants.
- Annie:** It is shocking. He's an NFL player, but he's like a thick NFL player.
- Annie:** He's a thick guy, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Eddie:** So like, we know he's strong and fit, but also it's funny.
- Annie:** His career is based on him being a wall that people cannot get through, not a fast, muscular person who runs quickly.
- Eddie:** Right. So it's funny to see him in Buffalo and he's standing there, and then right behind him is... I mean, it's just on so many... but I gotta tell you, I'm buying it. I was loving it. I just think it's so fun.
- Annie:** I love it. The idea that the Lord has seen fit to bless us with Taylor and Travis in an election year is more than we deserve.
- Eddie:** And you and I both know we are rooting for Kansas City to make it to the Super Bowl because we want the cutaways to Taylor at the Super Bowl watching Usher. You and I both know we want that.
- Annie:** Jake Johnson from *New Girl* was doing an interview on a sports podcast, I saw the clip on socials, and he said... you know, because there's a whole theory that there's a scriptwriters for the NFL and that everything follows a script. So the whole thing's been decided. Do you not know this?
- Eddie:** No. But I just disappeared into the internet.
- Annie:** I'll see you in a month when you're done reading about this because it is one of the more fascinating conspiracy theories is that the whole thing is decided before the season starts and it is a script that is run, which is shocking to think about. But he says the scriptwriters want Taylor and Travis kissing under confetti at the Super Bowl. Duh, they do. Of course, they do.
- Eddie:** Of course, they do. Because if he wins, if they win, she's coming on the field.
- Annie:** The queen of our nation will be on the field.
- Eddie:** The most popular musician in the planet right now.

Annie: Right.

Eddie: By the numbers, right? I understand Beyoncé in our hearts may be number one, whatever you feel.

Annie: Sure. Adele, certainly.

Eddie: Adele, no problem, yes. But the fact that she could be under the confetti on the Super Bowl.

Annie: Do you know who the winner is? Brittany Mahomes.

Eddie: Oh, right, who we kind of knew-

Annie: Winner.com.

Eddie: Who we knew of, but now she's the girl with the fluffy head.

Annie: It was fairly disliked.

Eddie: Yeah, for no viable reason.

Annie: For no reason. For absolutely no reason, except doing TikToks on the sideline with her brother-in-law. I get it. I get it. She's not everybody's flavor, fine. But now she's Taylor's best friend. So now there's hugging. Brittany Mahomes hugging Taylor and shaking her after Travis Kelce scores, and Jason Kelce turning up a beer in the background is... it might as well be in a museum on a wall for me. Paint it eight feet wide and six feet tall, and I will stand there and stare.

Eddie: Oh, it is just a delicious piece of pop culture unfolding. And it's gonna explode somehow, or they're gonna get married and it's gonna go into another gear, whatever.

Annie: Fine. I'll tell you what I thought about when I was brushing my teeth this morning. Thanks for asking. I thought about what it's gonna look like when she gets pregnant. After my assuming they will get married, they will decide to have a family, she'll get pregnant, I was thinking about the People Magazine and what it will do. I mean, I did to her relationship what I do to all of my relationships, where I take it way down the track just to see what I think about the visuals.

Eddie: Way down the track.

Annie: Way down the track. I thought about that this morning while I was brushing my teeth.

Eddie: I don't think she would reveal her pregnancy in People. I think it would be something... like I could see her doing-

Annie: She's probably bigger than People magazine, right?

Eddie: Oh, yes. If it was any magazine, it would be like a Vogue cover or something super stylistic or it's just like hidden in a song. Rihanna did the greatest. It was like-

Annie: The halftime show.

Eddie: Comes out of the Super Bowl halftime. Everybody realizes she's pregnant and that was about as cool as it gets.

Annie: I mean, how does Taylor Swift even get married, and it not be the most public thing ever? Like, they'll have to get secretly married.

Eddie: Right. We will either be following it like a royal wedding or find out the day after or something like that.

Annie: Is this our royal wedding?

Eddie: Is this our royal wedding? Also, this is how big it is that we're celebrating 10 years of your show. And we're done-

Annie: We've spent eight minutes on it.

Eddie: Who cares? New topic. We just are done.

Annie: It is impossible for you and I not to do an episode of Annie and Eddie Keep Talking. And it is impossible for Taylor and Travis not to be our co-host for the foreseeable future.

Eddie: I do. I love the Brothers podcast. I love them. I love the way they talk to each other. I love the way they care for each other. I love the way they razz each other. I love the whole thing.

Annie: I love Kylie. I love Jason's wife.

Eddie: Oh yeah. She's funny.

Annie: She seems lovely.

Eddie: She is really, really funny. She gets the whole thing.

Annie: She's really funny.

Eddie: Yeah, flies above it all.

Annie: They seem wonderful. All of them.

Eddie: That whole machine is working for me. I love it all.

Annie: Same! I mean, people who say, I don't think this is a real relationship, fine. I don't agree with you. Fine. I'm gonna live in the world where it's real.

Eddie: I don't care. I don't care. I mean, I think it's real. I believe that it is a real relationship. I believe that it is a complex relationship because how could it not be? I also believe that I would come home every day, every Sunday after church in fifth grade, and watch WWF and 100% believe it all. And now that I know that it wasn't, does it make it any less fun? No, I loved it. It was the best.

Annie: I bought Nikes in Rwanda for \$25.

Eddie: Right.

Annie: Real enough to me.

Eddie: It works for you.

Annie: Real enough for me. They say it, N-I-K-E. They say it. So there it is.

Eddie: That's what is the difference.

Annie: I am curious, is a relationship complicated when you're at that level of fame and wealth?

Eddie: I mean, I do think the scrutiny of it. I mean, it's gotta be. It's gotta be weird having everybody watching you. I mean, I know they're both used to it.

Annie: I've never had a public... I mean, I've barely dated public people and it has been weird when it's been barely public.

Eddie: Right. Because you know that even if you're going out with a gentleman caller and you're just at a... or a lover, as you would say, and you're just out at a-

Annie: "As you would say."

Eddie: You're just at a taco place and you've assumed a lover at a taco place. Like you still... there's a reality-

Annie: I assume a lover at every taco place. I'm like, which one of you?

Eddie: Yeah, that's one of your things. You walk in and they're like, Oh, I'll take the [yanny?].

Annie: We already are sharing this love, therefore.

Eddie: Right, right. There is a reality that, like at this point, you've been doing a podcast that people have listened to for a decade. Nashville is a big, small town. You've written a bunch of books.

Annie: I've actually had people DM me after seeing me on a date and say, "I didn't come speak to you because it looked like you were on a date and he seems very nice."

Eddie: Right. "You two were at a hookah bar and I didn't want to bother you."

Annie: Oh! Ha ha ha ha ha! Taco/hookah bar, hookah bar. Jeez.

Eddie: What would you do if the guy was just like, here's our night.

Annie: Jeez!

Eddie: I swiped right on you, I would love to.

Annie: Right. Oh my gosh. Hilarious.

[00:42:53] <music>

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Sponsor: Okay, have y'all listened to our latest episodes of Annie's MiniBFF podcast yet? We are having the best time getting to read some of our favorite stories from the gospels from some of our favorite kids' storybook Bibles. And in case you missed the announcement, you can also watch the episodes on YouTube. Y'all, we are having a great time.

So if the MiniBFFs in your life want to follow along with what we're reading as they listen or watch, Zonderkidz is offering a discount on the storybook Bibles that we're going through. It's the collection that includes the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible, and the I Wonder Bible.

So just visit faithgateway.com and use the code AD20, like Annie Downs, two-zero, for an extra 20% off any of these three products, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible, or the I Wonder Bible. That's faithgateway.com, and the code is AD20 for an extra 20% off any of these three products. Make sure you grab the bundle as we have more episodes coming up every Monday.

Annie: Did you hear the fun news? The Let's Read the Gospels Guided Journal comes out March 5th. You can pre-order it right now. We have loved going through the Gospels with you over on Let's Read the Gospels podcast. As we were talking about how special and sacred that has been, my publisher said, this really matters.

So we decided to create this beautiful journal that includes a 30-day reading plan that we've never done together on the podcast, so it's brand new to us, too. It also includes questions for you to process along the way and journaling prompts for you to go through.

We're going to do this book together as a community and on the podcast in April of 2024. So start thinking about who in your life you could invite to go through the Guided Journal and Gospels with you. Go ahead, get your copies of the Let's Read the Gospels Guided Journal today. You know what we say around here. You don't have to be in the Gospels every day to be changed, but every day you are in the Gospels will change you.

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And now back to finish up our 2014 conversation with Eddie.

[00:46:33] <music>

Annie: Okay, we're going to talk about movies, too. You got time for that?

Eddie: Yeah, what else am I doing?

Annie: Top movies in 2014, top-grossing movies. It's also fascinating to think about 2014 because I didn't have Hulu. I didn't have Netflix. I didn't have none of this. I went to the theater to see all of these.

Eddie: I don't know. I mean, was I still getting Netflix CDs at that point?

Annie: Yeah, I was.

Eddie: Probably.

Annie: Yeah, I was.

Eddie: I mean, it was basically cable or nothing at this point still.

Annie: Right, right.

Eddie: Yeah, okay. Yeah, okay, so top movies.

Annie: It's a wild collection because of the top 10, *Spider-Man 2*, *Captain America*, *X-Men*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Transformers*. All like summer blockbusters.

Eddie: Huge, massive.

Annie: And *Hunger Games*, which I love.

Eddie: I loved that movie. I saw that in the theater. I loved it.

Annie: I love those movies. The weird thing to me is when... like if you had asked me when *The Hobbit* came out, inside the last five years. The fact that that is a decade-old movie, time is very odd.

Annie: I know.

Eddie: *Interstellar*, cannot stay awake through that movie.

Annie: Here's the one that shocked me on this list: *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*. That was one of the top 10 movies of the year?

Eddie: Wow. This was just a lot of big studio.

Annie: Why did we want to go to the theater so bad that year?

Eddie: We just wanted them. Did you ever see *Captain America: Winter Soldier* though?

Annie: Well, yeah, I did.

Eddie: Hold on.

Annie: That's an attractive gentleman.

Eddie: Oh, oh yeah. Chris Evans, is that his name?

Annie: No, no, no, Winter Soldier is the other guy, right?

Eddie: I don't remember.

Annie: In Winter Soldier, the dark-headed guy?

Eddie: Oh, yeah. Well, I mean, it's still *Captain America*.

Annie: Yeah, yeah. And Chris Evans' lovely. Chris Evans. This is the Taylor Travis path. Chris Evans says when he turns, I don't know, 40 last year, "I'm ready to get married, I want to find my partner, I'm going to focus on that." And by gosh, he did. You just say that when you're Chris Evans and then you find your wife?

- Eddie:** I do think that does work if you're Chris Evans.
- Annie:** And I think it kind of works more when you're a dude, right?
- Eddie:** I have no idea as the last person... I had already been married nine years by the time this came out.
- Annie:** You were married nine years by 2014?
- Eddie:** Yeah, yeah. We were all in it.
- Annie:** Y'all got married in 2005? So y'all are about to be 20 years next year?
- Eddie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Annie:** Eddie, that's so cool!
- Eddie:** Yeah, we've been married for a while. I mean, at this point, we have little babies, too. We have... 20, 11, and 12, when they're born. So they're like three and two.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh, y'all are in the thick of it in 2014.
- Eddie:** I'm not going to post a picture, but I'm going to send you a picture of them on Halloween this year, which would have been right before you started the podcast. Eve was the man in the yellow hat, and Lucy was Curious George because that's all they were into, was Curious George.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh.
- Eddie:** And Eve's beautiful afro puffin' out from underneath the yellow hat. It was the most beautiful. But they're babies.
- Annie:** Were you sleeping at that point, or were they behaving at night?
- Eddie:** Oh yeah, they were always good sleepers. Eve is a rock and roll sleeper. Yeah, yeah. Those are very fun years. Like two, three, four, or five. Those are very sweet. They're old enough to chit-chat and have fun, but young enough that they're just babies, and you can just play all day.
- Annie:** Wow.
- Eddie:** So nine years, two and three years old.

Annie: That is fascinating. That is so many of my friends. It is so funny to think that... I think I may have told this to you. One of the most fascinating things about my life right now is my hometown friends that are married have high schoolers. My Nashville friends have elementary school kids. My New York friends are having babies, and we're all the same age. It is so interesting that my peers in each city have-

Eddie: That's weird.

Annie: It is, of course, a bell curve. There are people, of course, of course.

Eddie: Right, right.

Annie: I mean, my best friends in Atlanta, their oldest kids are finishing high school.

Eddie: Wow, that is trippy.

Annie: Because they got married in the 2000s, in the early 2000s, and had babies like y'all. I mean, wild.

Eddie: I mean, that is crazy. Why did I bring that up?

Annie: I brought it up because I said the age-

Eddie: Oh, Chris Evans.

Annie: Chris Evans.

Eddie: Yeah. And you said Chris Evans... Does it work for dudes? And I was like, I don't know. I don't know. The last time I even attempted to do this, it was a long time ago.

Annie: Yeah, you used landline phones probably, right?

Eddie: Oh, yeah. Oh, totally. It was like 21 when we started hanging out.

Annie: Okay, anything else about 2014 that we need to make sure to cover?

Eddie: Well, I mean-

Annie: Great snacks.

Eddie: Where were we snack-wise? Anything worth really noting?

- Annie:** Goldfish flavor blasted queso fiesta. I didn't even know that existed.
- Eddie:** Finally. Oh, boar's head roasted chipotle pepper hummus, people need to know, this was also a list that was slightly curated for us.
- Annie:** Lillian made this for us.
- Eddie:** So we're learning.
- Annie:** So she must have really cared about that boar's head roasted chipotle pepper hummus. I don't know. I don't know how she found that list, but I'm impressed with her.
- Eddie:** No, I think it's fantastic.
- Annie:** I know.
- Eddie:** I mean, this was the year... you know, personally, the only thing was... this was my last year being a pastor, and I switched to IJM in September of that year.
- Annie:** Really?
- Eddie:** I started in IJM in September of '14.
- Annie:** How long did you pastor? How many years?
- Eddie:** It was like five years, and then counseling before that in the same church and stuff like that.
- Annie:** What do you miss about being a pastor?
- Eddie:** I miss one thing very specifically, and that is the very personal rights. So the administering of ashes on Ash Wednesday, standing with a couple and marrying them, baptizing someone.
- Annie:** You just married someone last weekend, though.
- Eddie:** I did. I did. Emily. So baptizing someone. The moments of seeing God change and affect someone, and the seat that you get to that. I'm not a part of it, but I just get to stand right there. I miss that very, very much. The like very close moments of seeing someone go into a water and come up, and you can just tell something

profound has happened, and everybody else is 10 feet away, but you're right there, and you hear them inhale, you know? I miss that.

Annie: Right, right.

Eddie: I miss that. Yeah, anything else for you?

Annie: Will you ever do it again?

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

Annie: It's not like a no. You're not like, never.

Eddie: It's a little odd thing, though, because you're never not doing it, in a way.

Annie: That's exactly right.

Eddie: I mean, like, you never leave that job. You may leave the post. I'm still officiating weddings, still having real conversations, things like that. Okay, is there anything in 2014, besides professional stuff, that's worth noting for you? I don't want to like get all up in your business, but like-

Annie: I mean, no. I don't remember.

Eddie: Okay.

Annie: I'm trying to think. You know, I had a really interesting thing happen this very morning, where I was sitting and reading, and I thought of this old journal, so I pulled it out, and in the journal, I had such a profound shift. But here's what is... I don't remember the men that were in my life in that window of time. From like 2011 to like 2016, I have a weird, like, not memory.

Because I opened this old journal from 2017, and I was like, oh yeah, I remember this, and then I moved forward in the journal, and in the journal, I wrote, I don't even remember... the journal was like 2021. And I was like, "I don't even remember who I liked before 2017."

Eddie: Are you talking about like boys you went and got tacos with or something?

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Eddie: Okay, I see.

Annie: Yeah. So I'm trying to think, knowing like, I didn't have a heartbreaking breakup in that window of time.

Eddie: Yeah, good.

Annie: That I remember. I started counseling in 2013, and so, for so much of 2014 and 2015, it was repairing, and restoring, and doing the hard work of that first year plus of shaping yourself.

Eddie: But man, that makes sense. Like, I don't know if you would draw this, so I don't want to draw an unfair or weave an unfair thread into your life, but like counseling, then you're writing your first nonfiction adult book, which takes a fair amount of revelation and ability, and then you're getting on a podcast, which even just that... I mean, I know that-

Annie: Totally.

Eddie: I know that like Ted Dekker spawned it, but it was still, you were still percolating.

Annie: That's right?

Eddie: It was still there. So you had this creative moment, like, there's something in that that all seems... Does it feel like that to you? Does it feel like it all ties together?

Annie: I think, also 2013, part of going to counseling is 2013's also the year where I thought I was a big deal, and I drank my own Kool-Aid a little bit, and wasn't very pleasant to be around all the time. I thought I was a pretty big deal. I think everybody that has a public life needs to go through that to get to the other side of humility, and actually live out of humility, not out of pride, versus experience.

Then I lived out of pride, and I experienced humility. Now I live out of humility, and I experience prideful moments. Like, certainly I still wrestle with that, but that's not my house. And '13 was when that had to switch, and into '14. So, for me, 2014 is kind of this like a door closed behind me, and a door opened in front of me in 2014, but I wasn't out of the hallway in between yet.

Eddie: Because podcasting is revealing. Like, a writer, you can have an editor kind of save you from yourself. Not that writing isn't hard, but it's a different like-

Annie: Totally.

- Eddie:** It goes through a lot. Podcasting is, people are gonna know you. So, if you hadn't been... The odd thing is, I've decided to go into a process of thinking I'm a pretty big deal.
- Annie:** Oh, now's your time?
- Eddie:** I'm launching into it, so.
- Annie:** Okay, great.
- Eddie:** Everybody hit me up on Instagram. Make sure you follow me.
- Annie:** Move into that house of pride. Just move on in.
- Eddie:** Hit me on Cameo.
- Annie:** It is pretty fun for about four months.
- Eddie:** Oh yeah. When you think you're special?
- Annie:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. When people are still responding in a way that they're okay with you being a brat. That's pretty cool for a while.
- Eddie:** Really cool, yeah, until you realize you're just, you know, building just cancer cells around yourself when everything's falling apart.
- Annie:** That is a house of cards. It looks great. The first two levels build beautifully.
- Eddie:** But I also think there's something to the fact that, like, you would not have imploded. You wouldn't have made it a decade-plus had that not happened. We know plenty of people who have imploded. Plenty. Like, that's gonna catch up with you. Either you're going to reconcile it or the world is gonna reconcile it for you, but you cannot sit in that reality.
- Annie:** I got my professional feelings hurt last week. Not my personal feelings, but my professional feelings hurt.
- Eddie:** I know what you mean. I know what you mean, yeah.
- Annie:** And I said to a coworker in the moment, I said, "This is actually what I've asked God for, is I want to be humbled and private as much as possible." And this isn't all the way private, because my team knew and people, you know... but like, I'll take

this as often as He'll let me over public humbling because I wasn't available for private humbling.

Eddie: Man.

Annie: And he says, humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He'll lift you up, right? I mean, that's what scripture says. So the more I can take the private personal development versus the public personal development, I will take it.

Eddie: I guess. But also as your friend, I'm a little bit like flop sweating and a little angry at whatever happened. So I'm still sorry it happened.

Annie: It's all right, it's all right. It's a good reminder, right? It never is bad 10 years in for me to remember that... just like I don't love Earl Grey tea, that says nothing about Earl Grey tea. That is not a statement about Earl Grey tea. That is not a value place on Earl Grey tea. I, Annie F. Downs, do not like the flavor. And therefore-

Eddie: And *Ted Lasso*.

Annie: Yeah, yeah. Everyone else can have it. It is super okay if I'm someone's Earl Grey tea. And it is just good to be reminded of that sometimes, right? It's just good to be reminded of like, you are... Taylor and Travis are... not everyone loves that we talked about that. That's not everybody's Earl Grey tea. Or that's some people's Earl Grey tea. That is my like Coke Icy, man. Put it in my veins. But not everybody's.

Eddie: Yeah, absolutely.

Annie: Not everybody's.

Eddie: Well, hey, 10 years, congratulations.

Annie: Thanks. 2014, what a good year.

Eddie: It was a really good year.

Annie: Oh, well, great year. I'm not gonna really talk bad about a year until we get to '22.

Eddie: 2022? Yeah.

Annie: All the rest of them I've got good things to say about it. '22 was terrible. But all the others, I've got good things to say.

Eddie: '22 was terrible.

Annie: Yeah, '22 was terrible for me.

Eddie: I mean, we'll still find some positive in it.

Annie: Yeah, we'll talk about the top songs. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But we'll also tell the truth.

Eddie: I'm looking forward too to doing like our... when we intersect in some stuff.

Annie: Oh, I can't wait.

Eddie: Because like, that's 2016. And then again, substantially in 2020. It's fun.

Annie: Yeah, it's really fun.

Eddie: Hey, congratulations. I won't not say this, but like-

Annie: Thanks. It's gonna be fun this year. Thanks for being a part of it.

Eddie: This is great. I love this. I love this.

Annie: Me too. I mean, literally, I record a lot of podcasts every year, as do you. I don't do another interview, conversation, where we blink and it's 51 minutes.

Eddie: Poof.

Annie: And I've thought, do we need to take out half of that?

Eddie: Was that okay career-wise?

Annie: Yeah.

Eddie: Kind of making mistakes, so I don't know.

Annie: Did I mean to say that, or did I just say that to Eddie?

Eddie: Did I cancel myself? I don't think. I think I'm fine.

Annie: Is someone gonna text me later and stop me saying that on this pod? Maybe. Well, all right, Edward. Well, I hope your basement is put together a little more in a month.

Eddie: Oh man, I hope so. I hope so. We got all kinds of-

Annie: Yeah. We'll just keep the update coming.

Eddie: Yeah, I love chatting with you.

Annie: Yeah, same.

Eddie: That's it. I didn't really pick up the ball well on that, did I?

Annie: Yeah, you did great. No, that's fine.

Eddie: I kind of fell into the abyss on that.

Annie: No, I'm into it. I'm into it. What we'll do every month is recap what's happened in our lives and that particular year. So in February, we'll talk about February leap year.

Eddie: Ooh.

Annie: Very exciting.

Eddie: Weird.

Annie: Weird. And we'll know who won the Superbowl.

Eddie: Yeah. Oh yeah. It'll be big.

Annie: We'll know if the scriptwriters are right. And we'll talk about 2015.

Eddie: Yeah. And Lucy's just trudging up the driveway right now, so I'm gonna go see my girl.

Annie: Oh great. Tell her I said hi.

Eddie: I promise I will.

Annie: All right, friends. Well, go wash your hands.

Eddie: Bye buddies.

[01:01:24] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys. Isn't he the best? Okay, so first of all, you've got to go to Instagram and see the pictures that Eddie and I talked about. The first time I ever posted about That Sounds Fun, some 2014 memes. And if you have any memories from 2014 you want to share with us, just go over to That Sounds Fun podcast on Instagram, and there is a place there because we would love to hear your memories of 2014. And you know, you can give us your thoughts on Taylor and Travis as well.

If you have any questions from this episode, drop them in the Q and A box on your Spotify app if you're a Spotify listener, or send them to us on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast. We'll try to answer them there.

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 is how you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you, and I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is I am packing to go for 24 hours to Canada. I don't think I can tell you why. I'll have to double-check. But follow along on social media and I'll tell you what I can tell you. But I'm about to spend the weekend in Canada. I cannot wait.

Y'all have a great weekend. We'll see you back here on Monday for a really cool conversation. Really important in a lot of this. [wowie zowie] A lot of the wowie zowie button as we talk about singleness in the church with Pastor David Platt.

This is a conversation for my married friends, for you to hear about singleness in the church, a conversation for my single friends to have some... I told you so moments about what you're experiencing in the church. You are not alone. And we need to talk about being single and an adult in the church in 2024. We're doing it with David Platt. Y'all, I'm telling you, you don't want to miss this one. So we'll see you back here on Monday. Bring your friends. This is a good one for us all to talk about.