

[00:00:00] <music>

Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another special Christmas episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you today and one of our most requested and most honored guests. Just want to remind you that you can keep listening later in episode as our That Sounds Fun Network hosts have sent us a little clip of their favorite Christmas snack.

Before we dive into today's conversation, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors, Athletic Greens. When I started drinking AG1 daily, I could really feel a difference. I also noticed I had more energy, which do I need more energy? I don't know. But I had more. It's because AG1 is a foundational nutrition supplement that supports your body's universal needs like your gut health and stress management and immune support. I mean, I'm really thankful for that right now about the sickness flying around.

Since 2010, AG1 has led the future of foundational nutrition, continuously refining their formula to create a smarter, better way to elevate your baseline health. I recommend AG1 to all of you guys, my friends, because it is truly such an easy way to start my day with the vitamins and minerals I need. All I do is mix one scoop of powder in really cold water once a day.

AG1 is the supplement I trust to provide the support my body needs daily and that's why they've been a partner for so long, and we are so grateful. If you want to take ownership over your health it starts with AG1. Try AG1 and get free one-year supply of vitamin D3 K2 and five free AG1 travel packs with your first purchase. Go to drinkag1.com/soundsfun. That's drinkag1.com/soundsfun. Y'all check it out.

Intro: Today on the show we have one of our Hall of Fanners, which means a guest that has been on the show five times or more. It is the one and only Santa Claus. Oh, man, what an honor to have Santa back in the studio again this year. They are running ahead as you are gonna hear. So he had a little time to sit down and chat with us.

If you are new to the podcast and did not know that Santa Claus comes on every year, you can actually go to our Spotify playlist that is linked in the show notes and you can listen to all the episodes with Santa Claus, and you will learn a lot, including today. Wow, I learned some stuff today.

So here is my conversation—and we're talking a lot about gifts this year—with our friend Santa Claus.

[00:02:22] <Music>

Annie: Well, Santa Claus, welcome back to the show. This is your sixth episode, Santa.

Santa: Is it really?

Annie: Yeah.

Santa: It's a dangerous number.

Annie: Tell me more.

Santa: No, just biblically.

Annie: Oh, true. Next year will really be the one. It won't be your last but it'll be completion. Santa, I've got to show you something. We have a special Hall of Fun here-

Santa: Oh, what is this?

Annie: ...at That Sounds Fun. This is everyone who's been on the show five times or more. It is a short list. Only 14 out of 800-something episodes. Only 14 people. And you and surprisingly Dave Barns are both on there.

Santa: What a handsome devil. When you held up, the first name I saw was his.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: I'm just glued to it right now. I can't pull my eyes off of it-

Annie: Because you're right there, buddy.

Santa: Oh, right. There's me, and him. And then me and then all those wonderful people.

Annie: You're right between Ellie Holcomb and John Mark Comer. What does that say, Santa?

Santa: Theologically, it's exactly right. That's what I sort of navigate.

Annie: Oh, well we are so honored to have you back. I mean, this is an early trip this year. We usually don't get to talk to you till way more crunch time.

Santa: We're ahead. We're ahead.

Annie: Are you?

Santa: Mm-Hmm.

Annie: How? What's different this year?

Santa: We don't know.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: We don't have a clue.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: We just know looks like we're moving quickly.

Annie: Wow. So you had some time to pop down.

Santa: I guess. Yes, I did.

Annie: I was at Dave Barnes' concert at his Christmas show over the weekend. Is that why you're in town?

Santa: In some ways I'm always there. You know?

Annie: Wow.

Santa: In spirit and physically. But this year I was both. What a show!

Annie: What a show.

Santa: What was your favorite part?

Annie: Oh, what was mine? Well, you know, I got to stand backstage with his children, and watching them dance was my favorite part.

Santa: What great kids!

Annie: What great kids!

Santa: What great kids.

Annie: Nice list straight on.

Santa: So many gifts. So many gifts.

Annie: One of our questions from a friend is, is Dave Barnes on the naughty or the nice list this year? This year.

Santa: Oh.

Annie: We gotta define it.

Santa: You know, it's one of the things I respect so much about Dave is he keeps a foot in both.

Annie: He's a man of the people.

Santa: He is. If he was too nice he'd be boring. But if he was too naughty, well then we all know.

Annie: We know that guy. So he's-

Santa: We call him nicey.

Annie: He's on the nicey list, which is just like kind of on the line.

Santa: Yeah. Towing it. Towing it.

Annie: Okay. So you know this because you... I mean, you know everything. This is next year. 2024 is the 10th year of the That Sounds Fun podcast. We have got a lot of fun things planned. One of them is we're making a switch and we wanted you to be the first one to try this new layout of That Sounds Fun.

Santa: Okay.

Annie: Instead of saving our big question for the end, we wanna lead with it.

Santa: Okay.

Annie: So, Santa Claus, as we jump into the show today, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Santa: It's a trifecta of things.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: Yeah. One, an Arsenal football club match, which is really-

Annie: Oh, really? They're your team.

Santa: They're really doing well this year. I'd love to see them.

Annie: You saw them last? Nope. Dave Barnes saw them last year at-

Santa: Well, I was gonna meet them there.

Annie: Oh, right.

Santa: Incognito.

Annie: That's right. That's right.

Santa: As a player.

Annie: That's right. Wow.

Santa: I can do it. I can do it.

Annie: Wow. You're a shifter? Do I need to call the Blurry Creatures guys?

Santa: No. There's always that sub on the bench. You're like, "I don't recognize him."
And-

Annie: It's you.

Santa: Well, let's just say I have good-

Annie: Wow. We've learned so much about you in-

Santa: That would be great. I would love to ski. I know that sounds crazy, but snow ski.

Annie: Really?

Santa: Yeah.

Annie: You love it?

Santa: I do. We just haven't been in a while. You know, me and the Mrs-

Annie: Well, I mean, my guess is, correct me if I'm wrong, the snowy season on the North Pole is (a) year round, but (b) it is probably like people love to go skiing around winter, which is Christmas, and you're busy.

Santa: There we go.

Annie: You're ahead.

Santa: I'm ahead. So I was like, Let's hit the Alps.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: Or Paoli Peaks.[00:06:16]

Annie: That's a great question. I've never asked you this before. When you go to a hotel, do you have like a black card to get into every hotel? Like, do you have to pay like everyone else when you're going skiing in the Alps?

Santa: It looks like I am, but no.

Annie: Oh, okay. It's a different system.

Santa: There's a back door and a whole thing.

Annie: You used a different door-

Santa: I do.

Annie: ...than everybody else at every hotel in the world that you use?

Santa: The janitorial door. It's a service industry what I do. So I wanna stay with the people. Do you know what I mean?

Annie: Ah, Mm-Hmm. Speaking of the... Oh, did you have more things that sounds fun to you?

Santa: Well, the third was just a pecks. Sounds fun to have some pecks.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: Just to be-

Annie: You just gonna work out?

Santa: I don't know. I don't know. I just feel like I see pecked men and I think, oh, just to be some wash mold abs, you know? But you know, it's not the future for me.

Annie: No, it's not part of the vibe.

Santa: It's a casualty of the job. Because naturally I'm very fit. But-

Annie: Wow. Very Scott Calvin of you like the Santa Claus. Yeah.

Santa: Where do you think they got that idea?

Annie: Right.

Santa: But, you know, I just have to keep the LPs on for the look and for photo, etc.

Annie: That makes sense. But I understand that sounding fun to you.

Santa: Mm-Hmm.

Annie: Okay. Speaking of the people, the top question that has come in for you, are you the reason Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are together?

Santa: Okay. Even the Elves truthfully have been asking this question. One of the things that I need to make clear is yes. Ultimately globally, yes. Literally globally yes. Here's the fun part though. She sent, like everybody, Taylor sent her wish in for the year and I quickly-

Annie: Last year?

Santa: Yes. And I quickly scanned it and I saw tight end. And so I was gonna send her a bike and some Lululemon gear, you know, some glute exercises. And then I looked at it again and I said, "Oh my goodness, an NFL tight end. And that got me confused because I don't know the sport very well. So I was like, is it pictures of tight ends? Which don't Google. For the kids out there, do not Google that. And eventually I saw, oh, it's Mr. Kelce. So, you know, just some things happened and some magic here and there, and bada bing, bada boom, you know? And here we are.

Annie: I've been wondering, ever since it started, I thought, this smells like Santa.

Santa: Mm-Hmm.

- Annie:** This feels like you're a part of that. So what do I need to put on my list that I ha... I thought I was pretty clear every year. I have not said tight end. I mean, do I need to say the actual position the person plays in a sport?
- Santa:** Well, with Taylor, it's an interesting thing because, you know, what do you get the girl who has everything? You know, she's risen to a certain amount of stardom. And you just rarely get requests at that level.
- Annie:** Sure.
- Santa:** Because they just don't get it themselves.
- Annie:** Sure.
- Santa:** Which, if you wanna know the saddest thing for me, that's it.
- Annie:** Is a people gift-
- Santa:** I can no longer be a gift giver.
- Annie:** Oh, wow. I've never thought about that.
- Santa:** Me neither till right now. But I'm feeling like right now it is the saddest thing for me, and so I'm gonna say that. So when I got hers, I thought, "Well, we need to honor this because, you know, she's coming back. You know, there's something that she wants." And it was love.
- Annie:** So what I'm hearing you say for all of us-
- Santa:** World tour where-
- Annie:** We need to play hard to get with Santa-
- Santa:** Well, it works.
- Annie:** ...in order to get a partner?
- Santa:** It works.
- Annie:** Okay. Okay. Noted. Noted. Literally noted. Noted right here. Okay. Pretend like I don't need anything. This feels very similar to what I was taught in middle school about-

Santa: Well-

Annie: It's contentment. Pretend like you don't need anything and that's when God gives it to you.

Santa: That's exactly it.

Annie: Interesting. You are Santa. One of the things I wanted us to... we've never done this before. But since you're early this year, I noticed on the New York Post they did a list of the hottest Christmas toys for 2023 and I thought, well, you made all of these. What a year!

Santa: I dunno how much I can say, but sure. We quote-unquotes made them all.

Annie: Wait, what?

Santa: So, maybe, you know, hypothetically the reason I have more time this year might be because we have outsourced. Ah, I feel like I've essentially said too much already.

Annie: Wait, you have outsourced from the elves at the North Pole and the workshop?

Santa: Listen, listen. Okay, off the record, do you know how many people there are in the World?

Annie: 7 billion.

Santa: When we started it was 63 people. 63 people. We had so much off time. So much off time. It was one family.

Annie: Right.

Santa: You know, they were already giving gifts to each other. And it's just gotten overwhelming, and it's just growing.

Annie: So therefore you're outsourcing to whom, Santa? You've got a... I mean...

Santa: Let's just say it's the name of a rainforest.

Annie: No, Santa. You can't outsource to Amazon.

Santa: I didn't say that word.

Annie: Oh gosh. Oh boy.

Santa: You know, it could be the Rainforest Cafe, but there's a lot of options. But yes, it's a lot.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: It is a lot.

Annie: That is hard to hear.

Santa: People don't know this either. This is a fun fact. An elf lives for 500 years, roughly.

Annie: Oh, yeah. I think they do that.

Santa: So, you know, the turnover is very low. So our population doesn't increase quickly. We definitely don't keep up with the global. So, you know-

Annie: This is heartbreaking. I mean, I'm fine with it. I understand the changing of the times.

Santa: Listen, listen, it's-

Annie: Ooh, I'm pulling up some questions from Instagram because Dustin asked, which I'm afraid of where you're gonna go with this, you've made many trips around the world-

Santa: 225 10 times. And that's just a quick... if I'm just get... sorry. I may have jumped at... what was he going to ask?

Annie: He wasn't asking about your new pets you're going after. He was asking if there's any locations or moments every year that stand out to you as special. Is there somewhere you stop every year that you love the most?

Santa: New York Central Park. The scene from it... Okay. You know, I'm gonna read you in here.

Annie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Santa: The scene from Elf was a true story from 1943.

Annie: Wow.

Santa: You know, was it me, was it not? Who knows? You know?

Annie: Yeah, sure.

Santa: That's what I do, it's just a little snack break. Yeah. We have a little place that we sort of alight, if you will and I'll get some carbs going. And it's so quiet and beautiful. That's one-

Annie: Carbs going. Carbs?

Santa: Carbs? Corns on the combs?

Santa: It's the accent.

Annie: Got it.

Santa: How do you say carbs? Carbs. Can't do the accent.

Annie: Do you mean do like toast?

Santa: Yeah. Just some gluten.

Annie: Got it. Got it.

Santa: Just for the blood sugar.

Annie: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Gotta keep it up.

Santa: Oh dear.

Annie: Because there aren't enough cookies waiting.

Santa: I've told how many calories I burn that night?

Annie: No.

Santa: 2.3 million calories. It's astounding.

Annie: It is technically.

Santa: I have to really keep the sugars coming.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: That's one. I'll do something somewhere in Brazil usually. I love the Jesus statues. Will either on the arm or something.

Annie: Oh, funny.

Santa: And then usually Emirate Stadium. That just for me is awesome.

Annie: Oh, arsenal stuff. Yeah.

Santa: You know, just kind of-

Annie: I'm sure they don't mind.

Santa: ...have a kick about with, you know, the reindeer.

Annie: I don't think this is a good question to ask you globally. But in the US our friend... let me look at her name. Callie.

Santa: Callie I was gonna say.

Annie: Callie is wondering what part of the US has the highest percentage of folks on the naughty list?

Santa: Oh, Mississippi.

Annie: Really?

Santa: Oh, it's out of control. And Nevada. I mean-

Annie: Well-

Santa: Obviously.

Annie: That feels more onramp than... but this is why you're amazing.

Santa: But you'd be surprised. You know, the Delta particularly has a very interesting Venn diagram of people.

Annie: Uh-huh, Uhhuh. Yeah..

Santa: You know, it's not a lot to do and so you tend to get into trouble. So, you know.

Annie: I'm getting distracted because we're doing our Christmas list of toys, but I'm looking through Instagram and all these questions. Another important question is, would you rather... this is from Nora I believe. Nora would like to know if you would rather have a glitter sleigh over your red sleigh.

Santa: We workshopped this.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: Yeah, in 1987. And Harmonicas was the Elf in charge at the time, we called him Big Arm because he was so small.

Annie: Harmonicas is his name.

Santa: Harmonicas.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: Which I ironically invented the Harmonica true story.

Annie: I understand he did. That makes sense.

Santa: He was in Bob Dylan's band, sort of incognito.

Annie: Oh wow.

Santa: That's whole thing. But he was like, what if we rap? He even-

Annie: Oh, sure. Because you could have sold that for sponsorship.

Santa: Here's the thing. Here's the thing is we've taken meetings about wrapping it.

Annie: For our friends listening, it's like, how I wanna wrap a bus with a face on it.

Santa: So, you know, like whatever. You know, whatever.

Annie: Amazon.

Santa: Athletic Greens.

Annie: Athletic Greens.

Santa: Amazon. Methodical-

Annie: Brooklinen.

Santa: There's so many. Brooklinen, yeah. They are all there. So it was kind of a test run to see like, can you see it from the sky? You know, half mile?

Annie: Is it worth the money?

Santa: Is it worth the money? And the glitter being so easy to see. It was the easiest test subject.

Annie: Sure.

Santa: And while the reindeer loved it and we ended up being faster because of the excitement of the glitter, you just couldn't really see it. And so we decided just to keep it as it is.

Annie: Okay, great. That's great to know, man. Those are some hot questions. I'm glad we covered that. Hey, speaking of New York, I got to see you in person at Macy's Thanksgiving parade.

Santa: I have to say something. If I said anything that was untold, I remember vaguely seeing you.

Annie: It's gotta be so much.

Santa: I don't think I had seen a coffee until 1:00 PM that day and I was in a dark place. So if I said anything that-

Annie: No.

Santa: I'm so sorry.

Annie: You were so great from the parade. I mean, mean you were so great from the float. People were going nuts. I couldn't believe it. The thing that was hard for me, I'll tell you... Our friend... My friend, sorry, Drew Holcomb was in the parade. And when Drew went by, we lost our minds and screamed "I love you" back and forth because there's Drew on the parade. When you went by, you did kind of pretend like you didn't know me. But that is probably more about the perception.

Santa: Perception. And that's really... I got so excited.

Annie: Oh, thank you. Thank you.

Santa: In fact, my watch said, are you working out? Truthfully. It popped up and said-

Annie: "My friend Annie."

Santa: And I said, no, that's my dear friend Annie. My favorite podcast behind Dadville.

Annie: Understandable. Understandable.

Santa: Close. Very close.

Annie: Thank you. I'll take a second.

Santa: And you looked great that day.

Annie: Thank you so much. We really loved it.

Santa: You were just shining.

Annie: What a great... I know. I love that place. I love that parade. Okay, let's look at this hottest Christmas toys list for 2023.

Santa: Okay, let's do it.

Annie: As I am looking through this list, I'm just gonna pull out a couple that are kind of stand out to me. I have got to know how your workshop, we're just gonna call them everything's made in your workshop, how your workshop has changed because of Barbie. I mean, the number one toy is Barbie's Dream House, but it is the Barbie Dream House from the movie.

Santa: Fun fact: It really worked out for us. Because we had two warehouses full of sort of like extra Barbie stuff just over the years.

Annie: Are you the reason that movie happened?

Santa: Aah, I can't say if I am. But you know, Ken is... this is a true story. I feel like it's on the internet. Ken was modeled after me presenter.

Annie: Oh wow.

Santa: So, you know, Gosling, Goose, as I call him, the Goose, big, big Goose, they were looking for something that just-

- Annie:** Which is funny because a big goose is actually the exact opposite of a Gosling.
- Santa:** That's the joke.
- Annie:** Got it. Got it. Got it. Got it. Got it. Okay. Okay.
- Santa:** That's me just kind of ribbing him.
- Annie:** Got it.
- Santa:** Great guy. Strong handshake. So we just had a lot of material, you know, over the years you just accumulate extra toys. But Barbie more than any. Like so many. We actually did a quick runoff and the... you know, one of the ones that did in work in Australia is we had a shrimp on a Barbie. It was a Barbie that had a shrimp theme and it just didn't... You know, you have these.
- Annie:** You gotta try.
- Santa:** You gotta repurpose.
- Annie:** Yeah, of course.
- Santa:** So when the movie happened, it was mad. We've just been moving so much of those warehouses to free up for other things.
- Annie:** Great.
- Santa:** It's been amazing.
- Annie:** Yeah, because on this list from New York Post there's probably five Barbie things on here.
- Santa:** Six if you keep scrolling.
- Annie:** Oh, God. I haven't gotten that far. Okay, I'll tell you the one that surprised me.
- Santa:** Okay.
- Annie:** Melissa & Doug Let's Play House Dust! Sweep! and Mop! set. How in the world is that one of the top toys? A cleaning supply?
- Santa:** We saw the first iterations of this in early Russia trying to indoctrinate children into early work.

Annie: Oh, got it. Sure, sure.

Santa: Oh, no, it's fun to sweep. No, little girls should brush and sleep and keep the... and then, you know, boom. Right in the factories. So it's weird to see it coming back around now because it was illegal for 33 years in Europe especially. Not Spain, ironically, which I always thought was interesting. I digress.

This is the thing you see with Santas. You, when you're 30,000-foot view over the toys over millennia, you know, they come and go. You see these-

Annie: Because Ninja Turtles are back on this list as well.

Santa: They're back. Of course, they are.

Annie: And so did you have them in the warehouse?

Santa: We got them, by the way?

Annie: Really?

Santa: Mm-hmm. Great.

Annie: Who is your favorite?

Santa: Michelangelo.

Annie: Mine too. I've always loved Michelangelo.

Santa: Such a jovial spirit.

Annie: He is so funny.

Santa: He's gotta be an Enneagram seven.

Annie: I've got to get him on the show.

Santa: Oh.

Annie: Oh. I'll call. Well, you can call. He'll probably answer you.

Santa: They don't have phones.

Annie: Oh, well, that's what you think.

Santa: Oh.

Annie: I mean, if that's what you've been led to believe, that's fine.

Santa: Oh, okay. It is one with the inside track.

Annie: All right.

Santa: Respect. Maybe you saw them in New York lately.

Annie: Yeah. Yeah. That's it. I just opened the sewer. Ew.

Santa: What the times I've done that?

Annie: Right, right, right.

Santa: After nights that did I regret.

Annie: Right. Right.

Santa: Continue.

Annie: So when it comes to toys like this that come back around, I mean, your elves are 500 years old, which is great. That's probably really helpful that you're like, "Hey, remember 30 years ago?" Which is a blink for somebody who's 500, we're making those again.

Santa: Of course.

Annie: And so do you have the parts or do you have to... how does that work? How do you find the parts of the turtles?

Santa: We have these sort of warehouses. You know, BC roughly 700, there was a game called Throw the Sword, and it turned into Lawn Darts later, and both were immediately seen to be ridiculous. But, you know, they had their moment where, Eddie, let's please throw the sword. And, you know, you would unknowingly impale a neighbor, etc. So you see these things sort of take-

Annie: Sure.

Santa: Oh, I knew it is Throw the Sword. Now it's land arts. And I'm sure in the future it'll be some other new iteration. So there's nothing really new under the sun. It's just these weird, oh, I have a new idea. But they just don't have the context of history that someone might have made it.

Annie: That's interesting you bring that up, Santa, because the next thing on the list after the turtles is advanced all-in-one virtual reality headset.

Santa: Oh yeah.

Annie: How do you feel about virtual reality where people put an eye mask on and then they are somewhere else?

Santa: It makes for great blooper videos. I dunno. Spending time on Facebook when a man is swinging and then, you know, it clocks his wife or nails the TV and it falls over. We've talked about this a lot at the pole and it's hard to know where to sit. Because will it be a fad? But I wanna say, let's get out into the world. Why does it have to be virtual? Why can't reality be reality?

Annie: Right.

Santa: That said, I do love it and I play it every night.

Annie: You do?

Santa: Mm-Hmm. At workshopping.

Annie: Sure. Because y'all gotta make... I mean, that would be the hard part is while Lawn Darts and Throw the Sword have existed forever, I don't know what got us to virtual reality.

Santa: I don't either.

Annie: It just seems... there's gotta be news. I mean, you're making stuff-

Santa: I feel like maybe puppet shows early on and it just raid-

Annie: Oh, right. Where they hit their hands and then they hide their face.

Santa: Yes.

Annie: Puppets to mascots to virtual reality. Wow.

[00:22:28] <Music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about one of our amazing partners, [Hatch](#). Okay, y'all know I love my Hatch. And this would make such a great gift idea for someone if you are still on the hunt.

I have the Hatch Restore 2. It is not just an alarm clock. Hatch Restore 2 is a device that helps you build a consistent bedtime and morning routine so you can prioritize rest and sleep better. And y'all know I'm here for better rest. I love that I can use mine as an alarm clock so I can leave my phone in another side of the room. And I also use the sound machine and meditation feature because it makes my nighttime and morning routine so peaceful.

Hatch teaches your body when it is time to sleep and wake up with light and sound cues. Great sleep can be learned with Hatch. 83% of customers, self-included, report improved sleep. And they have a 60-night money back guarantee. So you can try it for yourself risk-free.

Right now Hatch is offering my friends \$20 off your purchase of the Hatch Restore 2 and free shipping at hatch.co/thatsoundsfun. That's hatch.co/thatsoundsfun to get \$20 off free shipping. [Hatch.co/thatsoundsfun](https://hatch.co/thatsoundsfun).

Now listen, that link and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for are in the show notes, or they're in Friday's AFD Week in Review email that we would love to send to you. Make sure you're getting that. You can sign up for that also in the show notes below.

Sponsor: And one more amazing partner I get to tell you about, [HelloFresh](#). Listen, if you wanna take one task off your plate during the holidays, let HelloFresh do the grocery shopping and meal planning for you. I love that after a busy workday, I can pull a Hello Fresh kit outta the refrigerator and not even think about it.

They've got all the ingredients right there for me and the recipe is really easy to follow. All you do is choose your meals for the week, and they ship you fresh pre-portioned ingredients so you can cook and start eating quickly. And did you know that HelloFresh does more than just dinners? They have super easy breakfast and 10-minute lunches, or satisfying snacks for both adults and kids.

Hellofresh has over 45 recipes and more than a hundred seasonal add-on items to choose from every week. So it's easier than ever to find something everyone will enjoy. So go to hellofresh.com/tsffree. You get it? T-S-F-F-R-E-E and you're gonna get free breakfast for life, you guys. One breakfast item per box as long as your

subscription is active. That's free breakfast for life at hellofresh.com/tsffree, and use the code TSFFREE. Hellofresh is America's number one meal kit.

Sponsor: And I have another amazing partner to tell you about, Daily Bible Trivia. As you're traveling over Christmas or just enjoying some downtime over the break, download Daily Bible Trivia from the App Store on your phone. Start testing your knowledge of scripture. It is such a fun way to see how much you know the Bible and to learn some things along the way. This would be so fun to play with your whole family.

It's questions like, in Genesis, what did Joseph's 11 jealous brothers do to him? What kind of animal did God save Daniel from? What kind of bird brought Noah a clue that the flood waters were receding? Whether you nailed every one of those, or you want to learn the answers, Daily Bible Trivia is such a fun way to learn more about the Bible.

Plus it's also just a fun trivia game to have on your phone that helps you kill some time in car line or during that week between Christmas and New Year's when we don't know what day it is.

Download Daily Bible Trivia today to challenge yourself and learn more about the Bible. Just go to Apple or Google store and search for Daily Bible Trivia. Download Daily Bible Trivia for free today.

Okay, now back to our conversation with Santa.

[00:25:57] <Music>

Annie: Bluey. You like Bluey? Great show.

Santa: Here's what's funny. Just to tell people who haven't been to Australia, a lot of people think, oh, dogs in Australia can talk.

Annie: Yeah. That's where I was going next.

Santa: And they can't. But they do bark in accent. So it's sort of either might you... you know, they'll bark, bark. Raf. Raf. Hi there. Bark. It's true. You'll just... and so they got that part right. But if you're a child listening, don't go to Brisbane and expect to see a blue heeler come up and you know-

Annie: I'm glad you fixed that.

Santa: Don't.

Annie: He's so popular.

Santa: Yeah, he is.

Annie: I mean, when something happens like this, a toy starts in Australia and then goes globally, do they make a call to you? How do you know, oh man, I used to just deliver this in Spain or in Australia but now every kid grown up in the US loves Bluey?

Santa: You know, again, I feel like I'm sort of giving you insider trading here a bit. Australia's always been sort of the redheaded stepchild to the continents of the world.

Annie: Wow. To be fair.

Santa: Meaning they house, you know, first of all, criminals.

Annie: Criminals, yeah. And then second of all, everything that can kill you that swims, slithers, runs, or flies lives on this one continent.

Annie: Sure.

Santa: And so they're always kind of trying to repack, Hey, no, we are great guys. Come in and hang out down here. So what you see is these cartoons like this that are wildly entertaining. But really, honestly, on the whole very of false representation of a place. So it's really something that starts in their sort of chamber of commerces.

Annie: Oh, got it.

Santa: And they're like, Hey, how can we move more people to the continent? Let's think of a sweet little dog that's, you know-

Annie: Are there any toys we left off that you're really enjoying making this year?

Santa: You know what, it's funny. All these years, Monopoly is still a thing.

Annie: It's Monopoly still a thing? That's the only board game on this list. Now, this is just one particular list from New York Post, but I was shocked. Well, then there's a game called Who Knows More? Kids or Adults. But as far as games games, that's the only board game.

- Santa:** Yeah. It's funny. It started as a game at the North Pole. We taught elves how to use money.
- Annie:** Oh wow. It's like an educational-
- Santa:** This is what people are... Monopoly money in the North Pole is actually usable. That's the humor. Is it? We sent it out, it was a total fluke. We sent it out one year-
- Annie:** That's your real currency at North Pole.
- Santa:** Oh, if you listen, I'm telling you, you bring one of those to the North Pole, you can own a city block. Truthfully. It's remarkable.
- Annie:** With the cash that's in the game.
- Santa:** With the cash that's in the game. That is inherently North Pole spindle.
- Annie:** Wow. Santa, how in the world? So that means everyone who owns a Monopoly box is rich in the North Pole.
- Santa:** In the North Pole. Yes. And why do you think you can't get there?
- Annie:** Yeah, we can't get there because then we'd all take over. Wow. Oh, I'm embarrassed. Wowy Zowy. I forgot to push the Wowy Zowy button earlier when you said you sometimes employ Amazon because... my nephew Sam saying, wowie zowie. Because you telling me that we are all millionaires on the North Pole is shocking.
- Santa:** Yes. And in real life, if we just slow down to think about it. Breathing, alive, and such a wonderful time in the world.
- Annie:** Wow.
- Santa:** Rich in our own ways.
- Annie:** Mm, aren't we? Big question we got from a couple of people. Will you run for president in 2024 in the US?
- Santa:** The calls that we have gotten over this.
- Annie:** Has it uptick in the last 10?

Santa: You know, it's funny, the advent of the movie really thrust me into a limelight I was very uncomfortable with.

Annie: Oh, once people started seeing films about Santa.

Santa: Yes. Because, you know, they would talk about me here and then there'd be stories and songs and such, most of which I really enjoy. Especially have you heard Dave Barnes's Christmas music?

Annie: Oh, Man. The *Mary and Joseph* song? Is it Joseph and Mary, or is it Mary?

Santa: It's *Mary and Joseph*.

Annie: Yeah, that's what I thought. That's what I thought. Those are available on street-

Santa: Ironically. Yes. Which is, I don't even say that for that. I just referenced it. We play it. We play it. Mary Joseph is the national anthem of the North Pole.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: Yeah. We listen. We do-

Annie: Versus like *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*.

Santa: Oh, don't play that again. That causes littles... We had a civil unrest over that. There was a whole reindeer used as... it was bad. It was very sharpened husk, you know, tusks and such.

Annie: Wow.

Santa: Yeah. An uprising.

Annie: Tusks?

Santa: Yes.

Annie: Like an elephant has?

Santa: Well, I'm saying too much.

Annie: Okay. Okay. I guess I didn't understand.

Santa: There was some experiments that went awry and so whatever. It's neither here nor there.

Annie: So president, it's gotten worse since the movie.

Santa: And so now, you know, who's the man that can come and fix everything? Santa Claus. That's such a-

Annie: That's how it feels a little bit.

Santa: Well, you hear it across the world though someone saying that at every moment.

Annie: Wow. In any country that might be having some unrest, they're trying to get you to be President?

Santa: Yes. Columbia, you know, Mogadishu, name it, you know. But it's not really my bag, you know?

Annie: Yeah. It feels like it would take you away from what you're best at.

Santa: We tried it in the 30s in Italy, and ooh, was that-

Annie: It did not go over well.

Santa: Oh, it was a bit bad, how they say it there. Well, you wanna keep some pounds on those cops and that-

Annie: Yeah. Right.

Santa: That really helped. I was prepped pretty much immediately ready for the job. But you know, we've just learned it doesn't... it's good for optics, you know?

Annie: Yeah. It's not right.

Santa: It's not.

Annie: Okay, great. I mean, people just... we gotta ask them what-

Santa: I appreciate.

Annie: ...you wanna know. Abby is wondering, what's your favorite and least favorite song about you?

- Santa:** Oof. Everyone should know this. *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*.
- Annie:** Favorite or least favorite?
- Santa:** Least favorite.
- Annie:** Okay.
- Santa:** That's how I met Miss Claus. So some of it's... you can't, you know, bite that and that feeds you there a little bit. But, you know, it infers things about me that are just very unfair.
- Annie:** You know? It's a hummable tune. It's actually an old Gregorian chant. True story that they repurpose. But it-
- Annie:** The Longer you listen to those lyrics, there's a couple of those older Christmas songs that you go, hold on.
- Santa:** It's frustrating. Some of it were bobs at me. Those... okay, here we go. There were naughty kids who didn't... and then they grew up. A lot of those songwriters were naughty.
- Annie:** Wow.
- Santa:** And they thought this was their way to sort of exact pain on me for gifts that they hadn't been given.
- Annie:** Oh, wow. So they wrote *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*.
- Santa:** *All I Want For Christmas Is You*.
- Annie:** Oh, wow. Yeah, because that one... So that's also a least favorite?
- Santa:** No. I'm sorry. It's not my favorite to get any of the day-
- Annie:** Sure, sure, sure. We have to remove that elite level.
- Santa:** Matt Wertz's *Snow Globe* is very high.
- Annie:** Oh, *Snow Globe*. Dear everyone making Christmas movies, why is *Snow Globe* not in it?
- Santa:** That's high on the list. But you know, I think Mariah just... they got it right.

Annie: Do you ever... you can be honest. Do you ever fear she-

Santa: Did we date?

Annie: Yeah. That was my first question. Why do you think she wrote that song?

Annie: Oh.

Santa: I'm legally bound to not talk about that anymore. But just do the math. Hey, Carey, the one.

Annie: Oh boy.

Santa: Listen. Listen. You know, anyway,.

Annie: Okay, great. Thank you. That was my first question about Mariah Carey. My second... Now this makes this complicated.

Santa: Okay.

Annie: I mean, I've dealt with this on and off myself in my own dating life of what happens if there's two public figures and the lesser known begins to eclipse the more known?

Santa: Are we talking about Taylor and Travis again?

Annie: And you and Mariah.

Santa: Do you see here?

Annie: Ah. Wow.

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: Do you ever get worried, insecure, jealous of her? I mean, she is the queen of Christmas. My regards to Mrs. Claus.

Santa: Yes, of course. You know Mrs. Claus doesn't want the attention. She's fine. You know?

Annie: Yeah, of course.

Santa: That's one of the things that makes it work with she and I.

Annie: She's so lovely.

Santa: Yeah, beautiful. It's like any relationship. You know, when you loved someone and then it doesn't work, it leaves a reindeer-hoofed size hole in your heart.

Annie: I hope someone illustrates that for us.

Santa: Please.

Annie: A reindeer hoof-sized hole in your heart.

Santa: It's a phrase in Latin we say at the North Pole lot.

Annie: How's it sound in Latin?

Santa: I can't say it.

Annie: Oh, okay.

Santa: It sounds like a curse word, but it's not.

Annie: And it's like a Beetlejuice kinda where people show up.

Santa: Yes. Mrs. Claus actually.

Annie: Yeah, yeah. We can't say it three times. Mrs. Claus shows up. Yeah, that makes sense. Did Mariah write this? I did not know this was gonna be such a hot tea-level episode, but did Mariah write *All I Want For Christmas Is You* while y'all are in the relationship, before, after?

Santa: While. I mean, it feels so real-

Annie: That's sweet.

Santa: ...because it was a real experience. I found out that "you" wasn't me. It's the breakup.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: And that's what hurts. It was Mark-Paul Gosselaar, which was really hurtful. I really loved her.

Annie: She picked Zack Morris over a guy who looks like Ryan the Goose Gosling, the Big Goose Gosling?

Santa: The Big Goose. Does he listen? He's listening, right?

Annie: Yeah, he does. He's a huge friend of the show.

Santa: Yes, yes. Yes. Okay. So she picked... wow, she picked Zach Morris over Santa Claus.

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: Interesting trajectory, because if you play that one out, to be honest, it was a win-win. But he seems to have a great life. You are living at the North Pole and making toys. That feels awesome.

Santa: That's great.

Annie: Miss Claus wins.

Santa: Everybody won. Yes, it's great.

Annie: And Mariah is making a lot of money and seems happy.

Santa: You know, that was my gift to her, if you will.

Annie: You've made that song what it is technically. You helped her.

Santa: I inspired it in some ways more than others. Me and Mark Paul.

Annie: Are y'all friends? Or were you? I was about to say, I guess, not anymore, huh?

Santa: Isn't it interesting you didn't see him in a movie for a certain amount of time?

Annie: Oh.

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: Wow. You had him removed? I have not seen him in a Christmas movie yet.

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: That's noted. That is noted. Right next to playing hard to get with Santa in order to find a husband.

Santa: Oh, goodness.

Annie: How do you feel about *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer*?

Santa: It's true.

Annie: Wowie zowie. Did not know.

Santa: Oh, it's 100% true.

Annie: It's a biography song.

Santa: It is.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: You know, we celebrate that it was... And a lot of it is a remembrance. We have a parade up there on the day that that happened and, you know-

Annie: Every year?

Santa: Mm-hmm. It's actually every six months.

Annie: Why?

Santa: We don't know. We just started doing it and before you know it, here we are again.

Annie: Got it.

Santa: It's a big deal. It's a huge parade. We call it the chocolate-covered holiday because everything you can cover with chocolate, we do that day, and then we do a parade.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: And we reenact the event to the song, which is really-

Annie: Oh wow.

Santa: ...hard on all of us. I don't know why we do that part, but we do. But you know, the song is... it's a true song. It's a way we remember.

- Annie:** That is surprising to me because I had... Well, I didn't know it was a documentary. I thought it was a made-up song. And I thought, I bet he hates Santa. Because that says bad stuff about the reindeer and the driver.
- Santa:** Well, it's, you know, spade to spade. Does that reindeer... I mean, is that hard for that reindeer?
- Santa:** It was numerous. I mean, it was a certain family.
- Annie:** Oh, it wasn't just one. A family of reindeer?
- Santa:** Mm-hmm.
- Annie:** That particularly. Was it hooked up to the sleigh? I mean, it's on Christmas Eve, or was it just like-
- Santa:** Listen, there was a long trial and, you know, was it, was it not?
- Annie:** Oh, we can probably read the trial notes.
- Santa:** Yeah, it's all on Wikipedia.
- Annie:** Okay. Okay. Because I didn't know any of that. This is leading me right to where we need to go, but Audrey asked, with all the new technology, do you ever consider using drones for delivering gifts? And are you using AI to help up there?
- Santa:** Again, these are the things we're having to think about because of the size of-
- Annie:** Of the world.
- Santa:** Of the world. It's do I want to use drones? No. I mean, it's not traditionally how we've done things. Is it effective? Extremely. We workshopped them going down chimneys. That was not good. That was my idea and was a terrible idea.
- Annie:** How? Why?
- Santa:** Just flammability was a factor.
- Annie:** Oh, sure. And you've got the special pants on.
- Santa:** Yeah, that's true.

Annie: Always.

Santa: Always. Who's wearing the special pants? It's me. It's me. You know, we're still trying to figure that out. Can we get them to sound like reindeer so the children think it's still me while I can then be somewhere?

Annie: And I guess the cookies stay. It's a lot to figure. You know? That's hard. Because then you don't get the cookies that you want.

Santa: Yeah.

Annie: That's fair. Okay. I understand. I understand that. This is political again. I mean, we've already asked you one political question. But what's global warming doing to the experience for you on Christmas Eve?

Santa: It's funny. I tried to stay on top of topics.

Annie: Yeah, sure.

Santa: And of course, that's big.

Annie: Sure.

Santa: I'll be honest, I don't know much about that, but I am in a heavy metal band called Global Warning. It's two of the members of Def Leppard and the drummer from Poison and Bill Gaither. Bill Gaither is... what a singer!

Annie: What a Singer. True.

Santa: You got some really great stuff coming down the pike.

Annie: I didn't know they all knew each other.

Santa: They didn't. I introduced them.

Annie: You brought the band together, Global Warning?

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: Okay, great.

Santa: So we're kind of hoping to cash in on the global warming.

Annie: Right. When people just hit the wrong button when googling.

Santa: And boom, you've booked us without knowing it.

Annie: Wow. So it's all old White guys.

Santa: Well, that's one way to say it, which feels very offensive and typist. But yes, it is 100% all White.

Annie: Okay. Global Warning.

Santa: Mm-hmm.

Annie: Okay, great. You should run for President the way you handled that question.

Santa: Watch out.

Annie: I respect it.

Santa: Watch out.

Annie: And I'm a hard-hitting journalist.

[00:40:43] <Music>

Sponsor: Hey friend! Just interrupting this conversation one more time to share about one of our amazing partners, [Storyworth](#). If you're spending time with loved ones for the holidays, chances are you're gonna hear a lot of stories. The ones you love to hear, the ones you've heard a lot, too many times.

But have you ever wanted to help your loved ones document those priceless stories? It can be challenging to write an entire book of life memories, but Storyworth makes it fun and easy. Every week, Storyworth will email your family member or friend a single life-related question that you can pick from their collection. Like, what's the bravest thing you've ever done? Or, what's the farthest you've ever traveled?

And after a year, Storyworth will compile all your loved one stories, including photos into a beautiful keepsake book that you'll be able to share and revisit for generations to come.

I gave it to my parents last year, and it is truly priceless. I loved picking out the questions every week. I love that it's all together now, and I can't wait to make it

into a book that I get to gift to my siblings and my cousins. I just am thrilled about it.

Help your family share their story this holiday season with Storyworth. Go to storyworth.com/thatsoundsfun today, and you get \$10 off your first purchase. That's storyworth.com/thatsoundsfun to save \$10 off your first purchase. [Storyworth.com/thatsoundsfun](https://storyworth.com/thatsoundsfun).

Santa Claus is coming to Ala Moana Center from November 17th to December 24th. Bring the family and take a jolly photo with Santa at his new Surf Shack on Mall Level 2, 'Ewa Wing. Book your visit at alamoanacenter.com.

And now let's go back and finish up this wildly entertaining conversation with Santa Claus.

[00:42:21] <Music>

Annie: One of the big topics this year kind of in culture is how do we make sure the moms get good gifts? Like, there's a good SNL sketch from a few years ago where mom gets a-

Santa: I remember-

Annie: ...a robe every year. So another list you and I were looking at was Oprah's made a list of great stocking stuffers. I can't believe I've never asked you this in our five episodes before this. But are you in charge of stocking stuffers for grownups too? Are you making gifts for grownups or are you just toys and that's it?

Santa: 173 years ago, we passed a law where I'm officially off stockings.

Annie: Ah, wow. Okay.

Santa: It was so much.

Annie: That's so much for everybody.

Santa: I'm not like really a trinket guy. It's hard to keep up with those.

Annie: Yeah, I would imagine.

Santa: You know, Bumbles and bebbles and such as we used to call them. I rolled off and we have a whole department. It's actually why we need one of the warehouses clean is we need to move them. They've grown-

Annie: A stocking department.

Santa: Yes. We've had to stock the stocking department. That was sort of our hook line for getting people to work there. But we've had to put them in the warehouse because it's just grown so much.

Annie: And it's a different game, right? Because I'm looking on here and of the top five on this list, there's a hairbrush and socks and plants. That's just not your vibe.

Santa: No. No. Again, this is why I'm not on it. Now, I do love a beard detangler. So those brushes help me with that.

Annie: Are you using the one from TikTok, the detangling brush from TikTok?

Santa: That's it.

Annie: Everybody's talking about it.

Santa: It's really great. It's really great.

Annie: Did you see it on TikTok?

Santa: No.

Annie: Okay.

Santa: Yes.

Annie: You can't.

Santa: No. Yes. I'm sorry. Yes, I do that. I don't wanna say.

Annie: I can't imagine that you would like TikTok, but I can't imagine that you would miss out on them.

Santa: I love dancing.

Annie: You gotta know.

Santa: I love dancing. And there's just so many dances.

- Annie:** There's actually a great video of you dancing to some Dave Barnes. We may link to that because there's some great dancing videos.
- Santa:** Yeah. Have you seen it? He walks up and catches me. I was just in the moment.
- Annie:** Wow.
- Santa:** It was remarkable.
- Annie:** Is there anything on Oprah's list that stood out to you? I mean, air tags seem really important. But if someone drops an air tag on you, where do you go?
- Santa:** We have two lawsuits pending.
- Annie:** Really?
- Santa:** Because someone airtagged you when you came through?
- Santa:** Yes. James Trimble, a young boy from Mississippi.
- Annie:** Oh, wow.
- Santa:** I was tired. We were down the chimney, I was in... and he sold me... we have a little thing we do that makes kind of like the mini black mind wipes. Before I knew that he had dropped one in my pocket.
- Annie:** In your pocket.
- Santa:** And I didn't know. Hoof, that was all kinds of blames. Because they thought someone had stolen something but was in, you know, Tanzania at the time.
- Annie:** Oh, sure. That's so quickly.
- Santa:** Yeah, so quickly. So that's been problematic. Some of these I thought were great. I love the temporary tattoo.
- Annie:** Oh, sure.
- Santa:** People don't know this.
- Annie:** I don't know this.

- Santa:** But I have a tattoo on my back. It's Mount Rushmore, but it's the faces of The Oak Ridge Boys. It's one of the beards, you know, the beard did one, goes right down my spine And it's really... so I'm a big tattoo enthusiast.
- Annie:** Y'all do? Do y'all have like a tattoo artist on the North Pole?
- Santa:** We do. They're not great. If I showed it to you, you wouldn't know what it was. They're really bad.
- Annie:** But the Oak Ridge Boys.
- Santa:** Yes. yes.
- Annie:** Right down your spine. That had to hurt like the...
- Santa:** In retrospect, I regret it. I made that decision in the early 80s and oh, it felt great at the time.
- Annie:** So you'd go temporary tattoo given the chance to do it again? You'd do it temporarily?
- Santa:** Probably, yeah. At the time I could do a thing. If I move my scapulas right, it would go mbapa mbapa mamam. Like that. It was really remarkable. But I would push more for the temporary tattoos.
- Annie:** Okay. Okay. Yep. And there seemed to be some really good kitchen stuff. And I know y'all's kitchen... I mean, I've only seen the pictures you've shown me on your phone. But the kitchens at the North Pole are just like the Chef.
- Santa:** Imagine the greatest church kitchen you've ever seen but better.
- Annie:** So stuff like this, Truff gourmet hot sauce holiday pack. Are y'all into that stuff up there? Do y'all eat gourmet?
- Santa:** Of course, I'm always eating and carb-loading. It's the same as the stocking stuff as... we just... anything edible or drinkable... we've just moved. We have a different department that handles that now because it just is such a... I mean the perishable.
- Annie:** How y'all are expanding.
- Santa:** The perishable nature of these gifts is really tricky. So we couldn't, you know-

Annie: You almost have to go so hard in that particular warehouse September to November, because you can't make... I haven't even told you what we gifted everyone that works with That Sounds Fun. Our partners, we gave them all a pair of Santa pants full of nuts from nuts.com.

Santa: Oh dear.

Annie: We loved it.

Santa: My Santa pants are full of nuts.

Annie: Oh God.

Santa: Sorry. I had to. We're keeping that in.

Annie: Santa, what I'm saying is that stuff has to be fresh.

Santa: Yes. You know, 2,000, 3,000 years ago, you should have seen the amount of salt we went through keeping things fresh.

Annie: Oh, sure. Preserving.

Santa: We have huge salt blocks at the North Pole because we just don't need them anymore for-

Annie: Oh wow.

Santa: ...the refrigeration. But economically it's not feasible. That's one of those things we outsource.

Annie: Yeah. I get that. I get that. Anything that everybody needs? Is there something that you're like, I should see this in every house?

Santa: It was a few things here. I thought were really interesting. I have a toothbrush guy. He's a dentist. We have actually a full-time dentist at the Pole.

Annie: I would hope so.

Santa: One, just the candy. I mean-

Annie: Certainly.

Santa: ...so much candy was consumed. Plus just, for photo ops for me, I had to keep the chomp as clean. So toothbrushes on a big thing. I will say the Jane Austen socks, I just thought to myself she would've loved these.

Annie: Oh yeah.

Santa: She was a hoot.

Annie: Certainly.

Santa: Oh, and a great footballer.

Annie: Huh?

Santa: Both wooded.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: True story.

Annie: All the more reasons she would love socks?

Santa: Yes. She pulled a hammy and that's what got her into writing. But she was in the Manchester United youth academy there in-

Annie: Wow.

Santa: True story. I did get confused by the Guatemalan worry dolls, which ironically was a reggae band that I used to see all the time at the pole by these two elves, two-man reggae bands. These two elves.

Annie: It literally says the perfect little companion.... The dogs are about look like the size of a pen you would wear. And it says, the perfect little companion for those with worried minds. If they put these dogs under their pillows, their stress might disappear. That doesn't match my theology of my life.

Santa: Mine either. And I'm glad you said, because I assumed it was something you would give someone as a warning. Like, you better worry.

Annie: You better worry.

Santa: I couldn't understand the-

- Annie:** You better worry, dog.
- Santa:** I didn't understand the Guatemala part of it. Maybe they worry about-
- Annie:** I don't either. Maybe that's the kind of dog, you know, I don't dunno dogs very well.
- Santa:** I guess so. It really confused me.
- Annie:** Also the personalized socks with their face on, I've gifted that.
- Santa:** I love it.
- Annie:** It goes bananas.
- Santa:** I'm telling you, true story, in my thousands of years of doing this, top 10 gifts of all time.
- Annie:** Is people with socks-
- Santa:** Faces on socks.
- Annie:** I agree with you.
- Santa:** That's a winner time. Two of the others, I realize... here's a fun fact. Again, inside of baseball here, but... I don't really need hand sanitizer. And here's a fun thing not many people know.
- Annie:** What?
- Santa:** Reindeer saliva is naturally sanitizing.
- Annie:** No. Reindeer saliva is... This is bringing so much to my mind, Santa, because when we talked in the year of 2020, I mean, the uptick of need for hand sanitizer was insane. And you were working extra hard this year. Were y'all harvesting saliva?
- Santa:** We got our hand slapped a few days ago. because it really taxes the reindeer. And we have to have a lot of Oreos on hand just to produce the saliva. And then I started getting-
- Annie:** Just work for me, just saying it.
- Santa:** I was gonna say guilty. And so now, you know, we've learned how to make it just, you know... True story. If you see me about every sixth house, you'll see me go to...

it's usually Prancer and Rudolph if he's feeling. And I'll just tell the boys and they'll kind of lick my hands and it's natural.

Annie: Oh, that's so nice.

Santa: Nobody really knows that. And it's a weird thing to watch and you don't wanna know how we figured that out. But it's been very helpful. So we just don't keep it on.

Annie: The figuring that out feels a road I don't know. I want to go down.

Santa: Yes. Yes.

Annie: Last question ish. We've mentioned him a few times Dave Barnes does have a new album out. It sounds like The Beatles. It has all those cool like Beatles vibes.

Santa: Yes. You know, it's amazing. I had a feeling you were gonna bring that up because you know my affinity for any creative output he has. There's just some magic even I can't conjure. That album, what a magical, fantastical musical journey.

Annie: Yeah. It's so interesting. It's just not like anything else that he's done before.

Santa: It's really remarkable. I don't know if you knows, called Feather Brainin Wealth Motel.

Annie: That's right. I played drums on two of the songs.

Annie: Oh, did you really?

Santa: Yes, I did. I did.

Annie: Santa!

Santa: I did. Dave was so kind and he sent me some of the early, you know, demos and I said, "Listen, I've been a good boy." That's a little joke because obviously I'm usually watching.

Annie: Sure.

Santa: "And I'd love to hit the skins." And he said, well, just come on... I did them at the studio in the North Pole because obviously I can't come down here and do that.

Annie: Sure, sure, sure

Santa: Too busy and just people seeing me, etc. But yeah, it was really fun to play on it.

Annie: Since he's not here, I wanna say in observation I've made about Dave Barnes's music.

Santa: Oh, here we go.

Annie: I love all of it. I was a fan before I was a friend. But the album that I like put on a lot is *Carry On, San Vicente*. I believe that was when Dave was thinking about the *Eagles*.

Santa: He was.

Annie: And I love the *Eagles*. So I'm noticing he does something really unique compared to other artists where he gets inspired for a long time and then makes an album inspired by particular lyrics and sounds. Is that true? Am I reading that correctly?

Santa: Yes, he told me that.

Annie: Yes, I thought so. So The Beatles, I mean, everybody loves the Beatles. And this album feels-

Santa: Paul has never been on the naughty list. McCartney. True story.

Annie: Really?

Santa: Yes.

Annie: Never?

Santa: Never.

Annie: Is that why he's 119?

Santa: He was very close in 1969 and 70?

Annie: Oh, really? Nicey as Dave is sometimes.

Santa: He was nicey. He was very nicey. But just a wonderful, wonderful man.

Annie: Wow. Okay. Well, people can stream all that music from Dave. I just wanna make sure they understood what you listen into this year.

Santa: I was gonna tell you one more thing that was on that list that was really interesting to me that I just wanted to bring. I do love a good candle. I just love a good candle.

Annie: This is where we are not gonna meet. This is where our two roads do not co-align.

Santa: Are you not a candle lover? I know. This is a rhetorical question.

Annie: Yes, Yes, yes. Fire in your house feels... for me and my ability to-

Santa: Which was a warning for years at the North Pole. It was euphemism, but more a real yell. We would say, there's a fire in the house and they would, you know...

Annie: Yeah. Sure. So I am cautious. I'm cautious of fire in my house. But it is because I tend to forget things. So if I light a candle, I set an alarm immediately for 30 minutes to blow it out.

Santa: Oh, that's great.

Annie: So I just don't like having something like that that I can't remember.

Santa: We-

Annie: You love them though.

Santa: We burn copious amount to them. The elves and the reindeer get gamey.

Annie: Ah, sure.

Santa: And we just have to have something to cut with.

Annie: Have you tried that new loved one candle from ranger stations?

Santa: Oh, it's amazing.

Annie: I love ranger stations.

Santa: They're so good.

Annie: They're so good.

Santa: It's so good.

Annie: Supporting a non-profit. That is the one I've-

Santa: Very pungent.

Annie: Here's the trick, Santa, there are candles that I think you put too much in here. You made my house... You hurt me. And there are ones where I'm like, is this flavor...? Is the smell wax?

Santa: Yeah.

Annie: Because that's what I'm doing. Ranger station slides right down the middle.

Santa: They're such small little compact candles. A pack of real punch.

Annie: Oh, you had to find that.

Santa: But I didn't know what language I wanted to say then.

Annie: Oh my gosh. Good point. Okay, Santa, we gotta let you get back. I mean, you've got a week.

Santa: Ah.

Annie: What happens the last week? I don't know that we've ever talked to you right at this point. You've got one week from today is you're in recovery mode.

Santa: I have two more days off technically. Like, I'm not supposed to be on my phone and, you know, answering emails, calls, and such. And then, you know about the 22nd we'll do a test run.

Annie: Got it.

Santa: It takes 24 hours.

Annie: I did not know that y'all do a test run around the planet.

Santa: I feel like-

Annie: Maybe you have told me that. I forgot.

Santa: I can't remember now.

Annie: I'm Dory.

Santa: We do that. And then the 24th is just prep. It's all prep, you know.

Annie: What's the 23rd then in between? Oh, that's the 24 hours.

Santa: Yes.

Annie: Got it.

Santa: Yes, it's a test.

Annie: So you get back and then you're-

Santa: It's boots on the ground. We move. It's a lot of movement. I get really emotional, I cry for about 30 minutes right as we're about to leave.

Annie: Oh. Just like, here we are again, we get to do this again?

Santa: Mm-hmm. Yeah. And also just, I don't know, just cry. You know.

Annie: Got it.

Santa: Sometimes just to cry.

Annie: Just a good cry. Once a year, 30-minute cry feels unhealthy, but it feels like at least you're doing it once a year.

Santa: That's what my therapist says.

Annie: Wow. How does Santa find a therapist? Al Andrews.

Annie: Of course. He sees all the famous people. Al Andrews at Porter's Call. He was on our show this year for the first time in June. It's an incredible episode.

Santa: I know, I know.

Annie: He's your therapist. Wow. That's a great call. He has a great picture book for Christmas.

Santa: He does. He does.

Annie: Can we buy it online? I bet you can.

Santa: You can, but they've hiked the price because it's out of print. It's OOP.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Santa: So you know me. So if you find them online, you might pay a pretty, pretty... but I have texted him as of late and he said he is vigorously trying to find a new home and reprinting.

Annie: Oh, good. Oh good. Okay. Speaking of out of print, OOP, I mean, I have always wondered that song, for those of us in our 40s, OPP, what does that stand for?

Santa: Oh, other people's presence.

Annie: Oh.

Santa: It was a huge anthem in the North Pole.

Annie: Who's down with OPP? Yeah. You know me.

Santa: And that's a naughty list. Everyone that would sing that, because it's envy. You should be looking at your own presence.

Annie: Okay. Yeah. Great. Who's down? Oh yeah. So don't sing that one.

Santa: No, no.

Annie: Don't sing that one. Don't google that one.

Santa: No, no, no. Definitely.

Annie: Okay. What do we forget to say, Santa? What do we need to make sure we cover in your last week before your big night?

Santa: I mean, you know, we're prepped, we're ready. There's a couple of outliers. We've got some boys and girls we're trying to, you know, that are toeing the line.

Annie: Oh, they've got a few days left.

Santa: So anyone listening, be thinking, be thinking.

Annie: The list finalizes on?

Santa: I am pulling my last boot into the sleigh and they print it immediately.

- Annie:** Okay. So we've got until the 20... We got till the last minute.
- Santa:** And it's location-specific.
- Annie:** Oh, wow.
- Santa:** You Know, so midnight in Australia may not be midnight in St. Louis. So you've got time.
- Annie:** Okay. You've got time. You've got until your midnight until your boot's in.
- Santa:** I have one quick question for you. How do you feel like you've done this year?
- Annie:** Santa, it's been one of the... It's not gonna be a top 10 for you. I feel like... my worst. We all remember 93. So it's not my worst. 93 was-
- Santa:** We have a plaque. True story of it says Annie Browns is what we called you because you were so off color that year. Annie Downs 1993. And it serves as sort of like a reminder-
- Annie:** Of what could be-
- Santa:** Of what could be.
- Annie:** ...if it goes bad.
- Santa:** And also what can come from it.
- Annie:** It literally only took me 30 years to turn it around.
- Santa:** It takes some off.
- Annie:** But again it's not one of my top 10 years, but I had a great time. I think there's gonna be something in my stocking.
- Santa:** There will be.
- Annie:** Based on this list, I would like one of the gua sha stones and some of that Kylie Jenner lip stuff. I do love her matte.
- Santa:** I know it's good for the podcast to ask this so I'll ask. What's the big ask for you this year? What's the big gift?

Annie: Oh, well, you know, Santa, I've spent some time in New York. I'm gonna spend a little more-

Santa: I can't give you the city if that's where this is going.

Annie: That's what I was gonna ask you.

Santa: Nope. Nope.

Annie: I wanted a key to New York City.

Santa: Nope. I can give you a Lego version of the city.

Annie: That's what I would like.

Santa: Okay.

Annie: I'd like a Lego, New York City. I've already done a puzzle. So that was what I was gonna ask is for the city, a key to the city. I will just take a-

Santa: Well, I can do that.

Annie: You can gimme a key to New York City?

Santa: A Lego key to the city. They're tiny. Really small.

Annie: Yeah. So I'll build the city first and then you'll gimme the key?

Santa: That's exactly what Giuliani said. True story.

Annie: Santa, you are a treat and a treasure. We appreciate you coming on the show every year. Thank you for doing this.

Santa: Of course, of course.

[01:00:33] <Music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't he the best? What a gift to get to visit with Santa a week before the big day. And listen on a completely different side note, I know you know this, but Dave Barnes' new album, Feather Brained Wealth Motel is so good. Worth a listen. If you love The Beatles, you're going to love it no matter who you are. Dave's music is great. But that has nothing to do with Santa, does it?

If you have any questions from this episode, I'm sure you do, drop them in the Q&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, Nashville, Tennessee. Anywhere you may need me, that is where you can find me.

I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home, do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is picking out our next book club book. That is my job this afternoon and I'm excited about it.

Okay, let me tell y'all about the rest of the year on That Sounds Fun. We have a great episode coming on Thursday. A little something special for you on Christmas Eve. And then of course, our buddy Eddie Kaufholz is back with us the last Thursday of the year, a year in review on Thursday the 28th.

But we'll see you back here this Thursday to finish out our year to have a really interesting conversation with theologian N.T Wright. Oh, y'all get ready for this. We'll see y'all Thursday.

Dave: Hey everybody, it's Dave Barnes with the Dadville Podcast and my favorite holiday snack is the Buckeyes. You know, the little chocolate and peanut butter ball, wonderful celebration of life numbers, that you have during this time of year. If I eat one, I eat 5,033. So those are so good. They're so worth it, and they remind me so much of Christmas.

John: Hey, I'm Jon McLaughlin from the Dadville Podcast, and my favorite holiday treat is the red and green M&Ms. Not just any M&Ms. Specifically, the red and green M&Ms. I don't know what it is. I don't know if there's a little bit of Christmas in each one of those little M&Ms. But the red and green ones, they just taste better than the regular ones.