

Shmanners 153: Purses and Wallets

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Travis: Did you hear about the expensive but ineffective yoga class my son William took?

Teresa: No?

Travis: It didn't help my Bill fold. It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy!

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear. How are—

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: —how are *you*?

Travis: I'm a little lispy!

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: 'Cause I just started Invisaligns, because—not out of vanity, folks. It's becau—well, a little bit. It's me. Everything I do is a little bit out of vanity. But I have a cross bite, and my dentist is worried about my teeth wearing unevenly and breaking! So either I'm gonna sound a little lispy, or like I'm doing hyper-diction.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Depends on if I'm thinking about it or not.

Teresa: I wouldn't say that you sound lispy. I think it was once described to me as "splashy."

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, that's true. I'm noticing it in—especially in the T-H sound.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause part of it is because of the cross bite, they had to, like, keep my teeth a little bit parted, right? So they could move around. So I can't close my teeth fully, so my tongue keeps wanting to, like, flop out.

Teresa: Like, spill through.

Travis: Yeah. Which I have been working on in speech therapy since I was, like, in second grade. Like, keeping my tongue behind my teeth. So this is so frustrating. And that was my phone, which is also frustrating.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So, we're gonna be talking this week about, uh, Invisaligns—

Teresa: No, actually.

Travis: —and the history of Invisaligns—

Teresa: We're not.

Travis: No?

Teresa: No. we're gonna talk about wallets and purses and the like.

Travis: Is retainers and braces something we *could* talk—is that something?

Teresa: Uh... hmm.

Travis: Dental work?

Teresa: Maybe!

Travis: Dentists? Maybe. There might be something.

Teresa: I'll see what I can dig up.

Travis: Okay. Don't dig up any dentists, Teresa.

Teresa: Not with my teeth! [snickers]

Travis: Why would you dig up dentists with your teeth? You're sick!

Teresa: I mean, you really shouldn't.

Travis: Sick. That's a fun one to say. Okay. So, we're talking about wallets and purses and billfolds and the like.

Teresa: The like.

Travis: So I'm gonna take a guess and say that this one goes like, way, way back, right?

Teresa: Absolutely. Um, it definitely goes back to the ancient Greeks, and probably before that, because—

Travis: The ancient *ancient* Greeks? There must've been somebody that the Greeks were like, "Oh, way back then?" They weren't, like, "Everything just started now."

Teresa: Exactly. Well, because when you gotta carry stuff you put it in a bag. [laughs]

Travis: Right, and I also assume that as soon as you have something of value, right? Be it, you know, metal coins or gems or whatever, that you're like, "I shouldn't just have these loose in my hands, right?"

Teresa: Well, and even—

Travis: And togas don't have pockets!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Right? I've never—I've been in Julius Caesar before. Togas don't have pockets.

Teresa: Listen, we're gonna get to pockets, because they do relate to wallets and purses.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so the idea of a wallet, which is kind of, you know, a different name for a... for a, um... I guess... there's nothing else to say except for a lunchbox, right?

Travis: Huh? Okay.

Teresa: Well, the wallet that we think of now didn't come about until the advent of paper money, but before paper money you had coins, right? But if you didn't have coins, what else was important to you during the day? Probably food.

Travis: Ohh!

Teresa: Or, um—or, in the event of maybe shared lodgings, any other small keepsakes, things you didn't want out in the open, you would keep with you constantly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and so—

Travis: That makes a lot more sense than what I thought you were saying, which is like—I thought you were comparing, like, the wallet in my pocket [through laughter] to a lunchbox.

Teresa: No, no, no. No, no.

Travis: And I was like, "I don't... mm... you've seen both of those things you're talking about, right? Okay, cool."

Teresa: The wallet of back then was more like a purse.

Travis: Now I've got you, okay.

Teresa: And that's why I think that they needed to be discussed at the same time.

Travis: Is this one of those things where, like, wallet, purse, pocketbook, billfold, they might all, like, technically be different things, but they're fairly interchangeable, as far as terminology goes?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, because... here's the thing. All of these things, at one point or another, were sliding back and forth between those things, right? So a wallet was very much like a purse, and they were held in the same way, and they contained the same things. It's more of almost—it feels almost like, um, you know... you know, like, gender marketing?

Travis: Yeah! Oh! I—

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: —I know exactly what you mean, yes! That's where I thought you were heading with it!

Teresa: So what happened was everybody used to have a little bag, right? Where you keep your food, your valuables, coins, whatever you needed.

Travis: Once again, I've been in Shakespeare shows. I've seen people throw little bags of coins to people—man! Look at [stammers]—I almost said Nightmare Before Christmas.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Christmas Carol, where he says, like—

Teresa: A very different thing.

Travis: —yes. Uh, where he says, like, you know, "Go get the... the turkey, the one as big as you," and he throws him the bag of coins, right? That he has around his neck.

Teresa: Right. And that was actually a very usual—a very usual place for people to put their things, because anyone at any time could, like, break into your house, and you wouldn't be able to find them, right?

Um, so the purses usually were the drawstring type bags, right? Secured to your belt around your waist. Um, and a lot, a lot, a lot of fashion depending on having that belt to be able to attach your purse to.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, it still didn't keep thieves from cutting the purse strings—

Travis: Hint: "cutpurse."

Teresa: Yes. Um, and stealing them—

Travis: Just in case—that's a—a fairly archaic terminology for a thief or pickpocket, is a cutpurse, 'cause they would literally cut it off your belt. Okay.

Teresa: Um, so then what happens is... I mentioned fashion, because the fashion started to shift, and especially for women, the belt with the attached drawstring purse became pockets. Um, and I don't know if you have watched any, like... like, um... I guess it's like "get ready with me" costume videos?

Travis: I have not.

Teresa: Okay. Well—so, how a woman, or anyone wearing a dress, would get dressed, is you would have the chemise or the shift, which was like a long, straight dress that you would usually use for, like, sleeping in, right?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Think of a nightgown. And then you would do your under-petticoat, and then you would do your pockets, which were basically two bags attached to a string that you would tie around your waist.

Travis: So it was like—it was like—[laughs] inverted chaps.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It was like, just, "Here's some flaps of material—" but they weren't pockets *in* something. They were literally just a belt with pockets on 'em.

Teresa: Yes, because they weren't sewn into the garment. Uh, you put them on, and then you put your over petticoat on, and both—and this petticoat had slits in the sides. A lot of the dresses did, so you could just kind of put your hands in the slits. And it's like—

Travis: I love this. I miss this.

Teresa: —folds and folds of fabric.

Travis: I miss this. I tell you right now, every day when I put on my new pants for the day, I gotta go through my pants from the day before, pull out what was in those pockets, put it in my new pockets.

The idea of just transferring pockets to the new pants? That's—it's ergonomic, it's—it's an—I don't know why we don't do it. Hey! Levi's, if you're listening, make pockets that I can just switch between my pants. Okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Make 'em big and deep, for everybody. Okay.

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, so—and then you would put the dress on on top, and so then these pockets were under your skirts, which made it a little safer. Um, but still, some people—there are tales of some people not putting them under the underskirt, or between the layers of petticoat, and if you were wearing, like, a hoop, somebody could easily slide under there and cut the strings without you knowing.

Travis: Slide under your hoop?!

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Oh, no.

Teresa: You could hide tons of stuff under there! Three, four people, sometimes. They're huge!

Travis: No, listen. I have seen lots of movies, comedies mostly, where that has happened.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, and that's women's clothing. Now, we have to backtrack a little bit. So, during the medieval period, men were still wearing the drawstring pouch on the belt. Um, which changed a little bit over time. It became more of, like, a satchel, right? Sometimes even attached to the belt, or you could loop the belt through it. Kind of, you know, through the back, right?

Um, and this was referred to as a wallet. It went in and out of style as far as, like, big wallets. So, there—

Travis: And wallet chains, and is it too big to fit in your JNCOs? I getcha.

Teresa: So at one point, it was considered fashionable to have a big, fat wallet, right? Because that meant—

Travis: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Full of stacks and stacks.

Teresa: Yeah, that's right. Meant you had a lot of coins, you had a lot of stuff in there, a lot of food, whatever you wanna put in there.

Travis: [snorts] A sandwich *and* your stacks.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Cool.

Teresa: Um, but then, that starts to wane, and you feel—

Travis: Because it was too showy?

Teresa: —one, because it was too showy, but also because, um, if you had a big, fat wallet, it meant that you had to carry those things around with you everywhere, meant that your livelihood was not secure at home.

Travis: Ah. So that way if you didn't you're like, "Whatever. It's fine. It's safe at home, 'cause my house totally rules and I don't have anyone there who's gonna steal my stuff. It's totally cool."

Teresa: Exactly. Exactly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and then the wallet started dropping out of favor as men started to get pockets—

Travis: [whispering] Pockets!

Teresa: —actually sewn into their clothing. So pants had pockets—

Travis: Pockets were a game changer!

Teresa: —yeah. Pants had pockets, vests, otherwise known as waist kits, had pockets, um, and jackets had pockets. So there was plenty of places to put a wallet, so you could still carry your stuff around with you, and your wallet, one of those things; but you had other places to put it besides hanging on your belt.

Um, the wallet that we know today didn't really come into fruition until about the 1800s, when the advent of paper money started.

Travis: Right, okay.

Teresa: Um, so, no longer did you have to carry a lot of coins. You could very easily stack and *fold...* um, your *bills...* into your bill fold. Eh?

Travis: Okay. So, here's something I've always wondered. So, the wallet I carry now is one of those that's, like, long enough that you don't have to, like, fold—you put the bills in one side or the other, right? And then it stay—it's about, what? Eight or nine inches long?

Teresa: As long as a piece of... money.

Travis: Right. Is that a billfold? Or is a billfold the one that folds in half to go in your pocket?

Teresa: Um, I believe that the one that folds in half is called a bi-fold.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: The one that folds in three is called a tri-fold.

Travis: But those are both wallet—I—

Teresa: Yeah, they are!

Travis: —the—none of these words mean anything, do they, now?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Right? Like, the wallet, billfold, pocketbook—

Teresa: It's all marketing, baby.

Travis: Ugh.

Teresa: It's all marketing.

Travis: Is that why—okay, and we might be jumping ahead a little bit here, but do you think that that is why—traditionally, at least as far as, like, what has become expected and normalized in fashion—that men don't carry purses because their pockets were pretty much left alone, and they're sold wallets? And, uh, women traditionally, once again, expected to carry purses because if they, you know, get pockets, they're very shallow. Like, why do—

Teresa: Yes. So, that all happened. That's the next stage. So, I told you about how the women—how dresses had slits in them, so people wearing dresses could stick their hands into the pockets, right?

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Well, what happened around the regency period is, um, you start to see a different style of dress. So, instead of these big skirts that could, like, hold a bunch of stuff, right? You start to see that empire waist and that straight line. Think of, like, Jane Austen, right?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Where it's all—it's a very slim look. They call it, uh... oh, what did they call it? Um... Grecian, right? So it looks very slim line, and so there really wasn't... it wasn't fashionable-looking to wear those pockets underneath your dress. It was like—[holding back laughter] it was like the visible pantyline of then, is now the visible pocket lines—

Travis: The VPLs, yes.

Teresa: —so if you had those visible pocket lines, that was kind of gauche, right? That wasn't in vogue.

Travis: I mean, and that also—not to jump ahead again, but when dudes wore suits every day, that was also a thing of, like, knowing which pocket to put your things into so it didn't give you, like, weird lumps in your jacket and your, you know, butt pocket and stuff.

Teresa: Exactly! Um, so then we see purses come back into style in the form of a reticule.

Travis: A—what? A reticule?

Teresa: A reticule, which is a very—it's a long-ish purse, usually made of mesh or chain link or sometimes embroidery, is heavily embroidered, that has a clasp or a drawstring, usually a drawstring, at the top. That's worn over the wrist.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, like, a little wristlet, right?

Travis: Okay. Like a corsage, but to hold your money. And it hung down. It was like a bag, okay.

Teresa: It hung down, it hung down. But these, again, were not very large, um, because a woman who had to carry money wasn't "well taken care of," quote-unquote.

Travis: That's what I thought you were going to say. Yes, yes.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, so they were very small, very impractical. You could probably get maybe a makeup compact, like a mirror. You could probably keep just a few coins. Uh, maybe your powder, if you wanted to put that in there, and, like, your house key.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Basically it. Um, and this trend continues, and the reticule continues to evolve, until it is, after World War II, made into basically a miniature suitcase, and that's the purse that we know of today.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, these purses had clasps. Like, actual, sometimes even locking, clasps. They had sturdy handles instead of just the string. They had interior pockets, sometimes with zippers, sometimes not. Um, and they were much more easily portable, because the style had changed to not just the string around your wrist. How much can you really carry?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: With a string around your wrist. To, uh, messenger-type, over-the-shoulder, which was very popular in the war, because that was what often soldiers carried on the front. Um, also the one shoulder bag, the long-handle bag, the carpetbag?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: All of those things got kind of shrunk—

Travis: Mary Poppins, yes, yes, yes.

Teresa: —down into a purse. Uh... and the reason why the purse continued to be a, quote, "woman's-only product" was because, again, fashion. If you think about

the fashions of the 1950s, especially the pants, very slim. Very tight fitting. Um, when women wore men's trousers, it was an uproar! Like, an Annie Hall, right? Those trousers were big enough to actually have pockets, and they were voluminous, almost. Uh, so you couldn't really see what was in there. But, like, you think about pedal-pushers and cigarette pants of the 50's, they're very tight, very slim.

Travis: Yeah, Aubrey Hepburn is who I'm picturing with those cigarette pants, right? That's—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: —yeah.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Um—

Travis: Yeah, I mean—

Teresa: —and the reason why they're called "cigarette pants" is because they were, like, the original skinny jeans, and cigarettes had the slims, right? So they were very long and tubular, like the pants.

Travis: I will say, though—Hi, I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Speaking—I think that it's, uh, very outdated, the idea of "Women are supposed to carry purses and men aren't." Because the thing is—let me tell you, folks. [laughs quietly] I now have *many* items that I leave the house with, my everyday carry items if you will, and I've got a two-year old! I got a bunch of stuff I gotta carry!

Teresa: That's right!

Travis: Like, I, more often than not, leave the house with, like, a diaper bag or a backpack or something. Or, let's be honest, the culmination of any kind of carrying bag, the belly bag—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —also known as the fanny pack, depending on where you are. I think, one, that needs to come back. I really appreciate it.

Teresa: I mean, that's kind of a take on the original wallet, right? That attached to your belt.

Travis: Yes, I'm saying maybe—hey, if we're all being honest? Maybe it's not a new thing. Maybe, just—we all are wising up to the importance of the belly bag [snorts quietly] and we all just need to swing back that way. "Oh, a belly bag! That's for everybody." I'm just saying, it's convenient, and, you know, sometimes your pockets get full and heavy, and you fall down and you hurt yourself 'cause you've got keys in your pock—anyways, you need to be more careful.

Um, and right now, *I* wanna be careful to send a thank you note to our sponsors.

[theme music plays]

Teresa: Our first sponsor this week is ModCloth, and oh my gosh, I actually just got some ModCloth dresses in the mail that I'm gonna take on the cruise! I was so happy to find them, because, you know, if you've—if you've seen pictures of me, you know that I have a kind of retro style, and ModCloth is where I go to get affordable styles that fit into my everyday life, and I also love that they've got an inclusive size range. Um, because you never know. You might need one size one day and one size the next, and all people need different sizes.

So, I would say that you should go ahead and stock up on your dresses and swimsuits for the next season by going to modcloth.com, where you can get a 15% off of your purchase of \$100 or more at modcloth.com, when you enter the code "shmanners" at checkout. Um, it—just so you know, the offer is valid one time only, so one use, and expires on May 5th, 2019.

Travis: I also wanna tell you about a *new* sponsor for *Shmanners* called Native. Native is working on creating safe, simple, and effective products that people use in the bathroom every day. They create products with trusted ingredients and trusted performance. Not convinced? Check out the 7,000 five star reviews from their customers.

Now, listen. They sent us some deodorant, I—I was a little wary! I've been—and this is not a joke—I've been using the same deodorant since I was 15. I mean, different... different sticks of it. It hasn't been—

Teresa: Right. Right. It hasn't lasted that long.

Travis: —okay. But the same—the same brand and same scent, everything. And so, I was wary! I was like, "I don't know, trying a new deodorant..." first of all, they smelled great.

Teresa: Definitely. I got the coconut and vanilla? Mmm. Very sweet; not too fruity, though.

Travis: And I did the eucalyptus mint, and it was powerful enough even for *my* stank!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Now, I—you know, it was one of the—you know, I put it on and then, like, I ran on the treadmill, I chased a baby around, I slept in it, and I still smelled fine the next day! So, like, it's won me over, and it's formulated without aluminum, parabens, and talc.

It's filled with ingredients found in nature, such as coconut oil, shea butter, tapioca starch, and it's made in the USA with ingredients thoughtfully sourced from around the world. No animal testing, free shipping and returns!

So, if you wanna go check that out, you can go to natedeodorant.com, and when you do, use the promo code "shmanners" during checkout to get 20% off your first purchase. So go to natedeodorant.com and use that promo code "shmanners" for 20% off your first purchase.

[music plays]

Jo: Hi, I'm Jo Firestone!

Manolo: And I'm Manolo Moreno.

Jo: And we're the hosts of Dr. Gameshow, which is a podcast where we play games submitted by listeners, regardless of quality or content, with in-studio guests, and callers from all over the world!

Manolo: You could win a custom magnet.

Jo: A custom magnet!

Manolo: Subscribe now to make sure you get our next episode.

Jo: What's an example of a game, Manolo?

Manolo: Pokemon or medication.

Jo: How do you play that?

Manolo: You have to guess if something's a Pokemon name or a—

Jo: Or medi—

Manolo: —medication.

Jo: —medication?

Manolo: First time listener, if you want to listen to episode highlights and also know how to participate, follow Dr. Gameshow on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Jo: We'd love to hear from you!

Manolo: Yeah, it's really fun.

Jo: For the whole family! We'll be every other Wednesday, starting March 13th, and we're coming to Max Fun!

Manolo: Snorlax.

Jo: Pokemon?

Manolo: Yes.

Jo: Nice!

[music plays]

Amy: Hello, this is Amy Mann.

Ted: And I'm Ted Leo.

Amy: And we have a podcast called The Art of Process.

Ted: We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum, to find out how they actually work.

Speaker One: And so I have to write material that makes sense, and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

Speaker Two: If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

Speaker Three: The fight to get LGBTQ representation in the show.

Speaker Four: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Speaker Five: I really just became a political speech writer by accident.

Speaker Six: Of realizing that I have accidentally, uh, pulled my pants down.
[laughs]

Ted: Listen and subscribe at Maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker Seven: It's like if a guinea pig was complicit with helping the scientist.

Travis: Okay. As per us' [short for "usual"], we've got some questions.

Teresa: Well, here's something I wanna—

Travis: Wha—

Teresa: —[stammers]—

Travis: —what? But—

Teresa: —I wanna—

Travis: —our pattern! Oh—

Teresa: —I just want to say, um, that sometimes I get a little wrapped up in the history of something, and I don't adequately express how this relates to manners and etiquette today, and I think as far as, like, fashion is concerned, that's *all* about etiquette and manners. Um, because there's a lot of negotiating that goes on between convenience and style and form and function, and when you are wanting to make a specific impression in the world, fashion is one of the ways that you do that.

And so I think that part of this whole wallet, purse, waxing and waning, really says a lot about a person in the time that they are.

Travis: So, like, maybe we're just at one end of the pendulum now, and some very influential people will start going the other way, and, you know, this person will carry a wallet instead of a purse, and this person will carry a purse instead of a wallet, and maybe in 200 years this would be a completely different conversation?

Teresa: Exactly! And it actually has happened within our lifetime. Uh, in the 90's it was very in style to have a tiny, tiny, tiny clutch, right? Which is a very small purse, usually flattened, right?

Travis: 'Cause you can *clutch* it in the palm of your hand!

Teresa: [laughs] And then, it reaction to that, we got the oversized bags of the 2000s. Uh, designer bags that were usually—they looked almost like duffel bags, some of them were so large. And then, I feel like the pendulum is almost swinging back *again*. Now we have—you have a clutch design in an oversize, right? That's very popular right now. it looks kind of like a big ol' envelope.

Travis: I mean, I think that while not nearly, unsurprisingly, as interesting, I think wallets—you know, I made the joke about the wallet chain, but I think the tri-fold wallet now was popular for a while, and now the single fold, you know, the bi-fold wallet is more in. And it used to be that, like, thick, chunky wallet was the norm, you know? Put a bunch of your pictures in there, keep everything in there. And I think now that we've seen, you know, skinnier jeans, cleaner lines in what would traditionally be considered men's fashion, I think that, you know, the slimmer wallet is more in vogue because of the lines.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: And, you know, JNCO jeans with the big pockets. We don't—I think those are out. Okay, so here the questions. This is from Sarah.

"What type of purses go along with different formal requirements?"

Teresa: Okay. Um, so, I don't think it's about the type of purse. I think it's more about the size and design, right?

Travis: Okay. Is this gonna go—I think this will tie into—I just noticed another question from Laney, "How big is too big for a purse one would bring to a formal event?"

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, I think that when you're at a formal event, a lot of the time what happens is you are left standing for a long time, and so there's really no place to put your bag down, so I would suggest that with a formal event, you want a lighter bag, which usually means smaller.

Um, but it's not really about the style of the bag. Uh, it needs to match the occasion, right? So I probably would not take a distressed leather, over-the-shoulder bag to, like, say, a gala, especially if it didn't really match my outfit? Um, but I might take that distressed leather bag to, say, an outdoor wedding, right? Uh, which can still be a formal event, but it more mixes with the actual occasion.

Travis: Okay. So it's more about... you know, I think about it like a tie, you know what I mean? Like, a sleeker, you know, black and white tie for a formal occasion, and a more flamboyantly patterned one for, you know, going to hang out with friends somewhere nice, you know? Or going to a play opening or something.

Teresa: Sure, sure. Um, so—

Travis: You can tell that I don't go to a lot of—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —"You know, to go to... something. Whatever."

Teresa: I would say, the more hoity toity formal it is, the smaller the bag should be; because the odds that you're gonna be able to stash it somewhere are very slim.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So you wanna keep that light. Um, but in general just, you know, keep it fashion. Make it look good.

Travis: Uh, this question is from Nintendat.

"How long can I spend putting change back in my wallet at the register without disrupting the line?"

Teresa: Um...

Travis: And I just wanna say, I very much relate to—I am one of those people who will meticulously—have, you know, stuff in my wallet, and then when it's handed to me, just shove that in my pocket and sort it out later, 'cause I just don't wanna be a bother.

Teresa: That is what I recommend. I would say that you can put the bills in wherever you keep those bills, all together, don't—and then you can put the change where you put your change, but if it takes any more sorting than that, you need to step out of the way so that the next person can be served at the register.

Um, so you don't have to shove it all willy-nilly in your pocket, but if it takes longer than to just separate out bills in one section, change in the other, you need to step aside.

Travis: I can't *stand* change in my wallet.

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: I can't stand—I'm like "The Princess and the Pea." I can feel it.

Teresa: Do you put it in your pocket?

Travis: I do.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And then I just throw it away. No—[laughs] then I—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I have many containers at home. Every time, like, a coffee mug gets a chip in it, it becomes a coin holder. Um, but I will also say, 'cause we got asked this question a couple times about, like, wallet placement.

My recommendation—if you are wearing—especially wearing a suit, you want a thin, small wallet—once again, much like a purse, as small as you can go, right? That has, like, your ID, a credit card, maybe some cash in it.

And then, depending on the kind of jacket your wearing, I always recommend inside pocket of the jacket, um, especially if it's a jacket that has a pocket square, 'cause that will oftentimes to a really nice job masking the line of your wallet in that. You don't want a big, clunky wallet in your pants pockets.

Teresa: Especially dress pants, because they tend to be thinner.

Travis: Correct. Um, I also would say—in general, I try not to carry my wallet in my back pocket, 'cause I think it's uncomfortable, and also I think—you know, I grew up—

Teresa: Yours kinda sticks out the top, too.

Travis: This is true. Because I do—

Teresa: It doesn't sink all the way down.

Travis: —I don't have a foldy wallet. And also because I, since I was a kid, have been convinced that pickpockets are anywhere there are more than 3 people standing around.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, so I always try to keep it somewhere where I can feel it close to my heart. Um, let's see. This question is from Jeeves, and it's, uh, not exactly the topic—

Teresa: Jeeves is asking *us* a question?

Travis: I know! "If you find a lost wallet/purse on the street, is it acceptable to look through it in an attempt to find ID to contact the owner and return it, or should you just take it to the relevant authorities, effectively unexamined?"

Teresa: Um, here's the thing. I don't think that the authorities will be able to tell whether you examined it or not. They're not gonna run fingerprints on someone turning in a wallet. Um, so it really just depends on... [through laughter] how much time you have on your hands, right?

Travis: Well, I mean, I think that maybe the question is—'cause we also got a bunch of questions about, "Are you allowed to, like, go through someone's purse or something?" I mean, I assume not just for snooping, but, like, if you need a cough drop or whatever.

I—I think that, in that circumstance, if I lost my wallet and you, like, maybe, depending on the size of your town, even knew me, or could just, like, pop it in an envelope and mail it to my address, like, I wouldn't mind it, personally. Right? I wouldn't feel like that was an invasion of privacy. I—it's lost, you know what I mean?

Like, I'd much rather that than you say, like, "Well, never mind!" Right? Because there's always a chance... I don't know how police handle this kind of thing... that they're going to hold it until I call and ask if I've lost it or something? I don't know. But I don't consider it an invasion of privacy.

Teresa: So, what I would say—

Travis: [reproachfully] Just don't take the money!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'll—I'll give you a reward!

Teresa: Most wallets are of the style where they have a kind of see-through window for an ID, and I think if you can just open the wallet to see that ID to be able to return it, then that's cool. That's all good. But if it is something that you have to rifle through, I would just leave it and give it to the correct authorities. Um, and sometimes you can return a wallet to a post office as well, but not everywhere.

Travis: Along those same lines, Nathan asks, "When/whose wallet or purse is it acceptable to look through?"

Teresa: Anyone who gave you permission. [laughs]

Travis: Yes. Like, I'm pretty sure it's cool if I look in Teresa's purse for something?

Teresa: Yes. Especially if I say, "It's in my purse."

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Which is kind of the—the permission that I usually give Travis. "Oh, where's my wallet?"

"Uh, it's in my purse. I picked it up for you."

Travis: Yeah. And I don't care if you look in my wallet. But I do think that it's something you should not assume.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Ever. [pauses] Ever. Um... this is from Shelby. "How long—" and I love this question. "How long do you wait to pull out your wallet when you're checking out?"

And the reason I love this question is I've worked retail many times, and in many different forms. I've also worked, like, concession stands at a movie theater, that kind of thing. And I find it... and the only work I can think of is "demeaning" when somebody pulls out money and just, like, points it at me, long before I'm ready to take it.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Because, one, either I stand there with someone waving money in my face, or two, I take it while, with the other hand, trying to type in, and now I'm... [sighs] So, I say, my advice is when they tell you the total.

Teresa: Exactly. Not to say that you can't have—if you're, like, paying with card, picked out the card that you're already doing—that you've decided you're going to use. I often have my purse open, my wallet at the ready, and then once the total is given, that's when I pull the card I wanna use out. Um, but... I mean, here's the other thing. Like, I think it's always better to have it ready than to fumble for it.

Travis: I think that that is true. I just think that, like... it's—but I also think there's a difference between pulling it out of your pocket versus, like, waving something in someone's face.

Teresa: Oh, no. Um, it should—I don't think that you can—you should extend whatever you're paying with to the person checking you out unless they've told you the total. Then you can start to extend. But to have it closer—like, have it ready in your pocket, or picked out from your wallet, I think that that's fine. Um... I'm sorry you had so much cash waved in your face, babe.

Travis: It's okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I also, because I worked at the register for a concession stand, I heard this a lot. "*How* much for popcorn?! It used to be a quarter!"

No it did not. No—

Teresa: "[through laughter] Not here, sir!"

Travis: —Unless you're, like, 150, there is no way—like, 30-year-old people would say that to me.

Teresa: "This ain't no nickelodeon!"

Travis: Right!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, people I would look at and be like, "You've *never*—you've *never* bought candy at a concession stand and it was a quarter. What are you *talking* about? Get out of here. You're not allowed to see *Dumb and Dumber*, or whatever."

Alright, that's gonna so it for us this week. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, thank you so much for joining us. Go check out all the other amazing shows on Maximumfun.org. Also wanted to let you know, we are going to be touring with *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* and *The Adventure Zone*. We're going to San Jose, California, and Salt Lake City. We're gonna be at those locations at some point during April 2nd to 4th.

You can check out those dates by going to mcelroy.family and clicking on "tours," and while you're there, check out all the cool merch! I think as of March 1st, there will be new merch, so maybe when you're hearing this...

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: ... there is new merch up! Um, let's see. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: Well, we wanna say our thank yous to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where that's found.

Also, thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. Check out her portfolio. Um, and you can contact us on Twitter @shmannerscast. Keep an eye on that Twitter! We tend to do a lot of fun things on there during the Max Fun Drive!

Travis: Which is coming up, and we recorded a *super* fun bonus episode, which you will only get if you're a Max Fun donor, and we'll tell you all about that later!

Teresa: You can also reach us at our email, which is shmannerscast@gmail.com.

Um, thank you to Keely Weis Photography for our cover picture for the fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners! You should join that. You can get and give great advice from our other listeners.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week!

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[theme music plays]

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