

Shmanners 204: British Royalty

Published April 3rd, 2020

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Travis: What do you get when you sit on a crown? A royal pain!

Teresa: We are not amused.

Travis: 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.

Travis: Welcome to take two.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: We tried earlier to record this episode and Baby Dot, uh, was not having it.

Teresa: Nope. So this is take two. She continues to join us in the studio.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, but so far, uh, she is—she is amused.

Travis: Yes. But she's, like, the worst producer I've ever had. She doesn't work the board, she doesn't know how to plug in the equipment, [holding back laughter] and she won't stop talking during the recording.

Teresa: Really all she does is stare at the ceiling fan.

Travis: Yes. She's lost in it, all day. She stares at the ceiling fan dreaming of another life.

Teresa: Babies loves ceiling fans.

Travis: They do! They're hypnotic! And that's why we're talking about ceiling fans—

Teresa: No, we're not.

Travis: —no—no?

Teresa: We're not.

Travis: What are we talking about?

Teresa: Well, we're gonna talk about some, uh, royal protocols.

Travis: Royal... protocols.

Teresa: Yeah. You know, the etiquette of what you're supposed to do, what they're supposed to do, how some of these things came about.

Travis: Like when you go to the Dairy Queen, how do you, like, greet the Dairy Queen and the Burger King.

Teresa: Exactly, how they're always supposed to serve the blizzards upside down.

Travis: Yes. Well, they have to hold it upside down, and if it falls out then you become Dairy Queen? I'm un—

Teresa: Some—something like that.

Travis: —I missed that part. Uh, and the Burger King is allowed to come and go in your house, as long as he is delivering burgers.

Teresa: Now I really want ice cream.

Travis: Yeah, I really want a Burger King burger. Oh no.

Teresa: Oh no.

Travis: What are we gonna do? No, that's not—no. We're talking about actual royal stuff!

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Like what?

Teresa: Well, okay. Um, I wanna give a shoutout for our research assistant, and she writes a lot of copy for us, Alex. She went through, um, probably, like, six pages of royals history, and so I would be remiss if I didn't say a few things.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, every—everyone pretty much understand that royals, uh—

Travis: [holding back laughter] Are better than us.

Teresa: Well, the idea is that they are ordained by heaven, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: That they're kind of like the King—the God on Earth.

Travis: Well, when you say everyone *knows*, I think what you mean is, that was the going line.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: That was—everyone—it's not like everyone knows it because it's true.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: It's more like everyone knows it 'cause that was just a thing that people talked about all the time.

Teresa: It is—it is said that the reason there are royals is because they are ordained by God.

Travis: Yes. That's the whole thing, right? With King Arthur and the Lady in the Lake is, like, "Oh yes, chosen—chosen by God. That's why I gotta get the Holy Grail."

Teresa: Sure. Even before that, right? So, like, the pharaoh—

Travis: [simultaneously] Pharaohs, yeah.

Travis: —is King on Earth—sorry, God on Earth. And, um, you know, the—the whole idea behind royal protocols is that these, uh—these God-kings should be treated with the utmost deference and—and respect, right?

Travis: Which, if I remer—remember correctly is part of the big, like, why there was so much beef between the Pope and Henry VIII, right?

Teresa: Exactly, exactly.

Travis: 'Cause it was like, "But I'm chosen by God." And it's like, "Okay, but you're disagreeing with me, like, God's chosen."

And it's like, "Okay, well then I'll—I'm gonna start my own church."

Teresa: Exactly. Um—

Travis: And this has been your history lesson from Travis McElroy.

Teresa: [laughs] So let's—we are specifically, this week, talking about the British royal line.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, which arguably probably started in the year 1066?

Travis: You mean British royalty in general, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Not this line. Is this line—

Teresa: Not this line, no.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: No. British royalty in general. Um, this was—this is usually classified as the medieval period. Um, and England at the time, uh, generally where England is stays the same, although the Empire expands. Waxes and wanes, as they say.

Travis: Yeah, expands and contracts.

Teresa: Um, was ruled by Edward the Confessor.

Travis: Of course.

Teresa: Um, who was Anglo Saxon, and again, he was referred to as an Anglo Saxon saint.

Travis: I believe—I think it's an Eddie Izzard joke where they talk about, like, the Confessor. "Oh, he confessed to everything," and I think about that now.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I have to—I—I did that. That was me.

Teresa: Um, and then what happens is the Norman conquest, right? And the Normans which is, like, code word for French.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I think Norman—

Travis: Psst! It means French!

Teresa: Norman and Goth, in Shakespeare's time, are both kind of code—

Travis: I thought Goth was, like—like, Gaelic, like, tribe—

Teresa: Oh, maybe that's it.

Travis: —I thought that was it. I thought Goth was, like, a Scottish, like, clan thing. Aw, man, I can't believe I don't know that!

Teresa: But definitely Norman. Norman is code for French.

Travis: Norman is French. That guy, Norman? He's French.

Teresa: Um, and that guy, William the Conqueror? He was French, and he conquered.

Travis: Uh—yeah! It's right there in the name! It's right there on the tin, huh?

Teresa: Exactly. Uh, he ruled for pretty much, uh, you know, most of his lifetime. He ruled for 69—uh, far—sorry, 59 years. Um, and then—see, what happens is... then there's a lot of fighting, okay? And there's always a lot of fighting.

Um, but at this point in time, there weren't really any rules other than... [stammers] to the strongest go the spoils?

Travis: Right, yeah.

Teresa: Type thing? Um, and there's no, like... everybody has a reason to dispute everybody else at this point. Right up until, um, Henry II. Um, where he invoked the Rule of Two. Meaning—

Travis: Okay?

Teresa: —that, uh, an heir to the throne is chosen in advance of the King dying.

Travis: Oh, okay. So—okay, cool! So you could choose your heir, and then it becomes a family thing.

Teresa: Well, I mean, maybe. It—it becomes who you chose.

Travis: Uh, I just looked it up, by the way—

Teresa: But there's no disputing after death.

Travis: —the Goths were a nomadic Germanic people.

Teresa: Okay, great. So Goth is code word for German.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: And Norman is code word for French. Got it.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Anyway. Um, and they have the opportunity of, like, ruling together, this heir—this Rule of Two. Um, and then... it was a great idea, right? But, still people fight, a lot.

Travis: Oh yeah. They didn't have *anything* else to do! They didn't have Xbox, they didn't have smartphones, they didn't have... PlayStation—[laughs] they didn't have Wii, they didn't have Wii U, they di—[pauses] what I'm saying is they didn't have any video games. Or Netflix.

Teresa: Right. Lots of civil war. Next comes Richard the Lionheart, then comes King John. Um, after King John there was a period—a brief respite.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Um, where it was just kind of oldest sons. Um, this is where a lot of, like, the—the early Shakespearean histories come in.

Travis: Right. King John is the beginning of the History Cycle, right?

Teresa: I think so, yes. And—

Travis: Oh—

Teresa: —well—

Travis: No.

Teresa: —so there's The War of the Roses comes after this, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So there's King John. Some—some history, then War of the Roses, which is also support of—part of the Shakespearean History Cycle.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and... this is where in, like, Richard III happens, and then Henry VIII, and we know all about that.

Travis: Yes. The History Cycle, by the way, is King John, Richard II, Henry IV part one, Henry IV part two, Henry V, Henry VI part one, Henry VI part two, Henryyy... IV part three? Hmm... I think that's supposed to be Henry VI part three. Richard III, Henry VIII.

Teresa: Right. Um... so—okay. We then enter into, uh, Lady Jane Grey, then Bloody Mary. Um, then Elizabeth.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: That's another good touchstone, Elizabeth.

Travis: That's a big one. That's Shakespeare time. Elizabeth I.

Teresa: Yes, when he was alive.

Travis: Virgin Queen.

Teresa: Yes. Uh, and she was the last monarch in the house of Tudor, okay, right? Um, and then—

Travis: The Tudor Dynasty.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Uh, Oliver Cromwell and the Reformation, and then the Restoration.

Travis: Right, 'cause the Reformation was the—you know, the—not pilgrims, but—what am I thinking—who's the—

Teresa: Cromwell. That's what I said.

Travis: But who's the austere people?

Teresa: Puritans.

Travis: The Puritans.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And then... finally, Parliament steps in and says, uh, "We are—we're starting over, with Sophia of Hanover," who was the granddaughter of King James, and they went, "Okay. This is where we're starting it."

Uh, and so that's where we get George III, who, uh, came to fame in the, uh—the musical *Hamilton*. [laughs]

Travis: Oh, okay!

Teresa: Uh—

Travis: Finally, he really got his name out there.

Teresa: Finally. Um, and then Victoria.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Right? And they were actually, uh, of German descent. We've talked about this before. Um, and so we come up to 1937.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Wow, this is totally abridged. I just went through, like, five pages of history on this.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Uh, Edward VIII—

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, abdicates because of Wallis Simpson. We've talked about that. Um, and that's part of the protocol, right?

Travis: By the way, Wallis Simpson? For whatever reason, whenever I hear that name, I will first picture in my head Wallace Shawn, the actor who played, uh, Vizzini in *Princess Bride*, and that is not at all who Edward VIII abdicated for. Okay.

Teresa: Um... and that was part of royal protocol, because the rule was, uh, that it would be scandalous to marry a divorced American socialite. Uh, they were in different social classes. Um, they were from different backgrounds, and her being married before—

Travis: A real Romeo and Juliet.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: To keep invoking Shakespeare.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, and then Queen Elizabeth II's mo—uh, father, George VI, uh, had to deal with World War II. Um, and that's when the—pretty much the last of the British Empire broke up.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, and now we have, like I said, Queen Elizabeth II. She became Queen when her father died at 25, and she is still ruling today at 93 years old.

Travis: Did you know they only get the number when they actually become King or Queen? That there isn't, like—you're not born being, like—

Teresa: Eliza—right.

Travis: —yeah, you're just Elizabeth at that point. But then if you become King or Queen, now you get that name—now you get the—the number.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay. Well, I know *you* know that.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Also, have we talked about on this show before, like, the—the trying to line up, uh, Scottish royal numbers—like, of royalty and the English—when they—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. That that's, like, a whole thing.

Teresa: That's a total weird thing.

Travis: A real sticky wicket.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Because, you know, there's like, "Well, this is James I."

"Well, no. Actually, this is James I."

Teresa: "No, this is James I." Right. Aw, man. I mean, it's a, uh—it is a—a family tree with many limbs.

Travis: Yeah, but I als—

Teresa: And graftings.

Travis: —it's a weird convention, right? Because it's like they said, "Let's confuse every schoolchild for the rest of time." Where it's like, "Please, Henry V or Henry VI—no, Henry IV—okay, wait. No, who was Edward—"

Just name 'em, like, weird different names that no one else has ever had. So when I'm like, "Studamamen." You're like, "Oh, I know exactly who Studamam—" well, basically I guess that's what they did with pharaohs, huh?

Teresa: Pretty much.

Travis: Guy—I basically just said almost Tutankhamen, but I said Studamamen.

Teresa: [laughs] 'Cause of Stewart.

Travis: Sure. But what I'm saying is—

Teresa: Which is another royal house.

Travis: [crosstalk] they should have a weird name so that every time it's like, "I know exactly who that is." Or just say, like, King 3. King 4. Queen 5. That sounds like a chess game. Okay, we're gonna figure this out by the end of this episode.

Okay, so we're caught up.

Teresa: Right. We're caught up. Um, practically—

Travis: Who will be the next? Who knows?

Teresa: —practically to Megxit. No. The next person is the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles. She—she has named him as her successor.

Travis: I thought that we—I thought the next one was the—was Charles's eldest boy!

Teresa: No. Once he be—once, uh, Prince Charles is crowned King, then the next one will be Prince William. He will become the Prince of Wales.

Travis: I thought it was gonna skip Char—I know nothing!

Teresa: No, they're not gonna skip him. Not at this point.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: It could change. She gets to decide but, like—

Travis: Okay. I really thought they decided to skip him.

Teresa: No.

Travis: No?

Teresa: Not yet. They haven't decided to skip him.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: He's actually the oldest Prince of Wales in history.

Travis: Well, she's been kickin' it a long time.

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: Do you think they would ever name me King?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Mmkay. Oh wait—hey, can I go back and make a different weird joke there?

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: In your history you forget to mention King Ralph, the American who became King.

Teresa: There's no kings in America.

Travis: Did you ever see that documentary, though?

Teresa: No.

Travis: It's a—

Teresa: What are we talking—

Travis: —it was a movie. It was a movie starring—I think John Goodman?

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Where it was like, "Oh, the King's died and it turns out his eldest son is actually this Ameri—" it's not important. [crosstalk] King Ralph.

Teresa: Not important.

Travis: You know, there is actually, uh, a King of America. Uh, he was not actually the King, but his name was, uh—or maybe Emperor, but Joshua Norton was his name, and it was a guy who, uh, historically lived in San Francisco I think in, like, 1920's or something. And he invested—there was, like, a trade embargo against China, and so he invested all this money in rice, like, "I'll be rich!" And then, like, the next day they lifted the trade embargo and he was ruined. And he had a nervous breakdown.

And when his—like, the next time he surfaced he had declared that he was Joshua Norton, uh, the first King of America. Um, and he became this beloved figure who, like—they reserved, like, seats for him at the op—seats for, like, him and his two dogs at the opera and, like, when he died, Mark Tra—Mark Twain wrote his epitaph and, like, thousands of people attended his funeral and stuff. It was a whole thing. That's all true. I mean, he wasn't really King.

Teresa: I'm looking at you incredulously, 'cause I have never heard about this. I think maybe—

Travis: Oh, really?

Teresa: —you need to do a—an episode on it.

Travis: Oh, I'll do—the next episode will be a bio episode on Joshua Norton.

Teresa: Holdin' you to it.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And it's really hard when you're talking about him not to say Edward Norton. Just letting everyone know that.

Teresa: [laughs] So. Now, the British monarchy is a constitutional monarchy. Uh, so the royal family still does have some power. Not like they used to, because of—

Travis: Okay. I already got some details—

Teresa: —Parliament.

Travis: —sorry. Emperor of the United States—

Teresa: We're not even done with this episode!

Travis: Okay. Okay. You're right.

Teresa: Stop jumpin' the gun.

Travis: It was, like, 1850's. Sorry, go on.

Teresa: Uh... but they do have some power. For example, the Queen still has to stamp something with her approval before it becomes law. So, um, she pretty much—when a law gets to her desk, she doesn't, like, veto it.

Travis: Yeah. She literally rubber stamps it.

Teresa: Pretty much.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um... and they are required to be staunchly apolitical, and they can't even vote.

Travis: Oh, really?

Teresa: Yeah. Well, because they're—as the royals of—of England, they're supposed to be representative of all of their people. Um, and so to vote for one over another would be showing preferential treatment, I think?

Travis: Yeah, and an endorsement too, you know?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Um, yeah. I guess that's true. Because as a lifetime familial, you know, heritage, it's gotta be something where it's like, "We are so careful to try to maintain public opinion."

'Cause it's one thing if you're like, "I don't like who that person's married to," right? But it's another thing to be like, "I fundamentally disagree with their, like, principles and their [crosstalk] start to be tricky. You might have a coup!

Teresa: And because they're paid for by the taxpayer, right? So everybody who pays taxes pays their salaries. Keeps them, you know, in... [pauses]

Travis: The money.

Teresa: In the money. [laughs] Um, and they do a lot of charity work. They have a lot of royal engagements and appearances. In fact, Elizabeth in 2017 carried out 341 personal engagements.

Travis: Oh, wow. Wow!

Teresa: That's—that's a ton of appearances and stuff.

Travis: I mean, it's almost one a day on average!

Teresa: On average.

Travis: There were probably multiple ones. I doubt—I doubt she was doing one a day for 341 days. Right? It's probably like, "Here's three on this day, three on this day."

Teresa: I mean, she definitely gets holidays off.

Travis: You would think.

Teresa: I hope!

Travis: Maybe Saturdays. Maybe Sundays.

Teresa: Maybe Sundays.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Unless maybe she appears at a church... thing?

Travis: Man. Busy life.

Teresa: She is the head of the Church of England, so.

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: Maybe Sundays count.

Travis: Maybe Sundays count. Maybe she's doin' her own—maybe she's gettin' up there and sermonizing.

Teresa: It reminds me of the *Downton Abbey*. "What is a week end?" [laughs]

Travis: I would love to hear more about the royals. But first, how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

Teresa: One of the thing—uh, one of our sponsors this week is Betabrand, and I'm seeing all over social media that one of the things that you can do to get into the mindset of working at the office while you're working from home is to get dressed every day. Beta—

Travis: I started doing that. I've been tweeting, "I got dressed today! #igotdressedtoday" and a lot of people have been doing it.

Teresa: And so Betabrand's dress pant yoga pants look professional and stylish, but are still super comfortable for hangin' out at home. Um, they come—what Betabrand does is they combine customer experience with their expertise to make work wear that's functional, comfortable, and inspiring, right? Just like your favorite workout gear.

Their customer favorite, dress pant yoga pants, are made of wrinkle-resistant stretch knit fabric, which makes them perfect for working long days at work, or for working from home.

They've got tons of different colors and styles, so you can choose from things like boot cut or straight leg or skinny or eight pocket. There's—there's so many to take a look at. So, right now, our listeners can get 25% off their first order when

they go to betabrand.com/shmanners. Again, that's a great deal. 25% off your first order for a limited time at betabrand.com/shmanners, so you can find out why people are buying, like, five pairs of these pants at a time.

Go to betabrand.com/shmanners for 25% off.

Travis: We're also sponsored in part this week by HoneyBook! As a creative business owner, you know how to make your clients look good, but who is helping *you* look good? With HoneyBook, you can take on the day knowing everything is in one place, so you stay organized and always look professional. HoneyBook is an online business management tool that organizes your client communications, bookings, contracts, and invoices all in one place. With HoneyBook, you can automate your busywork. They have easy-to-use templates for emails, proposals, brochures, and invoices. Simplify your to-do list and stay in control with HoneyBook. And right now, HoneyBook is offering our listeners 50% off when you visit honeybook.com/shmanners. Payment is flexible and this promotion applies whether you pay monthly or annually. Go to honeybook.com/shmanners for 50% off your first year. That's honeybook.com/shmanners.

Dave: Hi, I'm Dave Hill from before, and I'm very excited to bring *Dave Hill's Podcasting Incident* back to Maximum Fun where it belongs. You can get brand new episodes every Friday on Maximumfun.org or, you know, wherever. And what my partner Chris Gersbeck might lack in specific subject matter on our podcast, we make up for in special effects! Chris, add something cool... right here!

[whip crack sound effect]

Also, we have explosions.

[explosion sound effect]

Animal noises.

[sheep baaing]

And sometimes, even this.

[bouncing spring sound effect]

[scream sound effect]

Dave Hill's Podcasting Incident, every Friday on Maximum Fun. Chris, do another explosion right here.

[explosion sound effect]

Helen: Hey, J. Keith.

J. Keith: Hey, Helen! I hear you have a true/false quiz you wanted me to finish.

Helen: I *do*. Here we begin. We host a trivia game show podcast on the Max Fun Network called *Go Fact Yourself*.

J. Keith: True.

Helen: Correct! The show is all about celebrity guests answering trivia questions about things J. Keith enjoys.

J. Keith: False. We sometimes don't talk about baseball or cats.

Helen: Thank God. It's questions about things *they* enjoy! Next, we bring on surprise experts every episode.

J. Keith: True!

Helen: Correct! Final question: it's just the two of us, sitting alone with these guests.

J. Keith: False.

Helen: Correct! We have a live audience at the Angel City Brewery!

[audience cheers]

Helen: See? You can hear *Go Fact Yourself* every first and third Friday of the month, and if you don't listen, you can go fact yourself!

J. Keith: True!

[music plays]

Travis: Okay. [dramatic voice] When we last left off, we were learning about the royal family.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, let's start out on some etiquette, okay? And we do have the words of a royal etiquette expert, uh, Myka Meier. She is the founder of the Duchess Effect course at the Plaza Hotel, which is also lovingly called Princess Boot Camp.

Travis: Oh! Huh!

Teresa: Uh, she received—

Travis: Princess Boot Camp sounds like a fun Disney movie from the 90's!

Teresa: [laughs] Oh really?

Travis: Like a made-for-TV movie that maybe a Hillary Duff might star in!

Teresa: It does kind of sound like that.

Travis: Right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, she received her etiquette training in England underneath a former member of Queen Elizabeth's household.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and she says that etiquette, royal etiquette in particular, is about relating to other people.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Not being stuffy and formal. Which I would say Queen Elizabeth has really come into. Um, some would say that she was, you know, cold and distant as a young Queen, but now there are lots of anecdotes—for example, in Michelle Obama's book she talks about the incident where she was, uh, instructed to sit in a specific seat in a car, but when—with the Queen, and when she was confused because that seat got taken, the Queen was like, "Oh, did they tell you you have to sit there? That's rubbish." And let her sit wherever she wanted.

Travis: You have to think, right—she's been doing this—she's been Queen for 68 years, right? And you have to think—so that means—what? That's, uh... twe... what, uh, 60—1962 she became Queen? Something like that, right?

Teresa: Something like that.

Travis: So you gotta think that in that time period she must've had to be especially, like, kind of stuffy, right? To convey authority, right? Because she was a 25-year-old woman as Queen, right? And so it had to be like—"Yeah, you know what? I have to be especially, like, withheld because if I'm seen, like, laughing and smiling, people might be like 'Oh, she's just, like, a giggly, you know, young woman.'"

Right? And now probably as she's gotten some time in the role and things have loosened up and people are like, "Yeah, that's Queen Elizabeth." She's probably easy—it's easier for her to let her hair down, as it were—

Teresa: Proverbial hair down.

Travis: —her proverbial hair, and just—

Teresa: 'Cause her hair is actually quite short.

Travis: —yes, and be a little chiller, you know? 'Cause it's like, what are they gonna do?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Right? You gonna kick me out? Come on.

Teresa: Um, and some of her etiquette advice is really quite practical. Um, for example, one of the things that makes people kind of, um, anxious is formal dinning—dining. [laughs]

Baby Dot: [coughs]

Teresa: Formal dinning.

Baby Dot: [coughs]

[pauses]

Teresa: I'm—I'm crackin' her up.

Travis: Yep.

Teresa: Um, formal dining. Here are a couple of tips: napkins, for example. Um—

Travis: Don't eat 'em.

Teresa: Don't eat 'em. Uh, take the napkin off your plate or wherever it is on the table. Open it to the side. Um, and then fold it in half so the crease is facing you.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: The idea is when you lift the napkin to dab a stain or what you're—whatever you need the napkin for, you use the inside of the napkin so all the stains are concealed on the inside of the napkin when you refold it.

Travis: Oh, okay!

Teresa: So it doesn't look like you made any mess.

Travis: [gasps] [sing-song] Secret mess.

Teresa: Look at that royal. She doesn't even make any mess.

Travis: So wait, that's what the Queen has to do, not what we have to do when we eat with the Queen? I assume we would do it [crosstalk]—

Teresa: These are tips for formal dinners, and occasions in line with dinner with the Queen.

Travis: Gotcha.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: Don't blow your nose on the napkin, either.

Teresa: Nope. Don't—

Travis: That's a thing.

Teresa: —don't do that.

Travis: —I learned that the hard way.

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: [sighs]

Teresa: Uh, another—

Travis: Queen Elizabeth razzed me about that for weeks.

Teresa: [laughs] Apparently she is quite funny, and enjoys doing things like impressions.

Travis: Yeah. She does this hilarious impression of me. If you ever get a chance—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —if you ever meet her say, "Do your Travis McElroy." She's like, "[high pitched] Oh, I can't." Then you say, "Do it," and then she'll do it, and it sounds just like this. [inhales]

Teresa: Rumor has it that she enjoys her own impressions so much that, uh, Harry instructed Meghan to, uh, to tone down her acting prowess at playing charades at Christmas.

Travis: [gasps] Oh.

Teresa: Not to upstage the Queen, of course.

Travis: Yeah, yeah. Got it. Got it. I had to do that too.

Teresa: You did?

Travis: Yeah. Meghan passed that on to me. She was like, "Hey, chill it around the Queen."

And I said, "No." And I turned it up. And then the Queen was like, "[high pitched] Oh, a challenge!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And, like, then it was like a whole thing that she was into. It became of an arms race, a charades arms race. We had a good time. We laughed. Had some mulled wine.

Teresa: The English love their tea and, uh, this expert says when pouring tea for the Queen, one should firmly grasp the handle of the teapot with one hand and pour with your opposite hand on the lid to prevent spillage. Always a good idea.

Travis: And if she's ever in a bad mood you can sing "I'm A Little Teapot." Cheers her right up.

Teresa: I'm sure it does.

Travis: Yeah, she loves it.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

[pauses]

Travis: Except she sings "We're A Little Teapot."

Teresa: Oh, right. Because of the royal We.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: [sighs deeply] Just trying to get through this, everybody.

Travis: Me too, baby. We all are.

Teresa: We're all just trying to get through this. Uh, the handle of the teacup you're pouring into should be facing three o' clock, and to properly drink from your teacup you should pinch your thumb and index finger around the handle and support the cup with your middle finger. The whole pinkies out thing?

Travis: That's nothing.

Teresa: Not real.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: Did that just become a thing because people said it was a thing?

Teresa: Well, so we've—we talked about this briefly in the tea episode. And the thing is, teacups used to be very small.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, and so the truth is there just wasn't room for one's pinky.

Travis: Yes. 'Cause if you're talking about holding it with your index finger and your thumb, right? I'm doing it now, and supporting with your thing—that leaves you two fingers that are just—

Teresa: Right.

Travis: So either you had those curled under weird or they just kinda stuck out.

Teresa: They just kinda stick out naturally.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Is the thing. But everybody makes a big deal about the pinky being straight up, but they were just such small cups there wasn't room on the handle... for ya digits.

Travis: Yep. Not like now, with our huge thermoses.

Teresa: I mean, I really enjoy a giant a coffee cup. I am not gonna lie.

Travis: I know, who doesn't? You know what they don't—I haven't—I haven't had one of these in a long time. One of those, like, big Central Perk style cups that looks like a soup bowl.

Teresa: Ohh, looks like a bowl with a handle.

Travis: Gotta get one of those! That's some coffee you could go swimmin' in.

Teresa: Uh, you may have noticed that, um, all of the royal ladies sit a certain way—

Travis: [singing to the tune of "All The Single Ladies"] "All the royal ladies, all the royal ladies. All the royal ladies, all the royal ladies."

Teresa: "Put your hands up?"

Travis: Yep.

Teresa: Yep. [pauses] I'm sorry, I'm not finding any of your jokes funny today, and I hope that you—

Travis: Nope. Why should today be any different, my love?

Teresa: [laughs] I hope that people at home forgive me.

Travis: No, it's okay. I—I doubt very much that—I bet most of these people right now are thinking, "I wish he would just shut up."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "And let Teresa talk." And that's fine. I know my role here, my role is an eye roll, really. That's my role, is—

Teresa: Oh no, I laughed too hard and woke our daughter up.

Travis: Well, uh, that's why I've been trying to not be funny this whole time. Just trying—I'm trying to do my part—

Teresa: [gasps] That's it!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Thank you so much. You're really appreciated.

Travis: You're welcome. It's hard! Ooh, to stifle all this comedy? It's hard.

Teresa: So, the particular way of sitting is you are to sit with your legs slanted to the side. And then take your hands and link them lightly or place one hand over top the other. Uh, this way of seating elongates the legs, conceals one's modesty if they are wearing a skirt—

Travis: Oh, I understand.

Teresa: —and, um, obviously turns plain old Anne Hathaway into Mia Thermopolis Renaldi, Princess of Genovia.

Travis: Sure. Is that from *Princess Diaries*?

Teresa: [holding back laughter] It is.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: That was a funny joke that Alex put in there, I had to put it in.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Had to say. I appreciate all her jokes. [pauses] Not like you.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: What?

Travis: You don't appreciate *my* jokes, or I don't appreciate *Alex's* jokes? What are you saying, there?

Teresa: I'm saying that you don't appreciate Alex's jokes.

Travis: Whoa! How dare you?!

Teresa: [laughs] I thought that was the safer of the two. Okay—

Travis: No, I've accepted that you don't—[stammers] you don't appreciate my jokes.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: I think Alex's jokes are hilarious.

Teresa: Oh, okay. I'm glad we're on the same page, then.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, so a few other things. Uh, the Windsor Wave is quite popular. Um, keep your elbows down, fingers together in a slight movement of your hand. Uh, I think that that's also been immortalized in TV and movies, we've seen that.

Travis: Yeah. Oh, wait, that's what people think of when they think of the, like, beauty Queen wave too, right?

Teresa: Right, exactly, exactly.

Travis: Where you're, like, slightly twisting at the wrist.

Teresa: Yes. Um, one thing that has been revisited as far as royal protocol goes is the curtsy and the bow.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Um, you know, people—the fashion is no longer the large sweeping dresses or—you don't have to pick up your skirts when you walk or anything like that. And so—

Travis: Now it's just finger guns and a wink.

Teresa: [laughs] Not quite.

Travis: Pew pew!

Teresa: Uh—

Travis: Wink!

Teresa: —the bow has turned into more of a head nod, right? Slight nod of the head and neck, and the curtsy is also quite subtle. Um, one leg back behind the other, bend at the knee and kind of, again, bow the head. It is a gentle nod of your chin with your eyes to the floor.

Um, and... the first way that you address the Queen is you will say "Your Majesty," right? But after you have addressed her formally, you can just call her ma'am.

Travis: Or mum.

Teresa: Uh, no. Mum is mother. So, make it a ma'am that rhymes with ham.

Travis: Yes, ma'am.

Teresa: [attempting a British accent] Ma'am.

Travis: [attempting a British accent] Ma'am.

Teresa: [attempting a British accent] Ma'am.

Travis: We shouldn't do that. [laughs] We sound... bad.

Teresa: [laughs] We do.

Travis: We do sound bad.

Teresa: Please forgive our crass American accents.

Travis: Isn't she the Queen Mother? You could say mum, right? No. No.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Is that weird? Okay.

Teresa: That's weird. Okay. Time for some [goofy voice] *weird* stuff!

Travis: [quietly] Okay.

Teresa: Let's get weird.

Travis: [wrestling announcer voice?] Let's get *weird*.

Teresa: There it is. Thank you. Really appreciate that. Okay, um—

Travis: That one's goin' on the soundboard!

Teresa: [laughs] So I want to talk about the ravens.

Travis: The Queen's ravens.

Teresa: The Queen's ravens. At the time, they were the King's ravens. Um, they are six—six-ish ravens who live at the Tower of London.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And they've been there since the 1600's.

Travis: Isn't it weird that that is a true thing—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: —and yet there's never been, like, a cartoon or movie or something that's like, "The Ravens," that's like, "Let me tell you a little bit about history."

Teresa: I mean, maybe there has—

Travis: Oh, you think?

Teresa: —but we live in the US, and so maybe it's just a thing that they have in England?

Travis: Maybe.

Teresa: That would be a fun thing to tweet us about.

Travis: Yeah. If there's, like, cartoons or movies or stuff based off of these ravens, please let me know. Why are there six ravens on top of the Tower of London?

Teresa: Uh, they live there.

[pauses]

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, and the thing is, the Royal Astronomer complained to King Charles II that the birds were a pest and should be disposed of, and Charles was like, "Okey dokey."

But a courtier stepped in and declared that if the ravens were harmed, the monarchy would fall. So now the job of the Beefeaters other than to protect the Tower of London is to take care of the ravens.

Travis: There is a Raven Master, right?

Teresa: Yes there is.

Travis: Now, here's what I'll say. That's great. I love that and I'm glad the ravens are protected. It's weird to me that this all began because somebody just stepped up and said, "If you hurt 'em, then, ohh, it's gonna be bad for the monarchy!" And nobody went, "Why?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That they just went, "Oh, good point!"

Teresa: I think it's just one of those things where, like, the ravens have always been there.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And to get rid of them would, like, be such a crazy—

Travis: [simultaneously] It's like changing your socks before the big game, yeah.

Teresa: Exactly. I think that's what it is. Alright. Another weird thing. Uh, Queen Elizabeth has two birthdays.

Travis: Oh?

Teresa: The first one is her actual date of birth, June—sorry, April 21st. Uh, and then the celebration of the, quote, "Head of State" birthday, which is normally celebrated the second Saturday in June.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: King George started it because he wanted better weather and a parade on his birthday.

Travis: Man, I get that! Ooh boy, I get that. Imagine—you know, it's like—you know your birthday's in, like, July and it's like, no one's ever in school! I can't have cupcakes on my birthday! Right? And then you're like, so I'm just gonna start doing my birthday in, like, September.

Teresa: And you're the Queen and you get to do it.

Travis: You can do it. We already told—'cause Baby Dot's birthday is very close. It's, like, with—what, within two weeks of Christmas?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And so I have already decided that when she gets a little older I'm gonna say, like, "When do you wanna celebrate your birthday?" And that's when we'll celebrate it. That your birthday will be January 7th, but if you want to celebrate your birthday, like, in April, cool. Sounds good to me.

Teresa: Um, also the Queen doesn't need a passport or a driver's license, because all of those are issued in her name.

Travis: Oh, that's true. Also she can just, like, hold up the money. And say, like, "This is me."

Teresa: "This is me. [laughs] Uh, do you know who I am?"

Travis: "I'm on money."

Teresa: "I'm on the monies."

Travis: "I'm the monied lady."

Teresa: And in addition to all of her jewels and priceless heirlooms and, uh, other things, the crown has the legal right to any whales, sturgeon, or dolphins that wash up ashore or are captured within three miles of the UK shoreline.

Travis: Huh.

Teresa: This is in addition to the swans, right? The Queen has—uh, the crown has rights to all swans in England.

Travis: Yes, but if the—if—so, if a wha—if I'm hearing you correctly, if a whale gets beached, it's the Queen's problem.

Teresa: Not problem, property.

[pauses]

Travis: Okay. Is that something to be desired? I'm not being flippant. Is someone, like, "That beached whale is mine!" Is that a thing?

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: There's a bunch of stuff you can use on a whale.

Travis: I mean, sure, but weird! Okay.

Teresa: And sturgeon are super rare. Um, in fact, so rare—

Travis: Tell me about it! I just caught one in Animal Crossing. It took me, like, three days to get that bad boy!

Teresa: [holding back laughter] Uh... so rare... that off the coast of Britain in 2004, a fisherman had to actually fax Buckingham Palace for the permission to keep one that he caught.

Travis: Huh. Okay.

Teresa: Faxes. Um, speaking of fish, another weird thing. If you're a royal, or if you go to a royal banquet, you will never see shellfish.

Travis: Only generosity.

Teresa: Well—[laughs] that was a good one. I liked that one.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: Uh, not because anyone is specifically allergic to it in the royal family, although they'd never know 'cause they're not supposed to eat it, it has a high potential for food poisoning.

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: Uh, which would be embarrassing for a royal. Um, and the other things they can't have for this same reason: they are not to eat rare meat, drink tap water from other countries, or eat food that has been heavily spiced.

Travis: Huh.

Teresa: Just to save face if it upsets their tummy, I guess.

Travis: Well, yeah. I mean, you wouldn't want to have that moment where you see them, like, eating and then they're, like—their eyes are watering and, you know, snot's coming out of their nose, right?

Teresa: Yeah, it doesn't—doesn't—it's not attractive. It's not a good look.

Travis: It's not a good look. Okay. Well, I think that that is gonna do it for us—

Teresa: Oh, I have one more thing.

Travis: Oh, one more thing? Okay.

Teresa: Actually, two more things.

Travis: Okay, two more things.

Teresa: Yes. Um, so to go with eating, it is royal etiquette that you stop eating when the Queen finishes eating. Um, and—

Travis: And that sucks. She's a fast eater.

Teresa: Well, this rumor—rumor has it that this started when Victoria was on the throne, and she could, like, mainline her meals.

Travis: Nice!

Teresa: Um, but, uh, at this point, Queen Elizabeth always keeps her salad course on the table. Should she finish her meal and notice that everyone else is not done, she usually kind of just picks at her salad for a while until she decides that most people are done.

Travis: I like that.

Teresa: So she continues eating out of... out of compassion, really.

Travis: [crosstalk] Politeness, yes, okay.

Teresa: Last thing. The royal corgis...

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: ... are not to be disciplined by palace staff. They are allowed to roam freely throughout the palace as they please. Uh, so if somebody—if a corgi poops in your shoe—

Travis: So be it.

Teresa: —so be it.

Travis: That's royal poop.

Teresa: Uh, they have a gourmet diet, and the palace kitchen receives a doggy menu each month. They are served in order of seniority [holding back laughter] on silver platters.

Travis: Nice. Well—

Teresa: It's good to be the Queen.

Travis: Yeah, and the corgis. So—

Teresa: And the corgis!

Travis: —that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Uh, if you are listening to this before Friday, April 3rd, I am hosting a livestream show Friday, April 3rd starting at 8 PM Eastern Time. I do a thing here in Cincinnati called Cincinnati Underground Society Show where I bring all of my great performer, comedian, and musician friends from all over. Uh, we come here, we do a secret society show where we don't announce who the guests are gonna be. We don't normally film it or record it in any way and you gotta be there to watch it, but—

Teresa: And the decor is so spooky!

Travis: So spooky! But, with the current circumstances, we have moved to a livestreaming, uh, kind of model, so you can watch it now from anywhere.

Teresa: For, like, a week, right?

Travis: For, like, a week. So basically how it's gonna work is, tickets are five dollars and the proceeds of that are going to a charity called Direct Relief, where they are raising money to provide equipment and supplies for healthcare workers responding to COVID-19.

Um, and you will get the link to watch the show, and then you will also have the link to watch it for a week after the show goes up. So even if you are unavailable on the 3rd at 8 PM, no worries. You can watch it for a week after that. Uh, and we have, like, ten or more guests. It's cohosted by my Vice Travis, Tybee Diskin. Uh, it's gonna be a whole lot of fun. You can get your tickets at bit.ly/cusslive. Uh, you won't wanna miss it.

Uh, also go check out all the other amazing shows on Maximumfun.org. Uh, what else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always like to thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found.

Also, thank you to, um, Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, which is [@shmannerscast](https://twitter.com/shmannerscast). When we give the call out for questions for our etiquette segments, that's where we ask for 'em, so please follow us on Twitter. Um, then also we like to thank Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group. If you would like to give and get excellent advice, that is the place to go find other fanners of *Shmanners*.

Travis: Uh, and that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: Thank you to Alex.

Travis: Oh! Thank you to Alex! Ahh, thank you Alex. We couldn't do it without you.

Teresa: We mentioned her already, but she—it bears repeating. Thank you so much.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us this week. 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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