

Shmanners 133: Heirlooms

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Teresa: Oh, hey, I love that podcast.

Travis: Oh, thank you. It was my grandmother's.

Teresa: It's Shmanners!

[theme music plays]

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: That was dumb. Okay! Alright! 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. I liked it. I liked that joke.

Travis: You like that joke?

Teresa: I did.

Travis: It's late night, here. It's after dark. Can you believe it? 10:03 PM.

Teresa: [laughing] Woo.

Travis: Oh, we rarely even see this. Like just the other night, I went to bed at 7 PM. [laughing]

Teresa: That's the truth.

Travis: Oh, here we are. Of course, I then woke up at 4:30 in the morning, but that's not what this show is about. Um, we, y'know... it's the late night here at Chez McElroy.

Teresa: Ooh, did you put your late-night voice on?

Travis: No, this is my, just, I'm very tired voice. [laughs]

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: I mean, I guess in that respect, yes, it is my late-night voice, but just, honestly... this is Delilah. Um...

Teresa: Aww, Delilah! I used to listen to that radio show.

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: With lots of like, sad lonely hearts, and letters to loved ones, and requests? Should we just do an all-requests drive time show? Or I guess—no. What are we talking about, Teresa?

Teresa: No. No. We're talking about heirlooms.

Travis: Heirlooms.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Now, not tomatoes.

Teresa: Not tomatoes!

Travis: Ahh!

Teresa: Ahh!

Travis: Did you— do you have any heirloom— is there anything— I mean, I guess our table.

Teresa: Our table. Um, our table is a, uh, 1950s chrome and Formica green table. Um, and I really love it. It belonged to my grandmother. And it was the table that my mom and my aunt ate off of for much of their young lives. We also have my grandmother's sewing table.

Travis: Mm-hmm. I mean, I guess I have some— I was just thinking, I have stuff that was like, my mom's.

Teresa: We have your mother's pie safe.

Travis: Yeah, and we also have like, a couple things that were like, uh, y'know, wood signs and stuff. Somewhere, I have one that was like, the nameplate from our house growing up. But like, is it an heirloom if it's only one generation? That isn't— I don't know. Then it just feels like something...

Teresa: Well, I mean— okay, so let's go over it. So, the term originated in the historical principle—

Travis: What a great transition, by the way. I think we really nailed that.

Teresa: Hey, it's not as good if you call it out!

Travis: Oh no, you're right! Aw, I blew it! Okay, so...

Teresa: So, the term originated with the historical principle of an heirloom in English law. Okay?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, the thing about an heirloom is, it can— it's a combination of two words. Okay, heir, meaning your progeny. Right?

Travis: Yeah, like your heir.

Teresa: And then, loom, which originally meant 'tool.'

Travis: Oh, okay. So, sort of like... a loom.

Teresa: I— sure. A loom is a tool. And another word for these kind of objects, as they soon became, is 'chattel.'

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: And what it means is—

Travis: I'm pretty sure I've heard that in Shakespeare.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Talk about like, uh, all your goods and chattel. I think it's in *Taming of the Shrew*, if I remember correctly.

Teresa: That makes perfect sense. Um, so, what it means is, they have to— these are pieces or objects that can be moved or removed from an estate, physically. Right? So, things. But they are passed down as part of an inheritance that is, um, unable to be severed. Does that make sense?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: So, when you— when you bequeath an heirloom, according to English law, it goes with, quote, "the estate." Right? So, it can't be separated as— as an inheritance. So, you can't say, "Well, I'll take the

house, and you take all the furniture.” Because the furniture is included in the estate.

Travis: Okay. Do you know, uh— speaking of, real quick, fun fact I know... what Shakespeare left his wife in his will? His second best bed, to his wife. Just a fun little thing I know.

Okay, it’s not important. It’s late and I’m tired. Go on. So, you were saying?

Teresa: Okay, okay. Um, but the thing about— of an heirloom like this, whoever owned it could get rid of it to, or give it to, whomever they liked while they were alive. It’s just something about the statute of English law and the will, where they could not be separated after death.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I thought that was pretty cool.

Travis: That’s interesting to me now, because it seems like that has changed, where now, an heirloom is just like, stuff you can, like, give away. Y’know what I mean? Like—

Teresa: Well, see, that’s the thing. While you live, you can give an heirloom to anybody you like. But according to this law, when you give it to someone in your will, it can’t be like, not given to them.

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah, that makes sense.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Cool.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, so, technically, under this definition, an heirloom, no, doesn’t have to be more than one generation. It could be from, like you said, your mother, your family, your home. Things like that.

But in order for an heirloom to have real significance, it does have to have kind of a story to it. Or it's just a thing, right?

Travis: Okay, 'cause that was gonna be— that was going to be my next question, which is, does an heirloom have to be valuable? But then, I guess that comes into what we think about when we think about value, right? Because like, yes, a diamond. But also, a piece like, for example, the wood name plate from the house we grew up in. Like, that's not worth anything. But like, it's special to me. It's important to me.

Teresa: So, there's the difference between intrinsic value and sentimental value. Those things like coins, uh, silver, gold, jewelry, things like that. They have intrinsic value, because there is a market set price. Sometimes, paintings are also included in this, and other collections of things, because there is a price that a collector would pay.

And then there's the sentimental value, because like, I have some... I have this really old trivet from my grandmother's table. And it's pretty— it's unremarkable. But I remember sitting at her table, seeing that trivet. So, even though it doesn't— it's not worth anything, it's worth something to me, because I have memories attached to it. And that's really the way that you create an heirloom.

Um, and there's some... uh, I would like to share a few tips about what you should do in order to preserve your heirlooms. First of all, if they are fabrics, or paintings, or clothing, or photos, um... sometimes—

Travis: No sunlight.

Teresa: That's right!

Travis: Yeah, treat 'em like Gremlins. Or Mogwai. Excuse me. They're Mogwai first, and then they become Gremlins. Or vampires. Wait a minute. Are Gremlins vampires?

Teresa: Wait a second. Uh... no, because they don't eat blood, right?

Travis: Oh, I don't know. They probably *would* eat blood.

Teresa: I don't know, then.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Anyway, yeah. No direct sunlight. Also, keep them away from moisture.

Travis: Mm-hmm. 'Cause that leads to rot.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Sunlight can— they can be bleached by the sun, uh, or discolored by the sun. However you want to say it. And the moisture can lead to rot.

Teresa: That's right. Um, so, if you want to preserve things like that, you should keep them away. And um, I would suggest—

Travis: And don't feed 'em after midnight.

Teresa: Don't feed 'em after midnight. I would also suggest that, um, if there's something like— like I said earlier, that trivet from my grandmother's table? When I store it... right now, it's on display. I will most likely write a little story to go with it, so that whoever, y'know, gets it, at least has that momentary pause of reading the story. Whether or not they appreciate it, I can't tell. But at least someone will know the story, and I think that that's the biggest part of heirlooms.

Travis: Mm-hmm. And I also think, um, if you're going to store stuff like that, you need to store it with some kind of system, or like, clearly marked.

Teresa: Certainly.

Travis: Like, this is where this is. 'Cause here's the thing...

Teresa: Labels or pictures or something like that, so that you can know where it's been.

Travis: Right. Well, 'cause that's the thing. We can dance around this all we want to. But a lot of the times, heirlooms come when you die.

Teresa: Ah, yes.

Travis: And so, if you are leaving something for someone, you should have like, clear instructions as to where it is and that kind of thing. That said, I will also say... not to jump ahead or be a little maudlin here, but I would much rather give something to someone while I was still alive, and get to like, tell them the story about it and how I feel about it, and my thoughts on it, and why I'm giving it to them.

Teresa: Definitely!

Travis: Just, that's for me to you. I'd much rather just like, tell my loved one about like, hey, this is why I'm giving this to you. That's why every day, I look at Bebe and go, "Someday, I'll die. And I want you to have this."

Teresa: Mm, no.

Travis: She just looks at me. She's two.

Teresa: [laughs] Eh. So, um... a couple of heirlooms, uh, in this article I ran across, I thought were very interesting. Um, so... you— we have talked about the tradition of keeping a slice of your cake from your wedding, uh, to eat. You eat it the next year, which should give you, quote, "good luck."

Travis: And probably food poisoning. [laughs] I guess unless you like, I don't know, probably keep it refrigerated or something.

Teresa: Yeahhh. Um, there survives a small, gilded box from a lush, golden anniversary celebration of Joseph and Caroline Choate at Newmog in 1911.

Travis: Ooh! That's some old cake.

Teresa: That's some old cake. Uh, and it says that it's um, preserved, and it's in pretty good shape, but... I don't think that you would want to really eat it.

Travis: No. For a lot of reasons, I would say.

Teresa: Yeah. This is at, um, an archive in New York City. And uh, we talked about in the Queen Victoria episode... or in the wedding episode, which actually has a lot to do with Queen Victoria, too... that there was a small piece of Queen Victoria's wedding cake. It was a fruit cake.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: That has been preserved. I think that's kind of cool.

Travis: Yeah! That's the thing. It's easy to pass down jewelry. But like a sandwich? If you can get a sandwich through like, ten generations? Now we're talking.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: That's my thing. I got you this egg. It's 300 years old. Please don't break it. For the love of all things holy.

Teresa: So I thought that that was— that was an interesting take on a family heirloom.

Travis: Oh, I agree. I mean, there's a lot, like... paintings, jewelry, I think about those. But there's also— we watch a lot of Antiques Road Show, because we have two eyes and a heart.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And um, it— one of my favorite things is like, when people bring stuff on... you can always tell the difference on Antiques Road Show between people who are like, collectors who are like, "I bought this at a thing. Is it

worth something?" Versus the people who are like, "My grandmother gave this to me and told me this story."

And sometimes, people bring in like, their grandparents' or great-grandparents' or farther back's journals, and I always think that's so cool.

Teresa: That's so cool.

Travis: Because that is both, uh, like, y'know... like, "Oh, this has been passed down," but also like, day to day life. So not only was it held by your great-great-grandfather, but you can like, read about what their life was like, and kind of get a sense of who they are. That's a thing that I'm very excited about now, in just the last couple decades, in like, the last, y'know, since the '80s, of like, home movies have become a thing that everyone has.

And so, like, once again, not to be too much of a bummer, but my mom passed away before Bebe was born. But I have like, 30 plus hours, 40 hours of like, home movies of like, her with us that I can show Bebe when she's old enough. Y'know what I mean? Like...

Teresa: You don't have those on VHS, do you?

Travis: No, I have them on DVD.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And I keep like, uh, archiving them to the next thing up, so I think I also have, uh, a digital copy of them.

Teresa: And that's something that I think, um, for those home movies, or pictures, or even like you said, the journals... a lot of people don't want to have a lot of stuff lying around. And I get it. I totally get it. Um, but a really great way to keep those memories alive, even if you don't keep the physical copies, is to take pictures of digital scans, or make digital copies so that that can be preserved in your— y'know, in your family history, even if you don't, uh... you don't have more room than it takes on a thumb drive.

Travis: Yeah, and I will also say, along those same lines, if you have anything along those lines that are like, um, pictures, newspapers, journals, that kind of thing... and you no longer want to keep them for some reason, or you're looking to— to get rid of them... talk to the people at your library, or like, local history places.

Like, I know in Huntington, growing up, there was a lot of like, um, organizations that like, were trying to build kind of a... y'know, not necessarily encyclopedia, but like, y'know, a timeline. A like, 'this is what life was like in the town,' and like, based on pictures.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Not just like, books and historical works, but like, day to day stuff. And that way, you know like, even if you don't see it every day, it might be something someone else can enjoy and learn from and experience. So, museums and archives and that kind of thing is a great, uh, depository for those kinds of things.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Hey, we're gonna answer some of your questions about heirlooms. But first, how about a thank you note?

[theme music plays]

Travis: This week, Shmanners is sponsored in part by Quip. Um, I'm a big fan of Quip. And I will say right now, we're packing to head to the Seattle and Portland live shows, and I love my Quip, because it is both great to have at home, and easy to travel with.

It comes in its own little like, tube carrying case, and here's the thing: I've had, uh, electric toothbrushes before, but they're always so bulky, and like, have like, charging stations and bases and all this stuff, and I don't ever want to travel with them. But the Quip electric toothbrush is so compact, and like, effective, that I now feel weird if I don't have it with me. And my teeth just don't feel as clean.

Teresa: And some of the package deals come with, uh, travel sized toothpaste, too.

Travis: Yeah! Also, my favorite toothpaste.

Teresa: Mine too.

Travis: I'm not just saying this. I really am a big fan of Quip. Um, Quip— I'm gonna read some copy here, so it won't sound as sincere as my sincere feelings about Quip, which is that I love it.

[inhales] Quip is the new electric toothbrush that is a fraction of the cost of bulkier brushes, and packs premium vibrations for a perfect, two-minute clean. So basically... it vibrates, and then, will pulse when it's time to switch to a new section of your mouth, and after two minutes, it cuts off. So, it has a built-in timer function, so that you know you're brushing your teeth correctly and for the right amount of time.

And, they'll deliver new brush heads on a dentist recommended schedule every three months for just five dollars. And that includes free shipping worldwide. So—

Teresa: Before Quip, how often did you replace your toothbrush, Travis?

Travis: Not nearly enough.

Teresa: Not nearly enough.

Travis: It was an heirloom. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, Quip starts at just \$25, and if you go to [GetQuip.com/Shmanners](https://www.getquip.com/shmanners) right now, you'll get your first refill pack free with a Quip electric toothbrush. That's [GetQuip.com/Shmanners](https://www.getquip.com/shmanners) for your first refill pack free!

Teresa: Shmanners is also sponsored in part by TriNova. And TriNova offers a full line of cleaning products for home and auto, offering specialized products for most surfaces. Products are designed to be super effective with premium, non-diluted ingredients, and it has a great customer service team that's dedicated to helping you have a good experience. Here's the thing.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: They sent us a bunch of really awesome cleaning products, and I have to talk about my fave, which is the multi-surface cleaner. It has done wonders for any kind of, um, animal... uh, mess. It also cleans up food mess, grease mess. I have used it on my hardwood floors, and it doesn't dry it out.

And here's the thing – smells so good.

Travis: Right?

Teresa: It smells like— I said this before, but it's absolutely true. Smells like an expensive hotel.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Luxurious. Um, so, I highly recommend that you visit their custom landing page. GoTriNova.com/Shmanners.

Travis: GoTriNova.com/Shmanners.

Teresa: And you can use your promo code of 'Manner20'...

Travis: That's 'Manner20.'

Teresa: ... to get 20% off of your first TriNova products!

Travis: We're also sponsored this week by Squarespace. Uh, Squarespace. Oh! I can't say enough! I love Squarespace! It's the home of ButtercupisaVeryGoodGirl.com.

Teresa: Which is my favorite website.

Travis: It's a website dedicated to our dog, Buttercup, and what a very good girl she is. You can see lots of pictures there, and it's great. There's even a game that somebody made for us, so go check it out if you haven't yet. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: But I built it on Squarespace. Listen. Squarespace is easy to use. You don't have to know anything about coding. I don't. I don't know anything about building websites. And I can still make wonderful websites on Squarespace. You can use it to showcase your work, start a blog, publish content, sell products and services. They have ecommerce functionality so that you can like, create a store and sell things through your Squarespace.

The templates are beautiful and customizable. I will say—

Teresa: And mobile ready! I can even look on my uh, my phone and look at ButtercupisaVeryGoodGirl.com.

Travis: I have yet to encounter anything that I want to do with a website that I haven't been able to do with Squarespace. It's a really truly, incredible— and if I find something I'm not able to do, there's 24/7 award-winning customer service. Not to mention, you can find like, tutorials and videos and stuff all over the place on YouTube and, I don't know, Google. Wherever people find things on the internet.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So, go to [Squarespace.com/Shmanners](https://www.squarespace.com/Shmanners) for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code 'Shmanners' to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

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[music plays]

Guy: Well Pop Rocket panel, we have just 30 seconds to prove to Max Fun listeners that we know what the F we're talking about when it comes to pop culture. Alright you guys, let's go. Famous Chrises.

Karen: Walken.

Wynter: Kristofferson.

Margaret: Hemsworth!

Guy: Karen, what's the most iconic lesbian snack?

Karen: The wings at Hooters.

[buzzer]

Guy: The answer is fried green tomatoes. Margaret, what is the Marvel Cinematic Universe missing?

Margaret: [laughs] My interest.

Guy: Wynter, name someone who will EGOT in your lifetime.

Wynter: Ike Barinholtz.

Guy: That's beautiful! Top Gear or Top Model?

Karen: Sadly, I have to say... Top Gear.

[buzzer]

Guy: The clear answer is Top Chef.

Karen: But Top Model taught us about smizing!

[ding]

Guy: Pop Rocket: Smart takes on everything. Catch us every Friday on Maximum Fun.

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[music plays]

Hal: Welcome, everyone, to the live wrestling spectacular in Los Angeles.

Danielle: So far, the world's most boring wrestling podcast has been destroying the competition.

Hal: Isn't there anyone who can save us from this travesty? Wait... could it be?

Danielle: It's Tights and Fights – the perfect wrestling podcast!

Hal: Tights and Fights is here to save us from the monotony of boring wrestling podcasts, with hilarious conversations!

[slap sound]

Danielle: Woke trips through the history of wrestling!

[punch sound]

Hal: And jokes about the finer points of people wearing spandex.

[punch sounds and cheering]

Hal: What a match!

Danielle: And the Tights and Fights podcast will be back every week!

Speaker 1: Thursdays on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get podcasts!
Please, these hosts have families!

[music plays]

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Travis: Okay, we have some questions here.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: This is from @Squidious. "How do you get rid of an heirloom, stop the tradition, without offending older family members? There's this one really ugly necklace that's been passed down for generations that I've watched my mother be shamed into wearing at family events, and I want to avoid that fate."

Teresa: Hmmmm... well, I think that— I think that the thing you have to think about is... what's the fight you're willing to have?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: If you're willing to have the fight of, "I want someone who will appreciate it to have it," um... I think that that might work, if you can find, like, a buyer. If you can find someone who really will appreciate it instead of just, y'know, donating it to a thrift store or whatever, um...

Travis: Or, it's possible that there is someone in your family who would want it. Y'know, maybe a cousin, or like, I don't know, an aunt or an uncle or a niece or ne— like, somebody— and so, it wouldn't be directly passed to you. But if you know someone in the family would want it...

Because here's the other thing. I don't think anybody should be shamed into wearing something they don't want to wear, or anything along those lines. But... I will say that the thing about an heirloom that is an important factor to remember... at least, I think what it sounds like, the way that these people are treating it, is that it has the deeper context of... and it will continue down.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Alright? So, the idea of like, you might not want it, but in like, three or four generations, like... your great-great-grandkids might be super excited that there's this necklace that's still in the family. Y'know what I mean? Like... so, maybe you can say like, "I will accept this, and I will take care of it, and I will protect it and pass it on. But it is not something that I want to wear."

Teresa: Um, my other suggestion is, is there a way that maybe you could display this necklace? Preserving it, and then... what you do is, you tell your family that you proudly have it on display somewhere, and uh, you would rather showcase it there than around your neck.

Travis: Well, so, this goes into the next question, which is from Cheyenne. "If you are given something wearable, such as a precious ring or necklace, do you wear it and risk losing slash damaging it, or just tuck it away in a very ornate box to keep on your bookshelf?"

Which, to jump back, Squidious, might be a very good workaround. Like, "Listen, at this point... ugh, I'm so clumsy. I'm so worried I'd lose it or hurt it! So instead, here it is in this like, y'know, shadowbox over here."

Teresa: Beautiful box or whatever. Yeah. Um, I think... [sighs] When you have those sorts of things that are, um... what am I suppo— fragile. Um, I think that you could wear them on a special occasion.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: But I think, again, one of the really great ways to enjoy a family heirloom is to look at it. So, why not find some sort of lovely display instead of a closed box? Um, jewelry is one of the things that doesn't really seem to, um, deteriorate by sunlight. Um—

Travis: In fact, oh, that sparkle!

Teresa: That sparkle! Um, silver actually is better kept, if it is worn or used. So... I think that if you're worried about these things, um, breaking, then find another way to appreciate it.

Travis: And also, um, this isn't really... heirloom specific. But if you are given a fancy piece of jewelry that is specifically valuable, get insurance on it.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Insure your jewelry. It's just great. A lot of times, you can get it like, through home insurance. They will extend it to cover specific things that are in the home. Uh, but like, get your jewelry insured.

Um, let's see... this next one, uh, this is from WarriorCats. "My grandpa left me an antique desk before he died, but I don't really have any room for it. Is it disrespectful to sell it? It's worth a bit of money, but I'm afraid my mother, aunt, and uncle will be offended if I sell it."

Teresa: Well, maybe ask them if they would like to house it. That's a good way to get it out of your possession. Um, and not... not upset anyone.

Travis: I will also say, though – in general, if you ask somebody like, hold onto furniture for you or whatever, I... I would say, it's much better to give it to them.

Teresa: Oh yeah.

Travis: Or not rely on that forever. Like, if you're not planning to stay in the place you're living, and you might move soon to get more space or

whatever, it would be fine saying like, "Hey, could you store this for me?" But yeah, I think if that's the case, I think you could talk to them and say like, "Hey, this isn't about me not wanting it. I don't have anywhere to put it."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I think that is a very reasonable and very logical, uh, point to be made of just like, "I don't know what to do with this."

Teresa: And again, there are other ways to enjoy something without having it physically. You can take pictures, you can have it, like, painted, or maybe take a small—

Travis: You mean like, make a painting of it?

Teresa: Yes, I'm sorry. [laughs]

Travis: Not like, paint on it. Yeah, okay.

Teresa: Uh, make a painting of it. Um, or even take a small, unobtrusive sampling from it.

Travis: I will also say, this is another thing. A lot of the time, especially if it is like, an antique, beautiful, ornate desk... a lot of— you can like, put stuff on loan to a museum, and like, you don't have to give it to them. But like, some museums, if you went, and they have like, a furniture section or whatever, you might be able to say like, "Hey. Would you like to display this desk? Here's like, the paperwork behind it, and here's why it's special, and blah blah blah."

Teresa: That's a great idea.

Travis: And eventually, you could reclaim it. I don't know how those things work, but I bet that's a thing you could do.

Teresa: I think it is.

Travis: Uh, this is from MiegPieMusings. "Is there a polite way to ask for a trinket that has significant meaning when a person passes away?" This is a good question. Because I was thinking about this earlier. Is there a way to say to someone, like, "Hey, when you die, can I have this?" that isn't maudlin or weird?

Teresa: Well, I have said that to both my mother and father.

Travis: That is fair. And I've said it to— I say it to people on the street.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Um, but I think there's something to be said about... asking for what you want, and saying like, "I want you to know that this, y'know, this chair or this table or this piece of jewelry or whatever is very— I have strong memories associated with it, and it would really mean a lot to me if this is something that I could have."

Maybe say something more along the lines of like, "When you're ready to pass it on," or like...

Teresa: Right. Maybe not mention death.

Travis: Yeah, maybe not say like, "Hey, when you kicked it, I really want this painting."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But just say like, "I want you to know, I have really fond memories of coming to your house and using this tea kettle." Doesn't have to be an expensive thing. And saying like, "I would really love it if, y'know, at some point, you would trust me, or if this is something you would feel comfortable passing onto me."

Teresa: That sounds great, dear.

Travis: But I think that it is very important to have that conversation, rather than just trust like, "They know how important that was to me!" Like, they might not. And hey – you don't want your cousin Sheila, Sheila's gonna say something. And then Sheila's gonna get the tea kettle! And where will you be then? Without a tea kettle, that's for sure!

Teresa: I'm very grateful to my mother and my aunt, who, when my grandmother passed, invited us back to her home, um, before they parceled things and sold them, to pick out some of the things that were really, y'know... not worth anything to anybody but us.

Travis: But mattered to you.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Um, this question is from Kat. "How long do you have to keep an heirloom before you can get rid of it?"

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: And I don't know if you mean, uh, like, get rid of it get rid of it, or pass on. Let's talk a little bit about get rid of it. But I do think that there is something to be said, like... if somebody passes something to you, and it's one of those like... single generation heirloom, without a lot of family momentum behind it, and it's like, "Okay, well, I really appreciate this, but it's in really bad shape now," like a chair or a blanket or something along those lines. That's up to you.

I think we've talked about like— but if it's something where it's like, six generations have passed this necklace down, that's different. But I also think if you're saying, before you can get rid of it like, pass it onto the next person... whenever you want!

Teresa: I think as soon as the next, like, generation is kind of settled where they're going to be, that's the time to do it. Because if you give it to the next generation, uh, maybe if they are in high school or they're in college, like, they're still kind of transient.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Not really with any roots, so it may get lost. It may disappear. It may not end up with who you want it to end up with. Um, so, I think once you have an heirloom that you are ready to pass, pass it to someone who, um, has... settled a little bit.

Travis: Uh, this is from Silly Soul. "How do you start heirlooms?" And I think that this is kind of two different things, right? Because it's one thing—like, if I bought a very expensive, nice painting, right? Then that is already an heirloom, because it's like, okay, cool, I have this thing. I'm gonna pass it on. This is part of my estate, as we were talking about earlier.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And so, I think like, pieces of jewelry, art, things of value like that, kind of inherently... if they're going to be desired by somebody after you die, boom. It's an heirloom. As I always say, my little fun catch phrase, "Boom, it's an heirloom."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But I think the other side of that is, if it's more of the sentimental value, I think that comes from... something being connected, right?

Teresa: Right, the story. As they would say on, um, Antiques Road Show, the provenance.

Travis: Yes. And never clean off the patina!

Teresa: So, the story behind it. That's right.

Travis: This is so important. Listen. If there's one thing you take away from this whole episode... never. Clean off. The patina. There was one episode of Antiques Road Show. I think it was like, an old... it was either an old, like, sabre, or like, an old rifle or something, and he had polished it to bring it—

Teresa: Just to bring it to the show.

Travis: To bring it to the show. And they were like, "And you polished this?" And he was like, "Yeah." And it was like, "Okay. If you hadn't polished it, it would be worth like, \$15,000. But since you polished it, it's about \$500." And... [gasps] Oh my god, the pain.

Teresa: Oh, man...

Travis: The haunted look in that person's eyes. Um, but... I think if the case is like, this is a thing that's not worth money, but it's special... I don't think that that's something you can just like, start. Y'know, I think that has to be that the— the receive-ee. Receiver?

Teresa: But I think that you can— hm?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Yeah. You can plant those seeds, though. If you have something that is very special to you, um, that you acquired through a special circumstance, maybe like a... a trip to a far-off country, or something like, um... like an autograph book or something like that. I think that what you have to do is, you have to plant the seed of the story of how you got it, or why it's important, or who these people are.

Um, and the more that you tell people in your family this story, the more important it will become to them. So that's, I think, how you make these family heirlooms.

Travis: So, that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Real quick, I'm gonna tell y'all... coming up October 6th, we are going to be doing, uh, well, a show of sorts in—

Teresa: We're gonna be doing a show!

Travis: Yeah, at New York Comic Con. We are doing a bit o' Shmanners, as I also say. My other favorite catch phrase, bit o' Shmanners. But this is a Shmanners slash Travis and friends show, and listen to these people. This line up is incredible.

We've got Janet Varney, Jamie Cordero, Ben Blacker, Jean Grae, Quelle Chris, Holly Conrad, Jonathan Colton, the Doubleclicks, Brent Black, Sammus the Rapper, Courtney Enlow, Pat Rothfuss, Paul and Storm, Lucky Yates, Miles Luna, Amy Dalan, Clint McElroy... we got him... and me and Teresa. And I'm very excited. It's gonna be a super fun show. People doing all kinds of things. Some music, some chat show stuff... I don't know. It's gonna be full of things. We're gonna be doing a bit o' Shmanners, as I said.

And you can come to that show...

Teresa: If you buy a ticket.

Travis: You have to buy a ticket, yes. Uh, it's during NYCC, but you don't need a New York Comic Con badge to attend, but you do need a ticket. A New York Comic Con badge won't get you in. So, if you go to bit.ly/McElroyNYCC, you can get your tickets. I'm so excited for the show. I can't wait to see you there. Go get your tickets now. What are you waiting for?

Thank you to MaximumFun.org. You can go to Maximum Fun and check out all their other amazing shows, of which there are, uh, countless at this point. Infinite number of amazing shows on MaximumFun.org.

Teresa: Maybe not quite infinite.

Travis: Uh, infinite minus one.

Teresa: Okay, deal.

Travis: And the Sawbones Book is coming out!

Teresa: I cannot wait!

Travis: It's coming out so very very soon. You can preorder it on Amazon, or just like, google 'Sawbones the book' and find it somewhere. It's by Justin and Sydnee, and with illustrations by Sydnee's sister, Teylor Smirl. It is incredible. You should check it out. They've been working so hard on it. I'm very, very proud of them. And you should get the book and support them. In fact, get ten.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, let's see. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: Well, hey! Thank you to Brent "Brental Floss" Black for our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. Thank you to Keely Weiss Photography for our Facebook banner for the fan run Facebook group that you should join, called Shmanners Fanners.

I am always looking for topics. You can submit them there. You can also tweet at us, @ShmannersCast. Or you can send us an email – shmannerscast@gmail.com.

Travis: That's gonna do it for us. Join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You're listening to Shmanners...

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[theme music plays]

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