

Shmanners 141: Amy Vanderbilt

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Travis: So we're talking about the Vanderbilts?

Teresa: Well... *a* Vanderbilt.

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: Howfore art thou?

[pauses]

That's not—I mean—

Teresa: Ro—Ro—Romeo?

Travis: Well, I realized, like—I was like, "Oh, I'm gonna say it cute!" But the thing is—a lot of people don't know this, but here's a little Shakespeare translation thing that most people—when it says "wherefore art thou Romeo?" That—it—Juliet's not *looking* for Romeo. What Juliet is saying is "*Why* are you Romeo? Why couldn't you be someone other—" wherefore art thou is why couldn't you be some—

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: And so—

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: —I—I don't know why I said "howfore art thou," [through laughter] 'cause that's nothing.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That—that means nothing. But how are you doing, my dove?

Teresa: I'm doin' okay. I wish the rain outside was snow. I talk about the weather a lot, but it also, um—it affects my mood so much. I'm feelin' kinda... blegh.

Travis: Like, uh, you're being affected by the seasons?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Mmkay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: You know, um, I wish that it was not precipitating at all.

Teresa: But you love the rain!

Travis: I do love the rain, but also we've been trying to get a fence put in our backyard for the last, like, three months!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And they can't do it—listen.

Teresa: It's true.

Travis: This isn't the time to talk about this.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: We're gonna talk about, uh, the V—no. A—okay. I am confused by this, and I have made sure not—on purpose not to learn anything... ever. But specifically right now before we recorded, because we had talked about talking about Vanderbilts.

Teresa: Uh-huh?

Travis: And I don't know anything. So, start at zero.

Teresa: Okay, so... starting at zero. Amy Vanderbilt is a—was, okay, was a woman.

Travis: Well, spoiler!

Teresa: [laughs] Who wrote a book, um, about etiquette. And when I was researching her, I assumed having the name Vanderbilt, which, you know, shares the name of a college and, um—and... the—

Travis: A very rich family, right?

Teresa: A very rich family. Um, Cooper Anderson—Anderson Cooper—[laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Anderson Cooper is related to Gloria Vanderbilt, who is also related to Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Who was a 19th century railroad magnate and millionaire.

Travis: Okay. And I have to assume that Commodore was a title he earned and not his first name.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right, okay.

Teresa: Cornelius was his first name.

Travis: Not Commodore.

Teresa: Not Commodore.

Travis: Though if you were going to name someone Commodore, I think that's a great idea.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And if you see me on the JoCo Cruise, I do answer to Commodore, as established last year.

Teresa: It's true.

Travis: Um... okay, but—and, like, Bilt—Biltmore is Vanderbilt? Is that the Biltmore estate is the Vanderbilt something?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: What does this have to do with Amy Vanderbilt?

[pauses]

Teresa: Nothing, really.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, okay.

Travis: What a twist. Let's talk about other people that don't have anything to do with Amy Vanderbilt.

Teresa: [laughs]

Teresa: Um... she did claim to be related to these more famous Vanderbilts by way of the brother of Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But more likely they probably just shared a common ancestry with, um, a Dutch colonist from new Netherlands. Um—

Travis: Oh yeah, Vanderbilt! Okay, yeah, Vand—yeah, his name is very Netherland-y.

Teresa: Right. Like I said, they probably just shared an ancestor.

Travis: Is it—this is the at least second time if not more than that that this has happened. Because, like, Dale Carnegie is not related to the Carnegie Hall Carnegies. Right?

Teresa: Exactly. Isn't that funny?

Travis: You know, there's a, um—there's a movie with—

Teresa: I mean, although, we could talk about—we won't this time, but we could talk about the Vanderbilts, that family.

Travis: I do eventually want to talk about the Biltmore estate, 'cause it's, like, a place that you can still go now.

Teresa: And—

Travis: But there's a—there's an—

Teresa: —they are great examples of, like, the golden age elite.

Travis: There's an Eddie Murphy movie in which he runs for Senate—I can't remember if it's Representative or Congress—and he ends up winning. And basically he runs because his name—and he's, like, a con man, you know? Who's running to—but they—he runs and he wins because his name is very similar to the person who had, uh, been the representative the time before, and so he wins based on name recognition.

And I wonder if there's something to that for, like, if your last name is, like, Carnegie or Vanderbilt or something, like, you got a cert—even if you're not related to them, it still gives you, like, a 2% bonus or something. I wonder.

Teresa: I wonder. Um, so... Amy Vanderbilt.

Travis: Could I tell you all a weird thing that happened—

Teresa: [sighs]

Travis: —every time we start recording, Willow—

Teresa: Oh yeah, our cat.

Travis: —who has not been interested—that's our cat, our beautiful, beautiful, strip-ed kitty—who has not been interested in us whatsoever, as soon as we start recording all she wants to do is be in our laps and rub against the microphones. It's amazing.

Okay, so. If you hear some light rustling against the 'micromophone', that's our kitty.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, okay. So, Amy Vanderbilt was born in Staten Island. And she, uh... has a journalism background, really. She was working as, like, a reporter for a small newspaper, *The Staten Island Advance*, when she was 16.

Um, and went on to be educated in Switzerland, and at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, and also attended New York University.

Travis: Okay, wow.

Teresa: So she wasn't, like, you know... just Joe Schmo. She had some really—

Travis: Not that Joe Schmo isn't a good writer!

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I really like their stuff. There's something about—

Teresa: It sounds like she had quite a pedigree.

Travis: Did you say went to school in Sweden or Switzerland?

Teresa: Switzerland.

Travis: There's something about that—even if it's just an absolute dump school, there's something about telling me that someone went to school in Switzerland that's like "Ooh!"

Teresa: "Ooh!"

Travis: "That must be nice! Must be a great school! They must be well-educated!" But for all I know they went to, like, you know, Garbage University in Switzerland.

Teresa: Right. Um, so she is often heralded as kind of the... I don't know. I would say that she... was thought to be kind of like—not the antithesis to Emily Post, but, like, the up-and-comer for the younger generation for Em—

Travis: The—the bad boy of etiquette, if you will.

Teresa: S—no, not the bad boy. But, like—

Travis: She was the—oh, she was the Christina Aguilera to the Britney Spears of Emily Post.

Teresa: Mmm...

Travis: No.

Teresa: No...

Travis: She was the Backstreet Boys to the NSYNC of Emily Post.

Teresa: No.

Travis: She was the...

Teresa: So, if Emily Post was kind of, like, the stodgy grandma, she was, like, the hip, new, modern etiquette person.

Travis: So if Emily Post was, like, Multigrain Cheerios, then she was, like, the Honey Nut Cheerios that you added, like, chocolate milk to.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Cool. Got there.

Teresa: Uh, she published her book, *Amy Vanderbilt's Complete Book of Etiquette*.

Travis: What a bold title.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: See, that's what I would just say, like, I put as much stuff in—*Travis McElroy's "I Included as Much as I Could Think of."*

Teresa: Now, listen. She published in 1952, and it was a 700 page volume.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Teresa: So it does sound rather complete to me. [laughs]

Travis: Okay, it wasn't just a clever name. I see.

Teresa: Right, right. Um, she was asked to do this because she had a client at Doubleday, which I guess was a reigning, um, publisher at the time. Because she also worked in the advertising and magazine industries, so she was actually, like, a president of a major public relations firm in the 1940's! Like, so, she was kind of a smartypants, you know what I mean?

Travis: This is very interesting, 'cause when you think about, um—I feel like Emily Post, but more so, like, Ms. Manners and some of the people we've talked about before—I mean, Emily Post—I don't know that we'll ever top Emily Post for being both a resource for us, and also just an amazingly surprising person.

But, it's rare to find—what did she do that made her a—a, like, go-to source for etiquette? 'Cause, like, Ms. Manners wrote, um, in—uh, who was the other one? Ask... I don't know. But they write columns, right? They do advice columns and stuff.

Teresa: Oh yeah. I mean, Ask Ms. Manners, maybe.

Travis: Ms.—yeah, but what did—what did Ms. Vanderbilt do?

Teresa: Well, I mean, she was kind of just in the business? And basically this—this client at Doubleday was like, "Hey, you throw really great dinner parties and you know the business of books and stuff, so you should write a book!"

Travis: Oh my goodness.

Teresa: Yeah, I know! And she did, like, five years of research, and then published this book that continues to be revised and published today. Like, they—they just published last year, um, another edition. Like, there it is. And that one includes things like, you know, texting etiquette and stuff like that. The original one doesn't, obviously.

Travis: Yeah, okay. Yeah, Teresa.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I would guess that the one that came out in the 50's doesn't have stuff about, I don't know, email?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [holding back laughter] Just a guess?

Teresa: Anyway, um, it was a smashing success at the time. I mean, obviously, still now. More editions continue to be made.

Travis: Yeah. But I mean, you also—this is gonna sound like I'm making a joke, but something—for us to know about it now, right? Think about this. If someone said, "You have to pick up this 700 page volume." I'd be like, "Hm. I'll wait. Well, maybe it's not important. We'll see."

Teresa: I think the thing is it wasn't written as, like, something you pick up and read cover to cover. It was like a reference volume. So 700 pages, although that's a lot of pages, it's not like you're gonna sit down and read a novel of 700 pages worth of etiquette. You're supposed to, you know, use the index and look up the advice that you need. Um—

Travis: Do you think something like this, at least in that form—this isn't to sound, uh, like an old man, but I will—do you think that something like this is going... the way of the dodo, in that, like—'cause you just said, like, a reference book, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And I wouldn't even think of, like, "Well—" like, I don't think we own an encyclopedia or a dictionary or a thesaur—

Teresa: No, we do.

Travis: We do?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Well, anyhoo—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —because we have the internet, you know what I mean? Because so much of our reference—

Teresa: We own a dictionary, I mean to say. You said encyclopedia or a dictionary. We do own a dictionary. Um, it has a very pretty spine, and so I took the dust cover off, and it's up in our—in our guest room, just being decorative.

Travis: But do you think that right now someone could be like, "I have written a 1200 page compendium of all go-to manner things," or do you think people would just be like, "Okay. Do you have a blog that I can, like, search? Or... do you have—"

Teresa: Definitely.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Definitely the latter. I mean, I do most of my research through the internet. Not to say that my internet research isn't based on books.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: I went through and I read a lot of Amy Vanderbilt's index. Um, so I know that there are, like, a bunch of chapters on everything from how to dress smartly to how to RSVP to a wedding to—like, I mean, it's all there.

Travis: And I also don't want anyone at home listening to this to—to mistake this as me saying, "Who even reads books anymore?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm saying, like—

Teresa: "What are these paper things?"

Travis: "What?" I mean, like, someone to become a breakout household name for writing a reference book.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Like, it seems harder now than it might have been, uh, when people were hungry for reference material. Like, any kind of, like, "Thank gosh, it's all here in one place and I don't have to, like, ask all my friends." Right?

Teresa: Well, it was so popular that after that, after it was published, um, she became a newspaper column writer, um, for etiquette protocol. Um, and she—

Travis: That's so interesting to me, though, 'cause that seems swapped around.

Teresa: It should be the other way!

Travis: Right?

Teresa: I know.

Travis: Is that you—you become known as a name in etiquette, and then someone says, "You should write a book!" Not like, "Well, you wrote the book, so... do you wanna just start a column now?" That's so interesting.

Teresa: Yep. Isn't that funny? And the same way, um, she then authored a best-selling cookbook, which was illustrated by Andy Warhol.

Travis: Wow, okay!

Teresa: Very cool, right? Um, and then she hosted a TV show on manners from 1954 to 1960 called *It's Good Taste*.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and then a similarly themed radio program from 1960 to 1962 called *The Right Thing to Do*.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: So, like, it was like—like you said, a breakout success, but kind of the other way than we think about it now.

Travis: Yeah, that's so interesting. And I also want to say, that is a very varied career.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: To, like—to have a... a still-published book, and a radio show, and a television show, and a cookbook that you wrote—like—

Teresa: And she served as an etiquette consultant for a bunch of different government agencies and organizations, including the US Department of State.

Travis: Wow! Just because she threw good parties! No—okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I do wanna say—

Teresa: I think it was because—

Travis: Of the five years of research?

Teresa: Probably that. But also, she had a journalism background. She was well-connected. She was a president of a company of public relations. She seemed to be kind of an all-around super smart gal, you know?

Travis: Yeah. It kind of seems like, too—and maybe this is what would make somebody like this different from, like, a... Emily Post or a—Dale Carnegie is a good reference to this, because it's like, hey, here's all these skills, but also, here is practical application of them for, like, business and social... uh, mobility, maybe?

I don't know. You know, I—I'm not the expert on it, but my guess would be that she probably had a much more, um, targeted approach to it. Of, like, "Here's what you need to do if you want to do this. If this is your goal to get to here, you need to be able to do these things."

Teresa: I agree. Um, her personal life was not so targeted. Um, and I say that only because really what I could find was that she was married four times, and divorced three of those times.

Travis: Well, that's—that's still less divorces than marriages!

Teresa: That's true! Um, she had three sons, uh, Lincoln Gill Clark, Paul Vanderbilt Knopf, and Steven John Knopf.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um... here's the thing. The kind of, like, Emily Post "Whoa."

Travis: Wait! Don't tell us. 'Cause we're gonna throw out some thank-you notes to our sponsors, and we'll be back with a "Whoa" moment. Or, as I'm choosing to call it, a whoament!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: This week we're sponsored in part by Bombas. I would like to tell you about Bombas. Uh, we just got back from a live show tour weekend that involved a lot of walking around Austin. I wore my Bombas socks. Aw, man, did they make a heck of a difference.

Teresa: You were feeling good and comfy on your feet.

Travis: I—I was! And do you know why? Because Bombas socks feature arch support system, a cushioned foot bed, stay-up technology, seamless toe and super soft cotton.

And that last one, the super soft cotton? That might be my favorite. 'Cause all that other stuff is great, but, like... I like to feel like my socks are just, like, hugging my foot.

Teresa: Aww.

Travis: And giving 'em little kisses.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um—[laughs quietly] and also, speaking of feeling good when you're wearing your socks—

Teresa: And tender, tender kisses. [laughs]

Travis: And tender kisses. Bombas socks donates one brand new pair of socks for every pair they sell. To date, they've sold and donated over nine million pairs of socks, and that—that makes you feel good.

Both—it makes your... your socks feel good, but also... wait. I'm gonna try that joke again!

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: It makes the soles of your *feet* feel good—

Teresa: Ohhh!

Travis: —but also, the soles of your soul.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I think I nailed it.

Teresa: I think I did that too early, but... I knew where you were going.

Travis: We got there, yeah! They're amazing. Um, so if you want to check 'em out, go to bombas.com/shmanners. That B-O-M-B-A-S, bombas.com, and you'll get 20% off your first order. That's bombas.com/shmanners, and use the code "shmanners," S-H-M-A-N-N-E-R-S.

Teresa: *Shmanners* is also sponsored in part by CanvasPeople!

Travis: And this is people *made* of canvas?

Teresa: Uh... no.

Travis: Okay. It's canvas made of people. No, that would—

Teresa: No.

Travis: —no. Okay.

Teresa: No. What CanvasPeople do is they print your favorite memories on canvas, and turn them into unique works of art that add a beautiful touch to your home. When we were in Austin, we were at Griffin and Rachel's home, hosts of *Wonderful!*, and—

Travis: And also, like, my brother and sister-in-law.

Teresa: —yes, of course. Of course. And they had this beautiful picture of their son, Henry. Brightly colored—

Travis: Oh, it was lovely.

Teresa: It was—and it was like a painting.

Travis: And because—you know, that's the thing is—listen, we've all got—we've got photos around our house, right? You frame it up, right? And it's nice! But a

CanvasPeople canvas print of that really, A) stands out, B) people are gonna comment on it, and C) like, it looks like something so special and unique. It's amazing.

Teresa: And it would make a great gift, too.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Teresa: Um, so with CanvasPeople, you get your favorite memories printed out to cherish and hang on your walls! Um—

Travis: On canvas. I don't know if that was clear through context—

Teresa: [simultaneously] On—right, yes. [laughs]

Travis: —that it's not just, like, a printed photo.

Teresa: It's—it's canvas.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, so what you have now, as a special, very limited holiday offer, canvaspeople.com is offering their popular size of 11 by 14 photo canvas for free! That's right, for free!

They normally sell at 69.99, but for this week only, you'll pay nothing, and just cover shipping and handling. To get your free canvas, just text "shmanners" to 797979! You'll only have to pay shipping and handling, and this offer won't last, so text "shmanners" to 797979. Message and data rates may apply.

[piano music plays]

Janet: Hi, I'm *The JV Club* podcast's Janet Varney, and I used to suffer from indecision. I couldn't choose between *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*, whether to call or text, or the best way to cook my eggs. But now, thanks to my weekly dose of *We Got This* on Maximum Fun, my decisions are made for me! Thanks, Mark and Hal!

Speaker One: [slightly sped up in the style of prescription disclaimers] Warning: *We Got This* may cause shouting, phone throwing, the illusion that the hosts can hear you, laughter on public transit, and death.

Speaker Two: *We Got This* with Mark and Hal. We know what's best.

[piano music plays]

[sleigh bells jingling in the background]

[simple instrumental of "Dashing Through the Snow" plays]

Speaker Three: This holiday season, we're flooding the Max Fun store with our biggest ever new product launch: 17 brand new items from some of your favorite shows. I bet you know someone who needs a new shirt or mug. Maybe a hoodie!

Cozy up in a pair of Max Fun logo socks, or keep the sun out of your eyes with a rocket dad hat. There is literally no better holiday gift for the Max Fun fan in your life than some new gear. And hey, pick yourself up a little somethin' too. You deserve it!

Check it all out at Maxfunstore.com. That's Maxfunstore.com.

[simple instrumental of "Dashing Through the Snow" plays]

Travis: Alright. Teresa, give me that whoament!

Teresa: Well, she died under mysterious circumstances.

Travis: Whoa... okay.

Teresa: December 27th, 1974, the official cause of death was multiple fractures of the skull after falling or jumping from a second story window in her townhouse in New York.

Travis: Okay?

Teresa: Um, the thing is, there was no, like... note, if it was a suicide. Uh—

Travis: Was anybody home? Were there any suspects?

Teresa: Yes! Her—her son was at home as well. Um, he said that she had told him earlier that she was gonna go lay down, because she had headaches due to hypertension. Um, which also often caused her to get dizzy.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, did she get so dizzy that she fell out a window?

Travis: [quickly] Well, maybe she wanted to get a breath of fresh air, so she opened the window, but then she got dizzy and she fell out?

Teresa: [slowly] Maybe?

Travis: Was her son a suspect? What about that, uh, fourth, non-divorced husband?

Teresa: [laughs] No. um, there were never any charges filed. It was—it was not—the circumstances were really so mysterious. Like I said, there's no way of knowing if she jumped or fell.

Travis: Okay. So what you're telling me is that we got ourselves a cold case. It's *Serial* season four. Only here on *Shmanners*.

Teresa: Ha ha.

Travis: [holding back laughter] Thank you for joining us.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, but to me, it would seem that... I'm not sure about, like, the 70's. Because I wasn't there, obv's.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But it's gotta be hard to fall out of a window, don't you think?

Travis: I don't know, honey. Hm. Mysterious!

Teresa: Maybe it was a poorly designed window? I don't know. I didn't—I wasn't able to find pictures of the window that she fell out of.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Or jumped out of.

Travis: Hm. We may never know!

Teresa: Yeah. Nobody—uh, I found her obituary, and it is—it's very nice. Um, talks about all of her wonderful accomplishments. [pauses] And just says that she died of a fall.

Travis: Huh.

Teresa: So, like—

Travis: How old was she? Do you know? What year was she born?

Teresa: Well, she died 1974. she was born in 1908, so hold would that make her?

Travis: 1970—so that would be... what, 66 years old? Yes.

Teresa: Yeah, give or take.

Travis: 66 years old. I see.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So... what are some of her—you said you looked up some of her, like, lessons and stuff.

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: So tell me—tell me all about it. What kind of stuff did she advocate for and push for?

Teresa: Um—

Travis: What were her lessons?

Teresa: [laughs] Well, what I can read to you... uh, because like I said, it's a 700 page... uh, tome... is I would like to read to you some of the headings for the chapters, so you can get an idea.

Um... so, let's see. The first section is called "The Ceremonies of Life." Things like wedding invitations, um, reception pew cards and train cards, uh, military and naval forms of wedding invitations. Like, this is goin' pretty deep in.

Um, she talks about arranging the wedding. Things like getting the minister of the church together, um... church gifts for the bride's attendants and ushers and things like that, dressing for the wedding... she talks about wedding gifts.

[plastic rustling]

She goes into debuts, like we talked about. Debutantes and stuff.

Travis: [simultaneously] Oh, like debutantes.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: I'm not about to eat a bag of chips. I just want everyone to know, I'm giving Buttercup a treat. I just don't want anyone to hear that rustling of a bag and be like—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —"Is Travis about to, like, yummy down on some chips in the middle of an episode?" No.

[plastic rustling]

Teresa: Uh, she talks about courtship and engagements. Um, one of the subheadings being, "Should an enga—how long should an engagement last?"

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Uh, "Is an engagement irrevocable?"

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, let's see.

Travis: I would say by definition... no. Right? Is that—can you break off a—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: —like in—yeah! By defi—that's what an engagement—no!

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Even a marriage isn't that. Okay.

Teresa: Uh, one of those celebrations of life she says is a funeral.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Um, and the next large heading... she goes about talking about dress and manners, and I think that this really talks about, um... more like—say, for example, talks about what to wear and, uh, what is in—expected in various sports. So, like, kind of like—not just manners engaging with other people, but, like, manners for life; how you should do this sort of stuff.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, let's see. Clothes for active sports... [laughs quietly] I thought that was a very interesting heading. Um, so the—23: The Fastidious, Well-mannered Woman.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Talking about how to sit comfortably and gracefully, and when a woman may remove her hat.

Travis: Whenever she wants!

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, next is the social pleasantries. These are more of the things that I think about when I think about, quote, "manners." Um, dangerous topics of conversation, how to parry direct questions, things like that.

Travis: Ooh, I like that phrase—"How to parry direct questions." En garde!

Teresa: En garde!

Travis: I like that.

Teresa: Uh, she talks about the smoking problem.

Travis: Is that the problem with people smoking?

Teresa: Yes, but, um, she was actually kind of sponsored by Lucky Strike?

Travis: Well, who wasn't at that point. Everyone was sponsored by cigarettes.

Teresa: [laughs quietly] If you go on YouTube you can find a commercial that she did for Lucky Strike where she directly addresses the camera, pretty, like... creepily, for a long time. Um, about smoking.

So, she wasn't against smoking, but she wanted everyone to, you know, be aware of the people around them. Not to drop your ash on the carpet, uh, to position your cigarette so it's not, um, smoking in people's faces, things like that.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: You know, it was the 50's. Like you said, everybody smoked.

Travis: Everybody smoked.

Teresa: And she goes through, like, table manners and tea manners and dinner things and home entertaining. Like, I mean, it's—

Travis: Everything you would expect from a 700 page volume of complete etiquette.

Teresa: Absolutely. Um, and this is just chapter 34: Entertaining Indoors, page 293! like, we haven't even gotten through half of the index.

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: It's exhaustive, isn't it?

Travis: Yes. So it's a beefy book, is what you're tellin' me.

Teresa: Yes. It is *complete*.

Travis: Yes. So, before we wrap up, is there anything else that we should know about, uh, Amy Vanderbilt?

[pauses]

Teresa: Well... um, she had, at the time, received criticism for allowing for... too many things? You know what I mean? Like... the way the book is written, she received criticism for not really calling anyone out as being rude or unmannerly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: She talks about a lot of, you know, ways of behavior, but she isn't really accusatory.

Travis: But I like that!

Teresa: I do too!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And I don't particularly think that Emily Post was accusatory in her book, either. Um, but she was—like I said, she received some pretty sharp criticism about making so many allowances that—is really anything rude? You know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah. And, um, there's—I looked it up. Uh, Emily Post was born over 30 years before Amy Vanderbilt. So just, like, point of comparison, I also think that comparing one person's writing style to the other when they were born at least

two generations—I'm not sure long a generation is. But at least three decades before.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I don't think you can necessarily say that one, you know, has to fit the other style.

Teresa: And not only that. The manners of the time had changed by then. Um, there was certainly a new style, even a more global style of thinking, I would say, in the 50's. Um, than there was when Emily Post wrote hers.

Travis: Yeah. Um, so that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Um, if you have any ideas for topics, feel free to tweet them at us @shmannerstcast on Twitter. Uh, you can email us, shmannerstcast@gmail.com.

Um, we'd like to say thank you to our network, Maximumfun.org. And also really excited to say that the, uh, *JV Club*, which is Janet Varney's podcast where she talks with amazing women, has moved to Max Fun!

Teresa: Hooray!

Travis: I'm super excited about it! Um, I'm both a big fan of Janet Varney, and also she's a friend, and she's great! So you should check out *JV Club*. Uh, you're gonna love it. She does some—some, during the summer, special episodes she called "The Boys of Summer" where she talks to boys. And I have been on, uh, been on an episode of it, and it was just an absolute pleasure. Um, and Janet Varney? Just a joy.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Let's see. What else? Uh, make sure to check out all the merch, uh, at mcelroymerch.com.

Teresa: A really cute little collar pin set, very nice.

Travis: Yes. Of our stuff.

Teresa: Of *our* stuff!

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: [laughs] Of *Shmanners*.

Travis: That says—it's a deer and a dove, designed by Kate Leth, and it says "Hello, my dear," and "Hello, my dove." There's also t-shirts, same design.

Um, and there's lots of other McElroy stuff on there, including some, uh, like, Candlesnights ornaments. Candlesnights is the holiday that the McElroys invented that encompasses all other holidays. Um, and you can get some ornaments on there at mcelroymerch.com. Um... and... let's see. What else, Teresa? What do we always say here?

Teresa: Well, we always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. We also thank Kayla M. Wasil for our beautiful Twitter thumbnail art, and he already mentioned where, uh, you can find that little thumbnail, @shmannerscast.

Um, and also thank you to Keely Weis Photography who, uh, took the picture for the banner art of the fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners* Fanners. That is something that if you enjoy our podcast you will love this group, so go ahead and join it and get—give advice to other fans of the show!

Travis: Um, and that's gonna do it agai—wha—that's gonna do it for us.

Teresa: There it is.

Travis: 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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