

Shmanners 257: Bidets

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Travis: You know what I say when I see a bidet?

Teresa: What?

Travis: Don't mind if I bi-do!

Teresa: 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—let me check—yes! It's *Shmanners*.

Teresa: [through laughter] It's extraordinary etiquette.

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm alright.

Travis: Okay! [laughs]

Teresa: Listen, things could be worse.

Travis: Yes, but things could always be better.

Teresa: [laughs] How are you?

Travis: Doing pretty good! Had a good night's sleep. I, uh, played a fun game stream last evening with friends, and I had, uh, a pleasant bathroom experience this morning.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: How—how convenient.

Travis: Oh, it's almost like, uh, a transition!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Because we are talking about bidets.

Teresa: We are. And, um, please tell us the story of how you were introduced to bidets, or as they are commonly called, washlets.

Travis: Oh! Uh, well—

Teresa: Here in the US, when they're just on top of the toilet. Go ahead, go ahead, go ahead.

Travis: I think perhaps you are—you are, uh... so, I was given our bidet by my older brother for Christmas.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, as a... joke.

Travis: [simultaneously] Christmas—

Teresa: As a joke.

Travis: Oh, not—not—no. Not really as a joke.

Teresa: Well...

Travis: Okay, now, hold on. I'm—

Teresa: He says it's a joke. It was a joke.

Travis: Yes. But, now, hold on. Who's telling the story?

Teresa: Okay, right.

Travis: I don't think it was a joke so much as it was lighthearted, is the way I would put it. It was like, "Hmm? Huh?" Uh, a thing that we McElroys like to call kidding on the square.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Um, and the thing is, then I believe it sat in the box for a long time, because I think I needed a connection that I didn't have to hook it up.

Teresa: Yeah. So, it has to be—the one that you got—

Travis: Is like a seat.

Teresa: Is like a seat, like I said, often called a washlet.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Um, in the US. And it needs to be connected to the, um—the water in from the toilet, uh, hookup, right?

Travis: Yeah. You basically need a T hookup so that you can split it where the water is going to the receptacle in the back of the toilet as well as the seat.

Teresa: Right, right.

Travis: And I didn't have that. So eventually I hooked it up, and never looked back. Never—

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: —life—life has changed for the better.

Teresa: And you even got me one!

Travis: Yes. This is true. We are a two-bidet household. I don't wanna brag...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, but I'm not bragging, because actually these ones that you can get that fit on your toilet are [through laughter] very, uh, cost—cost effective? Are very affordable.

Teresa: They are very affordable.

Travis: Um, and, uh, I—to the point now where when we used to travel, which no one will ever travel again I think, um—but maybe we will someday. To Mars! Um, that going somewhere where we didn't have our bidet, that was always the thing we complained about most. Like, "Oh, it's nice to travel, I really like seeing the sights, but... I miss my bidet." [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] I remember when you first got it. We had several friends over, because this was the before times.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, and you were rather aggressive about—

Travis: Now, don't say it like that!

Teresa: —getting people to try it?

Travis: See, this is what I'm talking about! 'Cause you—you make it sound, like, creepy!

Teresa: No! I—okay.

Travis: There is so much stigma around the bidet! I was enthusiastic.

Teresa: You were enthusiastic. And a lot of our friends were intimidated.

Travis: Not our friend Rory. Rory was in.

Teresa: No, Rory was in. But—

Travis: A quick convert.

Teresa: [laughs] Some of our friends were intimidated. So, let's go through some—some bidet history and some bidet etiquette. So you, dear listener, don't have to be intimidated.

Travis: Tell me about how it was invented back in the bi-day.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Ehh? [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. So, when you have... not a washlet, not on the seat, the bidet is usually seen as a separate bowl or receptacle, right? Um—

Travis: Now, I have only seen that once in the wild. And that was—we went, uh, to Vegas on a family trip.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Um, and they upgraded us to—I think when they saw that we had a child with us said, "Oh, you're gonna be in the hotel a lot."

And upgraded us to a slightly nicer room, and said room had a turlet and a bidet right next to it. I never used it, because I was afraid of it, and it felt weird moving from toilet to toilet.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, it's not actually a toilet. Okay, so you're right. Normally they—a bidet is kind of like a miniature almost-toilet right next to the toilet.

Travis: Mm-hmm. It's the toilet's child.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, so it's probably a French invention, but the idea of washing yourself after you go to the bathroom is not French. I mean, people—

Travis: I mean, the word definitely is, though, right?

Teresa: Yes, yes.

Travis: Bidet. That's not German.

Teresa: No. Uh, it's the French word for "pony."

Travis: Huh!

Teresa: Because when you straddle it, you kind of look like you're ridin' a...

Travis: Ohh!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: How cute!

Teresa: So that word was first coined in France in 1710.

Travis: Oh, wow. Okay.

Teresa: Right. Well, but, like—

Travis: Way farther back than I would have expected.

Teresa: Well, like I said, though—really, way farther back? I thought—I mean, I suppose I shouldn't have thought that, um, bidets predated indoor plumbing.

Travis: Yes, thank you.

Teresa: But I guess I was always thinking about just kind of, like, a washbasin.

Travis: Okay, but see, I don't think of that as a bidet. To me, a bidet inherently has some kind of, like, water shooting up fountain quality.

Teresa: Okay. Sure.

Travis: You know, I once looked up—just in case anybody's curious—I once started wondering, like, how did they have fountains—'cause I know that they did—before there was, like, electricity to power pumps? And I, like, challenged myself to figure out how I would do it, and then I looked it up.

And basically what they did is, they would build the, like, water towers or water receptacles up on hills, and then—or higher places, on top of buildings or something—and then have the pipes run down so the water pressure from having the water at a higher point would push the water up into the fountain, and that's how fountains used to work, just in case anyone was wondering.

Teresa: That's awesome! So, once the bidet came into fashion, it went all over France and Italy. Um, and there is record of the Queen of Naples and Sicily requesting one for her personal suite. But, the most famous bidet belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Travis: Oh! Okay. So, yeah, I knew it was gonna be French, but I was leaning towards Louis, or Marie Antoinette.

Teresa: No.

Travis: But it was Napoleon Bonaparte.

Teresa: Yeah! He took his silver bidet with him in all of his travels, and to every battlefield he ever fought on.

Travis: Well, see, I told you I missed our bidet when we traveled. I get it!

Teresa: It's true, it's true. And the great thing about his particular silver bowl is it acted as a natural kind of, like, antimicrobial. Um, which kept the piece of furniture clean and sanitary no matter where he happened to be in the world.

Um, and he made sure that his bidet was passed down to his son in his will, because it was so dear to him.

Travis: Aww. That's so sweet, kind of. Sort of. Almost. [laughs quietly]

Teresa: Sort of.

Travis: So this is making a lot more sense to me now, thinking about it in that time period as more of a washbasin, right? And less of a, like, sprayer. Okay.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. So... here's something that bidets don't do. They're not a contraceptive.

Travis: Go on? Oh, I see. Uh-huh?

Teresa: Yeah. In the early days, it was thought that if one did not desire to be pregnant, one could—

Travis: Simply wash—

Teresa: Simply wash away the, uh—the culprit, right?

Travis: [blows raspberry] [laughs] Man, I was wondering. What euphemism is Teresa gonna use to get there? And, you know, I could've guessed a hundred times, and I don't think I ever would've gotten to "culprit."

Teresa: Well...

Travis: J'accuse? [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "[bad French accent] I believe I've figured out who committed the crime! If everyone would please join me in the parlor. Yes, you too, culprit!"

Teresa: [laughs] Well, I mean, the long and the short of it, no. That—it doesn't work. That's not... that's not a thing. But... bidets were often used by sex workers for upkeep and comfort.

Travis: Okay? Alright, that makes sense.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I get that.

Teresa: Um, there's a few more things associated with bidets that may or may not be true. The first one being, um, that John Harvey Kellogg in 1928—

Travis: Ah! Now, so this is, if you wanna hear more about this, you can listen to *Sawbones*, the Battle Creek, uh—what is it?

Teresa: Sanitarium—Sanatorium.

Travis: Sanator—yes. But, uh, this is Kellogg, of the cereal.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Uh, and basically, he was all about restriction and, like, no spicy food, and sex is bad for you, and, uh, you know, this is the way that you maintain health and that you—

Teresa: One of the ways that he, uh—

Travis: Which is why, uh, cornflakes was so no sugar at the beginning.

Teresa: Right, right right right.

Travis: It was just, like, very plain cereal.

Teresa: And it was intended to help move the bowel.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, and so—

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: What?

Travis: No, it's just that you said singular bowel, and I liked it. To move the bowel. It sounded like something that one would do while playing cricket, where you gotta move the bowel, man.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, the problem is, they get out there and, you know, they're just not able to move the bowel, and that's why they're not winning, you know what I mean?

Teresa: Anyway... um, and he applied for a patent, um, that he called the anal douche.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Um, it was sort of like a bidet nozzle, right? That you could attach to your toilet to clean yourself with a steady stream of water. So, it wasn't quite a basin with a fountain, it wasn't quite a seat with a motor. It was just a kind of—almost like you have your, uh, shower heads that you can detach, right?

Travis: Um, I would argue, though, that his big problem there was, uh, in branding.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: I think you could probably come up with a better name for it. Um, maybe get a Mad Man on that.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, anal douche is probably not going to move the product like you might want.

Teresa: And that was really the first attempt to, uh, Americanize the bidet. Um, Europeans have been a big fan, and Asian countries also. Um, Alex mentions that when she was in Sri Lanka, they had the kind of nozzle kind, right?

Travis: Why do you think that is? I mean, do you have in the copy, or is it just—do you wanna speculate now as to why you think here in the US, it has not taken hold as quickly or as early as it has in some other countries.

Teresa: Oh, well you're welcome to speculate, but I do know why.

Travis: Oh! Okay. Um... I—I mean, my assumption is that it seems too fancified for the time perio—like—

Teresa: Too highfalutin'?

Travis: Yeah. That I think that there was a time period in America where—here in the US, I mean—where we pride—we quote, unquote, prided ourselves on our "rough and tumble frontier ideals," and that we are toughies, and we don't need none of that highfalutin' French stuff. And by time period, I mean up until about 2012.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, um, I suppose. But what most historians agree is that it has to do with the Puritanical nature of our society.

Travis: Ohh, yeah yeah yeah.

Teresa: Um, and so...

Travis: That it seemed too fun?

Teresa: No. Okay, so in the different World Wars, Americans weren't really introduced to bidets until they went overseas, right? In—in World War II in Europe specifically.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, GIs visiting bordellos would often see bidets in the bathroom, so they became quietly associated with sex work.

Travis: Ohhh! Okay. I mean, that doesn't make sense, capital S Sense, but it makes lowercase s sense.

Teresa: Right, and so, um, when these GIs came back and built homes, and the baby boom ensued, uh, they felt kinda squeamish about the bidet being in their homes. So a lot of our, you know, our prefab World War II houses just didn't have the hookups, because it was—

Travis: Stigmatized.

Teresa: Stigmatized.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Exactly. Um—

Travis: Man, stigmas... are bad!

Teresa: They sure are.

Travis: I'm just gonna go right out on a limb and say it. I don't like stigmas.

Teresa: [laughs] Here's the thing, right?

Travis: Tell me. Tell me of the thing.

Teresa: Surely one could put together that the bidet was just for cleaning, right? Just to keep you clean. But this—this lie persevered, of the fact that it

may have been an effective contraceptive. And so it was—it was considered one of the tools of the trade, and... [sighs] Man, we have so many of these hang-ups here.

It can help people who have periods. It can help people who have hemorrhoids. There are lots of other things that go on down there besides sexy times, and so I think we should destigmatize the bidet. Here we are. We're doing it.

Travis: Yes! I will also say that, uh, just all in all, less irritation from toilet paper, no matter how soft it is, right? You're in there, you know? It can get, uh, a little rough sometimes. Especially, I will say—uh, and I'm gonna try to avoid being blue here—but if you are having some tummy troubles and you are going to the bathroom perhaps multiple times in a day, multiple multiple times, having the bidet can really help keep you comfortable down there.

Teresa: Absolutely! That's what—that's what I'm sayin', you know?

Travis: Plus you can heat the water all nice, and it's really pleasant.

Teresa: It's really nice. So, in Japan, 70% of all homes have their own electronic bidet. Um—

Travis: This makes a lot of sense to me, because just culturally they embrace technology more. Also, it's just one of those things that you see in, you know, movies and TV shows and culture, and also just travel shows. We've enjoyed travel shows a lot with very fancy technological toilets.

Teresa: Right. And that's not to say that they're—that these fancy Japanese ones are not catching on. They are. All you have to do is look on YouTube and you can see a bunch of people showing off their, you know, their technicolor fountains in their bathrooms. It's—it's pretty cool!

Travis: Yes!

Teresa: And it is good for the environment. Less toilet tissue down the drain, less use of toilet tissue. Now, when you are finished with the bidet, if

you don't wanna just, like, drip dry, uh, it is recommended that you use toilet tissue, but...

Travis: There are some, though, that have, like, built-in dryers and, you know, like, air dryers in them, which is interesting.

Teresa: That's true. Uh, so... do you wanna hear about how we should use a bidet?

Travis: I absolutely do. But you know what I wanna do first?

Teresa: What?

Travis: I wanna write a thank you note to our sponsors!

Teresa: Yay!

[theme music plays]

Travis: I want to tell you about Quip, my friends.

Teresa: Please do.

Travis: Okay, I will! Quip...

Teresa: Mm-hmm?

Travis: Well, it's great. It's an oral hygiene company. And you might think, "Travis, just say toothbrush." But it's not just toothbrush. It's toothbrush, it's floss, it's toothpaste, and it's now gum. What? Gum?

Teresa: And mouthwash!

Travis: And mouthwash! It's everything.

Teresa: Everything.

Travis: Right? It's *everything*. You can check it all out, and I do recommend that you do, because it is, one, my favorite flavor of toothpaste that I have ever had, their fresh mint.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: Two, the gum not only tastes great, but makes your teeth feel cleaner. Uh, you know how sometimes it's between meals, and we often refer to it here in our household as, like, feeling like you have sweaters on your teeth, you know what I mean?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Chewing that gum makes your teeth feel cleaner, and that's dentist-approved. That's not, like, made up, right? And the mouthwash is great, and all of it comes in fun, like, dispensers? And, like, the floss dispenser, the gum dispenser, the mouthwash dispenser. They're all cool.

Teresa: I have a matching Quip suite of rose gold toothbrush, floss dispenser, and mouthwash dispenser. Um, and let's talk about dispensers for a second.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: That gum dispenser is like adult Pez.

Travis: It's so cool. Uh, and you can check it all out, and we recommend that you do. Uh, if you go to getquip.com/shmanners right now, you can get a free plastic dispenser with any refill plan. That's a free dispenser at getquip.com/shmanners, spelled G-E-T-Q-U-I-P dot com slash Shmanners.

You can also find the Quip electric toothbrush, refillable floss, and more in the oral care aisle at your local Wal-Mart. Quip! The good habits company.

Teresa: *Shmanners* is also sponsored in part this week by Libby! Libby is a free reading app created by Overdrive that lets you borrow eBooks and audiobooks from your library on your phone, tablets, Kindle, or computers! All you need is a valid library card from your library.

Travis: That's so great, 'cause I'm... missing libraries.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You know, I never thought libraries would be one of the things I miss, but there's one, you know, not—not too far from us that we used to take the kids to. They had a big, like, kids—like, you know, checkout area, and it was great! But not anymore. Well, I mean, eventually, hopefully. But not right now.

Teresa: Yes. We shall return to the library. But until then, and after, it's very easy, because it works just like your physical library. You borrow available books you want to read, and they return themselves automatically after your loan expires.

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[page turning noises]

[music plays]

Mallory: Brea, what's your reader wheelhouse?

Brea: A woman on a journey, space, post-apocalyptic roads, and magical food. Mallory, what's your reader wheelhouse?

Mallory: Werewolves, haunted houses, weird fiction, and, uh, books set in Florida, for—for some reason.

Brea: We're *Reading Glasses*, and we wanna know what your reader wheelhouse is.

Mallory: We can use it to help you find more books that you love.

Brea: And avoid books that you don't! So whatever you like to read about, and however you like to read it...

Mallory: We wanna help you read better.

Brea: *Reading Glasses*. Every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[music and ad play and end]

Travis: [posh voice] How should one use a bidet?

Teresa: Well, let's start with the old school first. Okay, so I've already mentioned that it's kind of like the toilet's friend, right? Next to it, right?

Travis: The toilet's best friend.

Teresa: Um, so I would recommend that you take off your clothing entirely—not the upper part.

Travis: Okay. I was wondering.

Teresa: But the lower part.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Um, and you should straddle the bowl, depending on which part of yourself you're planning to clean. So—

Travis: So depending—you mean which way you face.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Depends on which part you're gonna clean. Okay.

Teresa: Right. Um, if your butt is dirty, sit on it like you would the toilet. If your front is dirty, sit with your privates facing the faucet, right? So—so in your mind's eye...

Travis: I think we get it.

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: Yeah. [laughs]

Teresa: Okay. Alright.

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: Uh, the faucet will have regular sink handles, so feel free to adjust the temperature as you clean, and you can even switch halfway through, right? Um, when you're done, you dry yourself off with your toilet tissue, and then turn off the water and make sure the bidet is drained before you put your pants back on. There is sometimes, like, a third, smaller, uhh... handle—

Travis: That's like the flush.

Teresa: —that's like that flush. It doesn't quite flush, because the water—you can keep the water going, obviously, to flush things down, but it's more like a sink where you unstopper it, right? To get everything out, and then you want to clear all the water out.

Travis: Makes sense.

Teresa: So you turn off the faucet, open the plug... let it all drain out. Because the next person doesn't wanna sit in your dirty water.

Travis: No, absolutely not. Oh God, no.

Teresa: Okay. Next one is the handheld bidet. So, you should position yourself over it so that if you spray, um... [holding back laughter] You sp—if you spray yourself, it will land in the basin—

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: —and not all over everything, right?

Travis: Not on the floor.

Teresa: Yes. Um, some would say a crouch is probably good for this. Um, and spray in spurts so that you don't have the... [sighs] the water going everywhere.

Um, do your front first. Sorry. Do the front first, and then the back, and then flush the toilet. Um, because usually, the nozzle ones don't have their own basin next to the toilet. They are attached to the toilet. And the thing about this style is that it doesn't usually have temperature controls. It's whatever water is coming out of the plumbing for the toilet is usually powering this.

Travis: And brace yourself, friends! 'Cause that's often cold water.

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Unless they have a special setup there, it's gonna be chilly.

Teresa: Okay. Last one. Electronic bidets or washlets. Um, and this is really great, because I know that our bidets actually came with a little, like, laminated user manual, which is great.

Travis: Which you should also clean from time to time.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: 'Cause it's in the bathroom, it's near the toilet, uh, and it's laminated, so it's easy to wipe off.

Teresa: Um, and so check out the command buttons before you start. Most of them usually have a red stop button if you get overwhelmed. Um—

Travis: Or if you're just done.

Teresa: Or if you're done. I mean, I like to ride the wave for as long as it lasts, but—[laughs]

Travis: Okay. Wow.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But I will also say on there you have, uh, water—or at least on ours, water temperature, nozzle position, that kind of thing.

Teresa: Some even have seat temperature warmers!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's pretty fun! Um, and some of them even have a dry setting, like you mentioned earlier, so those are—those little robots are fun to use.

Travis: Um, also, so along those lines, because I know that it can be a concern of, like, sanitation and cleanliness, right? Most of those electronic ones that have, like, the built in nozzle and sprayer, they will have, like, ways built in that they kind of automatically clean themselves as they function.

Teresa: Right. Or a cleaning setting.

Travis: Or a cleaning setting, right? So that is something that they have thought about. Now, let's do a few questions here.

Teresa: Alright!

Travis: This is from Jerronius.

"Should you be proud and tell your friends and family about how great your bidet is, or is it a secret shame?"

Now, here's the thing. You cannot control the way that other people react to the way that you describe something, right? It is a subjective thing, and not an objective thing. I think that if you are enjoying it and you have found that it has improved your life and you believe that it would improve other people's lives, the only way to destigmatize something is to talk about it.

Teresa: Agreed!

Travis: They might react like it's embarrassing to hear you talk about it, but that is because it is stigmatized, not because it is embarrassing.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Uh, this is from Diana.

"I've never had a chance to try a bidet. How do you dry after it's done?"

Teresa: Like I said, some have a drying function. It's a little fan, blower. Um, but it's recommended that you use a small amount of toilet tissue to dry yourself off. Nobody wants, you know, saggy underwear, saggy, soggy underwear afterwards.

Travis: True. This is from Kate.

"Would it be weird to use someone's bidet if you visit their house?"

Teresa: Absolutely not. Uh, that's why it's there. And the whole situation is pretty hygienic, like you said. Even if it's, like, an old school bidet, um, it's no different from using the toilet facilities at their house. So, go ahead and use it if you're comfortable.

Travis: If anything, I would say it's cleaner! It's the cleaning part, right?

Teresa: It is the cleaning part.

Travis: Right? So it's—you should worry about it *less* than using somebody's toilet.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, this is from Sophie.

"Can I ask people who own bidets for recommendations based off of their bidet experiences?"

Teresa: Oh, yes. In our experience, people are very happy to talk about, uh, how much a bidet has improved their lives.

Travis: This is true. I remember—I went to a party once, and I got introduced to a friend of the host, and we were kind of, like, hitting it off, we were talking about stuff, and then, like, I think I mentioned bidets in some way, and their eyes lit up.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And the two of us became best friends, just talking about our bidet experiences. Like, "[excitedly] They're so great!" And we kept pulling other people into the conversation like, "You have a bidet, right? Come over here!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And just talking about bidets.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Uh, this is from Daisy.

"If you install a bidet on the only toilet in your house, or all toilets in your house, should you make any guests aware of it or let them figure it out on their own?"

Teresa: Um, well, we were kind of excited to let our guests visit our bidet, so we told them about it. But I think that if it's one of those, um, like, washlet-type seats, I don't think that you owe it to, like, you know, caution them about it. Because the only way that you would use it is if you push the buttons to turn it on and use it. Other than that, it's just like a normal toilet.

Travis: But if you have one of those laminated sheets, I would recommend if it's the only toilet or it's all toilets in the house to get, like, a little suction cup hook or something and, like, put that in, like, uh, eye line, you know, visible near where the bidet is and, like, hang that instruction sheet on there.

So that way, if they're there and they wanna try it, they can do it without asking you about it, 'cause that could help them overcome some of that stigma to do it on their own instead of coming out and being like, "Hey, Bob! Give me a step-by-step instruction on how to use that ding dang thing!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, this is from Casey.

"Do they have a significant impact as far as living a more sustainable, less wasteful life?"

Teresa: Uh, yes, in the way of less toilet tissue used.

Travis: They do—I mean, if they're electronic, right? They do use energy, and they use water, right?

Teresa: Yes, but water does go down to be treated at the waste treatment plant, so it's not—it's not water that's completely lost. Um, but... it's not really quantitative in that way. It's qualitative in the way of you are using less tissue, you're buying less tissue, tissue is not being in demand, there's chopping down less trees to make toilet tissue, so it's more about, like, the longevity of the planet. And I suppose then, yes, it is more sustainable.

Travis: Well, this question—I think we've already answered it, but Pathetic Barrel asks, "Why are bidets not more common?"

And like we were talking about, I think it's a lot of stigma, because—and also, they are more common outside of the US, right?

Teresa: Yes, indeed.

Travis: I think that here in the US, they are starting to catch on more and more, I think especially as these electronic washlet seats are easier and easier to install, and more and more affordable. Um, and in case anybody was wondering, because we talked about recommendations, the brand that we have been using is called Bio Bidet, B-I-O B-I-D-E-T, um, and they have

some pretty affordable options, and easy to install, and... I don't know. I think they're great. We're not sponsored by them or nothin'.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We just think they're great.

Teresa: Fun fact: America, the US, is actually one of the top producers and exporters of bidets.

Travis: Well, excellent! Okay, great. Well, uh, I think that's gonna do it for us.

Teresa: Okay!

Travis: Uh, thank you so much, everybody, for joining us. Thank you to Alex, of course, our researcher, and friend, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you so much. Thank you to MaximumFun.org, our podcast home.

We've got the Max Fun Drive comin' up pretty soon now, so if you enjoy *Shmanners*, think about maybe becoming a Max Fun supporter this year when the time comes, or maybe upgrading your Max Fun support level. We'll talk more about it, though, when the time comes.

Teresa: Yeah, we'll get to it.

Travis: Um, we wanna tell you about the pin of the month over at mcelroymerch.com. It's a really cute Farm Wisdom pin with a really cute cow over there, and every pin that you buy benefits the AAPI Civic Engagement Fund, which supports local community organizations to combat violence and hate.

There is also an *Adventure Zone* shirt over there, um, that's new, and a lot of other fun stuff. And speaking of *The Adventure Zone*, you can preorder *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom* graphic novel, which is the next in our graphic novel series. You can preorder that at theadventurezonecomic.com. It comes out July 13th. Uh, it's gonna be really fun. It's really beautiful. Um,

I think that this is the one where we've done the most kind of tweaking to the story. Uh, just not in big ways, but mostly just to make it not 800,000 pages long.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So I think you'll enjoy it. You can preorder that at theadventurezonecomic.com.

Teresa: Awesome.

Travis: Um, and yeah, I think that's gonna do it for us. Oh! Who else do we thank? What else do we do? Always! What else do I always say?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Teresa, what did I forget?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "Brental Floss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. We also thank Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. That is @shmatterscast, and that's where we got all of our awesome questions for this week. Um, so keep an eye out for more calls to questions there.

We also thank Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmatters Fanners, so go ahead and join that group if you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans.

One more plug here is, we are always taking topic suggestions. We are always taking, um... idioms. We've got a lot, but we always want more! We're so greedy for idioms!

Travis: [laughs villainously] Delicious, delicious idioms!

Teresa: And you can send those to shmatterscast@gmail.com.

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

Teresa: No RSVP required!

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

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[theme music plays]

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