

Shmanners 274: Rivalries

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Travis: *I wanna do the intro.*

Teresa: *No, I wanna say the intro!*

Travis and 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 *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette.

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: [sighs]

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Our baby's having some allergy things, or a cold thing. Somethin'! She ain't happy. [laughs quietly] And, uh, she's turned into— Dot is a bit of, like, um... how I imagine it is, like, living with the dowager from, uh—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —from *Downton Abbey*. Where it's like, "Now do this. Oh, the temperature's too hot! Now it's too cold! I'm hungry! I don't want this food! [babbling]"

Teresa: [laughs] It is a little bit like it. Um, and, you know, it's— it's hard in the world today to— to feel like you're effectual in anything, and then I have a toddler screaming on me for the last two days.

Travis: "Put me down! Pick me up! Put me down, mommy! Now hold me to the side!"

Teresa: And it really only just reinforces the futility.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. But... !

Teresa: Here we are.

Travis: We're not here to talk about [laughs quietly] our whiny baby.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I feel terrible. She doesn't feel good.

Teresa: She doesn't.

Travis: She's got a face full of snot all the time.

Teresa: Not only does she not feel good, but she's tired of not feeling good.

Travis: Yeah. Right, right, right.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Um, it's that feeling I think we all feel when you don't feel good. Of just, like, "I want this to be done." But filtered through an 18-months-old brain. Just like, "This is forever!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Anyhoo.

Teresa: Anyway.

Travis: We're talking about rivalries. Before we got started, Teresa and I were talking a little bit. Like, "Well, is it feuds? Is it rivalry?" And I think it's semantic. But for me a rivalry is like, we are competing. And a feud to me is like, we are fighting.

Teresa: Exactly. Um, I would say that because the people we're going to talk about are mostly contemporaries of each other—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Like, they are in the same profession, uh, that I'm gonna say it's a rivalry. Whereas a feud might just be two strangers yelling at each other.

Travis: Yeah, I think you could feud with someone that you compete against, but I think it would have to be deeper than just like, "I wanna be better than them." Right? I think it would have to be like, "I'm gonna ruin their life."

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Right? So, I think that there were the two— like, maybe we'll talk about the paleontologists that I think, like, that probably escalated to feud. But, like, for example, 2004 I wanna say season Yankees and Red Sox. Like, that's a rivalry.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right? Like, they weren't killing each other in the streets á la Hatfields and McCoys or Montagues and Capulets.

Teresa: [gasps]

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: We're gonna talk about the Hatfields and the McCoys.

Travis: Well, yeah, we would have to.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That— that's a feud.

Teresa: That's a feud.

Travis: That's a feud. But it has to be something about, like... this is my rival, this is my— but for me when I think of rivalry, I think of it very much as like we're competing to be the best, and feud is like, "Oh no, I hate this person and I wish they were dead."

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: "In fact, if I could, I would kill them. I *will* kill them." We'll see. Okay.

Teresa: Okay. Alright.

Travis: Have you ever feuded? Have you ever rivaled with anybody?

Teresa: Yeah, I have.

Travis: [gasps quietly]

Teresa: So, I have spoken at length about my prose poetry.

Travis: I knew it was gonna be speech and debate.

Teresa: Speech and debate. And—

Travis: I *knew* it was gonna be speech and debate.

Teresa: There was this girl named Audrey at a neighboring school. And of course, we always went to the same— the same, like, competitions. And we traded back and forth, first and second, first and second, first and second, all year. Um, and finally we both qualified for state and I beat her out.

Travis: Yeah you did!

Teresa: So she got fourth and I got third in the state.

Travis: Yeah! I don't know that I've ever cared about anything enough to have a rival! [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I mean, may— probably if I've ever had a rival, it has been completely imagined on my side.

Teresa: Ohh.

Travis: You know?

Teresa: I mean, we were very kind to each other. And it really goes... I mean... [sighs] prose poetry, more about—

Travis: The bloodthirsty world of prose poetry.

Teresa: I mean, it's more about, like, the judges' preferences at that point.

Travis: Oh, absolutely.

Teresa: Right? As long as you follow all the rules and you're entertaining, it's more about what the judge wants than anything else, so it was all a matter of taste, who got first or second.

Travis: I'll never forget— I did HIDI, which is Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpreta— which basically, like, doing a scene where you play all the parts, you talk to yourself. And I'll never forget doing this competition where the judge, just before we started, like, looked at her sheet and said, "Ah. Four DIs and one HI." Guess who was the HI?

Teresa: [laughs].

Travis: "Oh, good. I prefer dramatic." And I was like, "Okay! Guess who's comin' in fifth in this round!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, okay. So...

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Where are we starting?

Teresa: Um, first I do want to make a small disclaimer. We like to lead by example. *Shmanners* is about, you know, getting along in the world. Uh, but even the people that, you know, we might consider shmannerly can't— aren't shmannerly-like all the time, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So— so some— you might run into one of your faves. But that doesn't make them problematic. Okay?

Travis: Yeah. And just— I believe it was REM that said "Everybody beefs sometimes."

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: The first one I wanna talk about is Edgar Allen Poe and Rufus W. Griswald.

Travis: I think I know this one. Thank you, Drunk History.

Teresa: Mm, indeed. Yes, I do recommend the Drunk History episode. It is entertaining and excellently informative.

Travis: So wasn't Rufus, like, an editor or publisher or something?

Teresa: Exactly. Um, so he was a literary critic, and he— the main thing that he did is he published anthologies, okay? Uh, and he included three of Poe's poems in the anthology *The Poets and Poetry of America*. But they were kind of added as an afterthought, and they didn't really, like, gel with the rest of the poems, and it was met with mixed reviews. Um, and Poe at this point was already established and influential, and he began to publicly question the quality of poets that Griswold surrounded himself with.

Travis: Mm-hmm-hmm!

Teresa: Um, claiming the anthologies weren't meant to be a collection of geniuses, rather Poe thought that it was more of a platform for his friends.

Travis: Well, yeah. I mean, yeah. Listen, I'm not saying that the two are mutually exclusive, right? You can have genius friends. I have lots of genius friends.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Um, but yeah. I mean, yeah.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Listen. If I— if someone said, like— I was about to say that if someone gave me the opportunity to publish, like, works, I would immediately reach out to my friends. But that's mostly probably because I wouldn't know what I was doing. [laughs quietly]

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: “Hey, do any of you know how to write stuff?”

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: “I don't know who to call! What do I do?”

Teresa: Uh, and this—

Travis: And Rufus was also pretty critical of Poe, right?

Teresa: Indeed. So it didn't get any better when he asked Poe— more like bribed him— to get a positive review for his anthology. Um, he accepted the bribe, and wrote a lukewarm review of the book.

Travis: That'll show him.

Teresa: Which... did not sit well with Griswald, um, who had been telling everyone that the famous Edgar Allen Poe was reviewing the work. Ooh.

Travis: Okay. Can I just say, this kind of seems a little petty on Poe's part.

Teresa: I mean, a little bit.

Travis: I was all ready to, like, side with Poe 'cause there's lots of Edgar Allen Poe works that I really thoroughly enjoy. [laughs] But this kind of sounds like Poe was like, "Nyh."

Teresa: "Nyh."

Travis: "How dare you? People don't like my— my works, huh? Well, that's 'cause this guy is bad." Okay.

Teresa: Um, and it really only got worse. The pettiness continued. Um, so from 1843 to 1845, Poe went on a lecture tour to discuss his writings, and it was very successful. Uh, but Poe used some of his time to publicly gossip about Griswald's less than stellar poetry anthologies.

Travis: Wow! Okay, look— I was saying. Poe is not coming off like a shiny diamond here.

Teresa: Of course not. Um, and that made Griswald even angrier, because he knew that now regardless of Poe's criticism, he would have to include Poe in all of the next anthologies, because he was too popular to be excluded. So, his books wouldn't sell if he didn't put Poe in, but he doesn't like Poe, 'cause Poe talks bad about him.

Travis: See, this is where I wish I could travel back in time to Griswald and be like, "Here's all you gotta do." Be like, "I don't know why he's so mad at me. I love his work." And guess what? You're out on top, baby!

Teresa: Um, so... the biggest— the biggest hit in this verbal boxing match occurred—

Travis: Fairly one-sided if it sounds— okay, go on.

Teresa: Well...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Well...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Griswald got Poe in the obituary.

Travis: [gasps] What?

Teresa: He, uh, wrote—[laughs quietly] he completely slandered Poe's name. He wrote false claims about saying that he was homicidal, that he was crazed, that Poe was addicted to drugs, all of which of course became part of his lore for many years, despite the fact that it was all untrue.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But it doesn't end there.

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: Because—

Travis: Then Poe's ghost haunted him!

Teresa: [laughs] That would make sense.

Travis: That would be a weird twist for *Shmanners* to go in, huh?

Teresa: Well, the scandalous tone of the obituary only made Poe's work more compelling, and drove his posthumous popularity.

Travis: Yep.

Teresa: So he thought that he burned him, but he did not.

Travis: That's how it goes sometimes, you know? You know?

Teresa: Yeah. Gone and went.

Travis: Yeah. Okay.

Teresa: Next one?

Travis: Yeah, who's next?

Teresa: Next is Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots.

Travis: Now, this... this is about who's the real queen.

Teresa: Indeed, indeed. Um...

Travis: And not just, like, in a reality show way.

Teresa: Of course not.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um...

Travis: Don't say of course. It might be.

Teresa: Well, I mean...

Travis: Royalty is kind of the first reality show.

Teresa: But the thing is they never even met. Regardless of what you've seen in the movies, they didn't know each other. They were—

Travis: I don't really watch movies.

Teresa: Okay. Well, they were raised—

Travis: I'm more of a classical literature kind of person.

Teresa: —countries apart.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so... uh, both women were female monarchs in a rough time to be female monarchs, of course. And they—

Travis: Do you mean any time? [laughs quietly]

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. And they both had plausible rights to the English crown. Um, they were of the same tree, one would say. Um, but she was— Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII, but was a protestant heir because of the king, right? Born of Ann Boleyn.

Travis: 'Cause he started the church of England, yes.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Uh, Ann Boleyn, who nobody really liked, right? So—

Travis: She was also not the first wife, she was the second?

Teresa: Second, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, but Elizabeth was the oldest of all of his children.

Travis: Sure, sure, sure, sure, sure. But if you... I have to imagine that if you're Catholic then you're like, "Well, but that— then child was born out of wedlock," because he didn't really— he was still with Catherine of Aragon.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Not Aragorn.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That's the character from *Fellowship of the Rings*. But so, you may not even recognize Elizabeth I as a legitimate heir.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and so—

Travis: I know my history! Thanks to Shakespeare! Go on.

Teresa: Mary was King Henry VIII's niece, okay? And in contrast, where Elizabeth I was kind of, like, pushed out of the way to kind of keep her safe in a way, like she didn't really grow up knowing her father and she was even—

Travis: Probably for the best.

Teresa: —she was even kind of, like, pulled away from him for fear of what might happen. Um, so her childhood was scarce and lonely. But, um, Mary on the other hand was the golden child of the royal family. She had a lavish and comfortable and beloved childhood.

Travis: So she was raised, like, fully royal.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Uh, and she was often, like, to her face told that she had the right to the throne.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: As a beloved woman of royal blood as well as Catholic, like you said.

Travis: Do you know how many times someone would have to tell me that I had a right to a royal throne before it became a deal?

Teresa: Just once.

Travis: One time!

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: They wouldn't even have to finish the sentence. "You know, you could have a right to the—" [imitates sound of kicking a door down]
Travis is out the door.

Teresa: [laughs] They never met in person, like I said, but they corresponded for decades, constantly engaging in verbal boxing matches over the English crown, and the feud ended when Mary was beheaded.

Travis: Yeah, that'll happen.

Teresa: Because Elizabeth...

Travis: Had it done?

Teresa: Beheaded her. [laughs]

Travis: Not... by hand.

Teresa: I mean, yeah, had it done, had it done.

Travis: That would be a much different ending if it was like, "And then Elizabeth burst through the door with an ax, and it was the first time they met, and the last time."

Teresa: Yeah... [laughs]

Travis: Okay, how many of these end with, "And then it ended when one of them died"?

Teresa: Umm...

Travis: Most of 'em? All of 'em?

Teresa: Most of 'em. [laughs]

Travis: All of 'em? Okay.

Teresa: Well... everybody dies.

Travis: What?! [pause] Probably.

Teresa: Sure, just because everyone has doesn't mean that everyone will.

Travis: Thank you. Hey, don't say it like that! That's true! That's a—

Teresa: [through laughter] Okay.

Travis: It's the only thing keeping me going, Teresa. Okay, give me another one!

Teresa: Um, have you guys— you guys might've heard of this one. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr.

Travis: I don't know who that is. Can you refresh me?

Teresa: Well, I mean, I can definitely refresh your— your memories, here.

Travis: Oh wait, I know what you're talking about, 'cause Aaron Burr is the one from the Got Milk? commercial where the guy eats the big piece of peanut butter bread.

Teresa: Yeah, mm-hmm!

Travis: And then he's like [unintelligible]

Teresa: [unintelligible]

Travis: [unintelligible] That one.

Teresa: 'Cause he doesn't have any milk.

Travis: 'Cause he doesn't have any milk to wash down the peanut butter bread with. It's very funny.

Teresa: So hilarious.

Travis: If you guys haven't seen it, it was the beginning of the Got Milk? campaign, and that was what made Aaron Burr famous.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Uh, JK, JK, JK. Uh, you have probably heard about *Hamilton* by Lin Manuel Miranda.

Travis: Wha— who?

Teresa: I'm telling our audience. They probably heard—

Travis: I don't know what this is.

Teresa: Okay. Uh—

Travis: I'm more of a classic literature kind of person?

Teresa: Hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: I don't really watch— what is that? Theater? [fake laughter] Oh, no. Theater's for the lower classes.

Teresa: So these two, quote, "founding fathers," um, they had very similar political tracks, right? Um, and personality-wise they really didn't get along very well. Uh, Hamilton was kind of, like, loud and opinionated and—

Travis: And he wasn't willing to wait for it.

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. And so— and Burr was much more private and methodical, a real people-pleaser. So, they had a tenuous friendship, um, because they ran in the same circles, but it became a full-blown fight when Aaron Burr lost his Presidential and Gubernatorial run because of Hamilton. Um, Hamilton was friends with the rich and powerful in the Federalist party, and he was actually asked about Burr as candidate, and even though he had known Burr for years he said that he was someone who should not be elected, uh, because he didn't firmly fight for anything, and Alexander went so far as to call him despicable.

Travis: Now, that— okay, that part's bad. 'Cause I was gonna say, I have lots of friends that if someone was like, "Do you think that that guy should be President?" [through laughter] I'd be like, "No!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Are you kidding me?! No! Not at all! Listen, I love 'em, but should they be President?! No!"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But then I wouldn't be like, "'Cause they're terrible." But mostly, like—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "They don't know what they're doing! Are you kidding me?! He got fired from Quizno's! Shouldn't be President!"

Teresa: So they had a duel. Um, and in New Jersey on July 11, 1804.

Travis: How'd it end?

Teresa: Uh, well, Aaron Burr shot him.

Travis: Spoilers!

Teresa: Because Hamilton was more inclined to think about their history together, and it's said that he shot straight up while Aaron Burr shot to kill.

Travis: No one saw that coming. Okay! Now, a thank you note for our sponsors!

[theme music plays]

Travis: I want to tell you about Curology. I'm gonna be honest, folks. I'm going to lay my heart bare before you. I am staring directly at Teresa as I do it, because she is going to be your avatar as I confess this thing to her.

Teresa: [laughs] I'm ready.

Travis: And that is... I have some skin problems sometimes.

Teresa: Phew!

Travis: Yeah, that's hard for me sometimes. It's dry skin. Sometimes it's breakouts. Uh, and so that was why I was really excited to start working with Curology, because Curology helps me take control of my skin, which is a weird way to say it, but I think you know what I mean.

Curology matches you with a licensed dermatology provider who gets to know your skin, and if it's a good fit you'll get a customized prescription cream to address your acne, fine lines, dark spots and more, shipped right to your door.

So I, on a regular basis, get this stuff that's formulated right for me, right? So I know that it's gonna give my skin what it needs and not stuff it doesn't, or worse, stuff my skin— like, will make my skin worse. You know what I mean?

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: 'Cause sometimes in the past I've used, like, acne control stuff that's just dried out my skin, and it's made the dry skin even worse, you know what I mean?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Uh, so take control of your acne, dark spots, breakouts, or whatever your unique concerns may be, with a powerful skincare treatment made for you today. Go to Curology.com/shmanners for a free 30-day trial, and just pay for shipping and handling! That's C-U-R-O-L-O-G-Y.com/shmanners to unlock your free 30-day trial. See curology.com for all the details.

We also want to tell you about Ruby Coffee.

Teresa: Oh, yeah!

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Teresa: I think we might even be running low on our favorite, which is— they have the—

Travis: Steepable?

Teresa: The steepable cold brew!

Travis: Oh. Okay, here's the thing. This happens to us a lot where, uh, you know... your kid starts screaming and wakes you up at, like, six o' clock in the morning. And you, being a wonderful partner, are like, "I'm gonna let my partner sleep. I'm gonna go downstairs. Oh man, I really want some coffee, but I don't wanna go through the process, all the banging—" or in our case, grinding, because yes I'm very bougie and I grind the coffee at home from whole beans— yes, I know! Don't you judge me!

Teresa: Or in my case, I'm intimidated by the coffee maker so I don't like to use it.

Travis: This is also true. So that's why one of the things that Ruby offers is basically it's just like a teabag except it's coffee! In a teabag! So, it's coffee in a bag. It's the steepable coffee. You make coffee. It's wonderful. It's one of the best—[laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's one of the best innovations of the 21st century. Not only that, Ruby also has a coffee lineup which is designed around complex dynamic coffees while making sure that our roasting profiles makes these coffees easy to brew and enjoy. The subscription sends freshly roasted beans directly to you, or order bags whenever you'd like without the subscription. And, like I said, that's steeped often, ooh, features two

different coffee blends. It's a single serve, individually packed coffee bag similar to a tea bag. All you need to do is add hot water and let it steep for five minutes, and it's a small coffee roasting company, and it's— [laughs quietly] it's out of Nelsonville, Wisconsin, population: 191. So, you know that they're pretty focused on what they're doing. Doesn't sound like there's a lot else to do in Nelsonville.

So, go check out Ruby—

Teresa: But there's a lot to do if you like what you do, so.

Travis: This is true. Beautiful. So, go to rubycoffeeroasters.com and use code "shmanners" to get 20% off your first shipment of any subscription, or 15% off a one-time coffee purchase. One more time: that's rubycoffeeroasters.com.

Janet: Hey. I'm Janet Varney, host of *The JV Club* podcast.

[bell ringing]

Ah, high school. Was it a time of adventure, romance, and discovery?

Speaker Two: Class of '95! We did it!

[rain sounds play in the background]

Janet: Or... a time of angst, disappointment, and confusion.

Speaker Two: We're all tied together by four years of trauma at this place, but enjoy adulthood, I guess!

[booing]

Janet: The truth is, it was both! So, join me on *The JV Club* podcast where I invite some great friends like Kristen Bell, Angela Kinsey, Oscar Nunez, Neil Patrick Harris, and Keegan Michael Key, to talk about high school. The good, the bad, and everything in between.

Speaker Two: My teenage mood swings [voice suddenly deepens] are gettin' harder to manage!

Janet: *The JV Club*. Find it on Maximum Fun.

Travis: Who else was beefin', Teresa? Who else be beefin'?

Teresa: Well, earlier you mentioned the dinosaur, the fossil race.

Travis: The paleontologists, yes.

Teresa: Yes. Um, there were—

Travis: Or as I call like to call them, dinosaur dig doctors.

Teresa: Yeah. They were actually— they kind of developed a reputation for getting into feuds with lots of people.

Travis: Oh really?

Teresa: So Richard Owen versus Charles Darwin.

Travis: Wait, no. I'm thinking of a different one, then.

Teresa: Oh, you are?

Travis: Yeah. There was, like, a paleontol— I'm gonna look it up, 'cause there was, like, two paleontologists—

Teresa: [singing] I am a—

Travis and Teresa: [singing] Paleontologist.

Travis: But there were these two paleontologists that were, like, feuding so bad that, like, one 'em dynamited— like, blew up another one's dig site and destroyed all the bones in it, and all this stuff.

Teresa: Oh, yikes!

Travis: I'm gonna look it up. Hold on!

Teresa: So, I'm gonna talk about this feud while you do that. Um, so Darwin, who is of course famous for *The Origin of Species*, brought back a lot of specimens from his expedition to the Galapagos. And, um, asked Richard Owen, who was basically, you know, one of the OGs for dinosaur research, um, to help him with the specimens, right? Um, but the problem is... Darwin didn't credit Owen for the research that they worked on together. Um, and he didn't like it. Didn't like that. Uh, and he was so enraged that Richard Owen began to write reviews of Darwin under a pseudonym, disparaging him and his research.

The two engaged in the feud that played out in the Sunday morning newspapers for quite a lot time. Here's the kicker, though. Richard Owen largely agreed with all of Darwin's findings, so he really like the research. He liked the ideas. He just wanted a slice of that fame pie.

Travis: Well, he blew it! You know? You blew it! You come up against Darwin, Darwin's gonna ruin you, gonna crush you. That's called survival of the fittest.

Teresa: [laughs] Alright. Here we go, with the one from your neck of the woods.

Travis: Wait, but first I wanna tell you—

Teresa: Oh yeah.

Travis: —about the bone wars.

Teresa: Okay, bone wars.

Travis: That's what they were called. Um, it was two competing paleontologists, also known as the great dinosaur rush. And it was Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh.

Teresa: Wow.

Travis: Uh, and they used underhanded methods to try to outdo each other. They bribed people working for them. They blew up dig sites. They stole bones from one another, and basically, so both of them, like, financed their digs with their own money, but then also were using their money to, like, place ads and, like, articles in newspapers to discredit the other one.

Basically, in this rush to out compete one another, they basically ruined each other, right? Both went bankrupt doing this. But in the process, it led to this huge boom in, like, knowledge of, like, dinosaur— there were— because of the bone wars, uh, 136 new species of dinosaurs were discovered. Um, so it was, like, huge, but both men— like, imagine the power, how well it would've gone if they worked together.

Teresa: Oh, totally.

Travis: But because, like, they were competing against ea— they ruined each others' lives just trying to be the best dinosaur finder.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: The bone wars!

Teresa: The bone wars. Uh, can you tell us what you know about the Hatfields and the McCoys?

Travis: Um, so I know that it is a very large— two very large families, um, and, uh, one... in some kind of fight, killed the other, and then it just became a very, very bloody family versus family feud, which led to the game show. Uh, no. Uh, it—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —and then, like, they just kept killing one another for a long time.

Teresa: They did. Uh, so it takes place over opposite sides of the border stream of— between Logan County West Virginia and Pike County Kentucky. They had a tenuous relationship at first, uh, but it's said that the feud exploded when there was a dispute over a hog in 1878—

Travis: "That's my motorcycle!" "No, that's my motorcycle!"

Teresa: No, a pig.

Travis: Oh, that makes a lot more sense.

Teresa: And they fought viciously for decades. Uh, the worst of which is recorded as New Years Day 1888 that left several family members of the McCoys dead.

Travis: Yep.

Teresa: So it was definitely violent, right? But... this may have been, like, the original media fake news. Not exactly. But, so here's the thing, right? By the 20th century the feud had, like, completely subsided. They had, I mean, intermarried between each other and, I mean, their families were intertwined at this point.

Travis: They'd chilled.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: The beef had cooled. No more sizzling beef.

Teresa: But the press made out the dispute to— I mean, to sell papers, really like—[laughs] uh, and it would just turn into, like... a public, like— what do you call it when, like, everybody believes the same lie?

Travis: Oh, it's a— a, oh— oh, no— urban legend.

Teresa: No...

Travis: Oh. A...

Teresa: The public imagination.

Travis: ... common misconception?

Teresa: Maybe that's it?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Ugh, that's not really what I was thinking about.

Travis: Noo? Can you give me any other hints?

Teresa: Umm... it's like— it's like those quotes that everyone says is by Einstein, but it's not by Einstein.

Travis: Oh, a lie.

Teresa: No. [laughs] Yes. I mean, yes, a lie, but also, like... [groans]

Travis: Are we feuding right now?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Is that what this is?

Teresa: We're not. I'm giving up.

Travis: Hey, if you can think of what Teresa's thinking of...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ... tweet at us, @shmannerscast.

Teresa: Okay. Um... Edison and Tesla are next.

Travis: Yeah, okay. I know about this one from *Doctor Who*. Oh, sorry.

Teresa: *Bob— Bob's Burgers.*

Travis: No, you—

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: —okay. No!

Teresa: *A Bob's Bur—*

Travis: They don't talk about this in *Bob's Burgers!*

Teresa: Yes they do!

Travis: No, they talk about Edison shocking Topsy. I don't—

Teresa: And the did— and he did that as part of his—

Travis: Ohh.

Teresa: —DC current is the best kind of current, which Tesla was like, "No, AC current is the best kind of current." Tesla even worked for Edison for a while, but Edison was like, "Get out the way." So they mostly just, you know, tried to one-up each other in these, like, grotesque experiments.

Travis: Except the thing is, Tesla was right!

Teresa: He was right.

Travis: Alternating current is way better than direct current. Way better!

Teresa: I agree.

Travis: What, Teresa?! If often heard you say that you think direct current is better. [babbles]

Teresa: [laughs] They were both in 2016 awarded posthumous— posthumous. I've said that so many times—

Travis: Posthumous.

Teresa: Posthumous.

Travis: You're put— I think you're worried about all the syllables. You just gotta go "Posthumous."

Teresa: Posthumous, uh Nobel Prizes for their contributions in physics.

Travis: Yeah. Well, they were both... geniuses. Tesla more so. Uh, but, you know, Tesla just didn't have the same, I would say, business savvy that Edison did, and so he didn't have the money to finance all of his weird stuff.

Teresa: Yeah, he didn't have the rep, I would say. I mean, Edison—

Travis: Well, a lot of that is due to Einstein, who had the money to ruin his reputation.

Teresa: Not Einstein, Edison.

Travis: No, Einstein did it too.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Einstein was a big jerk.

Teresa: Let's move on.

Travis: I've just decided I'm feuding with Einstein.

Teresa: Oh, you are?

Travis: I won't stop until he's dead!

Teresa: [laughs] Joan Crawford and Betty Davis.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Um... so it went on—

Travis: Joan hated Betty's eyes.

Teresa: N— I mean... I don't know about that. But it had a lot to do with romance.

Travis: Oh man, okay.

Teresa: Uh, so it's said that it started in 1932 when Betty Davis fell in love with her costar, Franchot Tone on the set of the movie *Dangerous*. Joan Crawford then married him shortly after the film wrapped.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, and the two happened to work together in 1962, *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*. Um—

Travis: What *did* ever happen to Baby Jane? Okay.

Teresa: Well. And this is where the rumor mill really got to grindin'. Um—

Travis: I wish you all could've seen the move that Teresa just did. She kind of did like a chugga chugga choo choo thing with her arm—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —to represent grindin'. It was great.

Teresa: Yeah, 'cause it was a mill. It grinds stuff.

Travis: Yeah, but I don't think a mill... works like that. I think a mill is more circular.

Teresa: I was doing circular.

Travis: No you weren't! You were— you were do— okay. I'm— but I'm saying, you were doing—[laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: Okay. *Are* we feuding?

Teresa: No, we're not.

Travis: Is that what's happening?

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, the rumor says that they quite literally came to blows, and that Davis kicked Crawford so hard in the head that she needed to go get stitches.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Uh, and, you know, that all of the slaps in the movie are just, you know, one harder than the other, trying to one up each other. Anyway. The Oscar season of that year came around, um, and Betty was nominated for an Academy Award for best actress, and Crawford—

Travis: And Best Tea Grip.

Teresa: ... Crawford was not. What?

Travis: Tea grip? What, she was nominated for both. She was— she did a lot of jobs.

Teresa: No. Um, and so Joan hatched a plan so that she would be able to go onstage to accept the award on behalf of Ann Bancroft who actually won that year, and it was meant to be a kind of, um... I don't know, middle finger to [laughs] to both the Academy that snubbed her, and of course to Betty Davis. Um, and Betty would blame Joan for her Oscar loss until the day she died.

Travis: Okay. How was it Joan's fault?

Teresa: I mean, it really— it wasn't.

Travis: But she blamed her for it.

Teresa: But she blamed her for it.

Travis: She associated— okay, got it, got it, got it.

Teresa: But here's the thing, right? I mean, they definitely talked about each other. There are some great, like, YouTube videos and stuff of their interviews. But, like... here's the thing. Uh, they were largely fighting for fame and power, but Hollywood probably just mysticized it for money.

Travis: Well, yeah. You gotta think, man, like... this is the thing about rivalries, right? Is like it's— I think it is— since the invention of any kind of, like, public media, right? Impossible to separate fact from fiction. Because you sell tickets, you sell papers, you sell whatever, off of this idea. I mean, think about in sports, right? How many— like, if you have a sports team in your town, chances are there is a perceived rivalry with another sports team.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: So that when that sports— other sports team and your sports team are playing, you're more likely to buy tickets, right? I think about, like how many rivalries do you think the Yankees have going at any given time, you know what I mean?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, I wanna say that the Pittsburgh Steelers have, like, 18 rivalries with 18 different football teams, if you ask those other football teams. Right? It's just— it's all— but is that to say that peop— that those teams don't dislike each other? No— I mean, I don't know, maybe! But—

Teresa: Well, there's evidence that Betty Davis may have not even disliked Joan at all, because there are recordings of her saying that she had deep respect for Joan as a professional, and there's even an interview where Johnny Carson asks her point blank, who is the worst person you've ever worked with? And without missing a beat she says, "One million dollars, Faye Dunaway."

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: So she didn't even mention Joan.

Travis: Oh. See, I would've said Lassie. Ugh. Oh...

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Lassie and I did a picture together, *Two-Hander*. And— well, I guess you should say *One Hand and One Paw*. And it was... ugh. It was really rough.

Teresa: Here's the last one—

Travis: You're not gonna ask me more questions about it?

Teresa: Nope.

Travis: It was rough!

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Teresa?

Teresa: Yeah, I know. I heard you.

Travis: It was rough.

Teresa: I heard you.

Travis: I guess I'm barking up the wrong tree.

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: Okay. Let's pause this bit.

Teresa: You got it.

Travis: Yeah? Fur real. [pause] Got her!

Teresa: Gosh darn it!

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: Okay. Uh, Elizabeth Taylor versus Debbie Reynolds!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, like a lot of things related to Elizabeth Taylor, [singing] this also has a romantic element.

Travis: [laughs] Okay. That became—

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Travis: —a, like— for three seconds it was a musical number.

Teresa: It was.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay. So they had been longtime friends, and what happened was Debbie Reynolds's husband, Eddie Fisher, walked out on her for Elizabeth. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Welp.

Teresa: Uh, because reportedly the affair began when Eddie came to Elizabeth's side as a friend in 1959 when her husband at the time, Mike Todd, passed. And he did a really great job, because I guess they fell in love.

Travis: That's some good comforting, right there.

Teresa: Years later, Elizabeth divorced Eddie, and Elizabeth and Debbie decided to reconcile, and Debbie revealed in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter that both she and Elizabeth were both booked on the same cruise in 1966, and they commiserated over Eddie, saying that Elizabeth never really loved him. He was kind of a rebound relationship, and, you know, they said, the two of them, Debbie and Elizabeth, said that their friendship was worth more than any man. Um, and they remained friends for the rest of their lives.

They starred together in 2001 in a film based off their friendship called *These Old Broads*.

Travis: Aw.

Teresa: Uh, which was written by somebody you might have heard of, um—

Travis: Lin Manuel Miranda.

Teresa: Debbie and Eddie's daughter, Carrie Fisher.

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah, alright.

Teresa: I would like to leave you—

Travis: What?!

Teresa: What? No. With s—

Travis: I know we've been feuding this whole episode, but please, baby, not like this!

Teresa: [laughs] Not you.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: The audience "you." Uh, with some very quippy famous quotes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Lady Nancy Aster said to Winston Churchill, who will come up again and again, uh... [clears throat]

Travis: "You got a real stinkface, Churchill!"

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: No.

Teresa: "Winston, if you were my husband I'd poison your coffee."

To which Churchill replied, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

Travis: Mm-hmm, I get it. Ah, clever.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: And that's a good setup, though, I mean, frankly. You know what I mean?

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Um, so here's another one with Churchill. George Bernard Shaw wrote to him saying, "I've enclosed two tickets for the first night of my new play. Bring a friend, if you have one."

To which Churchill replied, "Regrettably I cannot attend the first night. I will attend the second, if there is one."

Travis: Oh! Oh! Oh! That's a good— that's—

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: I like that one.

Teresa: Uh, here's a good one. Faulkner said this about Hemingway.

Travis: "You've got a stinkface, Hemingway."

Teresa: [laughs] He said, "I've never known him to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."

And Hemingway said on Faulkner, "Does he really think big emotions come from big words?"

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Hm.

Travis: I'm just not a big fan of Hemingway, but...

Teresa: Oh, okay. Here's a last one, by Winston Churchill.

Travis: [quietly] Okay.

Teresa: He said, "He of—" I don't know who he was speaking about, but it's the quote that's famous, not the person.

Travis: It's me.

Teresa: "He has all of the virtues I dislike, and none of the vices I admire."

Travis: Yeah, he was talking about me.

Teresa: Oh, you? Mm-hmm?

Travis: Yeah. Oh, Winston Churchill? I— oh, how we used to row.

Teresa: You and ol' Winnie?

Travis: [gravelly voice] Oh, we used to fight all the time.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Alright, folks, thank you so much for joining us. Uh, this was a fun one, and I hope you enjoyed it, and I hope you enjoyed it so much that you tell all your friends about it, that you share that link on your Twitters.

Teresa: And you rate, review, and subscribe?

Travis: Yes, of course, of course, of course. And if you liked it you can go check out all the other shows on Maximumfun.org as well as all the McElroy projects over at mcelroy.family.

Uh, important announcement in case you haven't heard it yet, Teresa and I will not be attending Dragon Con this year. There's a lot of factors at play, um, and you know, it's a personal decision that we've made not to go, but hopefully it's not a huge disappointment to anybody. I mean, if anything it's a disappointment to us. We really were looking forward to going, but it's just not the right thing to do for us right now. Um, so we wanted to let you know that. Uh, let's see. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Than you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, @shmatterscast, which is where we get all of our listener questions when our topics call for questions. Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for our cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmatters Fanners*. Go ahead and join that group if you love to give and get excellent advice. And as always, we want to thank Alex, our research assistant, writing assistant, all— all that jazz.

Travis: All around cool person.

Teresa: All around great person. Uh, and for— also, she reads every email. Please do send your topic ideas and your idioms, we're always looking for idioms, to shmatterscast@gmail.com. Thank you, Alex.

Travis: And you know, hey, if you just want to send an email that just says, like, "Thanks, Alex!" I'm sure Alex would appreciate it.

Teresa: Aww.

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

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to... *Shmatters*!

Teresa: [through laughter] Manners, *Shmatters*. Get it!

Travis: I forgot!

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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