

## Shmanners 278: Acknowledgements

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**Travis:** Hey. I just wanted to say thanks for being a great cohost.

**Teresa:** Oh, you're welcome!

**Travis:** Aren't you gonna say something?

**Teresa:** Oh, right. 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:** You've been challenged with— no.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I felt like a narrator on a reality show for a moment.

**Teresa:** Uh, a little bit.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Teresa:** Hey!

**Travis:** Tonight...

**Teresa:** Hey, internet! I have a new chair. I'm not sitting on a child's play chair anymore.

**Travis:** Well, a child's play chair plus my, uh, meditation, like—

**Teresa:** Pillow, yeah.

**Travis:** —yeah, pillow.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now you're sitting on a grown adult chair that's purple, and swivels.

**Teresa:** A swivelly office chair.

**Travis:** Hi, everybody.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Sorry the episode's late. Uh, Dot had a cold last week. I tell ya.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It gets away from— you know, when you have a kid who's alternating screaming at you and falling asleep on you [through laughter] in equal measure...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** ... the— the moments, they all just drain away.

**Teresa:** Not a lot of time for podcast recording when that happens.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Teresa:** But... we are back. We're here. We're ready to do it.

**Travis:** And I— I acknowledge that, and I... appreciate it.

**Teresa:** Okay. I appreciate you too?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** So, we're talking about acknowledgements, and this is a little bit different to me than our normal topics.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Because it means different things, right? Like, it could be the very specific, like acknowledgement in, like, a book, or acknowledgement of, like, credit.

**Teresa:** That— that's the one that we're gonna talk about.

**Travis:** Well, but you can also acknowledge, like, "Hey. Saw that you did that, and it was good."

**Teresa:** I mean, of course you can. But that's not the one that has any kind of, like... [laughs quietly] etiquette surrounding it.

**Travis:** [holding back laughter] Well, that's the only one I know anything about!

**Teresa:** No, the— no, the one— now, listen. I would like to read the suggestion that was sent in.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Thank you, Anne C.

"Hello, Shmannerly people!"

**Travis:** Hello.

**Teresa:** "I would like to suggest an episode on acknowledgements. I'm curious about the topic in general, but especially about acknowledgements in books, because I am writing a book, and I found out I have to submit acknowledgements as part of the manuscript. I've never done this before, was not given much guidance, so I wanna be sure I'm following good *Shmanners*. I know, Travis has just written a book about podcasting."

**Travis:** Oh, I did!

**Teresa:** "With his brothers."

**Travis:** Who did I dedicate that to?

**Teresa:** "So I figured he might have some insight into this process based on his own experience."

**Travis:** I feel like we dedicated it to mom and dad. I feel like both of 'em.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I think the acknowle— the dedication was "To mom and dad, who taught us we could've been anything. Sorry this is what we did."

**Teresa:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** I think it's something like that.

**Teresa:** Okay. And did you— and that was— so, sometimes people separate acknowledgements and dedications. Did you do any thank-yous for anybody?

**Travis:** Let's start at the beginning.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** 'Cause I thought— I was about to ask the difference between dedication and acknowledgements.

**Teresa:** Well, I mean, there doesn't have to be a difference. You can call— you can dedicate it to someone in the acknowledgements, or you can have a separate dedication page and acknowledgements page. Or you can just dedicate it, or you don't have to do any of those things.

**Travis:** I think we just did a dedication, but now that I'm thinking about it, when we do the special edition with the holofoil cover—

**Teresa:** Hmm!

**Travis:** —then we'll— we'll add some thank-yous in there. I can't believe we didn't thank you. I'm so sorry.

**Teresa:** It's okay. I was in the book a little bit, so you don't—

**Travis:** Thank you now.

**Teresa:** —you don't nece— oh, well, you're— you're welcome.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, alright. So, the acknowledgements section is a way to display appreciation in a very public forum, obviously. Um, and, you know, the people who helped you along the way, you know, it's kind of like, um— I don't wanna say a participation prize. [laughs quietly] But it is a little bit, because they don't ac— nobody actually gets anything. It's just like, "I wanna thank my 8th grade English teacher" type stuff.

**Travis:** I— while you're right that nobody gets anything, I would— I would not call it a participation trophy, because I think that that downplay— the thing is is, like... it takes a lot of work to write a book.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Trust me, I've— I've done a couple of 'em now. Um, and when you dedicate a work to somebody, right? Or acknowledge somebody within the thing, it feels like a pretty big deal. You know what I mean?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like getting thanked in an acceptance speech and, like, that kind of thing.

**Teresa:** Certainly, certainly.

**Travis:** Of, like, it's nice.

**Teresa:** Should one write acknowledgements, they are usually found at the end of the book.

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** Um, whereas dedication is often placed at the front. But, like I said, you can put your dedication statement in your acknowledgements, you can put— I mean, really it's— there aren't really that many rules. It's really the publisher and the editor's preference.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** For what they usually do. Um, but, I mean... if you don't wanna thank anybody, you absolutely don't have to.

**Travis:** I mean, le— I'm just gonna jump ahead a little bit, because somebody asked a question about this and I love it very much. This is from @pigeonlaps.

"Is it bad to dedicate a book to yourself? I wrote my book because it's what I wanted to read, and wrote in the dedication that others should try the same."

I do not think it is bad at all. I would totally do thi— "I dedicate this book to me, 'cause I did all the hard work," is perfectly fine, as far as I'm concerned.

**Teresa:** I think— sure. Uh, as long as it goes with the kind of tone of your book.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** I think that's great.

**Travis:** I mean, yeah. If I'm— if I do a memoir, I'm dedicating it to myself.

**Teresa:** Okay! Perfect.

**Travis:** Sometimes I'll just sit and think about, "What would the title of my memoir be?"

Right now, I mean, the safe bet seems like *Middlest* or something like that. That seems like a good title. But sometimes there's just— it's just really out there, you know?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Um, so I think that you can also—

**Travis:** *I'm My Own Hero* would be a good title for my book. Okay, sorry, it's not important.

**Teresa:** You can dedicate it to your readers, to the people who are reading this book.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** "You are loved and appreciated," or something like that. Right? There's— there really isn't any kind of rule, I think, as long as it— like I said, it goes with the tone of the book.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's the thing. Like, if you write a true murder book that has some really graphic stuff in it, maybe don't dedicate that one to your Meemaw.

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** You know what I mean? I see a lot of, like—

**Teresa:** Or, if she's in it, maybe do it.

**Travis:** I mean, yeah, listen. Maybe Meemaw loves true crime and she taught you to love it. I don't know. But, uh, I see— I mean, there's a lot of, like, memoirs where it's dedicated to, like, parents, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, right.

**Travis:** That feels like a good one.

**Teresa:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** Uh, or like a children's book that you wrote dedicated to your kids or your nieces or whatever. Uh, Boynton. What is— Susan Boynt— uh—

**Teresa:** Sarah Boynton.

**Travis:** Yes, who writes amazing children's books, always seems to be dedicating it to some niece or nephew. [laughs quietly]

**Teresa:** Indeed. Um, so for a long time, a thank you section wasn't even really included in most books.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Uh, because—

**Travis:** I'm not surprised by that. Paper wasn't cheap!

**Teresa:** Exactly! Paper wasn't cheap and, you know, to have a book start with a page that's mostly blank and mostly not part of the story or the information, like, that just wasn't done.

**Travis:** And you'd look at it and be like, "Who's Brian? I don't know Brian!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Just tell Brian thank you! Why do I care about Brian?!"

I'm sorry, Brian, if you're listening. I do care about you.

**Teresa:** If there were personal messages or acknowledgements they were usually in the back, so that a reader could get through the book and not actually have to read them if they didn't want to.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, and so in fiction, the kind of, like... the way that acknowledgements were, like, evolved, was that you would kind of settle your debts a little bit? Like, a little... [laughs quietly] Somebody thanked you, or somebody—

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Teresa:** —proofread, or somebody edited, or whatever.

**Travis:** Some tit for tat.

**Teresa:** Exactly, right. You would kind of, like, settle your debts in there. So, like... if you had a researcher, if you... any of that stuff.

**Travis:** If your friend, like, inspired you to write the book and, like—

**Teresa:** Well, I'm thinking more of, like, making it kind of even-steven, right?

**Travis:** Ohh.

**Teresa:** "I'll put your name in my book, and when it sells a lot of books you'll be famous," type thing.

**Travis:** Sure. Exposure.

**Teresa:** For thank— exposure. That's it.

**Travis:** Yeah. Exposure don't pay the bills, as they say. You know my favorite part— uh, piece of information at the beginning of a book?

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** This is really nerdy, but true. The, like, uh, uh, copyright publishing date.

**Teresa:** Oh yeah!

**Travis:** I— every time, like, Bebe has a lot of those, like, Golden Books. And I'll, like, look and, like, tell her, like, "This book is, like, 43 years old." And every time it is like I have just uncovered, like, the Rosetta Stone or something.

Like, "This is 43 years old."

And she's like, "[incredulously] What?!"

**Teresa:** "What?!"

**Travis:** She just can't handle things being older than, like, two years. [laughs]

**Teresa:** So, some pretty famous dedications which, like I said, um, are usually at the beginning of the book if you have one at all. Um, Charlotte Bronte dedicated Jane Eyre to Thackeray.

**Travis:** That's me.

**Teresa:** That's all it says. It just says... Thackeray.



**Travis:** It was Thackeray Banks. From—

**Teresa:** Oh, was it? [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah. Well, that— the cat is immortal, you see, so...

**Teresa:** We're pretty certain, actually, that it was British novelist William Makepeace Thackeray.

**Travis:** But not Thackeray Banks. The cat?

**Teresa:** Mm-mm. Mm—

**Travis:** Voiced by Jason Marsden?

**Teresa:** No...

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and—

**Travis:** Who also did the voice of Max Goof in *Goofy Movie*? Are we sure?

**Teresa:** We're sure.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And a lot of the writers at this time, especially people who were writing under pen names, uh, didn't dedicate it to anyone, thinking that if someone recognized the person or whatever they might be found out.

**Travis:** See, if I was writing under a pen name, I'd dedicate it to my real name. And they'd be like, "Wait. How does—" uh, I don't know. "How does Robin Goodfellow know Travis McElroy?" And I would never tell.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That because we're the same person. Robin Goodfellow is the real name of Puck, I guess?

**Teresa:** Oh, okay. Yes? Sorry. [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** Yeah, okay. I don't think it was— I don't think I asked a question, but I kind of made it sound like a question. I could see where you got confused.

**Teresa:** Okay. Um, and in a similar vein, uh, when dedications were made in books, they were often, like, gossip factories. Right? So, you know, um—

**Travis:** "Why does Travis like his dad so much?" [laughs quietly]

**Teresa:** In Bronte's mention of Thackeray, for example, it could have been that they were just an admirer of his work, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** But many people think that this is proof that they had some kind of romantic connection that remained unspoken, or whatever it is. Right?

**Travis:** Well, to be fair, back then people didn't have television, and they were really bored. [laughs quietly] So anything that seemed interesting, they'd be like, "I don't know if this is anything, but we gotta pass the time. So yeah, I guess this Bronte woman loved some Thackeray guy. I don't know, but it's all I care about now. I ship that," they said.

**Teresa:** Um, and so it really wasn't— wasn't a usual thing, uh, to dedicate or acknowledge anybody, and some people even made a point of blank acknowledgements and pages, uh, so just extra pages at the end of the book to kind of make a point about, "I'm a genius and I wrote it myself!"

**Travis:** Oh, really? I always thought that was so you could take notes.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** At the end. If you have theories.

**Teresa:** Now, I'm not saying that every book that has blank pages at the end is saying, "This was all my doing. I'm a master. I'm a masterpiece right here," but—

**Travis:** Kind of sounds like that's what you're saying.

**Teresa:** What I'm saying is, it is left up to interpretation, and sometimes people just pointed that out. They were like, "I didn't thank anybody. Just me."

**Travis:** I think if I write another book I'm gonna leave blank pages in the middle? Like, as you flip through, like, ever 32nd page or something will be blank. And it'll just say a little bit at the bottom, like, "Just a reminder: I wrote this book by myself. Okay, keep going." And then you flip that page over.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Or it'll say, like, "This page left blank so you can draw your best turtle," and then you can draw a turtle in there.

[beat]

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** I feel like you're not as on board with that as I thought you were gonna be. I thought you'd be excited for doodle pages. No?

**Teresa:** If the book is about doodling.

**Travis:** No! That's the thing. Sometimes it'll be, like, in the middle of a really stressful scene, where, like, someone's hanging off a cliff or something. You're like, "Oh my god, can't— what's gonna happen?"

And it's like, "Hey. Take a quick breath, draw a turtle."

**Teresa:** Then— then I feel like, "Don't tell me what to do."

**Travis:** Oh. Well, you can just rip it out and eat it then, if you want to.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Yum. Okay, so—

**Travis:** You know what? Speaking of taking notes... it's time for a thank you note for our sponsors.

**Teresa:** Aww, you almost got me.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** This week we want to write a thank you note to DoorDash, in part because I got some really yummy Indian food on DoorDash this week and I loved it.

**Teresa:** Yummm.

**Travis:** But also because DoorDash isn't just for, like, restaurants and ordering meals and stuff. No, my friend. You can get snacks, drinks, and household essentials in 30 minutes with DoorDash.

**Teresa:** Oh man. How is it that we always seem to run out of either diapers or wipes? Never, like, at the same time while I'm at the store but, like, "Oh no, we've got three diapers left!" DoorDash to the rescue.

**Travis:** That's right. And you can still get your meals to you. They— I've seen them doing this thing where, like, I'll order a meal, right? And then it'll be like, "Hey. If you need something from Walgreens just go ahead and do it right now while you're at it. Include in the thing, they'll pick it up."

And it's like, "Oh, great. I haven't ever needed that."

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] That's awesome!

**Travis:** But yeah, it's awesome, and it's easy. You just open the DoorDash app, choose what you want from where you want, and your items will be left safely outside your door with the contactless delivery drop off setting. So, for a limited time, our listeners can get 25% off and zero delivery fees on their first order of \$15 or more when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "shmannerspod," all one word.

That's 25% off, up to a \$10 value, and zero delivery fees on your first order when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code "shmannerspod." Subject to change, terms apply.

**Teresa:** *Shmanners* is also sponsored in part this week by Quip! Listen.

**Travis:** Yes?

**Teresa:** We've been talking about Quip for a long time.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Teresa:** And there is a new addition.

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Teresa:** That's not new to me, 'cause I'm in the know.

**Travis:** O— okay? Why'd you say that like you were threatening me?

**Teresa:** [laughs] I'm not threatening you. I'm just telling you—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] There was just a lot of head movement, okay?

**Teresa:** —that I'm super cool, because I have Quip's new mouthwash.

**Travis:** Oh yeah.

**Teresa:** And it helps complete my clean. It comes in a beautiful, refillable dispenser that is delightful to use—

**Travis:** This is true.

**Teresa:** —and sleek enough to fit on my bathroom counter. It also is, uh, rose gold. So I have my matching, like, mouthwash, and floss, and toothbrush. I love it!

**Travis:** Yeah. It's great, really. We do love it. You can check that out, and Quip also delivers fresh brush head, floss, and toothpaste refills every three months from just \$5. Shipping is free, so you can save money and skip the hustle and bustle of in-store shopping.

And, if you go to [getquip.com/shmanners5](http://getquip.com/shmanners5), the number 5, right now, you can get \$5 off a mouthwash starter kit. That's \$5 off a mouthwash starter kit, which includes a refillable dispenser and a 90-dose supply of Quip's 4x concentrated formula at [getquip.com/shmanners5](http://getquip.com/shmanners5), the number 5. That is G-E-T-Q-U-I-P.com/shmanners, the number 5. Quip! The good habits company.

[thunder and rain]

**Griffin:** We have wasted this world. Our magic put a storm in the sky that has rendered the surface of our planet uninhabitable. But beneath the surface? Well, that's another story entirely.

[music plays]

**Griffin:** In a city built leagues below the apocalypse, survivors of the storm forge paths through a strange new world. Some seek salvation for their homeland above. Others seek to chart the vast undersea expanse outside the city's walls. And others still seek... what else? Fortune and glory. Dive into the Ethersea, the latest campaign from *The Adventure Zone*. Every other Thursday on Maximumfun.org, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

[music and ad end]

**Travis:** Okay. So, where were we?

**Teresa:** Well...

**Travis:** Yes?

**Teresa:** So, nowadays, now that, you know, paper isn't super expensive and we have inkjet printers and things like that, right?

**Travis:** And paper grows on trees.

**Teresa:** Ehhh...

**Travis:** I'm a dad.

**Teresa:** Uh... acknowledgements are pretty standard.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and people actually read them. There's a lot to suggest that hopeful writers may use them to search for an agent or an editor they can reach out to, or, uh, friends of writers will turn to the back hoping to see their names on the list. Um, and even if you are not interested in writing a book, sometimes people really like to read them just to get a little window into the author's life.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, and they can be almost like a... a prologue to the book, right?

**Travis:** Sure, sure, sure. Now, do they have to be true, or could I dedicate it to, like, my dear, dear friend John Stamos?

**Teresa:** Uhh... again, I think it all has to do with tone.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and so...

**Travis:** It would be fun if John Stamos had to make a public statement about whether or not he knew me, right?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** That would be pretty fun.

**Teresa:** For you. That would be fun for you.

**Travis:** I mean... Justin and Griffin would probably enjoy it, too.

**Teresa:** I don't know if it would be fun for John Stamos.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** Anyway— so, uh, there's an article called "The Story Behind the Story: An Appreciation of Authors' Acknowledgements," written by Henriette [sounding it out] Lazaridis?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Perhaps? Um, and within it it says, "At their best, acknowledgements can be finely wrought short stories, with the author as the protagonist.

**Travis:** Ohh, okay! Ooh, la, la!

**Teresa:** Right? Very cool.

**Travis:** Zut alors.

**Teresa:** Um, and she also goes on to say that at least one of the acknowledgements she's read has made her cry.

**Travis:** Wow!

**Teresa:** Uh, it's, uh— she said that it was, um... an acknowledgement that she read in Robin Black's *If I Loved You I Would Tell You This*, and the language is just so careful and precise, and it just really feels like almost a conversation.

**Travis:** Hmm!

**Teresa:** Inside the book. So it creates a kind of world, you see. Uh, so not just the world of the book, but a little window into the author as well.

**Travis:** Love it. It's a little behind-the-scenes.

**Teresa:** Oh, sure, definitely!

**Travis:** A little BTS.

**Teresa:** Here is— here's— here's one thing.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Teresa:** It's gotten to the point, though, that there are some circles within the literary community...

**Travis:** Oh?

**Teresa:** ... where you are... hmmm, kind of dissing people when you don't write them in your acknowledgements?

**Travis:** Oh, isn't that the thing. I mean, I— so, this is... this is just a true fact about any kind of, like, acknowledging somebody publicly, right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** You either— okay. Say that there's, like, ten people that you work with, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** There is a tipping point, right? And it's amorphous. You can't nail it down every time. But, like, say you thank one or two of 'em in a speech? Totally fine. The other, like, eight people are fine. But there hits a point where it's just like, "Why did he thank eight of us, and not those two?"

**Teresa:** Exactly. It's— it's like not inviting the one person in your office to your wedding, right? But everyone else gets invited. It's kind of— it's kind of suspect. And there are also those in the literary community who feel that it would be better to maybe gift the people who you need to think with a personal inscription in their own copy of the book, right?

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** So, instead of printing everybody's name in every book, why not leave acknowledgements out completely and just write a beautiful letter to someone who thought— who thanked you, while giving them the book. Like, write an inscription. That's what I— that's the word I'm looking for.

**Travis:** Yeah. I— I understand that, but I think that that kind of misses the point to some degree. Where, like, you know, you mentioned researcher earlier, right? We thank Alex in every episode.

**Teresa:** We do.

**Travis:** We could not make this show without her. And I think that there would be a difference between, like, writing Alex a really nice thank you note versus crediting her for her work— I mean, we pay her for her work, too.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** 'Cause you should pay people for their work. But we also publicly credit the work that she does.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** And I think that there is something to acknowledging someone's work, without which your work could not have been completed.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.



**Travis:** Um, I mean, maybe it's different if it's, like, "Thanks to my friend Joan, without whose support I wouldn't have been able to—" like, moral support.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** That's where it's like, I don't know. Maybe you could've just written her a nice note? I don't know.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I mean, there's— there's pluses and minuses. There's, you know, one side of the coin and the other side of the coin. I can't— it's up to *you*, is what I'm saying.

**Travis:** You need to make it— no, Teresa. You need to make a decision right now.

**Teresa:** I can't make that decision.

**Travis:** Then why am I here?

[pause]

**Teresa:** You married me?

**Travis:** *Oh*, right, right, right, right, right.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You know what? It's all coming back to me now.

**Teresa:** Okay. So, we have come to the conclusion that it is whatever you want, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Here are just— just a few tips, some tips and tricks.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Tips and tricks.

**Teresa:** Okay? Um, so, do you have to include your acknowledgements in the original manuscript you send in? Probably not. But you should ask your editors and publishers when they need them by. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Uh, another tip is, it's in good taste to thank your editors and publishers and people who actually, like, worked on the production of the

book. Um, but, you know, like I said, if you want to you can thank your best friends, or your pets, or— or whatever. Um, often these are people that regularly show up in acknowledgements: family members, including spouses, kids, parents; friends, coworkers, and assistants; editors, book staff, publishers, agents, contributors, and advisors.

Uh, your contributors and advisors— you know, I mentioned "Thank my teacher," or whatever it is. Um—

**Travis:** You can thank that cool bird you saw while you were writing the book.

**Teresa:** [laughs] I mean, I suppose you could.

**Travis:** "I looked out the window and it was awesome, man."

**Teresa:** If it was an inspiration to you, absolutely. Um, and again, if John Stamos is an inspiration, you could— you could thank him if you wanted to.

**Travis:** Man, there are many people. Oh, I need to write a book now just so I can— can you write a book that's all acknowledgements?

**Teresa:** [laughs] That would be—[laughs]

**Travis:** Just the first page is— you wrote a one-page story.

**Teresa:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** The end. And then there's, like, 299 pages of acknowledgements after it.

**Teresa:** I suppose in the comedy section you definitely could.

**Travis:** You— now, I feel like that was reductive, madam! What if that one-page story was really good?

**Teresa:** Um... you could group them in specific sections. So, I would suggest if you— if you want to write everybody's name separately on note cards or pieces of paper, and then you can kind of, like, arrange them in groupings, and then arrange those groupings from first to last and, you know, do it kind of like that. Um—

**Travis:** Now I wanna write a book called *Acknowledgements*, and now I'm kind of gonna sink my teeth into it just to spite you. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I love you so much. I'm not gonna write that book just to spite you.

**Teresa:** But if you are going to write a book and include acknowledgements, you do want to make sure that it is— it is in keeping with the book. I keep saying, the tone, the tone of the book. Um, but also, like... if it is a sentimental book, maybe you want to thank more personal friends. If it's a self-help manual, maybe you wanna thank—

**Travis:** Inspirations.

**Teresa:** —inspirations, and— and things like that. Um, but, like... it's up to you. It's up to you, and if you don't wanna write 'em, you don't have to.

**Travis:** I love it. Well, let's acknowledge some people. First, Alex, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Rachel, our editor, without whom we would not be able to make this show.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously, amused] We would not be able to make this show. [laughs]

**Travis:** Uh, thank you both. Thank you, our listeners, for listening, without whom would could make this show, but what would be the point? [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, we also want to thank Maximumfun.org, our podcast home. Check out all the other amazing shows there. You can also go to mcelroy.family, check out all the other McElroy projects. Uh, I stream on Twitch, if that's something you're interested in. I play some video games on there. Twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy. It's fun!

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. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, @shmannerscast is where we get listener-submitted questions for episodes. Uh, so follow us there, and keep an eye on that. Maybe we will read your question on the show!

**Travis:** Ooh, la, la!

**Teresa:** Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners Fanners*. If you love to

give or get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group! Um, also—

**Travis:** I want you to know, 'cause I just said it, every time I say "Ooh, la, la," now, it's hard for me not to follow it up with, "Ooh, la la, wakka wakka!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I know!

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** But we did it once on this show, and it's been stuck in my head ever since. "Ooh, la la. Wakka wakka!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, if you would like to submit a topic or an idiom, please email us, [shmatterscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmatterscast@gmail.com) and, you know, say hi to Alex. She reads every single one.

**Travis:** Uh, and that's gonna do it for us. Join us again next week!

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

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

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmatters*. Get it.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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