

Shmanners 282: Wrestling with Tights and Fights

Published October 14, 2021

[Listen here on themcelroy.family](#)

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy, and boy oh boy, are you in for a special treat today. Oh my goodness. So, this is the Maximumfun.org Block Party special episode of Shmanners. What does that mean, you're asking? Well, the Maximum Fun Block Party is a new thing we've started where it's your chance to check out shows that you've never checked out before on Maximum Fun, and maybe share a show with a friend that you think they would like but they've never known where to start. So, if this is your first time listening to Shmanners let me give you a little explanation of what the show is.

So, my wife Teresa and I talk about things related to etiquette and culture. Now, wait-wait-wait, please don't leave! No, wait! I know what you're thinking. "Why would I want to listen to a show where I'm just going to get judged for not knowing my manners," right?

Well, that's not what our show is about at all. And in fact, what we've discovered over the years of making this show is a lot of etiquette is about giving yourself a road map to navigate social situations easier.

So, for example, in our small talk episode, you know, it was all about, like, when you're at a party, these are the subjects you should talk about, these are the subjects you should not talk about. If someone says this, you can say this. And once you've done this, you can leave!

Um, and I don't know about you, but having those kind of concrete guideposts to follow make those situations a lot easier for yours truly. Not only that, we also do biographies of really amazing people that I'm betting you probably don't know about, or at the very least you don't know the entire story.

We talk about the history of specific things, like, you know, why are handkerchiefs the way they are? How did wristwatches evolve? That kind of thing.

We also have done a special series about idioms. An idiom is like, "Let the cat out of the bag," right? These phrases that we say all the time that have an implied meaning. We talk about the origins of them, what they actually mean, what they used to mean, and now they mean. All that stuff. It's one of my favorite parts of it.

It's a really, really fun show, uh, and the basic structure is, Teresa knows what she's talking about and most of the time I do not, unless it's something that I miraculously remember from, like, 7th grade history or something. So, it's a wonderful show.

But this episode is even more special than that, because this is a crossover episode with our friends over at *Tights and Fights*, which is a pro wrestling podcast without all the toxicity. And so this week we talked with them about where the— the crossovers of pro wrestling and etiquette meet, right? Because surprisingly, there's a lot of rules for the locker room for wrestlers, there's a lot of rules for fans to follow, there's a lot of rules for, you know, in the ring, how the stories evolve and all of that stuff.

So I really think that you're gonna find this episode pretty fun, and, you know, this is gonna be a good one to share with a friend.

We also talk about episodes in there that you can share with a friend if you're like, "Oh, I've been looking for a chance to get started. Where should I start?"

This is a good episode to start, or just pick one of your favorites and share it with them. So, we're gonna get to that episode in just a second, but first, a thank you note for our sponsors.

Seafood. I love it. I don't know about you, but in this house, we love seafood. You know, and the thing is, is when I'm at a restaurant, oh, I'm so confident. Oh, I'm so confident ordering it. But when I'm at home or when I'm at the store, I have no idea what I'm doing when it comes to buying wild-caught seafood, right? It's all basically guesswork, or more often than not I just don't, 'cause I'm afraid, like, I'll get the wrong thing, or maybe it won't be good. I have no idea. Well, the good news is, you have a friend now who's gonna help you get the right wild-caught seafood, and that friend is Wild Alaskan Company. Because Wild Alaskan Company delivers high quality, sustainably-sourced, wild-caught seafood right to your door. You can choose from salmon, cod, halibut, and more!

Each shipment contains premium cuts of individually-wrapped portions of delicious seafood that are ready to prepare and easy to cook. Wild Alaskan Company seafood is always wild, never farmed or modified, and it contains no antibiotics.

Right now, you can get \$15 off your first box of premium seafood when you visit wildalaskancompany.com/shmanners. That's wildalaskan, A-L-A-S-K-A-N, company.com/shmanners.

The way you use the internet has changed dramatically over the last decade. I used to use it for, you know, AOL Instant Messenger, and GeoCities websites. And now I use it for Twitter and... different websites. Right?

But security tools have mostly stayed the same. Well, Aura provides complete digital security to help protect your online accounts, finances, and devices, and more, all in one easy-to-use app. With Aura, you'll get alerted to fraud and threats fast. Like if your online accounts or passwords were leaked online, or if someone tries to open a bank account in your name.

Aura is easy to set up. All plans come with one million dollars in identity theft insurance to help recover your stolen funds, and experienced customer support that's got your back. With an easy online dashboard and alerts sent straight to your phone, Aura keeps you in control and guides you through solving any issues. For a limited time, Aura is offering our listeners up to 40% off plans when you visit aura.com/shmanners. Go to aura.com/shmanners to get complete protection and savings of up to 40%. That's A-U-R-A.com/shmanners.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm Teresa McElroy, and we're hosts of the etiquette and manners podcast Shmanners, on the Maximum Fun Network.

Danielle: Plus, there's me! Danielle Radford.

Travis: What?!

Hal: And me, Hal Lublin.

Travis: What?

Hal: And we are the hosts of *Tights and Fights*. Yeah, we're here! That's right, Travis!

Travis: What are you doing on my podcast?

Hal: I live with you now. You haven't even noticed me in the kitchen eating cereal?

Travis: You got your podcast in my po— wait, what is it? Peanut butter in my choc—

Hal: [laughs]

Travis: —but it's not the same, 'cause it's—

Danielle: Oh, I'm getting chocolate all over your peanut butter.

Hal: [laughs]

Travis: You got my— you're— but this would be like if you said, like, "You got your peanut butter all over my peanut butter."

Danielle: [laughs]

Hal: [laughs] Welcome to a double decker peanut butter jar.

Travis: It's all peanut butter.

Hal: We host— yeah! We host *Tights and Fights*. We are the pro wrestling podcast on the Maximum Fun Network, and it is great to be with all of you here on a special network-wide Block Party. It's a Block Party!

Danielle: It's a party!

Hal: We combine—yeah.

Travis: Can I just say right off the bat that, uh, though your show be about pro wrestling and our show be about manners, I think that we have more in common than not, because I know that *Tights and Fights*, one of your, like, claim to fame is it's, like, pro wrestling from a nontoxic, you know, standpoint, from a very friendly, like, listener-welcoming standpoint, and *Shmanners* is all about manners and etiquette as a tool to be used to make your life better and not as a tool to judge others. I think we both come at it from a very similar, like, "Let's all just have fun here!"

Danielle: Awesome. Also, uh, I did try to teach myself how to eat soup during quarantine.

Teresa: Very nice, very nice!

Travis: Did you try a spoon? 'Cause that's always worked for me.

Teresa: Now— now, wait a second.

Danielle: [laughs]

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: The spoon is— you do have to start with a— well, first you have to start with soup.

Travis: Yeah.

Danielle: And then a bowl, and then you go into spoons.

Teresa: Exactly.

Danielle: Um, but there's, like, a way that you do soup so that, like, you're— there's, like, a whole dragging towards and, like, a thing.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Danielle: Um, I worked on it a lot, yeah.

Travis: Even I don't know this.

Hal: I've seen the tilt the bowl, I've seen the spoon away. Somebody taught me that, and I'm convinced to this day, and it's been reinforced a few times, that all of them are messing with me.

Teresa: [laughs]

Danielle: [laughs]

Hal: To try and get me to— because when you— when you move the spoon away, then you have to carry liquid even longer before it gets where it's going, which everybody who watched *Double Dare* knows is just a recipe for spilling.

Travis: It's impossible.

Danielle: I'm trying to remember. It's, like, away from the harbor and close to shore. But, like, at the end you wind up, like, making sure that you take the edge of the spoon and, like, you do it so that it doesn't drip, and then there's a way that you bring it up. You bring the spoon to your face, not your face to the spoon, and there's just a little bit of a, like, [slurps quietly]. Just, like, a little bit of— sorry, that was some ASMR for you listeners there.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: No, that was great.

Teresa: That was perfect.

Travis: We do that a lot on our show.

Danielle: That was a little bit of a, like, [slurps quietly]. Uh, a little bit of a sippity-doo.

Teresa: Yeah! It's— it's supposed to be sort of like a skim of the top almost to the outside far edge of the bowl, and then close to the soup as you bring it closer to you. Then you wipe it on the side of the bowl before it comes up to your mouth. So there's— there's—

Travis: Sounds like a lot of work.

Teresa: But that's only just, like, the— the, you know, the broth-style soup. There's a whole different sort of way of eating, like, a noodle soup or a chunky soup or a stew.

Danielle: Yeah.

Teresa: All that kind of stuff.

Travis: See, I prefer to eat my soup, uh, like *Oliver Twist*, while also, like, keeping my eyes up, making sure no one's about to steal my soup. Get very close to the bowl, put one arm around to guard it.

Danielle: Oh, just a little hunchy? A little hunchy-hunch?

Travis: Yeah, ooh, no, no one's takin' my soup.

Teresa: Like, uh, like the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Travis: Exactly like the Beast.

Teresa: Drink it up over your...

Travis: In *Beauty and the Beast*. Uh, now, you guys don't normally talk about Shmanners and manners on *Tights and Fights*. You talk about pro wrasslin'.

Danielle: Yeah.

Hal: True, although all I want to talk about is soup now. I have one last question. On a scale of one to ten, Teresa—

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Travis: Sure.

Danielle: This is also the way our show works, by the way. [laughs]

Hal: Yeah. Ten being the rudest and one being— being a proper, civilized person in society, when at the— when I'm at a restaurant and I've eaten most of the soup, I've ingested most of it, but I still have some left in the

bowl, and then I pick up the bowl and tilt it to my face while making eye contact with people around me—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: —how bad is that?

Travis: Yeah, good question.

Danielle: Just stick out your tongue. I think you just, like, lick it with your tongue, and you just—

Hal: Oh, that happens straight after. 'Cause— yeah, there are drippy-drops, and everything must go.

Teresa: Again, it depends— it depends on what kind of soup, and where you're at, because it's perfectly acceptable if you're eating ramen, for example, to finish the soup from the bowl after you eat the noodles. So that—

Travis: Also, the other question is, do you care? 'Cause that's the other thing—

Hal: Nope!

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Danielle: [laughs]

Travis: People might, like, give you a sideways glance and everything. But, like, if you're having dinner with people who are like, "That's Hal!" And they love that you do that, then it doesn't really matter.

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: That's the name of his new sitcom. [hums melody] That's Hal!

Hal: [laughs] He runs a soup store!

Travis: [laughs] What? Obviously you're selling soup, but I assume there's also ladles, tureens, all kinds of the accoutrements.

Hal: It's a one stop shop for the soup that you can't drop.

Danielle: Love it.

Travis: Wait, why can't you drop it?

Hal: Hold one. Wait, what's that? Oh, we just got canceled.

Travis: Aw, man.

Teresa: Aww.

Hal: Sorry. I'm sorry.

Danielle: Aww.

Hal: It was short-lived. It was short-lived.

Travis: Sorry to hear that, Hal.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So, tell us about your show. We've talked a lot about our— our manners show. What do you guys— how do you guys, like, approach the topic? What do you— do you talk about, like, the current matches and face-offs?

Teresa: 'Cause there's, like, story lines, right?

Danielle: Yes.

Travis: Kayfabe, I believe it's called.

Hal: Yeah! We— we cover it all. We talk about things that are happening. We will go back and talk about some famous matches, or wrestlers whose career retrospectives we wanna go through, ring music, or, more importantly, social issues, where I am the only straight white male who talks, and I try to talk as little as possible during those segments.

Travis: Good man.

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: And listen, as modeling behavior for everybody else who is like me.

Danielle: But I crack jokes, and Lindsey comes with— with her gorgeous, articulate British-ness, 'cause she is like— she can break down wrestling, and she has a wrestling mind in a way that, like, I haven't seen from a lot of people. Like, it's so different, the way that she looks at the sport, and it's so, like, interesting. And I'm just like, "Poop, farts, butt, fart! Fart, fart, fart."

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Well, that's what I do on our show!

Teresa: Yeah!

Danielle: [laughs]

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: Virtual high five!

Travis: Yeah! Now, I have a question for you, 'cause, like, I started— in prep for this show, in talking to you guys, I started, like, researching famous pro wrestling feuds. And I realized, like, one third of all the ones I found involved Hulk Hogan.

Danielle: [sighs]

Travis: So then I started thinking, like, is— who is more iconic to pro wrestling, Hulk Hogan or The Rock?

Danielle: Ooh. Um...

Hal: Yeah, what do you think Danielle?

Danielle: I don't know. This is manners, um, so I'm going to politely say, um, fuck Hulk Hogan. [laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Danielle: On your manners podcast.

Travis: Fair, fair, fair.

Danielle: Um, just to go ahead and start off with that. It's— you know what? Like, it's one of those things where I think when you think pro wrestling, a lot of people unfortunately Hulk Hogan will be the person that they think of because of the way that The Rock's career after pro wrestling—

Travis: Yeah.

Danielle: Like, when you think of Dwayne now, you don't necessarily always think pro wrestling first. You think of— like, his career and life is not defined by pro wrestling.

[clip plays]

Speaker: Finally, The Rock has come back... home!

[crowd cheers loudly]

[clip ends]

Danielle: Whereas, like, as much as that racist dude wanted Pastamania to take off, um, unfortunately we only know of him as this big wrestler that, like, kids got into when they were younger that made us say our prayers and take our vitamins, and only say the N word if you don't know you're being recorded.

Teresa: I mean, and it was also all the merchandising. His face was everywhere!

Danielle: Yes.

Teresa: I didn't watch pro wrestling, but I knew who he was, 'cause his face was on cereal boxes, and toys, and mugs. And, like, it was— it was just— it was inescapable, I think.

Hal: For all the things that Vince McMahon is, some good, plenty of terrible, he is one of the greatest promoters in history. And what he did in the early 80's was essentially take a bunch of territorial wrestling companies and get all the best talent, get TV time everywhere, and take wrestling national. And Hogan was the guy he picked to be his huge star. So, as bad of a human being as he has turned out to be, he's always going to be linked to being one of the biggest, if not the biggest wrestling star of all time, because he was the first one that was national. But I think The Rock has transcended wrestling in a way that John Cena's starting to do as well, where— where, yes—

Danielle: And Dave Bautista's, like— like, no one even really thinks of him in wrestling anymore.

Hal: No.

Travis: I forgot he was a wrestler until I was like, [crosstalk] to talk to you guys.

Danielle: Right, yeah!

Travis: And I was like, "Oh yeah!"

Hal: Yeah.

Teresa: He's— he's Drax, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, okay.

Travis: Yeah. I only think of him as Streamer, the Disney streaming icon.

Hal: [through laughter] That's right!

Danielle: [laughs] He's in a boat forever, now!

Travis: That's the only way I think of Dave Bautista. And I think he did a movie with Kumail Nanjiani that I'm now forgetting, but he definitely was there.

Danielle: Uh, yes! Uh, I think it was just called, like, uh... it was, like, some pun on Uber.

Hal and Travis: Yeah, *Stuber*!

Travis: [laughs]

Danielle: *Stuber*! There it is.

Hal: *Stuber*.

Travis: A classic.

Teresa: Aw, four heads are better than one.

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: So I'm the only one who saw that in the theater? Great.

Travis: Did you?!

Hal: I did!

Travis: Oh boy, Hal.

Danielle: It's not bad!

Hal: Look, I like Kumail, I'm a wrestling fan, and I went to see it, and it had both of those things in it. It had— it had a wrestler, and it had Kumail in it. That could be enough. It could be.

Teresa: And there— it was also not a pandemic, and so it was worth it to go to a theater for a movie called *Stuber*.

Hal: [laughs] Yeah. I could go to a theater that wasn't a drive-in and feel safe.

Travis: I saw the *Entourage* movie in theaters, so I'm not gonna—

Hal: Me too! Oh no!

Travis: Oh, what? Hal! We gotta talk about this another time.

Danielle: Speaking of, oh yeah.

Teresa: Did you— that's the one you dragged me to, right?

Hal: [laughs]

Travis: No, I didn't make you go to that one. I saw it at, like, 10 AM at a theater.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: And it was me and, like, four 15-year-old boys. Oh, God. Okay.

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: Speaking of wrestling, what's-her-name also became a wrestler for a while.

Travis: Yeah! What was her name? I know who you're talking about, yeah, 'cause she was in that movie.

Danielle: She also super sucks. Uh...

Travis: Yeah.

Hal: Oh, Ronda Rousey.

Danielle: Rousey Rousey was also in wrestling for a while.

Hal: Yeah, she was Turtle's love interest! Oh, I gotta go.

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: Why do I know that? Why do I remember?

Danielle: [singing] Oh no! Oh no!

Hal: For a second you had talked with so much energy, Travis, that I forgot the movie we were talking about and I felt a joy that immediately got pulled back into the dark vacuum as soon as I remembered.

Danielle: Act like most of us on this podcast haven't seen the *Entourage* movie.

Travis: Come on.

Hal: Yeah, come on.

Teresa: Um, I— I actually have another deep dive I wanna see if anyone will follow me into. When I was in high school, our Goodwill received an entire case of Blac Chyna's book. Do you remember?

Travis: [gasps] Wha—

Danielle: Uhh...

Teresa: She wrote a memoir, and so our friend group all bought them. You know, for, like— like, a quarter each, and passed them out at school.

Travis: There you go.

Hal: Your own distribution network.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah!

Hal: Of that specific— that's unreal.

Danielle: Oh, the LuLaRoe of Blac Chyna's book! [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: Oh my gosh.

Teresa: Well, we didn't sell them.

Danielle: You just buy all these books, and then you have a party. [laughs] And then you give them away with a free pair of tights.

Hal: What was your downline on that? How did that look? [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, and you should've sold it, and made a profit.

Teresa: No, I mean, it wasn't— it wasn't selling. We would just— it was the joke that we would hand people, "Oh, have you read this yet?" and give it to them.

Danielle: [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: "Have you heard the good word?"

Teresa: Like passing out bibles.

Travis: Yeah. Now, I— see, when I was in, like, uh—

Danielle: The good word.

Travis: Yes, right? So, I was born early 80's, so of course, like, I was *in* the WWF era. You know, Rowdy Roddy Piper, the, uh, Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, Hacksaw Jim Duggan, uh, the British Bulldogs. Like, I— and I had, like, the figures, too? Which I, like—

Hal: Yep.

Travis: Man, the WWF knew how to do, like, toyetics for kids. Like, they gave— every wrestler had, like, a prop. And so, like, you would buy— and it was like, "Here's Hacksaw Jim Duggan, and his 2x4!" [laughs] As part of the thing?

[all laugh]

Travis: Aw, man.

[clip plays]

Speaker: And folks, you know me! If things get a little bit out of hand, well, Hacksaw Jim Duggan is not too shy about grabbing my 2x4, and the stars and stripes, tough guy!

[clip ends]

Hal: He's cursed, by the way, forever, now, Hacksaw Jim Duggan. When he does— he's on the convention circuit, when that is functioning, and he has to carry a 2x4 with him forever.

Travis: Whoa.

Hal: He can't— it's— it's his—

Teresa: Are you being serious?

Travis: Yeah.

Hal: I am!

Danielle: Yes.

Teresa: Oh, wow.

Hal: Yeah, but other people— other people will bring him 2x4s to be autographed.

Travis: Yeah.

Hal: Because—

Travis: It was his whole thing.

Danielle: That's— yeah.

Hal: That was his thing!

Teresa: Well, with the cost of lumber these days...

Travis: Yeah, I know.

Danielle: Yeah.

[all laugh]

Hal: He's sitting on a gold mine right now. Maybe he'll start selling.

Travis: This is— this is— in the Venn diagram of manners and wrestling, right? I found, like, some manners of pro wrestlers that they have to— and I'm gonna say some of these. You tell me if you know about 'em, okay? Uh, keep your boots dirty. You know about this?

Hal: I read that, and it was— did not sound familiar to me. But when you— when I saw it explained, it made sense. So maybe— Danielle, have you heard of this? That you're supposed to keep your boots dirty?

Danielle: I have not heard of keep your boots dirty, and I know some of this carny talk, so I'm very interested to know what this is.

Hal: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, so basically the implication here is, like, if your boots are too shiny and polished, it's kind of an indication that you are vain and care too much about your appearance, and the—

Danielle: Oh!

Travis: —the, like, logical conclusion being, if you're so vain that you're worried about how your boots look, you're probably more worried about yourself than making your opponent look good.

Danielle: Right. And see, conversely, people will wipe their feet off before they go into the ring, which you would think would be a manners thing because they're putting their feet all over each other. But it's actually an old stage thing which symbolizes, "I am leaving behind myself and getting into character."

Travis: Really?

Teresa: That's amazing!

Danielle: Yeah! So when you see people wipe their feet off before they go into the ring, it's not, again, necessarily that they're like, "Oh God, my shoes are gross and I'm gonna put these all over someone's head."

It is a theater thing which says, "I am now no longer Danielle Radford. I am going into the ring as... " I don't know what they would call me. Like, the Rad-star or, like, whatever.

Travis: That's really good!

Danielle: And I'm gonna go in there and start, like, pinning people.

Travis: Yeah.

Danielle: Like I am now in character.

Hal: Yeah.

Teresa: That's awesome.

Travis: Uh, there was another one— and a lot of these have to do with, like, "Don't be egotistical, don't appear—" Keep your championship belt hidden as much as possible.

Like, when you— as soon as you go backstage—

Teresa: [simultaneously] After you go backstage.

Travis: Yeah, as soon as you go backstage, you're not like, "Check this out, everybody! [mocking laughter]."

That it's like, that's only for when you're making an appearance, and not—

Teresa: 'Cause it's a performance, right? It's like a soap opera—

Travis: [sarcastically] What?!

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: Yeah.

Danielle: There's another thing where when you win the belt off of someone— wrestlers are constantly in communication with each other when they're in the ring. They're talking to each other. They're talking to the ref. The refs have the people in the back in gorilla, which is, like, basically production, like, one of the production tables in their ears.

And so there is a tradition where if you are wrestling and you win a title off of someone, you can see them tell them "Thank you" when they, like, either during the pin or after the pin.

Teresa: Wow! That's awesome!

Hal: Yeah. Sometimes you— sometimes you can hear them speaking, sometimes you see them, like, pat one another. Like, the person who's winning will pat the person who's losing on the arm. I can tell you, for WWE, that there are two sets of championship belts, because I have a friend—

Travis: A brown one a black one to go with different shoes.

Hal: [laughs] There's a brown one and a black one, that's right.

Danielle: [laughs]

Hal: You get to pick the color you like. They have a set for TV that they keep in a cabinet, and then the talent gets a belt to take with them to appearances and stuff. But that would make sense to me, because generally it goes in a bag, you keep it with you, you don't wanna lose it. There are a million stories wrestlers will tell if they have the title of being stopped at airport security because it sets off the metal detector. But—

Danielle: [laughs quietly] Do we have time for me to tell the story about the AEW belt?

Travis: Please.

Hal: Please?

Teresa: I would love it.

Danielle: So, the AEW is a new promotion. It's very exciting. They're doing very exciting things. They got Chris Jericho, which was a huge coup for them, because at the time he was the biggest, like, internationally known name they had. He won their brand new, spankin' new, *gorgeous* belt. And so, he takes the belt on a night out.

Uh, he goes to a chain steakhouse, which people have argued about which steakhouse it is, but he goes to a chain steakhouse with the belt. The belt is his date. He's eating steak, he's having a good time, he's drinking, woo, woo, woo. Their brand new belt, this brand new company that is trying to establish themselves, and their brand new champion... some time during the night, he loses this goddamn belt.

Teresa: [gasps loudly]

Hal: [laughs]

Travis: Get out!

Danielle: Not kayfabe. Not kayfabe. This is not a wrestling thing. The belt is g-g-g-g-gone. Um, and no one can figure out if it's, like, he left it in the car and the car drove off, or if someone took it while he was in the bathroom. Um, but his brand new, shiny thing—[laughs] the first time anyone has had this very shiny title, it gets stolen in a steakhouse!

Travis: Oh boy. And it still hasn't, like, surfaced or anything, as far as we know?

Danielle: They definitely came out with another title belt.

Travis: Yeah.

Danielle: Is it the same title belt? Who knows.

Hal: I like to think that the original is in a lost and found bin—

Travis: Yeah, right?

Hal: —at the Tampa Houston Steakhouse.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "This could be anybody's."

Teresa: Maybe that'll show up at Goodwill.

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: [laughs]

Travis: There's no way that—

Hal: I have my \$10 ready.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah!

Hal: [laughs]

Teresa: But see, this is one of those reasons why it's like, look, old school days you carry around your championship and you're like, "I'm the man!" But it's like, maybe you should just keep that tucked inside you— inside your lockers.

Travis: This is like when— when we went to dinner with Hal and I lost my wedding ring. [laughs quietly]

Teresa: Oh.

Hal: I— yes!

Travis: Behind a— behind a booth in a restaurant, and the booth was attached to a wall, so they couldn't get the booth off, and they got my phone number and said, "If we ever remodel, we'll call you." [laughs]

Hal: Every once in a while I will talk to Jennifer, my wife. You all know Jennifer, but maybe people listening don't. And I will get mad that they had seats— they had booths set up against a glass— against their window, against the exterior, that had space for things to fall down, but no way to retrieve them.

Travis: Correct.

Hal: That's very upsetting.

Travis: Terrible, terrible design.

Hal: And you both handled it in stride.

Travis: Thank you.

Hal: Wonderfully.

Teresa: I was— I was mortified. I was so embarrassed. I was like, the whole restaurant is starting to get up out of their seats!

Travis: Yes!

Hal: [wheezes]

Teresa: To try and find this ring, and I just wanted to crawl under the table. [laughs]

Danielle: [sympathetically] Oh! [laughs]

Travis: Everybody was paying so much attention to me— it's so weird to be embarrassed because everyone is attempting to help.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And you're just like, "No, please stop! Just sit back down! Please, everybody, it's fine!"

Hal: [laughs]

Travis: "I've already forgotten about it. Don't worry about it! I'm getting divorced, don't worry!"

Hal: [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So, here's another rule I found, which is basically, like, shake everybody's hand. That, like, when you're on— when, like, you're shaking the employees, you're shaking the other wrestlers, you're shaking everybody. And apparently there was an old tradition, which is now not as common, but to shake with, like, a limp hand to show, like, you are safe with me, I'm not, like, challenging you. Like, this is a soft handshake instead of, like, you know, the— you're not death gripping, which I kind of really like.

Teresa: It's kind of like a secret code, right? Like a secret handshake you would give another, like, a coworker, professional person. But it makes so much sense that you would shake everybody who's involved. From, you know, from the bottom to the top, and that's— that's kind of like, um— that feels very theatrical as well. Because when you are in theater, you are definitely beholden to the stagehands, to the lighting techs, to the sound tech. Like, everybody, you know, teamwork makes the dream work.

Travis: There's one more thing that I'm hoping you guys know more about, because I found that it existed, but I couldn't find the thing, which is wrestlers' court?

Hal: Yes!

Danielle: [gasps] Oh my God!

Hal: Can we— can we briefly talk about the handshakes first? Just because I find it—

Travis: Yeah, sorry, yes, go.

Hal: —I find it— I find it fascinating as well, and then we will totally talk about wrestlers' court, which is a 100%—

Danielle: [simultaneously] 'Cause it is a real thing, yeah.

Hal: —100% real thing, still happening.

Danielle: Still weird!

Hal: Um, everywhere. But the handshake is definitely also from a time where the business was very protected. The idea of kayfabe was not something that— that— you know, we didn't know about that growing up, Travis, when we were kids.

Danielle: Hal, you wanna tell them what kayfabe is?

Hal: Yes. Kayfabe, which is supposed to be from pig Latin and is really carny language, is the— is the facade of wrestling that we see. So, kayfabe is that the Undertaker is an actual undertaker with supernatural powers, that— that the matches are not predetermined. It's the presentation of things as real. So, when somebody shoots—

Danielle: Fake, kayfabe.

Hal: Fake becomes kayfabe.

Travis: Got it, okay.

Hal: So to protect the business, when somebody new comes into the locker room, you needed a way for them to identify themselves and for you to understand that they were inside the business. And so that handshake— nobody goes in purposefully with a very limp handshake, so that became the way not only to know you're gonna take care of me, but you're in the business. You know.

Travis: Ahh!

Hal: It's— you're actual— I know you are a worker. You are somebody who wrestles.

Travis: Oh! That's so cool. I love that.

Teresa: It really is.

Travis: Okay, so—

Hal: Yeah, and they couldn't do the thing from *The Sting*. That was taken.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. So what is wrestlers' court?

Danielle: Oh my God. So, anytime there would be, like, a major confrontation between, like, two wrestlers, or two workers, um, and it got to a point where it was, like, egregious and might, like, actually disrupt what was happening, like, not a thing that two people could handle themselves, whoever was— there's always a locker room leader. And whoever the locker room leader is, and for decades it was the Undertaker, would sit down backstage, and they would have wrestling court, where you would actually go through the motions and, like, present your sides, and the Undertaker would dole out punishments and say, like, "Okay, well, you wronged this person, so you have to do this. But this thing you did was also kind of crappy, so now you have to do this."

And it might... in a good world, you would like to believe it was certain things, like you gotta carry someone's bags for a month or you gotta pay for drinks for a month or whatever. Um, some wrestling court punishments were, like— allegedly, allegedly, allegedly, I'm just gonna sprinkle that over everything, um, were, like, not that great. Like, some wrestle court punishments were definitely, like, more like the things that you would do for a prank for someone, but you're doing it for that person.

But essentially it's like a way to, like, lay down the law, to be like "We have rules, and these rules weren't followed, and we have to do this so that all of us can continue to work."

Because even if you don't like someone, you have to be able to trust that person when you get inside that ring to not hurt you. Um, and so this was one of those ways of, like, making sure that everyone was taken care of and that, like, things were handled. And then after that, you're not allowed to, like, go into the ring and, to use some carny jargon, go stiff, which is when you actually hit someone. Going to work for yourself, when you actually put them into holds so that you wind up being the winner. Like, things like that. You're— you know, do receipts, where if someone

goes stiff on you or has done things in the past, you give 'em a receipt by then trying to legitimately hurt them. This is a way to say, like, "This is over now."

Travis: Hmm.

Danielle: You are no longer allowed to take this out on each other, because we have a show to do.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I love it.

Teresa: That makes sense.

Travis: Speaking of shows to do, I wanna know— so, for Shmanners listeners who are like, "Listen. I— clearly *Tights and Fights* is great. Where should I start?"

Hal: We did an episode recently where we— where we talked about the career of William Regal, who is a British wrestler who has been all over American wrestling as well. He's currently in the general manager role on NXT, which is the WWE developmental brand. But he also is very— his debut in 2000 was him teaching everybody manners.

Travis: Aw, yeah!

Hal: So that might be a good place to start. He was a bad guy at the time, because nobody— "Don't you tell me what fork to use for salad!"

Travis: Oh, I see.

Hal: Yes. That is episode 251. And then most recently we talked about representation in wrestling.

Danielle: Which we— it's an ongoing topic, but we really got into it recently.

Travis: That's so cool.

Teresa: That's awesome.

Hal: That's what we suggest. What about— what about Shmanners? For people— I mean, I am a fan, obviously.

Teresa: Well, I always recommend the "Thank You Notes" episode. I think that it is—

Danielle: Ooh.

Teresa: It is something that, you know, everyone can relate to. We've all been, like, kind of elbowed by our, you know, our family to be like, "[mocking] You gotta write grandma a thank you note for that thing—"

Travis: Wait, what voice is that? Who is that in my family?

Hal: [laughs]

Teresa: It is your dad.

Danielle: [laughs]

Travis: That's my— that's how my dad sounds to you?!

Teresa: That's your— that's your dad.

Travis: Aw, man! Don't let him find out.

Hal: That was a really good Clint.

Teresa: And— well, thanks! I thought so, too.

Travis: I also highly recommend the idioms episode. We do a series—

Teresa: That is not what I thought you were gonna say.

Travis: Oh, what did you think I was gonna say?

Teresa: I thought you were gonna recommend the Emily Post biography.

Travis: I actually was! I was gonna do that one, too! Oh my goodness!

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Okay. So, we did a biography of Emily Post, and it's absolutely fascinating, and everyone should check that out. But we also do a series where we take, like, commonly used idioms and talk about the origins of them and how they developed. And I think we're on, like, ep— like, ten episodes of it so far.

Teresa: There really are just so many idiom episodes at this point. I can't believe that in our life we talk in such riddles all the time. [laughs]

Travis: Right. Like, you know—

Danielle: That's just wrestling jargon! That's amazing.

Teresa: Yeah! [laughs]

Travis: Okay, here's an amazing one right off the top of my head. "Let the cat out of bag." So, this came from when they used to sell, like, suckling pigs in bags, but, like, people who were liars would put just, like, stray cats in the bag so it would wriggle around, and then say, like, "Yeah, it's a suckling pig."

And then they'd sell it to you, but if you opened it up you would let the cat out of the bag. So, that's where the idiom "Let the cat out of the bag" came from. Right? Like, that's why— you never think about— we say these—

Danielle: That's amazing.

Travis: We say these things all the time and you're just like, you know, like how you... let the cat out of the bag. And you're like, yeah, but that came from somewhere.

Teresa: So if you're looking for those episodes, the "Thank You" episode was on January 26th, 2016. The Emily Post episode, we actually recently re-aired it because it is that good. So, the re-airing is on January 23rd, 2020. And then the "Idioms Part 1," our OG idioms episode, is June 20th, 2020.

Hal: Everybody should check— if you listen to *Tights and Fights*, you enjoy comedy and learning things, and that is something Shmanners does extremely well. And also, like, it takes the stress out of a lot of things that people either don't know, or are so afraid— like thank you notes, are so afraid to get into them that having it explained destresses it, and you'll actually look forward to the next time you either send or receive one.

Travis: And let me, uh, give a quick plug for *Tights and Fights*, which is to say, maybe you're sitting there and you're thinking, "Eh, I don't really care about pro wrestling."

Well, you don't have to! Because you guys make it very interesting and fun, and it's— one of my favorite things in the world is to listen to interesting people talk about things they are interested in, whether I am interested in it or not. Right? And it's like, there are some things where it's like, I ended up caring more about the show than I do about actual pro wrestling. [laughs]

Danielle: [laughs]

Travis: So go check it out! And whether you care about pro wrestling or not—

Hal: [laughs]

Danielle: Well, thank you!

Travis: —yeah, you'll fall in love with the show.

Hal: Thank you.

Travis: Because the hosts are charming and funny. And that is gonna do it for us. It's been so much fun. Thank you everybody for joining us. Thank you, Danielle and Hal. Uh, I hope that everybody is having fun with the Max Fun Block Party. Go check out Shmanners, I think it's great, and *Tights and Fights*, which is also great, as part of the celebration! Thank you everybody! And goodbye!

Hal: Thank you!

Danielle: Thank you, bye-ee!

Teresa: [laughs]

Hal: Thank you, bye-ee!

Danielle: Ooh, is it a block party? Is it time for beer?

[theme music plays]

[chord]

Maximumfun.org.
Comedy and Culture.
Artist Owned.
Audience Supported.