

Shmanners 303: Victorian Beauty

Published March 18, 2022

[Listen here at themcelroy.family](#)

[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: Can I just say, right off the bat, and this is very apropos of our subject matter, you've got some glitter on your face and you're sparkling like a vampire, my love. You're sparkling like one of them *Twilights* I've heard about.

Teresa: I believe they call it shimmer.

Travis: Your shimmer, baby—

Teresa: But, yes, I'm shimmering. [laughs]

Travis: Baby, you're shimmering like a diamond in a crystal-clear pond.

Teresa: Thanks. My—

Travis: I don't know why would a pond—

Teresa: My eyeshadow has shimmer in it.

Travis: If I saw a pond that was crystal-clear, I'd just assume it was enchanted. Right?

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Well, a pond! A *pond* that's crystal-clear. That I could see everything in it.

Teresa: I guess you're right. Ponds are kind of stagnant. It would be, like, more, uh, a crystal-clear mountain stream.

Travis: Right. Unless it was, like, someone's pond that they put in their backyard. If it was, like, "I can see everything in that pond. A sword is about to come out of there."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Right? That would just be my assumption.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: You know what I mean.

Teresa: I do.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Excalibur.

Travis: Excalibur! It sounded like you said, "It's caliber." And I was, like, eh over there? It's caliber. But you said, "Excalibur." Hey, we're talking about—

Teresa: I did.

Travis: — Victorian Beauty hacks.

Teresa: We are.

Travis: Is this what? Lead makeup?

Teresa: [laughs] There's a little bit— a little bit of that, but other things as well.

Travis: Okay. 'Cause I think I associate lead makeup more with, like, 1700.

Teresa: Elizabethan?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: When everybody had, like, the super white faces.

Teresa: Well, I mean, paleness was also revered in the Victorian era for upper-class citizens.

Travis: Well, sure. Um, we've talked about that before, right? Where it's, like, the swing of, like, is it cooler—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: — to be able to afford to not go outside, or cooler to be able to afford to go outside? And of course, throughout history, you know, systemic racism.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Yeah. Pale skin—

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: — as the ideal.

Teresa: Um, so this, we're gonna— we're going to go through some late 1800s, early 1900s.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, beauty hacks, as it were.

Travis: Okay. Can I just say I know just enough to know that none of these are going to be, like, "Why don't we still do that?" Right?

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Because it's going to involve, like, "Rub some cocaine on your face." Right?

Teresa: [holding back laugh] Probably.

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, okay, so—

Travis: Just put these snails over your eyes.

Teresa: Let me set the scene.

Travis: I say that, but people are doing snail—

Teresa: People are doing snail stuff.

Travis: Using the snail excretions to do, like, facials and stuff. Apparently, there's—

Teresa: But not the actual snail. You buy the stuff.

Travis: Yeah, you don't rub the snail on your face. 'Cause the snail will be, like, "Whoa!"

Teresa: [laughs lightly] You buy the stuff that the snail makes.

Travis: That can't be good for the snail, right?

Teresa: I mean I don't think they have to squish it, or milk it, or anything.

Travis: They don't *have* to, babe, but do you think that there are some people who don't?

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: I know. Let's not talk about it. Apparently also there's, like, vampire— that's not what it's called.

Teresa: That's not new.

Travis: It's like blood facials or something.

Teresa: Yeah, it's, like, needling and stuff with the blood.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: Anyway. Anyway, okay. Setting the scene.

Travis: I'm so glad I'm naturally beautiful.

Teresa: You're a lovely, young, Victorian, upper middle-class lady.

Travis: Let me get in the mind— let me get in the mindset.

[high-pitched British lady's voice] "Oh, my! Here I am!"

Teresa: Um—

Travis: No, I'm younger.

Teresa: You're younger.

Travis: [toned down British lady's voice] "I'm so young and beautiful."

Teresa: [through laughter] There we go. That's better.

Travis: "Hello, guvnor. It's me, a rich, beautiful Victorian lady."

[normally] No?

Teresa: Uh, I mean...

Travis: "I'm supposed to be upper crust. I'm an upper-crust— I'm a crusty Victorian lady."

Teresa: [laughs loudly] You sure are. Let's say this evening you have a cotillion to attend.

Travis: "This evening I have a cotillion to attend."

Teresa: And, um, you'd like to show up looking your best.

Travis: "I'd like to show up looking my best!"

Teresa: So, you're gonna have a spa day.

Travis: "A spa day! How lovely! Is papa paying for it? Because, of course, I don't have my own money. I'm a young Victorian lady."

Teresa: Right, you're not— you're not married just yet. Okay.

Travis: "No, I'm not married."

[shifts to Irish accent] "I have no dowry, for you see my family— I don't know where my accents going. I'm Mrs. Doubtfire now."

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Travis: [British lady's voice] "Now I'm becoming Mrs. Doubtfire."

Teresa: That's— that's enough.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Thanks. Um, let's— let's put a place here. Um, we're going to say Millionaire's Row along Fifth Avenue, right?

Travis: What a great name.

Teresa: So, you are well-to-do.

Travis: I mean, I assume so. Unless it's an ironic name. Like calling a big guy Tiny. I assume Millionaire's Row is nice.

Teresa: Indeed. Um, so, the first thing that you would do was go over to your *commode* in your room.

Travis: Now, that's not my toilet?

Teresa: It is, kind of. So, it's a bedside cabinet that stores a chamber pot.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And also, usually, a small pitcher and another small bowl for, like, generally washing up.

Travis: So, I can do, like— I can do my ablutions.

Teresa: Indeed. Indeed.

Travis: That's, like, washing your face and stuff.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It's just a great word.

Teresa: Yeah. Um—

Travis: I feel like you don't really appreciate how good a word it is. Could you say it, please?

Teresa: Ablutions.

Travis: No, say it with a smile on your face.

Teresa: [cheerfully] Ablutions.

Travis: There you go!

Teresa: Anyway—

Travis: And if you do it a lot, you're an abolitionist. [wheeze-laugh]

Teresa: [laughs softly] So, you don't have running water at this point.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Although it was, um— it was very close to being a— um, a commonality.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: A lot of these old homes were actually retrofitted for running water and flushing toilets and things like that.

Travis: But at this point, it was probably, like, the king had it or the queen had it, Miss Victoria.

Teresa: Eh, well, I mean, building new things, that probably would have been included.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But, um, unless you had *that* kind of money.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Probably not yet.

Travis: And I'm just on Millionaire's Row, not Billionaire's Row.

Teresa: [chuckles softly] Not Billionaire's Row.

Travis: No.

Teresa: So, normally you would, um, relieve yourself, right? And then you would just, kind of like, sponge off using the pitcher of cool water and a little bit of vinegar.

Travis: O-kay. All right.

Teresa: It's considered— it's an astringent, I guess.

Travis: Sure. Stinky, but sure.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Um, and— but you're feeling especially ready today for your monthly bath.

Travis: Okay. Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Where you're going to submerge your entire self.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: In *lukewarm* water.

Travis: Okay. Ew, you know probably not— uh, it's not my choice.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But, uh... good for the pores? I don't know. No, 'cause you'd want to do hot first to open up the pores, then clean. And then do cold to close them back up.

Teresa: Well, you know pores don't actually have musculature.

Travis: Hey babe, I don't know. Okay.

Teresa: Okay. Here's—

Travis: I don't know anything. If—

Teresa: Here's the thing.

Travis: If a commercial tells me I need to do something, I'll do it.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: 'Cause I want to stay young and beautiful forever.

Teresa: Alright, so the— the male—

Travis: I'm one step away from Lady Bathory. [laughs softly]

Teresa: The male doctors, who were determining properly, womanly hygiene at the time—

Travis: Probably incredibly accurately I would assume?

Teresa: Uh, so, it was about weighing the moral risks of bathing—

Travis: Mm. Always good.

Teresa: — against the hygienic rewards.

Travis: Always great when morality is balancing out hygiene.

Teresa: So, they're not very excited that you would be bathing naked, alright?

Travis: Okay, grow up.

Teresa: So, they say you could do it, like, once or twice a month. Like, submerge your whole self.

Travis: When God's not looking.

Teresa: [laughs] But the water—

Travis: God bowls every 15th. So, if you can do it during that.

Teresa: The water should be lukewarm or cold.

Travis: So as not to excite the passions?

Teresa: Not exactly.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Uh, it could cause rashes or, even worse, insanity.

Travis: Scusi? That the ho— sorry, that a hot bath—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: —even a warm bath, you might be, like, “Oh, I’m too comfortable for the first time in my life.”

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: “Let’s get— let’s get bananas.” Okay.

Teresa: Right. Um, so, in the bath, you would probably use bath salts. Uh, which you know, not bad.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Not bad.

Travis: Sure, people still do that now.

Teresa: People still do that. Um—

Travis: Which is always confusing now `cause that's also a name for, like, a drug that people do.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Then it makes it, so it sounds like they use bath salts. In my head, I always have to be like, "Hm, let's talk about the context, Travis."

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: "What do you think they mean?"

Teresa: But the likelihood that they were unadulteradid— unadulter... oh, no [laughs]

Travis: Unadulterated?

Teresa: Yeah. There it is.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Is— is low. So, they were— there was probably so—

Travis: [incredulously] Adulterated bath salts?

Teresa: Yeah, there's probably some other stuff in there.

Travis: Ew-ee! Bad stuff, I assume, right? Not like, "Oh, I found some gold flecks."

Teresa: Maybe. I mean... could be dirt.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Who knows?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: So then, uh, you— you're feeling great. You're in your tub of, kind of, musty water.

Travis: Oh, God. Yeah. Well, after a month, oh, the soup you're making there.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: We got a stew going!

Teresa: But you realize that your hair— it's time. It's time to take care of your hair.

Travis: Got to get the rats out of there.

Teresa: You rarely wash it, because the process is pretty involved, okay?

Travis: Plus, it's easier to style.

Teresa: And, um, kind of dangerous. I mean, you did—

Travis: To wash your hair?

Teresa: You didn't *know* it was dangerous, but it is dangerous.

Travis: Did they hold you upside down? Put your face in there? What do you mean?

Teresa: Um, so, one of the things that was common at the time was diluting some pure ammonia—

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: —in warm water and massaging it through your scalp and your hair. Like a homemade shampoo.

Travis: Oh, Boise. Hey. Hey, not great.

Teresa: Yeah, definitely create some irritation and burning. Yeah, uh, it's highly corrosive.

Travis: You would think— you would think— listen, I get now where you would think, like, "Ah, the burning means it's working." But you would think there were probably people like, "Yeah, but working how?" [laughs] Burning equal bad.

Teresa: Well, they didn't actually know that combining water and ammonia makes a highly corrosive substance.

Travis: Yes, but I'm saying when you put that on your head and you're like, "Wait... ow, ow, ow." You'd think that would be a sign of, "Hey, maybe there's got to be a better way."

Teresa: But it definitely got the grime off.

Travis: Oh, my God. Sure. But so does fire.

Teresa: Here's— here's a different one. A little— a little homemade shampoo, right? Um, that you would actually do out of the bath. Uh, you would do it over the basin. Which has actually become, kind of, a new thing for, like, curly hair.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: You do, um— you do a basin— a bowl wash. When you put the products on your hair, you use the bowl of water to help distribute the products instead of, you know, the rinsing going straight down the drain.

Travis: Got it. Got it.

Teresa: But after you're done scrubbing who wants to sit in a lukewarm bath just to do their hair?

Travis: I mean, Jean-Paul Marat, but other than that...

Teresa: Other than that. And, um, you don't really need to shave your armpits, that comes later, or your legs.

Travis: I mean, you don't need to shave them now if you don't want to.

Teresa: Right. But if you were going to, you wouldn't do this in the bath.

Travis: Oh, I see.

Teresa: You would do it later through another means I'll explain.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, you would get out of the bath and leave your hair for standing up over your basin. Um, and your servant— 'cause you have one. 'Cause you're rich.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Uh, would bring—

Travis: Do we have a good relationship? Am I kind to them?

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Ah, excellent.

Teresa: Would bring an egg and some onion juice.

Travis: And is this to put on my face? No, put in my hair?

Teresa: Put in your hair.

Travis: Okay... or to make an omelet. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughing] An onion omelet.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: This—

Travis: You— you say that like that's how you chop up some onions, and you put it—

Teresa: *Only* onions in your omelet?

Travis: Not *only* onion, but, I mean, I'm not going to put chives in my hair. Come on.

Teresa: [laughs lightly] So, the egg would be cracked directly on your head.

Travis: Sure. Yeah, give you the chills.

Teresa: And then massage it—

Travis: Picture me, cool breeze, tight squeeze.

Teresa: — into your hair.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Until it creates a foamy lather, right?

Travis: Oh, you get some meringue going.

Teresa: Rinse it out. And then your hair is kind of, like, wrung dry in the towel. Um, you know this— this actually kind of works?

Travis: Okay, but let's— okay, okay. Okay, but—

Teresa: Depending on your hair type.

Travis: So far, we have put on ourselves—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... among other things, not even counting the ammonia: vinegar—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... egg,

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... and oil of onion.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: We smell!

Teresa: We totally do. We're going to talk about that later.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so, the protein in eggs is—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: ... said to be good for certain hair types, right?

Travis: Sure, sure, sure. But I doubt they were thoroughly washing it, right? Like, we're talking about, like, soaking in a lukewarm bath. The idea that you came out of there and you got every single molecule of egg out of your hair. Come on, what are the odds?

Teresa: Probably— probably not. Um, and so—

Travis: But don't worry, [through laughter] the ammonia will take care of that!

Teresa: That's when you would rely on your onion juice rinse.

Travis: Oh, my God. Oh my God!

Teresa: Um, and it is going to make it look very shiny.

Travis: Sure!

Teresa: Shiny hair.

Travis: Sure!

Teresa: Um, and then you would have to wait for your hair to dry. By the way, very well-to-do Victorian ladies hardly *ever* cut their hair, unless they had been ill. Right? You might cut your hair in order to, um, be able to take care of it better if you were laying in a hospital bed.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Or if you had certain types of fevers. They believed that the hair on your head held the fever in.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: So, you would cut it off then.

Travis: Or if you had to provide for your dear Cossette.

Teresa: Perhaps. Um, and so—

Travis: I thought you'd be way more into that.

Teresa: Meh.

Travis: I thought— uh, okay. Les Mis jokes not hitting today.

Teresa: Not today.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Here is some instructions— as how to dry your hair as a Victorian lady.

Travis: You get an elephant to blow it out... or a woolly mammoth if it's earlier enough.

Teresa: "The drying po— process is a tedious one." I'm sorry, this is written by, um, Grace Peckham Murray who has an MD after her name.

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: But... you never know.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: [holding back a laugh] 'Cause a lot of people decided that they were doctors.

Travis: Oh, this is from then.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: "The drying process is a tedious one. It will not do to leave the hair to dry of itself, for it is at this point one is likely to catch cold."

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: "Care should be taken—

Travis: That's not how that works.

Teresa: That's not how that works.

...when indulging in washing the hair, to choose a suitable day. If the day is wet, foggy, or stormy, it takes the hair nearly double the time to dry."

Travis: Well, it's like you wouldn't wash your car on a day it's going to rain. Come on.

Teresa: "When the hair has been thoroughly rinsed, wring it as dry as possible. After that, shake it out and fan it vigorously with the old-fashioned palms-leaf fan."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: "Fanning is most effective. This may be alternated with the use of the towel. If the towels are heated, the process of drying will be shortened. Some establishments have machines for drying the hair which revolve a fan by electricity."

Travis: Ah!

Teresa: "And the air is heated by means of gas."

Travis: But electricity is the devil's fire!

Teresa: No, they—

Travis: No?

Teresa: They didn't mind electricity.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: But, I mean, just the gas.

Travis: I'm a very old-fashioned young Victorian lady.

Teresa: Oh, I see. I see.

Travis: I fear electricity and I don't understand. I see the lightning come from the sky and strike the trees and you're supposed to tell me I'm putting that in my home and it's safe? Come on, Mr. Edison.

Teresa: Well heating things by gas is not super safe.

Travis: Well, I trust that though.

Teresa: Depending upon the, like, circulation and how well—

Travis: 'Cause God put the gas into the ground, where it belongs. Not the devil's fire.

Teresa: Uh, "To avoid the danger of taking cold, no wet towels should be permitted to remain about the neck."

Travis: Yeah, okay.

Teresa: "The back of the neck where the hair begins to grow, should have frequent and vigorous rubbings."

Travis: Oi.

Teresa: "And the hair should be dried by being wrung out together with the towel, which helps greatly to absorb the moisture."

Travis: Okay, sure. This all sounds like, so far, we've spent 18 hours doing this.

Teresa: Uh, yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: "If one is sensitive and likely to take cold after a shampoo, alcohol may be rubbed in at the base of the neck."

Travis: Oh, I hoped you were gonna say, "drunk." Okay, go on.

Teresa: [laughs lightly] "It is not a good plan to rub it into the scalp as it takes away from the results of the fine shampoo, for alcohol when dried gives a stale smell to the hair."

Travis: Oh yeah, God forbid.

Teresa: "Combing and shaking the hair will help drying."

Travis: God forbid we end up smelling bad.

Teresa: So, by the time you finish reading about how to dry your hair, your hair is halfway dry. Um, and you are also asked to comb through very gingerly, so as not to pull out your crowning glory, of course.

Travis: Sure. Teresa?

Teresa: Yes?

Travis: I'm really excited to learn even more about this and by- by which I mean horrified.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: And also, I want to write a thank-you note to some sponsors.

Teresa: Awesome! Let's do it!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Listen, I'm gonna get right to it. I want to thank Warby Parker. I am wearing Warby Parker glasses as we speak!

Teresa: They are dirty. You need to clean them.

Travis: That's not Warby Parker's fault.

Teresa: But they look great.

Travis: That's my children's fault.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Because they like to touch my glasses like it's a magic spell.

Teresa: Okay, put their grubby hands—

Travis: "Look, Daddy! Look! I can't touch your eyeball!" And sometimes I fear for parents that don't have glasses to protect them, because, in my experience if you didn't have glasses on, kids are just constantly trying to touch your eyeball.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But Warby Parker creates resilient glasses that protect my eyeballs from my horrible children. Thank you, Warby Parker! And here is the best part, here's what I love— can I tell you what I love? There are two things I love. One, I got a big head, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: A *big* face and I'm not always sure that the glasses are gonna fit me. And even then, sometimes they do fit me, but I put them on, and I look at them in the mirror and I show them to you and you're like, "That's too small for your face."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And so, Warby Parker's at-home try-on program lets you: get the glasses, try on the frames, see if you like them, and *not* pay for what you don't like. Right?

Teresa: Love it.

Travis: I love that, right? So, it saves you having to go to a store. It saves you from paying for glasses you're not going to wear. Plus, the price point

on these is out of this world. Glasses start at just \$95, which includes the prescription lenses. It's incredible, right?

And they have their very own daily contact lens now. Scout by Warby Parker. Scout is a comfortable and affordable daily contact lens. A 90-day pack is only \$55.

Teresa: That's—

Travis: That's good.

Teresa: That's good.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Great! Yeah, that sounds great.

Travis: And so, there's a quiz to take, which I have taken. You get a home try-on kit, which I have done. And it's amazing, right? Because you never know. Yeah, I've seen some services where it's like— it's like a picture of your face and they, like, put the picture on. And it's, like, "Oh, that's great man, to see the look of it."

But it doesn't give you what they'll *feel* is, what their *wear* is. Uh, like, this at-home try-on program. I absolutely love it. I like glasses. I have a lot of different pairs. Uh, you know what? I've talked about it long enough. Trust me when I say, "You will love Warby Parker."

So, try Warby Parker's free home try-on program. You order five pairs of glasses to try at home, for free for five days. And there's no obligation to buy. Ships free. It includes a prepaid return shipping label. You can try five pairs of glasses at home for *free* at [Warbyparker.com/shmanners](https://www.warbyparker.com/shmanners). I also want to tell you, Teresa McElroy.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: About Curiosity Stream. Now you're—

Teresa: Oh, I'm so curious.

Travis: You're a huge nerd, right?

Teresa: Yes, indeed.

Travis: Okay. And you like, I believe they're called documentaries?

Teresa: I do!

Travis: Well, Curiosity Stream is the entertainment brand for captivating documentaries covering every topic of our world and *beyond!*

Teresa: So, space?

Travis: Yeah. I mean, I guess it doesn't go into alternate dim— I mean it might?

Teresa: [laughs lightly]

Travis: Right? There are thousands of award-winning documentaries and non-fiction tv shows for you to explore. It works on any device, so you can start streaming wherever you want, whenever you want.

Teresa: Oh, I hope they have one on castles.

Travis: I bet they do. Well, they have *Planet of Treasures* with Sir Christopher Clark, which explores places of special beauty created by humans. So, maybe castles in there.

Teresa: Mm!

Travis: Engineering the future. Oh, I like that. Follows the individuals building extraordinary machines that will change our lives. *The History of Home* with Nick Offerman.

Teresa: What?

Travis: Ahh!

Teresa: I love that guy!

Travis: *Fiddlin'* a foot-stomping celebration of true Americana and artistic expression. *Miracles of Nature* which explores weird and wonderful animal's abilities— that's incredible! All this is amazing.

Teresa: These are right up our alley.

Travis: I know, right? And they've also got one of the best deals out there right now. Curiosity Stream is offering a full year's subscription for just \$14 and 99 cents with code *Shmanners*. So go check it out. Curiosity Stream available wherever you stream stuff. Uh, with a subscription for a whole year for just \$14.99 with code *Shmanners*.

[music plays]

Jesse: Hi, I'm Jesse Thorn, the founder of *Maximum Fun*. And I have a special announcement. I'm no longer embarrassed by *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. You know, for years each new episode of this supposed advice show was a fresh insult. A depraved jumble of erection jokes, ghost humor, and, frankly this is for the best, very *little* actionable advice.

But now as they enter their twilight years, I'm as surprised as anyone to admit that it's gotten, kind of, good. Justin, Travis, and Griffin's witticisms are more refined. Like a humor column in a fancy magazine and they hardly ever say Bazinga anymore.

So, after you've completely finished listening to every single one of all of our other shows, why not join the McElroy brothers every week for *My Brother, My Brother and Me*.

[music ends]

[beeping and new music begins]

Adam: Are you ready to binge-watch something *old*?

Ben: *The Greatest Generation* is a podcast about *Star Trek* by a couple of hosts a little bit embarrassed to even have a *Star Trek* podcast. Hosted by me, Ben Harrison.

Adam: And me, Adam Pranica. We get into the critical, the technical, the science fictional aspects of the show we love while roasting it and each other at the same time.

Ben: We've completed an entire series about *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and another one about *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. And we've just begun *Star Trek: Voyager*, so now is a great time to start watching a new *Star Trek* series with us.

Adam: So, subscribe to *The Greatest Generation* on Maximumfun.org or wherever you get your podcasts and become a friend of DeSoto today.

[music ends]

Travis: All right. Now I assume, at this point, I don't know, I'm going to put spiders in my hair or I'm—

Teresa: No. Just, you know, try not to singe it off with your incredibly hot, heated by your, uh, stove, curling iron. All right?

Travis: 'Kay?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Hard to regulate the temperature there.

Teresa: Thank you.

Travis: 'Cause I assume this is, like, a coal or wood stove. Not like I set it—

Teresa: Might even be gas.

Travis: Hoy.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: I mean, well, we have gas stoves now. I don't why I reacted like that, but there's no way it was like it is now. Okay.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Wife can't preheat it with convection built in.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, um, hair done.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Styled.

Travis: Ready to go.

Teresa: Very large.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: The idea was to make your hair, kind of, nest on top of your head.

Travis: You're going for a Marge Simpson kind of deal.

Teresa: Make it as wide as your waist.

Travis: [high-pitched voice] What?

Teresa: Yeah. I know, right?

Travis: Okay. So, I'm trying to build myself into, like, a huge hourglass.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Not just my figure, but my *whole* thing—

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: ... is ma-oving. Okay.

Teresa: Okay. Next, we are onto the issue of your body hair.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: You want to remove it at this time. And so, uh, your maid has put together a depilatory pomade.

Travis: Okay, that— that's a hair remover. I know what that means. Yes.

Teresa: Yep, yep. Made of quicklime—

Travis: [silly voice] Whee.

Teresa: ... carbonate of soda and lard.

Travis: [in agreement] Oi, boy, voy, boy.

Teresa: The lard, really not so bad. Um—

Travis: The lard, I guess, helps it stick?

Teresa: It won't take your hair off, but yeah.

Travis: Yeah. But that lime you mentioned.

Teresa: That quicklime.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Not good. Doctors used to pour, uh, quicklime on plague and cholera patients.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: To quote, "Prevent the disease from spreading."

Travis: I know of it because I see it in movies with gangsters where they, uh, will kill people and then pour lime on it to dissolve the bodies.

Teresa: Uh, these days it's used to make steel and iron.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Uh, because contact causes severe irritation and burning of the skin.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Teresa: Um, but it does burn those unsightly hairs right off.

Travis: Sure! Sure! And the top layer of skin. Okay.

Teresa: So now, we can put your face on.

Travis: [loudly] What?

Teresa: At your vanity table.

Travis: Oh, make-up, okay.

Teresa: [laughs softly] You first apply a violet-scented cold cream to soothe and smooth your hands and skin.

Travis: The first good smelling thing you've mentioned. Okay.

Teresa: Um, and the beauty standard of the time is very pale, almost translucent skin, okay?

Travis: [softly] What?

Teresa: Um, and so, you know, because ivory-skinned young ladies don't have to toil away in the sun.

Travis: Sure. Sure.

Teresa: Uh, but you'd still like to look a *little* bit more pale.

Travis: And also— and also racism.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Okay. Okay, go on.

Teresa: Exactly. Uh, doing that the— you would put a honey and lavender concoction on with the cold cream.

Travis: I'm excited that we're getting to smelly stuff. The stinky aspect of it isn't great to me, um, because I think we're going to attract a lot of bees, and flies, and ants.

Teresa: Well, but on top of that you would put a— a thin layer of white lead paint to try and make yourself pale.

Travis: Mm-hmm, cool. Delicious, okay.

Teresa: Um, and you could even put this on your arms, and your hands, and your décolletage.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and this was called face *enameling*.

Travis: Oh, a powerful term.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Even then there must have been some especially intelligent people who were like, "Oh, now that sounds bad, right?" You could say if like, "I'm going to enamel my face. We all know that that can't be good for you."

Teresa: Right. Um, so—

Travis: And then those people were probably arrested.

Teresa: What this would do is it would smooth out any, kind of like, texture on your face because it would, like— it's a very thick viscosity, right?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: So, it would clog your pores.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, and, you know, give you blemishes that you would later have to hide with m— with more stuff.

Travis: Wait, was this the time when they were doing, like, the little stickers and stuff, or is that earlier? You know, you put the little thing—

Teresa: Oh, no, no. That's way earlier.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: That's way earlier.

Travis: 'Cause that had to do with, like, the plague and stuff.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Where— yeah.

Teresa: No, it had to do with syphilis.

Travis: Syphilis, right.

Teresa: Okay. Um, and so then, once you have this beautiful pale white face you have to broach the topic of makeup, which we've talked a little bit about before.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, you want to adhere to the beauty standards, but you also really admire Queen Victoria who said makeup was impolite.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: So, you're, kind of like, trying to ride the line. Everybody wore makeup but we didn't want to look like we wore makeup.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: But we did want to wear makeup. So—

Travis: Not like the— I think it was, uh... Marie Antionette, kind of thing. Where it was just like, big circles of rouge and stuff, you know? Or maybe I just see that in movies.

Teresa: I think you just see that in movies.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I think that you're thinking about the fop.

Travis: I am?

Teresa: You are.

Travis: Yeah, okay.

Teresa: Okay. So, you could do a little bit of rouge, just a tiny, tiny bit on the apples of your cheeks. Um, and then you would probably— because you

know, it was improper to *buy* lipstick and such. You would, probably, take a tiny strip of colored paper from the stationery store and rub it on your lips as a replacement for lipstick.

Travis: Couldn't they just, like, eat some cherries or something?

Teresa: I mean, I guess so, but then you wouldn't—

Travis: Some *rhubarb* pie.

Teresa: You wouldn't get the— the chemicals and arsenic and such on your lips.

Travis: Oh, yeah! The, oh—and you really miss that.

Teresa: Yeah. You really miss that. Um, and then you would powder your nose, to make the oil that you painted on it, less shiny.

Travis: At this point, you've got an inch of stuff on your face.

Teresa: And— no, no. No, it's not quite that thick. It's not, like, so thick that you're going to crack.

Travis: You mentioned lard, babe! Babe!

Teresa: No. No, the lard was part of the depilatory cream.

Travis: Oh. Oh, there was *honey* though. You got honey on your face, right?

Teresa: A little bit. I mean, you know?

Travis: Oh, don't say a *little* bit of honey. If there was honey on our daughter's face, we wouldn't let her get down from the table before we wiped it up.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Don't be, like, it's just a thin— you have a thin lacquer of honey under the wet paint.

Teresa: [holding back laughter] You sponge it off with vinegar in the morning. You're good. [laughs] Ok, anyway, you, uh, notice that a few of your darker freckles are showing through.

Travis: [sarcastically] Oh, no.

Teresa: And so, you make a mental note to, uh, smother them in carbonic acid later.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And let them burn off in the sunshine.

Travis: Absolutely, yeah man. Oh, uh, yeah. Burn parts of my face off. Yeah!

Teresa: Um, if you notice at any point that— uh, while you're doing your makeup, that any smile lines, laugh lines, crow's feet—

Travis: Oh, no. Get those out of there.

Teresa: Any of that stuff shows up, later that night you'll want to put a very thin slice of beef to cover your face.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah. You put enough on there and make a mask out of it. Wear it around town the next day.

Teresa: Not that type of mask.

Travis: That'll get you a beau. [British lady's voice]" That will get you a beau. Oh, is that beef-face Susan?"

[British man's voice] "Oh, all the boys chase beef-face Susan."

Teresa: Almost done. Uh, you mentioned the cacophony of smells.

Travis: Oh, yes.

Teresa: That— that would result from all of this.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: This beauty routine.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And so, what you would do is, you would put on a dab— well, more than a dab—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: ... of your very expensive, uh, perfume called Fleur de Bulgarie. Which in 1885 a royal warrant was issued for, uh, under Queen Victoria. So, Creed, the manufacturer, um, was the official one, right?

Travis: Oh. So, not a warrant like we're going to arrest this perfume? Okay.

Teresa: No, no, no. The Queen says, "These are the things I use. These are the best. They get the royal warrant."

Travis: I thought you meant, like, [serious voice] "Arrest that perfume."

Teresa: [laughs lightly] No.

Travis: "Put it in smell jail."

Teresa: It was public acknowledgement of her patron— patronage.

Travis: Oh, okay. So, she was endorsing it.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah. Um, and so, sure it had some beautiful floral notes, but the thing that *really* made it... uh, the chef's kiss—

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: ... was the ambergris that was in it.

Travis: Oh, yeah! Whale vomit slash poop.

Teresa: Uh, yeah. It's a fluid, okay, that can harden into a waxy substance, uh, that is retrieved from the intestines. So, sometimes it makes its way out either end.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: But it was actually— I mean, it was *very* sought after.

Travis: Oh, yeah. It's worth more than gold. I think— is it— is it still used as a base for perfumes? Do you know?

Teresa: I don't think so.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Um, but it was used as a base for perfumes and if you were, um, you know, royalty you would often use it to cook with. Like, put it in your omelets or whatever.

Travis: Mm. Yummy, yum.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Used it in a *Bob's Burger* episode and the name of Justin's character in *Adventure Zone Ethersea*, Amber Gris.

Teresa: All right. You're about to get dressed.

Travis: Of course.

Teresa: Um, your maid then places some dress shields, some thin cotton paddings—

Travis: Mmm.

Teresa: ... at your armpit and, uh, perhaps, just inside your— um, your chemise to soak up any...

Travis: Sweat.

Teresa: Sweat and stuff because deodorant and antiperspirant, not a thing.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And, uh, you probably don't want the dress— I mean, you wouldn't want the dress to touch your skin. You would wear your chemise underneath. Your, kind of, long-sleeved nightgown thing.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: You would wear that underneath because the dress is probably so delicate with embellishments, it's never been washed.

Travis: I thought you were going to say, "Wildly itchy." But, or probably that too.

Teresa: Maybe, probably, that too. But it's— it's never been washed, of course.

Travis: And at this point, there was definitely some boning in it, right?

Teresa: Oh, of course. Well, I mean, we don't have time in this particular episode, but there was a lot of support garments that were on the outside of the outfit instead of on the inside where we wear them today.

Travis: Okay. So, now I'm beautiful.

Teresa: You're beautiful! You will feel like the belle of the ball at the cotillion you're attending this evening. And, you know, you and your onion smelling hair are gonna really go fetch yourself a man.

Travis: So, I got ready as quick as I could. I arrived at midnight.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: And I'm ready to pass out from all the smells. And my face is falling off. Ready to marry!

Teresa: Not all at once.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Later.

Travis: Well, thank you so much. Uh, and also, gross. Um, thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make the show. And thank you to you for listening. We could make the show without you, but why?

And we want to thank Maximumfun.org, our podcast home. If you want to check out all the other amazing shows there, just head to Maximumfun.org. We really appreciate them and you. And if you want to check out all the other McElroy projects go to McElroy.family. We got lots of cool stuff over at McElroy merch. Um, you— let's see, McElroymerch.com is where you can check that out.

Um... let's see, uh, I stream over in Twitch if that's something you're interested in. I've been playing *Stardew Valley*, which is a *really* chill game.

Teresa: I've been enjoying watching it of an evening.

Travis: Yes. I got her! She's in! Bebe and Dot like it too. It's nice. It's a great game. They like all the animals. Um, you can watch that at twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy. We rescheduled our CUSS Care show for, uh, April first, 9:00 pm Eastern time.

Teresa: Or *did* you? [bursts out laughing loudly]

Travis: See, I knew that was going to happen. We *really* did! Please, come. Um, we're gonna have a bunch of special guests.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: We've got, uh, Rob Corddry. We've got Adam Brody. We've got Krystina Arielle. We've got Montaigne. Uh, originally, Mica Burton and Maggie Leroux were going to be there, but they're not able to make it so we're going to find another guest or two. But, if you get a ticket, they're just \$8, you're going to be helping to support two great efforts.

One is called Bethany House, which is, uh, they focus on families that are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Um, and we're going to stock up two free fridges here in Cincinnati and right across the river in Kentucky with Covid tests and masks. Um, and you're going to be able to watch that virtually live on April 1st at 9:00 pm Eastern time. And we'll be doing video on demand for two weeks after that.

So, get your tickets at Cincyticket.com/cusscares and tell everyone about it. If you already have tickets, go tell them. 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 our Twitter handle so if you have questions for us regarding our topics then, uh, send them along there.

Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pin Up Photography for the picture of our fan-run Facebook group *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to get and give excellent advice from other fans go ahead and give that group a join. Also thank you to Alex, *again*. If you would like to submit topics, she reads every single email at shmannerscast@gmail.com.

Travis: And that's going to do it for us so try us again next week.

Teresa: No, RSVP required.

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

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[theme music plays]

Maximumfun.org

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Audience Supported.

