

Shmanners 318: Swimming Holes

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Travis: [singing] This summer I did the backstroke, and you know that that's not all! I did the breaststroke and the—[speaking] what is it?

Teresa: It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dear.

Teresa: Hello!

Travis: Now, it's been a while since we did, like, a cold open pre-roll joke.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Except just— one, I love that song.

Teresa: It's a good song.

Travis: It's a great song.

Teresa: The kids love that song, too.

Travis: That's the thing! Bebe and Dot—

Teresa: Swimming song!

Travis: Bebe from a young— like, from three years old was like, "[baby voice] Do the one— do the one about backstroke?"

I'm like, "You got it, bud."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And it's just such a great song, because it doesn't build to anything. It feels like... a summer day swimming song. It's called "The Swimming Song" by Rufus Wainwright III. Uh, is that right? No— yes. Loud— now. Loudon Wainwright? Hold on. I gotta look!

Teresa: I don't think it's Rufus Wainwright.

Travis: No, it's definitely not— it's the dad. It's the dad... of Rufus Wainwright. Um, yeah. Loudon Wainwright III. Excuse me. Um, but just both of our kids now love listening to it, and they'll request it. And I've sung it, like, for— as, uh, as lullabies for both of them, and they both really enjoy it.

Um, but swimmin' in a swimmin' hole, which is what we're talking about, it's what I always think of. Uh, 'cause there's the line in there about a swim—

Teresa: In a public pool and a reservoir to boot.

Travis: Yes. "[singing] At the latter I was informal, at the former I wore my suit. I wore my swimming suit."

Um, so— and I'm sure we'll talk about this a lot— but the first question, and I think a lot of people had this when I said on the social medes, the soc' medes, that we were talking about swimmin' holes, "What constitutes a swimmin' hole?"

And I think I know what my answer is.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Can I give it?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: I think a swimmin' hole— I think of it as not, like, a large body of water. Like, a lake isn't a swimmin' hole.

Teresa: Correct. A lake is not a swimming hole.

Travis: I think it has to be— well, first of all I think it has to be naturally formed.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Um, and I think that it has to be fairly small. And I think it has to be remote.

Teresa: Umm... I understand why you would say that, but that is not quite it.

Travis: Okay, what is it?

Teresa: So, there's a—[audibly smiling] there's an adorable little controversy around this.

Travis: Oh boy.

Teresa: Um, the first one being— so, according to Wikipedia, it's a place in a river, stream, creek, spring, or similar natural body of water, which is large enough and deep enough for people to swim in. That's kind of broad, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So there's actually a person, Dave Hajdasz, who has written several books on the subject.

Travis: Wait, on swimmin' holes?

Teresa: Yes. So, a freshwater source capable of replacing a neighborhood or backyard pool.

Travis: Oh, see, I agree with that.

Teresa: Because... historically speaking, there were often, like, dammed up creeks and streams that became swimming holes, right? So it doesn't have to be naturally occurring. It can be, hmm, sort of adjusted.

Travis: Okay, naturally occurring isn't the word. But—

Teresa: A freshwater source.

Travis: But, see, here's the thing. Like, I wouldn't call a pool a swimmin' hole.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right? Because, like, it's the concrete form. But I think you could dig out, like, for example, a quarry, right? And then the quarry floods, and the quarry becomes a swimmin' hole.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right. But that's not naturally formed, right? People dug that out. But I don't think it can be, like, a poured concrete basin, right? I think it has to have a... natural feel to it?

Teresa: Sure, yeah. So it is— you're right. It is a hole. It is filled with water.

Travis: Well, sure, babe. That's right there. And you swim in it. We know, yeah!

Teresa: But here's— here's what Dave says, okay?

Travis: What's Dave say?

Teresa: So, like you said, a lake is a lake... because regardless of anyone swimming in it, it still exists as a lake, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: But Dave says that a swimming hole doesn't exist on its own. And doesn't fulfill swimming hole-ness until someone actually gets in there and swims.

Travis: Dave? It's deep. It's deep like a swimmin' hole. And true. I agree.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, so, you know, to— to summarize, a relatively large, but not so large as to be a lake, and you need— to be a swimming hole it needs to be hot enough to get in to swim, and a person needs to have swum in it.

Travis: Now, swu— swim? Swam. Swimmin'.

Teresa: One of those. [laughs]

Travis: Now, here's the thing, too. 'Cause, like, do you think that there is a colloquial aspect to it?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Where it's like a lover's lane or a make out spot, right? Where it's like, in order for it to be a swimmin' hole, as Dave has said, people have to swim in it, right? Like, I think it has to be known for that, be it in a community or in a family or in whatever, right? It's not just a hole you find and swim in once, right?

Teresa: Let me tell you how I, in my own brain, describe a swimming hole.

Travis: Please.

Teresa: A swing, like a rope swing, or a tire swing—

Travis: Mmm!

Teresa: —or something, right? You know that it's there for swimming when you find that thing that people have put up for it, right?

Travis: Now, I— I— but I think we're getting into a squares and rectangles conversation here. Where I think all swimmin' holes should have tire swings, but— no. All places with tire swings are swimmin' holes, but not all swimmin' holes have tire swings?

Teresa: Okay, fine.

Travis: Okay. I understand what you're saying.

Teresa: Sure. Yeah, but you know that that's what it's there for.

Travis: Also, it helps— is Tom Sawyer there?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: If Tom Sawyer's there... then it's a pretty good bet!

Teresa: What about your personal experience? Have you— have you done swimmin' holes?

Travis: Now— so, the aspect of it in the first definition, the Wikipedia one of it being, like, an offshoot of a thing, I have done stuff like that, right? We are— it's either, like, being in places in, like, the Smoky Mountains or on, like, New River Gorge or something like where it's just, like, here's a little— or like here in Little Miami, right? Where it's just like, well, here the water is especially deeper, or there's, like, a kind of inlet or whatever where you can, like, go swim around there and there's, like, a swing off a branch into the water.

Teresa: Right, yep.

Travis: But as far as, like, found— you know, "Well, out behind the house, you know, if you go about a half a mile that way there's a swimmin' hole in the woods."

No, not really. Because growing up in West Virginia, not a lot of, like, swimmin' holes in the mountains and hills and stuff. It's not that kind of vibe. Also, I grew up in not the backwoods of West Virginia. I grew up in a city. [laughs] And so that didn't happen as much. Now, that said, there was Four Pole Creek, right? That ran through the Ritter Park, right? And we would go there, and I— no lie, catch tadpoles and stuff and build little dams, and there were, like, fallen logs across it that were bridges and stuff.

Teresa: But not quite deep enough for, like, swimming.

Travis: No. Not unless it— not unless there was, like, a flood, and at that point you don't want to go in it 'cause it was moving very quickly. It was not—

Teresa: Your dad likes to tell stories about swimming in the Ohio River.

Travis: Yeah. So, back when my dad was in college in, like, 70's, he and his friends decided one day to swim from Huntington to Ironton, like right across the river. But it's— I mean, it's a fairly wide point of the Ohio River at that point.

And they got chemical burns from— because at that point, the water was very, very polluted.

Teresa: It's a barge river, basically. I mean, it's—

Travis: Yeah, especially at that point. And especially, remember, during the 70's there was a lot of coal— I mean, more than there is even now. Like, coal mining and, like, you know, natural gas stuff and everything, and there was no EPA, so people were just dumping stuff into the water. And so Dad got chemical burns. And, like, they talk about they swam across the river, it took forever, like hours, like two hours or something to swim across. And they got over there and realized, like, "Well, we don't wanna swim back, and it's way too—" I don't think there was a bridge there at that point, so they had to call one of their girlfriends to, like, drive and come pick them all up with, like, chemical burns on their body, back home. They were dumb. Oh, Dad. Dad and his friends.

Teresa: So I have very specific memories of tubing down a creek, um, which is what you do when you're too lazy to canoe. Um—

Travis: Uh, I d— hey. I'm not gonna say lazy, because I think they're different experiences. Just tubing is a much more— like, we're all just gonna engage in the day and rest and relax. And canoeing and kayaking is a lot more of effort and work. And it's just like, I want some exercise.

Teresa: It's when you're— you're not really goin' anyplace, you go tubing.

Travis: Sure. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: So there was a spot, um, where we would tube that you could— like, there was the tire swing, right? So you would pull your tube up on the bank and you could actually, like— it was deep enough where it wasn't just, like—[laughs] 'cause a lot of this creek, uh, basically... I mean, the reason that you would tube is because if you put your butt, like, all the way through the tube you would be sitting on the bottom.

Travis: [simultaneously] You'd scrape the bottom, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: So it was a place where that— I mean, obviously you could, like, stand up and be covered in the water, but it wasn't so deep that you could, like, actually

swing and jump? So there were a lot of people who got, like— like, tiny little cuts all over just because they ended up just on the wrong side of the gravel.

Travis: Well, I also think— so, now I think what we're hitting on is I think a tire swing is great to denote the area of a creek or little river or whatever where this is where the swimming occurs. Versus a standalone body of water, right? That it's just like, well, you can jump in and swim here, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Ah, this is— we're ten minutes in and I don't think we've talked about etiquette at all!

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Travis: We've just rambled.

Teresa: Uh, there's a little bit of history to go with swimming holes. So, um—

Travis: So water formed on the Earth...

Teresa: Yes. No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay. Um, so Europe and the UK, they actually have a rich history of wild swimming, it's called there. Um, because, you know, it's... I don't know. It's the UK. They always have different words from us.

Travis: Ah, [unintelligible]. So much better. The way they say basil? Ugh.

Teresa: Um, and it really came about in the beginning of the 19th century. This, like, outdoor swimming renaissance, as it was, started because this is where the contemporary artists of the time were rediscovering the thrill and appeal of the outdoors. I mean, you know, think like the English Romantic movement.

Travis: [high pitched] So like Thoreau and stuff? Is that it? Yeah?

Teresa: Yeah! Wordsworth and Thoreau and all those people.

Travis: You know. Those weird guys with beards in the woods.

Teresa: [laughs] That's right.

Travis: Those weirdo beardos, you know.

Teresa: The movement was all about capturing, like, the divinity of nature in paintings and music and sketches and...

Travis: Gross.

Teresa: ... prose and stuff like that.

Travis: Ugh! Give me concrete and air conditioning any day!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: They didn't have air conditioning though, right?

Teresa: No, they didn't.

Travis: So that was— they probably were like, "It's hot in here, it's hot out there. Might as well be where the trees are." And then fast forward, like, you bring Thoreau to now and you're like, "Well, this is called central air." And he's like, "Whoa. I'm gonna write books about *this*."

Teresa: [laughs] Um, so there were—

Travis: "And you call this an X-Box, Travis? Show me more!"

Teresa: Alright, okay, thank you.

Travis: "A movie with Minions in it, you say!" Okay.

Teresa: This is where you start to see, like, the waterfall surrounded by trees and mountains emptying in a beautiful, tranquil pool, right?

Travis: Yeah, whatever. Ugh!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Gross!

Teresa: You don't like it, huh?

Travis: No, I do. I do. It's just fine.

Teresa: Um, so this is when people spent time in, like, the lake district of Northern England. Um, Walden Pond, right?

Travis: Yes, yes, yes.

Teresa: Um, and so—

Travis: Walden Books.

Teresa: [laughs quietly] So the— in fact, the study and search for the, quote, "picturesque and sublime" natural pools reached... I mean, it was just... exponential is what I want to say, during the 19th century. Um, and so people instead of taking trips to, like, Provence or Tuscany, uh—

Travis: Sure. I like the way you said that first one, by the way.

Teresa: Provence?

Travis: Provence.

Teresa: [laughs] People wanted to take trips to the valleys of Wales or—

Travis: It was cheaper. [laughs]

Teresa: Or Yorkshire.

Travis: A lot easier to get there, I bet! If you were already there, I guess. But this is— okay. Can I just say, this is where— listen. I'm from West Virginia. I love the outdoors... hypothetically.

Teresa: From a distance. [wheezes and laughs]

Travis: Yeah, I like pictures of the out— ohh, yeah. I like it from a train. Ohh, yeah. But the thing is is, like, this is just where you get into aesthetic differences where, like, listen. Yeah, finding a beautiful waterfall is cool! But waterfalls, that's where they're supposed to be. Show me a cool waterfall indoors and I'm— I'm over my— when you find, like— "Oh, that looks like a real waterfall but it's inside?!" That— no, I'm just kidding. They're both great. I find them equally beauti—[wheezes loudly]—ful. [laughs] Oh no, I said it out loud and realized it was true! What's wrong with me?

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. So, um, in Europe, which is, you know, where the kind of, like, Romanticism movement started...

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: ... uh, there've been public bathhouses throughout most of Europe for, you know, all time. Um, which didn't actually exist in the United States, right? Because it was all kind of like wilderness things. And just before the turn of the 20th century, some municipal pools started to pop up, but mostly on the coast.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, and so... if you lived outside of a major urban area or in a landlocked state, you know, no rivers or whatever, what you had to do was explore to find a swimming hole, right? Or, like I said earlier, you could dam up someplace at that point and make one yourself.

Travis: I mean, the ideal is always, like— especially if you're somewhere more north, you find a spring, right? 'Cause that— that's another big thing when we talk about that Romanticism and everything. It's also about the time when we start getting really into, like, taking the waters of places. Um, and that idea of like, "Well, this is *natural* water so it will cure what ails you!" And if you can find a hot spring to bathe in, like, forget about it. That was, like, their height of luxury and healthiness was like, "Yeah, bathe in this old stinky water! It's hot and great."

Teresa: Take— taking the waters.

Travis: Ugh.

Teresa: Uh—

Travis: Mostly it was just full of sulfur?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And for them it was very much that, like, "Well, it tastes bad and it smells bad, so it has to be good for you."

Teresa: Must be good. So, um, one of the other things that Dave points out is very important—

Travis: [laughs quietly] Oh, Dave.

Teresa: —[laughs] for a swimming hole—

Travis: I just love that we just keep referring to him as Dave.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [stammering] Dave told me, uh, about swimmin' holes.

Teresa: Is the name, okay? Most of these places have names in the community, right? Um, so—

Travis: Sure. This is what I'm talking about of, like, the colloquial of, like, a lovers' lane or a make out spot only becomes that because everyone knows that that is what it is, you know what I mean?

Teresa: So I wanna talk about Deep Eddy specifically.

Travis: I love Deep Eddie and I would love to talk about him.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But first... but first, a thank you note for our sponsors.

[theme music plays]

Travis: I want to tell you about Bombas! What's Bombas? What is it? Who knows! Nobody. Okay, next sponsor—

Teresa: No, wait, we— we do!

Travis: Wait, we do?

Teresa: We do know!

Travis: Oh, awesome! Well, their mission is simple, right? They're gonna get in, they're gonna rescue you and get—

Teresa: No.

Travis: No, wait, sorry. No! They're gonna make the most comfortable clothes ever, and match every item sold with an equal item donated, so when you buy Bombas you are also giving to someone in need. There is a pair of Bombas socks for *everything* you do! Think about everything you do in your life. For every one of those, there's a pair of Bombas socks. You just have to go out there and find 'em, my friend.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: They come in tons of options, like comfy performance styles made with sweat-wicking yarn, which is fun to say, which means your feet stay cool while the rest of you works up a sweat. This is true. I got a— I bought this pair of, like, uh, socks from them. I bought a lot of pair of socks from them. But I bought this one pair that every time I slip into it makes me feel cool, and I don't know why. It's just the— it is a certain kind of, like, black with this, like, aquamarine stitching that I'm like, "Aw, yeah. It's time to do some stuff with these socks on."

Anyways. Uh, also their t-shirts are made with thoughtful design features, like invisible seams, soft fabrics, and the perfect weight so they hang just right. Absolutely true. And did you know that socks, underwear, and t-shirts are the three most requested clothing items at homeless shelters? That's why Bombas donates one for every item you buy. So go to bombas.com/shmanners and get 20% off with your first purchase. That's B-O-M-B-A-S.com/shmanners for 20% off. Bombas.com/shmanners.

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

Travis: The quiet whip.

Teresa: The quiet— no.

Travis: No?

Teresa: That's not it at all. Uh, but Quip is a great way to make healthy habits easy.

Travis: Especially for kids.

Teresa: For kids. [laughs]

Travis: But that's just a personal thing.

Teresa: I mean, here's the thing, right? Bebe just had a dental cleaning. And, um, let's just say that although no cavities...

Travis: No.

Teresa: ... her score— she loves the score that they give her, right?

Travis: Well, who doesn't?

Teresa: Her score—

Travis: She is— she is my child. She loves quantifiable data.

Teresa: [laughs] The score had been steadily declining, right? Enter Quip!

Travis: Yeah. Because now, you know what she needs? She needs floss.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And she needs mouthwash.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And she loves both of those things a lot.

Teresa: She loves the ritual.

Travis: I told her she only had to do it at night and she was like, "Can I do it when I brush my teeth in the morning, too?"

I'm like, "Yeah, absolutely."

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: "Yeah, you got it, kid."

Teresa: And Quip is a really big part of that. The toothbrush that we got for her has the built-in timer.

Travis: Which she loves.

Teresa: Uh, not only does it keep her brushing for long enough, it also tells her when to switch quadrants, as it were.

Travis: And I don't know how to tell you this. The other day, she did a big— she did a big confession to me. And she told me that sometimes she keeps brushing after it stops.

Teresa: Aww.

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: How sweet.

Travis: And I was like, "That's o— that's okay, buddy. That's fine. You don't have to, but you're not in trouble."

Teresa: And stylish and affordable electric brushes are starting at \$25, so you won't be... paying through the teeth?

Travis: Is that a thing?

Teresa: For better oral health? It absolutely is!

Travis: I thought it was through the nose.

Teresa: No, I thought it definitely was through your teeth.

Travis: We'll save it for our idioms episode.

Teresa: Alright.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, if you go to getquip.com/shmanners right now, you'll get your first refill free! So that's your first refill free at getquip.com/shmanners. G-E-T-Q-U-I-P.com/shmanners. Quip: it's the good habits company.

[music plays]

Janet: Hi. I'm Janet Varney. And just like you, I survived high school. And we're not alone! On my podcast, *The JV Club*, I invite some of my friends to share the highs and lows of their teen years. Like moments with Aisha Tyler.

Aisha: When you're a kid, the stakes are just pretty low. Go to school, try not to get in trouble, get laid.

Janet: Jameela Jamil.

Jameela: I watched television probably every waking hour during that time when I [censor bleep] faced on medicine.

Janet: And Dave Holmes.

Dave: We talked and talked, and then everybody left and it was just us two and I was like, "I love you."

Janet: Learn how you too can be a functioning adult after the drama and heartbreak of high school. Every week on *The JV Club* with Janet Varney. Find it on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts. This is a judgment free show.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

Biz: Hi, I'm Biz, host of *One Bad Mother*. Whether you're a parent, or just know kids exist in the world, join us each week as we honestly share what it's like to be a parent.

Speaker Two: I signed my stepson up for a camp that is actually in another state. I feel really stupid, and I don't think we're gonna get the money back!

Speaker Three: And then he found out that the car manual is a book about cars! So now he's reading our car manual.

Speaker Four: [stammering] [frustrated groan]

Biz: So join us each week as we judge less, laugh more, and remind you that you are doing a great job. Download *One Bad Mother* on Maximumfun.org, and yes, there will be swears.

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. So you were about to tell us about Deep Edward.

Teresa: No, Deep Eddy.

Travis: So, an eddy— err, is an eddy like a current? Yeah, right? An eddy's like a current.

Teresa: A little bit. Um, so—

Travis: I gotta look it up now and see if I'm right.

Teresa: This is a very popular swimming hole in Texas. It began as a swimming hole located along the Colorado River. Um, and by the 20's it had— the 1920's, excuse me. [laughs]

Travis: I was gonna say, babe! That's when we are now.

Teresa: The 1920's had become a resort, and by the 30's a bathhouse was added, and it's now on the National Register of Historic Places. And, you know, there's even a song about it, "Deep Eddy Blues" by Jimmie Dale Gilmore.

Travis: Okay. So an eddy is a circular movement of water counter to a main current, causing a small water— a whirlpool.

Teresa: Cool.

Travis: Sure. Now... [pause] what now?

Teresa: Oh, what now. Oh, okay.

Travis: Yeah, sorry. Tell me more?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I said "now" and then I realized, like, it was one of those...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I don't know if anyone else does this where it's just like, oh no, there's been a half a second of silence. I'm panicking. I need to make some kind of noise to come out of my mouth to fill the silence. And then you say something and it sounds like *you're* about to make a point, and you're like, oh no, I didn't have a point planned! Like you might say, "So... " [laughs] And you're like, "Oh, I got nothing— I didn't have anything after that."

Teresa: Mm-hmm. And I think that, you know, we would be remiss if we didn't talk about the importance that swimming holes have in indigenous communities as well.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um, there is a swimming hole at Havasu Falls, um, which is, you know, about a ten-mile hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and, you know, there you will be greeted by a 100-foot waterfall.

Travis: Okay, I'm impressed by that.

Teresa: And this is on the land belonging to the Havasupai people, um, and because— I mean, that name literally translates to "people of the blue-green

water." So they're named directly after this gorgeous water filling this natural pool. Great for swimming.

Travis: Okay. So would you say the Grand Canyon is the world's deepest swimmin' hole? Or is that the Marianas Trench? No, 'cause the Marianas Trench is in...

Teresa: [laughs] Is in the water.

Travis: In water. You know that there are things that happen where you can have underwater lakes, right?

Teresa: Yes, absolutely.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yes. That's—

Travis: Is that an underwater swimmin' hole?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Aww. But isn't it though?

Teresa: I don't— I don't think so.

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Teresa: So, today. Today, swimming holes are, you know, a little less picturesque than some of the ones that I mentioned earlier.

Travis: Well, a lot of land has been developed.

Teresa: That's true. But, you know, the thing about a swimming hole is it's usually like a community place, an event that would happen there. We would all kind of, like, just go. There'd be a large group of people partaking at once.

Travis: Whenever I think about them, I do think about them in terms of, like, an Andy Griffith kind of thing of, like, "Well, we're all going down to the swimmin'

hole," right? Like, that it's a... it's a hot day. And the kids would be like, "Yes, this is what we're doing today. We're all going down there."

Teresa: Right. And there's a kind of—

Travis: Or the fishin' hole, which is a different thing altogether.

Teresa: Different place. Uh, there's—

Travis: You don't wanna confuse the two, folks.

Teresa: [laughs] There's kind of a— a legacy almost, like a heritage spot that in, you know, like the one that I used to go to when we would go tubing. I went there because somebody's older brother took me there, and they had gone there and, you know, there was, like, this— this kind of community that happened there.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Teresa: Which was really great. Um, so, do you wanna go swimming right now?

Travis: Me?

Teresa: Uh, listeners?

Travis: Oh, okay. I thought you were asking me, and I was gonna say, "Not really."

Teresa: Here are some things that you should know. Um, googling is great, because a lot of these places—

Travis: But don't google around other people. It's embarrassing, and that's between you and your god.

Teresa: A lot of these places are listed on various blogs or whatever, but you should really just talk to the locals, talk to people in your community, and figure out if there is a place that you could go. Um, I mean, and they will be able to know, you know, the best time to swim, what the water temperature and the location, and any other precautions that you need to be aware of.

Travis: Now, listen. Here's what I'll chime in and say here, as someone from West Virginia.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Be careful how you ask, too. 'Cause if you're, like, visiting a small town or whatever in a more, like, rural Appalachian place or whatever, don't be like, "So where's the [holding back laughter] 'swimmin' hole'?"

Right? Because then it's gonna be like, "Get outta here." Right? But I would say instead, like, is there a place people go swimming, is there anywhere, like, where I could hike to? I think asking questions in that way. But don't make it seem like, "What a cute, touristy thing to do!" To, like, really go visit the ol' swimmin' hole or whatever. Because... I don't know. I'll probably send you to the desert.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, so another thing that, uh, swimming holes don't really have are lifeguards.

Travis: Yeah. I actually think that that is a qualification of them.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I think it'd be wild to be like, "Oh, we found a place in the woods. And Derek was there, and he kept everyone safe.'

Teresa: So maybe do exercise caution, and maybe not bring your smallest of children. Um, anyone who cannot swim proficiently really should not be in a swimming hole.

Travis: Yes, agree.

Teresa: Um, and so a lot of these places are kind of off the beaten path. Like you said, right? Like, through— you might have to hike to get there. Um, some might have parking lots or— or—

Travis: Now, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah, they might have fields that you can park in, or there might be, like, actual dirt track to drive. But a lot of these places are just kind of, like, you know, like I was saying, you had to tube down the creek to get there, where I

went. Um, and so stay on the trail and make sure someone knows where you're going, and when you'll be back, because that's just, like...

Travis: Good hiking etiquette in general.

Teresa: Good hiking etiquette.

Travis: Along those same lines, I would say, uh, any time we're talking about going into nature, any time you're outside, basically, or visiting anywhere, basically, uh, the, you know, "Leave only footprints, take only pictures" or whatever rules apply.

Teresa: Exactly. Don't move rocks or mess with the shoreline.

Travis: Don't do cairns. Don't do cairns, folks. Listen, I know it seems fun. And listen, have I done it in the past? Yes, absolutely. But don't do it, right? 'cause you're just moving stones around, and you can mess stuff up.

Teresa: And the fish might need those rocks to hide under and stuff.

Travis: There you go.

Teresa: Um, and also, there are usually, like, dusk and dawn are where things like deer go to, like, drink water and things like that. So think about the times that you're going as well, so you don't disturb the wildlife.

Travis: You're visiting the wildlife's house when you go out in nature. How would you want that deer to act if it came in your house? You ever thought about that? Uh, I also highly recommend, uh, not just leaving it like you found it, but leaving it better than you found it. Pick up trash while you're there. Throw some stuff that's already there away. Make it even better than it was before you found it.

Teresa: Um, a lot of these places have little signs, things like, you know, "no glass" or whatever, right? So don't, you know, be disorderly or drunk or anything that would bother others. Like, leave your boom box at home. This is— you know, enjoy the nature.

Travis: Speaking of, please be aware that in many state and national parks, alcohol is illegal. And if you bring it, you might get fined and/or arrested, or have

to dump it out. So be aware of this. Do not— uh, do not get, uhh... caught.
[laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: No, don't do— hey. Don't do anything illegal. Unless it's fun. No!

Teresa: No.

Travis: Don't— no!

Teresa: Also, don't dive in.

Travis: No!

Teresa: Like, literally just don't. It may look deep enough to dive, but you never know what's at the bottom, and you never know exactly how deep it is, and there might be, you know— you know, you could cannonball to the wrong place and get stuck on some, you know, like, concrete or old rebar, if it's a quarry or, you know, whatever.

Travis: Yes, this is now where Teresa and I, being moms and dads and parents and adults change, because 20-year-old me would've been like, "Well, is someone else doin' it? 'Cause if someone else does it first and they're fine, you're probably fine." And now 38-year-old me is like, "Man, there's sticks and rocks and stuff in there. Don't. No, don't do it!"

Also watch out for snakes. Just a good rule. Watch out for snakes.

Teresa: Uh, don't bring your dog. Um, because... if you are in the water, and the dog is not in the water, you're probably not gonna be able to get the dog to come back to you if they ran off after wildlife or whatever. Um, if you do bring your dog because somebody says— like a local or whatever says "It's alright to bring your pup!" Do bring your leash, okay?

Travis: Well, yeah.

Teresa: Um, you— you not only want to, you know, keep other people's safety in mind, keep your *dog's* safety in mind. You don't want your dog to wander off, or anything like that. Um, and I highly recommend doggie life jackets.

Travis: Yeah, that's great, too.

Teresa: Um, and like you said earlier, don't break the law. Don't, like, trespass or— or things like that.

Travis: Unless it's a silly law, and—

Teresa: No. Don't.

Travis: But, I mean, if it's a frivolo—

Teresa: No. A lot of those things, like sure, if everybody gets in there but you get caught one time, and then it's all— the fun's all over.

Travis: Hey, so— don't trespass. That is for real. Don't trespass, y'all. Don't do it.

Teresa: Because... not only could it be that this is— maybe this quarry has chemicals in it, right?

Travis: Also true, yeah.

Teresa: Uh, maybe it's empty for a reason? Maybe if there's—

Travis: Ohh, like a cryptid!

Teresa: [laughs] No.

Travis: There's a cryptid in there! Is that what you're saying? Some kind of giant snake?

Teresa: Like, it might be— it might have undercurrents.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Teresa: It might have, like I said, chemicals, or it might be, like, a local dump site. You don't wanna, like, be swimming around all that stuff.

Travis: [simultaneously] Haunted.

Teresa: Haunted? Can you—

Travis: It might be haunted.

Teresa: Can you haunt a body of water?

Travis: Yeah, babe! What do you think Davy Jones does? Huh? Come on! Or the Flying Dutchman! Flying Dutchman's a haunted ghost ship! What are you talking about?!

Teresa: Yeah, but that—

Travis: Hey, babe, babe? Read a book! Read a book, babe!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: There's ghost ships all over the place! You don't think there could be ghost ships in a swimmin' hole? Tiny ones? [laughs]

Teresa: [through laughter] Tiny ones!

Travis: Little ghost ships, little ghost dinghies.

Teresa: Um, hey, don't—

Travis: One man ghost canoes. [wheeze-laughs loudly] Oh no, I cracked myself up! Okay.

Teresa: Um, regardless of what I said earlier about people damming up rivers and streams and stuff, don't do that. Um, the ones—

Travis: Beavers'll take care of that for you.

Teresa: The ones that already exist we can't do anything about. But if you make new ones, you change the ecosystem and the wildlife around it. So just, you know, stick with what's established.

Travis: Now, I have a question here. We have a couple questions here.

Teresa: Wait, I have one more!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: No matter what Mr. Wainwright says... [quietly] don't get naked.

Travis: Oh, see, that was one of 'em! Izzy wanted to know about skinny dipping.

Teresa: No. Don't do it.

Travis: 'Cause you get leeches on your butt?

Teresa: Not only that.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, a lot of our historical friends swam nude, but a lot of those also historical friends didn't believe that women should have the right to vote, so that doesn't mean that they're right about everything.

Travis: Wow! What an interesting connection to make. Okay.

Teresa: There— they can't have been right about every single thing, so don't swim nude. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, Dea Sky wants to know:

"What are the tire rope swing protocols?"

One of them is make sure that the area underneath is clear before you jump. The Junker asks:

"How do you ask someone to move politely?"

You ask them to move politely. Say "Hey, can I swing? Is that okay? I don't wanna land on top of you." There you go.

Teresa: Or— or you just have to wait until they move out of the way if they can't hear you.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: It's— it's better to wait than to land on top of someone.

Travis: Well, sure. But I also think it's a pay it forward, pay it backward kind of thing of when you jump, when you land in the water, move out of the way and hope that everyone else does that too. Just know, like, you land, "Whoo, ah, it felt great." Swim out of the way.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Um, and once again though, don't assume, right? Like, that it's okay. Unless you know that this is, like, a perfectly deep body of water, even then, I wouldn't do it. But I'm a coward. And so that's a big part of it.

Um, let's see. Andrew wants to know:

"How many people is it okay to bring?"

Teresa: Oh. You mean, like... [sighs] gosh. Like, don't just, like, have a party there, I guess. But, like... I— I— I mean, this is something you have to answer with your heart, because, like, are you... a small get together, a small gathering of like-minded individuals [laughs quietly] I think is— is fine. But, like... I mean, I feel like there have been times where it's like the whole senior class of the high school goes or something. I think it's dependent on how big the water is that you're playing in, because it's kind of gross to be in there with everybody, right?

Travis: Well, I think this is the same kind of rules that I would apply to going with a bunch of friends to a bar or restaurant. Where if somebody said "How loud can you be there?" Right? The answer is, "Well, how many other people are there?"

'Cause if, like, you're at a bar and it's you, five friends, and the bartender, the place is yours! Have fun, right? You get to a bar and it's like you, the bartender, and, like, 30 other people, right? Now you need to be more respectful because you're sharing the space with everybody. So if this is the kind of there where

yeah, we're gonna go on, like, a Tuesday afternoon, you can probably take, you know, 10, 15 friends with you and it's fine, right? A, you know, Saturday afternoon? It's gonna be a lot more full. That kind of thing.

Teresa: I'm trying to think about the largest group of people I ever went with, and we only had six tubes, so just six people.

Travis: Can you bring tubes and floaties is the rest of Andrew's question.

Teresa: If it takes a tube to get there, absolutely. But I think that if it's a small space, again, you gotta just read the room and figure out if lots of people are swimming around, they don't wanna be bumped by your tubes.

Travis: Yeah. And I think if you bring one and you get there and the place is pretty crowded, don't— don't bust it out. If you get there and you're by yourself and you wanna sit on a thing and, you know, sip a beverage of what-have-you, then yeah.

Teresa: Gatorade.

Travis: Gatorade. Go for it. Alright, folks. That's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much. Listen. Not to be adult, parent-y, but be safe! That's the main thing. Be safe! Please be safe.

Teresa: 'Cause we like you and we want you around.

Travis: Yeah, just be safe. I know it's not as fun, but—[wheeze-laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. 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 this show. Thank you to you for listening. We could make this show without you, but why?

Teresa: Why? Why, why, why?

Travis: Um, let's see. We've got some shows coming up next week! Uh, Salt Lake City, Portland, and San Diego. Uh, a lot of those are sold out, so if you

haven't gotten your tickets yet, get those now. Um, go check out all the great merch at mcelroymerch.com.

Um, what else, Teresa?

Teresa: Well, 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. That's @shmannerscast. And we got a lot of really great questions from there, so keep an eye out, um, for when we ask for those questions. Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook Group, *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today. Um, also we are always taking idiom suggestions. We have to remember, write it down, through our nose, through your teeth?

Travis: I'm not gonna write anything down.

Teresa: Okay. [laughs]

Travis: But that's just 'cause I don't like to leave a paper trail. I try to live dangerously.

Teresa: Uh, but we take those at shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alex when you write in those topic or idiom suggestions, 'cause she reads every one.

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

Teresa: No RSVP required.

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

Teresa: Manners, shmanners! Get it!

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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