

## Shmanners 329: Victorian Seances

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[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. Nice to be back in the booth together. I mean, we're not 100% because I have post-nasal drip. You lucky, lucky listeners. You can hear it.

**Travis:** But it's *not* Covid.

**Teresa:** But it's not Covid.

**Travis:** We both tested for that, and we're clear for now. Not only that. I'll tell you what we don't have Covid, but what we do have... love. Today is our nine-year wedding anniversary, which—

**Teresa:** When we're recording it.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** Not when you're hearing it.

**Travis:** Correct. And we both completely forgot about that 'til this morning.

**Teresa:** [laughter]

**Travis:** I was filling out a form for Bebe, and then I got back home from dropping Bebe off at school. I look at Teresa like, "Hey, by the way, forgot 'til this morning, Happy Anniversary." And she went, "Ohh! We'll do something for the 10<sup>th</sup> one—"

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "`cause this is our ninth one, so—" Oh, being an adult is tough. [chuckles] I got it.

**Teresa:** It's a lot. It's just a lot.

**Travis:** There's so much. There's so much! There's just a lot going on, but right now, we're dialed in. We're focused. Hello. Hi, everybody. It's [ghostly inflection] spooky season.

**Teresa:** It is spooky season. And I told you what today's topic was, and you were like, "Surely, surely, we've done this before."

**Travis:** I am actually googling because I'm *very* certain we have, but that's okay.

**Teresa:** We are going— we are going to deep dive into Victorian spiritualism and seances.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. I can't believe we haven't done seances before. Whoa! Okay. Wow. It blows my mind, 'cause it's just such a thing that I'm fascinated by.

**Teresa:** Definitely, you are. I know that about you.

**Travis:** I *know* we've talked about Ouija boards. Yes.

**Teresa:** No, we haven't talked about Ouija boards.

**Travis:** What?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Are you sure?

**Teresa:** Positive.

**Travis:** Okay. So—

**Teresa:** Maybe it's because we did that Houdini episode. You did that Houdini episode.

**Travis:** Yes, we did do a Houdini episode. Well, Houdini and spiritualism are very hand in hand. I can think about—

**Teresa:** In the opposite type of way.

**Travis:** Well, sure. I can think about Houdini without thinking about spiritualism, but I simply cannot think of spiritualism without thinking about Houdini. Interesting, this is my favorite kind of like—

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** ... fun fact to think about. Houdini was a very, like, "I'm a practitioner of the mystical arts." A magician was, like, "Mm, spiritualism is bunk." And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was known for, like, writing this very logical, very, like, deductive reasoning guy, was like, "Spiritualism's totally real."

**Teresa:** [giggling]

**Travis:** And it's just that kind of switch so you think, but, um, Houdini—basically, what happened was Houdini did a lot of, like, spiritualism early days as part of his show. Right? And then he—

**Teresa:** Well, he used spiritualism to, kind of like, capitalize on his show.

**Travis:** No, he *did* seances. Like, he, as part of his thing, when he was making his early days, he did everything. He did, like, coin tricks, and he did

card tricks, and he did escapism, and he did— but he would host seances. And then his mom died, and Harry Houdini was very, very much, like, a mama's boy, as one might say. And so, he went to all these spiritualists and mediums and stuff to try to contact his mom. But one after another, he was like, "I know these tricks. I know exactly what you're doing. I know this and this and this."

And so, he realized that these mediums were just, um, conning people. So, then he, with a team of people, began, uh, debunking these spiritualists and seances, and stuff. And this is where I will also put a note on this, of I do not think that there is anything wrong with the play-acting and fun, or even if someone says that they really are psychic, and this is a real thing. Right up until it gets to the point of, one, emotional manipulation of someone. Or two, financial manipulation.

**Teresa:** Yeah. That's the thing for me.

**Travis:** That's when it becomes a huge, huge thing. Um, and just, like, preying on people's emotions to make a career for yourselves is not great.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then Houdini's whole deal was too, was he was like, "Listen, when I die, if you think anybody can reach through the veil, it's this guy." And so, he told his wife a secret code— Bess, and said, "If you hear from me, then you know." But she didn't tell that code to anybody else, and they would do seances for Houdini until her death. Never once did it come through.

**Teresa:** Was the code revealed... ever?

**Travis:** I think it was after she was— after she died. Now I want to look it up. Hold on!

**Teresa:** [laughs] So, anyway, it— I mean, we did cover spiritualism a little bit last Halloween. And that's basically a spiritual belief that the living can communicate through the dead, right? Probably through, like, a medium or, some sort of like, device, right?

**Travis:** The code was, “Rosabell—answer—tell—pray, answer—look—tell—answer, answer—tell.” Rosabell was inscribed on the inside of her wedding band.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** It was a song that she sang in the first act of the show they were doing when they met.

**Teresa:** Mm.

**Travis:** And so, that was the secret code.

**Teresa:** Okay. And this was the time of the traveling medium. The Victorian time. So, like, this is when they invented Ouija boards, and tarot readings started becoming more, kind of like, as entertainment. Right? The Fox sisters—

**Travis:** Oh, they’re the ones who could knock with their knucklebones, right? With their toes.

**Teresa:** Yeah, the toes. Yeah. Click their toes and things like that. And if it had to do with the occult, Victorians were totally into it.

**Travis:** Yeah. Well, we also talked about this with the photographs last week. Where it was just, like, this idea of like, “Sure, yeah. I’m open to it. Yeah man, love it.” But how would you get a ghost in that picture if it wasn’t real, right?

**Teresa:** Exactly. Right.

**Travis:** They were just for— I don’t know if it was because of what we consider repression, which we talked about a lot on this show, in regards to the Victorian era, that they were like, “So, we’re really open to the idea of the occult” or what. But it is always fascinating to me that what we see as fairly, you know, laced-up, straight-laced kind of time period—

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** ... that they were also like, "Oh, yeah, but we're also *super* into the idea of, like, demons, and ghosts, and spirits, and, you know, angels, and stuff."

**Teresa:** Right. Well so, probably one of the reasons why spiritualism was so appealing to the Victorians is because we've talked about this idea of the good death, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Like, lying on your— at your bed. Like, being surrounded by your loved ones, imparting some kind of wisdom, dying, like, peacefully. Things like that. Right? And, at this point in time, the Civil War was happening. Right?

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** Here in the US.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Here in the US, the Civil War was happening. And the, quote, "good death" became, like, impossible, right? Because these soldiers were very far from home, and they would either meet their end on the battlefield or later in hospitals. You couldn't be surrounded by your family.

Sometimes the families didn't even know for months. Right? That someone was gone. So, spiritualism and specifically the idea that you could *talk* to people on the other side started giving the families a sense of peace and closure that they couldn't get.

**Travis:** Ohh! Okay.

**Teresa:** Right?

**Travis:** Yeah, that tracks.

**Teresa:** And—

**Travis:** I also think that, you know, we're talking about a time, uh, this is around if not during or right after, the Industrial Revolution. Right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** So, a *lot* of science is also happening at this time.

**Teresa:** Which could seem, very easily, like magic. [laughs softly]

**Travis:** And it also is throughout time, right? Whenever there is a *big* push of science, there's some kind of contradiction. Like, there's some kind of opposing force to it.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** That is sometimes religion. That is sometimes magic. That is sometimes spiritualism, right? Of just like, "Listen, you can have your science, for me, I'll stick with good old-fashioned ghosts."

**Teresa:** Right. Um, and, you know, we talked about— I mentioned, like, talking to someone, quote, "on the other side." Right?

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** And nowadays, we have an endless supply of, you know, movies and TV. That the other side is, you know, like, think about *Stranger Things*. It's like a portal to hell or whatever.

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** And that's not what they were talking about, right? It's, like, I've heard it described as "The veil." Right?

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Teresa:** The veil between this world and the next world.

**Travis:** I just said it. I think I referred to it as the veil with— when I was talking about Houdini.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** If anyone can pierce the veil. Yes?

**Teresa:** Exactly. Right. And so, it was about healing by trying to talk to these ghosts.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** And, like, summoning the Devil wasn't something that people really wanted to toy with.

**Travis:** Well, I think that's also an important thing. When we talk about spiritualism, or we're talking about ghosts and spirits and stuff, it's not inherently, like, religious.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** This is more—

**Teresa:** Because you could also be very religious, and also be very into spooks, and ghosts, and stuff.

**Travis:** Right. And you could also be very religious and not believe in ghosts. You could believe in ghosts and not be religious. It was just that idea of, like— almost like, um, if you're old enough to remember these, overhead projectors. Right?



**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, there was a layer laid on top— this transparent layer laid on top of everything we do that's, like, and that's the ghost layer.

**Teresa:** Right. And here's something that's pretty interesting. Spiritualism was regarded as fiercely feminist, right?

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** And at times, abolitionist, as well. Harvard Divinity Scholar, Ann Braude, became a major vehicle for the spread of women's rights during this time. And, I mean, also Sojourner Truth lived in a Spiritualist community.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** So, it was a little bit of a— it was a socially acceptable way to push against the status quo.

**Travis:** Sure. Okay. Also, I think, um, and we've seen this throughout time in recorded history, of the idea of there being something after death being a way to try to guide people morally.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** To try to say, like, "Don't you want to do the right thing now? Because there's something that comes afterwards." Be that religion. Be that this where it's just like, "You're a ghost, and don't you want to go—" I mean, look at Scrooge, you know?

**Teresa:** Yeah. Totally.

**Travis:** In *A Christmas Carol*. That whole deal was like, "No, listen, you could be a jerk on Earth, but then what about after you die?" Spooky, spooky, spooky. It's a ghost story.

**Teresa:** [giggles] It's a ghost story.

**Travis:** Not enough people do Christmas ghost stories, by the way. Like, scary stories. More Christmas scary stories. More morality tales about scaring people nice.

**Teresa:** [laughs softly] This was a great— like I said, socially acceptable way for women to experience the world, and also to share new ideas if you're going to a séance, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** That was something that was usually hosted by women. A lot of women attended. You could very easily disguise a meeting of any other type—

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** ... by saying it was a séance.

**Travis:** And— yeah.

**Teresa:** Because this is so funny. I did not know this, but etymology— [enunciates carefully] etymologically— is that a word?

**Travis:** Eti-mommy.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Speaking, séance is French. It comes from the word session.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Teresa:** The Old French, *seoir*: to sit. In French, the word's meaning is quite general. So, you could, for example, speak of *une séance de cinéma*; meaning go to the movies.

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Teresa:** Sit at the movies.

**Travis:** It has just occurred to me, that we are assuming that the person listening to this knows what a séance is.

**Teresa:** Uh, let me tell you exactly what to do.

**Travis:** Please do.

**Teresa:** So, step one. Okay?

**Travis:** No, you know what? I do want to hear it, but right after a word from some other Max Fun shows.

[theme music plays]

[new music plays]

**Jesse:** Did your neighbor back into your car?

**John:** Bring that case to Judge Judy. [bangs down gavel]

**Jesse:** Think the mailman might be the real father?

**John:** Give that one to Judge Mathis. [bangs down gavel]

**Jesse:** But does your mom want you to flush her ashes down the toilet at Disneyworld when she passes away?

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[music and ad ends]

**Travis:** Okay. So, step one.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Find a ghost.

**Teresa:** Um, so—

**Travis:** Sit on top of it.

**Teresa:** [softly chuckles] No. You need to decide what kind of séance you're going to host. Okay? Is it, like, a professional thing? Or is it a DIY séance?

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Teresa:** It was absolutely common to conduct a very straightforward séance just with your friends.

**Travis:** Just your run-of-the-mill, very business-like séance.

**Teresa:** Yeah, actually. You would sit around with your friends and try to contact spirits. There were lots of different ways to do it.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** Different songs one could sing. Um, different, like, just kind of like general mood setting you were supposed to do. And, like, really, like, leave yourself open to the idea of like, "Hey, any ghosts in here presently?"

**Travis:** Hey, what's up? Hey, and ghosts around?

**Teresa:** Or you could hire a medium, right? A unique—

**Travis:** Or if you wanted to splurge, a large.

**Teresa:** [with inflection] He he he.

**Travis:** I know, I just— I wanted to make it. I wanted to say it.

**Teresa:** And— but who to hire, right? So, there were different mediums that had different specialties. You could go with a, quote, "public" or a, quote, "private" medium.

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** So, someone who was a public medium advertises their skills professionally, right? They may be— they made hold large seances themselves at their own homes, or auditoriums. or things like that. And, like, it's probably their main source of income, right? That's a public medium.

A private one, or a, quote, "domestic" medium, as they were commonly referred to, operated in very exclusive circles. You might hear of a friend of a friend who knows somebody.

**Travis:** That's the medium I want, by the way. If this is me and a Victorian bud gave me one of those *real* mediums. One of those— I don't want somebody who betrays their gifts with money. I want somebody who is like, "I can't. Not anymore."

**Teresa:** No, I mean—

**Travis:** "My connection to the veil is too strong! It's not safe!"

**Teresa:** People did get paid. I mean—

**Travis:** Well, yeah. I know. Absolutely.

**Teresa:** But probably not from the participants at the séance. Usually, whoever was *hosting* the séance—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... paid the medium privately.

**Travis:** You would hire them like what one might hire a magician or a clown.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** Or a face painter. And bonus points. If the séance, when it's done, it's like, "Whoa, also, I look like a tiger. Roar!"

**Teresa:** [giggles] So, you wanna— you wanna stick with a theme or, one would say, "a gimmick."

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Okay. There could be different things. People offered things like spirit scribing. Right? So, the spirit spoke to the medium, and then the medium wrote out what the spirit said, either by possession, right? Was possessed by the— their arm was possessed and stuff like that.

**Travis:** That's not as interesting. I like the voice stuff better.

**Teresa:** Table tipping. Right?

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** It was very ruckus, kind of a good time. You know? Someone would either rotate, or tilt, or move a table. Right? There were other various things that you could employ. People who were very— who were special at the actual, like, scene of possession, right?

**Travis:** Oh, sure. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Teresa:** Rolling their eyes around, and talking in different voices, and things like that.

**Travis:** And for real, like, I highly recommend doing some medium to light Googling of, like, finding diagrams of some of this stuff.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Because some of the mechanisms that were in place, that people would use, are very fascinating. Some of them are like, "I can't believe that worked." My favorite is, like, people would take cheesecloth and, like, wad it up really small, and, like put it in their cheeks or, like, in their nose even sometimes. And then it would be, like, ectoplasm that they are pulling out of their mouth. And then there is also stuff that— it was very interesting 'cause sometimes it would be like— one of the reasons for the hand holding—

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** ... um, wanted to, you know, create that, "We're all here. Nothing's happ— like, you know, nobody's moving. Who did that?" And so, like, a bell would ring. And it was because the person would, like, slip their foot out of a shoe and, like, ring the bell with their toes. But they'd be like, "Those are my hands. How could I have rung a bell?"

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. And a lot of these things took place in either semi or total darkness.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Just— you know? And that was to allow the spirits comfortability or something, right? But it was really to hide a lot of their tricks.

**Travis:** And I also, uh— I think it is important when one is thinking about seances, especially in the Victorian era, to— it's easy to be, like, "These buffoons. Why would you— Oh, come on. They're pulling cheesecloth out of their mouths and ringing bells with their toes." But I think a couple of things are important to note. One: it's easy to laugh at it now when it's something we've heard about for a long time that used to happen.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** When this is a *new* thing that's happening, right? It's, like, "How did they do that? I didn't know. I can't figure it out." It's the same way as, like, when it's funny now to think about, but I think it could be a good comparison to this, is growing up and being alive at the time when *Blair Witch— The Blair Witch Project* came out.

**Teresa:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Where there were people who *swore* up and down, "No, that's real. It's a real thing. That's *real* footage from a *real* thing that happened." And that's ridiculous to think of now.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** But at the time, it was just, like, "Yeah, no. 100% this is real found footage."

**Teresa:** Well, at a time where everybody has a phone in their pocket now—

**Travis:** Right.



**Teresa:** ... uh, phone? Ha ha ha, uh, a camera in their phone in their pocket. Is that what I meant to say? [chuckles softly]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I think it is.

**Travis:** And also, the other thing I would say about séances is, remember, these people went to be bought in.

**Teresa:** Right. And that's the final step, right? The final step is to, like, to call someone from the beyond, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** And, you know, like I said, this was a very easy cover for lots of other types of meetings that you could go to.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** It was also— you know, they didn't have TV. Right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** So, it was a way to entertain a group of people instead of just having another boring cocktail party. I mean, you probably wouldn't have cocktails if you were, like, a very staunch Victorian.

**Travis:** But it doesn't sound like you were if you're at a séance. Pretty fun.

**Teresa:** But you could. It was socially acceptable instead of having a ruckus party—

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** ... to have a séance, but still have the same amount of, like— like, rabble-rousing kind of fun. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah. Rabble, rabble, rabble...

**Teresa:** [laughs softly] Yeah. So, like you said, you would hold hands or, um, you could— we could sing songs or do, like, the counting kind of games, or whatever. Something to, like, sync everybody up, and, like, in tune their ear, or whatever it is that the medium was helping you do. And it was quite famous at the time.

**Travis:** Séances?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Teresa:** Queen Victoria, I mean, she definitely held some séances. But also, here on our side of the pond, uh, Mary Todd Lincoln—

**Travis:** Oh. I've heard of her. Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... held several séances in an effort to—

**Travis:** She was married to that tall guy.

**Teresa:** That tall guy. In an effort to contact a son of hers that died very young.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** And, of course, that was in the papers. And once the President's wife is doing it, everybody wants to do it. We've seen that over and over again. So, it was just— it was super popular. It's like TikTok.

**Travis:** I don't think it's like TikTok.

**Teresa:** It's like TikTok.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Everybody has one. Everybody wants to do one.

**Travis:** I don't think that's how— okay. If you phrase it like that, but I don't think if you were talking to someone and said, "You know, TikTok's. Like the modern-day séance."

**Teresa:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** They would stop whatever they were doing and be, like, "No, no, no. You can't just say that. Explain yourself."

**Teresa:** It's super fun and dancy, just like TikTok.

**Travis:** No!

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Oh, Mylanta. I think it's also important to note, like, once again, to jump back. It is, to put it a different way, like, modern-day TikTok is perfect.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Um, but I also think it's, like, the difference between hosting a Murder Mystery Party and hosting a Murder Mystery Party where you, like, really interrogate people and terrorize people and make them feel really guilty. Right? That's the difference of like, "Do a séance. Have fun."

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Perfectly cool, but as soon as you're like, "Hey, this is really your dead grandma that's really talking to you, and she wants you to feel really bad." Or, "She wants you to feel better." If you give me more money, I can contact her again.

**Teresa:** So, there's a line, right? There's a line between this good clean kind of fun, right? That we're all bought into, and we all want to go to and have a good time. And then there are those— there's the line that you step across.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** And you go into the territory of, um, you know, extorting money from people, making people feel terrible, like—

**Travis:** Selling your skills and your skillset to people who are desperate, and sad, and hurting, and doing that as a thing will always be atrocious to me. It's one thing to offer therapy to somebody.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And to, like, be there for somebody and council them. It's another to be like, "I'm lying to you—

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** "... and you're gonna pay me to feel—" It's just so skeezy.

**Teresa:** Especially when you think about the beginning of the idea of a séance, coming from families who were hurting. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Looking for that, like I said, that good death that was impossible for soldiers. It just really— I think that it puts it into sharp relief just we have to— we have to try and ride that line. That beautiful tightrope in the sky, and not fall off it.

**Travis:** Yeah. And I also think, I also have a fairly large chip on my shoulder. Which, is that another, chip on my shoulder? Can we figure out what that's from? It is! Come knock this chip off my shoulder! We talked about that.

**Teresa:** Yes. Yes. We've talked about that.

**Travis:** About from I love the show *Mentalist*. Anyone knows that about me.

**Teresa:** Yeah, totally. We all know that.

**Travis:** Everybody knows that.

**Teresa:** And you also love the show *Psych*.

**Travis:** This is true. Slightly different. But *The Mentalist*—

**Teresa:** Mm, two sides of the same coin.

**Travis:** Yes, absolutely. But, I mean, in *The Mentalist*, his original profession was he talks— there's a long history and plenty of horrible examples of, uh, people who said they were psychics and then, like, talked to families with, like, missing people, especially missing children, and, like, just made-up stuff about it to, like, claim rewards or to— for fame. Yeah, don't.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Not good. Not what we're talking about. Don't do that!

**Travis:** No. Have a fun party.

**Teresa:** Our listeners would love to have a fun party, not talk to people like that.

**Travis:** No. Have a fun party. Do that. Especially, doing this is [voice trails off in a high pitch]. I love it. Love it! [voice drops earnestly] Don't extort money from people. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Okay. [chuckles] All right.

**Travis:** There's two things I think you'd never do. One: extort money from people. Two: copy movies illegally and sell them. We can all agree those are the two worst crimes—

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** ... you could ever do to anybody.

**Teresa:** Well, one of them.

**Travis:** Extortion and copyright infringement. [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** [through laughter] Okay, enough about copyright infringement.

**Teresa:** [through laughter] Enough of that.

**Travis:** Hey, thank you all so much for being here. Um, I, first of all, I want you to know I'm very excited because at the end of this month I'm going to the UK. As you mentioned, [in British accent] "Across the pond!"

**Teresa:** [laughing softly]

**Travis:** To do D&D in a Castle. If you're going to be there, let me know. I want to know who's gonna be there during the sessions that I'm there. But if you wanna— if you're, like, "What's Travis talking about? D & D in a Castle?" Go check it out, D&D in a Castle. I think it's [dndinacastle.com](http://dndinacastle.com). But they have a lot more sessions you can sign up for.

**Teresa:** I hope it is 'cause you never know.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Teresa:** [giggles]

**Travis:** But you should go check it out and see if it's something you're interested in. But I want to say "thank you" to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to do this show. I want to say "thank you" to our researcher and writer, Alex, without whom we would not be able to do this show. And I want to say "thank you" to you for listening. We could do the show without you, but to what end?

**Teresa:** Why? I mean, really.

**Travis:** Go check out all the great merch at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com), including, uh, there's a beautiful Garyl blanket in a tapestry style by Lin Doyle as well as some Candlelights wrapping paper by Justin Gray. Go check all that out.

**Teresa:** Can't wait for my Garyl blanket.

**Travis:** Yeah. Mcelroymerch.com. Uh, 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. That's where we solicit questions for our topics, so go ahead and follow us @shmannerstcast. Also, "thank you" to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group *Shmanners* Fanners. If you love to get and give excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

Also, we are always asking for new topic suggestions, and also idiom submissions. You can email us at. And make sure you say "Hi" to Alex 'cause she reads every one.

**Travis:** Oh! And don't forget, coming up in November, we got live shows coming up in Cincinnati, Detroit, and Washington, DC. And I know for a fact we will be doing a *Shmanners* at the Cincinnati show because that is where we live.

**Teresa:** [giggles softly] We *do* live there.

**Travis:** It's very easy for us to get to. Just a short commute. Cincinnati is where all our stuff is. [chuckles lightly] And so, we'll see you there. So, make sure you get your tickets for that at [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours). Oh, and in the DC show, we're also doing an *Adventure Zone* with special guest Game Master Brennan Lee Mulligan, who's going to be running *Dadlands 2* for us. *Dadlands* is a game system me, and Justin, and Griffin, and dad came up with. So, check that out, [bit.ly/mcelroymerch](http://bit.ly/mcelroymerch). Let's see... Yeah, that's gonna do it. 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]

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