

Shmanners 338: Cryptids (LIVE!)

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[theme music plays]

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

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

Travis: And you're listening to—

[audience cheers]

Travis: Huh!

Teresa: Pause for applause. [laughs quietly]

Travis: Well, only one of us had to pause for applause it seems.

[audience laughs]

Travis: [sighs] Lost my place.

Teresa: Ain't I a stinker?

Travis: Uh, you're listening to and/or watching *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hi, dear.

Travis: I'd ask how you're doing, but I'd assume you're doing pretty good right now. I'm in a lot more of this show later. You could've buttered me up more, audience.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: You'll just get enough—they wanted to give you just a little taste, and—

Travis: Make sure when I come out later, y'all lose it.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Um, I just want to point to... for Halloween, I dressed as Laszlo from *What We Do in the Shadows*.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: And I, appropriately, was Nadja.

Travis: Yes, correct.

[audience cheers]

Travis: And I've decided I am bringing back lace frocked sleeves.

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: I love it. It's my new thing. Embrace it. Get on board the wave now, folks. Don't be the last one on your block with lace sleeves. Oh, am I talking too much about myself?

Teresa: A little bit.

Travis: Okay. So, what are we talking about today?

Teresa: Well, um, first I would like to acknowledge that the last y'all had a show in this house, Dottie was only one month old, so I did not participate.

Travis: No, it's weird that we were so lazy during the last, like, two and a half years. Why didn't we come back to this theater?

Teresa: I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Travis: So weird.

Teresa: Um, but it is very—it's, you know, it feels like I haven't been here in a very long time, so I'm glad to be back.

Travis: Yeah.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: We went to Dragon Con this year, and—

[scattered cheering]

Teresa: Oh, thank you.

Travis: Hold on. Grip it and rip it.

[drink opening]

[audience laughs and cheers]

Teresa: And we had such a fantastic show talking about dragon etiquette that I really wanted to continue this, and we are gonna talk about cryptids today.

[audience cheers loudly]

Travis: Oh, you guys have heard about this! Um, I can't see you 'cause it's dark out there and I don't want them to turn on the lights, but just for the edification of everyone around you, raise your hand if you have a tattoo of a cryptid.

[scattered cheering, one very loud "Woo!"]

[scattered laughter]

Travis: Oh, you know what? A sound thing would've been better. Cheer if you have a tattoo of a cryptid. Yayyy!

[scattered loud cheering]

Travis: Yes, I have a Loch Ness Monster tattoo.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: On my flank.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Is that ribs? That's ribs, right?

Teresa: I don't wanna think about it.

Travis: It's not on my hip. Oh, now I've said it. Oh no. No, I have the Loch Ness monster tattoo that's the, like, blurry shadowy one that was later debunked. Ugh.

Teresa: [laughs] Sorry, honey.

Travis: No, it's alright. It's just I defined my whole life by it. I got it... [sighs] on my skin. It's fine. No, I got it 'cause I had a Scottish Terrier named Nessie growing up, and when she passed I—yeah, I know. I have a sensitive heart. Don't tell anyone.

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Well, so, we would be remiss if we didn't speak of the big one: Bigfoot himself.

[scattered cheering]

Travis: Oh...

Teresa: What, you're not into it?

Travis: I just don't think that's the biggest one.

Teresa: You don't think so? I mean—

Travis: Just 'cause he has big in his name.

Teresa: Technically speaking, the tallest. I mean...

Travis: Taller than Nessie?!

Teresa: Alright, but Nessie's a dragon.

Travis: Plesiosaurus, but go on.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Plesiosaur?

Teresa: It's debatable.

Travis: It's not important.

Teresa: Anyway... um, also called the Sasquatch or the Yeti. It is an apelike creature said to inhabit the forests of North America.

Travis: I would disagree. I think a Yeti is different... than a Sasquatch.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Because it's locales, right? Like, it's—the Yeti is in cold place—you don't see a Yeti—you wouldn't see a Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest and go, "That's a Yeti." Yeti's in cold places! You wouldn't see a Yeti and go, "That's a Sas—" I'm just saying. That's what my heart tells me.

Teresa: Duly noted.

Travis: Thank you. If we don't follow our hearts, what are we doing here?

Teresa: The beast is considered to be about seven feet tall. It's a biped, and covered in long, brownish-blackish hair?

Travis: Unless it's a Yeti, then it's white, 'cause it's gotta blend in with the snow.

Teresa: And apparently it has an affinity for beef jerky. [laughs quietly]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Now, hold on.

Teresa: [through laughter] I'm just saying!

Travis: That's... that's the made up part. Not the real part.

Teresa: Oh-ho, "[mockingly] That's the made up part."

[audience laughs]

Travis: Oh, is that what this is gonna be?!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I thought we were on the same team!

Teresa: I thought that we were playing the same game, that it was all...

Travis: It's not all made up! What's wrong with you?! I assumed you had the heart and hope of a child—

Teresa: [through laughter] Well—

Travis: —but now I find out that you've hardened yourself. You don't like to believe in fairytales and myths?!

Teresa: All I'm saying is, if we are—

Travis: I'm sorry I have to do this in front of you, folks, but my wife is jaded, and I'm just now finding this out.

Teresa: All I'm saying is, if we are allowing for some of the details, why not let all the details in?

Travis: Because one is from a commercial!

[audience laughs]

Travis: One is from a commercial to sell beef jerky!

Teresa: Well, I mean, Santa Claus appears in lots of Coca-Cola commercials.

Travis: Yeah, but—when—

Teresa: To sell Coca-Cola.

Travis: When people talk about Santa Claus they're not like, "Yeah, he brings gifts and dude *loves* Coca-Cola!"

Teresa: I mean...

Travis: They know the difference!

Teresa: Maybe they do.

Travis: They don't, baby! We live in the world!

[audience laughs]

Travis: You can't say "Maybe they do" when you know that they don't!

Teresa: [laughs] Anyways... so. Tales of these wild, hairy humanoids exist throughout the world, actually, so not just in the Pacific Northwest. There are tales of Bigfoots in Canada, China—

Travis: Bigfeet.

[scattered laughter]

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: No, it's Bigfoots. You were right. It's just fun to say Bigfeet.

Teresa: [laughs] China and Russia, they all have their very personal versions of this big hair boy. Um—[laughs quietly]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Some of 'em just call him Daddy.

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Including some indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Travis: You know, my favorite version is the skunk ape.

Teresa: Mmm.

Travis: Which is a version of the Sasquatch, where it's just like—it's like a Bigfoot, but he smells real bad. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: We'll get to one of those, a specific one.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, so, multiple self-declared cryptozoologists have claimed to have seen one, or at least seen the footprints of one. Um, even the Travel Channel [laughs quietly] has a list of the top ten places in amateur—

Travis: What is this derisive laughter?! That's an actual channel! They have travel right in their name! They know what they're talking about! That's like saying the History Channel just has made up stuff on it. Come on, babe!

[audience laughs]

Travis: What did I miss?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, look me in the eye.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: [emphatically] What's more realistic? A Bigfoot, or a giraffe. 'Cause giraffes are weird. Think about it. Right? You're thinking about it now, right? An apelike creature. A giraffe.

Teresa: Hey. Stop yelling at me.

Travis: I'm sorry, I only have the one setting, and it's defensive when it comes to cryptids. I got two modes: defensive when it comes to cryptids, and asleep.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Although Oregon is the number one place for sightings. As of 2019, there have been over 2,000 Bigfoot sightings in Oregon. In 1924—this was a

big sighting. 1924, a group of miners reported being attacked by multiple Sasquatches.

Travis: There you go.

Teresa: Uh, allegedly the group of unidentified mammals threw rocks at the miners' cabin—

Travis: Case closed.

Teresa: —and tried to break in. Um, years after those attacks, [mysterious tone] an experienced skier vanished near the same location.

Travis: And you think they're connected?

Teresa: Yes? I do.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and there is a native legend long told of a species of ape-man living on nearby Mount St. Helens.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So you agree that it's true.

Teresa: Um, if you were to meet a Sasquatch...

Travis: Huh.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Uh, the thing is, they would rather be left alone.

Travis: Just like me!

Teresa: [laughs quietly] No.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Uh, it is said that they may alert you to their presence by emitting a foul smell. Uh, perhaps wailing from the trees, or a process known as tree knockin'?

Travis: Mm-hmm. [knocks on table] Go away!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Where a Sasquatch throws large pieces of wood against other trees.

Travis: Yeah, makes sense. If I heard that I'd be like, "I'm gonna go."

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: I just didn't know that that was the calling card.

Travis: Well, I mean, it doesn't sound like it is, 'cause I've never heard about it before. But I'm just saying, if I was in the woods by myself and I heard that, I wouldn't be like, "I'm gonna stay right here."

[audience laughs]

Teresa: True.

Travis: Can I tell *you* about one? Can I tell you about a cryptid?

Teresa: Oh! Okay, alright. This is not usually how we do this show.

Travis: I know. Well, one—okay, so I looked it up, 'cause I was originally going to do a quiz. Just say, like, "Here's three, tell me which one's fake," but they were all gonna be real. [fake laughter] Real.

Teresa: [fake laughter]

Travis: And I only pulled two because I got bored.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Um, but one that I really love—

Teresa: Distracted. He got distracted.

Travis: Sure. No, it wasn't that. I wasn't doing anything else. Um, one is just labeled is British Big Cats.

[audience laughs]

Travis: And the idea is, like, in Britain, that it's just like, "I saw a puma."

[audience laughs]

Travis: Or, like, "I saw a lynx. I saw a panther." Except, like, you're in Britain. And it's just like, that shouldn't be here. And that's—

Teresa: 'Cause it's an island.

Travis: But that's the extent of it.

Teresa: Oh, that's it?

Travis: So the cryptid is not an imaginary creature; a real creature that just shouldn't be there. And I like that so much.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Of, like, if I saw a wolf in my house I'd be like, "I don't believe it."
[wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But here's one that I do like. And so what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna read you the description, then I'm gonna give you, like, a—I'll stop and then say, what do you think the next thing I'm about to say is?

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Right? I'm gonna tell you about a Rugaru. Oh, some fans in the audience.

[scattered laughter]

Travis: A Rugaru is a Cajun legend, uh, and Cajun legend has it that the swamps and bayous of Louisiana are haunted by the Rugaru, a werewolf-like creature who hunts two types of prey: naughty kids, and...

[silence]

Teresa: [uncertainly] Lost house cats?

Travis: No, I'm sorry. Catholics who don't observe Lent.

Teresa: Ohh.

[audience laughs loudly and applauds]

Travis: Unlike werewolf legends, however, you don't need to be bitten by a Rugaru to become a Rugaru. According to Jonathan Foret, executive director of South Louisiana Woodlands Discovery Center, one of the ways you could become a Rugaru is if you...

[pause]

Teresa: [uncertainly] Stop going to church?

Travis: No, I'm sorry. Did not observe Lent for seven years in a row.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Seven years!

Travis: Yeah. You can also become a Rugaru if someone curses you. But if you're a bad kid, make no mistake, the Rugaru wants to eat you. To protect yourself from the Rugaru, you need to place 13 objects, like pennies or rocks, on your threshold or windowsill. This supposedly works because...

[pause]

Teresa: 13 is a prime number?

Travis: No, a Rugaru can only count to 12.

[audience laughs]

Travis: And the thing I love most about that is the idea of a Rugaru would approach and be like, "Okay. Uhh... phew, here we go again."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve... ugh. [angrily] Never mind!"

[audience laughs]

Teresa: This is kind of like the "Vampires must count anything that's dropped in front of them."

Travis: It's my favorite thing. It's one of my favorite things about vampires, and it's not—it's not brought up in stuff like Twilight. But if you, like, scatter coins or rice or whatever in front of a vampire, they have to stop and count

it. And I just love that idea of, like, a vampire chasing you, and you throw down rice and they're like, "[clicks tongue] Aw, man! One, [sighs] two... I'm gonna get you! Three... "

[theme music plays]

[graduation music plays]

Janet: My fellow graduates, for 500 episodes my podcast, the *JV Club* with Janet Varney, has gathered story after story of all the scandalous things we've done throughout our childhoods.

[crowd murmuring]

Janet: Stories like how Jameela Jamil survived a horrific house party, and she was on crutches!

Speaker Two: This is great!

Janet: Or how Hal Lublin learned a Shakespearean monologue in his pajamas.

Speaker Three: What is happening?

Speaker Four: This is not the speech we approved.

Janet: Without your love and life tragedies, there would be no podcast. In fact, I have an exclusive look at how Maggie Lawson's mom confronted her after a sneaky basement meetup with her crush.

Speaker Three: [loud gasp]

Speaker Two: Spill the tea, JV!

Speaker Four: Security!

Janet: Uh—listen to the *JV Club* with Janet Varney, Thursdays on Maximum Fun! Class of—[mic screech]—forever!

[crowd cheering and applause]

[music and ad end]

[*Star Trek* Comm noise]

[music plays]

Ben: Hey, I'm Ben.

Adam: And I'm Adam.

Ben: We host a show called Greatest Trek on Maximum Fun that covers all the new *Star Trek* shows. *Lower Decks*, *Strange New Worlds*, *Picard*, *Prodigy*, *Discovery*, and any other new *Star Trek* show Paramount throws at us.

Adam: Come find out why we're the most important *Star Trek* podcast on the internet.

Ben: [wheezes]

Adam: With our funny, informative recaps of all the new *Star Trek* shows that Paramount keeps churning out.

Ben: Subscribe to Greatest Trek. It's a new *Star Trek* podcast from the makers of The Greatest Generation.

[*Star Trek* comm noise]

[music and ad end]

Teresa: Uh, here's one that's a little closer to home than the Bigfoot. It is called the Ohio Grassman.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: Oh, you've heard of them. Uh, so... he could be—he could be. He could be a member of the Sasquatch family.

Travis: If they would just let him in.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Open your heart, Sasquatch!

Teresa: But many believe that the Ohio Grassman is his own species, because he is very aggressive. So, locals have reported numerous sightings of what they call the Grassman, which is a large apelike creature. Um, spotted in the hills and forests of Ohio's Appalachian plateau.

Travis: Mm-hmm, makes sense.

Teresa: Uh, it's also home to the famous Ohio Howl, which—this area. The plateau.

Travis: Oh, yeah. Not the same house.

Teresa: No. Ohio Howl—

Travis: They don't live together in a buddy comedy. Okay.

Teresa: Which is a hair raising recording of a deep voice screaming and howling into the night, believed to be the call of the Grassman.

Travis: Oh, okay. So it could be the same thing. The Howl isn't a separate creature.

Teresa: Correct, but it is in the same area.

Travis: [simultaneously] As far as we know.

Teresa: It's in the same area.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Here is a very prominent sighting, an account of a prominent sighting.

Travis: Joe Biden saw him.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Uh, in the small village of Minerva, Ohio, in August of 1978, the grandchildren of Minerva residents Evelyn and Howe Clayton along with their friends ran inside, screaming about a hairy monster they saw in a gravel pit outside. When the couple went out to investigate, they saw what the crying children had described. It was covered in dark, matted hair, sitting in the pit and fiddling with discarded trash. Estimated to be around 300 pounds, the Claytons fled, but this would not be their last encounter with the Ohio ape man.

Travis: No. He stopped by the next day and was like, "I clearly needed help. Where were you guys?"

[audience laughs]

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: "I was down in a gravel pit! You do nothing? Have you not heard about the good Samaritan? Come on, my dudes!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Nothing? Alright. Let me ask you a question. I was thinking about this.

Teresa: Oh, okay, okay.

Travis: Who is, like, a person, a significantly—you can't just say me, 'cause obviously it would be me—a person that would say "I saw Bigfoot," and you'd be like, "Now I'm convinced. Now I believe." 'Cause I have an obvious answer that I'll say and you'll be like, "Oh, that [unintelligible]."

Teresa: Uh... I'm drawing a blank.

Travis: David Attenborough.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Okay. No, yeah.

Travis: If David Attenborough was like, "[David Attenborough impression] Yes, I saw the Bigfoot."

You'd be like, "Aww, what?!" [wheezes] Right?

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Definitely. Yes, no, you're right. Or maybe Morgan Freeman?

[audience laughs]

Travis: I wouldn't believe that guy.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But David Attenborough? Maybe Justin McElroy. Those are the two.

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: I mean, would he lie to you?

Travis: Yeah! He has before!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: So—

Travis: He got my little brother to eat dry pasta!

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs and cheers]

Travis: I may have assisted. I'm also not trustworthy, though.

Teresa: Not at all.

Travis: You know if I came home and I was like, "I was in the woods. I saw Bigfoot." You'd go, "Okay."

Teresa: "Alright... " So, if one were to meet the Ohio Grassman, it is, I mean, not recommended—

Travis: You keep saying it like it's like a branch of the army. "The Grassmen."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Not the Grass men. The Grassmen.

Teresa: I mean, he's... singular, as far as we know, but there—

Travis: Then he's a grass man!

Teresa: There could be more.

Travis: Now, you just said...

[audience laughs]

Teresa: As far as we know.

Travis: Then it's Grass man or Grass men. Not Grass—not Harvey Grassmen.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: The... we're gonna argue about this?

Travis: No, not in front of the kids.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: If you are to meet one—it is recommended that you don't go searching for them, because they are particularly aggressive. Um, they are said to have a taste for canine as well as anything else that they may happen upon. And if you do meet him, do not comment on his smell.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: He's known to have a very upsetting odor, as of rot, that lingers.

Travis: Now, I wouldn't have done that anyway. But the idea that I would come across a giant apelike creature that is aggressive and I'd be like, "Hey, man. No offense. [laughs] You stink!" Like, is out of the question. Who would do that?

Teresa: I don't—I don't know.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Maybe that's why he's so aggressive. [through laughter] People keep telling him he smells bad.

Travis: I actually think that that is a very complex scent, and I enjoyed it immensely. He'd be like, "Oh, thank you. Let me show you all my treasures."

[audience laughs]

Travis: "They're dog skeletons."

Teresa: [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Uh, because of his aggression, it is recommended that one bring small stones or something to throw and distract at him.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: If—if things turn, you know, turn sour.

Travis: I would bring a boom box, then. That's way more distracting than small stones. Hold up a stone—oh, you mean like to throw.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay, that makes more sense.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Yes, to throw. [laughs] Yep.

Travis: I get it now. Not like, "Look at this!" [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Would you tell the audience about the Loch Ness monster? We did touch on it briefly.

Travis: Uh, sure. So, the Loch Ness monster is real, and—no. So the Loch Ness monster—thank you. The Loch Ness monster in Loch Ness, Scotland, which is near Inverness. Um, is said to be a quite large monster that closely resembles a Plesiosaur. Um, though many have commented that it could look like an elephant swimming in the water with its trunk up, like a snorkel.

Teresa: I recently saw on the interweb that it also looks a lot like a whale penis.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Did you know that's called a dork?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: A dork is the technical term for a whale's penis. Um, and the most famous picture, and the one that I have tattooed my ribs, is that—like, you see the hump and, like, the waves, and it's very shadowy and blurry. And it was a dentist and a photographer who, like, basically have fixed it to, like, a log or a little toy submarine or something, and took the picture very close up, so that scale-wise it looked like the right size. But of course they were just taking a fake picture, not one of the real monster. Um...

[scattered laughter]

Travis: And the thing about Loch Ness that makes it somewhat believable is, while it is not a very wide or very long Loch, it's very, very deep. Um, and the bottom is very, like, muddy and dense with rotted stuff and, like, mud. And so it makes it really, really difficult to do sonar. Uh, and actually on our honeymoon—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —we went on one of the ferry—[cuts off]

[audience laughs and cheers]

Travis: We went on one of the ferries that takes you to Loch Ness castle that has the sonar built into it, and we looked at it for about three seconds, and then drank a bunch.

[audience laughs]

Travis: 'Cause they had a bar on the ferry! What?!

Teresa: What?!

[audience cheers]

Travis: It was incredible. [laughs]

Teresa: Uh, so—

Travis: What'll they think of next?

Teresa: Drinking on boats.

Travis: I love it!

Teresa: Uh, did you know that the first sighting goes back to the 6th century?

Travis: Yeah, 'cause it's real.

[scattered laughter]

Teresa: 'Kay.

Travis: Did you know that I wrote a small children's book about it when I was in fifth grade?

Teresa: [laughs] Yes I did.

Travis: About a kid named Travis who meets the real Loch Ness monster. Don't worry about it. [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Do you happen to know the current theories as to how the monster arrived in the Loch?

Travis: I do know that... I think one of 'em was, like, before—or, like, during the melt after the Ice Age or something, that the Loch would've been connected to the ocean, and that it would've been—or to a larger body of water, and that it's something that could have, like, swam in those waters during that time and then as the water levels receded, it then became basically a lake instead of connected to a larger thing, and so then it was

trapped in there. Or I believe there was also theories about, like, underwater tunnels that then became sealed, or under—you know, subterranean water-filled tunnels that then became sealed, so it just survived within it. But even then, it would be hundreds of years old, so clearly that's not it. It's a family of creatures.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: And we only see one at a time. Come on, guys!

Teresa: Other theories include that there is some sort of space-time anomaly causing a plesiosaur or some kind of water dinosaur to have been transported to the modern day.

[scattered laughter]

Travis: Over and over again?

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Uh, another theory is that it is the result of deep state genetic experiments—

Travis: Well, that's it.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: —and mutations that escaped—

Travis: You can't start a phrase with "deep state" and expect anyone to go, "Oh, oh, okay," after that. The only people that believe in that heard "deep state" and immediately went "Check mark."

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, so here's some etiquette regarding Nessie. I mean, obviously it's a landlocked lake, so you would have to go and visit her. And if you do, you do definitely, if you plan on going into the water, you need a

very good wet suit, because it is quite cold in the Loch. And we also recommend the scuba diving certification, because again, quite deep.

Travis: And murky. Hard to see down there.

Teresa: And murky. You gotta wear those goggles if you're gonna go in. Um, and here's the thing. Nessie is purported to enjoy the darker areas of the Loch. Because—

Travis: And of the internet. [laughs quietly]

[audience laughs]

Travis: She gets into some weird stuff, you guys.

Teresa: Because she has very sensitive eyes. So you're not to bring a flashlight. And that is why she hides from the paparazzi, because she is—is... sensitive to the flash.

Travis: Yeah. And she's been married four times, and she wants this fifth one to last. And she's like, "No scrutiny, please."

Teresa: Um, also it's recommended that you don't bring up her appearance on the History Channel show *In Search Of*. She's extremely embarrassed about it. Um...

Travis: Wait, now hold on. Is this, like... wait. [quietly] Is this like the beef jerky thing?

Teresa: [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: No?

Travis: What is that possibly based on.

Teresa: It's based on—

Travis: Did she tweet that?

Teresa: [through laughter] It was based on—

[audience laughs]

Teresa: —a show the History Channel put on where it ambushed her in the mid-2000s.

Travis: Okay, but—[sighs] and I know that this is between you and Alex and your god. Where did—I would like to cite the source of "Don't bring up that appearance or she'll get embarrassed."

Teresa: I mean, she...

Travis: Unless you're about to say David Attenborough then I don't care.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Zachary Quinto. [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Oh, okay. I'll buy it. He was Spock, and so... why not trust him?

Teresa: Let's move on.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, so the last one I would like to talk about is actually one that is another local. The Loveland Frogman.

[audience cheers loudly and applauds]

Travis: I forgot where we were for a second. I thought you were about to say Mothman.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: Ohh... I mean, if you—we are nearly at the end of our program, but after—

Travis: Can I talk about it—

Teresa: After I'm done—

Travis: Can I talk about the Mothman two seconds?

Teresa: After—after I'm done...

[scattered laughter]

Teresa: ... you can talk about the Mothman.

Travis: Okay. Then I won't say anything, so you can finish.

Teresa: So, the Loveland Frogman is a legendary humanoid frog, described as standing roughly four feet tall and was spotted in Loveland, Ohio. In 1972, the Frog legend gained renewed attention when a Loveland police officer reported to a colleague that he had seen an animal consistent with the descriptions of the Frogman. Um, after another reported sighting in 2016, the second officer called a news station to report that he had actually shot and killed the creature some weeks after the 1972 incident, and he had misidentified it as a large iguana missing its tail.

[audience laughs]

Travis: That's a big iguana!

Teresa: I know, right? But still. There is a lot of folklore surrounding this. There's a professor at UC, Edgar Slotkin, who compared the Loveland Frog to Paul Bunyan, saying that the stories about it have been passed down for several decades. And—

Travis: I said I wasn't gonna interrupt but... a bold move, Slotkin!

[audience laughs]

Travis: "Basically, Loveland Frog—[wheezes]—Paul Bunyan!"

Teresa: Well, the thing is, it's about the sighting resurface decades over decades, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: And they seem to come in predictable cycles. But in August of 2016, local Cincinnati TV stations reported that [dramatic voice] a night of fun turned into a chilling tale of horror. When two teenagers, playing *Pokemon Go*...

[audience laughs and cheers]

Teresa: ... between Loveland Medeira Road and Lake Isabella, claimed to see a giant frog near the lake, who stood up and walked on its hind legs.

Travis: And said "There's no Pokemon over here! Go away!"

[audience laughs]

Teresa: That particular sighting turned out to be a homemade frog costume.

Travis: [sarcastic] Get out! No way!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [holding back laughter] By a student from Archbishop Smoeller [sic] High—Archbissop [sic]—Archbishop Moeller High School.

[scattered cheers]

Travis: Yeah, man.

Teresa: So...

Travis: When a story about a cryptid starts with "So I was playing *Pokemon Go*..."

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Um, so if one were to go looking, obviously you would want to bring some sort of gift, maybe a jar of flies or some...

Travis: I—that would have to be—hey. If I was the Loveland Frogman and someone was like, "Here's a jar of flies," I'd be like, "Hey. Get out. That's patronizing. Bring me a good novel. I have many—I'll—yeah, I'll take the flies, but I don't like it." Yum, yum, yum, yum. [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Don't look at me!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: But, I mean, Loveland is one of the great places to play *Pokemon Go*. [holding back laughter] There are a lot of gyms.

Travis: Yeah.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: So maybe you'd offer him—

Travis: I read that on the internet. Number one best: Loveland, Ohio.

Teresa: Maybe you would offer him—

Travis: Forget Japan!

Teresa: —your Pokecatcher. He might enjoy that.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Okay. Tell me about the Mothman.

Travis: Okay, I have two minutes.

[audience cheers]

Travis: [speaking quickly] So here's the thing about the Mothman. Uh, the two most famous examples of this, as far as I know, are in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. There was one story, I believe in the 70's, of a group of teens, like, joyriding around, being chased by a flying creature with red glowing eyes. And they were, like, near some kind of like factory or foundry or quarry that they shouldn't be near.

Teresa: It was, um, outside of town, known as the TNT area. The site of a former World War II munitions plant.

Travis: Right. And then another one of, like, a woman driving with her child in the car, and she was scared off from a similar location. And... I'm trying to—but there was basically, because of the connection of these and another event, soon after there was a bridge collapse.

Teresa: Yes. It is said that—so, in December 15th, 1967, the collapse of the Silver Bridge caused the deaths of 46 people. And it was connected, because this is where one of his popular kind of, like, sighting places was. So the idea was that the Mothman was trying to warn everyone about the bridge.

Travis: This is what I'm saying. Mothman gets a really bad rap as a cryptid, because really are there other cryptids who are like, "I was just trying to help you guys out. I don't know why you're being like this."

Where the Mothman was like, "I'm just trying to keep people away from this bridge that—clearly we need some infrastructure in this country. Let's get stuff together. Vote Mothman 2024." And—

[audience cheers]

Travis: The Mothman gets a really bad rap. But there is a big silver Mothman statue in Point Pleasant with big red eyes, and I have sat on that Mothman's shoulders. You can find that picture somewhere on the internet if you look even a little bit. So... the Mothman rules.

[audience cheers]

Travis: That's gonna do it for us. Thank you all so much for coming out to the show.

[audience cheers]

Travis: I assume you're all here just to see us, but do stick around. Because after us is Sawbones, and then after that will be My Brother, My Brother, and Me. And I've heard great things about those youngsters. Make sure during intermission you check out the posters out in the lobby. They're really, really beautiful.

Teresa: Not after this one, right? After Sawbones is the intermission.

Travis: After Sawbones will be the intermission. Um, and we put out the call for live questions as well, so you can email live@mbmbam.com, if I remember correctly. And include your seat number and a one sentence description of your question. Um, get the posters. Follow *Shmanners* on your podcaster if you enjoyed the show.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: Ay!

Travis: Uh, anything else you want to say?

Teresa: Do I normally do—

Audience Member: Happy birthday!

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: Aww, how sweet.

Travis: I'm 39!

[audience cheers]

Travis: I said it like I expected a cheer. I don't know why you cheered for that age, but thank you! I like it 'cause nine is divisible by three, but that's me. I'm a nerd. Um, that's gonna do it for us.

Teresa: [crosstalk] do my thing, or...

Travis: Yeah, do your thing.

Teresa: We always like to 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, for now. And 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.

Travis: 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.

[audience cheers applauds]

[theme music plays]

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