

Shmanners 348: Read and React - Samantha's Ocean Liner Adventure

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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.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm—we're gearing up.

Travis: I'm tired.

Teresa: We're almost there.

Travis: Is that what you mean by gearing up?

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: Does gearing up mean, like, "And I'm real worn out?" I would say I'm gearing down.

Teresa: I mean, the best way to enjoy yourself away from home is to be absolutely exhausted, right?

Travis: Yeah, my gears are ka-chunking real hard. Um, at this point, I, much like the cruise ship we will soon be on, currently an empty vessel. [chuckles]

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: I've got nothing.

Teresa: In case you don't know, dear listeners, we are very excited to be part of the JoCo Cruise this year.

Travis: Yeah, JoCo Cruise 2023, if you're listening in the future!

Teresa: And, of course, we will be doing a *Shmanners*. Already submitted listener questions.

Travis: Well, by the time you listen to this, we'll have already recorded it.

Teresa: Uh, definitely. We'll have already recorded it.

Travis: Yeah. But uh, this—

Teresa: But it's a ship, The Nieuw Amsterdam.

Travis: The Nieuw Amsterdam, not to be confused with the old Amsterdam. And currently—

Teresa: Which was Old New York.

Travis: [incredulously] What?

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Um, yes. So, this will be for me 'cause we also recorded an extra *Adventure Zone*. This is, like, my, like, eighth recording of the week. Um, I'm tired! But you know what?

Teresa: Like I said, what better way to recharge than to be on a cruise ship working more? [laughs]

Travis: We're here for you, dear listener. So excited to talk to you. Teresa, what are we talking about? I see you have a book in your hands.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And I can hear the pages turn. We're grade-A smart for the people at home.

Teresa: So, today, we are going through a *classic* piece of literature—

Travis: Oh?

Teresa: ... called *Samantha's Ocean Liner Adventure*.

Travis: Now, this looks like a children's book.

Teresa: Because it is. [giggles]

Travis: I will say, though, a pretty high-quality children's book.

Teresa: Oh, definitely. These American Girl novels—

Travis: Ah.

Teresa: ... and subsequent addendums and appendices are amazing. Appendice-es?

Travis: The American Girl dolls have appendixes?

Teresa: No. Appendices.

Travis: Appendicitis.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Anyway... [laughing]

Travis: Well, so, is this, like, documenting a—uh, I don't know. I almost just felt the need to clarify "fictional" journey. Of course, it is.

Teresa: Of course, it is.

Travis: It's about a doll.

Teresa: Yes, but these dolls are historically accurate. They, um, have historical based adventures. And Samantha—

Travis: Now, but they're not a doll in the book, right?

Teresa: No, they are real people.

Travis: They're a human girl.

Teresa: They are human girls, and then they're story girls. And then human girls play with dolls.

Travis: Hey, I know they're not real human—I mean, in the book, they're—

Teresa: Yeah, but they're—

Travis: ... portrayed as human characters.

Teresa: Yes. And they are amalgams of what people would have been at the time, right? So, Samantha did not actually exist in history.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: She's an amalgam of the age group of what she represents.

Travis: And this is about her journey on the Titanic?

Teresa: No. [laughing softly]

Travis: No.

Teresa: No, she didn't—she wasn't on the Titanic.

Travis: Okay. 'Cause, that would be a much different story to tell children than that.

Teresa: It was a similar vessel, called the S.S. Londonia.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay?

Travis: I see. I'm looking at this. This is *very* intricate. There's an openable envelope here on the page!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: With a letter inside it! What?

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Travis: What? I'm gonna read it.

Teresa: Okay. So, uh, you may not know, but I'm sure—

Travis: [English accent] "Beemis. The Admiral and Mrs. Archibald Beemis request the pleasure of the company of Samantha Parkington on an ocean voyage to South Hampton, England, aboard the S.S. Londonia departing at midnight April 15, 1906."

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Right there.

Teresa: So, she—takes place, um... [paper rustling]

Travis: I can't put it back in.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Don't look at me while I put the envelope back in.

Teresa: Sorry. Sorry.

Travis: Okay. Okay. [panting]

Teresa: [laughs softly] She is in the Victorian era. Victorian edging at later times into Edwardian.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And so—

Travis: Wait. Do the American Girl Dolls age up?

Teresa: Within their own books?

Travis: Like, do they get older?

Teresa: Uh, a little bit.

Travis: Whoa. Can I just say? The more I learn about American Girl Dolls, the more angry I am that when I was, like, eight years old it was not culturally appropriate or whatever for, uh, *me* to play with these things. 'Cause one, this book already rules.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Two, the idea being like “and they’re historical.” I would have gone *nuts* for that.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Are you kidding me? Ugh.

Teresa: Um, so, her socioeconomic status is quite high.

Travis: I mean, enough that she was invited by Admiral Beemis to go on the boat. Yeah.

Teresa: Indeed. So, she is in a parlor suite.

Travis: Nice.

Teresa: Um, in the cabin, and she was very excited for the ship’s launch.

Travis: Yeah. That used to be a thing before people could watch football on TV.

Teresa: Indeed. People loved any excuse to party, so the ship launch was right there. And they—it says here, “Crowds and crowds of people sang ‘Auld Lang Syne’ and toasted with champagne just like on New Year’s Eve.”

Travis: You know, uh, a very good friend of Alice—and co-worker, Alice, her partner Rory, often laments that people do not sing “Auld Lang Syne” at times other than New Year’s Eve.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: This is a thing he's tried to get started many times. What if we sing at birthdays? What if we sing it—he would be very excited to learn this.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Indeed. So, her cabin is large enough to have a couple of rooms, right? Or even, like, areas within the rooms.

Travis: Oh, that's better than our cabin. Wait, hold on.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: And when we're on the boat, we got a bed. There's a little deck which is nice.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And we got, uh, a fairly tiny bathroom.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And our dreams and hopes and wishes for the new world. And that's all that we have with us.

Teresa: So, the cabin has a sitting room with it.

Travis: [gasps] Ooh.

Teresa: Including a writing desk and a couple of port holes to look out of, which, I mean, they were pretty high on the ship's level. So—

Travis: Any starboard holes? Ah...

Teresa: What?

Travis: And I'm tired.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Now let's see here.

Teresa: Oh, and—

Travis: Oh, there's a first-class ticket in the book!

Teresa: And they have their own bathroom in the cabin. Which is, again, a way to tell exactly how well-off they are.

Travis: Oh, my goodness gracious! [paper rustling] I would have loved to get this. There's a little map in the ticket, and it's marked where their cabin is. And you can follow the map. Oh, my goodness gracious. This rules! [paper rustling]

Teresa: One of the things that Samantha does on ship, is she goes to tea—

Travis: Yeah, she does.

Teresa: ... in the ocean garden.

Travis: Get out!

Teresa: So, it is more—it's a parlor room, basically, that is outfitted with things like ferns and orchids. Um, here we go, "Grandmary" - that's her grandmother - "... and I had tea in the ocean garden with the other ladies. The ocean garden feels just like a tropical forest. Little yellow canaries sing pretty songs in their hanging cages. Ferns and orchids are everywhere. The palm trees are so tall they nearly touch the skyline. They are bolted to the floor, so they don't slide around."

Travis: Do you think those are real orchids? 'Cause that lets me know that this is fictional, 'cause I've been trying to get my orchid to bloom for like three years.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: It's doing well. Won't do a spike, though! Won't grow a spike! Ugh.

Teresa: Won't grow a spike. Um, so, she has tea, but, I mean, she's a kid. So, eventually, she's excused to explore the ship. Ahem. But only the places that are suitable for young ladies.

Travis: Oh, okay. I see.

Teresa: Next, she talks about how she goes on deck, um, because on the first-class deck, there are children's games that are available.

Travis: Oh, look! There's a little picture of an old-timey bubble wand! It just looks like an unbent coat hanger that's been wrapped into a circle, but still, cool.

Teresa: So, she mentions that her favorite, uh—her favorites were the tug of war, the three-legged race, and the egg and spoon race.

Travis: Classic. Classic. Not the biscuit and whistle race? What'd she say here? "I didn't even try this one! Of the biscuit and whistle—" ugh!

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: Come on, Samantha. You gotta biscuit and whistle when you get the chance.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: You think we'll biscuit and whistle this year?

Teresa: Uh, I don't know.

Travis: Ugh!

Teresa: I don't know if we will. But this hasn't changed at all because we are excited to send our children to the kid's club on board.

Travis: It's changed a little bit, babe. Hey, babe. It's changed a little bit.

Teresa: You don't—

Travis: They're not going to do an egg and spoon race.

Teresa: You don't think they're going to have a potato sack race?

Travis: No, I don't think they will! I think they'll have crayons.

Teresa: And they might play basketball.

Travis: The basket's ball. Yes, perhaps.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: But they won't be peach baskets. It's changed a bit, bud.

Teresa: I think the kids would get a kick out of a treasure hunt. That was listed.

Travis: Hey, yeah. Treasure hunt, absolutely, but you can't say it hasn't changed at all when we were just talking about how it says "biscuit and whistle" on there.

Teresa: [laughing] The spirit of the thing hasn't changed at all.

Travis: Okay, yes. Giving children something to do to keep them occupied has not changed at all. I agree with you there.

Teresa: Has not changed at all.

Travis: Look at this!

Teresa: The ship was equipped—

Travis: This whole book reminds me of—do you remember that book—oh, I'm blanking on his name. It's the guy who, like, created *Lost* and a bunch of like—and was show runner on *Lost*. And he did that book, *S*.

Teresa: Oh, yeah! That had all the stuff inside too.

Travis: It had, like, all this stuff. And, like, notes in it and stuff inside. And it was, like, "It's not just reading the book. It's experiencing the stuff." He stole that from this.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: He stole those ideas.

Teresa: Yeah. The ship had a library on board.

Travis: Nice.

Teresa: Which included newspapers of the day, um, and also, Alex—our wonderful, Alex, has earmarked where Samantha takes out the *Wizard of Oz*. It says, "I love to sit under the stained-glass skylight and curl up and read."

Travis: It says her favorite. Which is just like Teresa's.

Teresa: Just like *mine*.

Travis: Now, do you like the book? I know you liked the movie. Are you a book fan as well?

Teresa: I *have* read the books.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: They are not as nostalgic for me as the movie.

Travis: Let me ask you this 'cause I was recently watching the TikToks. And they talked about that in the original version of the film script, she was going to have, like, kind of a surface level, you know, innocent romance with the scarecrow.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: And then, uh, the dude—oh, what—Meyer, you know, of MGM was, like, “Oh, I hate this movie. Re-do it.”

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: And they aged her way down and put her in pigtails and all that stuff. And, like, that stuff got cut. But, that’s why she says, “I’ll miss you most of all, Scarecrow,” at the end. Which I always wondered about 'cause you’d think that the Lion and the Tin-man would be like, “Whoa! Hey man, we’re right here!”

Teresa: I guess I always thought that, uh—not knowing that. Which I, uh, you know, I can’t believe I didn’t know that until you sent me that TikTok.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But, um, I always thought that it was because she met him first.

Travis: See, that was my assumption too. Like, “I wouldn’t have gotten here without you. I met you first. You were kind of my champion throughout.”

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But it was, like, because, you know, I wish you could have smoochy kissed, or whatever.

Teresa: I mean, it works. It works still.

Travis: It works.

Teresa: It works still.

Travis: But it also is like, "Hey, 'cause step over here away from the Tin-man and the Lion real quick. I liked you best, right?"

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: "You got it? Okay, cool. Let's go back."

Teresa: So—

Travis: Oh, my God! Look at the drawings!

Teresa: Yeah. One of the places that Samantha, being a young *lady* of high standing, was not allowed to go was the Card Room.

Travis: That's—that's a shame 'cause I love the casino.

Teresa: I know you do.

Travis: I assume it's a similar thing.

Teresa: I mean, I suppose so. It was a place where cigars were smoked, right?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And men played cards and dominoes. And here is the insert, "The Card Room is for the entertainment of our male guests only. Our female guests may have the pleasure of visiting the Ocean Garden to take tea or partake in other ladies' leisure's." So—

Travis: [high-pitched English accent] "What about bridge?"

Teresa: I mean, you—

Travis: "Cribbage!"

Teresa: You could, supposedly, play those things, right? But this is, like, the height of, like, the Victorian kind of like gendered activity.

Travis: Wasn't that all a thing too with, like, Molly Brown?

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: It's just like, "I drink bourbon and smoke cigars too. Look at me, world!"

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, there was a lot of this kind of thing on board. Not only for, obviously, children, right? But people of all classes. It was really frowned upon to fraternize unwed.

Travis: And, obviously, races.

Teresa: Races. So—

Travis: Races. Classes. Uh, ginger. Um, everything. Everything!

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: It was all that—hey! It was all bad.

Teresa: It was all bad.

Travis: Yeah. Okay.

Teresa: I think that the only exception was in steerage, where the lower passengers would be overnighed. They—they did often share rooms just because there wasn't a lot of space.

Travis: Eh, who cares?

Teresa: Washrooms, I think, were gendered, though.

Travis: You know what? Real quick, hey.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Wait! Hold on. Before we get back to this amazing book, *let's* do a thank you note for our sponsors.

Teresa: All right.

[theme music plays]

Travis: I want to say "thank you" to Hunt a Killer. Now, I know if that's the first time you've ever heard that, you're like, "Excuse me, what?" [chuckles]

Teresa: [laughs softly]

Travis: What kind of podcast is this? Well, if not transitioned into true crime yet. I don't know, maybe we'll do—I bet we could find some, like, social, like, "This is all the new—" It doesn't matter.

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: We'll do that for a Halloween episode.

Teresa: No, we won't.

Travis: But this is about, uh, the, let's say, uh, the party event, the social engagement. The Hunt a Killer is a subscription where they send you, like, puzzles, right? It's like a murder mystery. It is a murder mystery, in fact. Do you have what it takes to hunt a killer? The mystery entertainment company that creates immersive murder mystery games. So, here's what I love about it. 'Cause I was doing it before [chuckles] they even became a sponsor.

Teresa: [laughing softly]

Travis: You, one, don't have to be in the same place with the person you're playing with. You can play remotely, like, over Zoom. Just have it sent to both people, right?

Teresa: Ah.

Travis: And then you say, like, "What do you think? What do you think?" And the stuff that you get—

Teresa: I mean, I suppose you could do it by yourself too.

Travis: Right. I have done that as well. It's not just, like, written clues or whatever, right? It'll be, like, a map of the thing or, like, a pamphlet for the local town church or whatever. And hidden in there are clues. Or there's like, uh, we got one—I did one that was, like, a Mardi Gras thing, and it came with, like, beaded necklaces.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: And, like, all of this stuff where it's, like, one of them was, like, a coaster was part of the clues. So, like, it's a matchbook. It feels *very* immersive. It's not just, like, a written script or a letter that you read. It's like *stuff*. And it feels like you're there, and you really feel pretty clever figuring it out. And they have lots of different ones. It's not just one. There's all kinds of different ones.

There's, like, a dive bar one, and there's so many to choose from. And it's challenging puzzles and codes and ciphers, and it's amazing. And some of it's even digital. It's really cool. It's great for date nights or family game nights, or you could do it for, like, a team-building thing, or just as, like, solo stuff. It's really, really cool. I highly recommend it.

You can head to Hunt a Killer at bit.ly/Huntakiller_shmanners. And use *Shmanners* for 10% off your order of immersive murder mystery games today. Thank you, Hunt a Killer, for sponsoring this episode.

[diner noises and piano music in background]

Speaker One: I hope they've got the bread bowl. Have you seen the bread bowl at this place?

Speaker Two: Mm-hmm.

Speaker Three: Good evening. Welcome to Maximum Fun. Have you been here before?

Speaker Two: It's her first time.

Speaker Three: Very good. Might I recommend our special?

Speaker One: Oh, please.

Speaker Three: Can I interest you in The MaxFunDrive? I'm told they're cooking up something quite extraordinary this year.

Speaker One: I've heard about this! With limited time thank you gifts for new and upgrading members?

Speaker Three: That's right.

Speaker One: [chuckles] We'll take it!

Speaker Three: How would you like your episodes?

Speaker Two: Uh, can I get them excellent with new BoCo on the side?
Oh, are there live-stream events?

Speaker Three: Absolutely. You know, if you're interested in events, Meet Up Day is returning.

Speaker Two: [loudly] What?

Speaker Four: You're gonna love Meet Up Day. It's the best.

Speaker Three: Okay. Let me make sure I have everything. MaxFunDrive 2023, with limited-time thank-you gifts, live stream events, Meet Up Day, excellent episodes, and, of course, new bonus content.

Speaker Two: Sounds perfect.

Speaker Three: Great. We'll get it started, and it'll be ready in two weeks, March 20th.

Speaker One: Oh! Could we also get a couple of waters?

Speaker Three: Of course.

[background noises fade away]

Background Vocalist: [scatting continuously in background] "Bap-a-be-ba-pa-be-bow-bow."

John: Where am I?

Elliott: On Maximum Fun.

John: What do you want?

Elliott: A podcast miniseries about *The Prisoner*.

John: Whose side are you on?

Elliott: That would be telling, but, okay, I'm on my own side. It's one of my favorite ever TV shows. We want a podcast on it. A *Prisoner* podcast.

John: You won't get it.

Elliott: By hook or by crook we will.

John: Who are you?

Elliott: I'm Elliott Kalan.

John: Who is number one?

Elliott: Jesse Thorn, but *you* are John Hodgman.

John: I am not a *Prisoner* podcaster! I am a free man!

Elliott: [laughing maniacally] Ha-ha-ha-ha. [coughing and sputtering]

John: Elliott, are you okay? Elliott, are you all right? Okay, I'll watch it.

Elliott: All four episodes of *Be Podding You* are out now.

[background scating fades away]

Travis: Okay, back to the book. We've got an example—[gasps] Some knots there, pictures.

Teresa: Oh, yes. So, I wanted to move on to the *food*.

Travis: The food?

Teresa: The food.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: For some reason, I thought you were going to say another word after “the food.” You said, “the food...”

Teresa: The food.

Travis: Portion or something. I thought there was going to be another word coming and there wasn't.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, like we mentioned, different classes aboard ate different things.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Samantha at this point in her—in her journeys, she gets bored and does some more exploring, and finds herself down in steerage. She finds the room to be, I mean, non-existent. It's, like, bunks, and things like that.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And she gets scolded at this point for being outside of her class.

Travis: Well. Well, what are ya—kids. Kids these days wandering around getting into scrapes and shenanigans.

Teresa: But she does make it away with a steerage menu. Where it's said that on Monday they are served sauerkraut, smoked bacon, and potatoes.

Tuesday is pea soup, salted bacon, and potatoes. Wednesday is bean soup, salted meat, and groats. Uh, Thursday—

Travis: Groats? What's a groat?

Teresa: I believe it's an oat porridge.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And then—

Travis: Oh, like grits.

Teresa: Sort of.

Travis: Okay. Grits and oats combined makes groats.

Teresa: [laughing] Uh, Thursday is vegetable soup, beef, potatoes, and rice. Friday: pea soup, salted bacon, and potatoes. Bean soup again on Saturday.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I know. I mean, it is very limited in this.

Travis: Now, I was very excited about the cabbage and salted bacon and potatoes. That sounds right up ya boy's alley. And then we started getting into like—

Teresa: But *maybe* not for three meals a day.

Travis: Yeah. Not like—and also when you get into soup, soup, soup, soup, soup... I'm not as wild about that.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Tell me about the fancy people's.

Teresa: Well. So, in contrast, once she is given her first-class mealtimes, we're going to see that, um, not only did they eat better food, they ate more often. At 6:00 AM, is before breakfast fruit served.

Travis: Don't wake me up at 6:00 AM! For fruit? If somebody woke me up at 6:00 AM and was like, "Hey, I brought you grapes." I'd be like, "Who are you?"

Teresa: [laughing] I think it is as—as you like it, perhaps.

Travis: Oh, you probably go to the place. They don't come to you.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: That makes a lot more sense now that I think about it.

Teresa: Yes. 9:00 AM—

Travis: They could just slide grapes under my door.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: That'd be fine.

Teresa: 9:00 AM is when breakfast is served. 11:00 AM is before lunch soup if you're interested in that course.

Travis: You know they were taking whatever soup thing didn't get eaten there down to steerage and be like, "This is your soup now."

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: "It's old soup. Enjoy."

Teresa: Noon is sandwiches on deck, but then 1:00 PM is actual lunch service.

Travis: Options is what they're giving you.

Teresa: 3:00 PM is after lunch ices and cookies. So—

Travis: What's an ice?

Teresa: It's like lollipops and—like, you know, ice pops and popsicles and things like that.

Travis: Oh! Okay.

Teresa: But it might not be served on a stick. It was probably in a cup.

Travis: Okay. Like Italian ice.

Teresa: Like a sorbet.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: 4:00 PM was afternoon tea and biscuits. 5:00 PM was before dinner sweets. I don't know what that means. [giggling]

Travis: I think you know exactly what it means. It's cookies! Probably cookies and candy and whatnot.

Teresa: And 7:00 PM is when dinner was served. She has the *pleasure* of dining at the Captain's table.

Travis: With Admiral Beemis?

Teresa: Indeed. It says, "I got so excited when the Admiral told Grandmary and me that the Captain had invited us to join him for dinner. Sitting at the

Captain's table is the highest honor. When I walked into the Grand Dining Salon I couldn't believe my eyes. It was so beautiful."

Travis: Oh, so the Admiral's not in charge. Oh, it makes sense. Okay.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: There's a Captain.

Teresa: There's the Captain on the ship.

Travis: Oh, I bet that makes the Captain nervous, though, right?

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: When the Admiral's there. He's probably an Admiral in the military and not an Admiral of the cruise line. I don't think that exists.

Teresa: [laughing softly]

Travis: Now that I've said it out loud.

Teresa: She goes on to detail how it looked. She talks about the cushions being hand embroidered—

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: ... and the tablecloths made of imported lace.

Travis: Oh, no. That would make me so nervous. Not just because we have children there, but because I'm a big old Shrek and the chance that I'm going to get some gravy on there, off the charts.

Teresa: Well, you would have been schooled in manners, of course.

Travis: Yeah, I would have been schooled.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: I would have been embarrassed is what you mean.

Teresa: And then, goes on to describe the table setting—

Travis: I've been—excuse me. I have been schooled in manners! We've been doing this show for six years and I went to cotillion when I was in middle school. Thank you very much.

Teresa: I mean—

Travis: It didn't stick. Yeah.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing] They might have other ways of making it stick. I don't know.

Travis: Hitting me with a ruler on the back of the hand. Stuff like that?

Teresa: Maybe. Maybe.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: And so, one of the things that I thought was *amazing* is—listen to this, “Grandmary says the serving staff has a secret way of keeping the plates from sliding off the table.”

Travis: Chewing gum. No.

Teresa: “When the ocean gets rough, they dampen the tablecloths right where the plates will go. Then they warm the plates before they set them down and it makes the plates stick like a suction cup.”

Travis: Interesting.

Teresa: Yeah. Very cool, right?

Travis: Yeah, I do like that.

Teresa: Here is the first-class dinner listing of what Samantha was served at the Captain's table.

Travis: Oh, my. May I? [read with English accent] "Hors d'oeuvres, oysters, cream of barley, salmon, filet mignon, sauté of chicken, lamb with mint sauce, roast duckling, applesauce, sirloin of beef, green peas, creamed carrots, boiled rice, mashed potatoes, roast squab and cress, Waldorf pudding, peaches in chartreuse jelly, chocolate and vanilla éclairs, French iced cream." Okay!

Teresa: The—

Travis: Was it a pick from that or you have to eat all of it? It was probably eat all of it, right?

Teresa: I mean, these were served usually in courses.

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Can I just say? I enjoy all of those.

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: I mean, let me see.

Teresa: I mean, they look delicious.

Travis: Is there anything on here—I've never had Cream of Barley. Um—

Teresa: Have you ever had squab?

Travis: You know, I don't think so. And I assume Waldorf Pudding is, like, a pudding with, like, walnuts and stuff.

Teresa: I believe so, yes.

Travis: Yeah. Everything else I think I've had. I don't—uh, Chartreuse Jelly I have not had. And chartreuse is green and I always think, when I hear chartreuse, something about the sound of the word—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... makes me think of, like, red and burgundy, but it's just simply not it. Chartreuse is, like, a green color.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: It's weird, right? It doesn't fit.

Teresa: It is weird.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: It is weird. Um, yeah. So, just the—just the disparag—disparagest?

Travis: Disparity?

Teresa: Disparity! There it is. Between the two menus, I mean, is—is massive.

Travis: Yeah. I mean, the price of the ticket was probably different too.

Teresa: That's true. That's true.

Travis: Not to defend classism.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: I'm not saying.

Teresa: All right. Um, like a true American Girl, she does face a little bit of, uh, a harrowing journey.

Travis: [gasps] She has to talk to a poor person?

Teresa: The se—I mean, she *befriends* a poor person, of course.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: In this book, her name is Ann—or Annie.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: So, the seas become very rough on their journey.

Travis: Oh, no.

Teresa: And her Grandmary is feeling seasick.

Travis: Oh, no!

Teresa: There are rainy day festivities. Things like, uh, singing, origami—

Travis: Ooh, la la.

Teresa: ... showed to them. So, like different—different classes that you could go to. There were also performances on the ship.

Travis: Un-huh.

Teresa: She enjoys—

Travis: Of the greatest Broadway show tunes!

Teresa: Magic tricks.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: And probably more like vaudeville-style singing, right?

Travis: Okay. I'd be into that. Oh! See, it's another envelope. I like the envelopes!

Teresa: You love the envelopes. This one talks about how the Children's Steward helped them put on a puppet show.

Travis: [gasps] Ah! What?

Teresa: Very fun. And here are the little puppets.

Travis: Oh, my goodness. How cute!

Teresa: There's a puppet for you to play with, Travis.

Travis: How cute. It's a little puppet! [high-pitched voice with English accent] "Hello! My name is Clarabelle. I'm—"

Teresa: It's a paper lady, and she has, um—

Travis: Oh, she used to have legs it looks like, not anymore.

Teresa: She used to have legs, but, uh, she has—

Travis: [as Clarabelle] "I used to have legs! Didn't I?"

Teresa: By little brads, you can move her arms and swing her waist.

Travis: "But my name's not Brad, it's Clarabelle! I'm a little flower girl. Here, buy my rose, love."

Teresa: [chuckles softly]

Travis: "Only a tuppence. Ooh, la la."

Teresa: That sounds like a great show that she would have put on.

Travis: You, uh—a little dismissive.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: You wouldn't—you don't want to see the show. That's fine. I'm just saying Clarabelle the flower girl would've been a hit with the children. Okay, get back in there Clara. Until next time. I'll take you on the road.

Teresa: Okay. The highlight of the trip was The Captain's Gala Ball.

Travis: Ooh, yeah! Put me down. One plus Teresa.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. So, the shop's laundry pressed their dresses and packed them with rose petals for the occasion.

Travis: Was that a thing?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I mean, the rose petals would have perfumed the clothing.

Travis: Okay. You didn't, like, wear the dress with the rose petals *in* it?

Teresa: No. No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, they would have sent their—their clothes to be laundered. And they would have been folded and returned and folded in with it would have been the rose petals to perfume it.

Travis: Oh. Okay.

Teresa: Uh, so they talk about what they're going to wear and how busy they are getting ready for it. There's a hairdresser who comes to the cabin to do their hair.

Travis: Comes to the cabin?

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: And the steward comes to draw their baths. Um, and the Admiral is there with them.

Travis: Not in the bath?

Teresa: No, not in the bath.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But in the room assisting Samantha getting ready. There's a beautiful drawing of the dress that she wears.

Travis: Lovely.

Teresa: And here it is. "Oh, what a glorious night!" she writes. "When I glided down the grand staircase on the Admiral's arm, I felt just like Cinderella. The musicians played softly. The decorations glimmered in the

candlelight. On every table, there were beautiful flower arrangements with real peacock feathers.”

Travis: Whoa!

Teresa: She goes on to detail her dance card and all the things like her corsage.

Travis: She dances with the Captain!

Teresa: Well, of course, she does.

Travis: Ugh. The best!

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: There’s a buffet!

Teresa: Yep. She goes to the buffet and there is a beautiful giant swan carved out of ice.

Travis: Amazing.

Teresa: She does land.

Travis: Oh, thank goodness!

Teresa: Of course. [giggling]

Travis: Oh. If the book took a turn here, I don’t think my heart could take it.

Teresa: And there’s a little bit about Southampton Dock where they dock the ship. It says, “The Admiral, Grandmary, and I were hustled down the gangplank so we could make the last train for London. The Admiral gave me

some tiny postcards so I could decide what sites I wanted to see first." So, on to the next adventure for Samantha.

Travis: Good for you, Samantha.

Teresa: Here is a little goodbye gift that the Children's Steward gave her.

Travis: Oh! It's a little spinning wheel!

Teresa: I thought you would like that. It's a little spinning wheel.

Travis: "You will receive a special gift."

Teresa: A fortune teller of sorts.

Travis: "You will meet a famous person." Oh, I hope I get to meet that Brenda Lee Mulligan on the ship.

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: "You will make a new friend." Maybe Brenda Lee Mulligan and I will become friends. "Find a lost item." I did lose Brenda Lee Mulligan once. Maybe I'll find her this time. "I'll visit a strange place with Brenda Lee Mulligan," it says. How weird. These are all about Brenda Lee Mulligan.

Teresa: Oh, wow! This is her scrapbook, and so she does say her favorite things about the trip were: staying up late for the ship's launch,—

Travis: Always great.

Teresa: ... sleeping in her curtained bedroom,—

Travis: Ooh, la la.

Teresa: ... winning the Egg and Spoon Race—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: ... the Captain's Ball, and meeting her friend Annie, the little girl she met in steerage. Her *least* favorite things were not being able to see her again because, of course, we heard that she's not supposed to be down there.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: She missed everyone back home, getting scolded for being in the card room and in steerage, and having to sit still for dinner and tea.
[laughing softly]

Travis: Yeah. That'll happen. That'll happen.

Teresa: So, this is not going to be unlike our journey, but also very unlike our journey. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah. Man, though. If there was a dinner where their like "Here's all this stuff." I'd be like, "Are you kidding me? Where'd you get squab?"

Teresa: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Um, hey! Thank you all for listening. And this book is amazing. Are we going to give this to Bebe? Where'd this book come from?

Teresa: Oh, this is from Alex's personal collection.

Travis: Oh, well, thank you, Alex! That's amazing. You know what? Thank you, Alex, not only for the book but for being an amazing researcher. We could not make this show without you. Thank you to Rachel, our editor. We could not make this show without you. And thank you for listening. We can make this show without you, but why?

Teresa: Why would we?

Travis: Um, speaking of, we're getting pretty close to that old MaxFunDrive, and we just want to remind you we're really glad you're here. Without you, we literally could not make this show. I joke about it all the time, but your support is what allows us to make this show and to make it a priority and keep coming back week after week, so thank you so much.

I want to tell you about some exciting announcements. *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* is going to be doing a live show at The Moontower Comedy Festival in Austin April 13th at 7:00 PM. Tickets are on sale this Friday, March 10th at noon local time. It's bit.ly/Mcelroytours for more info and ticket link. We're doing our *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* live and virtual show with *Sawbones* opening on March 17th at 9:00 PM Eastern time.

Tickets are only \$10.00 and video on demand will be available for purchase for two weeks after the event so even if you can't make it to the live show, don't worry you'll have two weeks to watch it. Once again, it's bit.ly/Mcelroytours for event on that. And our generic podcast merch is back in stock and—

Teresa: I'm wearing one today!

Travis: Teresa's wearing one right now.

Teresa: I am very happily—I happily share a similar shirt with Montaigne—

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: ... who wrote the new—the new *MBMBaM* theme.

Travis: That's correct.

Teresa: So, we both wear our podcasts shirt.

Travis: And 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to Equality Florida which is dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's LGBTQ community. You can find all of that at Mcelroymerch.com. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: As always, thank you to Brent “brentalfloss” Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, 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.

And, as always, we are taking questions. We are taking submissions for topics. We are taking *all* of those things. Just if you want to say “hi” to Alex, you can email us shmannerstcast@gmail.com.

Travis: And that’s going to 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]

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