

## Shmanners 362: Sexist Wedding Traditions

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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:** I'm really excited for this episode.

**Teresa:** Are you?

**Travis:** Yeah. We don't usually get, like, risqué. We usually keep it PG. But we're talking about the sexiest wedding stuff, right?

**Teresa:** Hmm, well, no.

**Travis:** What?

**Teresa:** No we're not. [laughs]

**Travis:** We're not talking about sexiest weddings things?

**Teresa:** No...

**Travis:** What is it?

**Teresa:** I mean, it's more like... sexist wedding things.

**Travis:** Oh no.

**Teresa:** Oh no. [laughs]

**Travis:** There's been a horrible miscommunication. Oh no! No, I—hey, I knew that. That was a bit.

**Teresa:** Was that a bit?

**Travis:** That was a joke I was doing because if you add one letter... it's sexiest. So if you look at it quickly—the j—okay. So the joke—

**Teresa:** Oh, mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Everybody, come with me. If you look at it quickly...

**Teresa:** [wheezes] Okay.

**Travis:** Now, would you say this is part of, like, our—'cause we've done a bunch of wedding episodes.

**Teresa:** We have, yes. And some of these I think we may have covered before. But it always bears repeating that—

**Travis:** That marriage is a sexist institution?

**Teresa:** You should do your wedding any way you want.

**Travis:** It has a huge sexist, misogynistic history, whether we're talking about olden times, current times, in-the-middle times. Uh, anything?

**Teresa:** More like traditions are sometimes bad, and you should do what you want.

**Travis:** What? [laughs] That is true.

**Teresa:** I was gonna say that this is actually my favorite time of year, because all the songs on the radio are sappy wedding songs.

**Travis:** And you like that?

**Teresa:** I love it! I love it. It is just so nice to hear a beautiful wedding song about people who love each other.

**Travis:** See, I like this time of year because this is when a lot of really fun bubblegum pop artists are trying to be the song of the summer, which I enjoy immensely.

**Teresa:** Yeah, that's another one.

**Travis:** It's hard for me to think about wedding songs without thinking about the deep, beautiful, poignant irony of how many people made Brick by Ben Folds 5 their wedding song 'cause they just listened to it without hearing the lyrics or the meaning behind it.

Anywho, we don't have to talk about that, but there's plenty other—and in case anyone was wondering, Nights in White Satin was ours. It was great.

**Teresa:** Yeah it was.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay. Um, so... incidentally...

**Travis:** Oh?

**Teresa:** Weddingwire.com says that June is the most popular wedding month of the entire year. 13% of couples choose this month to tie the knot.

**Travis:** Do you think... now, hold on. Since the invention of gay marriage, do you think—since the legalization, that's the word I was looking for and I couldn't find it.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And invention isn't—the legalization. Do you think that that is up because of Pride Month? Do you think—

**Teresa:** I don't know.

**Travis:** —that there are people who plan their marriages during—like, I bet that there is an uptick in June wedding. I think June wedding was always a thing.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** But I think that probably there was an uptick in it even more so when people were like, "Hey, we're allowed to get married now. You know what the perfect time for it is?"

**Teresa:** Maybe. That is not a correlation that I am prepared to report on.

**Travis:** Well, as everyone knows, correlation equals causation. Is that it?

**Teresa:** Yeah. But, um... it could just be the weather.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** It's kind of, like, great outdoor weather. It's not too hot yet, but it's warm enough to be outside most days. You know, it's better than—you don't really need a light jacket.

**Travis:** But I love a light jacket! I have so many of them!

**Teresa:** [laughs] So it's just, I mean, it's a nice month in the year. Anyway. Um—

**Travis:** Hey, if we haven't said it, happy Pride Month.

**Teresa:** Yeah! So... here's the thing, right? We have often remarked that planning a wedding is stressful.

**Travis:** Oh yeah.

**Teresa:** Right? Even for people who plan weddings, it is stressful. And I wouldn't say that the wedding in particular, which is more like a big party, is stressful.

**Travis:** Well...

**Teresa:** I would say that the people who you hope will celebrate you often put undue stress on you, right?

**Travis:** Well, yeah. I think often the most stressful thing is the questions.

**Teresa:** Yes. The questions?

**Travis:** From other people?

**Teresa:** About what?

**Travis:** When you're, like, planning a wedding and you're like, "I think I got everything figured out or whatever."

And then they're like, "And what are you doing about this?"

And you're like, "I wasn't gonna have that?"

**Teresa:** Oh yeah.

**Travis:** And they're like, "Oh, you weren't gonna—oh, you just weren't gonna do it?"

And you're like—

**Teresa:** No, that's exactly what I'm talking about.

**Travis:** Okay, alright.

**Teresa:** You know, people you seem to, like... uh, like relatives that you've never known and couldn't pick out of a lineup. Your family suddenly requires that they be invited. Um, and you know, like you said, people like, "Oh, well, we're not gonna have a bouquet toss."

And they're like, "Whaaaat?"

**Travis:** "You're what? [unintelligible mumbling]"

**Teresa:** So we're gonna talk about some of those things. And if you find that you don't want to include those things in your wedding, this is a great reason to give them to say why not.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Right? Um, but if you do want to include these things in your wedding, that is also okay. Because you get to do what you want. And a lot of these traditions—

**Travis:** Not everything you want. I mean, we're not—this isn't the Purge, right?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** We're not doing a wedding, Purge-style wedding here. "You don't whatever, and you're—uh, you can't be punished."

**Teresa:** You are allowed to pick and choose the things that mean the most to you, is what I am saying.

**Travis:** Okay. My wedding tradition? Thank you. I like to steal a car... and that's what we drive away in.

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** It means the most to me.

**Teresa:** Okay. [laughs] So, speaking of bouquet toss, let's go into that one first. Like I said, you don't have to do that, right? It may be, uh, that just inviting your, quote, "single woman friends" to participate in the bouquet toss feels a little bit like a callout, right?

**Travis:** Yeah, true.

**Teresa:** Maybe they don't want to. And that—

**Travis:** And it doesn't matter how loud you play Beyoncé's *All The Single Ladies*, right? It's just like, "I—listen. Love this song. Great. I don't want to get up there."

**Teresa:** Yes. And I would encourage that if you are attending a wedding and you don't want to, then you don't have to. But if you want to do a bouquet toss, just be cool about it! Right? Just, like, be cool.

There are other ways that you can participate in a toss.

**Travis:** Ooh, wait, hold on. Here's an idea.

**Teresa:** Uh-huh?

**Travis:** Set up a bouquet toss. You've hidden the bouquet somewhere in the room.

**Teresa:** Ooh.

**Travis:** And everybody has to find it.

**Teresa:** Okay. All at the same time—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Or, like, sneaky style?

**Travis:** No. All at the same time. Flippin' over tables, right?

**Teresa:** Oh boy.

**Travis:** Everything going—chaos. Where's it hidden? You'll never find it. It's in the ceiling.

**Teresa:** I heard tell of a—an internet sensation of people who tossed a Pusheen, which is a little, like, plush cat-ish toy. And whoever caught the Pusheen had to adopt a cat that evening.

**Travis:** Had to?

**Teresa:** Was invited to.

**Travis:** Okay. It feels to be like, "And now you're forced to do something."

'Cause they don't catch the bouquet and then be like, "Okay, get married right now."

**Teresa:** [laughs] "Right now!" I think it was just a riff on a common theme.

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Teresa:** Um, here's another toss that we did not participate in because I did not want to. And that's the thing.

**Travis:** Is it the garter toss?

**Teresa:** The garter toss.

**Travis:** Now, here's what we're proposing instead. The garter snake toss.

**Teresa:** Ooh. [laughs]

**Travis:** It's a little bit different.

**Teresa:** Um, so this actually comes from the Middle Ages when it was customary for the newlywed couple, especially if they were royal newlywed couples, to exit their wedding and immediately consummate their marriage.



**Travis:** What do you mean, consummate? Like handshakes?

**Teresa:** Nope.

[pause]

**Travis:** What—

**Teresa:** Sexy times.

**Travis:** Oh my goodness.

**Teresa:** And especially for royals, this was a supervised event.

**Travis:** Oh yeah!

**Teresa:** Right. Because it was very important about keeping, like, the royal bloodlines or whatever, right?

**Travis:** They needed proof that if somebody got pregnant they were like, "I was there."

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** "That's when it happened."

**Teresa:** Required a witness.

**Travis:** Gross!

**Teresa:** And so sometimes a particularly enthusiastic witness might aid in the removal of clothing.

**Travis:** Gross!

**Teresa:** Yeah. Unless you asked for help, I guess. Maybe that's—

**Travis:** I mean, there was a lot of layers.

**Teresa:** Maybe that's what you're into. But—

**Travis:** Sure. Hey, babe? It was the Middle—I don't think it was about what anyone, uh—uh, I think it may have been what about people were into. But not what everyone was in, you know what I mean?

**Teresa:** That's true. Not what everyone—

**Travis:** I don't think there was as much worry about consent.

**Teresa:** —was into. And so the tradition made it all the way into the 18th century, until someone was like, "Hmm."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** "Maybe this... maybe this isn't what we wanna do."

So then... this is when the removal of the garter became a symbolic gesture to the consummation of the marriage right after.

**Travis:** Gross!

**Teresa:** So, you know, the groom would remove the garter of the bride, which arguably is the most tame of the lingerie ensembles.

**Travis:** I mean, I guess. But that still is like, would you rather be stabbed with this big knife or this little knife. [wheezes] And it's like, you know what?

**Teresa:** And then he would toss it aside to prove that the bride had been properly, quote, "deflowered."

**Travis:** Gross!

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Gross!

**Teresa:** But—

**Travis:** So many levels!

**Teresa:** Indeed, indeed.

**Travis:** Like I always knew it was kind of gross. I didn't know, uh, how deep the gross roots—it's a grassroots campaign, how gross it was.

**Teresa:** Hey. Try not to yuck on anybody's yum here.

**Travis:** Listen.

**Teresa:** Because... if this is something that you think is fun and entertaining and you want to do it at your wedding, I think you should be allowed to do it!

**Travis:** I am not saying that somebody choosing to do it is gross.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I'm saying it being an expected part of, like, every wedding that for a long time if you said "I don't wanna do it," people would go "Oh, come on!" That's the gross part.

**Teresa:** Agree. We can agree on that. Uh, the next tradition I want to talk about is carrying the bride over the threshold.

**Travis:** The threshold of the home, right?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Yes. According to The Knot, this ritual of carrying a bride over the threshold of a house started in Ancient Rome! Which could be cool, but it

isn't. Because, um, it may seem romantic now to kind of, like, start your life together, right?

But this is from the tradition where Roman grooms would quite literally drag their wives into their houses after the wedding, even if the lady did not fully consent to the union.

**Travis:** Oh. Oh my.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** It—it, again, it again got kind of molded and changed, right? And then it was turned into a superstition rooted in medieval times where they would say that the bride was particularly vulnerable to evil spirits at the time.

**Travis:** Sure. See, that's what I thought it was.

**Teresa:** Especially the soles of her feet, and so you have to carry her over the threshold so your union isn't cursed.

**Travis:** Well, and there's also a lot of stuff in, uh, metaphysical, supernatural stuff about thresholds. So I assumed that it was something about, like, "We're gonna keep evil out there and not bring it in with us," or whatever. Um, but even then, shouldn't we carry each other then? Both people carry each other at the same time and levitate into the home.

**Teresa:** How does—[laughs] how does that work?

**Travis:** It's magic! I mean, if we're talking about superstitious stuff, why not go all the way and say "Let's fly in"? You know what I mean? Let's levitate into the home together. What a great way to start our lives: hovering.

**Teresa:** Right. Um...

**Travis:** Do you remember when we came home from our wedding and we hovered into the house?

**Teresa:** [through laughter] No I don't.

**Travis:** Do you ever—okay.

**Teresa:** I don't remember that.

**Travis:** Listen, this is a tangent. But I have recurring—so, I don't have recurring dreams so much as I have recurring settings and things that happen in them. And one of them—I have this dream about once a week, I would say, where in the dream I have figured out how to fly. And it basically is I jump up and don't come down. And I figured out how to jump up and don't come down, and in the dream I always think, "Ah, finally I figured out how to do it in real life."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Very interesting.

**Travis:** Yeah. At least once a week.

**Teresa:** I do want to mention that this threshold tradition should not be confused with jumping the broom, which is often equated with a similar thing. It is not. These traditions are separate.

**Travis:** Okay. Before we get to the next tradition, how about a word from some other Max Fun shows?

[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 2:** This is great!

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

**Speaker 3:** What is happening?

**Speaker 4:** 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 meet up with her crush.

**Speaker 3:** [loud gasp]

**Speaker 2:** Spill the tea, JV!

**Speaker 4:** 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]

[music plays]

**Biz:** Parenting. It's hard, but don't worry! You're not alone. Belly up to the low bar with One Bad Mother, and let us remind you that fine is good enough.

**Speaker 2:** They wanna climb on different things! And how am I supposed to keep them both from dying? [laughs]

**Speaker 3:** There is a right way to do this, and if I can figure out that right way, I'm gonna be a good parent. So, that is not a thing.

**Biz:** So, join us each week and let us tell you that you are doing a good job. You can listen to One Bad Mother on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music and ad end]

**Travis:** Okay, we've hovered back in.

**Teresa:** Yep.

**Travis:** Now what?

**Teresa:** This is one of the ones I think we've talked about before, because friend and I guess patron saint of the show, Queen Victoria, started this one.

**Travis:** No, listen. The patron saint of the show—

**Teresa:** Is...

**Travis:** —is Emily Post.

**Teresa:** ... Emily Post.

**Travis:** Queen Victoria is just, I would say, uh... you know like those carved statues of, like, pharaohs and stuff that are, like, outside of caves? Right? Or, like—oh, like the statues that they have where it's like, you touch parts of them, won't say what, for good luck. I think Queen Victoria's someone we touch for good luck!

**Teresa:** [laughs] Guh-ross. Anyway... um, the white dress comes down to Queen Victoria, and it's a relatively new tradition, right? Um, it's only about 175 years old, right? So here's the thing, right? Before she decided to wear a white dress and make it kind of, like, in vogue, brides wore all different colors. In fact, the idea was to have the bride stand out, right? And white was actually a very popular, like, regular dress color.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Um, and so, like, because it was easy to clean. Hm-hmm. But also, people wore red, they wore purple, um, there is a Scandinavian tradition that you wear green. Um, even black. Whatever it was that you wanted, really. But once Queen Victoria did it, everyone wanted to be like her.

**Travis:** And is it about, like, purity and...

**Teresa:** Well, it is retrospectively, right? Because Queen Victoria is considered, like, the model citizen, right, of the Victorian Era, those were put on her retroactively.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, they were modeled of the nuclear family, they were kind of like the ideal of all the Victorian citizens. And so you now think about the white dress being associated with purity, but it's because Queen Victoria was associated with all things moral and good.

**Travis:** Not the other way around.

**Teresa:** Not the other way around.

**Travis:** She didn't wear the dress because it was associated with purity. She wore the dress, and then it became associated with purity.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Do you think—I bet... you know, it's not even a bet. I'm 100% certain that, like, a white wedding dress, that thing caught on in large part due to capitalism.

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Because as soon as you specialize that thing, now you can charge extra for that thing.



**Teresa:** Oh, definitely. I mean, that's the wedding machine. [crosstalk]

**Travis:** Right? Because that—we've talked about it with, like, uh, diamond rings, like wedding rings. Of like, "Well, no. It's not just any ring. It has to be a wedding ring. It has to be an engagement ring." And as soon as you put—"This isn't just a dress. This is a wedding dress." And as soon as you do that, it costs more.

And it's the same thing they did with, like, uh, gendering clothes, right? Because it's like, well, now you have to buy a second set if you—and, like, that thing of like as soon as there is a basically wedding uniform, right? Where they're like, "Oh, this isn't just a suit. This is a tux! And so it costs X much more." Right? You can charge so much more for it.

**Teresa:** Yeah. And these days you can pretty much find anything you want to wear on the internet. It's a beautiful, sometimes dangerous place. But I've seen people online wear, like, you know, bedazzled tank tops, matching sweaters. Whatever it is that you want to wear.

**Travis:** Have we talked about this before? I feel like we might have. Have we done an episode on wedding cakes? I feel like we have.

**Teresa:** Hmm. Perhaps as a part of it.

**Travis:** Because I bet that there is, like, a, hey. When you order this cake, don't say the word wedding... or, like, marriage—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Or they'll charge you three times.

**Travis:** Or it'll cost way more.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right?

**Teresa:** Absolutely. Um—

**Travis:** "What's that? Three tiers, and it's white, and it has a golden— what's this for?"

"Uhhh, it's for—"

**Teresa:** "Birthday party!"

**Travis:** "For my son's fifth birthday!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "He loves weddings. Uh, buh, wait, no! No!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] I think the most important thing is, uh, regarding what you wear for this celebration, is you should feel great in it. You know?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, and whatever it is that you feel great in, we would love to see you in it. That's great.

Uh, next tradition. Bachelor parties. Which are actually much older than bachelorette parties.

**Travis:** A stag do, I've heard them.

**Teresa:** A stag do, or a hen do is the bachelorette one.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** So, um—

**Travis:** What's a hen do? Oh, usually it flies around and goes [chicken noises].

**Teresa:** [laughs] Bachelor parties, on the opposite end of things, are surprisingly old. Going all the way back to 5th century Sparta.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Teresa:** Um, and marriages, as we've spoken about tons of times before, were typically arranged as land deals or business transactions. Um, and so Spartans would take their soon-to-be-married buddies out for a final night of freedom and debauchery.

**Travis:** And I bet that that debauchery was, like, actual debauchery. Not like, "We're gonna drink too many beers and watch the Fast & Furious movies." Right?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It was probably, like, not good stuff.

**Teresa:** Probably not good stuff. But the idea was that, uh, it was kind of like one last party before you were expected to be, like, a respectable kind of member of society. And as the years wore on this, quote, "last stand of manhood," or whatever, right? It got more and more raucous and, like, centered around the last night of freedom, right? And if you want to have a bachelor party, bachelorette party, you should do it! But the thing that I would discourage you from doing is, um, cheating on your spouse.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** Yeah. I mean, or fiancé, soon-to-be spouse. Or get so drunk that you have to go to the hospital.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** Uh, that is not fun for anyone.

**Travis:** Especially if you're doing it, like, actually close to, like within a week of the thing.

**Teresa:** Yeah, the night before or whatever.

**Travis:** Yeah. Don't get so drunk that it's gonna make it bad. Now, I will say this. I understand—I did it. I had a bachelor party. It involved playing Kario Mart, which if you don't know is where you play Mario Kart but—and you have to finish your drink before you get to the end of it, but you can't drink and drive. So as you're driving you can't drink and you have to, like, stop the car, and then finish your drink, right?

**Teresa:** Which is good because it probably makes the game last a lot longer.

**Travis:** Yes. And we watching Blazing Saddles and ate pizza and went to the local casino, and I was the only one I think that enjoyed that, and I won some money at the blackjack tables, and then I went to bed.

**Teresa:** Yep!

**Travis:** Um, and the thing is, if you've got a bunch of people in town for your wedding, and it's like your best friends are there and you're like, "Tomorrow when we have the actual wedding, I'm not gonna get to spend as much time with you guys, so let's all hang out tonight."

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right? Yeah, I totally get that. This idea of like, "[gruff voice] One last night of freedom." Like, ugh. Oi! I'm not wild about that.

**Teresa:** I had a pajama party where we ate snacks and laid in bed. And, um... did we even watch TV? I don't remember! We just had a kind of [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Went to bed at, like, 8:15.

**Teresa:** I mean, it was great.

**Travis:** Yeah, that sounds like your dream, yeah!

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um...

**Travis:** Sometimes Teresa and I now talk about going to bed before the kids go to bed. And I'm like, "Can you guys put yourselves to bed?"

And they're like, "No! What? Oh, silly daddy."

And I'm like, "Oh man." [wheeze-laughs]

**Teresa:** A fun alternative these days, it's very in vogue to have a joint party.

**Travis:** That's just a party.

**Teresa:** It's like a pre-party before your wedding party.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** Which is great!

**Travis:** Do the rehearsal dinner. Then have a rehearsal party.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, it often involves some sort of trip, maybe a cabin in, I don't know. People go to Pigeon Forge around here.

**Travis:** You know, where the cabins are!

**Teresa:** [through laughter] People go to Pigeon Forge around here.

**Travis:** Go to the cabin at the beach! Are there beach cabins?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Beach cabin.

**Travis:** Beach cabins! Desert cabins! Whatever!

**Teresa:** Whatever! And we play games all night and, like, have great food and, you know, all that kind of stuff, right?

**Travis:** Catch up on your sleep.

**Teresa:** It's a pre-party.

**Travis:** Listen to an audiobook that you've been meaning to listen to but you have a hard time doing.

**Teresa:** I don't know.

**Travis:** Whatever! Get some knitting done! Finish that Frozen blanket you've been working on for two years for your daughter!

**Teresa:** Alright.

**Travis:** Okay. These are just things I would do if I was in a cabin.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, the next tradition.

**Travis:** Finish your manifesto!

**Teresa:** Oh, okay. That's enough. Uh, giving away the bride.

**Travis:** Hey. Nothing about that is good. [laughs quietly]

**Teresa:** So, again, this goes back to, um, women being treated as property. Um, and being part of a, quote, "marriage transaction." And the idea of a dowry is also kind of wrapped up in this, right? So that, you know, the parents of the bride would pay for everything as part of that deal. So, like, the father giving away the daughter is a symbol of him transferring his property into the hands of the son-in-law, um, and some traditions even go back to, like, actual handing so that the bride is never, like, without a man. Don't like it.

**Travis:** Now, here's the thing about it. I hate that that is the origin of it. Because, like, the image of walking someone down the aisle I think is really cute and great and awesome, if that's something you want to do. I hate that it's associated with that, because otherwise just the idea of like, "Hey. You shouldn't have to walk down the aisle alone 'cause that might feel awkward and weird." [wheezes] Like, that sounds great.

**Teresa:** Sure. And I think that you should be able to have anybody you want walk you down the aisle, and not make it about a business transaction, right?

**Travis:** Yes, I agree.

**Teresa:** Um, if you want to, like, I don't know, twerk down the aisle all by yourself, sounds great to me, too.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Hey, man.

**Teresa:** Um, I had both my mom and dad hang out. They were one on each side, because it was important to me that they were both there. And they love you, so it was great.

**Travis:** Yeah. That's true. I think I walked down with our officiant, and then I stood there at the front and I realized, like, "Oh no. Now I'm just here."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Now I'm just up here waiting."

**Teresa:** It didn't take that long.

**Travis:** No, but you know unstructured time for Travis McElroy, ADHD-haver, is not good for me. So I got up there and I was like, "Now I'm waiting... for stuff to start happening."

It was, like, maybe two minutes before it started. But in that two minutes I was like, "Oh no. What do I do? Not with my hands, but with my whole self. What do I do?"

**Teresa:** So we want to—let's turn this tradition, like, all the way around, and instead of—

**Travis:** You give your parents away.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Instead of the idea of a business transaction, let's think about, like, support, right? The bride has support going down the aisle from—

**Travis:** Carry her down the aisle on your shoulders.

**Teresa:** Sure. From your best friends, maybe your siblings, maybe someone in your life that has meant a lot to you, anything like that, right?

**Travis:** Listen, if you want to come down the aisle in a full blown, like, Cleopatra style litter with people carrying it and you're in a [crosstalk]—

**Teresa:** Oh, you totally support that.

**Travis:** Oh my god, I would love that. Are you kidding me?

**Teresa:** Yes, you would love that.

**Travis:** Whew! I would love that.

**Teresa:** Our last one for today... until we find more...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Is the idea of a best man.

**Travis:** Wouldn't it be wild if it was like, "And this was the only sexist stuff about marriage."

**Teresa:** "This is the only one." [laughs]

**Travis:** "That was it! Other than that, marriage? Hugely unproblematic."

**Teresa:** The best man. [pause] Uh, so... anybody who heard that and groaned, I mean, you are totally... within, uh, within your rights to have whoever you want stand up with you, right? I'm just telling you the origin, right?



**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Teresa:** The idea of the best man was literally the best, meaning the strongest, man, that you knew. It was like your bodyguard that was standing up there with you to... keep anyone who did not support this marriage away from what is now your property.

**Travis:** Now, listen. Listen. There's so much wrong with that, obviously. Obviously. But there's a part of me that retroactively wishes I had been like, "Okay. You, like, seven guys, you're in my party. Now. Wrestle."

**Teresa:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** "And whichever one of you comes out on top—this is a full blown cage match. Whoever comes out on top gets first position." Right? "You get the belt. I'll give you a belt. You can stand up there. It's gonna be great. But listen, of course Griffin, I love you so much. Good luck, man."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Um, get in there. I'm pulling for you. I want you to be up there, but... no—no guarantees. Bobby used to wrestle. Good luck, man. Good luck in there."

What? Are you kidding me? That's a great way to raise money for your wedding, right? Like, "Hey, listen. I wanna do a big wedding. So, cage match. Get in there, bud."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Oh man. This has gone off the rails.

**Travis:** I'm saying, like, maybe there's a way that we can keep this going. You can have a best man, but they gotta earn it. Right?

**Teresa:** [through laughter] Okay.

**Travis:** And it's gonna help you pay for your wedding, 'cause you're gonna charge people tickets. You could do it at the beginning of—this is how we open the wedding. This is our opener!

**Teresa:** This is Act I.

**Travis:** This is the opener. Cage match. And then, beautiful. We begin our lives together.

**Teresa:** But if that tradition that Travis is trying to start or the idea of a best man doesn't feel right to you, it is just fine. Have whoever you want. Make it a joint thing, where, like, maybe the two—the two of you have a best friend in common, and you want them to, you know, split the dif. Whatever it is.

**Travis:** Maybe you want to get that guy from TikTok that can rip things, like, logs apart with his hands. And you want him to just stand up there with his arms crossed to make sure no one gets up there and tries to stop it. See if he's free.

**Teresa:** Yeah. [laughs] I guess.

**Travis:** He's a strong guy.

**Teresa:** I guess if you want to. Um, but you don't even have to have a wedding—like, people stand up with you at all. Or you can have every single person that you want. Who cares?

**Travis:** Everybody stand up and you sit down. It's your wedding.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Alright. That is what I want to leave people with for this show.

**Travis:** Make everybody stand up.

**Teresa:** No. It's your wedding.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** And you should do whatever it is that you like, um, and hey. We've had a lot of fun today.

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Teresa:** Don't worry about any of this, because if that's what you want to do, you do it.

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah. Now... here's something you do have to do.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Oh no.

**Travis:** You have to go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours), uh, and see all the new shows that we've added. There's a bunch. Um, we've added shows in, just top of my head, uh, New York, and Seattle, I believe. We've got shows coming up in San Diego—with My Brother, My Brother, and Me and Adventure Zone. I don't know how many of those Shmanners is gonna be able to be at. But still, go check that out. [Bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://Bit.ly/mcelroytours).

Um, also want to tell you if you haven't gone to check it out yet, [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). You can also go just [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family) and find out all the cool stuff there.

I want to say thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we would not be able to make this show. And thank you to you for listening. I don't wanna make this show without you. I don't want to! Don't make me, Teresa!

**Teresa:** Also, thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black who writes our theme music. That's 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.

Um, if there is a wedding tradition that you would like us to discuss, if there is any tradition you'd like us to go through, uh, any topic, please, send us some topics.

**Travis:** You know what I would love to do?

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** I would love to do—and we haven't done one of things in a while—but, like, a collection of stories about, like, the wildest weddings in history, right? Of just, like, extravagant or, like, just silly or "You'll never believe what happened at this one! They chose to do it like this, and they had—" you know.

**Teresa:** That would be awesome!

**Travis:** I would love to do that.

**Teresa:** Send that to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com), and make sure that you say hi to Alex, because she reads every one.

**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?

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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