

Shmanners 370: Read and React – Princess Lessons

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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. Sorry.

Travis: Were you just smothering a sneeze?

Teresa: [laughs] A little bit. [sniffles]

Travis: It looked like the sneeze was trying to get out of your nose and you were trying to push it back in.

Teresa: [laughs] I think that is what happened.

Travis: That's what's going on?

Teresa: I think that's true, yeah.

Travis: Yeah. I'm so excited to talk about...this. I know nothing about what you're gonna say, but all I do know is that our children...uh, for the last forever, have made us listen to, like, this one song from Barbie: Pop Star and the Princess.

Teresa: The Princess and the Pop Star, excuse you.

Travis: Oh, sure, yes. 'Cause it's like Princess—uh, like Prince and the Pauper.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right? Um, except here's the twist, um, instead of a rich and powerful king trading places with a poor person, instead...a young princess who is rich and powerful changes places with a pop star who's famous and powerful.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, so we don't actually know the whole story. Although—

Travis: I actually just know the one song, I think.

Teresa: Although we do assume that it follows a similar plotline, from the songs that we've heard.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Because they don't want to watch the movie. [laughs]

Travis: They don't want to watch the movie. My kids don't care about source material.

Teresa: Nope.

Travis: At all! Bebe will watch videos explaining what each member of The Loud House would want for breakfast, and then you're like, "Hey, bud. Do you want to watch an episode of Loud House?"

And she's like, "No. I'm good."

And then she'll watch a video about what the Loud House family members would keep in their lockers or whatever. It's—okay. Cool, kid. Cool, cool, cool.

Teresa: Um, so this—we assume that this Barbie movie—which I guess we could watch if we wanted to, by ourselves?

Travis: Like, just you and me? No. Oh god, no.

Teresa: Follows Tori, which is the princess, and Keira, which is the pop star, who inevitably trade places because they look and sound so much alike. Uh, to find out that neither one has the freedom that they actually crave. And then they sing a song together.

Travis: Oh, it's beautiful.

Teresa: Before they trade back.

Travis: And we, being diligent parents—I'm not gonna say "we." Teresa, being a wonderful mother, searched through eBay to find the Princess and the Pop Star dolls. Let me tell you some of the features.

Teresa: 'Cause they're not available anymore. This is an old movie.

Travis: Yeah. Let me tell you some of the features on these babies. One, they raise their arm and they sing. But, very clearly, there were some rights issues going on, so they just sing "La, la, la, la, la!" [laughs] It's perfect. It's great.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, I for one—

Teresa: They also have wigs.

Travis: This is—okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: I'm gonna get to that in a second.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Um, but I for one as a parent, I think toys that make sounds...should be illegal. [wheeze-laughs]

Teresa: [laughs loudly]

Travis: Especially these dolls that play, like, .5 seconds of a thing over and over and over and over again. Those batteries gonna get lost.

But they also have a feature, both of them. You can turn the top of their skulls around, right? The top of their little Barbie heads rotate 360 degrees to switch hairstyle from front to back to be like, "Now they're a princess. Now they're a pop star."

But you're just spinning [through laughter] the top of their heads! It's amazing.

Teresa: It is amazing.

Travis: It's amazing toy technology that I wish, uh, every toy would do. Just like, princess up front, pop star in the back, and you turn it around. It's a Barbie fantasy mullet, and I love it.

But we're not talking... about Barbies.

Teresa: Speaking of movies you haven't seen...

Travis: It's a big...it's a big swathe of movies.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: A lot, yeah.

Teresa: Sure. I am gonna read some advice.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: From Princess Lessons. What movie do you think this is from?

Travis: Princess Diaries.

Teresa: You are correct.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: [laughs] So, quickly for you, right? Mia Thermopolis is a teenager, and this book is written mostly from her point of view but, like, she's more kind of, like—

Travis: It's Anne Hathaway, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Commenting on the essays written in the style of the Queen of Genovia.

Travis: There's so many layers.

Teresa: [simultaneously] Julie Andrews.

Travis: There's a lot of meta going on here.

Teresa: There is a lot of meta. And the other people in the movie—so, let's see. The Queen, and then Thea—uh, Mia's—

Travis: Stanley Tucci, Emily Blunt. [crosstalk]

Teresa: Stanley Tucci's—Emily—what? No, wait a minute. No, no, no. That's the wrong one.

Travis: I'm pretty sure if you're talking about a movie where...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ...she enters a highfalutin world and has to learn how to be more fashionable and carry yourself well and maybe have some better manners, and maybe be a little snooty, right? We're talking about the same movie.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: That's not it.

Travis: I'm pretty sure!

Teresa: That's Meryl Streep, not Julie Andrews.

Travis: How could I possibly get them confused.

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Oh my—I'm...embarrassed.

Teresa: So, this book...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: ...is like a collection of kind of essays of her princess lessons, right? The princess lessons from the Queen of Genovia, and—let's see. There's stuff in here from the stylist that gives Mia her makeover, right? Uh, stuff in here from her friends, kind of like, uh, from their point of view about what it would be like to be a princess type stuff. But there—

Travis: Uh-huh, stuff in here from her dog.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: But there is a very good undercurrent of actual etiquette advice.

Travis: Okay. Alright.

Teresa: This book, Princes Lessons: A Princess Diaries Book, written by Meg Cabot.

Travis: Today I was singing I Just Can't Wait To Be King, and I said the phrase, like, "And I just can't wait to be king," and Dot was standing right there, and Dot goes, "Can you really not wait to be king? Are you really gonna be king?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And I said, because I'm me, instead of going "No, honey," I said, "Well, I don't know, maybe!" [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: Uh, who could say!

Teresa: Um, oh. And in case any of our listeners haven't watched The Princess Diaries, you could read the book of you want. It's a book.

Travis: There you go. There you go. Read the book!

Teresa: Read the book. Um, so, here is one about addressing people formally.

Travis: The formal "Yo, what up?"

Teresa: Yes, exactly. Uh, according to their title. So a King or a Queen is...

Travis: Your Majesty?

Teresa: Correct. Prince or Princess is...

Travis: Your Highness?

Teresa: Yes, very close. Your Royal Highness.

Travis: Alright.

Teresa: And then the niece, nephew, or cousin of the sovereign becomes Your Highness.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: We're going in descending order, here. These are all actual titles.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Teresa: Uh, the Duke or Duchess is Your Grace.

Travis: Awesome.

Teresa: The Earl, the Marquis, the Viscount or Baron—

Travis: Can I guess? Is Your... Your... uhhh... Coolness. No.

Teresa: No. My Lord.

Travis: My Lord! [sighs]

Teresa: And their counterpart, the Countess, Mar—Marquess? Viscountess and Baroness are My Lady.

Travis: I wonder if there—like, nowadays, there must be somewhere gender neutral ones, right?

Teresa: Somewhere.

Travis: Yeah, right? It's not like My Lord, My Lady. There's just like...My Liege?

Teresa: Ooh, that's a good one.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: I like that. Uh, a Baronet or Knight is called Sir. Their wife is called Lady. Now, there are also courtesy titles, which I think becomes—

Travis: Like a real runner up title, you mean? Like this is a real participation trophy title?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "And you're here too!"

Teresa: It has something to do with the relation to the actual titled person.

Travis: Sure. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Um, so the son of the Duke, the Marquis or the Earl is Lord whatever their last name is.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Also with the daughter of the Duke, Marquis, or Earl is Lady whatever there is. And then the children of the lower peers such as Barons or Knights are The Honorable.

Travis: I like that.

Teresa: I like that, too. I wanna be The Honorable.

Travis: I wanna be s—well, technically we're Lord and Lady McElroy 'cause Alice bought us about a square foot of land in Scotland, I think?

Teresa: That is true. Um, and then—so that is important to know, because as a princess you have to go to balls, right? And you have to be—you have to introduce yourself and others to each other as part of your ball...duties?

Travis: Sure. Yeah.

Teresa: [laughs] So when you are introducing people, there's also a kind of etiquette that goes with the bowing and curtsying that they talk about in this book. And the Queen of Genovia talks about bowing and curtsying. And these descriptions are so amazing. Here it is.

"For the perfect curtsy, place your left foot behind your right foot and bend slightly at the knees. Then, stand up straight again."

Travis: Perfect. That's what I do, yeah.

Teresa: It's perfect. It's perfect. She says:

"It is not necessary to fling ones upper torso onto the floor, as I understand some American debutantes like to do when they are introduced into society. A simple knee bend will do nicely, and you'll have less of a chance of falling on your face."

Travis: Now, also, if you're trying to catch a beau while you're doing that, a little bend and snap...won't hurt.

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: If you can...if you can make it look natural. I'm just sayin'.

Teresa: [laughs] Nothing about the bend and snap looks natural.

Travis: Anyone can do the bend and snap.

Teresa: Anyone can do that.

Travis: I don't mean to make it sound like just a young woman can do— anyone can do bend and snap.

Teresa: And then the perfect bow. She says:

"Keeping your shoulder and neck straight, bend forward at the waist very briefly, then straighten up."

Travis: Well, some of us have really big heads, and that is more likely to fall over then, 'cause I feel that the bird that dips up and down a lot? You know that bird?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That's what I feel like, 'cause I have a very large head.

Teresa: Um...when you are intr—

Travis: You're not gonna—

Teresa: Sorry.

Travis: —say "No, your head and perfect and beautiful and great"?

Teresa: Listen.

Travis: Uh-huh? It's true!

Teresa: Large—large according to—next to what? It's all relative.

Travis: Other people's heads, I guess [wheezes] would be...the...metric I would use. Uh, I can't find hats that fit.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I guess would be—

Teresa: But yet, not so large—

Travis: How large by inches, uh, centimeters?

Teresa: Not so large that you continually have trouble falling over.

Travis: Not quite. Not quite. But I've also—man, I've put a lot of lead into my shoes and it really helps balance it out.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Travis: And makes me taller, like the Munsters!

Teresa: Like the Munsters.

Travis: Yeah! He was a tall guy.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: You remember, the guy, the Munster—daddy Munster?

Teresa: Oh yes. I do.

Travis: He was a tall man.

Teresa: Yes he was.

Travis: A Frankenstein.

Teresa: Uh, she also has some really great advice for introductions, right? When you're introduced to someone the first time, it is important to smile, look them in the eye, and extend your right hand. Say your name, which would be...

[pause]

Travis: Travis.

Teresa: As—

Travis: Did you forget?

Teresa: No, no, no.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: As the dowager empress or whatever she is, princess. Uh, "I am Clarisse Renaldo, Dowager Princess of Genovia." Right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And here is the thing that I think is amazing piece of advice. Later she says:

"When you are the one making introductions, be sure to include people's first and last names. If you can't remember someone's name, how you work around this is for the person you do know you say, "Do you know His Royal Highness Prince William?"

And the person whose name you don't know will usually introduce themselves."

Travis: Yeah, I've done that trick...in real life, with you. Where I'm like, "Oh, and this is my wife, Teresa."

And they're like, "Oh, hi, Teresa! I'm Henry," or whatever. That's my nephew. I don't think Henry would do that, that would be really weird.

Teresa: [laughs] You would know Henry's name.

Travis: Yeah, I know Henry's name and it would be weird if Henry introduced himself like that to you.

Teresa: But you know what I mean. Like, this has some really great little nuggets of advice within all of the layers of the people.

Travis: All the meta, yeah.

Teresa: All the meta. All the meta layers. So I'd like to move on a little bit about dining etiquette, which is something that we talk a lot about in, like, kind of our historical episodes, right? We do a lot of Victorian and Edwardian dining etiquette.

Travis: We've done dinner parties too, and talked about the serving and all that stuff.

Teresa: Certainly.

Travis: I'm willing to bet in there there's something about, like, a princess doesn't just stand over the kitchen sink to eat really quick 'cause she has to get somewhere. Right? Or do they not cover that?

Teresa: I mean, they don't really cover that.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I think that this is all in the guise of [crosstalk].

Travis: So maybe a princess does do that.

Teresa: Maybe. Just less formal affairs.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Like I said, these are some great nuggets.

Travis: A princess eats nuggets?

Teresa: Nooo. Um, "Eat everything that is on your spoon or fork in one bite."

So, that means that you must cut your food into bite sized pieces that you can fit all in your mouth at once. That is a great thing that we need to talk to our kids about—

Travis: And me.

Teresa: —who—

Travis: Frankly, yeah.

Teresa: —who are often stabbing quite so much off of their plate that they can't fit it all in their mouth at once.

Travis: Hey, listen. They're six and three years old. You get off their backs.

Teresa: I know, I know, I know. But if they want they be—

Travis: [simultaneously] They're doing their best.

Teresa: —the princess and the pop star, they'll have to...

Travis: Hey, babe?

Teresa: ...learn.

Travis: The less we can encourage that...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ...the better.

Teresa: It goes on to say, "Use your fingers to eat foods such as french fries, potato chips, sandwiches, and corn on the cob."

Travis: Food fingers.

Teresa: "Just be sure—"

Travis: Food fingers? Finger foods.

Teresa: Finger foods. "To wipe your fingers on a napkin after each bite instead of licking them."

Travis: Did I ever tell you...and this was recent, this was in the last, like, four weeks. We were watching something on TV and someone had a sword on it. And Bebe goes, "Wait, are swords real?"

I was like, "Yeah, man. Swords are real."

She goes, "So, wait. You mean you could really be a warrior princess?"

Which she has said is her dream job.

And I'm like, "Yeah, man."

She's like, "Daddy, you have made my dreams come true."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And then we started to talk about how old she had to be to start sword training. And it was interesting to me that in her mind, the thing stopping from being a warrior princess is not the princess part.

Teresa: The existence of swords.

Travis: It's the warrior part. It's like, "Yeah."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Listen, the princess part's easy. But where am I gonna get a sword?!" Anyways, I told her when she was eight she could start fencing lessons.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: She's gonna do great! Are you kidding me?

Teresa: Great.

Travis: Her hit box is so small! She's lithe. She's gonna be great at it.

Teresa: Yeah. That's...I'm—

Travis: I can tell you're excited.

Teresa: —looking forward to that. [clears throat]

Travis: You know what I'm looking forward to?

Teresa: What?

Travis: A word from some other Max Fun shows!

Teresa: Ah, nice!

[theme music plays]

[music plays]

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Benjamin: Find the show at Maximumfun.org.

Paul: I hope there's beef in heaven.

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

Jarrett: Hey there, beautiful people! I'm Jarrett Hill.

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Tre'vell: Or this great-great.

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. What else can we learn?

Teresa: Well, I thought this was another one that I think was applicable to everyone, not just princesses.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: "At a formal dinner or even a casual meal with friends, if you are offered a dish that you cannot or will not eat, simply say "No thank you," quietly and politely. No need to explain why, because if it is your staunch adherence to a vegan lifestyle, you may tell your hostess so, but you can do it without the entire table overhearing you. Otherwise, just say no. *Merci.*"

Travis: This in general is a thing that you have kind of been...this is a thing that I do, that you have been...man, I hate that this sounds like it has baggage to it, but that you have been, like, trying to coach me out of. Which is, like, I over explain everything. Like, if I can't make it to a thing I don't just say like "Oh, sorry, I'm not gonna be able to make it."

I have to, like, give 'em a full thing so that they're not mad at me, and that they understand that I would be there if I could, and it's like...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Hey, man. Whoa. Because oftentimes in that over explaining it—especially if you're a party where, like, you're being served dinner by somebody, they don't care. They don't care why you're not eating it. It's just one less serving thing they have to do, right?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: And, like, I think that the idea of, like, that over explaining comes from like, "I don't anyone to be mad at me."

Teresa: That's it. I think that is what it is. I mean, we try really hard to, you know, think about others in that way, but the over explaining just starts to make it...it's just too much.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: It's not necessary. I don't require anyone's explanation for the things that they don't want to do, and I try not to give too much information to anyone else.

Travis: I think that it's a little bit different, like, if you go over to someone's house for dinner and, like, the main thing that they make is something you can't eat? Right? [crosstalk]

Teresa: That's—that's when the preparation is important, right? So—

Travis: That's where—if you get invited over for dinner, you should say, "Just so you know, I don't eat meat."

Teresa: "I'm vegan."

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Right? Uh, that's something that you hope to avoid completely, right? But if it's just, like, one or two things that, you know, you'd rather not eat...maybe you don't like, uh, fish. Our friend Maggie doesn't like fish.

Travis: Yeah. You can't do nuts. You can't, uh, do shrimp, right? There's all kinds of stuff.

Teresa: Yeah, all kinds of stuff. Um—

Travis: You heard about these? All these food allergies and food restrictions these days?

Teresa: [simultaneously] All these allergies. What's that about?

Travis: Whoa-ho. And don't get me started on airplane food!

Teresa: Um, so I'd like to do just a little bit more on, um, fashion.

Travis: Oh, please. Well, I don't need this. I mean, look at me.

Teresa: I mean—

Travis: Dressed like a princess right now.

Teresa: You—

Travis: I've got my Moth Man t-shirt on that says Night Moves? Come on. What else do you need? What do you need?

Teresa: You look great.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: Uh, here is another one. "Dress like a princess." Again, uh, written-ish by [laughs] uh, Julie Andrews's character.

Travis: Written in the voice.

Teresa: In the voice, yes.

Travis: Voice of Julie Andrews's character.

Teresa: That's—Her Royal Highness, Clarisse Renaldo, Dowager Princess of Genovia.

Travis: This isn't like that one book they put out from How I Met Your Mother that they tried to make it seem like it was actually written by Barney from the show. That was weird. There was a whole book—

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: —that was, like, written...by Barney Stinson. It was weird. It was a weird book.

Teresa: Um, she goes through and talks about, like, things that a princess should have in her closet, right? The staples of a princess wardrobe.

Travis: Like staples. [pause] In case a princess needs to put two pieces of paper together.

Teresa: Okay. But not in the closet. That belongs in the...desk?

Travis: Now, what if a dress falls apart at the last minute? You got to staple it back together. What if she's working at Best Buy and she rips her khakis up the middle—

Teresa: [simultaneously] Don't—doesn't she have people—

Travis: —and she has to staple it back together.

Teresa: Princesses have people for that, I think.

Travis: People at Best Buy to staple her pants back together?

Teresa: [laughs] People to sew things. Not with staples.

Travis: Said by a person who's never had their khakis rip open at Best Buy and had to staple 'em back together.

Teresa: [laughs] But I have sewed plenty of things. Sewn? Yes.

Travis: Sew-ed.

Teresa: No.

Travis: You've sued.

Teresa: Uh, so she recommends, um...bras in tone of white or neutral as well as black, but never wear a black bra with a white shirt. I think that—maybe if that's what you like.

Travis: I mean...

Teresa: But...

Travis: I guess. But it's not the style.

Teresa: It's not the style.

Travis: Right?

Teresa: Not the—

Travis: That's wh—when it comes to style, you can wear whatever you want. If you're talking about what's in style, what is the style, that's not it.

Teresa: Um, she talks more about girdles and slips. Those are things that you might need for a ball gown, perhaps.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: But I thought it was interesting to have it says, uh, "Five or more suits in muted tones. Blue, grey, for luncheons, teas, meetings, and things of that nature."

I think that is a great idea, right? To have kind of, like, neutral pieces that you can dress up or dress down. Um, that certainly—like, I like to do that. And I would consider maybe, like, jeans, a nice pair of jeans are like that for most people. I don't wear jeans, but..

Travis: Can I jump back?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: As far as, like, uh, girdles and stuff go...

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: ...[clicks tongue] listen, I'm just gonna go out on a limb here and—call me a hero, if you must—but I think people should just be allowed to, uh, wears clothes that fit them without that.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Hey, listen! I know! I'm a hero. Listen. I'm going to my parade later today.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But I'm just saying...I would argue that if you have to use a girdle to get into your dress, it doesn't fit, and you should be comfortable in it, and you should be allowed to wear what you're comfortable with.

Now, if you're comfortable...I know many people who do corset by choice.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And they do waist training and they do that stuff. And it's like, they like it. Great, cool, good for you.

Teresa: I think also...I suppose because here in the—in the book, I see a kind of, like, fancier dress occasion, I think it was thinking more of like, you couldn't wear a brassiere, you often would wear, like, a girdle to support yourself. You know what I mean?

Travis: I see, yeah.

Teresa: That's what I was envisioning. But yours is a great point too.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Also, people should be allowed to wear stilts to fancy balls. People don't do that enough.

Teresa: [laughs] Um...

Travis: Exoskeletons for everybody! [laughs]

Teresa: Exoskeletons for everyone.

Travis: If you think about it, a corset is kind of like an exoskeleton. Anyways, go on, sorry. [wheezes]

Teresa: Yes. Um, she also says, "A camel hair coat, the perfect coverall from morning to night. Look for a box cut or a flare cut to slip easily over skirts with crinolines."

Travis: I like a camel hair coat.

Teresa: I—I think that that's a good point, right? To have a neutral jacket that you can throw on with anything. Right?

Travis: It's not my—the thing I like—the camel hair coat, the light tan, the beige that I picture, I don't know if it matches my vibe. My style ranges throughout the year, of course, the various seasons. But when I'm in cold weather, I'm either going for, like, that guy in a movie that comes to town and everyone's like, "I don't trust this guy," but then the monsters attack and it turns out like, "Oh, he was a vampire hunter. I'm glad he's here."

Teresa: But—but what do they—what does that person wear?

Travis: Uh, a lot of dark clothes, maybe some, uh—uh, some flannels, uh, [unintelligible] I don't want you hanging out with that kind of guy.

Teresa: Oh, but like the—like the layer, right? So the black t-shirt and then the flannel and then the...

Travis: Like a pea coat or like a—uh, a leather coat.

Teresa: [crosstalk] Leather jacket, okay, okay.

Travis: Yeah, like maybe somebody from Supernatural might wear.

Teresa: Alright, I can see that.

Travis: But then as I transition into the winter, now I'm going for rogue wizard, right? Oh, that's a wizard who bucks the system and the rules and...you wouldn't—ohh, he's not...our kind of wi—he's a wild wizard. We don't trust him.

That's kind of what I go for...in the winter.

Teresa: So pajama bottoms and—

Travis: No! What?

Teresa: [laughs] A sweater, and—

Travis: No! No! I'm talking, like, patent leather boots, and—

Teresa: Oh. [laughs]

Travis: That's where I've got my f—what kind of wizard—I'm not like a depressed wizard.

Teresa: I went all the way to the opposite of, like, dress robes.

Travis: Yeah, but I'm talking—okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But if you're wearing robes the other side of that isn't shabby robe, right? It isn't pajama pants and slippers.

Teresa: I feel like it is!

Travis: No! What?! Oh my goodness gracious.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm talking, like, flashy wizard. You know what I mean? Oh my god.

Teresa: Oh, okay. Alright. [laughs]

Travis: I will also go with vampire, if you want that. Modern vampire. That also works for me in the winter. Uh, spring, now I'm coming out, now I'm

kind of a sporty guy, and I've got my, like windbreaker jackets, and I've got my cool jacket, my members only jacket. Then summer? Vacation dad. 100%. That's what I'm going for. Or—

Teresa: Button up aloha shirts.

Travis: Yeah, or I'm going with, "Why is that guy wearing jeans? It's 97 degrees outside."

Teresa: [laughs] Well, that's one reason I don't wear jeans. Don't like 'em.

Travis: I don't know why I went off on that rant, but that's what—maybe it'll be different this year. We'll see.

Teresa: Uh, maybe, maybe. Um, here is something that I would love to discuss for the...for our children. For the children.

Travis: For the children, yeah.

Teresa: Proper tiara maintenance.

Travis: Oh, thank god!

Teresa: Do you know how many plastic tiaras I have superglued back together?

Travis: The children do not understand. So, a tiara comes in—think of the shape you think a tiara is. Like, if you're looking at it from a top view, yes, correct, that's the shape of a tiara. Now imagine you're a child and you're like, "What if I bend it this way? [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And then you're like, "Huh. Why would it break?" It's because you...broke it.

Teresa: It's you broke it. Um, here's something I was very interested to learn. Tiaras are correctly worn approximately two to three inches from the beginning of the hairline.

Travis: Yeah, everybody knows that.

Teresa: A tiara may never be worn at breakfast.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: In fact, it is gauche to don one's tiara before 11 in the morning, except at the event of a state funeral or royal wedding.

Travis: Then you could probably get away with a circlet, if you really needed something to set you apart from the rabble.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: You could do a bejeweled circlet, or maybe some kind of fancy hairpin.

Teresa: Or fascinator.

Travis: Or a fascinator, oh yeah. Show me the steampunk king and queen where the king has a bejeweled, gilded top hat with jewel gilded goggles, and the queen has a beautiful golden fascinator. Ohh, even saying it out loud has made my heart go pitter patter. I want it so bad.

Teresa: That sounds great. When I think about the tiaras that our children wear, they become more like headbands. So...that's—

Travis: Well, it makes sense, right? Because if you're thinking about, like, um...like, women's hairstyles, especially when you're thinking about, like, fancy ball things, if they're pulled back, right? And you were to put the tiara way too forward, I think it would look strange. But if you put it a little ways back, then you also get—sitting up a lot of tiaras have, like, a raised front, you know? So when it's sitting up, it creates much more of a straight up and

down. You can see the front of it. Whereas if it was too far forward it would be like, angled forward like the Statue of Liberty.

Teresa: But I guess what I'm thinking of is, like, so when they put it on it, like, tucks behind their ears.

Travis: [simultaneously] Oh yeah, no. They—

Teresa: This is not—

Travis: Hey, our children don't wear tiaras correctly.

Teresa: It's not supposed to...supposed to do that. It's supposed to kind of, like, sit at the crown—at the top.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. They're grounded, you're right.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Come on, girls. Get it together.

Teresa: Um, this book I think we would be remiss if we didn't finish off on a note from Her Royal Highness, Princess Mia.

Travis: Sure. "Help, I'm trapped in this castle. Get me out now."

Teresa: [laughs] It says:

"Contrary to popular belief, you don't need to have gotten straight A's in high school to rule a country."

Travis: No, there are—there are many, I would say, um...what's the opposite of smart? Those people running things. Don't worry about it!

Teresa: Uh, "You don't have to have gone to high school at all, especially if you inherit a throne the way I'm going to someday. However, there will be those who insist upon not only finishing high school but receiving a secondary education, and if you really think about it, it's probably good to learn about world history and math, et cetera, so you at least have some idea what you're doing when you meet with Parliament and sign tax bills into laws and stuff."

Travis: I think that's probably a good point.

Teresa: I think she's on the right track. You know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, if you're gonna rule a country, maybe...be educated. Okay! Well, thank you everybody for listening. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we wouldn't be able to make this show. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we wouldn't be able to make this show. And thank you to you for listening! We could make this show without you...but that would be strange, really, if you think about it, because...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ...it takes time and work and ugh, what's the point? Make sure you go check out the merch over at the merch store. We've got the Clint the Planeswalking Janitor sticker. We got the mystery sale. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to Earth Justice!

Also we've got upcoming shows for the 20 Sun and Sea Surf the Vibe tour. Uh, we've got shows in Seattle, Washington on August 31st through September 1st, and just announced we're going to be doing shows in Philadelphia. We're doing a My Brother, My Brother, and Me in Philadelphia

on October 11th, and then right over to New York Comic Con for shows October 12th and 13th.

New York Comic Con, you do need an NYCC badge to attend the show in person, but badge-free tickets will also be available to watch a video-on-demand of the show online. You can find out all about that at bit.ly/mcelroytours. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thanks 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.

As always, we are taking topic submissions. Email us at shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say to Alexx, 'cause she reads every email.

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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