

Shmanners 380: Monster Party

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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: [Dracula impression] And you're listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: It's a very spooky episode.

Teresa: I couldn't figure out if you wanted me to also be vampire—

Travis: No, you are my prey.

Teresa: Oh, I see.

Travis: I am going to drink your blood. I don't drink... wine.

Teresa: Thanks, Gary Oldman. [laughs]

Travis: 'Cause I drink blood, is what I'm—sorry, was I clear that when I say I don't drink wine...

Teresa: Are you sure you don't eat... cereal?

Travis: I don't eat Knott's donuts. You're thinking of Count Donut? Or you're thinking of Count Chocula?

Teresa: That's what I'm thinking of, Count Chocula.

Travis: Yes. You're thinking of Count Chocula, Count Chocula. That's his name, I believe. Count Chocula. He loves it. He loves the stuff. Count Duckula, Count Chocula.

Teresa: Congratulations, you've stayed in this, uh... uh... what is it—

Travis: Accent?

Teresa: Accent for a very long time. [laughs]

Travis: Thank you, this is one of the very few accents I practiced. Because Bebe and Dot like Vampirina and they want me to do my Boris voice. And this is—[crosstalk]

Teresa: Hmm, very Boris.

Travis: I've learned it from James Van Der Beek.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [drops impression] Hey, everybody. I'm not gonna keep doing that the whole episode. I think I possibly could.

Teresa: No.

Travis: We're talking about how to entertain monsters.

Teresa: We are. This is a very spooky episode.

Travis: No one says that.

Teresa: The kids! They—

Travis: They don't!

Teresa: They used to say that. They used—

Travis: I think Stuart Wellington was the only person who ever said that.

Teresa: [laughs] No, Rileigh Smirl definitely said spooky.

Travis: She's not a kid anymore. She's a grown up. She's in law school.

Teresa: [simultaneously] She's—she used to be. Used to be a kid.

Travis: We all used to be kids. We all used to be kids.

Teresa: You know what I mean.

Travis: I know. But we're talking about if you were going to throw some sort of mash that was monster related, how to handle it. You know what's fun about that song? And I'm not the first person to bring this up, but I just bring it up whenever I can in case of anyone listening who didn't realize.

It falls into my favorite genre of music, which is songs about other songs.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Where—the Monster Mash is actually a song about the monster mash.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Within the song they are saying, "Yes, the monsters were doing the monster mash." The song we're listening to is not the monster mash. It is a tribute song to the monster mash.

Teresa: Just like Jack Black's...

Travis: Tribute.

Teresa: Tribute.

Travis: Yes. That one is in there.

Teresa: [simultaneously] To the greatest song in the world.

Travis: And, uh, the Madonna one that's like, "Hey, Mr. DJ. Put a record on, I want to dance with my baby." It's like, "What record?" And the one Train song that's like, uh, "Play that song, the one that makes you go all night long." It's like, "Wait, what song?"

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Any song that's like, "I wrote a song about a song I like."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's like, "Wait, what? Tell me more! I love that."

Teresa: You love it. That is a very specific genre of song.

Travis: I know. Listen, I know. But it's a third person song, and I enjoy it very much.

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, so this—this is an episode if you—

Travis: [simultaneously] Yep.

Teresa: [laughs] Shh!

Travis: Oh, sorry. I thought you were just gonna stop there!

Teresa: For those... who are interested in entertaining monsters in your home.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So the—

Travis: Not a work party.

Teresa: Not—no.

Travis: That's Monsters Inc.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: This is Monsters... uh, Private. Private Monsters.

Teresa: [laughs] A private monster party. Suggested—

Travis: Don't say that! If people came over and you said, "Welcome to my private monster party," I would leave. I would leave if someone said that to me.

Teresa: I mean, I was just riffing on your...

Travis: I know, but like, we said it out loud and then I was like, "Oh no, wait. Actually, no, this is terrible. Don't do that."

Teresa: Uh, this was suggested by listener and fan Zack R., so thank you, Zack.

Travis: Thank you, Zack.

Teresa: And Alexx has it on great authority that Zack is a very cute dude, she says.

Travis: Oh, this is Alexx's husband.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And th—

Travis: You need to specify that, 'cause Alexx is married, and if you're just like, "Alexx thinks Zack R. is cute, I heard—I heard in gym class that Alexx thinks Zack R. is cute."

Teresa: Their first anniversary is this weekend, so happy anniversary.

Travis: Yeah. Got married on, uh, on—did they get married on Halloween?

Teresa: Adjacent— [crosstalk]

Travis: Yeah, basically. Halloween season.

Teresa: Um, and so if you would like to submit your topic ideas...

Travis: Marry Alexx.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Email them to shmannerscast@gmail.com, especially if you have any holiday ideas, as holidays are aplenty this time of year. And please, when you say hello to Alexx, remember she has two X's in her name.

Travis: That's true.

Teresa: Okay. Let's throw a spooky bash for our spooky neighbors.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And we want to make sure that everyone, the great variety of monsters we may invite, is comfortable, right?

Travis: Sure. No garlic, right off the bat.

Teresa: They all have different needs. Yes, we will talk about the vampire needs. But first, we're gonna talk about ghosts' needs.

Travis: Don't need to open the door.

Teresa: No—nobody thinks about the ghosts, because they are just kind of... there. Right? But—

Travis: I think about the ghosts all the time.

Teresa: Oh, you do?

Travis: What are you talking about? I'm constantly thinking about ghosts.

Teresa: Making them comfortable?

Travis: Mm... yes?

Teresa: Throwing a party for them?

Travis: No.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Unless that was their un... if that was, like, their unfinished business, that they were like "I was supposed to go to a big party and it didn't happen," or if it was like "I never got invited to a party," then I would do it.

Teresa: Okay. Alright. Um, you should probably provide or tell scary stories, right?

Travis: Now, do you think they would like that?

Teresa: I do think—

Travis: Because they're ghost stor—like, if people were like, "I'm throwing a party for Travis McElroy," and all—well, actually, I was about to say "And all the stories were about me," yeah, actually, I love that very much. Thank you very much. I would love to go to a party where all people did was talk about cool stuff I've done.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, actually, yeah. You know what?

Teresa: Yeah, see? That's it.

Travis: [simultaneously] I take it all back. This is great, okay.

Teresa: That's it. Um—

Travis: "Yeah, I did do that. I scared the crap out of those teenagers, ha, ha, ha."

Teresa: They are—ghosts are, um, let's just say, uh, not good at doing a lot of stuff, right? They kind of just, like, hang around. And, um—

Travis: Loiter.

Teresa: Loiter, exactly. So, like, maybe what they're lacking is quality entertainment.

Travis: Well and, um, there are more than one, uh, like, novels and fiction and whatnot of people who associate, like, ghosts of, like, the stronger the emotion, right? The more connected they are. So, like, when a ghost gets mad, right? It connects it more. They're able to act more.

Teresa: To the physical realm.

Travis: Yeah, they can act more within the physical realm. So maybe, like, gettin' 'em real scared, right? Real spooked up, or real proud. Real excited of, like, hearing about their great works. They're now a little bit more able to interact with the physical. It makes complete sense.

Teresa: Uh, we—

Travis: That's just science!

Teresa: —our research indicates that, um—

Travis: [simultaneously] Uh-huh? Yeah?

Teresa: —ghosts particularly enjoy quality television and films.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, I would suggest that if you don't have your own kind of local storyteller you could employ, that you put on Hotel Transylvania—

Travis: A good one.

Teresa: —or Paranorman.

Travis: Another good one!

Teresa: Or Casper.

Travis: Yeah, I think you want to keep it to positive influence. Don't put on, like, Poltergeist—

Teresa: [simultaneously] Ghostbusters.

Travis: Well, Ghostbusters, that's offensive. But Poltergeist, you don't want anything where—you don't want 'em getting ideas. Right? Where they're just like, "Oh, I could do that."

No, ghost! No. Come watch Casper. Just—well, there's—can I tell you? The brothers in Casper, hoo hoo. Those are some pretty—

Teresa: They're not very kind.

Travis: They're badly behaved dudes. But Casper? Very kind.

Teresa: Um, also—

Travis: He's friendly, one might say.

Teresa: —music, music is a good additional for ghosts. Things like, um—

Travis: Endless Love.

Teresa: Okay, yeah. I was—

Travis: 'Cause Swayze loved that.

Teresa: I was gonna suggest Gregorian chants. Or Victorian children's... rhymes.

Travis: No—okay. But you're—you're assuming that in, like, the hundreds of years that the ghosts have been haunting that they haven't picked up any new—

Teresa: No, I'm just saying give 'em a taste of home. You know?

Travis: [sighs] I'm saying maybe give 'em—you know what? If you could find, like, remixes of, like, "This is some, like, you know, a Gregorian chant with a modern, like—we've crossed that over like Old Town Road," right?

Teresa: Ohhh.

Travis: Like, now—now we're talking where, like, "Yes. What is this new sound we've been looking for?"

Teresa: Drop some house beats on that.

Travis: Yeah, something like that. They'd be way into it. Haunted house beats.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, do refrain from burning any sage, cedar, or lavender, or any other traditionally used plant for smoke cleansing, because this will tell the ghosts that they're not actually welcome company.

Travis: Yeah, don't include any sage in the—like, if you're making stuffing I guess it would come in. No lavender candles, yeah.

Teresa: Right, right. Vanilla. Very good.

Travis: Vanilla candle? The ghosts love vanilla.

Teresa: They love vanilla.

Travis: They're pretty basic.

Teresa: Who doesn't love vanilla?

Travis: Ghosts? Pretty basic.

Teresa: [laughs] Uh, please do always take great care not to walk through any of your ghostly companions. It will make you cold, but also, as I understand it from my research, it's incredibly uncomfortable for the ghosts.

Travis: It's rude!

Teresa: Um, and if other guests show up dressed as ghosts...

Travis: Offensive.

Teresa: Offensive. I think that you need to ask them to, uh, change their attire.

Travis: Hey, listen. Dropping out of the bit for a second, don't dress up like other cultures and other identities and stuff for Halloween. It's f—it f—it's bad. It's bad. Don't do it. We're joking about it—

Teresa: You almost did a curse.

Travis: I almost did a curse. We're joking about it in terms of ghosts, but even outside of the bit, don't do it.

Teresa: There are so many other things. Find something else. That's all I'm gonna say. Okay. Vampires are next.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Here are some really great dos and don'ts of vampire party planning. You have already mentioned, no garlic.

Travis: No garlic.

Teresa: Right. We are—we are limiting down the foods that one can serve.

Travis: Cheetos? Always fine.

Teresa: [laughs] Candy.

Travis: Candy? Always fine.

Teresa: Candy good. But you're—

Travis: Well, you say that—

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: —but no chocolate if there are werewolves. Make 'em sick to their tummy.

Teresa: Oh really?

Travis: They're dogs!

Teresa: Ohhh.

Travis: Dogs can't eat chocolate!

Teresa: Okay, so Skittles.

Travis: They don't include that in the myth, but I guarantee you if a werewolf got into a big bowl of dark chocolate, it's gonna have diarrhea.

Teresa: As a werewolf. But what if it was in their human form.

Travis: How digested is it before they turn?

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Hmm.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. Maybe only chocolate in the morning, then.

Travis: Yeah. Chocolate in the morning, sailor take warning. Uh, raw deer at night, werewolf's delight.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: There it is.

Teresa: Um, so when a vampire comes to your door, it is very important that you greet them at the door to welcome them in, because as we all know, they can't come in without express permission.

Travis: Now, in general, this isn't as common in other myths, but the welcoming over the threshold, that can also have an impact on ghosts and, uh, well, a lot—anything.

Teresa: Oh really?

Travis: Well, 'cause the threshold is a very protective barrier.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: It is associated a lot with vampires, but I believe, if the Dresden books have taught me anything, that barrier can stop a lot of things from getting in.

Teresa: Okay, okay. Oh, and, and humans are friends not food, right? So you could also wear a crucifix or kind of, like, dab the holy water as the perfumes.

Travis: Now, I've also, uh—I've theorized—

Teresa: Just to keep yourself off the menu.

Travis: I've also theorized that you could do a holy water IV.

Teresa: Ooh.

Travis: And it's like, hey. Buyer beware, man. You know?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: You bite me, you're gonna get real sick.

Teresa: It's not insulting is what I'm saying. Protecting yourself very—what do I want to say? Not out in the world—we want to—

Travis: Personal boundaries.

Teresa: Personal boundaries! That's exactly it. Um—

Travis: Now, how do you feel about—because a big thing is, like, vampire thrall. Either asking the vampire to wear dark sunglasses or you wear dark su—or humans wear sunglasses to protect against vampire thrall.

Teresa: What's—I'm—I'm sorry.

Travis: Thrall? Hypnotism.

Teresa: Ohhh.

Travis: Like, you're under the thrall.

Teresa: Oh. I didn't know that it had anything to do with sunglasses.

Travis: Well, I meant—I'm just saying, maybe you could protect. Maybe reflective lenses. There it is, yeah.

Teresa: Ooh, is that it?

Travis: I don't know, maybe.

Teresa: What if I wore a reflective suit? What that also reflect it?

Travis: Well, then you wouldn't be able to see the vampire in your suit if that's a problem at all. 'Cause of mirrors?

Teresa: No, I'm—

Travis: [simultaneously] Do you need to cover mirrors for vampires?

Teresa: You don't need to.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: No. It is—it would be very nice of you to act as a friend mirror. So, like, if—

Travis: There's something in your teeth.

Teresa: —there's something in their teeth or, like, the collar is askew or something, right? You can let them know about that. Because although vampires do often look impeccable, they can't see.

Travis: They don't know.

Teresa: They don't know. Do research your—the vampire guests, because a lot of vampires have very distinctive lineages. And should you, um, just say, you know, introduce them just as, like, Phil, right? When they are the Baron...

Travis: Yeah, use their titles.

Teresa: You m—it's—it's definitely a faux pas.

Travis: Do you think if a vamp—okay. 'Cause a vampire has, like, a title, right? For example, Count Dracula.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: Right? When he became undead, did the title keep passing down through his lineage? Or was it like, "Well, I'm undead, but I'm still the Count." So it didn't keep passing down.

Teresa: I think that they can both be true.

Travis: Ohh, okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That makes a lot of sense.

Teresa: I think that everyone in the lineage becomes the Count.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And then he can also remain the—a Count.

Travis: Makes complete sense.

Teresa: We already mentioned some specific dietary needs, but also you do want to provide the food that they can eat, right? Which is—

Travis: Blood.

Teresa: —blood. Um, there are several incarnations of vampires that I see that can imbibe of—of human foods. Like, I was talking about Draculaura from Monster High.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: She seems to eat chocolate.

Travis: Well, and Vampirina eats lots of food that isn't blood.

Teresa: [simultaneously] Eats lots of food that isn't blood.

Travis: I've never seen them eat blood once.

Teresa: I haven't either.

Travis: And I've wa—I've looked for it.

Teresa: But maybe you could have a few different options, right? Blood being one of them. And let's say Nadja and Laszlo Cravensworth, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: They quite enjoy drunk blood, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Or drugged blood.

Travis: Sure. Where are you going with this, babe?

Teresa: Uh, but if you have the Cullens over, they are vegetarian vampires, so you do need to provide a few small deer or woodland creatures' bloods.

Travis: Okay. You could probably, uh—do you think at Halloween if I went to, like—

Teresa: [laughs] I see that glint in your eye.

Travis: If I went to, like, the American Red Cross and I say, "Here's a hundred dollars. May I please have some blood?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I mean, if you get the right attendant, the answer is yes. [pause] Oh, it's a no? Okay. Is there anyone else that works here that I could talk to?

Teresa: [laughs] Um, you might want to take a vampire friend with you for some hypnotism.

Travis: There you go! B-Y-O-B, bring your own blood.

Teresa: No, I'm just saying that, you know, it helps to be prepared, so have somebody with you who knows how to pick out the best.

Travis: And you know what? When you run out and you need to get more, you know what it's called?

Teresa: What?

Travis: Blood drive.

Teresa: [buzzer sound]

Travis: We're gonna be right back, but first, how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

Travis: Now, if you're looking to marry your Bride of Frankenstein...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Maybe check out Zola. It's weird—okay. Frankenstein's the monster.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Was he marrying it? Or was it the bride made—Frankenstein's, apostrophe S, bride, 'cause he made it?

Teresa: That's what it is.

Travis: You think that's it?

Teresa: It's Frankenstein's, possessive, possessive of Frankenstein.

Travis: Oh, like her father?

Teresa: No.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No. Like—

Travis: But Frankenstein—

Teresa: Like, it's Frankenstein's monster, Frankenstein's—Bride of Frankenstein.

Travis: Oh, okay, I see.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: [laughs] Frankenstein's Bride of Frankenstein.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Listen, I know this is confusing. Listen, none of this is important. What is important is that Zola... can help you, because we know that when getting married it's not just about the big day. It's about all the days along the way, and Zola is here for all of them, not just your wedding day. Because they have beautifully designed save-the-dates and invitations, a beautiful wedding website with a built-in registry, and Zola's design sets the scene for the kind of wedding it's going to be, right?

So start off right. Start off with Zola. Plus, Zola can even suggest venues and vendors to make the experience more memorable. Our wedding was great, very memorable. There are definitely elements to it that I wish we

had had the resources of Zola to be like, "Oh, it's that easy to get that thing? Then let's get it."

Teresa: I would have loved a suggestion or to of where to go to get the things, because at one point I was just like, "I guess I'm just gonna make that."

Travis: Well, and like, we didn't have a videographer. Which at the time didn't bother me at all. Looking back, I'm like, oh, I wish someone had, like, sugge—I wish we had had, like, Zola saying like, "What about this? Have you thought about this?"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And so right now, help yourself out by going to Zola.com/shmanners. So, start planning. One more time, that's Z-O-L-A.com/shmanners today. Go do it. Start off on the right foot. Zola.

For the future.

Teresa: [laughs]

[music plays]

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[music and ad end]

[music plays]

Kira: It's the final week of Co-optober. I'm Kira Gowan, ad operations specialist, and I'm here with...

Daniel: Daniel Baruela, technology and data specialist. To cap off national coop month, we're sharing how worker-owned coops can benefit their communities. Read about it in our newsletter or on social media, at Max Fun HQ.

Kira: We're also trying to do our part. We're volunteering at our local food bank this week, and we encourage you to volunteer in your area, too.

Daniel: On Friday, we're announcing the donation that you helped raise in the post Max Fun Drive sticker sale, going to five food banks across the US.

Kira: And we want to make sure you know that this is your last chance to get our limited edition coop launch crew merch.

Daniel: Grab a pin, hat, shirt, or hoodie before they disappear at the end of the month.

Kira: Details on merch, resources for volunteering, and all things Co-optober can be found at Maximumfun.org/cooptober.

Daniel: That's C-O-O-P-T-O-B-E-R. Thank you so much for your support, and have a great Co-optober.

[music and ad end]

Travis: Okay. Who else are we talking about? We talking about werewolves?

Teresa: Well, we are—not just yet.

Travis: Zombies?

Teresa: The often-forgot, but fellow friend of vampires, the familiar.

Travis: Oh, sure.

Teresa: You have to provide something. A little—a little something for the familiars.

Travis: Now, let me tell you. Don't—don't call 'em a Renfield. That's, like, uh, like, a brand name, you know what I mean?

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Like it's a tissue not a Kleenex, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: It's a copier, not a Xerox? A Renfield is a guy's name. A familiar is what they are.

Teresa: I see, a familiar, right.

Travis: And also usually a Renfield, by that point, pretty zoned out.

Teresa: Hmm. It is important that you provide a separate area for the familiars, because although they do their master's bidding, they are not always invited to the parties. Right?

Travis: Oh, so like when you have a kid's area?

Teresa: Yeah, kind of like a kid's area!

Travis: Okay. So, like, when my parents used to go to, like, New Year's Eve parties and they'd take—and then it's like, video games, and movies, and snacks downstairs for the kids.

Teresa: Right. Um, no need to go all out. A small closet or a musty basement will do.

Travis: No, baby. Hey. We're better than that.

Teresa: [laughs] Okay, some Red Vines.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: [laughs] Music for the vampire friends. Um, I have on good authority that they do enjoy music from the era of their turning. Um, so—

Travis: Now, That's What I Call Music, then, if they're from, like, the 2000's, I guess.

Teresa: That's a great idea. Um, Alexx suggests that you learn the lyrics to Girl in the Village with the One Small Foot.

Travis: Ah, from—yes, okay. One of Nadja's favorites.

Teresa: Nadja's favorite.

Travis: You should just get a DJ, I think, at this point.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Right? And take requests.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah. Werewolves, now.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: First of all, big part of that is just gonna be scheduling.

Travis: Certainly.

Teresa: 'Cause you're gonna have to have it at the full moon.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Otherwise it's just Doug. Doug's just there. And don't get me wrong—

Teresa: [simultaneously] Well, and maybe Doug is cool.

Travis: Yeah, don't get me wrong. Doug is welcome, right? But then Doug's gonna spend the whole party going, like, "You probably can't tell, but... I'm a werewolf."

Teresa: "I'm a werewolf."

Travis: "I'm a werewolf."

Teresa: Some lint rollers would be nice to have on hand, because it is said that werewolves shed.

Travis: But you're gonna want to do that surreptitiously. Right?

Teresa: Right, yes. Don't—don't be like—don't make a big deal out of it.

Travis: Yeah. No, that would be embarrassing. If I was a werewolf and someone was, like, following me around, lint rolling everything I sat on, no thank you.

Teresa: But you know what they would appreciate? A designated outdoor space.

Travis: To go potty?

Teresa: To go potty, to run around, to just, you know, exercise or—

Travis: Howl.

Teresa: —howl, or, you know, where they can feel comfortable, but not cramped.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Definitely.

Travis: That's lovely.

Teresa: Um, watch your word choices when your wolf friends are around. They are werewolves, not swearwolves.

Travis: Well, and if you wanna get fancy you can refer to 'em as lycan, or lycanthropes.

Teresa: Oooh.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: How cool is that.

Travis: And perhaps not just wolves. You might get weretigers in there, werebears, werebadgers, anything. We know mostly about werewolves from because werewolves get featured in the movies. But, like, there's plenty of other, um, monsters that are were.

Teresa: Now, are they all half man half beast?

Travis: when we're talking about were?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: But there are plenty of, like—

Teresa: How do you get to—how—do you have to be... bitten by a werebear in order to become a werebear?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: You can't—aww. Well, I guess that makes sense. 'Cause if I had my druthers, I would want to be able to choose what I could turn into.

Travis: Well, there are plenty of ways to become a werewolf that aren't getting bear—attacked by a werewolf.

Teresa: Oh yeah?

Travis: Yeah. There's, like, uh—you can do it—once again, I'm pulling mostly from Dresden Files. But some of these are real. There's, like, uh, articles of clothing fashioned out of wolfskin that are, like, magically imbued to let you change when you put 'em on. Like a belt, or gloves, or something like that.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: There's people who have just mastered the art of transformation, basically.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Of, like, a spell you can do. There are people who are mythical, like, kind of, uh, wolf... uh, spirits, almost? Who have figured out how to turn into humans, like a reverse werewolf.

Teresa: Ohh.

Travis: So it's not just that you were bit that way. It might also be a curse.

Teresa: A curse. I had forgotten about curses and hexes.

Travis: Yeah, a magic spell. All that stuff.

Teresa: Um, the—

Travis: It might also be that it's a lineage thing, where like your parents or grandparents were werewolves, like we've seen in the documentary *Teen Wolf*.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Uh, popular song suggestions that you may want to include on your playlist for our werewolf friends, *Bad Moon Rising*, and *Sweet Caroline*.

Travis: Well, everybody likes *Sweet Caroline*.

Teresa: Everybody likes that.

Travis: Also, *Werewolves of London*, but don't play that at the beginning of the evening. Let everybody get a little drunk first. Then play *Werewolves of London*, and it's gonna be a hit. You play it right away and they're like, "Mmm, little too on the nose." Like if you do the chicken dance or macarena at the beginning of a wedding.

Teresa: Right, no, no, no.

Travis: You gotta wait.

Teresa: But you do that near the—this is what I'm saying. Let a DJ feel that out.

Teresa: Okay, okay. Um, let's invite some mummies to the party, too.

Travis: Now, mummies are fun, because we have had to explain to Bebe and Dot numerous times, multiples times, where we're like, "Monsters are real." And they're like, "What about mummies?" And we're like, "Okay, well..."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "So, technically... "

Teresa: Technically.

Travis: "Mummies are real, but the mummies that, like, do stuff..." [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Not so much." That's a difficult one to explain.

Teresa: Right. But if you were to invite mummies to your party...

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Uh, here are a few suggestions. We do find that the ancient linen can be a bit of a bother. So you should—

Travis: Yeah, it can be very flammable.

Teresa: You should have some emergency toilet paper on hand, just to cover up any of the cracks if something comes unraveled.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Um, also, maybe offer a few cough drops.

Travis: They're very dried out.

Teresa: It's very likely that they could be very dry-mouthed, right?
[crosstalk]

Travis: [simultaneously] Well, I'm pretty sure the tongue is removed when—

Teresa: You wouldn't want any dust bowls, right? Coming out.

Travis: Yeah. Along those same lines, it wouldn't be bad to have a little google translate going. 'Cause they're speaking Ancient Egyptian, you know? They're speaking old languages.

Teresa: Well, I mean, you never know how many other parties they've been to. Maybe they've picked it up.

Travis: That is very true.

Teresa: Picked up the language.

Travis: You do want to make sure that there's no loose nails or, like, splintery floorboards or anything, 'cause that's just gonna catch that linen wrap and understood it.

Teresa: Right, indeed, indeed. And should you notice that a body part or two is without their owner, be really discreet about it.

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Teresa: We don't—we don't need to point out that somebody left a hand attached to a glass or whatever, right?

Travis: Yeah, be cool.

Teresa: Just—just return it like the gracious host that you are. Um—

Travis: How do you feel about playing Walk Like an Egyptian with a mummy there?

Teresa: I think that sounds great.

Travis: You don't think that that's insensitive?

Teresa: I think that it is a very good opportunity for us all to learn exactly how to do it.

Travis: Hmm, good point, excellent point, yeah.

Teresa: So you might want to ask in the way of, "Are you ready to teach us all?"

Travis: Yeah, and maybe beforehand be like, "Are you we comfortable if we play this? How's that make you feel?" Right? "Are you okay with that?"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But I think it's a great learning opportunity.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, as far as entertainment, like you said, you know, it's—it's not their fault that they're thousands of years old and maybe we are not up to date on the book of the dead. Right? Um, but we can keep them entertained with maybe a documentary. Or, you know, about the pyramids or archaeology.

Travis: Just so they can laugh at everything they get wrong.

Teresa: Just so they can laugh. Right? It's very entertaining.

Travis: [crosstalk] "That's not what that means."

Teresa: Very entertaining for them.

Travis: "What? You think bird, reed, boat, means that? No, come on, man. Be better this—" don't ask 'em how they feel about Brendan Frasier. Not because I think that they have anything against Brendan Frasier in The Mummy, but it's probably one of those things where, like, if they have been to parties before, somebody's been like, "Huh, The Mummy, huh, Brendan Frasier."

Teresa: Probably overdone.

Travis: "You guys worry about Brendan F—" ugh. Keep cats out. Mummies are not wild about cats.

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: Well, if the Brendan Frasier thing is anything to show—well, 'cause, you know, cats were, uh, treated as very sacred in Ancient Egypt, and I could see where that would bother a mummy. Yeah? Yeah.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Also dogs in general. I would say keep dogs out of this scenario. If there's werewolves there, keep dogs out of the scenario. If there's—I don't think that gho—dogs would get along with well with most of these creatures.

Teresa: Yeah, I think it's better—better if you do some doggie daycare. Doggie—doggie overnight?

Travis: Yeah. If there's—

Teresa: Nights?

Travis: —any skellingtons around, whew, keep them dogs—keep them puppies away.

Teresa: Uh, zombies I think are very similar, as far as, like, etiquette goes, for—as the mummies.

Travis: Well but not the same as a mummy.

Teresa: Not the same.

Travis: Mummy's brain—

Teresa: Of course not.

Travis: Mummy's—mummy ain't dumb.

Teresa: Uh, but you really should keep it to just one or two zombies, because we all know that the bigger the group of zombies there are, the more chance there is for kind of, like, unwanted, uh, eating of brains.

Travis: Can I tell you? I hope you don't find this offensive. I don't think I would invite zombies.

Teresa: Not at all?

Travis: [sighs] I just can't reason' with 'em. Like if I was like, "Hey, best behavior—" like—[sighs]

Teresa: I have seen that the longer that a zombie, uh, survives in society, the more docile and communicative they become.

Travis: Oh, see, I would've guessed the opposite. I don't wanna sound—I don't know any zombies.

Teresa: It just takes—it just takes a while to work out the reanimation, I think.

Travis: Sure. Okay. Okay.

Teresa: You know?

Travis: Yeah. You know what? I don't know any zombies. I'm kind of speaking from inexperience here. Gonna keep an open mind.

Teresa: Um, and a really great suggestion, uh, because it might be difficult to get your hands on some brains, although I understand in New England sheep's brain sandwich is very popular?

Travis: Oh, sure, sure, sure.

Teresa: Um, fois gras would be a really great substitute on, you know, crackers or whatever, right? It's very similarly textured.

Travis: What if, like, a zombie ate some, like, Doritos and they're like, "Oh! I didn't even know this was an option!"

Teresa: "Mmm, delicious."

Travis: "Honest to god, up till this point everybody just kept sayin' brains. What is this? Charcuterie? I love this stuff! Why didn't—no one told me about this stuff before now."

Teresa: Uh, and this is another instance where I think candles are a good idea. There might be a certain undead smell, okay.

Travis: Oh, sure, sure, sure.

Teresa: And that's okay. Everybody has their own smell. Uh, but the vanilla, again, great idea.

Travis: A hit.

Teresa: It'll cover up—

Travis: Now, do you be c—ooh.

Teresa: Cover up that smell.

Travis: I didn't think about this, though.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: You do need to be careful that it's not sickeningly sweet, because if I'm a werewolf and I've got a heightened sense of smell, and I'm in there and I'm like, "Whew." This is another reason for the outdoor space.

Teresa: Yes, outdoor space. Take a break from the smells, right? And when it comes to music... zombies—Zombie by The Cranberries. I mean, you can't go wrong.

Travis: That's a good hit. Thriller.

Teresa: Thriller. That's a great one too.

Travis: I mean, they're gonna have the built-in dance.

Teresa: Right, right. Um, and so, you know, there you have it. You know, keep these tips in mind and you'll have a wonderful Halloween. And I would like to of course list some of our sources. What We Do in the Shadows.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Great resource. Ghosts, the TV version.

Travis: Excellent

Teresa: Zombieland.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Hotel Transylvania we already talked about. American Werewolf in London.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: It's great. Walking Dead.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Twilight.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And... you already mentioned it, but The Mummy.

Travis: Yeah. So, thank you to those scholarly, uh, resources.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: and thank you to you for listening. Thank you to Alexx, our researcher, without whom we could not make this show. Thank you to Rachel, our editor, without whom we could not make this show. And thank you to you for listening. We could make this show without you, but why?

Teresa: We wouldn't.

Travis: Why would—we wouldn't do that. Um, make sure to check out all the McElroy shows. You can go to mcelroy.family and find 'em all there. Um, we have been doing our Great British Bake Off Podcast, Bake On. Um, it's a good season, y'all. It's a really good season.

Teresa: [simultaneously] It is, it's a really good one.

Travis: The pastry episode is—was wild. Um, so you can listen to that. Just search for Bake On wherever that's found, and you can also find it at mcelroy.family. 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, 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.

We mentioned it at the beginning of the episode, but as always, please send your topic submissions, your idiom suggestions, your, you know, just saying hi, to shmannerstcast@gmail.com. And, um, do say hi to Alexx, because she reads every one.

Travis: With two X's.

Teresa: Yes.

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: [Dracula impression] Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

Travis: That's pretty good.

Teresa: [drops impression] Thanks!

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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