

Shmanners 409: Queen Victoria, Part 3

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[theme music plays]

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

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

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions. Hello. My. Dove.

Teresa: Hello dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm well, how are you?

Travis: I'm so good. Did... Champion's Grove this past weekend.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, woot woot.

Travis: It went so good. It was super fun, everybody was great, the castle was great. We had a lot of fun events, there was karaoke, there are courtly dancing, there was *Dungeons and/or Dragons*.

There was two room in a boo— It was wonderful, thank you to everybody who came out, we had a great time. Now it's back to the old salt mines, back to the old rat race.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: The old... grindstone. The old... rigmarole.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: The old!

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Tugboat.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Back to makin' the donuts.

Teresa: Well not quite, 'cause it's summer vacation for the children, so it's extra hard.

Travis: Yeah, imagine making the donuts while you had—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: — like a 40 pound just monkey hanging around your neck.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's wild. Even as I was doing it, it felt weird to describe making podcasts and such "hard work" type of ways, but here we are. But we're talking about a very exciting topic.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: We're talking— This is week three, this is episode three.

Teresa: It's the final countdown. [hums "Final Countdown" by Europe]

Travis: There's a countdown?

Teresa: [continues humming]

Travis: Okay, of Queen Vicky. Queen Vicky.

Teresa: [continues humming]

Travis: Week three, episode three.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Talkin' about Queen Victoria. This is when she has a face off against Sephiroth.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Right? That's what happens, a big swordfight?

Teresa: Something like that.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So... When we last left.

Travis: [in a dramatic monologue voice] "When we last left our heroes..."

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: [in a dramatic monologue voice] "Previously on *Queen Victoria*."

Teresa: She was marrying off her oldest daughter, dealing with several international crises.

Travis: Yeah. Being not cool to the Irish.

Teresa: That's right. Dodging assassination attempts, and also, you know, under the crushing weight of being expected to legitimize and, you know, modernize the monarchy.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And regardless of kind of like... her international dealings, her politics, we can all agree that she was trying her hardest, right? She was working very hard.

Travis: Yeah, I think it's one of those things of like... Whether you like what she did or not, there's no denying commitment.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Right? Which it— You know, ideological things are one thing, right? But it's like... I think it's always a little bit of a saving grace, obviously it doesn't make up for things for someone just to be committed to terrible, terrible ideas.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: But at least when you can look at someone and be like, "I think they thought they were doing what was right, and doing it a lot, and doing it hard."

Teresa: [chuckles] In March of 1861... it was the beginning of probably the worst year of her life.

Travis: And two years before West Virginia would become a state. Just to give it—

Teresa: Just to give some, you know.

Travis: Just to give some historical context to the thing.

Teresa: Context.

Travis: Sometimes it's easy to think of... I was about to say West Virginia and England, but I mean America and England.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: As operating in two different timelines.

Teresa: So... that is the year that her mother passed. Now we've talked a lot, not in really this episode, but in other episodes of Queen Victoria, about how her relationship with her mother was continually strained. Because of the way that they raised her in this Kensington system.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: You remember?

Justin: Yes, yes I do.

Teresa: And just trying to prepare her, trying to be part of the monarchy, trying— You know. There were times when I'm sure Queen Victoria might've wished her mother dead.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: But when it arrived, she was unprepared.

Travis: And I think that that, not to get too analytical here, but I think that that is usually like a little bit hand in hand, right? Because I think that it makes a lot of sense to me that if you spent a lot of your life having a terrible relationship with a parent and then they pass, the regret there isn't necessarily "Oh, how am I going to live without this person?" so much as more you're mourning the relationship you didn't have.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: And now can never, yeah.

Teresa: What could have been.

Travis: Exactly.

Teresa: And upon her mother's death, she did discover, among some of her papers, all of the sentiments that she expressed towards Victoria were of the way that like she adored her daughter and blamed both Conroy and Victoria's governess and the kind of circumstance that they were in. And like everything seemed, according to Victoria's mother, to be against their relationship.

Travis: Not that that is an entire saving grace.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: 'Cause it's— Right like it's—

Teresa: That's one person's point of view, and—

Travis: And it's also like, "Okay, but there's still— What did you do?" you know what I mean?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Of like just because you're finding blame in other things doesn't mean you're blameless.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: It might just mean that you don't see your own faults.

Teresa: But it does show that Victoria's mother did want a relationship.

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: Right? And so this reportedly made Victoria feel very, very guilty.

Travis: Well and it's also, I think, important to remember at this point that this is— It's been a while now since Victoria basically like excised her mother from the thing.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: So maybe like her sentiments would've been different—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: — if she had been able to basically stay pulling the strings.

Teresa: It's possibly.

Travis: And she would've been like, "This is great," but having you know, what 10, 20 years or whatever.

Teresa: Also, Victoria had children of her own.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: By this point, and so that can also change your point of view about being a parent and things like that. Fortunately, they di— Victoria was present for her death, so she hadn't been— She— At one point, [chuckles] she banished her mother, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: From the palace, but—

Travis: Do people still get banished? Probably not.

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Not in those terms. I think that they're like... What's it called when you send someone back? Extradited, you know?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Or something, or you're in exile? I think that happens if you live somewhere in exile, but I don't think banishment is a punishment that's handed out all that much these days.

Teresa: I mean I think you can be banished from a building. You cannot be allowed back in the building.

Travis: But I don't think they use that term, right? I don't think the security guard would show up and be like, "That is it, sir!"

Teresa: [chuckles] "You are banished."

Travis: "You are banished from this Wendy's!" Like I don't think that would happen.

Teresa: [laughs] I don't know.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And so... while Victoria mourned, Albert took on, again, many of her royal duties, as he had done many times before with her pregnancies. But... the difference in this time was that he was also quite ill.

Travis: Oh no.

Teresa: He had been pretty much chronically ill for about two years, with some sort of mysterious stomach illness. He had been fighting it, and

we're not entirely sure what he was suffering from. Maybe it was kidney problems.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: Maybe it was even stomach cancer. Maybe it was ulcerative colitis, or Chromes disease? We really will never know.

Travis: But there was some kind of abdominal discomfort going on.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: That was present for an extended period of time, alright.

Teresa: Yes. Yes, and from whence it came we also do not know. It could have been one of the blights of the day.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Maybe food adulteration, maybe lead poisoning, all sorts of things.

Travis: Any number of things, yeah.

Teresa: Any number of things, and we don't know. But things really came to a head in November of the same year, the worst year of her life. They heard tell of a rumor of their son, Edward. He was supposed to be in Ireland, gaining army experience by attending military maneuvers, right?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: But instead... he was having an affair.

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: With actress Nelly Clifton.

Travis: Oh boy.

Teresa: His fellow officers had snuck her into the camp.

Travis: Guys. No.

Teresa: I know, right.

Travis: So not quite rumors.

Teresa: Not quite rumors.

Travis: So much maybe another word might be "reports."

Teresa: Yes reports, let's say that. And... Victoria and Albert were livid.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: They had worked very diligently to create this kind of— like this image of the monarchy.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: As very wholesome and chaste.

Travis: We talked about that loud— a lot last episode.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: This idea of like what we think about now, right? Of like the Christmas card, postcard, you know, like picture of the politician family.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That, you know, TV shows and movies and I'm sure real-life love to show us as like— It's not actually that, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But a lot of that wasn't present, and so before— You know this. And Al— Victoria and Albert were like, "We need to build back up the reputation of the monarchy and show that like this is a loving marriage where we don't have affairs, even though people wouldn't blame us if we did. And the same with all of your kids, and it's wholesome."

Teresa: That's the thing, right? Up until this kind of new image, this rebrand, right? It wasn't a big thing. There were lots of legi— illegitimate children.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: In the royal lines. There were— It was quite commonplace for marriages of like political alliance to have each person to have their own lover kind of thing.

Travis: Yeah, and it was kind of like, I don't know, two sides.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Of the thing where it was like well most marriages didn't occur for love and passion, so it was like yeah, you both have, you know, side pieces. And it's like of course you do.

You didn't marry for lo— You're not like upset at the other person, right, as long as you're like cool about it and don't start favoring them over like your household and everything, it's fine.

Teresa: Right, but now, since they have this image to protect, now they have to deal with a sex scandal, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Because they've said, "We don't do this," and now there's the thing that somebody did.

Travis: "Ah, but you did do it."

Teresa: "Ah, but you did." Indeed. And Albert went to collect his son. And had to travel. And when he got back, it was very clear that he was extremely ill. The royal family of course had access to the greatest medical minds at the time. He was diagnosed with typhoid fever, which is a terrible way to go. It's a very painful disease.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: And... Although... it is survivable, right? A lot of people are often left with lasting scars.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: He suffered for at least a full month. With fever and abdominal pain and diarrhea and fatigue and as— and a rash that kinds overtakes your body at the height of the illness. And he actually probably never knew how sick he really was because he was pretty much in delirium.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: The whole time. He, you know... It was quite devastating to see him this way, and we now know that he probably had been suffering with depression as well, because we find— found writings that say... in a letter to Victoria, "I do not cling to life. I should be quite ready to die tomorrow."

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: "I have no tenacity for life." Which is quite sad, right? So it's not— it kinda sounds like he wasn't really up to the challenge of..

Travis: We especially if you've been suffering—

Teresa: Of a physical disease.

Travis: If you've been suffering that long, yeah.

Teresa: With his like... mental state not being where you would need to be in order to fight something like that.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right? Not only was it very personally difficult for Victoria while Albert was dying, but also the media was unkind at the time. Medical journals were calling to share the prince's medical details, right? And the media seemed to make it kind of sensationalized, that he had fallen ill very suddenly, when it— when in actuality, he was quite ill for a long time.

Travis: Was it like they were tryin' to be like, "What is it? Did he get something salacious?" or were they trying to like get headlines out of it?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I mean they were, and it wasn't true, right? He had been suffering for a while of some mysterious complaint, and then this typhoid fever or whatever it was was kind of like... just the last straw, right?

Travis: It's just wild that that still hasn't gone away.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Of like look how many tabloids are like, "Look how bad this person is! Are they dying?!" and it's like what are you talking about?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Or when someone is dying and they're like, "Here's their last word— Here's what is going on! Ah, it's so wild!" It's like how like wildly insensitive.

Teresa: Exactly. So Albert passed on December 14th, 1861, a few months shy of his 22nd wedding anniversary. He was 42 years old.

Travis: Woof. Lot of kids in 21 years.

Teresa: Yeah, that's true. Definitely. We said—

Travis: I'm so excited to talk more about this.

Teresa: Oh. Yes.

Travis: But let's take a breather.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Off of the worst year of Queen Victoria's life, for a word from some other MaxFun shows, and we'll be right back.

[transition theme music plays]

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[pause]

Justin: Hey Sydnee, you're a physician, and the co-host of *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine, right?

Sydnee: That's true, Justin.

Justin: Is it true that our medical history podcast is just as good as a visit to your primary care physician?

Sydnee: No Justin, that is absolutely not true. However, our podcast is funny and interesting, and a great way to learn about the medical misdeeds of the past, as well as some current and not so legit healthcare fads.

Justin: So you're saying that by listening to our podcast, people will feel better.

Sydnee: Sure.

Justin: And isn't that the same reason that you go to the doctor?

Sydnee: Well, you could say that, but—

Justin: And our podcast is free.

Sydnee: Yes, it is free.

Justin: You heard it here first, folks. *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine, right here on Maximum Fun, just as good as going to the doctor.

Sydnee: No no no, still not just as good as going to the doctor, but—

Justin: [mutters] Okay.

Sydnee: But pretty good.

Justin: It's up there.

[pause]

Travis: Okay, cleansing break.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And we're back. And it's all uphill from here.

Teresa: Nnnno.

Travis: Aw.

Teresa: Not exactly. There weren't very many more crises, but the reason for that was because she was pretty devastated.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: She pretty much withdrew from the world, which is difficult to do when you're queen, but they had worked very hard to create this kind of like accessibility, like this "We're normal people" kind of vibe.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And then she pretty much just went, "Nope," and almost like disappeared for 10 years. Three weeks after the death of Albert, she was reported to attend a Privy Council meeting, but was so grief-stricken that she didn't say a single word.

And so for the rest of her life she would wear black mourning clothes. She like changed her complete... schedule, so that instead of like queenly duties being like the big block of time, she changed it to hanging out with family.

Travis: It's interesting 'cause I think this is... I wouldn't say everybody who thinks of Victoria pictures this era.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But I think a lot of folks do, where this is like the all-black, very conservative, "We are not amused" kind of era.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And not like the first like 20 years of her reign where it was like that thing of like giving gifts to the people who worked for her, and like going about and celebrating, and you know, that loving family picture, "This is a party with my husband and my kids, and we're you know very social and hanging out."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Because I think that this is a much more iconic kind of thing that also, I think, shapes the way people think about the Victorian Era a lot.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Where they're like, "Oh, everybody was wearing dark clothes all the time, and in mourning, and sad, and uptight."

Teresa: She became known as “the Widow of Windsor,” and if we talk about that first part, we, you know, it was like a PR dream.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: And then this part turns into a PR nightmare, right? Because they had worked so hard to do everything, you know, you talked about where like the Christmas cards and the presents and things like that. And then for her to practically disappear, it was like a symbol of like abandonment, right?

Travis: That’s so interesting ‘cause it seems like it’s so... The best word that pops in my head is “cinematic,” but I mean like this could apply to like a book or a TV show or anything too.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But this thing of like it is a bit of a trope of like kids, and there’s like an old lady who lives in the neighborhood, and everybody’s like, “I hear she’s a witch and she’s very scary, and she never comes out of her house. And look, it’s all cobwebs and gross.”

And then they get to know her, right, and it’s like, “Well, she had some tragedy that happened to her, but before that, she was like the beauty queen of town.”

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: “And like popular with everybody,” and she has all these great stories about what the town used to be like once you get to know her, right? It just seems so like... “Yeah man, yeah. So then what happens is this and this. Some kids are gonna befriend her—”

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: “— with their magic dog or whatever.”

Teresa: She did find a few friends to help her.

Travis: Was it kids and a magic dog?

Teresa: No, it wasn't.

Travis: Aww.

Teresa: So... once— When she like became reclusive, from the public, it did stir some discontent within England, and there were even calls for abolishing the monarchy at this point, which hadn't really been like— I mean, there's always been people who have been against monarchical rule, right?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Imperial rule? I think that's probably what I meant.

Travis: Monarchical.

Teresa: There it is.

Travis: Mono— *Princess Mononoke*.

Teresa: [chuckles] But it became very popular at the time to speak out against the monarchy, like, "What is she doing for us anyway?"

Travis: Especially if you've gotten used to 20 years of her being very like social facing—

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: — and very like... thinking about the working person, and thinking about the common person, to then like shutting herself off for 10 years. It really reads as like, "Well she's turned her back on us."

Teresa: Yeah. There are a couple people who are credited with befriending the queen, and helping to I don't wanna say "bring her out of her shell," but kind of ease her pain, in a way.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, the “Highland Servant” quote, John Brown, was from Scotland, and he was a close personal friend and servant to Prince Albert, so he also shared in her grief.

But it’s said of their relationship that he always spoke to Victoria very plainly, like she was a person, not like she was a queen. Obviously, he was respectful, ‘cause she was the queen.

Travis: But he was a straight shooter.

Teresa: That’s exactly right. And so she really respected him for that, because he wasn’t trying to like grovel all the time and just keep her happy, he, you know, often—

Travis: He wasn’t trying to gain favor, he was just being a friend.

Teresa: Yeah, sometimes he even called her out, right.

Travis: Good.

Teresa: And so—

Travis: Like Bones on *Star Trek*.

Teresa: Yeeeeeah. [chuckles]

Travis: I guess Spock too, but that’s a different vibe.

Teresa: A little bit.

Travis: Spock wasn’t calling anybody out so much as he was pointing out logical flaws in things, where Bones would be like, “Damn it, Jim!”

Teresa: [laughs] Can we say that on this?

Travis: I think so. If I say it in that voice, like that.

Teresa: Say it like that.

Travis: As basically all one word, I think it works.

Teresa: And she was very grateful for this friendship. She created two medals for him; the Faithful Servant Medal and the Devoted Service Medal. And because of their frankly open affection, there was a little bit of gossip.

Travis: Sure there was.

Teresa: Perhaps.

Travis: Sure there was!

Teresa: Well, I mean Victoria's children and the ministers didn't really like John Brown quite as much as she did. There were whispers of a romantic relationship, but there's nothing really to support that.

Travis: Well I think probably— My armchair psychologist bet would be that she appreciated the straight shooter blunt nature because she had grown up being so handled by her mom, and her mom's boyfriend, and people trying to like worm their way into influencing her.

And then even once becoming queen, there were people like groveling to her all the time. But meanwhile here are ministers who would love to have that kind of— the Queen's ear.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And her children who were probably upset of like, "Is this guy tryin' to replace our dad in this thing?" and they probably had not grown up with that. And so they were probably like, "Wow, this guy's being kinda rude to us and to everybody."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And so it's like, "Be— No, I don't know that you get why this is so important for your mom to have."

Teresa: I bet it also kinda reminded her of Albert in a way.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Because, you know, he has also been reported to be very blunt in the German way, right? And so I think that she kind of enjoyed that honesty, that like... telling it like it is business, you know?

Travis: I'm very much now thinking about the creator on TikTok, Lauraaaa something, who does her German mother.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And I'm now picturing that, yes.

Teresa: Yes, yes. What— Let's hope that her actual mother's a little more feeling than that woman. [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, she seems— I've seen some clips of the actual reveal, but she seems lovely.

Teresa: Okay. Another important relationship was her personal servant from India, Abdul Kareem. There's actually a movie from 2017 titled *Victoria and Abdul*, which was made about their relationship. Kareem was her Urdu tutor, and she, you know, grew very close having lessons from him. And in a similar way to her relationship with John Brown, her relationship with Kareem attracted jealousy.

Travis: Of course it did.

Teresa: And prejudice.

Travis: Of course.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: Oh yeah, especially during— Yeah.

Teresa: Particularly because of his quote "low" closed quote social background. And the racist element.

Travis: Well, yes.

Teresa: He was a young prison clerk is how he had gotten his start, from British India, and he had met the Queen on her Golden Jubilee in 1887

because he came to present her with a gold coin that had been minted as a token of appreciation from the British-ruled India.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: Um... This relationship especially was important and groundbreaking, yes, but Queen Victoria was a colonizer.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And her interests in India seemed to be more driven by fascination of the exotic than by genuine respect for a different culture.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Abdul specifically was treated very poorly by members of Court, and Victoria's own children, the moment that their mother passed, he was unceremoniously deported back to India.

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: A country which, it should be noted, Queen Victoria never set foot in. she was declared Empress of India... Never went there.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Alright.

Teresa: Speaking of which, the sun never sets on the British Empire, have you heard this?

Travis: I have heard that.

Teresa: The expansion of the British Empire largely took place during the time where she was the Widow of Windsor. By the end of her reign, England ruled over more of one fifth of the Earth's landmass, including the Indian subcontinent, large parts of Africa, and colonies in the Caribbean. She... used this kind of military like boon, and marrying off her children to the crowned heads of Europe, to kind of return to public life.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Although that was great for her, it wasn't great for the world. Toward the end of her reign, they were constantly at war with nearly everyone. And there is a reason why the most celebrated holiday around the world is Independence Day from Britain.

Travis: Yeeeah, okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah. Man, they must've been resource thin by the end of it. All those wars, all those different fronts, all those different things.

Teresa: I mean, sure.

Travis: But then I guess wherever you could take.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Wherever you could take, you're taking the resources from there.

Teresa: [chuckles] You're takin' their stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So you don't need your own stuff if you're taking everybody else's stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: By 1897, Victoria was once again mostly beloved by her own people.

Travis: Her own people, important to note.

Teresa: Yes, her own people. And became kind of the nation's surrogate grandmother, right? Not only like [chuckles] not figuratively. I mean figuratively as well as literally. Her children produced over 42

grandchildren by the turn of the 20th century, in various monarchies all around Europe.

Travis: Now this must've been tricky though, when you reach that point and you're like, "We need to marry monarchs' kids," and it's like, "Yeah, they're all cousins."

Teresa: That's fine.

Travis: Oh nooo—

Teresa: Yup. [wheezes]

Travis: — oooo!

Teresa: [laughs] That's pretty— That's pretty run of the mill for this.

Travis: Aw beans.

Teresa: [giggles] This sort of thing.

Travis: Aw.

Teresa: Victoria and Albert were cousins.

Travis: First cousins?

Teresa: I believe so.

Travis: Oh noooo—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: — oooo!

Teresa: It doesn't make it right, but it's not unusual.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: They were on the thrones of Denmark, Greece, Norway, Germany, Romania, Russia, and Spain. So she literally had a hand in

every pot, so— not only with her children and also with their colonies and conquests. It's no wonder why she has made such an impact around the world.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: For good— For better or for worse.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And in fact, she hoped that having so many relations everywhere would ensure a lasting world peace.

Travis: [skeptical] Mm.

Teresa: Didn't, because one of her—

Travis: That assumes that familial relationships—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: — are always totally chill.

Teresa: One of her grandsons was Kaiser Wilhelm.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: So that didn't go exactly as she—

Travis: Not, yeah.

Teresa: — planned.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: She had her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Once again, and this kind of pomp and circumstance really helped bolster her popularity once again.

Travis: That's 50, right? That's 50 years?

Teresa: Diamond is 60.

Travis: 60! Oh boy, okay.

Teresa: And by 1901, so we've got a little time there, she had grown very frail and was quite old. She had to use a wheelchair.

Travis: How old would she have been at this point? When was she born? So she is basically 40, 1840 I think, so she would've been... Okay, she was born in 1819. So... And what year was this?

Teresa & Travis: [simultaneously] 1901.

Travis: So that would've been 82 years. Not bad.

Teresa: No spoilers, she died in 1901.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I actually don't think it's spoilers if you've reached that point in the story.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: I think it would've been spoilers if at the beginning of the first part, when like, "Spoiler, she's not alive today."

Teresa: [giggles] She continued to wear black, as I said, but she was buried in a white gown.

Travis: Because she was rejoining Albert.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Spiritual marriage.

Teresa: Spiritual marriage. She—

Travis: How very emo of her.

Teresa: She died January 22nd, 1901. She was at Osborne House in the Isle of White, which was the house that Albert had built for them, if you'll recall.

Travis: Yes, I— Yes I will.

Teresa: And the streets of London were filled to bursting as her casket returned— as her casket passed on the way to its final resting place. She... had asked that her funeral be with respect but simply.

I don't know exactly what that means. But you know, there was the mourners following the gun carriage, and... She had the wheels muffled, which I don't also know what that means, but it was very important to her for it to be nearly silent.

So the parade was led through the high street with Edward, now King Edward VII, walking in the center behind her coffin, and then on the left was Prince Arthur, and on the right was Kaiser Wilhelm II. She was buried alongside Albert at a memorial next to Frogmore Cottage, which is on the grounds.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And so like... You know, to the last, she— Albert was very important to her. Like I said, she was buried in her— in a white gown. She had his dressing gown with her, and a plaster mold of his hand, several locks of hair and pictures, and all sorts of things, right? The mausoleum specifically was designed in Albert's favorite style, in the style of Raphael.

Travis: One of my least favorite Ninja Turtles, but I get it.

Teresa: Oh yeah? Yeah?

Travis: It's just he's cool, but rude!

Teresa: [chuckles] And inscribed on the mausoleum was "Farewell most beloved, and here at length I shall rest with thee. With thee in Christ I shall rise again." And that's where they are. If you ever go— want to go see it.

Travis: If you need to know where they are.

Teresa: [chuckles] That's where they—

Travis: They haven't moved.

Teresa: They haven't moved. It's complicated, right? It's all very complicated. Being the colonizer of half of the world.

Travis: And oppressor. Not just colonizer.

Teresa: And oppressor.

Travis: And oppressor. 'Cause you would colonize those places, and then be like, "Okay, let's British 'em up."

Teresa: Yeah. She was in such a powerful position and had the ability to do a lot of good and didn't. She didn't, in fact she did a lot of harm, right?

Travis: But there's also no— Not to be devil's advocate because a devil doesn't need it, but... it's difficult, right? Because there's definitely influence that she had... and things that she did for England.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That are beneficial for her people.

Teresa: Right, yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I mean she is kind of like heralded as like the epitome of British excellence.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right? And so it's a complicated legacy, and it doesn't—

Travis: As are so many.

Teresa: As are so many. It doesn't really diminish like the social kind of traditions that she started, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: But it definitely does give you a lot to think about, as far as like the adulation.

Travis: Well and I think it's something that we run into a lot here in the US as well, when we talk about like founding people, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: Where it's like, "Yeah, listen. You can't deny the impact they had, the things that they did, and you know, the— this kind of like almost heroic legacy they have."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But I think it is important that with that you also ha— understand both sides of the situation, are able to talk about it with full context that these people weren't like, you know, pillars of humanity with no imperfections, and did nothing to no-one kind deal.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: But that you're able to say like, "Yeah, listen. They were human beings and any human being has good and bad, and it's not about what outweighs the other, but rather just understanding the complete scope of the impact."

Teresa: Yeah, the whole picture is important.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So I hope that we have given you, dear listeners, a well-detailed picture. And we— I mean obviously, we will continue to reference her legacy in regards to like the manners and that era, and—

Travis: The impact.

Teresa: The impact.

Travis: Yeah, good and bad.

Teresa: Right? But we also don't want to diminish... [sighs] that we need—

Travis: The harm.

Teresa: The harms. We need to make better choices, world.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Make better choices.

Travis: So, that's gonna do it for us. We want to say thank you to our researcher Alex, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you to our editor Rachel, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you to you for listening. We could do this show without you. But we won't.

Teresa: We will not.

Travis: We won't do it.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: And you can't make us.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: If you haven't yet, go check out all the stuff over at mcelroy.family. You can visit bit.ly/mcelroytours to see all the stuff coming up. We've got—

Teresa: Yeah, new dates.

Travis: Yeah, we got a ton of *My Brother, My Brother And Me* and *Adventure Zone* stuff coming up, I think listed through like October at this point, maybe? Go check that out if you haven't, tickets are going on sale.

They may be already on sale right now when you listen to this because I think they go on sale Friday at 10AM at local time, and this'll come out Friday at noon Eastern time. So chances are tickets are on sale now. So go check that out; 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 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.

As always, we are continually taking your topic submissions, your questions, your queries, and your idioms. We love those idiom episodes, and you can send those to shmannerstcast@gmail.com. Make sure you say hi to Alex, because she reads every single 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]

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