

## Shmanners 415: Molly Pitcher

Published July 12, 2024

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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? Well, you—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You're listening to Shmanners.

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** That's what I get. 'cause I was trying to be cute.

**Teresa:** Ah. Well.

**Travis:** And say like, "You? Why, you're—" and instead it came out wild. And at that point there was a part of my brain in the background that was like, "Don't change it up. This is what happens."

**Teresa:** [through laughter] This is what happens.

**Travis:** You're trying to get cute and do a different way of saying it, and— [sighs]. Don't do it.

**Teresa:** And you should just rely on muscle memory.

**Travis:** I mean, I guess. But that's how I end up taking the kids to school when we're supposed to go to the library or whatever, you know?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** God, it's happened.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** I had to take I think it was Dot to a dentist appointment, and I drove to my dentist. Now, thankfully they weren't far apart. By, like, li—I parked at my dentist before I was like, "Wait a minute! They work on big teeth!" So... speaking of big teeth—I don't know. Who are we talking about today?

**Teresa:** We are talking about the woman, the myth, the legend, Molly Pitcher. [pause] Oh, that look!

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

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

**Travis:** I don't know who that is.

**Teresa:** Well, okay. Let me give you some context clues.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** This—

**Travis:** That is my favorite—one of my favorite kind of clues.

**Teresa:** This is our Fourth of July episode. Our Independence Day episode.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** It's late. Whatever.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** But does that give you any clues as to who she was?

**Travis:** She was George Washington.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Revolutionary War.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** More clues.

**Travis:** Was she the real one who did the Paul Revere ride?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** No.

**Teresa:** No, no.

**Travis:** She made the flag.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** She made the Liberty Bell.

**Teresa:** [laughs] No. Although her name does also say about what she does—did.

**Travis:** Play baseball.

**Teresa:** No. Pitcher. Water pitcher.

**Travis:** She poured drinks.

**Teresa:** Yes!

**Travis:** That's it?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Well, the drinks are very specific to taking water to soldiers on the battlefields.

**Travis:** Okay. Alright. I never would've gotten there in a million—

**Teresa:** No?

**Travis:** Uh, no!

**Teresa:** Oh.

**Travis:** I still don't know who it is.

**Teresa:** Okay. Well, neither do we, really. But that's the thing.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] So it was a trick!

**Teresa:** [laughs] She is in the zeitgeist the same way that GI Joe is. Right? Not one single person, probably. Although we're gonna go over a couple people who she may have started out as.

**Travis:** She was Shakespeare.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** But, I mean, close? The—

**Travis:** She's DB Cooper.

**Teresa:** The idea that it all kind of—like Rosie the Riveter, right?

**Travis:** Okay, yes, okay.

**Teresa:** The picture is based on an actual person. But it represents more than an actual person. It's the movement, the idea.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] I mean, it's Uncle Sam.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Uncle Sam. Okay.

**Travis:** We got there.

**Teresa:** It was a nickname given to women who fought or aided in the war effort in the American Revolutionary War.

**Travis:** One of my favorite revolutionary war. Was it you who said—what was it? The statistic of, like, every day, like—something like every day there's some country that's celebrating independence from Britain.

**Teresa:** Yeah, it's like every six days there is a celebration of independence from Great Britain.

**Travis:** Sorr—hey. I was about to apologize to Great Britain if you're listening. But you guys did it. You did it!

**Teresa:** They know what they've done. [laughs]

**Travis:** You did it! Come on.

**Teresa:** Nobody alive now did it. But those people did. Um, and some people—

**Travis:** You only feel comfortable saying that 'cause Queen Elizabeth kicked it.

**Teresa:** I mean, yes.

**Travis:** I bet there are some people alive who did it, baby! It wasn't that long ago!

**Teresa:** Okay. Some people refer to Molly Pitcher as women who dressed as men to fight. But more often, it's kind of a generic girl's name, right? Think of Joe, like I said. And Pitcher was what the women would bring onto the battlefield, right? Because it was very warm. Anyone who was wounded probably needed water more than anything else. People overheated and dehydrated, and it was—it was necessary.

There were many women who fought alongside their brothers, husbands, fathers... comrades, right? Um, and often stepped in to positions that they didn't really sign up for.

**Travis:** I see.

**Teresa:** And so she is brave, helpful, courageous, resourceful, right? A dedicated patriot kind of vibe. Um, and it was the idea that even a woman's, like, dedication to the cause mattered, right?

**Travis:** Ever—yes.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** This is what I was trying to describe. 'Cause Bebe—we had—it's like a magnet finger puppet. It's, you know, from one of those books that we got.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, Rosie the Riveter.

**Travis:** Of Rosie the Riveter. And I was trying to explain to her. And it's so wild, 'cause it's difficult to explain without going into a deep, like, tangent of like, "And also, patriarchy and sexism." 'Cause it's like, part of it is like, "And they were saying like, women can do jobs too!"

And Bebe's like, "Well, now hold on." And I'm like, "Listen. Yes. I know. Ignore that context though. It was supposed to be, like, yeah." And she's like, "But of course women can do the jobs." I'm like, "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Yes. But... imagine if you didn't think that already."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um, so we're going to—I'm gonna go through a couple snippets of people who are maybe the example, maybe the origin, maybe just a...

**Travis:** Cool person.

**Teresa:** A cool person, considered a Molly Pitcher, right?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Probably it was more the distillation of endless tales of female bravery that resulted in the Molly Pitcher moniker.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Alright. Like you said before, when we think about the American Revolution, we think about George Washington. Now we think about Alexander Hamilton.

**Travis:** I try not to.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** No, I'm just kidding.

**Teresa:** And Paul Revere.

**Travis:** [sighs] You know, there was—hmm. [mumbling] Not to bring politics into this, [speaking] but I saw a tweet recently where [mumbling] it was Marjorie Taylor Green [speaking] who said, like, talking about the founding fathers, the signers of the Declaration of Independence. And the people she listed were like, James Monroe, and George Washington, and Alexander Hamilton, and Paul Revere. None of whom—none of them signed... it. Um, so, yeah. [wheezes]

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I think about John Adams, thank you 1776. Um... I think about him a lot.

**Teresa:** John Hancock.

**Travis:** Yeah, 'cause he had the big signature.

**Teresa:** Yep. That's what I think about, 'cause he was the big one.

**Travis:** But I also think of that young leather apron, singing a song about "Comma, Look Sharp," 'cause I sang that song when I was in 1776.

**Teresa:** Oh, you did, that's right!

**Travis:** I wasn't the courier, mind you. I was the leather apron. So I did, like, the chorus, the harmonies. Haunting. Hauntingly beautiful.

**Teresa:** Indeed. Um, so there were hundreds if not thousands of women who aided the continental army as camp followers and field nurses and even, like I said, soldiers themselves.

Dr. Emily J. Teipe, who is the author of *America's First Veterans and Revolutionary War Pensions*, and *Different Voices: Women in the United States History* suggests...

**Travis:** I bet that's a great book. Can I—

**Teresa:** No, those are—those are... two different books.

**Travis:** Okay. I was gonna say. The title?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** A bit wordy.

**Teresa:** A bit wordy.

**Travis:** But if it's two different titles—okay.



**Teresa:** Two—two different books.

**Travis:** Okay. Okay. I thought that was one long 27-word title. Okay.

**Teresa:** No. She suggests that the name Molly Pitcher is a collective generic term, much like GI Joe, that serves as a common label for hundreds, perhaps thousands of women, who not only served as ammunition wives manning and firing the guns, but also in the army and colonial militia themselves.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Alright. So... here's one. Deborah Sampson.

**Travis:** Another great—that's a great name.

**Teresa:** It's a good name. Very strong name.

**Travis:** Can I just say, like, if I was making a superhero, like Debbie Sampson is a heck of a, like, alter ego. Right? Debbie Sampson.

**Teresa:** You may have heard—

**Travis:** Also a private eye, now that I've said it out loud.

**Teresa:** Hmm, Debbie Sampson.

**Travis:** Debbie Sampson, private eye.

**Teresa:** You may have heard of Deborah Sampson before, as she was the subject of discussion between Paget Brewster and Derek Waters on a Drunken History.

**Travis:** Ohh. I love Paget Brewster.

**Teresa:** I know, right?

**Travis:** Love Paget Brewster.

**Teresa:** Also known on from Liberty's Kids, if you remember that PPS show.

**Travis:** I don't at all. I don't think that was one of mine. Was she on Wishbone?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** I watched Wishbone.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** No?

**Teresa:** Deborah Sampson—

**Travis:** Was she on Cracked Creatures?

**Teresa:** Probably not.

**Travis:** No. Was she on Ghost Writer?

**Teresa:** No. No.

**Travis:** Okay. Those are, like, the three I could pull right away.

**Teresa:** So, she is the only woman to earn a full military pension for her participation in the Revolutionary Army.

**Travis:** Ooh! Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, she was well known. Her family was well known. She was the daughter of Jonathan Jr. And Deborah Sampson, who were both descended from pilgrim leadership. Her mother was the granddaughter of Massachusetts governor William Bradford, and her father was the son of Miles Standish and Priscilla Alden.

**Travis:** Miles Stand—okay, yes.

**Teresa:** Yes. So that's impressive. But—

**Travis:** Pedigree, one might say.

**Teresa:** Yes. But they were poor.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** And because Deborah was one of seven children, when her father went missing at sea her mom was like, "Welp. You guys better get to work."

So, uh, her mother—

**Travis:** I hope that that happen—if I ever I go missing at sea—or anywhere really but probably at sea, knowing my seafaring lifestyle—I hope that you look at Bebe and Dot no matter what age like, "Listen, man. I've grown accustomed—"

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] "Time for you guys to get a job."

**Travis:** —"I've grown accustomed to a certain lifestyle. I need you guys to get out there.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um, so her mother used the children to place them in different homes as kind of... helpers? Uh, probably more like indentured servants. Hoping that it would not only sustain them outside the home, but also give them some skills, right? Because they're children, so they have to learn.

I think about Anne of Green Gables as an orphan—

**Travis:** You think about—

**Teresa:** I do.

**Travis:** You think about Anne of Green Gables a lot.

**Teresa:** A lot. But as an orphan, she's kind of like—

**Travis:** More than, I would say, most people. I'm not saying you think about it as the most person, but I think about things this way all the time. I've talked to Bebe about this. Like, you're definitely in the top 50% of all people on Earth. But there are people on Earth—I'm saying, top 50% of people on Earth who have heard of Anne of Green Gables before. I think you're in the top 50% of that. Maybe top 25% of that.

**Teresa:** Anyway.

**Travis:** I just want to clarify.

**Teresa:** As an orphan, she was often adopted by families more as a servant child than as a daughter, right? And that's what happens in the book, where she used to come from—she had a terrible experience with a woman who treated her poorly and made her do a bunch of things. But she did learn about medicine, and about children, and about housework and all that kind of stuff, right? And then when she goes to Green Gables she is treated more as a daughter and given an education and all that kind of stuff, right? Anyway.

Um, and so she was sent to work for Deacon Benjamin Thomas, who was a farmer with a large family. Um, particularly five boys very close to Deborah's age that she was able to play with and measure her strength against. And she was sturdy.

When she was five years old—

**Travis:** Of course. She was a Sampson.

**Teresa:** Of course.

**Travis:** Sampson!

**Teresa:** Of course! Uh, when she was five years old she was taught to read and write. She was legendarily smart and a very fast learner. Um, but Mr.

Thomas ran a strict household. Um, and so she was also—she was more educated in the womenly arts, right? Weaving—

**Travis:** Hmm, kung fu.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** No. Knife throwing.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Weaving.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** And—and although she did—she was taught to shoot, she was more taught to a dress a kill than anything else.

**Travis:** Okay. I mean, is that—

**Teresa:** It's important.

**Travis:** Is that—okay. That's terrifying to me. Both of those things, but especially that.

**Teresa:** [laughs] But Benjamin Thomas was a fierce patriot and a huge supporter of American independence. And so he heavily influenced Deborah. Often talked to her about the state of the colonies, political questions, influencing her to believe that one day America could be free from the British rule. Um, and so by the time she was done there, she was able to work as a teacher and a weaver, and was again, like I said, noticeably strong from all of her hard work on the farm.

**Travis:** Aww yeah.

**Teresa:** 1782. The Revolutionary War is raging.

**Travis:** Everybody's loving it.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** It's so popular.

**Teresa:** Well, I mean, they love the idea.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** So she decided that there was more she could do. She disguised herself as a man, joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, under the pseudonym Robert Shertleff.

**Travis:** That sounds like that was not her first choice, and as she was saying the name she did plan, which was like Sheffield or something, she was like, Sher—uh, Shertle—Shertleff. Yep. That's it.

**Teresa:** Yep. There it is. She fought in several elite units, got wounded twice. One of them, a musket ball in the thigh, she dug out and sewed up herself.

**Travis:** I assume so that a doctor wouldn't have to, like, remove her pants.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Exactly.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** So her biography is very fascinating, and maybe someday we'll cover the entirety of it. But if Molly Pitcher the woman exists outside of Molly Pitcher the legend, could it be her?

**Travis:** Hmm, maybe! Before we discuss other Molly Pitchers, though... I have a Jumbotron Let's go to the Jumbotron zone!

**Teresa:** Hey!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hey, over here in the Jumbotron zone. We have a Jumbotron message from Wife Kay to Husband James.

"Happy one week of being my husband, to James, my husband."

**Teresa:** Aww.

**Travis:** "We did an amazing job of putting together the world's coolest and sweetest wedding, and I can't wait to live the rest of my life with you by my side. Love you forever, and don't forget rule number one: the blood stays in the body. Love, K, and your now legitimate cat sons, Tig and Shaggy."

That's a very good rule.

**Teresa:** Very sweet.

**Travis:** The blood does stay in the body. That's where it best operates. Unless it's needed by someone else. But let's say, controlled, in controlled circumstances the blood may transfer. But only then. So, happy wedding to you guys. And I don't know, thanks for choosing us to say happy wedding. Have a great day, and now back to the show!

[music plays]

**Speaker 1:** City pop to me is like a feeling.

**Speaker 2:** City pop is beautiful music.

**Speaker 3:** It's music that makes me emotional.

**Speaker 4:** There's so many different sounds that fall into the city pop category.

**Speaker 5:** It just feels very home to me.

**Speaker 6:** We're just about wrapped on our inaugural season of Primer. If you didn't know, Primer is a new podcast that explores music from outside the English-speaking world, and Vulture called us one of the best podcasts of the year! Our first season covered Japanese city pop, and you just heard a few of our past guests share what the genre means to them. Learn more

about the world of city pop, and listen to some cool tunes. And if you like what we're doing, you can make a onetime contribution and help us reach our goal to produce a second season about a new genre. Support Primer over at [Maximumfun.org/primer](http://Maximumfun.org/primer).

[music and ad end]

[music plays]

**Jesse:** Hi. I'm Jesse Thorn, the founder of Maximum Fun, and I have a special announcement. I'm no longer embarrassed by My Brother, My Brother, and Me. You know, for years each new episode of this supposed advice show was a fresh insult. A depraved jumble of erection jokes, ghost humor, and—frankly, this is for the best—very little actionable advice.

But now as they enter their twilight years, I'm as surprised as anyone to admit that... it's gotten kinda good. Justin, Travis, and Griffin's witticisms are more refined, like a humor column in a fancy magazine. And they hardly ever say bazinga anymore.

So, after you've completely finished to listening to every single one of all of our other shows, why not join the McElroy brothers every week for My Brother, My Brother, and Me?

[music and ad end]

**Teresa:** Probably not. Probably not the Molly Pitcher.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Oh, it wasn't her? Aww, big reveal.

**Teresa:** But, but...

**Travis:** But?

**Teresa:** Her comrades did name her Molly? But... it was a very common name for effeminate men at that time, to call someone Molly. It was kind of like nicknaming your friend Chad because he's into boat shoes and the stock market, right?



**Travis:** Okay, yeah.

**Teresa:** There's another woman, Margaret Corbin.

**Travis:** Now, Molly is a nickname for Margaret, is it not?

**Teresa:** Yes it is!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, she was orphaned when she was young. She lived with her uncle until she married John Corbin, who was an artilleryman from Philadelphia.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And as the Revolutionary War amped up, she became a camp follower. Which, if you don't know, it is exactly as it sounds. You follow the army camps. Um, to kind of set up, like, the tent city that they live in, right? And sell them goods, or donate your time to do mending and repairs and, you know, all the kinds of things that you set up an army base for now, right?

**Travis:** And almost certainly, let's be honest, these 1700's men did now know how to do.

**Teresa:** Maybe. Maybe so. Maybe they didn't. Um, okay. So on November 16th, 1776. It was the day—

**Travis:** That's an important year, you know that?

**Teresa:** Yes I do.

**Travis:** That's a big year.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause, um, that was, uh... what was it? That was, uh—[quietly] what happened in 17—uh, they wrote a musical.

**Teresa:** [laughs] On that day, 2800 American soldiers defended Fort Washington, which was a stronghold in the north of Manhattan where a few thousand soldiers were trying to fight against 9000 attacking troops under British command. It was mayhem, right? Um, chaos and carnage everywhere you looked. And... Margaret's husband was a casualty.

**Travis:** Aww, man.

**Teresa:** In the middle of the battle he was shot, and he had been firing a cannon, right? Um, Margaret did something unthinkable at the time. Took his place at the cannon.

**Travis:** Aww, yeah.

**Teresa:** She had been with the camp for months. She probably knew how to load and fire the cannon. And that was it. That was all that she did for the rest of the time in battle. She was—like, she came along as kind of, like, helping with wounds, or carrying water, like I said, or, you know, other things like that. But once that position I guess opened up, that's where she stayed. Um, and it is said that she continued loading and shooting and firing cannonballs at British troops until she herself was shot in the arm and had to be drug away from her post for medical attention.

**Travis:** Whoa. Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, I mean—

**Travis:** She's cool.

**Teresa:** She's cool. There wasn't a lot that you could do at that point for that kind of thing, and she did remain disabled for the rest of her life.

**Travis:** Ah, she got some kind of infe—or something? Arm removed, perhaps?

**Teresa:** Perhaps.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** But she did receive great recognition. She was one of the first women to be awarded a military pension by the state of Pennsylvania for her bravery at Fort Washington. And there are several monuments to her legacy in the eastern United States, including a memorial depicting her valiantly standing by her cannon, which stands in the cemetery at West Point.

**Travis:** That's cool.

**Teresa:** It is! And so this is when she's referred to as Captain Molly, because her nickname probably was Molly, right?

So she's a contender. But again, she's not quite a perfect fit, right? Although, I mean—

**Travis:** Because she wasn't really, like, pouring pitchers and stuff, and pitcher wasn't—where would the pitcher have come from?

**Teresa:** I mean, that was a common job that people did. But it wasn't really like—

**Travis:** I guess if she was following the camp and doing that kind of thing, like mending and helping and stuff, and then did the cannon, I could see where she was a helper who stepped up and did what was needed, it kind of fits.

**Teresa:** Right, right. One last one who is a good contender. Mary Hays. Um, we don't know very much about Mary Hays's early life. That's pretty normal for this time in history. Probably Pennsylvania or New Jersey born, somewhere in there.

But she was the daughter of two German immigrants. She married a barber named William Hays, and she, by all accounts, did not have very many advantages in life. She also did not receive a very good education. She couldn't read or write.

But... her reputation amongst, uh, the men, was that she could hang.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Uh, she—her work ethic was very clear, as she came with her husband with the Fourth Pennsylvania Artillery. She washed and cared for the sick. But on June 28th, 1788, she got her chance when she enlisted to serve with Captain Francis Procter's company in the Pennsylvania Artillery.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And this is who ran water. We know for a fact, she ran water to those on the battlefield.

**Travis:** Well, that—okay. I mean, I'm not saying, like, "So it's her!" I'm saying, like, that would account for the idea.

**Teresa:** It fits very perfectly, doesn't it?

**Travis:** The only thing that would make it better is if you told me "And she looked like the Kool-Aid Man." And then I'd be like, "Oh, she's a pitcher!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] She was beloved. There are several diary entries about her spitfire, right? And that she had a sailor's mouth, and that she smoked like a chimney.

**Travis:** Sounds cool.

**Teresa:** Um, going so far as to describe her as, quote, "A 22-year-old illiterate pregnant woman who smoked and chewed tobacco, and swore as well as any of the male soldiers."

**Travis:** That does sound like a character straight from, like, a book, doesn't it? Yeah.

**Teresa:** It does, doesn't it? It kind of fits it. It really fits it to a T. They thought that she was great. She gained respect and popularity among the

troops because of her work ethic, and fearlessness, and ability to work hard under the pressure of cannon fire, right?

And it really came to a head at the Battle of Monmouth on June 28th, 1778.

**Travis:** What happened then?

**Teresa:** Well, for one thing it was a terribly hot day. It was so humid that day in June. There was a thunderstorm the night before, but it had not rained yet that day.

**Travis:** Paint me a picture!

**Teresa:** The continental army was outnumbered two to one. 50 soldiers died of thirst and dehydration before the battle started!

**Travis:** Get outta town!

**Teresa:** So just as many men died from heat exhaustion as they did from gunfire that day. And so she was running back and forth, back and forth, filling pitcher after pitcher for the thirsty soldiers. And when she wasn't going to and fro then, she was caring for wounded.

But then, once again, her husband fell. And so she decided to get on that cannon.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** A Connecticut soldier named Joseph Plum was taking cover with the rest of the infantry when he saw her, and he wrote:

"A woman whose husband belonged to the artillery and who was then attached to a piece in the engagement, attending with her husband at the piece of the entire time."

**Travis:** Okay. So the piece being the cannon, right?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** He was attached to it, and then she was like, "I'm on it."

**Teresa:** Yep, exactly.

**Travis:** Okay. Well, that seems like—doesn't that seem like...?

**Teresa:** It really seems like it, doesn't it?

**Travis:** Because she was doing the pitcher thing, and then she also stepped up to fire a cannon. That's like both parts of it.

**Teresa:** Uh, we're not sure exactly if William Hays, her husband, was wounded or suffering from heatstroke or what it was. We're not even really certain if he was still able to stand by the cannon, because some accounts say that he was handing Mary cannonballs, while others say that he was carted off to safety. But one thing we know is that she was all up in that cannon, and did not—

**Travis:** Not in it.

**Teresa:** No, no.

**Travis:** She wasn't doing, like, a Great Gonzo thing. "Fire me at them! I'll get 'em."

**Teresa:** [laughs] No.

**Travis:** "Give me a dagger and point me at 'em."

**Teresa:** Excuse my colloquialisms.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** No. She was right there with the cannon, and did not leave until the battle was over. Eyewitnesses described her bold determination, saying that she continued firing even though the haze of battle was so thick that a blast at one point tore off the bottom half of Mary's petticoat.

**Travis:** Whoa.

**Teresa:** So it's after that battle that legend says that George Washington asked, "Who was this courageous woman on the battlefield?"

And when the troops gave the general her name, George Washington promoted her to the rank of a non-commissioned officer. Her nickname moved from Molly Pitcher to Sergeant Molly, all in one day.

**Travis:** Okay. So I think it's her.

**Teresa:** I mean, historians are always asking, who was it? Was it this person? Was it that person? Articles and books, and everybody's got a different opinion. But does it really matter?

**Travis:** It's an ideal.

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** It's a person—it's a woman who steps up and shows bravery, and does the things she needs to.

**Teresa:** Yeah! Um, and a lot—

**Travis:** Any woman who fires a cannon is a Molly Pitcher.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It probably extends beyond that, but the cannon seems to be part of it.

**Teresa:** The cannon does seem to really be part of it. I think that it's about stepping up when you're needed, right? And at this point, women had a certain responsibility on the battlefield that generally didn't include artillery, right? And then when the time came that someone was needed, there they were, and they took up the mantle, right?

**Travis:** Boom, love it.

**Teresa:** So we'll never really know for sure who exactly it was.

**Travis:** Was it you, listener?

**Teresa:** I don't—like I said, I don't really think that it matters.

**Travis:** Yeah, I agree.

**Teresa:** Because it's the ideal. It's the... the endurance of women, I think. The idea that, you know, anybody, even like people who are thought to be below worth, right? Have this innate sense of worthiness.

**Travis:** It's also a—I like any story where it's like, "Well, that person couldn't do this job. This is a job for blank." And then they step up and it's like, "Oh, okay. No, they did a great job."

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** Right, I love that.

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** Um, thank you all for listening. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we could not do this show. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not do this show. Thank you for you—thank you for [unintelligible] listening.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Thank you to you for listening. I clearly couldn't do the show without you guys. It means a lot. Thank you so much. And thank you to Teresa. I couldn't do the show without you either.

**Teresa:** Thanks, babe! Thank you.



**Travis:** You're welcome, babe. Babe, you're welcome. Um, let's see. Next week the new Adventure Zone graphic novel comes out.

**Teresa:** Woo-hoo!

**Travis:** Very exciting. Suffering Game coming out on Tuesday. If you go to [theadventurezonecomic.com](http://theadventurezonecomic.com) you can find all the information there. Um, if you head to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family)—it's a website, believe it or not—you can find all the information about everything we do there, including upcoming tours. You can also go to [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours) to get that information. Um, 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 suggestions and submissions and questions, and idioms, and, you know, just—just general greetings. Please send them to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com), and make sure you say hi to Alexx, 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]

[chord]

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