

Shmanners 453: Jury Duty

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Travis: Hey, folks. Travis here, letting you know - had some mic issues on this one. Wrong connection, or something. So my audio is a little bit off in this one. Just wanted to warn you, and let you know that we know about it. I hope you still enjoy the episode, and... Take it away, past me and Teresa!

[theme song 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: Well. How are you?

Travis: You look beautiful, again.

Teresa: Thank you!

Travis: Is that— Did you dress like... Because what you immediately remind me of is, like, a court reporter, court stenographer, or even...

Teresa: Oh, you know, I wasn't really thinking... [laughs] thinking about that. It was more, I was like, "Well, I don't know what to do, so I'm just gonna do what I like."

Travis: Well, you seem like a really '50s... like, if this was a period drama, or a period - I don't know, movie - that was set in a courtroom.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You'd be sitting there, like, [humming] "Doo, doo, doo!"

Teresa: "Doo, doo, doo, dee, dee!"

Travis: Or a *lawyer*.

Teresa: Oh, I— I mean...

Travis: Women can be lawyers, too, but I don't know about the '50s.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Question mark, question mark. And so this week...

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Um, the reason I bring this up...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... is we're talking about jury duty.

And don't worry, baby; *I'll* handle this one. It all began with a young man with a dream, and that young man was Pauly Shore.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And he said, "I'm gonna make the funniest comedy about jury duty anyone's ever done." And he did it!

Teresa: Um, I would like to submit for evidence...

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: ... *The Rural Juror*.

Travis: *The Rural Juror* is not a real movie, though.

Teresa: [laughs] But it is the funniest movie name for...

Travis: Maybe the funniest movie name. But there is a movie called *Jury Duty*...

Teresa: I know!

Travis: ... and I think it came - I wanna say after *Encino Man*, but before *Bio-Dome*? [laughs] I can't...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Maybe concurrently with *Son in Law*? They might be— *Son in Law* and *Jury Duty* might be movies you could watch at the same time...

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: ... and find stuff in.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for this week's episode. Thank you, everybody!

Teresa: [laughs] [amused] No! ... Um, so this is one of, I guess, the harbingers of adulthood, one would say...

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: ... is being summoned for jury duty. I've never been summoned!

Travis: I've—

Teresa: Knock on some wood, [knocking sound] somewhere.

Travis: I was summoned... once.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And we don't have to get into the nuts and bolts, but just that I went to do the thing, and then they were like, "You need to be available the next two weeks." And I was like, "Oh! Is there any chance— Do you think I'd be done in a week? Because next week is MaxFunDrive." And this was like, a year ago, or so.

And then they were like, "What's that?" And I said, "Of course— Yeah." And I explained it to them. And they were like, "Oh, yeah. No, you can't do it right now. We'll schedule it another time."

So they were very cool about it...

Teresa: That's great.

Travis: But I think it's one of those things, too— Jury duty already seems like one of those things that's like... we all accept it, right...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... as a *thing*. That, like, when you're a legal adult here in the United States, there's a chance - I think it happens when you register to vote, or something like...

Teresa: There are lots of different places they get eligibility from.

Travis: Yeah. And then you'll get asked to do it, as part of the deal. And then, what you see is people who think about it for like, a minute, and they're like, "That's weird!"

Teresa: I don't really want to. [laughs]

Travis: More of, like, just... So at any given moment, based on *apparently* nothing, they're like, "Hey, do you wanna come help us... figure out the guilt [laughs] of this charged person, or not?"

And you're like, "I... guess?"

Teresa: Well, I mean, it does— it seems, on the one hand, very inconvenient, right? But on the other hand, if *you* were in the situation where *you* required trial by jury, *you* would want those people to take their jobs very seriously, wouldn't you?

Travis: 100%, yes.

Teresa: But it seems like in movies and TV, people take the kind of jury selection very *unseriously*.

Travis: Well, the question I always have is like, when? 'Cause I know they go through a process of saying, "Well, *not* this—" And, you know, the lawyers will go, "We don't want them, we don't want them."

Do they ask them, like, "Are you gonna take this seriously? Scale of one to 10, do you care about this?" And if the person's like, "Oh, one," do they dismiss them?

Teresa: I mean, they can... they can practically ask you anything that they want, when they're selecting you for jury duty.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, most of the time, I think that it's more about, like, "Do you have connections to this case, or any of the people working on this case? Or..."

Travis: "Have you ever listened to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*? Ah. Nope, can't. Judge Travis."

Teresa: Or, like, have you ever been convicted, or tried for a similar crime? Or...

Travis: "Do you think 'Play Along at Home' is funny? Do you like 'Riddle Me Piss'?"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And if they answer no to those things, I don't *want* them judging me. Anyways, let's start at the beginning!

Teresa: Anyways. Okay.

Fanners, if you have not received your summons in the mail yet, what happens is you're called upon in your community to serve on a panel that oversees a specific legal proceeding, and decide whether the offending parties are guilty or innocent, right?

For in criminal trials - for instance, armed robbery, right...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: ... it's always 12 people, whereas for civil cases like a contract dispute, it would be eight.

Travis: Man... Can I tell you? Contract dispute... I wanna get tagged in— Do you remember when we lived in LA, and we were on an intramural softball team?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Best case scenario for me was... there were too many people available.

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: And I was like, "Great. I will sit on the bench. I don't need to play." And they're like, "No, it's fine!"

Like, "No. You don't understand. This is not me saying, like, 'I'm not good at this; I'm worried I'm gonna drag the team down.' I *like* being here with y'all. I don't need the pressure of actually playing, though - that's cool."

So anything where it's like, this person could go to jail for 20 years, meh, I don't want that. That's too much pressure. But, like, money dispute? Like, if Judge Judy would cover it...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ... I'm *fine* being there for that.

Teresa: And so the job, like you said, it can be a little... There can be some pressure, right? Um, but you need to remember that if you're serving on a criminal trial, it needs to be a unanimous decision, okay? So all of you need to be pretty sure.

Travis: Another classic example: *12 Angry Men*.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Okay.

Teresa: And so there's a lot— I think there's a little *less* pressure...

Travis: I said "another classic example," which would imply that *Jury Duty*, starring Pauly Shore...

Teresa: [laughs heartily]

Travis: ... was a *classic*. I apologize to everybody.

Teresa: Yeah. There's a little less pressure in a civil case; it only has to be three fourths. So, I mean, if you're— I think that if you're not quite sure, it's okay that you... I don't know if abstaining is something that you can do for jury duty, but I do think...

Travis: I don't think so. I think they need a yes or no.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause what if everybody abstained?

Teresa: But it's a little less pressure, because the majority is the rule for that.

Travis: Okay. But here's the thing, folks: as with everything... I tell my daughter this, when she's playing *Dress to Impress*. [laughs]

Teresa: She loves that game. [crosstalk]

Travis: She looked at me one day, and was like, "I figured it out. Instead of dressing to the theme, I'll just pick stuff I think everybody will like." And I was like... "Mm, okay."

Teresa: "Mm..."

Travis: "As long as you still like it. Do *you* still like it? 'Cause that matters."

So I would say, the idea of like, I don't wanna say no, and everybody's gonna be mad at me.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: In jury duty, if you think the answer is no, or you think the answer is yes, do it. That's what you're there for.

Teresa: Indeed. Each country has different versions on how they select jurors. And so we're gonna talk about specifically the United States. And in order to do that, we're gonna go all the way back to colonial times!

Travis: I'm not surprised by that. Wait, how far back from colonial times? Because...

Teresa: Well, a little bit before colo— Well, a lot. We're gonna go...

Travis: Okay, let's go.

Teresa: ... really way back. Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So first of all...

Travis: [makes rewinding noises] We're back.

Teresa: [laughs] We're back. The *idea* of jury duty starts around 1215, right? That's where we start...

Travis: So *way* back.

Teresa: Yes. Just that, just that. The idea starts around 1215. It really didn't catch on as far as, like, the English-speaking world, that colonizing there, until the Magna Carta.

Because basically, before that, the sovereign - although, you know, they had little juries or whatever for magistrates and things like that - but the sovereign could basically throw you into prison for an indeterminate amount of time. For whatever reason, really.

Travis: And that was bad.

Teresa: And that was bad. So in the Magna Carta, they were like, "Hey, you can't *do* that anymore. That's not okay. We need to figure out some other way of *trying* people, so that it's not just because you said so.

Travis: Yeah. Because right now, you're just *trying* our patience.

Teresa: Right. And so— Oh. Yes.

Travis: Okay, thank you.

Teresa: Sorry. [laughs]

Travis: Alright, yeah.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: You were ready to move on, And I was just looking at you, like, "And?"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay. So now, it's consider an essential civil liberty to be able to have the trial by jury, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Not only in the American Bill of Rights, but also in the English Bill of Rights. And this is one thing that the Founding Fathers of the American Constitution thought was *so important* that it's actually included twice in the Constitution. Because before the Revolutionary War, colonists were not allowed to serve in Parliament, and only land owners were able to choose who was allowed to participate in colonial assemblies, right?

So there were lots of, like, different hierarchies and lack of representation, right? So then they used self-governance as a form of protest when the tensions between England and the US got really high, right?

Travis: Mm-hmm. When they were beefing.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: American juries would nullify British tax laws, right, claiming that they were not— “No taxation without representation.” You’ve heard of that.

Travis: I have heard that, yeah.

Teresa: Right? Yeah.

Travis: I’ve heard that.

Teresa: Yeah. And King George was like, “Okay, well, you can’t have juries anymore.”

Travis: Okay. No.

Teresa: And they were like, “No!” [laughs]

So it further infuriated the colonial rebellion. But I mean, it’s kind of like... He basically said, people in Britain, they can have their trial by jury by the Magna Carta. But *you guys* don’t count at all.

So that was one of the reasons why it was kind of forcing the colonists’ hand to be like, “Well, this far, no farther.”

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Everybody talks about the taxation, and Boston Harbor, and all of that kind of stuff - like, the Tea Party, or whatever. But this was one of the *big*, big things.

Um, Thomas Jefferson...

Travis: Heard of him, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Mentioned trials twice in the drafts of the Declaration of Independence. And, you know, that was one of the things they guaranteed by the Constitution, was trial by jury.

There were kind of some... different sides of the aisle. So we've got the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists, who were debating the specifics of what would happen. But James Madison...

Travis: Heard of him.

Teresa: ... yeah, another Founding Father, thought it was so important that it would be included in the Bill of Rights, right?

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: So it's like, one of the top American liberties.

Travis: It's right up there.

Teresa: Right up there.

So now, if you are an American citizen, you have a Constitutionally-enshrined right to a trial, with an impartial jury of your peers. So, that means when you're summoned to jury duty, you are partaking in one of the oldest forms of self-government that exists in our country.

Travis: *And* you're a peer. That's gotta feel nice!

Teresa: That's gotta feel nice.

Travis: Uh-huh!

Teresa: Alright.

Travis: You're relatively equal to someone.

Teresa: Indeed! So how do we pick those jurors?

Travis: Out of a hat?

Teresa: Kinda!

Travis: [gasps] I was right!

Teresa: [laughs] Um...

Travis: That was a joke!

Teresa: I know. So it's random. And you can be selected any time after you turn 18, and the way they get those is they can get it from registered voters, from taxpaying submissions, and also from driver's licenses.

Travis: Mmm! Okay.

Teresa: So you would have to be pretty off the grid, to not get selected.

Travis: The original form of data theft. Yeah!

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Think about it.

What? I just blew your mind!

Teresa: [laughs] So you'll receive a number that you're supposed to call. And you're supposed to call that every day for an allotted period of time, which is usually about two weeks.

Travis: Well, I had to go down! I mean...

Teresa: Yes. Different, like, juries have different rules. Different states have different rules. If you're being summoned for a grand jury, right, you might be asked to call every day.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: To see if they need you. But *you* received a summons in the mail, stating what you were supposed to do.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And it said to come on this date.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So then, what you do, is when you get there, and you sign in or whatever, the big part of the selection is the interview. What they're really trying to find is an impartial jury, right? We've talked about that?

Travis: Yeah. But it can't be— It's not, like, completely objective, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Because if the lawyer was like, "How do you feel about murder?" and you were like, "Boo!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And they were like, "No, then you won't do; get out of here. We need all morally-gray people who are, like, mur—" If I say, "How do you feel about murder?" and you respond, "Well, under what circumstances?" you're in! Get on in here.

Speaking of "getting in here," we're gonna squeeze in a word from another Max Fun show.

Teresa: Alright.

[theme song plays]

[ad begins]

Jesse: Hi, is this Kelly?

Kelly: [over phone] Yeah, this is Kelly.

Jesse: Hi, Kelly. This is Jesse Thorn, cohost of *Jordan, Jesse, Go!*

Kelly: Hi, Jesse.

Jesse: I'm calling because you were just named Max Fun's member of the month for April!

Kelly: Oh, wow. [laughs] This is so surreal.

Jesse: How long have you been a *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* listener?

Kelly: Probably eight years? I actually saw you guys at the Bell House in Brooklyn in 2019.

Jesse: Was seeing us the reason that you started listening to the show?

Kelly: No. [laughs]

Jesse: [laughs]

Kelly: I had been listening for a while.

Jesse: Why did you end up becoming a member?

Kelly: It's really just such a dependable source of laughter, and joy, and comfort. I just appreciate that, and I didn't wanna take it for granted. So I wanted to contribute, and show my support, 'cause I don't want it to ever end. [laughs]

Jesse: Kelly, thank you so much for talking with me, and thank you so much for being a member of Max Fun.

Kelly: Absolutely. It's my pleasure. It's totally worth it.

Speaker: If you're a Max Fun member, you can become the next Max Fun member of the month! Support us at MaximumFun.org/join.

[ad changes, music pivots to action-adventure theme]

Announcer: This season on *The Adventure Zone: Abnimals*, get ready for a brand-new crime fighting trio, here to protect the anthropomorphic muscular animal citizens of River City.

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This swear-free Saturday morning cartoon-inspired story airs every Thursday on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music and ads end]

Travis: Okay. Teresa?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: I've selected you to continue telling me about jury duty.

Teresa: Okay. Alright.

Travis: So far, you've passed the interview. They're looking for someone who is impartial...

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: So impartiality would be like, if they said, "Do you know this person? What kind of job?" The things you were saying, like...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: "How much do you know about this case," right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Because reading about it in the papers, right, can often— You're getting opinions on everything, not necessarily facts.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: So that's another reason they, like, sequester juries...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... is the idea of "We don't want you to see how people are covering this, 'cause that's gonna really impact... We only want you to be subjected to the stuff that we present to you *in* the courtroom."

Teresa: Right. The evidence, not the way that, um, you feel about the reporting.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: 'Cause that can be biased. So, like... they're also going to find out and make sure that you are a naturalized United States citizen, and if you are over 70, you might be exempt. Or if you have health problems that limit you from serving on the jury.

Travis: Or if you have a MaxFunDrive coming up.

Teresa: Maybe. Or if you've already served in the past year, right? They wanna make sure that everybody gets kind of cycled through.

Travis: You need a chance to let your justice meter refill...

Teresa: [laughs] I guess so.

Travis: ... before you're like, "Oh, I actually don't care about justice. I just dealt with justice, like, two weeks ago."

Teresa: Right, yeah. Full up to here on justice.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah.

Teresa: Or if you've been convicted of a felony.

So every case is different, right? And so you can't go *in*. Having these kind of, like... What I think of is, speaking of *30 Rock* and [stumbling over words] *The Rural Juror*...

Travis: Uh-huh. Nailed it.

Teresa: Do you remember the episode when Liz Lemon gets called for jury duty, and she shows up in a Princess Leia costume?

Travis: Yes, correct.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: There is also, I think, a *Schitt's Creek* episode where Moira has been called in, and is trying to get out of it.

Teresa: Oh, yeah?

Travis: I think so, yeah.

Teresa: But, like, you shouldn't go in with any preconceived question— Like, the way that you are trying to get *out* of it. Because they have lots of different criteria - in fact, Alex put together some anecdotes that she found of people trying to get out of it.

One person told Buzzfeed that they were called in for a marijuana possession case. And when they were asked if they could remain impartial, they admitted to, "I smoke weed all the time, so it doesn't really... I don't really care about this."

And they were like, "Well, I guess you gotta go, right?"

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: Another one she found was of someone, when asked if they would be available for the full two weeks, they said, "Only the first week." One

would assume it was for a vacation, or something, when in fact it was they were having to report for prison themselves...

Travis: Mm!

Teresa: ... the next week, to serve time.

Travis: Yeah, I think that would probably impact availability, *and* impartiality.

Teresa: Right. But I do wanna go back to the idea of a medical issue, or some other kind of limiting factor. I think that you do need to be upfront with the things that you need. For example, if you have any kind of limited mobility, and you'll be expected to go to a second-floor courtroom, or they don't have like a—

Travis: Without an acces— Yeah.

Teresa: Without an acceptable elevator.

Or if, for instance, maybe you have some sort of, like— you have bathroom needs that are quite regular. You might not be able to withstand hours of trial at a time, without needing bathroom breaks.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And not to say they don't give you bathroom breaks, but if your needs are very great, they might excuse you from the jury in order to keep the trial moving quickly. Right?

Travis: Now, I'm of— I'm gonna tell people. Listen, this is one of those times where I'm split on what I'm supposed to tell you people at home, and what *I* would do.

Teresa: Oh, okay!

Travis: Where it's like, I *should* tell you guys, like, don't go into it trying to get out of it. You know what I mean? It's your civic duty, and blah, blah, blah.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But I also know that if it represented an inconvenience to me, and there was maybe a time where I could be more honest or less honest than regular-honest to be exempt from it... I can't say what I'd do!

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Let's leave it at that. I'm not here to judge; that's not what we're about. We're just letting you know the ins and outs of it.

Teresa: Sure. As far as etiquette goes, honesty is the best policy.

Travis: Sure. Mm-hmm!

Teresa: And I would also like to recommend that, as far as dress code goes, keep it business casual, right? I think jeans would be fine.

But you want, like, close-toed shoes, and probably don't wear large hats. They probably would be okay with a knit cap or a baseball cap, or something like that. I'm not saying that you need to wear a suit; I'm just saying that you need to... you need to look serious, and presentable.

Travis: Yeah, yeah! Job interview, you know?

Teresa: Yeah! Job interview. That sounds perfect.

Also, different states have different exemptions, and you can file for exemptions. Sometimes, if you are self-employed, that counts as an exemption. Sometimes, if you cannot find— If you don't have access to childcare, right?

Travis: Yeah. That's what I was gonna ask, yeah.

Teresa: Like, if you're a stay-at-home parent, and you don't have anyone to take care of the kids. *Although*, some states provide for up to, like, \$50 dollars or so a day, for childcare. And employers are supposed to pay you your regular wages during your time serving on a jury, so that you're not supposed to be able to be like, "Hey, this would be a financial hardship for me. I won't be paid."

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: That's why you would have, maybe, an exemption for self-employed, right?

Travis: Yeah. But I assume in that case, then, it should be... it should count as time off, or whatever?

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Like, you're not taking vacation days to go do jury duty.

Teresa: Right. It should be your normal, working-hour pay

And some states even provide wages for jurors. We found that in California, you can get \$15 dollars a day, but that's more like paying for your lunch that day... [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: ... in California.

Travis: I was gonna say— Okay.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I wouldn't count that as wages. I was gonna say for gas, but maybe not even then!

Teresa: Maybe not even.

Travis: Depends on how far you're coming.

Teresa: Maybe not even that.

Travis: Like, if you're in Los Angeles, and they only give you \$15 dollars for gas a day, it's not— I don't think that's covering it, for some places.

Teresa: But, like I said, if you can prove it would be a financial hardship, then you can get exempted from it. Also, there are things that you could file online stating that, you know, you're gonna be out of the country, or you don't actually live in that city. Maybe you're a college student, and you've been called up for the city that you go to college in, but you don't actually live there. Things like that.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So I would say that it's...

Travis: Maybe you're a ghost?

Teresa: Well, I suppose that if you are a ghost, you don't have to go.

Travis: What if it was the ghost of the victim? And they were asked to serve on the jury for the murderer, and they were the victim? And now, the victim and the lawyer have to work together to solve the crime. He's a ghost detective! Teresa, it writes itself.

Teresa: It sure does. But don't you think that the lawyer would be like, "Hey, I think that you're a little too close to this case"? And then you don't get to do it.

Travis: And then the ghost goes, "Boo!" And they're like, "Okay, fine! Yeah, you can do it."

Teresa: Speaking of detective, another thing that I'd like to stress for etiquette's sake is that as a juror, you are only supposed to deliberate on the evidence given, right? And try not to, like they show in movies and TV, fancy yourself a little bit of a detective.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Or, like, try to look for other court documents, or go to the victim's house, or any of those silly things that happen in movie and TV. Don't do that. [laughs]

Travis: The one that always gets me, watching movies and TV shows, where I'm like, "Alright, good luck," is whenever there's a moment where the judge says, "The jury will disregard that."

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: Where it's like...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I mean, I'll *try*. [laughs] You know?

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: I'm sitting there like, "I'll try."

That always seems like such a dirty tactic, 'cause it's like, "Okay, I hear you, but I also heard what they said."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: "And I'm gonna *try* to disregard that, but that was pretty convincing! It's gonna be hard not to keep that in mind."

Teresa: And if you have any questions during your time as a jury member, you can always ask either the judge - make sure you refer to them as Your Honor, right - or in some cases a bailiff would be assigned to you, or some other sort of go-between. Because they don't expect you—

Travis: It's probably not like a "Raise your hand in the middle of it" thing, right?

Teresa: No, not really.

Travis: Alright. Quick question, you're not allowed to cross-examine the witness itself, right?

Teresa: No, you are not allowed to do that. But you are allowed to ask questions regarding legal terms that you may not know. They're not expecting you to be a lawyer, right? Or—

Travis: I wonder if being a lawyer often gets people, like, dismissed from a jury thing. Where any lawyer would be like, "I don't want another lawyer watching this..."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I mean, like, it's gonna be really hard, if that lawyer's sitting there, like, "That's not how I would do it."

Teresa: And other civil servants, I think...

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: People who have, like, family members who are police officers, or in law enforcement in general, and things like that. Yeah, those are usually not selectable.

Travis: Now, I'm picturing the TV show...

Teresa: Oh, you gotta write it.

Travis: Where you have a lawyer— What if it was a jury full of lawyers and detectives? [gasps] What do you think? Okay. We'll talk about it later.

Teresa: Okay. Okay.

Travis: We'll develop this.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: But for right now...

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: ... it's time to wrap it up.

Teresa: Alright.

Travis: Okay? We're gonna go work on our spec script for...

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: ... *Detective Jury*? *Jury Detective*. We'll get there.

Teresa: I thought it was *Ghost Detective*.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Isn't that what you said?

Travis: One of the jury's a ghost. The rest are lawyers, and detectives.

Teresa: [through laughter] Okay.

Travis: We'll figure it out. I don't have the title yet, but we'll get there.

Um, thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not make the show. Thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we could not make the show.

Thank you to *you* for listening. You're, like, the jury that...

Teresa: Of our hearts?

Travis: ... that decides if we're guilty...

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: ... of entertainment.

Teresa: [humorously] Oh! [laughs]

Travis: Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. It means nothing. Most of my brain is on *Ghost Detective Jury*, at this point. So...

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: Are you gonna be okay, Teresa?

Teresa: I'm gonna be fine.

Travis: Are you gonna survive?

Teresa: I'm... I just have to keep breathing.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: [taking deep breaths]

Travis: Okay.

My Brother, My Brother and Me and *Adventure Zone* have some live shows coming up, uh, in lots of different places. Go check that out at bit.ly/mcelroytours, or you can just go to mcelroy.family for all the stuff there.

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 taking *your* topic submissions. Your questions, your suggestions, your idioms - gosh, we love those idioms episodes. And you can send those to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and 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 song plays]

[acoustic sting]

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