

## Shmanners 456: Dorothy Draper

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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:** Good! Good.

**Travis:** You look... so cute!

**Teresa:** Aw, thanks!

**Travis:** I hope we put a video out of this one, 'cause... Ugh! You, like I say...

**Teresa:** And you look so handsome!

**Travis:** [bashfully] No...

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** I'm— This is just what I was wearing.

**Teresa:** [laughs] For the audio listeners, I have a little— I have a pony, and

a victory roll, a roll in the front. And I've got a little chiffon scarf, or— Is that chiffon? Yeah, the chiffon scarf and a Peter Pan collar. The sweater. And then...

**Travis:** And I'm wearing, um, a full Robin Hood costume...

**Teresa:** [giggles] No!

**Travis:** No, I have a burgundy velvet jacket, and a peacock cravat. And a crisp white shirt.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Because today, we're talking about Dorothy Draper...

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** ... and hosting, entertaining.

**Teresa:** Yeah, parties! That was kind of, like... So she did two things. She has two books that you can buy at the Greenbrier.

**Travis:** Probably other places, too.

**Teresa:** Other places, too.

**Travis:** That's where we bought them.

**Teresa:** Yeah. One about *Decorating is Fun!*, and one called *Entertaining is Fun!*

**Travis:** Entertaining *is* fun. It's what I do for a living!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** It's one of the things that is irrefutable to myself about myself.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** I, like... I am a peacock.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm!

**Travis:** That is one. I am a host is another one. I am funny, are the three things... There's more things.

**Teresa:** Those are some of the crux...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... of your personality.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** Yeah. We've talked about the Greenbrier a couple times. Would you tell us a little bit about the Greenbrier?

**Travis:** It is a fairly fancy resort...

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** ... in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I think White Sulphur Springs? Am I right?

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Okay. And it has beautiful grounds, and all kinds of different room types you can stay in, both in the Greenbrier main building— There's also, you know, cabins and bungalows and stuff, you can stand.

It's also home to an extensive underground bunker that was to be, I believe, the site of Congress in case of a nuclear attack.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** So there was, like, a train that went directly from DC to there, the idea being, "If we get word of a nuclear attack, we have three hours to move Congress there," and it became declassified in the 1990s and you can tour it now. And it's absolutely wild.

**Teresa:** And they have all kind of event spaces, as well. They have, like, a convention center, and...

**Travis:** A casino.

**Teresa:** A casino, and a shopping mall.

**Travis:** And I believe, like, a spa or salon or something.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** And ballrooms, and terraces, and patios, and... I mean, it's expansive. And it is decorated, the interior has been decorated by Dorothy Draper.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** And the thing that she's known for is pattern mixing.

**Travis:** And oh, boy!

**Teresa:** Yes. It's kind of, like, the maximalism of the 50s ideal, right?

**Travis:** Yeah. It is a pleasant assault on the senses.

**Teresa:** If you've ever, like... I don't know if *the youth* go through Pinterest these days.

**Travis:** I don't know if *the youth* listen to this show, but...

**Teresa:** [laughs heartily] But there was a trend for a while in the life of the internet where you do kind of mixed-and-matched place settings, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Where everyone would have a different pate, everyone would have a different style cup. You know, where it didn't go together, but it went together. That's the idea, right?

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** So when she decorated it, she used a fairly extensive color palette, right? Really running the gamut all the way from neutrals, to neons, to very jewel-tone type colors.

**Travis:** There's a lot of, like, rich evergreen in there, too.

**Teresa:** Indeed, yeah.

**Travis:** A lot of emerald.

**Teresa:** A lot of bright colors, as well. Bright reds, and bright pinks, and things like that. And her idea was you can match a pattern with another pattern. You don't have to match patterns and colors; you can pick one color out of one pattern and make a pattern from that pattern, and then pick another color from that pattern, and then a different pattern, and then more patterns...

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Teresa:** And black and white always goes with every single thing.

**Travis:** Patterns on patterns on patterns.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Like a kaleidoscope.

**Teresa:** Yeah, and I think this is very best illustrated— There is a Dorothy Draper decor store in the little shopping mall, where they have maybe 50 different cloth napkin patterns. And...

**Travis:** Several of which we have and use.

**Teresa:** Yes. That's the deal, right? And they are all different patterns. I don't know if there are any solids. I don't think that there are. I've mixed solids in with mine, because that's what I wanted to do, but you can only buy them in singles.

**Travis:** There you go.

**Teresa:** Because they want you to mix and match the patterns in the same way that Dorothy would.

**Travis:** Okay. But we're not talking exclusively about patterns today.

**Teresa:** No, no. Like I said, that's one facet of her personality.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** The other facet... Like, you have many facets of yours.

**Travis:** At least four.

**Teresa:** [chuckles] ... is entertaining. She was renowned for enthusiasm, as far as entertaining goes. I mean, she definitely loved to throw a gala.

**Travis:** A gala, you say?

**Teresa:** She loved galas!

**Travis:** Not just a party.

**Teresa:** Not just a party. She wants a *gala*, right?

**Travis:** Okay. What makes a gala? Is it like, it's gotta be a society event?

**Teresa:** I think so. I mean, I spend a lot of time reading Regency romance.

**Travis:** Of course you do.

**Teresa:** And it's like a ball, basically.

**Travis:** Well, I associate galas with fundraisers, but is that... When I say a society event...

**Teresa:** I don't think that the two are mutually exclusive.

**Travis:** Okay. But I associate it with, like, "This organization, or this club, or this group, or something is throwing it," that it's like, "I am doing this on behalf of some society I belong to, and not just like an individual person's party." Right? Like, the Met Gala is for *the Met*, right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** It's not just, like, Steve's Gala.

**Teresa:** Well, I think it's about scale...

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** ... more than it is about the, um... the impetus.

**Travis:** Okay. Like the difference between a party and a ball.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah. And so it's her enthusiasm, right, that she was really known for. About this idea of, "Entertaining is fun, and you can make a party out of anything."

**Travis:** A potato!

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Sure! Potato party.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. But not just, like, one potato.

**Teresa:** No, it has—

**Travis:** You can't be like, "Look at this potato, it's a party now."

**Teresa:** No. Not quite that.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And here is what she says in Chapter 3 of "What Kind of Entertaining Suits You?" subheading "Be Yourself."

**Travis:** Okay. So a party about *me*?

**Teresa:** A party to your tastes!

**Travis:** Celebrating Travis McElroy?

**Teresa:** No, to your taste.

**Travis:** With pictures of myself everywhere?



**Teresa:** If it is a party about you! An occasion for that would be your birthday, perhaps.

**Travis:** Or any time.

**Teresa:** So here's a little thing. "Your taste in parties tells the world as much about you as your taste in hats."

**Travis:** Sure, okay.

**Teresa:** We don't really wear hats anymore, but I can see how she would say that, because a hat is like an advertisement for what you like, and what you do, and all that stuff.

**Travis:** Yeah, I guess, but that's also – especially in the time when this was written – very telling about who she believed her demographic to be.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** 'Cause most men's hats were like... you couldn't tell the difference between 'em. They might be different colors, they may be slightly different shapes, but the idea of seeing 100 businessmen in the 1960s and being like, "Look at this huge variety of hats!" wasn't gonna happen. *They* probably thought so.

**Teresa:** They probably thought so. To our eye, we wouldn't notice, probably, the subtle differences.

Okay. She continues, as she means to go on: "Are you one of those who think it's fun to celebrate a really stupendous snowfall by ringing up half a dozen friends, and going for a sleigh ride, and coming home to a piping-hot supper by a roaring fire?"

**Travis:** No. Go on.

**Teresa:** "Do you ever gather 20 or 30 people of all ages for an evening of charades, with fruit and cheese and beer to follow the fun?"

**Travis:** Yes. I've done that before.

**Teresa:** Okay. "Do you seize on a big football game which is to be broadcast, to give a cocktail party at that hour with the radio tuned in on each room with plenty of comfortable chairs, so everyone can listen to the game and enjoy their drinks luxuriously?"

**Travis:** I have done that in the past. Not as much current, but yeah, I've done it before.

**Teresa:** Let's do one more. "Do you like to plan a fancy dress party, with everyone coming dressed as they were on the happiest moment of their lives?"

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** "Or in dirndls, and leather shorts, and hats for an Austrian party?"

**Travis:** Okay. Sure.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Travis:** I'd actually love that, yeah.

**Teresa:** You would love that. "Do you feel like doing any one of these things, or something original and..."

**Travis:** "Do you ever feel like a waste of space?"

**Teresa:** [through laughter] "... entirely different?"

**Travis:** "Like a plastic bag, drifting *through* the wind, ready to start again?"

**Teresa:** "Do it!"

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** "Don't put it off until you've bought a new car, or have more money, or a bigger house, or until you know more people. None of these are valid excuses! They're alibis."

**Travis:** Oh! Alibis!

**Teresa:** She's quite serious!

**Travis:** Yeah, I don't know... I get what she's going for. I don't know that "alibi" is the word there.

**Teresa:** "Stop alibiing."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** "Give yourself the sort of party you long for, right now."

**Travis:** Unless the fact that you didn't have a party is a reason to excuse you from a criminal charge, I don't quite think that she's using it correctly.

**Teresa:** No, I mean, in the context of...

**Travis:** "I couldn't have killed that man. I wasn't throwing a party that night."

**Teresa:** [laughs] I believe that the word has a broader context than we are used to.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So...

**Travis:** She could've said those aren't reasons, or excuses.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But I think she went for a stronger word for it. I get that, okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah, she went for something stronger.

**Travis:** "You're a coward." [chuckles] Maybe something like that.

**Teresa:** [laughs] "Whichever your type is, live up to it. If you know that you're at your best presiding over an informal, but carefully-planned small dinner at which you can direct the conversation, so that each of your chosen guests has a chance to express themselves... Then make that your favorite manner of entertaining. If you know a great many people, and accept invitations from them, then it may be necessary for you to give your famous little dinners at frequent intervals."

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** "If you do this really well, the first thing you know, you will find you have a reputation for clever, smart, entertaining."

**Travis:** What if I'm known for my worldwide hunts for hidden gems and treasures?

**Teresa:** Then you should host one of those at least once a year.

**Travis:** Oh, well I only have to do it once a year? I've been doing it every day. I'm going broke!

**Teresa:** Oh, no!

**Travis:** Do you know how expensive it is to bury treasure and gems all around the world? Oh, my God.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay. Once a year. I can cut back.

**Teresa:** Um, and so here is where she expounds on her favorite, like I said. "Perhaps you are like me! I love a gala, occasionally." [giggles]

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** "By that, I mean a fairly large evening party with music and dancing." So that's what she considers a gala.

**Travis:** Okay. Okay, I don't know that I like throwing galas.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I like throwing birthday parties.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, you are very good at birthday parties.

**Travis:** Thank you very much. I like celebrating people. And myself!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** I'm people. And you know who else is people? Hosts of other Max Fun shows, and we should hear a word from them.

**Teresa:** Alright!

**Travis:** [amused] Another Max Fun show. We'll be right back.

[theme song plays]

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[background music shifts to folk]

**Justin:** Hey, Sydnee. You're a physician and the cohost 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. Uh, 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... 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 hear 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:** It's up there.

**Sydnee:** But pretty good.

**Justin:** It's up there.

[ad changes]

**Host 1:** *The Flop House* is a podcast where we watch a bad movie, and then we talk about it.

**Host 2:** Robert Shaw in *Jaws*. They're trying to figure out how to get rid of the goeys, and he scratches his nails, and he goes, "I'll get you, [???]."

**Host 1:** He's just standing above the toilet with a harpoon. [wheeze-laughs]

**Host 2:** [laughs]

**Host 1:** No, I was just looking forward to you going through the other ways in which the *Wild Wild West* is historically inaccurate. [chuckles]

**Host 3:** You know how much movies cost nowadays...

**Host 2:** [laughing]

**Host 3:** ... when you add in your popcorn, and your bagel bites, and your cheese fritters?

**Host 1:** Sure. It feels good.

**Host 2:** You can't go wrong with a Henry Cavill mustache. Here at Henry Cavill Mustaches, the only supplier...

**Host 1:** [chuckles]

**Host 3:** [laughs]

**Host 1:** *The Flop House*, new episodes every Saturday. Find it at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

[ads end]

**Travis:** Okay, we're back.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Welcome back to the party.

**Teresa:** Here we are, at the party.

**Travis:** We can get a Canopy. Do you need a freshener on your drink? Huh? Oh, take your jacket off! You've been here for three hours.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You must be so warm. I'm so sorry.

**Teresa:** It's part of my ensemble.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Also, here's a tip worth remembering: if you know a great many people, and want to, or for some reason or other feel that you should entertain them all – and here are the reasons that she's given. "Your husband may be running for congress, or maybe had been promoted to be head of his department at the university."

**Travis:** For some reason, I heard, "May had been promoted to be beheaded..."

**Teresa:** Oh! [laughs]

**Travis:** And I was like, "Oh, no!"

**Teresa:** No, but I think that this shows the kind of society that she mingled in.



**Travis:** Oh, yes.

**Teresa:** "Remember that a gala, even with music for dancing and lots of flowers for decoration, is easier and even less expensive than a great many small luncheons and dinners."

**Travis:** Oh, she's saying one gala is *less* expensive...

**Teresa:** One— Yeah. Get it *all* out of the way, the celebrating. We do it all at once, less expensively than a great many small luncheons than dinners.

**Travis:** I mean, sure, yes. Assuming you have a chunk of money...

**Teresa:** All at once.

**Travis:** ... all at once.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because otherwise, small things are like, "I can parse this out." Maybe save up for a gala, once a year.

**Teresa:** Here is a money-saving tip from her: "I have a friend who has a very large visiting list, and whose husband's business makes it necessary that she entertain a great deal. For years, she has made it a rule whenever she gives a large dinner party to follow it the next day with *another* party exactly like it."

**Travis:** Oh, my God, no!

**Teresa:** "Only the guest list is different! She finds it a great convenience, also an economy, to double up on her entertaining this way. For one thing, the house is all arranged for a large number of guests! The extra chairs, tables, linens, silver, and glass are all ready. Usually, the flowers are just as fresh on the second day..."

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** "... as when they were arranged for the Party Number One. And everyone knows there are always a great lot of party flourishes: the peppermints and salted almonds, the favors, the place cards, and olives."

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** "Even wine's left over from any party to start off a second performance!"

**Travis:** Okay, listen. I understand everything she has just said makes logical sense...

**Teresa:** [bubbles into laughter]

**Travis:** ... but for me, and as I've said many times – and I love throwing parties, I love hosting. The mental and emotional energy that goes into hosting a party and bouncing around, "Hey, everybody having a good time? How are we doing?" Right? Is, for my social battery, what I would compare to a big practical stunt in a movie where, like, they're flipping a car, and explosions are going off...

**Teresa:** Mm!

**Travis:** ... and they're gonna, like, blow up a bridge, right? Whereas, like, we have to get this right... because we can't reset this.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** We only get one shot at this...

**Teresa:** [amused] We only get one shot.

**Travis:** At the amount of time it's gonna take. Not because I'm using stuff

up, or because my guests are leaving the house trashed, but because when it's done, I as much look forward to "And it's done!"

**Teresa:** Mmm.

**Travis:** ... as I do the doing of it.

**Teresa:** I agree. I'm one of those people who needs a vacation from my vacation...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... and I can only imagine how much recovery time I would need from *two* parties? Two nights in a row!? I might go to bed for a week!

**Travis:** If someone said to me, "You know, when you get back from a trip, you should immediately leave on another trip. All your stuff is already packed in your suitcase, anyway!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'd be like, "You're... Um, you're not well."

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** That's not the thinking of it. So if somebody's like, "It's easy to throw another party after you've thrown a party; you already have the party stuff!" I'm like, "Yeah, I *guess*..."

**Teresa:** [chuckles] "I guess."

**Travis:** "But I had the party, I checked that off the list. What are you talking about?"

**Teresa:** I think that this also goes to show, like I said, her kind of socioeconomic status.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** The fact that it is not all on her to prepare and also host the party, and so I'm certain that there are caterers, there are...

**Travis:** Like, domestic staff, yeah.

**Teresa:** ... domestic staff, butlers, maids, things— all of that, right? People assisting. A village, if you will, right? [chuckles]

**Travis:** Yeah. When your concern is, "Will there be enough peppermints and almonds and flowers left?" and not, like, "Well, it's midnight, and we have to put the food away and wash these dishes and everything..."

**Teresa:** For *tomorrow*.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Yeah, totally.

**Travis:** It's kind of telling.

**Teresa:** Yeah, it's pretty telling. That kind of party, like I said, is very indicative of her social status.

**Travis:** And I guess, if you're throwing— Well, she said *dinner* party, right?

**Teresa:** Yes, yeah. It is a very large dinner party to follow up the next day with another one.

**Travis:** So you're, like, doing another large dinner. So, once again, pretty telling that you have a cooking staff or caterers.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Because the idea of, like, if we had... And I don't even think this

would count as a very large dinner party by *her* standards, but by our standards, if we had like ten friends over for dinner, and then I was like, "And I've cooked enough food for ten people, to feel like a dinner party. Let's do it all again tomorrow..."

**Teresa:** With different people.

**Travis:** Like, by just us? Are you kidding?

**Teresa:** I also feel like, I mean, I think that if one of our station were to do that, I might feel tempted to make all the food on one day, and serve the second party leftovers.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Just to try and help myself. But I don't know if, then, I would feel good about that later, right? That one set of friends got fresh food, and the other set of friends got leftovers, or maybe like— Like, if you were to make, say, um... You're really good at making, like, the sous vide beef, or whatever, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** So the first day, maybe you serve that as steak, and then the second day you serve it as cold roast beef sandwiches. But still, it feels like my first guest list is getting the good party, [amused tone] and my second one is getting the second-tier party.

**Travis:** Okay, now we're working this out now. We're gonna brainstorm this. Because then, you separate the guest list by posh friends, who you're trying to impress or will be impressed, and like, being posh. And then chill, hang-out friends, so it's like, "We got wine and cocktails here, and then we got beer and mimosas here."

And you're like, "We're gonna have this fancy party, and then if you wanna come by, we'll watch a movie, and we'll chill out, and we'll eat the leftovers, and it's gonna be great."

**Teresa:** That would work for us, but that's not what she's talking about.

**Travis:** I know that's not what *she's* talking about, baby...

**Teresa:** Right, yeah.

**Travis:** ... but what *she's* talking about... [chuckles]

**Teresa:** [laughs heartily]

**Travis:** ... is unheard of. What she's talking about is a different dimension.

**Teresa:** Yes.

Here's another point. She acknowledges, "No one wants to have *only* big parties. Very often, a taste for big, pretentious parties with elaborate decorations, expensive refreshments, and paid entertainers is a smokescreen for a shy, nervous hostess, who is secretly fearful of letting anyone come close enough to know her at all."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** I think that's a little judgmental.

**Travis:** Feels a little reductive, yeah.

**Teresa:** "If you are timid about party-giving, it's best to come out and face yourself on the matter, here and now. Ask yourself if you're going to go through life like a scared rabbit."

**Travis:** Yes. Next question.

**Teresa:** "Or... [laughs] Or whether the time hasn't come to take this matter up with yourself, and find out what kind of entertaining really suits *you*."

**Travis:** Okay, Dorothy, listen. You know what rabbit doesn't last long in the

woods? A brave, bold rabbit who doesn't run from, like, wolves, and hunters, and stuff. I'm just saying, pick an animal that *should* be brave and isn't: a scared lion.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Right? "Are you gonna be a cowardly lion?" Like, "Well, no. That doesn't make sense. I'm a lion; I shouldn't be scared." I'm a rabbit? Yeah, I should be scared! Everything [laughs] wants to eat me. I'm just saying, Dorothy, we can... I'm glad that she sent this to us for proofreading, before she published it.

**Teresa:** I'm... certain that's not what happened.

**Travis:** Oh, no.

**Teresa:** Here's another tidbit. [clears throat] "Perhaps you have thought it would be a good idea to give a party to pay back a lot of other party debts and obligations."

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** "These are like all other debts, and they must be paid." Ooh, ominous.

**Travis:** Okay. A Dorothy Draper always collects her debts.

**Teresa:** [laughs] "But remember, it is fatal to the success of any party to jumble an odd lot of people together, whose only reason for being together is that you have all accepted their hospitality at various times. The cleverest hostess in the world cannot makeup a mop-up partygo.

"It takes considerable skill to manage a large number of guests one does not know well into several parties of various sorts, carefully sprinkling them with some old friends who will balance out the gatherings."

And I think that this is sound advice. I think that it is important to think about the reason that you are giving a party of any size, and the people that go into it, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I agree that, if I had attended lots of parties with lots of different people, having all of those people over at once to kind of, like, return the favor... would be madness.

**Travis:** Yeah. You gotta think of it like you're making a dish. And just 'cause you have all the ingredients...

**Teresa:** Yes!

**Travis:** ... doesn't mean all the ingredients go well together. Now, that said, I do think there's something to not necessarily keeping, like, "This [???] knows each other, so they'll do well together. And then a separate thing for the..." Like, if there's, like, "These people would get along great..."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** "... I'd love to introduce them to each other," that's great. That's just the specific point of that party...

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... versus, like, "I'm gonna throw a party where I'm pulling in all of my friend groups. Whether they mesh well or not, I'm gonna spend all night trying to make something work."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** That sounds exhausting.

**Teresa:** Here, she gives a small tip underneath this heading about having several smaller parties, right, with old friends. "Here and now, I want to say



that whether you plan a formal dinner party of ten or 12, or a buffet dinner with 30 guests, it is a good thing to have a plan worked out in your mind about seating your guest at the tables you've provided."

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** "Even at a buffet meal with which the guests serve themselves, I use place cards."

**Travis:** That way, you can facilitate conversational flow and stuff. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Exactly. She agrees, "I find the party goes better that way. There are no dull groups, no leftovers or wallflowers. The shy people can be fitted into groups of talkative ones, and this way, the most attractive women won't grab all the nicest men."

**Travis:** Oh, okay. I guess that wasn't my concern...

**Teresa:** Mm, yeah.

**Travis:** Especially not that direction of concern. "All the most gorgeous men are gonna grab the nicest men." Okay, I guess. Um...

**Teresa:** And I completely agree. I haven't had the occasion to throw a dinner party in several years, because...

**Travis:** Well, with children...

**Teresa:** ... children. But even when we're having our family for dinner, I think that it's important that I think about who is going to sit where, for several things. One, there are small children.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** So we need to make sure that there are adults interspersed within the small children, [chuckles] so that there is help where help is needed.

Although our kids are getting older, and so not so much anymore with our children.

**Travis:** Now, if anything, I like to set quiet people with Bebe, because Bebe will make sure the conversation happens.

**Teresa:** She is very good at that. And also...

**Travis:** And Dot will entertain everybody by showing them, I don't know, a song that she sings, or how cute she is.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It's great.

**Teresa:** Also, we have several left-handed people in our family.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Teresa:** And so it's important, so that people don't knock elbows while they're eating, to sit them appropriately.

**Travis:** Yes. In a different room...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** ... where they can't be seen. No, I'm kidding!

**Teresa:** We could, very effectively, set...

**Travis:** I can make that joke; my daughter's left handed.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Both of them, probably.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** It's just a season too soon to tell with Dottie, but Bebe definitely is.

We could sit my mother, Bebe, and Dottie all on the same side of the table, and they could all be very comfortable, because they're all left handed. But I wouldn't wanna sit... right-handers in between the two of them.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Three of them, you know?

**Travis:** Let's see one more section.

**Teresa:** One more section. Here's one that I thought was very interesting. This is the time of history where people were moving to the suburbs, right?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** There were city centers, and suburbs being built, and the idea was, you might be a young person who lived in the city. And then, as you got married and had a family, you would move out to the suburbs, but you still might commute to the city for your work!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So she says, "If you live in the suburbs, then you may suffer from the problem which most suburbanites confront: you have a split acquaintance."

**Travis:** Mm. Your city friends and your suburb friends.

**Teresa:** That's right. She says, [chuckles] "This can almost be as disturbing as a split personality. In fact, it frequently leads to one."

**Travis:** Okay, Dorothy. I don't know... Dorothy, I don't know... Hey, Dorothy, I don't know about all this.

**Teresa:** I mean... There is discussion around, like, code switching, perhaps.

**Travis:** Sure. Yeah, okay, listen, but...

**Teresa:** "Maybe your city friends are very interested in music and art. Maybe your suburbanite friends are very interested in sports and gardening."

**Travis:** Yes. But once again, a very reductive... ehh, not accurate, ehh, not maybe... in-touch way of describing it.

**Teresa:** Yes. I mean, like I said, she's a product of her time.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** And so that is not something that *I* would worry so much about.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** But she goes on, "Half of your friends live in the same neighborhood with you. The other half live in town. Your friendship in the first group is based on community interests, belonging to the same club, having children in the same schools, and your friends in town might be leftovers from the days before you married or moved to the suburbs."

She says that "Seeing your neighbors so often leaves no novelty, and very little excitement about having them over to the house. And you see your friends in town only in hurried snatches. As a consequence, you feel sometimes it is difficult to pick up the threads with them. If you could just juggle the two groups together, let one balance the other."

**Travis:** Yeah? Does she advise for that, or against it?

**Teresa:** So her perfect solution is that, "Instead of planning an evening party, why not have a late Sunday lunch?"

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** "The suburbanites will welcome a change in the regulation of the Sunday routine, and the city-dwellers usually enjoy a chance to go out of town for a few hours on a Sunday." I think this is a perfect compromise. I

think that it's a way that, say, if you are... I mean, if you're lucky enough to live in a place with public transportation, say in New York...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... you could get on the subway, and go out to one of the boroughs or whatever.

**Travis:** Or just grab one of the large poogeons, have 'em carry you...

**Teresa:** One of the large carrier pigeons?

**Travis:** One of the larger pigeons. Not a standard pigeon.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** You gotta keep your eye out for a larger one. They'll just fly you right over.

**Teresa:** But you could take the train out, and have a party, and then take the train home, but not, like, worry about it being super late or dark...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... or anything like that. I think it's a really great idea.

"Whisking them all to lunch, which may be served from a buffet, or combine the qualities of breakfast and lunch..."

**Travis:** [gasps] Brunch!?

**Teresa:** I know, right? I was reading this, and I was like, "Did Dorothy Draper invent... brunch?"

**Travis:** You and I both know she didn't invent brunch. She didn't *invent* brunch.

**Teresa:** Does she think that she invented brunch?

**Travis:** Now, that— Yes, possibly that.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Maybe that one. That might be it.

**Teresa:** Um, okay. "Everyone can explore, make friends with the children, greet the pets, even go for a walk at some point to a place of local interest. You could play shuffle board, or ping pong, or tennis, or swim, or just sit and talk! Early tea and cocktails will start them all off in time for out-of-towners to catch a 5:00-ish train back to the city, and return rested and refreshed."

**Travis:** Love that.

**Teresa:** I think that's a really great idea. Like I said, there's a lot in there to unpack, right, about her preconceived notions of people.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** But it is a really good idea, if you have people maybe— Like, if I were to invite people from my childhood community, right, which is about an hour-ish away, a Sunday brunch would be a really great idea to have them come to our house, and then return in time for them to get ready for work the next day, or whatever. It's a great idea!

**Travis:** Speaking of time, it's time to wrap up! Hey, everybody...

**Teresa:** [giggles]

**Travis:** Thank you for listening. We've got— Let's see, there's a bunch of live shows coming up. *My Brother*, *My Brother and Me*, *Adventure Zone* are gonna be at a bunch of places. Go to [bit.ly/McElroyTours](https://bit.ly/McElroyTours) for all the info and ticket links.

Also, if you're listening to this on Friday or this weekend, I hope everybody's having a great time at Champions Grove. I'm there right now!

**Teresa:** Me too!

**Travis:** Oh, woah! Having a great time!

**Teresa:** [laughs] How did I get here?

**Travis:** Um, let's see, what else? Oh, we just put up *The The Adventure Zone Zone* episode talking about *Abnimals*, and we announced what our next season's gonna be, so make sure you check that out.

I wanna say thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not make this show. Thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we could not make this show. And thank you to *you* for listening. We don't wanna make this show without you, please don't leave.

**Teresa:** Don't leave.

**Travis:** Please stay— Please? [small voice] Hey...

**Teresa:** [giggles]

**Travis:** What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** As always, thank you to 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. If you would like to recommend a book to me...

**Travis:** Mm!

**Teresa:** ... I am taking book recommendations. This is the book that I used today...

**Travis:** Scoot it over a little bit, closer to your face.

**Teresa:** Scoot it closer to my face?

**Travis:** There we go. Now, we can see it.

**Teresa:** This is the book that I used today. But if you have a book that you would like me to check out, I do have a local library! And I can do that. Just send your recommendations to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto: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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