

Shmanners 481: Left-Handedness

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["Shmanners Theme" by brentalfloss 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: Um... I caught the little bug that our darling daughter, Dorothy, has.

Travis: Darling Daughter Dorothy sounds like a comic strip from the 1920s.

Teresa: Oh, does it?

Travis: And I love it.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: [in an old-timey voice] Now, in the Adventures of Darling Daughter Dorothy—

Teresa: Just a—

Travis: [in an old-timey voice] Brought to you by Maverick cigarettes.

Teresa: Just—

Travis: [in an old-timey voice] Smoke Mavericks! They're good for you!

Teresa: Oh, okay—oh, because it's the '20s.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I get it.

Travis: I'm not saying that.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: The announcer guy back in 1923 was saying it.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Yes!

Teresa: It's just a really cute little head cold.

Travis: Just a cute, just a demure, a very mindful—

Teresa: So mindful, little virus.

Travis: Little virus. Little Virus, now that sounds like a comic strip from the '90s.

Teresa: [chuckles] Oh, okay? Yeah.

Travis: Everyone was into gross-out humor then, you know, your Beetle Juices, your beetle's juice.

Teresa: Hey, but you know what else about Dorothy?

Travis: Well, I know a lot. About our daughter?

Teresa: [chuckles] Sorry.

Travis: I know a lot of things!

Teresa: It's—that's a little vague. Did you, dear listener, know that both of our daughters are left-handed? Although only one currently has a virus.
[chuckles]

Travis: That's true. If you're keeping track, if you have a weird bar graph going of left-handedness to number of viruses—

Teresa: [chuckles] Mm-hm!

Travis: You can update those now. This is interesting, because... and we're going to talk about it because we're talking about left-handedness—

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: It's genetic, right? Is it—

Teresa: There—

Travis: A genetic predisposition?

Teresa: There is a genetic component that increases probability, that we'll talk about.

Travis: Because your mother is—

Teresa: But it's not strictly genetic.

Travis: Your mother is left-handed.

Teresa: Yes, my mother is also—

Travis: And I have always—well, not always, but since... I don't know, as long as long as I can remember, had a theory that Griffin should have been left-handed, but was just taught how to do everything with his right.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Based on—

Teresa: Oh, yeah, because his—you said that like he writes kind of like upside down.

Travis: Yeah, he writes his letters back—like, the way we would write them if you were going like right to left, or left to right, or whatever, he... does it opposite.

Teresa: Oh, so it's not that his hand is upside down, it's that the starting points—

Travis: Like if you were gonna do a D, right? A lowercase D, and you'd start there, start with the loop, and then do the line, he would like do the line...

Teresa: Oh, I start with the line?

Travis: Whatever. He does it the opposite way, I can't... it's hard to talk about, because I'm not doing it.

Teresa: Oh, okay, all right.

Travis: But he writes his letters the opposite way.

Teresa: It's funky. It is—

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: It is not the way that is prescribed in our daughter's workbooks.

Travis: So when we were looking at it like, where's the left-handedness from on my side? I think there's a little bit in there in Griffin, I don't know. It's not like red hair, right? [chuckles]

Teresa: Right, yeah. Which also runs in my family.

Travis: This is also true.

Teresa: Neither of our children are redheads, though.

Travis: Well, Bebe was very reddish when she was born, it got darker over time.

Teresa: Not very reddish. She had a slight reddish tinge.

Travis: Baby, here, in front of our audience?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I—can we just—[sighs] hah... just for once? [chuckles] She had somewhat red hair!

Teresa: I mean—

Travis: It was auburn.

Teresa: Auburn.

Travis: Can we agree on auburn?

Teresa: Sure, but—

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: And then it all fell out.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It grew back.

Teresa: I mean, yes, but not the same color.

Travis: Very brown now.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: I have reddish in my beard?

Teresa: You do!

Travis: None of this is germane to the topic.

Teresa: [chuckles] And Dorothy is blonde! Or she was very blonde, and has become less and less blonde. I think—I think that's—I want to do that as an episode.

Travis: Blonde?

Teresa: Blonde. Because our society has really put like this kind of unattainable color on blonde, which is not, it's not a real—like, it's not as prevalent as the blonde that we see really is. Right, you know what I mean?

Travis: Yes, I do.

Teresa: Like, there are certain like people who do have blonde hair like that, but hardly anybody has blonde hair like that.

Travis: I'm gonna—I'm gonna stake a claim right now when we do a blonde episode, that a lot of the stuff that we see now, right, where it's like blonde characters are good—well, for a long time, right? The shortcut was like blonde princess.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Dark-haired villainess, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Black and white movies.

Teresa: Ooh.

Travis: Right? Where like if someone had light hair, boom, it was like blonde.

Teresa: That's what—

Travis: And if someone had anything that wasn't blonde, it was like dark, right? So it was like, "Ah, it's easier to like color code like outfits and lighting, and everything, if this person is all dark colors, and this person's all light colors in the stuff." So, they start to build the archetype that way.

Teresa: We shall see.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay. So—

Travis: Once again, none of this matters to the episode today.

Teresa: [chuckles] So, we're going to talk about specifically left-handed stigma today, okay?

Travis: I thought we're talking about left-handed people?

Teresa: No... Yes, of course we are, yes, but the stigma associated with a person being left-handed.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And our longtime listeners will note that we have discussed this before, from like a historical, cultural standpoint.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: And today, we're going to discuss it from more of a scientific standpoint.

Travis: Ooh-la-la! Look out!

Teresa: Yeah! So, it was thought that writing, eating, generally relying on your left hand, wasn't... it wasn't just unusual, right? It was often talked about as a punishable offense. And this is through like our more recent history, right? I'm gonna say like... I'll talk about how people think about left-handedness as almost like a... like something that is now allowed, right? And so now there are more left-handed people. But science says that that's not actually true. There have always been about 10% of humans who were left-handed.

Travis: This is, in general, if you, especially older relatives, maybe during the holidays, are maybe like, "Hey, such and such group of people didn't used to exist when I was young." That's because society has changed, and acceptance and stigma, as you've said, about certain groups—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Has changed over time, and made people more likely to express their true selves, rather than suffer in silence and hide that part of themselves for their entire lives, because society wouldn't allow it.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Or because it was a thing that wasn't able to be quantified by our knowledge at that time.

Teresa: Sure!

Travis: And so instead was stigmatized as being some sort of aberration.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Rather than just a natural occurrence in human—in humanity.

Teresa: Right. So, historians believe that the human race has always been this way, about a tenth of us left-handed, for a minimum of 500,000 years, okay?

Travis: Do you think there are left-handed chimpanzees?

Teresa: Probably.

Travis: I bet there are! Are there left-handed dolphins?

Teresa: Hm... dolphins don't have hands.

Travis: Ah, that was a trick! Ah...

Teresa: For—to put this—

Travis: You passed!

Teresa: [chuckles] To put this in context, archeologists think that we invented the wheel about 5000 years ago, okay? And there are mountains of evidence to support this 10%, because—

Travis: There were left-handed wheels.

Teresa: [chuckles] Maybe, but there actually are left-handed tools, right? Tools that have been made and adapted for left-hand use, in the same way that we now make like scissors and can openers and stuff—

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: And notebooks. And so like, we think about, even in the bone record, you can tell if a person is left-handed or right-handed because of the bone density and length coming from your dominant hand.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Isn't that amazing?

Travis: That is pretty cool.

Teresa: And so like, doctors believe that dominant hands can be predicted as early as in utero, because some OBGYNs say that they are able to tell depending upon the position in the womb.

Travis: And which hand is giving the thumbs up when they scan it. "Doing okay in here!"

Teresa: 'Ey!

Travis: Hey, have we ever talked about, if you ever—if you ever get the chance and you have a baby inn your tum-tum—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And they do the 3D scan, why does it make the baby look like Clayface from Batman?

Teresa: I think it's because it's inside liquid. And so—

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Things are kind of like—

Travis: It's never charming!

Teresa: Things are kind of like bubbly around in there.

Travis: I don't know who's looking at the Clayface baby and be like, "Hah... that's mine!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So much as it's like, "Huh... okay?"

Teresa: "Hm, interesting."

Travis: "Hm... needs to bake a little bit more, still got a little more wobble."
[titters]

Teresa: And like you mentioned, there are interesting genetic studies that have been done on whether left-handedness is a trait that's passed down, so here are some figures. So, it's not as intense as like eye color or hair color, right? That is a pretty—like, that's a pretty stalwart kind of like representation of genetics, right—that people talk about, right?

Travis: Well, I have to imagine that—once again, this is based off of like tenth grade science that I can remember—

Teresa: Yeah, Punit squares are not really thing in genetics, it's not—

Travis: But—

Teresa: Quite right.

Travis: But it's hard to talk about like hair color, eye color—right, we're talking about like percentage and mix and like what is ruling out, versus like the chance that something is present, right? It's not like eye color is like, there's a chance your eyes will have color or not.

Teresa: Oh, right. [chuckles]

Travis: They will definitely have a color. They will present—it will be something.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Yeah.

Teresa: So, studies are pretty consistent that if your father is left-handed, your chances of being a lefty increase statistically to 17%. If your mother is left-handed, that number goes up to 22%. And if both of your parents are left-handed, you have a 25% chance of being born left-handed.

Travis: Is it linked to the X chromosome then?

Teresa: Listen, I don't know. That's the statistical data.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I don't—I am not a geneticist.

Travis: Make a guess, right now, Make a guess, right now.

Teresa: [chuckles] Absolutely not.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I'm not a geneticist, I don't know—

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Where that lives in the DNA strand.

Travis: I thought you were a geneticist? Where do you go every day?
[titters]

Teresa: Hm... Let's not talk about that.

Travis: I'll tell you where we're gonna go.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: To a word from another Max Fun show!

Teresa: Awesome.

[theme music plays]

J. Keith van Straaten: Hey, I'm J. Keith van Straaten from Go Fact Yourself, and I'm here with Max Fun Member of the Month, Josh Mentor, who has been a Maximum Fun Member since 2016! Hello, Josh!

Josh: Hey, J. Keith, how you doing today?

J. Keith van Straaten: I'm so well, and thank you so much for being a listener and supporter of our show. What made you decide to support Max Fun in general, and to support our show, Go Fact Yourself?

Josh: Jordan Morris on Jordan Jesse Go has a thing that he likes to say, which is, you know, you tip your bartender a buck a beer, you tip your podcast or a buck a month.

J. Keith van Straaten: Mm-hm.

Josh: You know, I get way more use out of Max Fun podcasts than I do like Disney Plus or Netflix.

J. Keith van Straaten: Well, it's something we very much appreciate. And by the way, when was the last time Netflix selected you as a member of the month?

Josh: Exactly!

J. Keith van Straaten: Exactly. Josh Mentor, congratulations, and thank you again for being the Max Fun Member of the Month.

Josh: Thanks so much, guys.

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[break]

Allan: Walkin' About is the podcast about walking. It's a walkumentary series where I, Alan MacLeod and a fun, friendly guest go for... a walk about! You'll learn about interesting people and places, and have the kind of conversations you can only have on foot! We've got guests like Lauren Lapkus.

Lauren: I figured something out about this map, like how to read it.
[chuckles]

Allan: Betsy Sodaro.

Betsy: I had no clue, that's awesome and nuts!

Allan: John Gabris.

John: This is a great first date for like broke twenty-somethings, you know?

Allan: And more! Check out Walkin' About with Alan McLeod, on Maximum Fun.

[break]

Travis: We're back.

Teresa: Something that's fascinating to think about, speaking of geneticists, call back, is—

Travis: Hey, you said that so cleanly, by the way.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: If I have to really think about, thanks to years of speech therapy, geneticists?

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: That's a lot of work for me.

Teresa: Oh, okay?

Travis: But you said it so nonchalantly. Really nailed it.

Teresa: I believe that there must be some evolutionary reason that produces such a consistent percentage, like I said, 10% of the human population.

Travis: Defense.

Teresa: Oh, maybe?

Travis: If everybody's strong on their right side, your army's all right-handed, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Or it could also be baseball, because you get a left-hand pitcher in there, it's harder to hit.

Teresa: We'll talk about both of those odds. That's amazing, first of all—

Travis: What?!

Teresa: That you haven't read the script, and yet you talked about two things that are in the script.

Travis: I'm smart sometimes! Not all the time, we've talked about this before.

Teresa: But they don't quite understand that, because—

Travis: Well, science doesn't know everything. That's where magic comes into play. That's right, left-handedness comes from magic.

Teresa: Because here's the—

Travis: [chuckles] Not even going to entertain—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Not even going to give it a single helping hand.

Teresa: No. So, here's the thing, okay? If it is a boon in defense to be left-handed, why is it so consistently at 10%? Because you would think that if you are a warrior, right, and you defeat all of your right-handed enemies,

you live to pass on your genetic material, and your right-handed enemies do not. Why has the statistical data been so consistently at 10%? It should be more.

Travis: To keep it fair on both sides! Better question—here's my question for *geneticists*.

Teresa: Okay? [chuckles]

Travis: Why isn't everybody ambidextrous?

Teresa: Hm, again, wouldn't it behoove everyone to be able to have both hands to use equally? But we don't—we don't know. And so, maybe it's not—

Travis: One of my favorite things—

Teresa: An evolutionary trait—

Travis: Bebe who is—

Teresa: Maybe it's inherently genetic.

Travis: Bebe, who is left-handed for a long time, she doesn't make this claim anymore, would say she was partially ambidextrous. Which, one, everybody's part ambidextrous, because they are dominant mostly in one of two hands.

Teresa: Yes, yes.

Travis: So, everybody's at least 50% ambidextrous. But then also, what she meant is, she could also do some things with her right hand.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And it's like, baby, yeah.

Teresa: Everybody can do—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Some things with both hands.

Travis: Yeah, baby! Yeah, baby! Yeah!

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. And you also mentioned that 50% of the top MLB hitters are left-handed. And the reason for that, right, is because people who pitch don't have that kind of left-handed versus right-handedness.

Travis: Well, unless—yeah, if they're a southpaw.

Teresa: Well, so here's the thing, right, statistically speaking, there are a minority of pitchers and—who are used to pitching to left-handed hitters.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Well, there's more hitters than pitchers in baseball, yes.

Teresa: Yes, yes, but the pitchers are more used to practicing hitting to right-handed hitters. And so when they encounter these top hitters, right, half of them are lefties, because that gives them the advantage over the pitchers not having that kind of practice.

Travis: Sure. So why haven't baseball players evolved to all be left-handed in the 100 years of baseball? Maybe evolution isn't real? Is that what you're saying, Teresa?

Teresa: No?

Travis: At least when it comes to baseball players?

Teresa: But what I'm saying is, if it was strictly an evolutionary process, wouldn't there be more left-handed people? But there aren't. The consistency of the 10% across human history is baffling.

Travis: Yes, I agree. I was sitting here trying to come up with an explanation and then I remembered that's not what this show is. This isn't a quiz. [chuckles]

Teresa: No, not a quiz. Not a quiz. Okay, so now, let's try and find some concrete reasons, now that we've established that 10% of human history consists of left-handed people, and that's pretty consistently, like I said, why has that 10% been vilified as evil or sinister, right?

Travis: I mean, besides the obvious answer that it's the minority?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: That it's different by... one to nine, that... for a long time, othering happens. We've talked about—

Teresa: Yes, yes!

Travis: A couple episodes now, yes.

Teresa: But like, so like, what is it about our world that does that, right?

Travis: Human beings?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: No, that's why I'm saying what it is about our world—

Teresa: Oh, oh, okay! [laughs]

Travis: It's human beings, is the answer.

Teresa: Here are some theories.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay, one being, if you are—your left hand, if you are right-handed, is generally the one that, over history, people have used for their toilet times, okay?

Travis: Sure.

Teresa: And so, that might be an association of the kind of like yuckiness, right, of being left-handed—

Travis: Yeah, but that's hard—

Teresa: You have to use the other hand, or you—

Travis: That seems, though... chicken and egg, though, right?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Because if everybody is predominantly right-handed, yeah, right? Right? I don't know, it's... I would say, here's my theory, you're meeting on a battlefield or there's some kind of like two kings, two princes, if you are in the '90s—Little Miss can't be wrong—and you go to like shake a hand or do anything, right?

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: And I'm right-handed, and I put out my right hand, and you're left-handed, and you put out your left hand, that doesn't make for a solid connection there. "Oh, it's throwing the whole vibe off. Now I don't trust you."

Teresa: I mean, maybe. Also, because the majority of people are right-handed, they've made the world for themselves, right?

Travis: Mm-hm.

Teresa: And so, if you can't use a right-handed tool, you might be erroneously classified as someone who is dumb or clumsy or lazy, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: In the same way, you might be also classified as someone who is evil, because you have an advantage over like—we talked about this in the last time we talked about this one, where like in a tower, medieval castles are built for the defender to be right-handed, and the offender, the attacker, to also be right-handed. So, when you go up and down the stairs, you have more room to swing a sword going down, defending, than you do going up, attacking, right? If you're both right-handed. But if someone is left-handed, you have the same amount of room to attack your opponent.

Travis: All—yeah—

Teresa: So maybe that's another way, right, that we fashion our world for the majority, and so the minority then appears to be evil.

Travis: I also think, though, all of those are great explanations, but I think it also boils down to, I joked about it earlier, but like the nature of people to not want to be singled out for being different. People want to be singled out for being the best of normal.

Teresa: Mm-hm, yeah.

Travis: Right? So it's like, "You are the best at the thing that we have decided is a normal thing to want to be good at." Versus, "You are different," right? And people are so afraid—and I think that historically, this is probably true throughout, right? Of this idea of, "All I want is to just live my life and not be made to feel different. So if somebody else is kind of different, I'm going to throw as much heat on them as I can, so nobody's looking at me." We talked about this in the Salem episode.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Right? That idea of like, "I'm so worried that the eyeball is going to turn on me next, that I need to make sure that attention is somewhere else."

Teresa: And I mean, that does make sense, most of the places that we checked on. However, the Celts in the ancient UK, right, that area of the world, associated someone who was left-handed dominant with femininity and fertility. So, they were singled out as being special. So, it's not across the board the same.

Travis: Well, I mean, the exception proves the rule.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And I don't know exactly what I mean by that, but it's a thing that people say when someone just contradicted the point they were making, and you say the exception proves the rule, and that somehow makes you still right? So I'm using that now.

Teresa: [titters] I love it.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: I love it. Okay.

Travis: Whew, I can't believe I played that card. You know, I get one of those a year. [titters]

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So let's—

Travis: And if I use it more than that, I'm a jerk.

Teresa: Let's talk about some bad science.

Travis: [sings] Bad science!

Teresa: Doctor and big fan of eugenics, Cesare Lombroso, promoted the idea that left-handed people were more psychologically disposed to become criminals.

Travis: Huh. Well, can I tell you which part of your brief bio on him made me not care about what he thinks at all? And I'll give you a hint, it's not the doctor part.

Teresa: It's the eugenicist part. Pretty much everyone realized this guy was a quack pretty early, but the damage had been done, right? Wilhelm Stekel, who was one of Freud's number one pupils, wrote in 1911 that, quote, "The right-hand path always signifies the way to righteousness, and the left-hand path to crime."

Travis: Okay, you can't—

Teresa: Yikes!

Travis: Say that like that's a fact that you know!

Teresa: I know! [titters] I know, right?

Travis: You can't—especially using the word "righteousness" to—you can't talk about that like it's a psychological fact?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Ugh...

Teresa: So as early as the 1900s, psychoanalysts were kind of like bending over backwards.

Travis: Bad. Were doing a bad job.

Teresa: They—yes, they—yes, that's true. But they were bending over backwards to prove that the left hand was inherently evil, okay?

Travis: Well, so this is the other thing too—sorry, but just to jump on it real quick. A lot of that stuff, I also think... We talk about this, Teresa and I, a lot, where there's like a lot of like parenting blogs or parenting channels, it's a lot—not just parenting, it also happens in like the masculinity space or whatever, this idea of I'm going to tell you something that you're already worried about—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Or that you already think, and I don't need to have proof on it, because you already think it or you're already worried about it. And in turn, what I'm hoping you'll do is pay me for it, or offer me some kind of like credibility or respect, or something, for confirming a thging you already think.

Teresa: That confirmation bias.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah, definitely. British educational psychologist Cyril Burt falsified research data—Mm-hm.

Travis: Ah, cool!

Teresa: Yup. To claim that left-handed people were stubborn, willful, clumsy and socially challenged. I don't quite understand what socially challenged means. They were rude? I don't know.

Travis: Also, once again, if we're talking about 10% of the population, did you claim to talk to all of them? [chuckles]

Teresa: I know, right? An American born doctor named—

Travis: Also, there are right-handed people that fit all those things too! Are you—like that's once again a—

Teresa: Hence the need to falsify information. [chuckles]

Travis: It's like if somebody said everybody born in November is a cool, awesome, funny person. And everybody who lives in a—like who was born in November is gonna be like, "Of course—yeah, totally!" Right? Like—

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Of course.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: Now, we are cool, funny, awesome.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: But I'm sure that there are those kinds of people in other months too!

Teresa: Mm-hm. An American doctor named Abram Blau was quoted calling them, "Stubborn, rebellious and rigid." So still, other people hypothesized that they lived shorter and poorer lives.

Travis: I wonder why! With all this vilification!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I wonder why they were poor!

Teresa: Also—

Travis: And maybe not as well taken care of in society.

Teresa: Also because the world wasn't made for them in the way of like tools and stuff, right? If we mass produce tools for right-handed people, a left-handed person isn't going to be able to use those tools very well.

Travis: Especially during a time—

Teresa: Hence why I constantly buy my mother left-handed notebooks.

Travis: Yes. Especially during a time where... basically until like computing, right? It was like machinery, hand tools, things that you were exclusively doing manually as the most common profession there was.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Right? Where, especially in machinery, where it would have been quite dangerous already, let alone to have to use in a way it wasn't designed to be.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Like yeah, that—you can't see a causation-correlation problem there, my dude?

Teresa: Luckily, the deeper we get into the 20th century—

Travis: I'm getting so mad about—I'm getting feisty about this!

Teresa: Listen, I'm going to turn you around. I'm going to turn you around right here, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: We started to realize how absolutely—

Travis: I'm taking my sweater off, I'm getting all heated up.

Teresa: Bonkers this all was, okay? Super bonkers. Educational reformers like John Dewey, who was heralded as one of the most scholarly men of the 20th century—I can see your face, not the Dewey Decimal System.

Travis: Ah! Yeah.

Teresa: That was—

Travis: I was on the waterfall's edge like, do you mean of the...

Teresa: Milvin? It was somebody whose name starts with an M who did the Dewey Decimal—

Travis: And probably ended with a Dewey.

Teresa: Who ended—yeah—

Travis: Unless his name was Dewey Decimal!

Teresa: No, it wasn't.

Travis: Have we ever looked into this, science? Or history? Or history science. Go on.

Teresa: [titters] Anyway, he argued tirelessly about how there should be tolerance toward left-handed people, basically saying it doesn't matter.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right? And not only did every single quack psychologist that we mentioned above get disproven, they were definitively disproven by a woman. Which, you know—

Travis: That makes it right.

Teresa: Exactly. Dr. Marian Annett spent 50 years researching handedness, and her results were, anybody talkin' smack about lefties needed to button it up, because all the research—

Travis: Is that what she wrote? Was that like the title of the paper?

Teresa: [titters] No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But all the research done by those previous idiots were deeply flawed.

Travis: And maybe, I'm just gonna go on a hunch here, biased.

Teresa: Mm-hm. In 2010, mental health analysis only gave Dr. Annett more credence, because, according to this study, being left-handed didn't increase someone's chance of suffering any cognitive or neurological issues. So, that's for every left-handed person who got spanked or told they were wrong.

Travis: Or wrapped on the knuckles by a ruler.

Teresa: Ooh, yes.

Travis: Which, I still don't know if that really ever happened or not, or if that's just like a I walked uphill both ways in the snow—

Teresa: I think it probably happened,

Travis: Kind of thing. Okay.

Teresa: I heard tell from my mother, who is left-handed, that she was one of the people who they encouraged it by having her keep her left hand behind her back to try and get her to write with her right hand. Did—it didn't work.

Travis: As if it was like a muscle that had atrophied.

Teresa: It didn't work, but—

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. She does do a lot of things right-handed. She—I think she irons right-handed, and that has to do with the cord of the iron sticking out one side.

Travis: There's one thing I do left-handed. Do you know what it is?

Teresa: What is it?

Travis: I've told you before. Now it's a test. I'll give you a hint, I learned from my friend Chris Cummings—

Teresa: Oh, it's pool.

Travis: Shoot pool!

Teresa: You shoot pool left-handed.

Travis: The first encounter I had with a pool table was with my friend Chris Cummings. Growing up, his family had a pool table, and so like he gave me like my first couple lessons in pool, and he was left-handed. So I didn't know I was shooting pool left-handed, I—

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: I was just matching what he was doing.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And it wasn't until I was like in my twenties, and someone was like, "Why—are you left-handed?" And I was like, "Nope!" And they're like, "Why do you shoot pool left-handed?" And I was like, "I had no idea!"

Teresa: And so, now there's even a national left handers day, the 13th of August.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: To celebrate left-handed people. Here are some—

Travis: I'm so worried our kids will find out, and then we'll have to like throw a party.

Teresa: [chuckles] Here are some famous left-handed people; Leonardo da Vinci.

Travis: I've heard of him.

Teresa: Napoleon Bonaparte.

Travis: I've heard of him.

Teresa: Marie and Pierre Curie.

Travis: I've heard of them!

Teresa: Babe Ruth.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Will Ferrell.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Eminem.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Lady Gaga.

Travis: The M&M's.

Teresa: No, they're—I don't think—

Travis: They're ambidextrous, you're right.

Teresa: Because they're candy.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Jimi Hendrix.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Barack Obama.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Prince William.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Paul McCartney.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Matt Groening, fun fact, as the creator of The Simpsons, he made Bart left-handed.

Travis: Excellent. You know who's not left-handed?

Teresa: Who?

Travis: Inigo Montoya or the Man in Black.

Teresa: Ah... yes. Keanu Reeves, Buzz Aldrin, Justin Bieber and Bebe and Dottie McElroy.

Travis: There we go.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Hey, everybody, thank you so much for joining us for this wonderful episode. Thank you to our researcher, Alex, without whom we could not do this episode, or any episode, really. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not do the show. Thank you to you for listening. I don't want to do the show...

Teresa: You can't make us.

Travis: Without you. Sorry, I almost didn't finish.

Teresa: Oh. [laughs]

Travis: I don't want to do the show without you.

Teresa: And you can't make us.

Travis: And you can't make us.

Teresa: Oh, man... really, really biffed that.

Travis: No, that's okay!

Teresa: [chortles]

Travis: I was doing a long pause there, and I think you timed it out perfectly, it worked out great. Champions Grove is on sale now. It's a yearly gaming event that I co-founded with my friend, Alice, where we bring people out to Ravenwood Castle in Hocking Hills, Ohio, to play a weekend of tabletop games, bring out some talented game runners, lots of events, all kinds of cool stuff. Go to www.championsgrove.com and check it out. Also, there's new Monster Factory, for the people who like Monster Factory, because it's the 10-year anniversary of The Final Pam.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: So we put out new Final Pam episodes. We, I'm not in it.

Teresa: You're not in it.

Travis: Justin and Griffin. We, as the royal we of the organization, put out episodes.

Teresa: [chuckles] We have a Final Pam poster somebody made for us.

Travis: That's true, I need—oh, speaking of, there's Final Pam merch over at the merch store, including a Final Pam beanie that I really enjoy.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: McelroyMerch.com, go check that out. 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. We also thank Bruja Betty Pin-up 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. And as always, we are taking your topic submissions, your questions, your idioms... your romance novel recommendations, thanks, everybody. [titters] And send those to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: Oh, I almost forgot, Candenights!

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: It's coming back to Huntington. The live show is December 6th. And then we're filming it, and we're going to be streaming it December 19th through January 4th.

Teresa: And y'all will be in the comments, right? In the chat.

Travis: Yeah, we'll be in the comments. Well, not the whole time, because that's like three or four weeks, but we'll be there on the premiere, on the 19th.

Teresa: Oh, yes, yes, yes, that's what I mean.

Travis: Get your tickets at bit.ly/candlelights2025. You can get the in-person tickets, or the streaming tickets, and the in-person tickets include the streaming tickets. Once again—oh! And all the proceeds from those ticket sales go to Harmony House, in our hometown of Huntington, West Virginia. [Bit.ly/candenights2025](https://bit.ly/candenights2025). And that's going to 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?

["Shmanners Theme" by brentafloss plays]

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