

Shmanners 490: Shmalentine

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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: You're probably wondering why I've called you here today.

Teresa: [chuckles] I'm actually not.

Travis: No?

Teresa: We do this every week.

Travis: *What?!*

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: We hang out every week?

Teresa: At least once.

Travis: Oh my god, I need to start writing things down. I don't remember that at all.

Teresa: Do you—

Travis: Is this our first episode?

Teresa: No, we actually, a couple weeks ago, we did an episode about how we've done a lot of episodes.

Travis: You know, we just recorded our 800th My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Teresa: Whew!

Travis: In 16 years, we've recorded 800 episodes. That's an average of 50 a year.

Teresa: Wow.

Travis: Pretty good, huh?

Teresa: That is pretty good.

Travis: Now, that is, I said this on the show, but now as I'm saying it here, it feels weird to brag about like, I made it to work 50 weeks a year.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And not even that, really, because some of them are live shows. Oh, no! [chuckles] Hey, everybody, that's not the show we're talking about, though.

Teresa: Not today.

Travis: It's cold here!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It still is cold, and I don't enjoy it. We usually, I know we begin each episode of Shmanners with a complaining session, so I just wanted to—

Teresa: [laughs] You just gotta get it off your chest.

Travis: Cold! My toes are cold!

Teresa: Well, you know what I want to complain about? The price of chocolate.

Travis: Go on.

Teresa: Did you know that chocolate at the moment can be upwards of \$117 a pound? Now, not that one buys a pound of chocolate for, say, *Valentine's Day*...

Travis: Or just because you're bored?

Teresa: [laughs] But—

Travis: And sometimes when you're low on dopamine and you don't know what you want, you just start eating chocolate to see if that's it?

Teresa: But it all trickles down, right? So like, you don't—

Travis: Well, yeah, if it's melted.

Teresa: You don't—*wah-wah*. You know what I mean. You don't buy—

Travis: You can't wah-wah my jokes, it's all I've got!

Teresa: [chuckles] So, if you buy a little heart, right? A little like cardboard heart full of chocolates—

Travis: Which, those always in me mad, because they're always like this big and then they have like four chocolates in 'em. And I'm like... nah.

Teresa: Yes. It's gonna be even more expensive this year, and it's gonna be—

Travis: That's why you should make your own chocolate.

Teresa: Ooh?

Travis: First, grow a cacao tree.

Teresa: Oh, okay, yes.

Travis: It's gonna take a while! This is a long game we're talking here.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Can I say? The other day, speaking of complaining, our eldest, Bebe, announced how much she loved white chocolate, and she's mad if we don't buy enough white chocolate. We never have white chocolate in the house. And listen, if you like white—

Teresa: What?

Travis: If you like white chocolate, that's fine. You're wrong, but that's fine.

Teresa: It's not—it's not chocolate.

Travis: It's not chocolate!

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And the thing is, is like, there are many examples, you know, like I know that in other families there's like political like, what's the word... discord, between like the kids and the parents where it's like, "You don't understand me." In our house, it's dark chocolate. For whatever reason, Teresa and I, it's like, given the option, would eat dark chocolate I think over any other candy?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. And then our children are like, "Oh, I don't know."

Teresa: Dottie has come around. She will eat darker chocolate. I mean, that isn't like, you know, the Milky Hershey's or whatever. But like, she will eat it darker. But this whole white chocolate thing...

Travis: I don't get it. They also love the gummy stuff. Gummies are fine, just not dark chocolate!

Teresa: Gummies are fine.

Travis: Okay, anyway.

Teresa: Anyway. So, here's what I want to talk about. I want to talk about alternative ways to celebrate Valentine's Day. Buy chocolate, because chocolate is great, but also—

Travis: You can buy chocolate on February 15th though.

Teresa: This!

Travis: Also, they've started—

Teresa: This.

Travis: They've started, and this is a little bee in my bonnet—

Teresa: Mm-hm?

Travis: Stopped stocking shelves like two weeks more before the actual holiday.

Teresa: So that there's not as much at clearance.

Travis: So there's not as much.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And that's no fun, I want the clearance! And listen, I know that there's turnover, but where's the cheap stuff?

Teresa: You know what? I think that I would like to encourage everyone to buy locally made chocolates. We have two really great chocolatiers here in Cincinnati.

Travis: Maverick is one of my favorites.

Teresa: Yeah. And Aglamesis Brothers.

Travis: Oh, yeah! Agla Macy brothers does great ice cream as well.

Teresa: Yeah. So, those two are some—are just a couple of the really great local chocolatiers that I would say, buy from them! Skip CVS. You know?

Travis: Yeah, you got me a really great like box of English toffee from Aglamesis Brothers for Christmas. I *love* English toffee.

Teresa: It was so good. So good. Can you think of other ways, maybe? Not anti-Valentine's Day. That's not what we're—what we're talking about today. Although we could at some point talk about that, but that's not we're talking about today. Just like... like alternative.

Travis: An acrostic poem! I don't know, what do you mean? [chuckles]

Teresa: No, like, okay, so—

Travis: A scavenger hunt!

Teresa: Sure. That happened in...

Travis: Parks and Recreation?

Teresa: Parks and Recreation. And we're gonna come back to Parks and Recreation in just a second. But what I'm thinking about is like, okay, I think of Valentine's Day, I think of in movies and TV, you know, you have like a candlelit dinner somewhere fancy. You maybe would go out to a bar or a club. There might be presents exchanged, chocolate, flowers, things like

that, right? So, I'm talking about alternatives to that—very specific kind of celebration. Can you—do you—do you want me to go through my stuff? Or—

Travis: Yeah, because like, you want an alternative—

Teresa: Your blank face. [chuckles]

Travis: No, it's just like, there are so many things that aren't that, you know what I—go skydiving! I don't know, man, something.

[both chuckle]

Teresa: Okay, okay.

Travis: Rent a submarine for a day. Can you do that?

Teresa: [chuckles] Maybe? So, let's go—let's go to Parks and Rec again then, that—

Travis: Can I google submarine rental real quick? So I—

Teresa: Galentine's Day. Do you—know about Galentine's Day, because we watched Parks and Rec. But it actually became, at the time, a bit of a phenomenon.

Travis: Did they come up with it?

Teresa: Yes, they did, in the way of the naming and the like, the sanctioning of it. I am sure—

Travis: They blessed it.

Teresa: They blessed it, yes.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: I'm sure that it existed within friend groups.

Travis: They popularized it.

Teresa: Sure, okay.

Travis: Yes, that's—I like that. Because there's no way that somebody before hadn't thought of Galentine's Day. That's a—that's a great portmanteau.

Teresa: It really is.

Travis: It's an S-tier portmanteau, because by my rubric, it is, one, shares the combination of letters with the A-L, so it fits.

Teresa: Mm-hm, yeah.

Travis: It makes sense what it is, it goes together. And when you hear it, you know exactly what it is a combination of.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: So I'm just saying, the letters match, and it's clear what it is.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: S-tier.

Teresa: So, a Valentine's Day special episode, written by Aisha Muharrar, the protagonist, Leslie Knope, creates a holiday dedicated to the most important relationships in our lives that don't get properly celebrated, female friendships. And so, here is what Leslie Knope had to say about Galentine's Day. "What is Galentine's Day? It's only the best day of the year. Every year, on February 13th, my lady friends and I leave our husbands, our boyfriends at home, and we come and kick it breakfast style. Ladies celebrating ladies. It's like Lilith Fair, minus the angst, plus frittatas."

Travis: I just want to say, I want more characters like Leslie Knope, where they're incredibly doofy and awkward, but in a really like comfortable, likable way.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Because that like do it up style is like, there's not a lot of people who get away with saying that.

Teresa: [chuckles] And Leslie is one of them.

Travis: Man, I know we're not talking about Parks and Rec, but I was about to get all huffy... Huffy 10-speed, because it's like Galentine—I want to be included, but I'm not a gal. But then I thought about, in Parks and Rec, how many episodes there are about like, yeah, and here is an example of Ben and Andy's friendship, and Ben and Ron hanging out, and all the boys doing their bachelor party episode. And it's a show that celebrates friendship all the way around.

Teresa: All the way around.

Travis: We need to rewatch that show right now! Stop the episode.

Teresa: [chuckles] Yes, but not stop the episode.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: So, this was a tongue in cheek holiday invented by the sitcom, and now it has real world celebrations every year. So, the episode debuted in February of 2010.

Travis: Appropriate.

Teresa: And 16 years later, when you search the holiday, it makes Google explode with party planning suggestions and menu ideas, and even a direct endorsement from Michelle Obama that we should all spend some of our Valentine's Day love on our best friends instead of just our romantic partners. And I'm going to read to you about former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Travis: It's wild to me, by the way, that Valentine's Day started two months before *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. If you had asked me, when did Parks and Rec air? I would have said, I don't know, like eight or nine years ago? *What?*

Teresa: What?

Travis: *What?!*

Teresa: I know.

Travis: 16 years ago!

Teresa: This is what Michelle Obama posted on her social media, "This #Galentine's Day, I want to shout out my girlfriends who helped me stay sane and grounded through all of life's ups and downs. Whether we're catching up over the phone, venting over a cup of coffee or laughing it out during an '80s themed workout, I know I can lean on these ladies. And that makes all the difference."

Travis: You could also do Palentine's Day, if you wanted to.

Teresa: Hah, that's coming up next!

Travis: Hah, *what?*

Teresa: But first...

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: This—

Travis: Or Halentine's Day, if your name is Hal.

Teresa: If your name is Hal.

Travis: And you have a bunch of other friends named Hal.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You have a Halentine's Day.

Teresa: You could. Galentine's Day—

Travis: I'm trying to think about those while I'm listening.

Teresa: Well, continue.

Travis: I can do both.

Teresa: [chuckles] Galentine's Day is—

Travis: Fallontine's Day! Celebrate with Jimmy Fallon!

Teresa: So popular, it has its own Wikipedia page.

Travis: And I want to make it clear, not celebrate Jimmy Fallon, but if Jimmy Fallon's there and you're like, "Oh, we should include him, I feel bad."

Teresa: That's what you should do?

Travis: You don't have to. God knows.

Teresa: Here's what you should do for your Galentine's Day, to make it traditional. Brunch, right? But if you'd rather do cocktails and charcuterie, that's okay, right? Do whatever right for you and your buddies. It is recommended that you keep it on the smaller side of a gathering, no more than a dozen people. It starts to get too like, break up into factions kind—

Travis: What about a baker's dozen?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: No, you shouldn't sit down with 13, because then the first person to get up is the next to die.

Teresa: Oh, sorry. Right.

Travis: That was a test, and you failed.

Teresa: Have fun doing themed outfits. You can text everyone and coordinate. I've seen online people who do like "I have nowhere else to wear this" parties.

Travis: Oh, that's great.

Teresa: Or you could do color themed. Just because, you know, Valentine's Day is red and pink and white, doesn't mean your Galentine's Day can't be red and pink and white. That's great.

Travis: Purple, orange and green! That's the Joker. No, that's the Joker.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I didn't even mean to do that.

Teresa: Or Mardi Gras.

Travis: I was just trying to think of like colors that would be weird to wear together, and I accidentally did the Joker.

Teresa: You did it. You did a Joker.

Travis: I did a Joker. I did a Joker again. That guy just keeps popping up.

Teresa: What about go thrift shopping for matching Valentine's Day pajamas? Who knows? The sky is the limit.

Travis: I think we as a society have drifted too far away from matching customized shirts.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: For things.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: I think we all need to get back into it. It doesn't just have to be for big family vacations or family reunions or whatever, you could do it for anything. You're going to go see, let's see, what's a movie that—another Jurassic Park movie? Perfect.

Teresa: Perfect.

Travis: Our friendship is prehistoric.

Teresa: Aw.

Travis: Right? And then you have them, you know what?

Teresa: I love it.

Travis: The T-shirts, everybody—that's why I'm starting a new custom T-shirt business.

Teresa: [chuckles] As to the events, obviously—

Travis: Travis Ts.

Teresa: Yes. Yes. TM, TM, TM.

Travis: I'm so proud of that.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: The dopamine hit that just hit me is—

Teresa: Get it on the McElroy merch page!

Travis: I'm floating. Are you kidding me?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I feel effervescent. Travis Ts?

Teresa: Here are some—[chuckles]

Travis: My god! I'm going to be coasting off that for days!

Teresa: Here are some activity ideas. Obviously, brunch is great, but you might need something else to do. Perhaps you can do DIY pizza or dessert stations, maybe you can write and make other Valentine's Day—crafts are great. You could even go around the room and toast accomplishments to everyone.

Travis: Friendship bracelets.

Teresa: Friendship bracelets, I love it. But here's the thing, right? Galentine's Day is reserved strictly for the ladies, right? Nonbinary friends, okay, great, but no boys!

Travis: Ladies get all the good stuff! Us guys never getting anything!
[chuckles]

Teresa: Partners—

Travis: I'm kidding, I'm so sorry, everybody. I'm so sorry, please, please.

Teresa: Partners, boyfriends and husbands have to stay home.

Travis: They could hang out?

Teresa: And they could do... Palentine's Day!

Travis: Which is when you speak only in palindromes.

Teresa: [chuckles] No. But it is a way, again, on the 13th, so that you can also celebrate male friendships. Again, nonbinary folks, fine, that's great. Get in on that, if you're all friends. And so, what you might be able to do is—

Travis: All the same stuff you just listed.

Teresa: Sure! All the same stuff. But remember that a lot of these things, this day, like Galentine's Day and Valentine's Day, are typically stereotypically female, right? That kind of like, the girls get the presents and things are flowery and—

Travis: What? This is the first I'm hearing about this? Flowers are for girls only?

Teresa: And vase—and like lacey—

Travis: But I like flowers!

Teresa: And like—I know.

Travis: I like lace!

Teresa: I know, but—

Travis: It makes me feel like a fancy French gentleman!

Teresa: Movies and TV have told us that the boys, they don't—they don't like—

Travis: But I am boy?

Teresa: I understand.

Travis: I am boy? I like frippery?

Teresa: Movies and TV are not real life. And that's what I'm saying.

Travis: Am I real life?

Teresa: You are real life.

Travis: Oh, god! Thank god! If you had said no and I disappeared, I would have freaked out.

Teresa: So, maybe you could do things like, you could hang up like candy hearts that say things like "BFF" and "you rock," right? Things like that. And they don't have to be love-centric.

Travis: "You're my emergency contact."

Teresa: Perfect.

Travis: "I trust you to land a plane if the pilot was injured."
"I think that you could fight a gorilla." These are the things that you can say to your male friends to make them feel good about themselves.

Teresa: I think you could fight a gorilla?

Travis: Right? Like, "You've never built a fire from scratch before, but I think you could just from basic knowledge that you have from TV and movies."

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: Yeah! "You would survive on an island, for sure, Doug."

Teresa: Here's an idea of Alex's—

Travis: That's specifically for Doug.

Teresa: Specifically. Alex suggests a "things you love" party, where each one of you has an assignment. One person brings a drink they love for everyone, one person brings a snack, one an activity, one person picks out a movie that they love.

Travis: Okay, this is a slam dunk for any friend gathering, doesn't just have to be this.

Teresa: Indeed.

Travis: Everybody pick the first episode of a TV show that they have been trying to get their friends to watch forever.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: And their friends are like, "Oh, yeah, I'll check it out, I'll check it out." Everybody has to watch it. They've got to be engaged in it. There's no jokes, there's no—right? It's like we are—this is our chance. This is our one chance to get you hooked on this TV show I think you will love. Here it is. Right? Everybody gets one episode.

Teresa: Yes. I like that. Also, outings are always appropriate for Valentine's Day. I know that there are people who like doing things outside.

Travis: Gross.

Teresa: I don't, but maybe some people do. [chuckles] Things like sports.

Travis: This is another thing that we run into a lot as people with kids, where we will be like, okay, we're looking for like vacation spots that are like family friendly. And they're all like, you can go zip lining, kayaking, hiking through the—and I'm like, do you have an arcade?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Do you have water slides. What are you talking about?

Teresa: You could go to an arcade for Valentine's Day, that sounds great.

Travis: That would rule! Yeah, go bowling? Bowling is amazing. The thing about bowling is what makes it a good friend hangout, is there's only one person who has to do anything at a time.

Teresa: Right, and everyone else can chit chat and hang out.

Travis: Right. As opposed to like a—like basketball, right? Where it's like we're all moving around and it's about the game. There are things like darts, billiards—

Teresa: That's why golf is so fun, I think because only one person does it at a time.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. But there's walking—

Travis: Find an adult—

Teresa: Walking in golf, and I don't like that. [chuckles]

Travis: Gross. Find an adult like ball pit where grown-ups are allowed to be in the ball pit. That'd be great. A combination hot tub ball pit, does that exist?

Teresa: No.

Travis: No, but I see you don't like it.

Teresa: I don't like it. [titters]

Travis: Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's not as good as Travis Ts, I recognize this.

Teresa: It sounds unsanitary. [chuckles]

Travis: What? I mean, I guess, in the—

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: You put a lot of chlorine in it.

[both chuckle]

Teresa: Okay, one more idea. We're gonna call this—

Travis: Wait, one more idea for Valentine's Day?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay, well then first!

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: How about a word from another Max Fun show?

[theme music plays]

Benjamin: Greatest Trek is the hit podcast about new Star Trek shows, and right now we're talking about all things Starfleet Academy.

Adam: Starfleet Academy is a Star Trek show made for everyone, from lifetime Star Trek nerds to folks who only like My So-Called Life and Dawson's Creek.

Benjamin: We even had a special writer and actor guest for the fifth episode this season, the hilarious Tawny Newsome!

Adam: Look, there's always something fun on the Greatest Trek feed, because when the season's over, we're going back to watching the original series!

Benjamin: And hey, if you like old Star Trek, The Greatest Generation just had its 10th anniversary!

Adam: That's Greatest Trek for new Star Trek, and Greatest Generation for the Star Trek you grew up on.

Benjamin: Both shows you can find on maximumfun.org.

[break]

Mark: Ready to go.

Hal: Knock, knock.

Mark: Who's there?

Hal: We Got This.

Mark: With Mark and Hal?

Hal: Gah, you knew this one! [laughs]

Mark: We can't put that out as an ad...

Hal: We just did! New episodes every week on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts! Now, it's hewn in rock!

Mark: Hewn in rock?!

Hal: Yeah? [titters]

Mark: How do you hew something in rock?

Hal: With a chisel.

Mark: There's only one Hue in rock, and it's Huey Lewis. [chuckles]

Hal: And the news is, We Got This with Mark and Hal is available every week on maximumfun.org.

Mark: I walked right into that.

[both chuckle]

[break]

Travis: Okay, we've got another idea. This is a no holds barred death match.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Of love!

Teresa: This is called Pitch Your Single Friends, which has been happening on—

Travis: Where you throw 'em?

Teresa: No. This is a newer phenomenon, a newer dare we say, TikTok theme.

Travis: Uh-huh. That tracks.

Teresa: What is it that we say? What is—TikTok...

Travis: Trend?

Teresa: Trend. There it is. So, what you do is, you pitch your single friends to a group of people—

Travis: What?

Teresa: By PowerPoint.

Travis: Okay, I was not in it until we got to building PowerPoints, which I like doing.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I do love building PowerPoints. I would rather do this for my single friend, to be like, "Here is a PowerPoint of why you're great."

Teresa: Okay, well, no, that is basically what this is. Although, you are using that. "Here's a PowerPoint about why my friend, who is single, is great, and you, all of you people watching, should want to try and get with them."

Travis: Now, you should have your friends' consent for this, right?

Teresa: Obviously. Everybody needs to be all the way in. This is not something where you can just kind of like hang out and sit in on. No, this is—you have to be *in it*. You are in it to win it for this one, okay? So, this is where you give like three to five minutes by PowerPoint to convince a group of other people why you should date this friend. For example, Alex has written a pitch. "This is my best friend." Click. "She has been my best friend for 20 years because she is—" Click. "Loyal." Click. "Hilarious." Click. "Very talented." Click. "And super hot!" Click.

Travis: That's very good.

Teresa: Lot's of different pictures—

Travis: I would need more details.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Because that could have also just been a really sexy Labrador retriever or something.

Teresa: So then you would also talk about their talents.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Taste in TV shows, what they're looking for in a partner. And their deal breakers. It's very important that you include those, because we want to get those all out, right?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And so, you would sum it up by concluding about how they are an unbelievable catch, and someone would be very lucky to have them.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Yes!

Travis: You could also do an event where you and your friends get together, and then like you do a PowerPoint presentation of who you think the best like friendship in a TV show is. And like the more surprising you can make your case, the better.

Teresa: Oh?

Travis: Right? The less obvious. And like have a judging criteria for them. And then some kind of—I like competition, some kind of reward—

Teresa: You do like competition.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: This—

Travis: What fun is friendship if you can't win?!

Teresa: This is kind of like those hear me out cakes.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: But this is just like, I like the idea of a PowerPoint where you take a trope and you're like, "And here is the best example of this trope." Because mine would be, you'd win me over by showing me a PowerPoint of like two people who start as like, this is the villain, this is like the hero. And then like by the end of the run of the show, they're like best friends.

Teresa: And they're working together.

Travis: They're working together? Oh my god!

Teresa: Yeah, you love that.

Travis: Oh my god, do I ever! Oh my gosh! I'd rather watch that than any love story out there, right? I want to see that like, these two people don't hate each—oh, man, Trigun?

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I will talk about—ah, why can't remember his name, Wolf? Wolf. Wolf. That guy. The friendship in Trigun is the best, is what I'm saying.

Teresa: So, here is an example of this pitch a friend, right? That's been operating since 2022, and has held over 100 pitch a friend events in breweries and other things around their city. The creators, Melissa—

Travis: Wolfwood! Wolfwood and Vash! Wolfwood and Vash! Sorry, go on.

Teresa: Melissa Shipkey and Ariana Brogan, they saw the idea online and wanted to make it a reality. So they have a—sorry, no, both of the women told a YouTube channel dedicated to America's best towns, which is called Localish, it's meant to be a kind of like compliment fest. WWere you meet someone today, or maybe you and your buddy just have a lovely evening hanging out and meeting people you wouldn't have otherwise met. I think that is a great way to celebrate Palentine's Day.

Travis: I think it would be really nice, and I—this is sincere.

Teresa: Yes?

Travis: To have a day with my friends, with my—with my guy friends, where the theme of it like is like, we're all gonna say like, "Hey, how you doing?" And we're not allowed to just say like, "I'm doing good. I'm doing okay." It's like, and now you need to fill five minutes at least to tell me how you are actually doing.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: Right? Because that's the thing, I find myself now, and I'd like to consider myself a sort of 21st century man, if not a 22nd or 23rd—oh, I'm from the future. Oh, I shouldn't say that, I shouldn't reveal that.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: And still I find that when someone's like, "How are you?" Even if I'm going through something, my immediate response is like, "Yeah, doing good."

Teresa: It's hard. It's hard to open up like that. I think that proximity really helps. You know, we are together all the time, and so we can tell each other a little more about that. But if it's just like—

Travis: Well, I also have to because you're my wife, and like legally, I have to share—

Teresa: Legally.

Travis: Half of everything with you. Which includes the things I'm going through. If you were like, "Hey, yeah, how are—" And I'm like, "Doing good!" You'd be like, "What just happened? What's wrong with you?"

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I think your assumption would be I'm trying not to have an accident—

Teresa: Yeah. [chuckles] It is what it sounded like.

Travis: *Doing good!*

Teresa: But if you—

Travis: *I gotta go!*

Teresa: I'd like to describe how one should go about doing a pitch a friend. For your PowerPoint, don't include any inside jokes or subtle digs, okay? Even if you and your best friend typically communicate that way, it's a love fest, right? So, only good, kind things. And make sure you run this PowerPoint by your friend, so that nothing is a surprise, right? They want to be in on all of it. So, we're 100% in, make sure that you ask your friend, right?

And you might want to turn it into a reciprocation, where you pitch your friend, and your friend pitches you, right? So that you can get this kind of like—you can get a feedback going about what you guys expect of it. And you know, make the evening into like a game that we all play, right? I keep talking about how it's important that everyone is all in. This is what we talked about for our like game nights and our DnD and the LARPing episode. Like, you really have to play in the space together.

Travis: Yes. It's a shared space.

Teresa: Shared space. One last idea that Alex wanted to pitch, and I think this is my favorite idea, because I like cozy things where I don't have to go anywhere. [chuckles]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: A pink pajama party/movie marathon. Why not give the people the best thing? Which is to cuddle on their couch at home.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Have a pajama party and you can do like themed movies, not just like romantic, but you could do like—

Travis: In fact, I would—I would argue not romantic.

Teresa: Well, I mean, you could—

Travis: That's for the next day.

Teresa: That's the next day. So, if you wanna—

Travis: Friend man—friend-mantic. Platonic! That's the word I was looking for.

Teresa: Ah. Maybe you could do a zombie fest, right? You could watch all zombie movies.

Travis: Like the zom—like *Zombies*, from Disney?

Teresa: Maybe, but also like *Zombieland*, or *Shaun of the Dead*, right?

Travis: Yeah, but also, you could just watch *Zombies* 1-3.

Teresa: You could—you could also—

Travis: You can watch *Zombies* 4 if you want to! It's a different—it's a new like thing. So you could get away with just doing the first three, you know?

Teresa: What about mushy musicals, like *Mamma mia*, *Moulin Rouge* and *The Music Man*?

Travis: Yeah. And like you know, *High School Musical*.

Teresa: That's a good one too.

Travis: That's not mushy, I don't think. Well, I think there's like eight of those too?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You can watch *High School Musical*, *High School Musical 2* and *3*, and then *High School Musical*, the movie. The high school—wait—

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: You've already lost me.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Or classic rom coms like When Harry Met Sally, The Princess Bride, things like that—

Travis: I Love You, Man.

Teresa: Yeah, that's a good one.

Travis: I Love You, Man is one of my favorite rom coms.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That's a good platonic rom com.

Teresa: It is. I also like, would you say that Forgetting Sarah Marshall is also one?

Travis: Yeah, it's a rom com, yeah, for sure. I would say Step Brothers is another like platonic rom com.

Teresa: Oh, okay, yeah, a plutonic one.

Travis: I bet there's other ones. Now it's all I can think about.

Teresa: I'm sure that there are. Okay, I would like a PowerPoint, please.
[chuckles]

Travis: Okay. Because I bet I could find something you'd be like, "That's not—" And then I'd finish the PowerPoint and you'd be like, "Yes, thank you." You'd be in tears, you'd be crying because my points would have been so brilliant and inspiring.

Teresa: You are correct. I recommend cozy foods, things like box brownies.

Travis: Pizza rolls!

Teresa: Pizza rolls. Things that are like, you know—

Travis: Pizza bagels!

Teresa: Low key nostalgia.

Travis: Pizza bread!

Teresa: [chuckles] Is this just pizza?

Travis: Pizza-licious Pringles. Yes.

Teresa: Ooh, you could have a chips and dips party? Mm, that sounds great.

Travis: You... you would need some pizza in there.

Teresa: [chuckles] You need pizza.

Travis: Pizza nachos, is that a thing?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: We could make pizza nachos.

Teresa: That's just pizza on tortilla chips, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I mean, if you did pizza on like pita bread, and called it pitzza, P-I-T-Z-A.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: There's something in there.

Teresa: And then another idea—

Travis: Thank you for just letting me finish that idea. I really appreciate.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: I was really kind of stumbling through there. I lost a lot of steam towards the end, and I looked over and you were just... waiting.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And then you just went, "Yeah, another idea—" I really appreciate it. It was like I was a child about to go off the diving board, but I was a little scared. And you were just—you were just waiting patiently, still at the ladder.

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: Not pressuring me to jump off the diving board 'til I was ready. I did. I belly flopped, and you just nodded. You didn't laugh. Good or bad, didn't laugh at what I said. And then you just waited your turn, and I really appreciate that.

Teresa: [laughs] It's called Delivery Day, which is more of a community Valentine's experience. Where you might celebrate your community love by making and delivering valentines to people who might otherwise not get them. Maybe, is there a program in your community where you can send cards to seniors or soldiers or veterans, or people who are experiencing homelessness? You could have valentines available at shelters or things like that.

Travis: You could also do this just with like older family members.

Teresa: Mm-hm.

Travis: You know, if you have relatives that, you enjoy their company, you don't have to force yourself to hang out with people you don't like, that's not

what this is about. But like you know, go hang out with your aunt, if your aunt is cool. Go hang out with your grandma, if your grandma's cool. Go hang out—

Teresa: Totally.

Travis: I don't know, with your great uncle, if he's cool, I don't know.

Teresa: Get crafty with your friends and make valentines for anybody you think could really use one.

Travis: What about a romantic heist?

Teresa: No...

Travis: I don't know what that would be, but like an agreed upon heist, right?

Teresa: Where you're going to fall in love at the end?

Travis: I'm just saying that if my friends were real friends, they would help me plan a heist of a different friend, who would be in on it! The other friend would know the heist is coming, so that he could set up security measures. Or, ah, you and your friends set up like a Home Alone trap house, for two friend—oh my god, this would be amazing. These are the things I want to do. This is what I—you're talking about cozy? I want to heist a friend—have them set up like a cardboard security room that I have to get into and steal like a fake diamond from. Yes! This is all I want.

Teresa: This seems very involved.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yes. [chuckles]

Travis: You wouldn't do it every day, Teresa, this is a special occasion.

Teresa: A special occasion.

Travis: Where's the escape rooms that are planning—that aren't an escape, it's a heist room. Does that exist?

Teresa: I'm sure they do. I'm sure they do.

Travis: I want a heist room.

Teresa: Okay, so if you want to make your own delivery day, make sure that you follow the rules and guidelines of any organization. Like if you're making them for classrooms or whatever, make sure that they're child appropriate, right? Example also includes there are typically strict guidelines for writing to prisoners, right? In prisons or jails. When in doubt, talk to the person leading the writing program and refer to the guidelines that they provided. Also, if you are mailing things, the United States Postal Service recommends that you get everything in the mail by February 10th, which should ensure February 14th delivery. But earlier is always better. I feel like if I got a Valentine's Day card earlier, I'm not upset about that. It doesn't have to arrive on the 14th.

Travis: Indeed. It's like Christmas cards. I don't expect all the Christmas cards to come on the 25th.

Teresa: Of course, of course. And if you're not into writing valentine's, there's lots of other things you can do. For example, make a shopping trip to take to your local free fridge, or go and get books from the thrift store or secondhand store and fill some little free libraries. Or maybe make a donation to a local art group that you're passionate about. You know, there's—it's a lot more fun that you can have either for your own friends or for your community than just like Singles Awareness Day, right?

Travis: I'm so glad that we did this episode, because it has just reminded me that we need to get valentines for our children.

Teresa: Yeah, no, I told them about it this weekend and I said let's go—we could go shopping for valentines.

Travis: Yeah, we gotta figure that out.

Teresa: Yeah. We got to find some KPop Demon Hunters ones.

Travis: Is that what they want?

Teresa: I think so. Isn't that what everyone wants?

Travis: Some K Lollipop Demon Hunters stuff, we can figure it out, yeah.

Teresa: I love it.

Travis: Hey, everybody, thank you so much for listening! And thank you to Alex, our researcher, without whom we couldn't have done this episode. Thank you to Gino and Rachel, our editors, without whom we could not do this episode.

Thank you to you for listening! Every week with you is like Palantine's Day, because we're thankful for you. Let's see, there's new merch over at the McElroy Merch Store, go to mcelroymerch.com, you can find it there. And there's a couple of packages left for Champion's Grove. Go to championsgrove.com, you can find them 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 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 suggestions, your questions, your idioms. If you want to suggest like a TV show for us to watch, we're starting to get into that, a biography, we love it. Please send those to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alex, because she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's going to do it for us. So join 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 brentalfloss plays]

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