

Shmanners 522: Kit's Railway Adventure

Published July 10th, 2026

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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: We've started putting the video clips up for the episodes, and Teresa has to remind me to look at the camera— To cheat out, like I was in theater. Three-quarter, you know, so that people could see my face.

Teresa: [giggles] It's such a nice face.

Travis: I know, but you have a nice face, and I want to look at *you*! And I have two settings, and one is staring at you, and one is staring at the camera. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] No, don't do that.

Travis: I have a hard time being in the middle, 'cause then I just go into the void, you know? I just stare off into nothing.

Teresa: Well, I feel like I kind of just look at you with my eyeballs.

Travis: Yeah, you're good at this.

Teresa: You can see my face.

Travis: This is what I'm saying. You're like a professional. I'm like a child, lost in the woods.

Teresa: I think that it's all those years of doing children's theater. There's a lot more "Address the audience than the person next to you," kind of thing.

Travis: That might be it. It might also just be I'm just kind of a flighty— I'm kind of a Dharma type, and you're kind of a Greg type.

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: I mean, yeah.

Teresa: [through laughter] Yeah. Actually, yeah.

Travis: It's upsetting to be the second McElroy podcast to sincerely type ourselves that way. Without thinking *Wonderful!* has done this as well, and I'm only just now realizing it.

Teresa: Oh, really?

Travis: Yeah. They had a whole thing about which one of 'em was the Dharma, which one's the Greg. They watched *Dharma & Greg*. I think it was a keychain that they had for a Max Fun Drive?

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: And that's what we're talking about today, the etiquette of *Dharma & Greg*.

Teresa: [laughs] No, we're not. We're not, actually.

Travis: What do you do when kind of a flighty, hippy woman marries a serious business man in a two-week romance? Well, welcome. It's *Dharma & Gregtiquette!*

Teresa: There might be something there, but we're not—

Travis: There's *nothing*. There's *nothing* there.

Teresa: We're not doing that today. Not today.

Travis: I watched your brain search for some way to support me in this endeavor, and I love that about you.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Okay. What *are* we talking about?

Teresa: I really did like when you said Gretiquette. Gregi—

Travis: Gregtiquette. Gregtiquette!

Teresa: [laughs] Okay. Today, today, we are going through another one of our wonderful *American Girl* books.

Travis: Experiences.

Teresa: Experiences. Scrapbooks. They have a little series.

Travis: Great American Girl Doll Experience.

Teresa: Yes. So we've gone through *The Titanic*. We've gone through—

Travis: No spoilers.

Teresa: Ha ha. Uh, *Route 66*.

Travis: [laughs] That laugh...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I've gotten— Man, listen. This has become a very self-referential, meta episode so far, but that laugh I've gotten so many times in the last 16 years. And I both enjoy it and hate it at the same time. It makes me happy and cuts to the very core of me. "Ha ha." [laughs]

Teresa: [giggles] *Route 66*. And *now*, we are going on a railway adventure to Glacier Park!

Travis: I love the railroad.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: I do. I remember, there was a tour that we went on, and I believe it was through— Well, it must have been, because we went to the spy bar in...

Teresa: San Francisco, right?

Travis: No.

Teresa: No?

Travis: Because the spy bar is— I think it's St. Paul, or something like that. It's where the Fonz statue is too. Anyways...

Teresa: *Oh*. Okay.

Travis: We were all— It was the third day, and we were all kind of getting a little sick or whatever. And then we took a train called the Empire Builder, is the name of the line. And then we had one with beds in it and stuff.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And by the time we arrived, we all got off the train like, "I feel great."

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: "This is amazing. Train travel is the best." And we talked about trying to figure out a way to do a tour where every stop of the tour would be on the Empire Builder line, and call it the Empire Builder tour. And people could ride the train along with us, if they wanted to.

Teresa: Wow.

Travis: And it would be like, we stop here, do shit, get back on the Empire Builder. And just let the power of the railway...

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: ... embolden us. That didn't happen.

Teresa: Oh. I mean, obviously.

Travis: But now, we take a train any time we can. It's great.

Teresa: So the reason that we are going through this book today is because we're going to do a show on the Civilian Conservation Corps. And that has a lot to do with the things that we've already covered. We've covered national parks; that's in this book. We've covered the world's fair; that's also in this book. We've talked a little bit—

Travis: Back when fairs meant something.

Teresa: I know. We talked a little bit about FDR's new deal, right? When we talked about *Route 66*. So this is just another one of those continuation episodes for summer.

Travis: There sure is a time period in America that American Girl Dolls like to focus on, isn't there?

Teresa: Well—

Travis: I'm not saying *all* of the American Girl Dolls fall in this time, but this '40s to '60s time period where they're like, "America."

Teresa: There are several of them in that era, right? So there's Molly, who is pre-World War II, and into World War II. And then Kit is actually a *newer* doll. I mean, within the last 20 years or so, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: There have been more dolls.

Travis: She's old enough to drink.

Teresa: [laughs] But then she is Depression-era, right? So I understand what you mean when we talk about that there is a concentration. But a lot of stuff was going on in America at the time.

Travis: Listen, I'd be willing to bet that— Especially people our age, right? I don't know what they're teaching in schools now. Am I *right*? [through laughter] No.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: That when we talk about American history that people remember from school, 1935 to 1960 is probably the I can tell you a lot of that happened in that time period. And then we kinda get into '65 to '75 a *little bit*. And then we get past that, I'm like, no idea. We get before that, I'm like, "*Uhh*."

Everything between 1900 and 1935 is kind of a vague blur. I couldn't exactly tell you what happened in there. And then we get back to between 1776 and 1850, and we're like, "Oh, okay." Or 1776 to 1880. And it's like, "Yeah, I got a good idea of five things that happened in that 100-year period."

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. Okay, so Kit is special to this region. Do you know why?

Travis: Because she is a train.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: She's from Cincinnati.

Travis: Oh, okay!

Teresa: Yeah. Pretty cool, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So there's some really great stuff in this book.

Travis: Once again, a lot of accoutrement in the book.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Well, so another thing that we see in this book, as the *Route 66* with Molly, is there's a little decoder.

Travis: [gasps] Professor Phibb's Fact Finder.

Teresa: Yes. So she is given little clues to put together while she's on her trip.

Travis: A mystery.

Teresa: A mystery. Okay.

Travis: Oh, is there a murder on the train?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: No, no, no, no, no.

Travis: Different kind of book.

Teresa: So the premise of this book is that Kit writes an essay to win a trip to Glacier Park. And the contest is sponsored by the American Railway Association.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: So she goes across the country on the rail, in order to visit Glacier Park. And it just so *happens*...

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: That her brother Charlie is in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And works at Glacier Park. So that's why she enters the contest.

Travis: Fortuitous.

Teresa: So that she can go see him.

Travis: Exciting.

Teresa: Yeah. She's accompanied by her Aunt Mildred, Aunt Millie. Yeah.

Travis: Okay. That's a good one to nickname. No offense to anyone listening who goes by Mildred. A *beautiful* name, if you're listening.

Teresa: I mean, Margaret's name— Sorry, Kit's name is Margaret.

Travis: What?

Teresa: Margaret Mildred Kittredge.

Travis: Oh, okay. The Kit comes from Kittredge. We were talking the other day about nicknames for different names, and I was about to be blown away that Kit was a nickname for Margaret. But it doesn't sound like that's the case. Betsy being a nickname for Elizabeth blew us both away.

Teresa: Well, I mean, I thought that it *was* a nickname for Mildred.

Travis: But her last name's Kittredge.

Teresa: So you think that they just call her Kit Kittredge because of that?

Travis: Yeah! Maybe if they called her Gret, or Ret, or Agret— Argaret. Argaret. This is my daughter, Argaret. It's short for Margaret. [chuckles]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And her friend, Achel.

Teresa: Achel?

Travis: Short for Rachel.

Teresa: Oh. No. That'd be weird.

Travis: None of these make sense.

Teresa: That's not really short!

Travis: It *is* shorter. You took the R off!

Teresa: Alright.

Travis: It is numerically shorter.

Teresa: Wow. There are *so many* nicknames for Margaret.

Travis: You can just make them up.

Teresa: Midge, I knew.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Pearl, Peg, and Peggy.

Travis: No. Pearl is not short— Marg— No. No! That— No!

Teresa: That's what the internet says.

Travis: Pearl? Pearl!?

Teresa: Listen.

Travis: Pearl? There's only two letters in pearl that are in Margaret, and they're not even pronounced the same!

Teresa: We're gonna continue this another time.

Travis: We should have a whole diminutive nickname episode.

Teresa: I think that we have, but Margaret wasn't in it.

Travis: I mean, just going through the ones that are like, "I bet you didn't know that this nickname is classically a nickname for this name." That sentence made sense, but it didn't feel like it did.

Teresa: [chuckles] We did an episode, and I think that we were all surprised about how many nicknames were rhyming nicknames.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: Like we talked about William...

Travis: And Billiam.

Teresa: Well, Bill being a nickname for Will, which is short for William. 'Cause it's a rhyme.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Anyway. Anyway. So she starts off in Union Terminal, which is an amazing place here in Cincinnati. It is now a museum, right?

Travis: And the facade for the Justice League Headquarters, both in *Justice Friends*— *Super Friends*? Whatever. The one with Batman, Superman, the old cartoon. And then it was used as the facade in STAR Labs in *The Flash*, and I also think in *The Flash* from the '90s. And it was recently used as the Justice League Headquarters in the *Superman* movie.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And outside of it, was used for Joel Schumacher's *Batman Forever*, I think? But they put some more neon on it. It is basically what people think of when they think of the Justice League Headquarters.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It's awesome. And there's museum stuff inside of it too, I guess.

Teresa: Yes. Kit says Union Terminal looks like a giant radio.

Travis: It does.

Teresa: It does, kinda!

Travis: 100 percent. Or like a bigger building that you cut in half. It was a dome, but then you just kind of cut the front off of it.

Teresa: Ah, yeah.

Travis: Split it in half. I love it.

Teresa: Another connection she makes in this book is that inside the Terminal is this big, beautiful mural, right? And it's designed by the artist Winold Reiss, who has an art school in Glacier Park.

Travis: Woah, what a connection!

Teresa: I know. Pretty cool, right? It includes a copy of her essay, which is very cute, talking about working there, what her brother experiences, and how she wants to see him, and how it would be really cool to go on the railway. So it's pretty cool.

Travis: And there's a tiny five dollar bill she slipped in there as a bribe, too, which is nice.

Teresa: *No*, she didn't. She also talks about how she wants to give her family souvenirs, but she doesn't have any money, so they gotta be free!

Travis: Yeah. That's how that— Or stolen, but I don't think they do that in American Girl Doll books.

Teresa: They don't. That's not how they do. Okay, so first time on the train, right?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And she is very happy that she has a prize, because the food is included.

Travis: Nice!

Teresa: And she talks about how, on the luncheon menu, there are things

that she has never tried before, but is very fancy to her. There's a choice of chicken salad, or club sandwich, or vegetable luncheon with a poached egg.

Travis: Ooh. Club sandwich is one of my favorite things to find on a menu. Because it is like, "I need to eat some food. I am not hungry for anything, but I know that it is lunchtime. All I want to do—" It's usually when I'm traveling, and I'm like, "All I want to do is get to my room and go to sleep, but I need to eat some food, or my physical form will wither." A club sandwich, perfect. I know that that is gonna hit every time, and be like, "That is food that I didn't mind eating to sustain my physical form."

Teresa: Okay. [laughs]

Travis: I'm neurodivergent. I don't know if anyone could tell.

Teresa: I think that they know. She talks about going to the observation car.

Travis: So cool. Warm, though. Have you ever been in any—

Teresa: Oh, because of the windows.

Travis: Yeah. These big, curved windows. And it's like, "Yeah, this is very beautiful. I feel like I'm in a sun room, and I can be in here for about 20 or 30 minutes."

Teresa: She says that, on this train, the observation and dining cars are air conditioned, but the rest of the train isn't. But, as part of her prize, they do get a full berth. And they have their own private restroom facility. She's excited about that. They make their first stop in Chicago at the world's fair.

Travis: What a stop!

Teresa: Yes. What a stop.

Travis: That's pretty cool!

Teresa: They stay at—

Travis: I've always had in my head, by the way, for a *long* time, that when you are on a train, if you're traveling on the train, when they stop, you have three minutes. And then they go again.

Teresa: It depends on the ticket, right? There are some tickets that you can buy where you can get off at every stop, and just get back on whatever train is available. I mean, obviously, you'd have to take all your stuff with you. Because if you're on a different train, then...

Travis: Your stuff won't be there.

Teresa: Your stuff won't be there.

Travis: It's not magic.

Teresa: Right. But if you have a different ticket, then yes, you could get off and just hang out at the platform.

Travis: I assume— I imagine, if you're taking a cross-country train and you're talking about several days, if not two weeks or more, you wouldn't want to be on the train that long.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: You'd want to stop from time to time, and get off.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Speaking of stopping from time to time and getting off.

Teresa: [laughs]

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

[theme music plays]

Ella: Alright. We're over 70 episodes into our show. Let's learn everything. So let's do a quick progress check.

[click]

Ella: Have we learned about quantum physics?

Tom: Yes. Episode 59.

[writing sounds]

Ella: We haven't learned about the history of gossip yet, have we?

Caroline: Yes, we have. Same episode, actually.

[writing sounds]

Ella: Have we talked to Tom Scott about his love of roller coasters?

Tom: [simultaneously] Episode 64.

Caroline: [simultaneously] Episode 64.

[writing sounds]

Caroline: So how close are we to learning everything?

Ella: Bad news. We still haven't learned *everything* yet.

Caroline: Aw!

Tom: We're *ruined*! [laughs]

Caroline: No, no, no. It's good news as well! There is still a *lot* to learn!

Tom: Woo!

Ella: I'm Dr. Ella Hubber.

Tom: I'm regular Tom Lum.

Caroline: I'm Caroline Roper. And on *Let's Learn Everything!* we learn about science *and* a bit of everything else too.

Ella: And although we haven't learned everything *yet*, I've got a pretty good feeling about this next episode.

Tom: Join us every other Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[ad changes]

Drea: If you wanna know what's going on in the world of movies, you should be listening to *Maximum Film*, so we can tell you all about it.

Kevin: Okay, but what if you already know what's going on in the world of movies? What if you're kind of obsessed with movies, like maybe you have a problem?

Alonso: Well, then you should *definitely* be listening to *Maximum Film*. Because we, too, have that problem, and it's important you know you're not alone.

Drea: We're talking indies you'll wanna seek out.

Kevin: Blockbusters and blockbusting wannabes.

Alonso: Classics we can't get enough of.

Kevin: I'm comedian and writer Kevin Avery.

Alonso: I'm film critic Alonso Duralde.

Drea: I'm festival programmer and producer Drea Clark.

Alonso: Together, we're *Maximum Film*. Smart about movies and Hollywood, so you don't have to be.

Kevin: But if you already are, that's also great. And hey, we see you.

Drea: New episodes every week on MaximumFun.org.

[ad break ends]

Travis: All aboard! We're back— Wait, no. We're about to take off again. All aboard?! Okay.

Teresa: Let's talk a little bit about the—

Travis: They don't say, "Take off."

Teresa: No, they don't.

Travis: No, they don't. Trains don't take off, do they?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Unless you're talking about the train from *Back to the Future 3*, that he has turned into a rocket ship. Spoilers.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Let's talk a *little bit* about the world's fair. This one in 1934 was called a century of progress. And the couple places that they want to talk about in the book is the sky ride, where it says, "We rode an elevator to the top of a tower, then we climbed way up into a rocket car."

Travis: Nope. No. No, thank you.

Teresa: "I sailed—"

Travis: No, thank you. Nope, nope, no. All of those words made my body, made my skin feel tight on my body.

Teresa: "I sailed—"

Travis: I don't like heights.

Teresa: Listen. Listen. "I sailed and skimmed along a track above the fairgrounds, and I imagined I was Amelia Earhart, soaring in my own airplane."

Travis: That's great. No.

Teresa: [through laughter] Okay.

Travis: Now, what's funny is, roller coasters don't bother me. High rides don't bother me. It's the slow ascent and then being up there gives my brain too much time to process. Up a hill, down a hill. Great. My brain can't keep up with what's happening. The slow ascent up and then having to scale something when you're— No, no, no, no. No, no.

Teresa: The next place they visit is the Hall of Science. The idea of the world's fair, right, it ran for weeks. And you probably would need that entire time to see *everything* that was there. So I like that they highlight a few things, but there's no way that Kit, in just a couple afternoons, was gonna be able to see the entire thing.

Travis: I am alive in 2026.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: There's so much technology that we have now that people in 1934 couldn't have imagined.

Teresa: Correct.

Travis: I guarantee you that, if I could travel back in time to 1934 and go to the Hall of Science at the world's fair, I would be blown away. I would have such a great time.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: That science, to me, I would be like, "What— How did they— Woah!" For whatever reason, it's so enchanting to me. Seeing them turn on an oven, or light bulbs or whatever, I'd be like, "Yes, yes! This is the future!" And I'd love it. I'm so excited by this idea. I also like steampunk, which I think these things are connected.

Teresa: Yeah, I think you're right. They go to a couple of different cultural exhibits. They go to the Chinese Temple, which was shipped to Chicago in 28,000 pieces and put together like a huge puzzle.

Travis: Woah.

Teresa: They go to the Spanish Village Exhibition, and the Hawaiian Village Exposition, which had a volcano.

Travis: Full of lava?

Teresa: Uh, no.

Travis: Probably not real lava.

Teresa: No. But there is a dancer there, they said, that dove *into* the volcano.

Travis: Never to be seen again.

Teresa: No, that she probably does it at least two or three times a day.

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah, okay.

Teresa: Back on the train, they sleep overnight in their car, and they head through Illinois, through Wisconsin, along the Mississippi to Minnesota. She talks about seeing paddle boats on the river.

Travis: She probably like— but not people sitting and paddling.

Teresa: No, like Mark Twain kind of paddle boats.

Travis: Okay. That makes a lot more sense, yes.

Teresa: Yeah, totally. Throughout her time on the train, she's interviewing people so that she can write another essay. She turns at— Eventually, we'll find that she sends it to the newspaper, and gets published in the newspaper.

Travis: I'll tell you right now. Depending on the day, I'm either enchanted by a child coming out to me to interview me, or incredibly put off.

Teresa: [giggles] Next stop is North Dakota.

Travis: The northeast of Dakotas.

Teresa: Yeah. Where they stop at Devil's Lake in North Dakota.

Travis: Spooky.

Teresa: So spooky.

Travis: It's probably not spooky.

Teresa: I mean...

Travis: It's probably nice.

Teresa: It's probably okay. "The Sioux Indians called it a bad spirit lake," she writes.

Travis: Okay. Maybe it *is* spooky.

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: What's so— What? Now, I wanna find out what's so spooky about Devil's Lake.

Teresa: Well, so the porter tells her, this was either because the type of water contained or because of battles fought there.

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Teresa: Yeah. They meet someone on the train who is going from their boarding school back to their ranch in Montana. They are excited to be invited to the ranch, which is very cool.

Travis: It's a Yellowstone spin-off!

Teresa: A little bit.

Travis: Woah!

Teresa: They get off at the Fancy F Ranch.

Travis: This is a thing that always happens in stories. That, for whatever reason – and I think, once again, it's the neurodivergence – if you told me, if we were on a trip and you came back to the berth, and you were like, "Yeah. These people just invited us to stop at the ranch in Montana, a thing we were not planning to do, so we're gonna get off the train with all of our stuff and go spend a day or two there."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I'd be like, "What are you talking about? We don't know these people! That wasn't the plan, this isn't what we're doing. We have got places to be!"

Teresa: I'm not certain if that's a literary thing that happens, or if that's a real thing that people used to do, like hitchhiking.

Travis: It's so upsetting to me. Like, okay, cool, man. Maybe we can plan that trip *later*. Right now, we're doing things!

Teresa: [laughs] They talk about how the Depression has affected their livelihood on the ranch. And Aunt Millie suggests that they turn it into a dude ranch, because fancy city folk will pay to come and do their chores for them.

Travis: I bet that that's a thing that you're like, "Ha ha, thank you," and roll their eyes. I'm like, "Yeah, that's what I want. I've been living— I chose to live on a ranch in the middle of Montana because I want more people to visit me."

Teresa: Mm. Well, if you need money.

Travis: "Thank you. Yes, you've solved it."

Teresa: If you need money! Alright. So finally, we're at Glacier Park. There's a lot of stuff here. They're talking about the special hotel that they get to stay in. Not Charlie, not the brother in the Corps. They get to stay at this very cool hotel called Many Glaciers Hotel, which is actually built around the trees that support the floors and the roof.

Travis: Woah.

Teresa: Very cool, right?

Travis: I *love* that! That's some Frank Lloyd Wright stuff.

Teresa: Their brother Charlie has to live outside in a tent, as part of his—

Travis: 'Cause he smells so bad.

Teresa: No. [laughs] With the rest of the Civilian Corps.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Right? Because what they are *doing* is they are building things, right? They're building the Going-to-the-Sun Highway, which is a highway across the side of a mountain.

Travis: Ooh.

Teresa: They are planting trees, and they are cleaning brush for wildfire protection and things like that. And people come from all over the US in order to join the Civilian Corps. A couple of the stipulations, though, are they must have a family and a home. Because they earn 30 dollars a month, and they send home 25 dollars of that. So the boys who are working only get to keep five dollars of that. And this was a way to really spread the money out during the Great Depression.

Travis: Hmm!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It also seems like a good way to ensure that you're not getting young rascallions who are gonna take their money and go spend it all on hooch, and then do bad work or not show up. They'd show up, get five days' pay, and then spend that all on whatever, right? It seems like a good way of being like, "We want hard workers who are in it for the money, not for a quick buck."

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And I don't know how I feel about that.

Teresa: You don't know?

Travis: Listen, man. If you show up and do the work, and then you want to take your money and have fun with it, that's on you.

Teresa: In beautiful literary fashion, guess who drops by Glacier Park?

Travis: Unfortunately, I did accidentally peek over the top of the book, and I think it's FDR.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Just happens to be there at the same time.

Teresa: [laughs] And—

Travis: "Are you Kit Kittredge? I've heard so much about you! I'm going to make you Secretary of the Interior! I don't even know what that means, ha ha ha ha!"

Teresa: [laughs] Well, that would be fun. But no, Mrs. and Mr. Roosevelt drop by, and they have a little tête-à-tête with Kit, talking about how she won the contest, and about how her brother works there.

Travis: How do they know that? Oh, she probably told her.

Teresa: No, *she* told them.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: *She* told them.

Travis: That would be wild, if they were like, "We heard about the contest you won. We're big fans!"

Teresa: And they have a little speech and parade, and things like that. So I think that's really cute.

Travis: Sure they do. I think Kit made that all up.

Teresa: [giggles] No, she got Eleanor to sign her scrapbook. So...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: It's right here.

Travis: Yeah. Like when my dad got the Ninja Turtles to sign my book, am I right? I'm just saying.

Teresa: I don't know why you don't believe Kit.

Travis: Because she's not real.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: She is a—

Teresa: I mean, that's probably why.

Travis: None of this is real. America never existed.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: The science is there, if you look at it. Who even— It's not real— Okay.

Teresa: The president gives a fireside chat from Glacier Park, and that is true. That did—

Travis: Don't look at me like that.

Teresa: [bursts out laughing] He said—

Travis: We didn't invent fire until 1983, [holding back laughter] when I was born. And I came out on fire, and they said, "We could use this."

Teresa: "Today, for the first time in my life..."

Travis: Yeah, just move on. That's fine.

Teresa: "... I have seen Glacier Park. Perhaps I can best express to you my thrill and delight by saying that I wish every American, old and young, could have been with me today. The great mountains, the glaciers, the lakes, and the trees made me long to stay here for the rest of the summer." I think that's pretty cool.

Travis: "But I had work to do."

Teresa: [chuckles]

Travis: "This sucks."

Teresa: "That's right. Let's get the New Deal going."

Travis: "Ugh! Back to work, I guess. Man, being president is hard. Is this thing still on? Oh, no."

Teresa: Kit writes about all the people that she met, and all the things she saw. She gets published in the newspaper about her Glacier Park adventure, which I think is very fitting. Because when someone wins a contest, I wanna know what they did with that prize.

Travis: Yeah, right? There's many YouTube— This is slightly off topic. There's many wonderful YouTube videos that I've watched, one by a guy named Scott Cramer if you wanna watch it, that it's trying to find out in the '90s and early 2000s, "Who won these Danimal competitions to go on

cruises with Zack and Cody and stuff? How come we never heard about it, what does all this mean?"

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: It's fascinating. Does Kit go on to— Is her deal like, reporter?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Is that her brand, yeah?

Teresa: Yeah. That's her literary device, instead of writing in diaries or whatever. Yeah, she's a kid reporter deal. So next week, we're gonna talk about the Civilian Conservation Corps and go a little more in depth about what they did, and how they helped shape the country and the culture!

Travis: Amazing. Hey, thank you everybody for listening. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we couldn't do this episode. Thank you to our editors, Rachel and Gino, without whom we could not do this episode. And thank you to you for listening. You are the railway upon which this empire is built.

Teresa: Nice!

Travis: Yeah, thank you. 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 Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners! If you want to give or get excellent advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today.

And as always, we are taking your topic submissions. If you have an American Girl scrapbook that you'd like me to read and react to, suggest it and send it to – not the book, the suggestion – to shmannerscast@gmail.com. And say hi to Alexx, 'cause she reads every single one.

Travis: And hey, the last graphic novel in *The Adventure Zone: Balance* graphic novel series will be coming out next week. You can go to TheAdventureZoneComic.com to pre-order yours now. We're doing a live event in Boston on the 16th. And also, there's a lot of cool merch over at McElroyMerch.com this month, if you haven't checked it out, including a Mount Rushmore of my face celebrating the Trav Nation Semicent—Whatever.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's great. A Trav Nation celebration. Go check that out, McElroyMerch.com. And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week!

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*! Get it!

[theme music plays]

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