

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:01	John Hodgman	Host	Hello, it's me, Judge John Hodgman. Don't freak out! I know Jesse normally does the introductions, but I'm doing it today. I'm here to tell you: Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. This, you should know, is a <u>live</u> episode that we recorded in Toronto, Canada at the Danforth Music Hall on November 6th! We had a great time, and now you're about to as well.
			Here comes the podcast.
00:00:23	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:24	Jesse Thorn	Host	Toronto, Ontario, Canada, you've come to us desperate for justice. And we're here at the Danforth Music Hall to deliver it!
			<i>[Crowd cheers and applauds.]</i>
			Let's bring out our first set of litigants. Please welcome Rebecca and Meg and Jared and Greg!
			<i>[More cheering and applause.]</i>
			Tonight's case: "LARPe Diem."
			<i>[Scattered laughter.]</i>
			Rebecca and Meg file suit against Jared and Greg. They're all part of a friend group that enjoys playing the spaceship bridge simulator game Artemis.
00:01:04	Audience Member	Guest	Woo!
00:01:05	Jesse	Host	Everyone has a great time— <i>[laughs]</i> . Don't "woo" that!
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Everyone has a great time playing this game on designated Artemis nights. But recently, Jared and Greg have extended the roleplaying outside the game.
			<i>[Scattered laughter.]</i>
			Rebecca and Meg believe the roleplaying has become disruptive, overpowering non–game night social events, and would like the roleplaying to be regulated. Jared and Greg <u>enjoy</u> roleplaying, and don't want to stop. Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide! Please metaphorically rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and delivers an obscure cultural reference.
00:01:51	John	Host	Ohhh, it's Jooohn Hodgman for the double! Come right up here! That was Juuudge John Hodgman for the double. Alright. Contestants, here's how it's gonna work. I'm gonna read out the clue. I, Judge John Hodgman, am gonna fill it out in silence. You say nothing until I come to you, alright? So you're gonna break up into teams. You're gonna pick up the word that follows this word, and whoever guesses the same thing as me automatically wins the case.

How's that sound? Fun? Good? Okay, ready? You're gonna break up into teams. Okay, so I'm gonna say the—I'm gonna say the clue: plaid... blank. Plaid "blank." Whichever team matches Judge John Hodgman's answer wins the case automatically. I'll give you a few minutes to think it out.

[He sings a wordless song for a few seconds. Scattered audience laughter.]

Tiiime's up! Alright! Swear them in, Bailiff Jesse Thorn! We'll get back to your answers in a moment!

00:02:43	Jesse	Host	Rebecca, Meg, Jared, and Greg, please rise and raise your right hands. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever?
00:02:53	Meg	Guest	Yes.
00:02:54	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Rebecca and Jared: Yes.
00:02:55	Greg	Guest	Yes.
00:02:56	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that he is <u>not</u> an international recording star?

[The litigants and the audience laugh.]

00:03:04	Rebecca	Guest	Yeah.
00:03:05	Meg	Guest	Yes.
00:03:06	Jared	Guest	Yes.
00:03:07	Greg	Guest	Yes.
00:03:08	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:03:09	John	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Alright, you may be seated.

For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors... So we have more litigants than usual here. We have Rebecca and Meg on one side of the case. And Jared and Greg on the other side. And when I came into this courtroom, I asked you to play a little game with me. Could you match the next word that I would have guessed coming after plaid? Jared and Greg, what did you guess?

00:03:30	Greg	Guest	Pajamas?
00:03:31	John	Host	Plaid pajamas! Hm, interesting. And Rebecca and Meg, what would you guess?
00:03:37	Rebecca	Guest	Pants.
00:03:38	John	Host	Plaid pants! Oh, I'm so sorry. All guesses are wrong!

[Scattered audience laughter.]

The correct answer, the one that matches mine anyway, was "plaid Canadian *Match Game*." Plaid Canadian *Match Game*.

[More audience laughter.]

Wh—*[stifles laughter]*. Which is a game show that I was on here in Toronto in 2013.

[Multiple people laugh on stage as well as in the audience.]

Filmed five episodes of Canadian *Match Game* in one crazy day! I had to change clothes five times, *[stifles laughter]* and by the last day of the show they were handing us Styrofoam cups full of vodka.

[Audience and someone on stage laughs.]

That's Canadian television for you. I—

00:04:12 Jesse Host John, I thought you said this was supposed to be an obscure cultural reference!

[Audience laughs.]

00:04:15 John Host *[Laughs.]* I know! I'm surprised that you didn't get it. But here we are anyway! We have to hear your case. So! Who will speak for team Rebecca and Meg?

00:04:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Rebecca:** Uh, I can speak for team—

John: Okay. Are you Rebecca or Meg?

Rebecca: I am Rebecca.

00:04:26 John Host You are—okay. Meg, you may chime in if you need to, of course. And who will speak for Jared and Greg?

00:04:31 Jared Guest I, Jared, will speak for the two of us.

00:04:33 John Host Alright. And who comes to seek justice before this court?

00:04:36 Rebecca Guest So, Meg and I submitted this case.

00:04:39 John Host Alright. Rebecca, what is the issue here?

00:04:41 Rebecca Guest So as Jesse mentioned, we play this game called Artemis, which is a spaceship bridge simulator.

00:04:49 John Host Yes. It received one "woo" in the audience.

[Audience and some of the litigants laugh. There are also some more "woo!"s from the audience.]

00:04:54 Jesse Host One appropriately lonely woo.

[More laughter.]

00:04:56 John Host Right.

00:04:58 Jesse Host Because space is lonely.

00:04:59 John Host For the vast majority of the audience here, what is Artemis exactly? What is a space bridge simulator game?

00:05:06 Rebecca Guest So essentially, it lets you pretend you are on *Star Trek* or any other show of that ilk.

00:05:12 John Host Sure.

00:05:13 Rebecca Guest So there's a captain role and a helm and engineering, and comms, and weapons.

00:05:17 John Host Yeah. There's only one show of that ilk: *Star Trek*.

[Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

00:05:20 Rebecca Guest
00:05:23 John Host
00:05:24 Jesse Host
00:05:25 John Host
00:05:26 Jesse Host

Yeah. *[Laughs.]* So you—
So this is a way to steal *Star Trek's* IP—
John!
What?
Star Trek: The Next Generation.

[Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

00:05:27 John Host
00:05:33 Rebecca Guest
00:05:34 Jesse Host
00:05:35 John Host
00:05:36 Jesse Host

I know, but I'm—the point is y'all stand around and pretend to be on a *Star Trek* bridge?
Yeah!
Oh, John—
But you're not—
John. Some episodes of *Deep Space Nine* when they're in a spaceship instead of on the space station.

[Scattered laughter and cheers from the audience. Rebecca laughs.]

00:05:47 John Host
00:05:48 Jesse Host
00:05:49 John Host
00:05:50 Jesse Host

Like, if they went into a spaceship... from the space station—
That's right.
—Deep Space 9.
Excuse me. You're absolutely right.
Yeah.

[More audience laughter.]

00:05:53 John Host
00:05:58 Audience Member Guest
00:06:00 Rebecca Guest

There are starship bridges on *Star Trek*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, sometimes on *Deep Space Nine*.
Voyager!
Voyager.

[Audience and some of the litigants laugh.]

00:06:04 John Host

Let the record show for the listener at home that someone in the audience yelled out *Voyager* before Jesse Thorn could do it, and I'm so grateful to them.

[More laughter in the audience and on stage.]

00:06:13 Jesse Host
00:06:15 John Host
00:06:16 Jesse Host

Mm. I—John?
Yes.
The movie *Master and Commander*, but with a boat. That's a boat instead of a spaceship.

[More audience laughter.]

00:06:26 John Host

But they have many of the similar roles.
Sure. I understand.

00:06:28 Jesse Host That has Russell Crowe.

00:06:29 John Host Right.

[More audience laughter.]

Let's now end this.

[Audience and some on-stage laughter.]

So "Artemis" is the name of the ship?

00:06:42 Rebecca Guest Yes. You could name it something else. The whole game is called Artemis.

00:06:45 John Host Okay.

00:06:46 Rebecca Guest I think that's the idea.

00:06:47 John Host And this is basically just a way for this company to steal *Star Trek* IP and make money off of nerds.

00:06:52 Rebecca Guest Yeah.

00:06:53 John Host I see! Cool!

[Rebecca laughs.]

And so the four of you play together, but that's not a full crew, is it?

00:06:59 Rebecca Guest No. So I think a full crew is six people.

00:07:01 John Host Okay.

00:07:02 Rebecca Guest But sometimes we can get multiple ships going in one house.

00:07:05 John Host *[Dismayed]* Ooh.

[Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

But it's all simulated, it's all on networked computers?

00:07:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Rebecca:** Yeah.

John: I see.

Rebecca: So we'll set up a little LAN party situation.

00:07:14 John Host Okay, I gotcha. And what—and Rebecca, what is your typical position on the bridge?

00:07:19 Rebecca Guest Typically I like to play comms.

[Rebecca responds affirmatively a couple times as John speaks.]

00:07:21 John Host Comms. Right, like you have a little thing in your ear and you're like—

00:07:23 Rebecca Guest I have a mic.

00:07:24 John Host They're hailing, and—okay.

00:07:25 Rebecca Guest Yeah.

00:07:26 John Host And why do you like that position so much?

00:07:27 Rebecca Guest I get to talk trash to the other ships, and...

[Light audience laughter.]

00:07:30 John Host

[Amused] Okay!

00:07:31 Rebecca Guest

Also it is less complicated than the other roles.

[She and the audience laugh.]

00:07:35 John Host

When you're talking trash to the other ships, are you talking trash to simulated ships in the—or other people that are playing all around the world?

00:07:41 Rebecca Guest

Our other friends who are playing with us in the same building.

00:07:44 John Host

In the same building.

00:07:45 Rebecca Guest

Mm-hm.

00:07:46 John Host

You all live in a weird building together?

00:07:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk

[Audience and Rebecca laugh.]

Rebecca: Oh, I wish!

John: 'Cause this feels like a science fiction movie now.

[Audience and Rebecca laugh.]

00:07:54 Rebecca Guest

We don't. But that would be great.

[She and audience laugh.]

00:07:56 John Host

Okay.

00:07:57 Jesse Host

You just live in a home that has multiple rooms dedicated to pretending to be spaceships?

[Audience laughs.]

00:08:04 Rebecca Guest

More or less, yeah.

00:08:06 John Host

Do—I know that you sent in some evidence, but just to give everyone in the room a visual, can we see a picture of the gang at play?

00:08:13 Rebecca Guest

That's us!

00:08:14 John Host

Alright! There we go. So everyone is saluting as though you are part of some weird space military.

[Audience laughs.]

You're organized around a big TV screen which is showing you fake space. And you each have your own laptops, which are your—presumably your bridge stations that are showing you readouts. So, Rebecca.

00:08:32 Rebecca Guest

Mm-hm.

00:08:33 John Host

You are comms. Meg, what position do you usually take?

00:08:36 Meg Guest

Weapons.

00:08:37 John Host

Weapons, okay. Awesome. How come you like that one?

00:08:40 Meg Guest

Simpler role, but also I get to nuke people, which is fun.

[She and audience laugh.]

00:08:44 John Host Fair enough. Oh, I'm sorry—Jared?

00:08:46 Jared Guest Jared.

00:08:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John & Jared:** Yeah.

00:08:48 John Host Which position do you play?

00:08:49 Jared Guest I usually play science.

00:08:50 John Host You play science officer, okay. That's... fascinating.

[Jared and audience laugh.]

And—

00:08:56 Jesse Host That's a little on the nose, Jared.

[More laughter in the audience and on stage.]

00:08:59 John Host Greg, that's you in the foreground here. What role do you usually play?

00:09:05 Greg Guest In this case, I was captain of the ship.

[Quiet litigant laughter.]

00:09:07 John Host Captain. Is that typically your role?

00:09:09 Greg Guest I... enjoy it. Yeah.

[Jesse and the audience laugh.]

00:09:10 John Host Okay. Very good. I can tell you enjoy it, because it seems to me like you're wearing a costume in this photograph.

[Some more audience laughter.]

Is that correct?

00:09:17 Greg Guest I did... construct a costume that night, yes.

[More audience laughter.]

00:09:22 John Host Is there more evidence to this?

[Brief pause.]

There we are.

[Bigger swell of audience laughter and some on stage. Scattered cheers and applause in the audience.]

00:09:31 Jesse Host For the at-home listener, what we're looking at here is a photograph of a wall-mounted microwave...

[Audience and some of the litigants laugh.]

...*[stifling laughter]* with a man—with a man's peacocking blocking our view.

[More laughter.]

00:09:46 John Host Captain Greg is wearing a uniform I believe of his own making? Did you, uh, sew it yourself?

00:09:53 Greg Guest Uh, my spouse taped on the construction paper.

[Audience laughs. Someone asks a question that's lost under the noise.]

00:10:00 John Host Your spouse taped on the construction paper. And there's a little insignia that is a rip-off of the *Star Trek* insignia.

00:10:07 Greg Guest *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:10:08 John Host What federation of planets are you captaining in?

00:10:12 Greg Guest Uh, you know, we never quite figured that out.

[Audience laughter.]

00:10:16 John Host Okay! I just wanted to know how deep this cosplay and this fantasy goes.

[More laughter.]

00:10:20 Jesse Host Have you thought about like, having a committee meeting? That's what—if I was gonna start a federation of planets, I'd figure out which planets first.

[Audience laughter.]

[Laughing] And then go from there.

00:10:31 John Host So—*[stifles laughter]* but this—

00:10:33 Jesse Host 'Cause you could then answer the question "Am I in your federation of planets?"

00:10:37 John Host Yeah.

00:10:38 Jesse Host From people from different planets.

[Scattered laughter.]

00:10:39 John Host That's a good point! So this costume is to some degree part of the dispute. Would that be correct, Rebecca?

00:10:47 Rebecca Guest So we like roleplaying in the spirit of the game, or in the moment of the game. We'll—something that's not technically part of the game that we'll do is assign ranks. So we'll be lieutenant or sergeant and...

00:10:58 John Host Oh, that's not part of the regular game?

00:11:00 Rebecca Guest No, we added that in.

00:11:01 John Host Oh, that's interesting.

[Rebecca laughs.]

This is a big part of the *Star Trek* world.

00:11:04 Rebecca Guest Yeah!

00:11:05 John Host Right?

00:11:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Rebecca:** Yeah. So we wanted to lean in—

00:11:10 Rebecca Guest **John:** You wanted to get closer to that IP that you were ripping off.
[Laughing] Exactly.
[Audience also laughs.]

00:11:11 John Host Do you have different na—do you make up characters?

00:11:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Rebecca:** Well, I think we like to do call signs, so I might—
John: *[Laughing]* Oh, okay, sure. Thank you.
[Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

Rebecca: I think at one point I was Nacho, and I don't remember what their names were.
John: And your rank?

00:11:25 Rebecca Guest I think I—well, I started that night as a lieutenant, and then I kinda rose in the ranks as the night went on.

00:11:30 John Host As the night went on!

00:11:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** You got field promotions?
Jesse: *[Laughing]* Wait, did you murder the other people?
[Audience laughs.]

00:11:35 Rebecca Guest It's kinda part of this. *[Laughs.]*

00:11:37 John Host What was the highest you ended up ranking?

00:11:39 Rebecca Guest Well, apparently I was at the very end of the night promoted to captain.

00:11:43 John Host Oh! Apparent Captain Nacho.

00:11:45 Rebecca Guest Apparently.

00:11:46 John Host That is gonna be easier for me to remember than Rebecca.
[Audience and some of the litigants laugh.]

00:11:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Rebecca:** That's fair.
John: I apologize.

00:11:51 John Host Okay, Apparent Captain Nacho, I got you. So Apparent Captain Nacho, what is the dispute though? I don't understand. You all seem to be friends, you're all having fun. And yet here you are in front of me, in space court.
[Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

00:12:03 Rebecca Guest So the problem is when the game ends, some people... Greg and Jared and some of our other friends as well, will continue to roleplay in their ranks and characters after the game has ended. And even on—

00:12:18 John Host Let me guess, are they also guys?

00:12:19 Rebecca Guest Yes.

[Large swell of audience laughter and some applause. Some on-stage laughter as well.]

00:12:28 John Host Jared, what's your call sign?

00:12:29 Jared Guest Uh—

00:12:30 John Host Rank and call sign, soldier!

[Scattered audience and on-stage laughter.]

00:12:34 Jared Guest It was during a game when I was playing comms instead of my usual science, and my call sign was Synapse.

00:12:41 John Host Synapse. What was your alien species?

[A couple people laugh on stage and in the audience.]

00:12:45 Jared Guest I was human.

[Rebecca or Meg laughs.]

00:12:46 John Host Do you ever play a non—do people play non-humans in this?

00:12:48 Jared Guest Not yet, but we should get into that!

00:12:50 Jesse Host A Romulon—

[Audience laughs.]

A Klingorp.

00:12:54 John Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah. A Vulcane.

[Audience and some of the litigants laugh.]

'Cause you're stealing everything else! You might as well steal—I'm not—look. I'm not accusing anybody of stealing anything. Except for Artemis, which is stealing a whole idea.

00:13:05 Rebecca Guest Yeah.

[She and audience laugh.]

00:13:06 John Host But it's a fun game, and everyone's having fun! No harm done. Good. So—except the harm that is being done by the guys you are playing with who are still going by their ranks in real life.

00:13:16 Rebecca Guest Yes. So they will—on one particular night they continued to debate about something that had happened in the game in their characters for a long time after the game had ended and the rest of us were hanging out and having a nice time.

00:13:31 John Host Were Synapse and Captain Greg arguing about this issue personally?

00:13:36 Rebecca Guest Yes.

00:13:37 John Host Alright. Synapse, what was the argument about?

00:13:40 Jared Guest ...There've been a couple.

[Jesse, Meg or Rebecca, and the audience laugh.]

00:13:45 John Host Pick three.

[More laughter in the audience and on stage.]

Or one.

00:13:50 Jared Guest Sooo, at one point we were on vacation, and during one of our previous games I had been demoted and temporarily, uh—
00:14:01 John Host Relieved of duties.
00:14:02 Jared Guest Relieved of duty.
00:14:03 John Host And put into the brig.

[Jared and some of the audience laugh.]

00:14:08 Jared Guest What did you do wrong, Mr. Synapse?
I—I was... insubordinate.

[The audience and Meg or Rebecca laugh.]

00:14:12 John Host And who demoted you?
00:14:13 Jared Guest Captain Greg.

[More laughter.]

00:14:14 John Host Captain Greg! *[Laughing]* This is becoming—

[Swell of audience and on-stage laughter.]

Captain Greg! Can you tell me the circumstances of Mr. Synapse's demotion? Don't wait for the translation!

[Some more audience laughter as Greg says nothing.]

I can see why you're a leader.

[Raucous laughter in the audience and on stage. Someone is clapping.]

00:14:38 Jesse Host Truly Patton-esque. *[Laughs.]*
00:14:40 John Host Silent. Strong. Unanswering. Unsure.

[More laughter.]

Shy. *[Laughs.]*

00:14:47 Greg Guest Uh...
00:14:48 John Host What were the circumstances Mr. Synapse's demotion, sir?!
00:14:50 Greg Guest The original incident started with my science officer Jared plotting a jump out of a nebula.

[Scattered but heartfelt audience laughter.]

And one—

00:15:00 John Host Excuse me.

[More laughter.]

Please hold your standing ovation for the end of the sentence.

[More laughter.]

I need to hear this.

[More laughter.]

00:15:14 Greg Guest When we made the jump, we found ourself in the wrong area. And there was some commotion among my crew over who made the mistake, science or helm, because they need to work together to plot a course. And—

00:15:28 John Host Go on.

[Light audience laughter.]

00:15:30 Greg Guest At that point I—you know, I couldn't have that disagreement, and I just said like, "We should drop it." But I—

00:15:37 John Host So science and helm were bickering.

00:15:38 Greg Guest Yes.

[Greg again responds affirmatively as John continues.]

00:15:39 John Host Over who messed up and brought you into the Neutral Zone or whatever. So you had to resolve this. You had to—for morale of the crew, you had to cut this out.

00:15:48 Greg Guest Yes.

00:15:49 John Host And so how did you do it?

00:15:50 Greg Guest So—

00:15:51 John Host I'm sure you gave them an extremely stern talking-to.

[Some audience and on-stage laughter.]

00:15:54 Greg Guest Well, I didn't have time to at the moment. It was—we were in the middle of combat, so I had to—

[John and the audience laugh.]

I had to relieve Jared of duty. Synapse. Uh—

[More audience laughter.]

He resisted this, so I also had to demote him, and...

[More laughter and a cheer.]

...at that point, promote Rebecca to replace him as my first officer.

00:16:17 John Host That is how Nacho became number one?

00:16:19 Greg Guest Yes. Correct.

00:16:20 John Host Wow! This is—

00:16:21 Jesse Host For the at-home listener, Rebecca is nodding proudly.

[Jesse, Rebecca, and the audience laugh.]

00:16:25 John Host Yeah. Rebecca, obviously you don't disagree with your captain's assessment of the situation and how he handled it.

00:16:31 Rebecca Guest No, that all was fine for me. Um...

[She and the audience laugh.]

It was more so what all—what has happened since then.

00:16:40 John Host So what has happened since then?

00:16:41 Rebecca Guest So they have had a tendency of continuing to have power struggles about their rank and role outside of the game. And—

00:16:51 John Host They have no rank or role outside of the game.

00:16:52 Rebecca Guest That's right.

[She and the audience laugh.]

00:16:55 John Host What form does their conflict take? Outside of the game.

00:16:59 Rebecca Guest So one particular incident was when we were all on vacation together. I believe Greg and my husband Dave were trying to force Jared to pay fealty—Jared was—*[laughs]* to... I think it was a large thermos?

[Audience laughs.]

That they wanted him to—

00:17:15 John Host You were on vacation together!

00:17:17 Rebecca Guest Yes.

[More light audience laughter.]

00:17:18 John Host Where were you? Lost in paradise?

[She and some of the audience laugh.]

Where were you on vacation?

00:17:22 Rebecca Guest The Dominican Republic.

00:17:23 John Host The Dominican Republic. And you could not leave Artemis behind.

00:17:26 Rebecca Guest Some people couldn't.

00:17:27 John Host Okay.

[Some audience laughter.]

So who was being told to pay fealty to a thermos?

00:17:32 Rebecca Guest *[Laughs.]* So Jared was being told, and was extremely distressed about this. You know.

00:17:37 John Host Being told by whom?

00:17:38 Rebecca Guest Greg and—*[laughs]*.

00:17:40 John Host Ope! Captain Greg says "no, not me."

00:17:43 Greg Guest *[Rebecca and a few audience members laugh.]*
Our admiral, David, um—

00:17:46 Jesse Host *[Audience laughs.]*
Oh ho ho! *[Laughing]* Your Honor, he was simply following orders!

00:17:55 John Host *[More audience laughter.]*
Where is Admiral David now?

00:17:56 Greg Guest
Oh, he's out there.

00:18:02 John Host *[More laughter.]*
Captain Greg. Is it true that you and Admiral David were forcing, or demanding, that Mr. Synapse pay tribute to a thermos? When you're supposed to be having a good time on vacation with other humans?

00:18:16 Greg Guest
I encouraged him to follow the chain of command, yeah.

00:18:23 John Host *[Audience and John laugh. Someone claps.]*
And what was the purpose of the fealty-paying to the thermos exercise?

00:18:29 Greg Guest *[Beat.]*
I—I didn't ask. I just—

00:18:41 John Host *[Raucous audience laughter and some on stage.]*
You know, Captain Greg—*[breaks off, laughing].*
[Meg or Rebecca laughs.]
At first I thought you were just a shy, nervous young man. But now I'm beginning to believe you may be the most dangerous person on Earth.
[Audience and litigant laughter.]
Mr. Synapse, can you explain why you were being asked to pay fealty to a thermos, and how—what form that takes? What is the ritual of thermos fealty?
[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:19:10 Jared Guest
Admiral David had been going through all of our friends, having them pay fealty to this thermos. Which means... kiss it.

00:19:22 John Host *[The audience and someone on stage laughs.]*
Go on.

00:19:25 Jesse Host *[Laughter swells slightly.]*
"Thermos" means like, "drink container," right?

00:19:28 Jared Guest *[More laughter.]*
Yes.

00:19:29 John Host Yes, is there—is there an Artemis/Canadian other meaning of "thermos"?

00:19:36 Jared Guest It was just a large, impressive thermos.

[More laughter.]

00:19:41 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* But again, "thermos" means "drink container" in Canada, right? Doesn't mean anything weird, right?

[Laughter continues for a couple seconds.]

00:19:49 John Host Did you say impressive or oppressive thermos?

[Litigant and audience laughter.]

Admiral Dave was asking everyone in the group to kiss the thermos to prove what?

00:20:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jared:** I'm—

John: Their loyalty?

00:20:03 Jared Guest Maybe part of his ego? I'm not sure.

[Light laughter from the audience and someone on stage.]

The point is that—

00:20:08 John Host Admiral Dave's out there going "You can't handle the truth!"

[Jared and the audience laugh.]

00:20:13 Jared Guest The point is that I noted that it is a corruption of the chain of command that they kept telling me I had to pay fealty to the thermos—

00:20:22 John Host THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!

[Audience laughs, Jared stifles laughter.]

00:20:25 Jared Guest —follow the chain of command, and I said, "First of all, it's a corrupt chain of command. Second of all, we are on leave right now."

[Audience and Meg or Rebecca laugh.]

00:20:35 John Host The timeframe—you're pointing at a photo—a haunting photo of a man in a Christ figure position...

[Audience and some on-stage laughter.]

...surrounded by a darkened field and a plane of fire. What is going on?

[More laughter.]

00:20:46 Jared Guest So we were in the Dominican Republic.

00:20:48 John Host Sure. Just having a good old thermos party, like Canadians do.

[Audience laughter.]

00:20:52 Jared Guest Yep. Yep. They were trying to make me pay fealty while we were on

the beach at night.

00:20:57 John Host By "they" you mean your captain and your admiral, Dave and—?

00:21:00 Jared Guest Of course.

00:21:01 John Host Right.

00:21:02 Jared Guest So I ran out into the ocean.

[Audience laughter.]

To get away from the corruption.

00:21:08 Jesse Host And you wanted to get into international waters.

[Audience and some on-stage laughter.]

00:21:14 John Host So you're in the ocean now, screaming "We're supposed to be on leave."

00:21:18 Jared Guest On leave, yes.

[Light audience laughter.]

00:21:19 Rebecca Guest *[Quietly, resigned]* Yeah. Yeah.

[More light audience laughter.]

00:21:22 John Host Do you have any other evidence?

00:21:23 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* At that point your only fealty was to Poseidon, the god of the sea.

[Audience laughter.]

00:21:29 John Host Meg? I haven't heard from you.

[Meg laughs.]

I'm hoping that you can help make some sense out of all of this.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:21:36 Meg Guest I can say that I'm Jared's wife, and he is not a strong swimmer.

[Raucous audience laughter, some applause.]

And the video that we did take has me in the background saying "Yeah, I'm pretty worried for his life."

[Some more laughter.]

00:21:57 John Host So—what's your call sign, Meg?

00:21:58 Meg Guest Hotdog.

00:21:59 John Host Hotdog—

[More laughter.]

Hotdog, Nacho, this is for either of you.

[One of them laughs, so does part of the audience.]

When this... weird, psychological mutual self-torture is going on...

[More scattered audience laughter.]

...and you're supposed to be on vacation, how does that make you feel?

00:22:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Meg:** Extremely—

John: Hotdog?

Meg: Extremely stressed.

00:22:20 John Host Extremely stressed. Nacho?

00:22:22 Rebecca Guest I think it's mostly annoying.

[Meg laughs quietly.]

00:22:25 John Host Mm-hm.

00:22:26 Rebecca Guest And it seems a little, like, performative and indulgent.

00:22:28 John Host *[Mock-surprised]* Oh, does it?

00:22:29 Rebecca Guest Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:22:30 John Host Does it seem—

[Audience, Rebecca, and Meg laugh.]

It says here you're all in the age range of 29 to 32. You all live in Waterloo.

[Scattered applause and "woo"s from the audience.]

00:22:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Rebecca and/or Meg shout "Woo!" back at the audience.]*

00:22:50 John Host You all have jobs.

[Audience laughter.]

I presume none of you have children.

[More scattered laughter.]

00:22:55 Rebecca Guest That's—yeah.

00:22:56 John Host True?

00:22:57 Rebecca Guest That's true!

[She and the audience laugh.]

00:22:58 John Host Yeah. That's...

00:22:59 Meg Guest *[Joking]* How did you know?

00:23:01 John Host Oh, because you're children.

[Meg, Rebecca, and audience laugh. Some audience applause.]

'Cause you are children and I envy you.

[Some more laughter.]

You would have me order what, Nacho and Hotdog? If I were to rule in your favor?

00:23:16 Rebecca Guest I think it would be that they keep the roleplaying to the nights that we actually play, and also just... take it easy a little bit with the authority struggles.

[Light audience laughter.]

00:23:27 John Host Sure.

[Rebecca laughs.]

00:23:29 Meg Guest Yeah. We would be prepared to offer roleplaying outside of the game if it didn't involve so much weird power misuse.

[She and the audience laugh.]

00:23:36 John Host Oh. *[Stifling laughter]* I might say...

[Audience and Meg and/or Rebecca laugh.]

...that you don't want to make that offer.

[Audience and litigants laugh harder. Someone claps.]

00:23:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Meg:** *[Laughing]* I love my husband—

John: Because—

00:23:47 John Host *[Scattered audience and on-stage laughter as John speaks.]*

Whether or not they are calling themselves captain and admirals, there is going to be—*[laughs]*—power struggles and authority abuse, no matter what.

00:23:57 Meg Guest Eh. "Struggle" is a generous term.

[Rebecca and some of the audience laugh.]

00:23:59 John Host Yeah. Alright. Mr. Synapse, Captain Greg...

[Scattered audience laughter.]

If I were to rule in Hotdog and Nacho's favor, why would that be unfair? Why do you feel the need to continue this play as far away as your vacation and the ocean itself?

[Beat.]

00:24:17 Jared Guest The thing is, it doesn't have to be about the starship RP. We just deeply enjoy RP in general. It's—

00:24:27 John Host RP meaning roleplay.

00:24:28 Jared Guest Roleplay.

00:24:29 John Host Right.

00:24:30 Jared Guest So just trying to get into a character that's not your true self, like if you wanna RP as a judge or a bailiff or something like that—

[Explosion of audience laughter, some hollering and applause, some gasping/laughter on stage.]

So—

00:24:52 John Host As someone who has just purchased specific Canadian judicial robes...

[More laughter.]

...I will allow that dishonor to the court.

[More laughter.]

00:25:04 Jared Guest The point I'm making is that it's very fun! It's obviously something that peop—some people enjoy.

[Light, scattered laughter.]

00:25:14 John Host Could you guys just go to your own weird island alone and do it? Rather than stressing Hotdog and Nacho out?

[Some more laughter.]

00:25:20 Jared Guest We don't actively pull them into it.

00:25:22 John Host Yes, but you're affecting them nonetheless! Do you disagree?

[Meg or Rebecca stifles a laugh. There's a pause.]

Mr. Synapse...

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

00:25:29 Jared Guest I do not disagree—*[laughs]*.

00:25:31 John Host This is your human wife!

[Audience laughter.]

00:25:33 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Synapse!

Your wife was afraid you would die!

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

00:25:39 Jared Guest She shouldn't have been, I had it under control.

[More laughter.]

00:25:43 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* We know, the god of the sea was on your side. He'd send his turtles to save you.

[More light audience laughter.]

00:25:50 Jared Guest So if I may use a reference to the McElroys...

00:25:54 John Host No.

00:25:55 Jared Guest Okay.

[Audience and on-stage laughter. Someone claps.]

00:25:58	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<p>John: I believe I heard everything I need to in order to make my decision.</p> <p>Jared: Great.</p>
00:26:01	John	Host	I'm going into my ready room. I'll be back in a moment with my verdict.
00:26:04	Jesse	Host	<i>[To audience cheering and applause]</i> Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.
00:26:14	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:26:15	John	Promo	<p>Hey, it's me, your Judge John Hodgman. As you know, the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast is brought to you every week by you, the generous supporters of MaximumFun.org! But <u>also</u> <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> is supported in part by Native.</p> <p>Native makes simple, effective bathroom products with trusted ingredients that people use every day. That sounds mysterious! It's deodorant. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> Native Deodorant is formulated without aluminum, parabens, or talc. And it's filled with ingredients found in nature! Such as coconut oil, shea butter, and tapioca starch. You know when you're wandering through nature, and you find those things? You could make deodorant! But <u>why</u>? When Native will make it for you, and it's so good!</p> <p>It comes in a wide variety of enticing scents, plus new limited-edition seasonal scents throughout the year. There's also an unscented formula! And baking soda-free formula for those with sensitivities. Classic deodorant scents include: coconut and vanilla, the most popular. Understandable. And cucumber and mint! I like both of those.</p> <p>I know you all have armpits too, so I'm gonna make a special offer to listeners of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i>. For 20% off your first purchase, visit NativeDeodorant.com and use promo code JUDGEJOHN during checkout. That's NativeDeodorant.com, promo code JUDGEJOHN for 20% off your first purchase. J-U-D-G-E-J-O-H-N, all one word, all capital letters. Native Deodorant.</p>
00:27:43	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:27:45	John	Promo	<p>This case is called "Firefox vs. Big Tech." Did you know that 81% of web traffic is tracked by Google? And 61% of the top 10,000 websites are <u>watched</u> by <u>Facebook</u>? Ugh. Firefox says that's an invasion of privacy! And they say it 'cause they're right!</p> <p>That's why the Firefox browser blocks ten billion trackers for users every day, automatically. Including trackers from Google <u>and</u> Facebook. This is the sound of a gavel:</p>
00:28:17	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:28:18	John	Promo	Firefox for the win. Get privacy! At Firefox.com/privacy . That's Firefox.com/privacy .
00:28:26	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:28:28	Jesse	Host	<i>[Audience is cheering and applauding, then dies down as the show continues.]</i>

I don't necessarily have follow-up questions for any of you.

[Some audience and on-stage laughter.]

Oh, wait! About that bailiff, judge thing that you said.

[More laughter.]

I have one follow-up question... Are you being paid to be here tonight?

[Jared and/or Greg and the audience laugh.]

Here's my real question. *[Laughing]* You guys have really great made-up names; can I have a fun made-up name?

[More laughter.]

00:28:52 Jared Guest We had one night where we all chose names based on different types of noodles. So if you have a favorite pasta...

00:28:59 Jesse Host I could be like, *[stifling laughter]* Rigatoni or something?

[Audience laughter.]

00:29:01 Jared Guest Bailiff Rigatoni?

[Scattered cheering and applause in the audience.]

00:29:02 Meg Guest Yeah.

00:29:04 Jesse Host What's a bow tie noodle called?

[Shouted answers from the audience.]

Tartalle.

[Louder, more emphatic shouts from the audience.]

Farfalle!

[Affirmative shouts.]

You guys just trying to get me to say "fart"?

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

Farfalle, that could be my special name.

[Scattered cheers.]

Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:29:27 John Host Mr. Synapse, what did you want to say with regard to our friends the McElroy brothers?

00:29:31 Jared Guest They have a saying about not yucking other people's yums.
[Light audience laughter.]

00:29:37 John Host Mm-hm.

00:29:38 Jared Guest And it is our feeling that—
[Meg or Rebecca laughs quietly.]
—the plaintiffs are trying to yuck our yum. Because this is something that we deeply enjoy, and there are ways to enjoy it without necessarily impacting them as negatively as it does currently, without actually making us RP less or trying to take that enjoyment away from it.

00:30:00 John Host Do you believe that they're doing—they're yucking your yum maliciously?

00:30:04 Jared Guest Uh, not maliciously, no.

00:30:06 John Host You doubt their sincerity when they say it bothers them?

00:30:08 Jared Guest Yes. Absolutely.
[The plaintiffs and the audience laugh.]

00:30:13 John Host Let the record show that I'm speechless.
[The plaintiffs and the audience laugh harder.]
I'm supposed to be delivering my verdict, but since you have made quite an accusation—Nacho, Hotdog, how do you respond to this charge?

00:30:25 Meg Guest You don't think it bothers us when—?

00:30:27 Jared Guest No, I—! I thought I said it does bother you.

00:30:30 John Host Oh, I thought you said you doubted their sincerity.

00:30:32 Jared Guest No! Oh, I misspoke!
[Laughter in the audience and on stage.]

00:30:37 John Host I understand. Human English isn't your first language, I apologize.
[More laughter, including from Jared or Greg.]

00:30:43 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* He meant to say he's glad his wife is unhappy.
[More audience and on-stage laughter.]

00:30:50 John Host Mr. Synapse, if you do not in fact doubt their sincerity that they are stressed on the part of Hotdog, dismayed on the part of Nacho... then you must acknowledge that your behavior has effect upon others!
Look. I'm wearing custom-made judicial robes.
[Quiet on-stage and audience laughter.]
I'm not gonna lie to you. I've been to some murder mystery dinners!

[Some more laughter.]

I've spoken in some fake English accents.

[Some more laughter.]

I've done a little bit of it. I know what it feels like to be out there with your friends, pretending to be other people! Especially when you're age-appropriate, 12, 13 years old!

[Meg and/or Rebecca and the audience laugh.]

00:31:32 John Host

But it is your yum! I do not deny it. I do not deny you're having fun. But. I hope to present to you—and your admiral—a point of view outside of your own realm of imagination. When you are having fights over chain of command and whether or not you are on leave, I'm kind of into that! 'Cause I like a process fight.

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

It's like, "Yeah, right! Exactly! You can't really go around that."
[Muttering to the effect of engaged commentary about the conflict.] I think frankly, Captain Greg, I thought you were right to demote Mr. Synapse and relieve him from duty.

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

He was out of control.

[More laughter.]

He's got a lot of work to do. What troubles me is the thermos.

[More laughter.]

That is intrinsically weird, *[stifling laughter]* and contextually very troubling!

[More laughter. Scattered laughter as John continues.]

To go to an island and then have a person of arbitrary authority demanding the kissing of any objects, based on orders alone—and that you, Captain Greg, would try to force Mr. Synapse to kiss the thermos, without even knowing why. Without even questioning why! It is—look, I am a rule follower by nature. I'm an only child; of course I am. But you can't follow every rule without any—without questioning! That's how horrible human tragedy happens! Did you kiss the thermos, Mr. Synapse?

00:33:11 Jared Guest

Never once.

00:33:12 John Host

I'm so glad you did not.

[Meg or Rebecca laughs. Audience cheers and applauds.]

And I'm glad that I know, and I'm glad that you now know, that that, sir, that is your yum!

[Audience and on-stage laughter.]

That is your yum! Not the costume. Not the computer game. The—
[laughs] the weird sick games that you and the captain and the
admiral are playing.

[More laughter.]

I will not interfere with those games. *[Stifling laughter]* Obviously
you're exploring something.

*[More, louder laughter, followed by audience applause and
cheering.]*

[Stifles laughter.] And yet I must also honor the wishes of your crew-
members and your colleagues, and your human spouses and
friends! It's a real Kobayashi Maru.

[Audience and on-stage laughter. Some applause.]

Don't. Don't.

[Laughter swells.]

Don't. It's not even a really good allegory.

[Some more scattered laughter.]

'Cause it's not a Kobayashi Maru. I know what's gonna happen here.

[Some more laughter.]

00:34:20 John Host

When you're playing the game, you can play the game. When you
have stopped playing the game, and Hotdog and Nacho have
reverted to their human forms Meg and Rebecca, then you've got to
stop it, too! You can go and play your own game somewhere else.
And indeed, I order you and the captain and the admiral and
whatever other freaky officers that you hang out with—

[Light audience laughter.]

—to go on a special weekend vacation of your own.

[Audience and on-stage laughter, some applause.]

And I want there to be a thermos there.

[More laughter.]

And I want there to be some object to some game that is gonna get
worked out. I want you to be stranded on an alien prison planet
together. I don't know! I don't know who's gonna write this narrative,
Jesse Thorn. You know what? Maybe ask Griffin McElroy to do it for
you.

[Audience laughs.]

Yeah, that's right! Griffin McElroy's gonna write an adventure for the three of you.

00:35:20 Jared Guest Yeah.

00:35:21 John Host To go off on your own in the woods of Canada to play.

[Meg or Rebecca laughs.]

And then if any of you come back, you'll have it out of your system.
[Stifling laughter] This is the sound of a gavel:

[Three live gavel bangs.]

Judge John Hodgman rules; that's all.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:35:31 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom. Rebecca, Meg, Jared, Greg, thanks for being on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast!

00:35:40 John Host Thank you so much!

[Some more cheering and applause.]

00:35:43 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:35:45 Promo Clip **Music:** Fun, jaunty, upbeat music.

Renee Colvert: Hi! I'm Renee Colvert.

Alexis Preston: I'm Alexis Preston!

Renee: And we're the hosts of the smash hit podcast *Can I Pet Your Dog?* Now, Alexis.

Alexis: Yes.

Renee: We got big news.

Alexis: Uh-oh!

Renee: Since last we did a promo, our dogs have become famous.

Alexis: World-famous!

Renee: World—like, stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! Second big news.

Alexis: Mm-hm?

00:36:02 Promo Clip **Renee:** The reviews are in.

Alexis: Mm-hm?

Renee: Take yourself to Apple Podcasts, you know what you're gonna hear? We're happy!

Alexis: It's true!

Renee: We're a delight! A great distraction from the world!

Alexis: I like that part a lot.

Renee: So if that's what you guys are looking for...

Alexis: Mm-hm.

Renee: You gotta check out our show! But what else can they expect?

Alexis: We've got dog tech, dog news, celebrities with their dogs. All dog things!

Renee: All the dog things. So if that interests you, well, get yourself on over to [Maximum Fun](#) every Tuesday!

[Music ends.]

00:36:26 Promo Clip

Music: Jazzy rendition of "Up on the House Top" by Benjamin Hanby.

Speaker 1: Hey, cool shirt!

Speaker 2: Oh, this? Thanks! I got it at [MaxFunStore.com](#).

Ethereal echo: [MaxFunStore.com](#).

Speaker 1: Hm, that's strange! I visited [MaxFunStore.com](#)—

Ethereal echo: [MaxFunStore.com](#)!

Speaker 1: —a few weeks ago and didn't see it.

Speaker 2: That's because they've just launched a ton of new stuff. Right in time for the holidays!

Speaker 1: Oh, cool!

Speaker 2: There's patches, mugs, totes, stickers. Even a onesie!

Speaker 1: Nice! Those would make great gifts for everyone I know!

Speaker 2: Great! Because I already got you something from there.

Speaker 1: Thanks! Now excuse me a moment. I need to look up [MaxFunStore.com](#)—

Ethereal Echo: [MaxFunStore.com](#)!

Speaker 1: —on my smartphone. You know, to see what's new!

Speaker 2: Yeah! You can't go wrong with anything from [MaxFunStore.com](#).

Ethereal Echo: [MaxFunStore.com](#)!

[Music stops.]

00:37:09 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:37:11 John Promo

Hey, it's John Hodgman. While we take a break from this live case in Toronto, Canada, you're probably thinking to yourself, "Oh, that sounds like so much fun! I wish I had been there. I don't know why I didn't go. I live next door to that theater."

Well—*[laughs]* good news for you! There are ways to travel, and we're doing more shows. In fact, I'm here to tell you we're doing two big shows on the East Coast! You can drive there from Toronto; you can fly there from Toronto. January 13th we'll be in Brooklyn, New York, at the Murmur Theater. January 14th we'll be in Boston, Massachusetts at the great Wilbur Theater. *[Stifling laughter]* So if you live next door to this theater where we recorded the show in Toronto, you still have a chance to make good.

If you live closer to Brooklyn or Boston, even better news for you! *[Stifles laughter.]* We're gonna have brand new cases at each one! Every live *Judge John Hodgman* show is different from the last, so I hope you will join us at all of them. It's better when you're there. Go check out the MaximumFun.org events page for details, or you can always go to JohnHodgman.com/tour, where I type in the information myself. January 13th Brooklyn, January 14th Boston. Stay tuned for further announcements.

But now let's get back to the live fun.

00:38:25 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:38:26 John Host

Well folks, it's now the segment of the show that we call Swift Justice! And this is where we're gonna hear three cases in quick succession. And I think we're gonna need to put a timer on this one, Jesse Thorn! I think the timer's gonna be ten minutes.

00:38:38 Jesse Host

Ten minutes? Holy *[censor bleep]*.

[Audience laughter.]

00:38:40 John Host

Three minutes and thirty-three seconds per case.

00:38:43 Jesse Host

[Stifling laughter] That's how it works; there's a hundred seconds in a minute!

[Audience laughter.]

[Stifling laughter] Ten minutes—in ten minutes! Three minutes and thirty-three seconds per case!

00:38:50 John Host

That's correct. *[Stifling laughter]* You understand.

[More laughter.]

It's in Canada; it's metric. Alright!

[More laughter and some cheering.]

Bring us the first case, please!

[More cheering.]

00:38:57 Jesse Host James and Annie! James files suit against his girlfriend Annie. Annie has two cats and keeps the litter box in her bedroom. When James visits her in Toronto, he doesn't like to smell the cat box when he's trying to... sleep.

[Audience and Annie laugh.]

He wants her to move it into the living room. Annie thinks if she moves it into the living room, it will smell up the entire apartment.

00:39:20 John Host Alright! James and Annie, who brings this case before me seeking justice?

00:39:24 James Guest That's me.

00:39:25 John Host That would be James, wearing an extremely handsome yellow flannel shirt.

[Scattered laughter.]

What is the brand of that shirt?

00:39:31 James Guest Norse Projects.

00:39:32 John Host Norse Projects! It almost looks like Loblaw's No Name Yellow. Do you know what I mean, like...?

[Audience cheering and laughter.]

I find it very—I don't mind buzzmarketing that, 'cause I wanna get one of those for myself. In fact, I find in your favor. This is—what, no, I'm sorry!

[More laughter.]

What—*[stifles laughter]* what is the nature of your dispute? You've got kitty litter in Annie's bedroom, is that correct?

00:39:53 James Guest Yes.

00:39:54 John Host Alright. And Annie, why do you keep the kitty litter in the bedroom? Do you only have that one room?

00:39:57 Annie Guest So the apartment's pretty small, and the living room is very linked to the kitchen. So if it's in the living room, then the kitchen smells like poop, and then it's like you're eating poop, and...

00:40:06 John Host Sure.

00:40:07 Annie Guest I don't wanna eat poop.

[She and the audience laugh.]

00:40:08 John Host No one wants to eat poop, Annie.

[More laughter.]

Except maybe for Captain Greg and Mr. Synapse and Admiral Dave as part of some alien ritual, I don't know.

[More laughter.]

00:40:19 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Or just if their commanding officer told them to.

00:40:22 John Host *[Laughing]* That's right!

[More audience laughter.]

Have you tried cleaning the litter box?

[Some more laughter.]

00:40:28 Annie Guest Yes. I clean it three times a day.

00:40:29 John Host Three times a day?

00:40:31 Annie Guest They poop a lot.

00:40:32 John Host How many cats?

00:40:33 Annie Guest Just two.

00:40:34 John Host Two hundred cats.

[He, Annie, and the audience laugh.]

Two cats, and what are their names?

00:40:37 Annie Guest Leo and Lucy.

00:40:38 John Host Leo and Lucy. I betcha they're cute, right?

00:40:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** I mean, they're—they're cats.

Annie: They're very cute. They—yes.

00:40:43 John Host And what kind of cats are they? Just kinda—?

00:40:44 Annie Guest Just—

00:40:45 John Host What are their colors?

00:40:46 Annie Guest Normal—one of them's orange. The other one's a gray, like, kinda calico? She's very small.

00:40:51 John Host Orange, you say!

00:40:52 Annie Guest Yes.

00:40:53 John Host A little bit kinda like James's shirt.

00:40:54 Annie Guest Yes.

00:40:55 John Host James has a little bit of fur on his face. He's got a little bit of a cat-like demeanor to him.

[Audience laughter.]

00:40:59 Annie Guest For sure.

00:41:00 John Host Is that—*[laughing]* is this cosplay?

[Annie and the audience laugh.]

00:41:03 Annie Guest I wish.

00:41:04 John Host *[Laughs.]* Oh!

[Annie and the audience laugh. John or James makes a thoughtful sound.]

Do you share this apartment, or is it your apartment, Annie?

00:41:12 Annie Guest

It's my apartment.

00:41:13 John Host

I see.

00:41:14 Annie Guest

James lives in a different city, so he comes to visit.

00:41:16 John Host

Where do you live?

00:41:17 James Guest

London.

[Cheering from the audience.]

00:41:18 John Host

London, Ontario? Fantastic.

00:41:20 Annie Guest

[Joking] Booo.

00:41:21 John Host

How far away is that?

00:41:22 Annie Guest

About two and a half hours.

00:41:24 John Host

Do you hate these cats, James?

00:41:26 James Guest

These cats are adorable. I love them. I just hate their poop.

00:41:30 John Host

Sure. What—do you have an open litter box?

00:41:33 Annie Guest

Uh, it's covered. There's like a cover on it.

00:41:36 John Host

Have you taken the cats to a veterinarian?

[Annie and the audience laugh.]

00:41:40 Annie Guest

Yes, many times!

00:41:41 John Host

To find out why they—their poop smells so bad?

00:41:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Annie: Yes, I have, actually.

John: Because you're changing the litter three times a day! That is quite a bit!

00:41:50 Annie Guest

[Laughs.] Yeah.

00:41:51 John Host

Or—are you using litter? Maybe that's the problem.

[Audience laughs.]

00:41:53 Annie Guest

[Laughing] I do use litter.

00:41:54 John Host

[Laughs.] "No, I just use rags. Why?"

[More laughter from Annie and the audience.]

00:41:58 Jesse Host

"Litter? No, I just use the poop of smaller animals!"

[John, the litigants, and the audience laugh.]

00:42:03 John Host

What did the veterinarian say?

00:42:04 Annie Guest

Uh, *[laughs]* the veterinarian said "Feed them the special food," and... *[laughs]*.

00:42:08 John Host

Yeah, that's what they always say! "And guess what? I'm going to sell it to you!"

[Audience laughter.]

Says the veterinarian.

00:42:13	Annie	Guest	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:42:14	John	Host	So the choice is—in Annie's life—either the bedroom stinks or the whole house stinks.
00:42:20	Annie	Guest	Yeah.
00:42:21	John	Host	Is there not a closet? Do you own or rent?
00:42:23	Annie	Guest	I rent.
00:42:24	John	Host	You rent.
00:42:25	Annie	Guest	Yeah.
00:42:26	John	Host	Is there not some solution—you should <u>not</u> —
			<i>[She laughs.]</i>
			One should <u>not</u> live in—if <u>possible</u> , as an adult...
00:42:34	Annie	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:42:35	John	Host	One should not sleep in the same room as a refrigerator or a <i>[censor bleep]</i> box.
			<i>[Annie and the audience laughs.]</i>
			In my opinion.
00:42:43	Annie	Guest	Right. So—
00:42:44	John	Host	So this is bad!
00:42:45	Annie	Guest	I mean, it's the room with the best ventilation. We put it in the bathroom before and it was... disgusting. I couldn't go in there at all 'cause there's no vents.
00:42:54	John	Host	Have you tried feeding the special food to the cats?
00:42:56	Annie	Guest	Yes, I did do that.
00:42:57	John	Host	How—and any difference?
00:42:59	Annie	Guest	I mean, their poops were less watery and they didn't leave them around the house, <i>[laughing]</i> but they still—
00:43:03	John	Host	I'll remind you this is a family— <i>[laughs]</i> family podcast.
			<i>[Annie and the audience laugh.]</i>
			How old are the cats?
00:43:08	Annie	Guest	A year and two months.
00:43:10	John	Host	Oh my goodness.
			<i>[Annie and the audience laugh.]</i>
			This is a big issue for the rest of your—well, for your whole relationship for many years.
00:43:16	Annie	Guest	Yeah.

00:43:17 John Host You can't—this is not normal.
[James or Jesse laughs quietly.]

00:43:20 Annie Guest Have you had cats before?

00:43:21 John Host Yes.
Who here thinks this is normal?
[Beat of silence.]

00:43:23 Distant audience member Guest Boo!
[Audience laughs.]

00:43:28 John Host Your scorn is not required.
[More laughter.]
[Stifling laughter] Total silence told the tale I needed telling.
[More laughter.]
[John responds affirmatively several times as Jesse speaks.]

00:43:35 Jesse Host John, I know from friend of the podcast Mary Roach's book *Gulp: Adventures in the Alimentary Canal* that the entire purpose of the pet food industry is to create food that you can A) trick pets into eating; B) will give them the nutrition they need; and C) will produce relatively odorous and—odorless and consistent in consistency... leavings. Like, that is the one thing that is non-compromisable in the pet food recipe making.

00:44:07 John Host Major industries are devoted to those three principals: odorless poop, consistent poop, cats eating it. These cats are only into one of those things.

00:44:15 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.
[Audience laughs.]

00:44:16 John Host They've tricked—they've figured out how to break the system with the rest.
[More laughter.]

00:44:24 James Guest James, how does it make you feel when Annie won't move the cat box?
Well, it feels bad to be playing second fiddle to a box of kitty litter.
[Audience laughs.]

00:44:30 John Host How often do you visit?

00:44:31 James Guest About once every two weeks.

00:44:34 John Host And how long do you stay?

00:44:36 James Guest About three or four days.

00:44:37 John Host Alright. When you're there, the cat box has to be out of the bedroom.

00:44:41 Annie Guest Eugh...

00:44:42 John Host When you're not there, *[stifling laughter]* the cat box can be right there next to you in bed if that's what you want, Annie.

[Litigant and audience laughter.]

But I do encourage you to continue to work with your veterinarian to find out what's going on with Lucy and Leo! Because you're doing everything right, and they're pooping everything wrong.

[More laughter.]

This is the sound of a gavel:

[Three live gavel bangs.]

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:45:00 Jesse Host James and Annie!

[More cheering.]

Please welcome Lia and Jonny! Lia's roommate Jonny insists on displaying a graduation photo of his friend Gavin in the entryway of their house.

[Audience laughter.]

In the photo, Gavin is sitting next to several cans of Four Loko, a board game called Loopin' Louie, and some sort of trophy. Lia thinks the decorations in the house are classy, and this photo is ruining the vibe. Jonny wants to keep the photo on display.

[Beat. Scattered laughs.]

00:45:32 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Alright.

[More audience laughter.]

Lia and Jonny, welcome. Lia, you seek justice before this court. You want this picture of Gavin taken out of the entryway, is that correct?

00:45:40 Lia Guest That's correct.

00:45:41 John Host And it's funny, because without showing the photo, we—we do have a photo of the photo. And when Jesse said "Gavin," I presumed that the photo went on screen, 'cause the entire audience went "Ohhh ho ho ho!" Because it's a cuckoo photo, for sure. But it—the photo wasn't being displayed. I can only presume that the entire audience already knows Gavin.

[Audience and Lia laugh.]

And already knows this famous photo.

00:46:09 Jesse Host Yeah, is Gavin, like... Ernest from the *Ernest* movies in Canada, *[stifling laughter]* or like—?

[Audience laughter.]

00:46:17 John Host In any case, let's take a look now at the photo in question.

[Beat.]

So there's Gavin. Also wearing Canadian judicial robes, it would seem!

[Audience laughter.]

Jonny, what is—this is—what is Gavin wearing?

00:46:32 Jonny Guest He's wearing judicial robes!

00:46:33 John Host Why does he get—he has like, red epaulettes, and I don't have red epaulettes, and I paid a lot of money for my robes!

00:46:38 Jonny Guest Uh—

00:46:39 Jesse Host He's an admiral, John.

[Audience laughs.]

00:46:41 John Host Oh no!

00:46:42 Jonny Guest I assume that's based on the university.

00:46:44 John Host Did you and Gavin go to law university together?

00:46:47 Jonny Guest We did.

00:46:48 John Host Okay. And who is he to you in your life?

00:46:49 Jonny Guest He's a good friend of mine. He's a mess of a human. Makes me laugh.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:46:54 John Host In the photo he has four cans of Four Loko.

00:46:57 Jonny Guest Yeah.

00:46:58 John Host A game Loopin' Louie, what's that?

00:47:00 Jonny Guest That's a drinking game we played in law school.

[More scattered audience laughter.]

00:47:02 John Host Drinking game, alright. And you have it—oh, here's a closer—a close-up version of it. Yeah!

[Laughter from Lia and the audience.]

And Gavin is looking very seriously at the camera. Very handsome person! Is he here tonight?

00:47:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jonny:** No, he's in—

John: Oh, yeah! Good friend. Hm.

Jonny: —the Yukon. *[Chuckles quietly.]*

John: Yeah.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:47:13 John Host

Oh, he's in the Yukon!

00:47:15 Jonny Guest

Yeah, that's how we got the Four Loko. It's illegal in Canada.

[Beat.]

00:47:17 John Host

Oh, okay!

[Some more audience laughter.]

So he's in Yukon now, and you had him displayed with some candles, as though it were a shrine.

[Some more laughter.]

You guys share a home, right, Lia?

00:47:26 Lia Guest

Yeah.

00:47:27 John Host

Right. Do you co-own the home?

00:47:29 Lia Guest

No, we both rent, and we have another roommate, another lawyer.

00:47:33 John Host

Another lawyer is there. And what does the other roommate feel about this?

00:47:36 Lia Guest

She also went to law school with Gavin.

00:47:38 John Host

Yeah.

00:47:39 Lia Guest

So she's all for it.

00:47:41 John Host

Oh, so you're overruled by the roommates in this!

00:47:45 Lia Guest

By numbers, but not by taste.

00:47:46 John Host

Yeah, that's what I meant!

[Audience laughs.]

00:47:51 Lia Guest

I mean...

00:47:52 John Host

[Laughing, flabbergasted] Wha...

Did—did you go to law—you didn't go to law school with these people.

00:47:58 Lia Guest

No.

00:47:59 John Host

What do you do in your life?

00:48:00 Lia Guest

I'm a writer.

00:48:01 John Host

You're a writer.

00:48:02 Lia Guest

I was moving back to Toronto and there happened to be an opening at the perfect moment, and I knew the other roommate, Caitlin. And so I moved in. She's an old friend.

00:48:12 John Host

So these attorneys took you in at a time of need! Put a roof over your head in Toronto, Canada!

[Audience laughter.]

And the first thing you say is "Get Gavin out of here!"

[Lia and the audience laugh.]

"No memories of Gavin!"

[More laughter.]

00:48:25 Lia Guest I mean, I'm not saying that Gavin needs to leave the house, but maybe Gavin could be relegated to one of their rooms and not be the first thing that you see when you enter the house?

00:48:33 John Host Why—what would you put there?

00:48:35 Lia Guest I mean, there's like a nice framed *New Yorker* cover there already. We could just move it to the center.

00:48:42 John Host Oh, you already have the *New Yorker* cover there.

00:48:44 Lia Guest Yeah.

00:48:45 John Host I see. Okay. Well! *Tch*. Uhhh, no. They have outvoted you in the house! And I will not, sadly, allow the picture of Gavin to be replaced by a clichéd...

[Lia and the audience laugh.]

...framed *New Yorker* cover.

[Audience applause and cheering. John laughs.]

00:49:02 Lia Guest I mean, that feels fair. *[Laughs.]*

00:49:03 John Host That—you might as well be replacing it with nothing at all.

[Audience, Jonny, and Lia laugh.]

I mean, even if I were to side with you on the idea that somehow your taste outranked their majority, the suggestion of a framed *New Yorker* cover unfortunately undid your case completely.

[Lia, Jonny, and the audience laugh harder.]

And I'm talking as a person who had a bunch of framed *New Yorker* covers on my wall when I was 14 years old. I'm—I feel you!

[She laughs again.]

It's very elegant. But this is cooler than that.

[She and the audience laugh.]

And plus you have no standing. I apologize and I look forward to the day, as I'm sure you do, when you get out of this weird house.

[Lia, Jonny, and the audience laugh.]

[Several small thuds, presumably John with a gavel. Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:49:41 Jesse Host Lia and Jonny!

Please welcome to the stage Jorel and David! Jorel brings this case against his father David. Jorel started posting videos on David's YouTube account when he was 12 years old. Before he was old enough to sign up for his own account. They both still have access to the account, which includes the monitor "D-pop." Jorel claims his online presence is now tied to the account name, and he wants full ownership of the YouTube account.

[Interested murmuring from the audience.]

David does not want to give up the account.

[Scattered laughter.]

00:50:20	John	Host	Young man.
00:50:21	Jorel	Guest	Yes.
00:50:22	John	Host	Your name is pronounced JOR-uhl, or Jor-EHL?
00:50:24	Jorel	Guest	Jor-ehl.
00:50:25	John	Host	Jor-El, as in—
00:50:26	Jorel	Guest	Yes.
00:50:27	John	Host	—the father of Superman.
00:50:28	Jorel	Guest	That is correct.
00:50:29	John	Host	I see.

[Audience laughter, scattered applause.]

00:50:30	Jesse	Host	And David, you're literally Lex Luthor. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
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[John, the litigants, and the audience laugh. Some applause and cheering.]

00:50:37	John	Host	Let the record show that David is completely bald.
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[David or Jorel laughs.]

Why are you not suing your father for giving you that name?

[Audience laughter.]

00:50:45	Jorel	Guest	Uh, because it's an <u>amazing</u> name.
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00:50:48	John	Host	<u>Yes!</u>
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[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:50:50	Jorel	Guest	My <u>mom</u> could sue him.
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00:50:52	John	Host	Right.
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00:50:53	Jorel	Guest	For giving me that name, but she's—she was okay with it somehow.
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[Jorel responds affirmatively as John speaks.]

00:50:58	John	Host	It's pretty—it's a pretty awesome name. But it is not hyphenated. That's what's cool about it.
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00:51:02	Jorel	Guest	Yeah.
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00:51:03 John Host It's a sort of a private joke.

00:51:04 Jorel Guest Yeah!

00:51:05 John Host Right. And why, David, Jorel and not Kalel?

[David and Jorel laugh.]

00:51:10 Jorel Guest That'll be my son.

00:51:11 David Guest Well—yeah.

[Audience laughs.]

00:51:12 Jorel Guest For the record.

[John laughs. Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:51:16 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Cheering, applause and laughter continue.]*

John: This is a long-game selective breeding experiment.

David: That's right. *[Laughs.]* He will marry—

John: So that you, David, can have a grandson named Kalel?

00:51:27 David Guest I can't wait. Kalel will marry a woman named Lois.

[Audience laughter.]

00:51:33 John Host You've got it all planned out, don't you?

00:51:34 David Guest Yes. Yeah.

[More audience laughter.]

00:51:35 Jesse Host Do you have any dinosaur skeletons or marriages to Elvis's children, *[stifling laughter]* or other Nicolas Cage things in your life?

[Litigants and audience laugh.]

00:51:46 David Guest I wish that I had his copy of *Action #1*.

[Jorel laughs.]

But...

00:51:50 John Host You are a Superman fan.

00:51:52 David Guest I did collect comics as a child, and I still have some.

00:51:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Good! And a documentarian, that is your profession and your vocation?

David: That is correct.

00:52:00 John Host And you started this YouTube account to post what?

00:52:03 David Guest Well, to post, uh...

00:52:05 Jorel Guest Uh-huh.

00:52:06 David Guest ...my things!

00:52:07 Jorel Guest Uh-huh, sure.

00:52:08 John Host Yeah—*[laughs]*.

[Audience laughs.]

00:52:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Oh!

Jesse: Wow!

David: And I should, uh—

Jorel: Uh-huh.

John: I like saucy Jorel!

[Jorel laughs.]

00:52:13 David Guest I should point out that the bailiff mentioned that it started when he was 12 years old. This actually started when he was about seven years old. And so he was far too young—

00:52:23 John Host David!

[Gavel banging.]

I asked you a question!

00:52:25 David Guest Yes.

00:52:26 John Host What were you putting on the YouTube account?!

00:52:28 David Guest Uh, at that time, not... too much. But if something comes—

00:52:32 John Host David!

[Jorel laughs.]

00:52:33 David Guest If something comes up in—

[Audience laughter.]

00:52:34 Jorel Guest Nothing!

00:52:35 David Guest If something comes up in my business as a director, as a producer, and I—

00:52:39 Jesse Host So to be clear—

00:52:40 David Guest —I put that on.

00:52:41 Jesse Host When you say "at that time, not that much," when you say "at that time" *[stifling laughter]* you mean in the past 12 years?!

[Jorel and the audience laugh.]

00:52:47 David Guest When he was seven—

00:52:48 Jesse Host Okay.

00:52:49 David Guest —I wasn't putting up very much. But currently I do use it.

00:52:52 John Host So let me—let me understand. It's 12 years ago. You have a son. Seven-year-old son named Jorel.

00:52:57 David Guest That is correct.

00:52:58 John Host You're—you make documentaries.

00:52:59 David Guest Yes.

00:53:00 John Host You work in film.

00:53:01 David Guest Yes.

00:53:02 John Host You say "I'm gonna start a YouTube channel! ...But I've got nothing to put on it. All I do is make movies!"

[Audience and Jorel laugh.]

"Oh well!"

[More laughter.]

00:53:13 David Guest My movies are generally on... television.

[Jorel laughs.]

00:53:17 John Host Yeah—no, I understand!

[The audience and the litigants laugh.]

I wanna take you back to the distant past.

[More laughter.]

00:53:23 David Guest Yes.

00:53:24 John Host About 35 years ago I said, *[stifling laughter]* "What did you put on the YouTube channel?"

[More litigant and audience laughter.]

And you said "Not that much!"

[Jorel or David laughs.]

And I said "But what specifically?" And you said "Some things!"

[Audience laughter.]

00:53:36 David Guest *[Struggling for words]* This—mm.

00:53:37 John Host Is there a reason you don't want to tell me?

00:53:39 David Guest This YouTube channel started about 13 years ago, and at that time I was not putting things on it.

00:53:44 John Host I feel like I'm talking to a progressional republican!

[The litigants and the audience laugh.]

About whether it's okay to force a foreign leader to investigate a political rival!

[More laughter.]

00:53:56 Crosstalk Crosstalk **David:** The answer to the question is that I put on some of my work that I've, uh, produced and directed.

John: Okay! That's perfectly reasonable for an adult professional to do.

David: Yes. *[Laughs.]*

00:54:04 John Host But then all of a sudden seven-year-old Jorel comes along.

00:54:07 David Guest *[Laughing]* Uh-huh!

00:54:08 John Host What does he start posting on your channel?

00:54:11 David Guest When he was seven years old he was doing things about like, his Pokémon cards and his Yu-Gi-Oh—or...

00:54:17 Jorel Guest *[Calmly]* All of this is wrong.

00:54:19 David Guest Yes.

[Audience and David laugh.]

00:54:22 John Host Alright, Jorel. It is the job of the child to re-write the history of the parent.

00:54:25 David Guest Yes.

00:54:26 John Host Go on.

00:54:27 Jorel Guest So I posted, as many kids do, horrible sketches.

00:54:32 John Host Mm-hm.

00:54:33 Jorel Guest That were terrible because I was like seven.

00:54:35 John Host Yeah?

00:54:36 Jorel Guest And my father did not post anything.

00:54:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jorel:** There was nothing.

John: You're saying—you're saying—

00:54:41 John Host You're saying it was abandoned property.

00:54:42 Jorel Guest It was abandoned property. It was mine to use. I had all the information. I was using it. He touched it very, very little. And—

00:54:53 John Host So you developed this brand.

00:54:54 Jorel Guest Yeah. And not only the brand, but the large corporation account. I don't know if I can say their name. But the account... Google?

00:55:03 John Host Yeah!

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:55:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **David:** So the Google account that it's associate with—

John: You created Google?

[Audience and litigants laugh.]

00:55:09 Jorel Guest *[John responds affirmatively as Jorel continues.]*

So the Google account that's associated with has like, a Drive option and lets you store files and stuff. And I use that all the time, and I've been using it for like five years. And all of my school work is on there; all of like, other sort of work is on there. And my father has about... zero things on there. So... it is my account.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:55:33 John Host You're saying in practice it is your account. It is your account—

00:55:36 Jorel Guest Yes.

00:55:37 John Host—in all but registered name.

00:55:40 Jorel Guest In all but the fact that he technically created it and clicked the button, it is my account, and I'm the sole user.

00:55:48 John Host So why not, David, just say to Jorel "This is yours now" and start a new—'cause you've not developed this brand.

00:55:55 David Guest I have looked into YouTube, and it is possible to keep the same YouTube channel and change the name. My request is that the name is changed. Because you see, I am D-pop. And the name of the channel—

00:56:10 John Host So you're trying to protect your own brand!

00:56:12 David Guest The name of the channel—and I brought some photographic evidence here.

00:56:15 John Host Alright, let's take a look.

00:56:17 David Guest This is—it's hard to see; it's blurry. This is me at 16 years old, and that's a drawing that I did, and in the bottom right corner you'll see that I've signed it "D-pop." I've been using the name D-pop in my art and in my music ever since I've been that age. Or even younger. So it's a name that I professionally use.

00:56:36 John Host So for those of you who can't see this at the moment—

00:56:40 Jorel Guest *[Laughs.]* You can't see that.

00:56:41 John Host You can go—well, you can go to the [Judge John Hodgman page at MaximumFun.org](#), or our Instagram [@judgejohnhodgman](#). This is David as a young man, with a lot more hair.

[Litigants and audience laugh.]

Showing a cartoon that he made of a sort of—it's an almost Roy Lichtenstein-ian cartoony style square-jawed man driving his date, staring directly into the camera, saying "It's going to be one of those nights." And it's signed in musical notation "D-pop." This is an incredible document of a time—

[Scattered audience laughter.]

And what—who was your inspiration for this art?

00:57:14 David Guest You know what, I haven't looked at this picture in a very long time, and then I dug it out trying to find the earliest example I could. And I was looking at it and thinking "What the hell was that?" I have no idea.

[Litigants and audience laugh.]

It was a long time ago.

00:57:26 John Host What is the—

00:57:27 Jesse Host It is—would you be willing to stipulate that the picture is slightly unsettling?

[Jesse, Jorel, and the audience laugh.]

00:57:32 David Guest That's what makes it good.

00:57:34 Jesse Host Yeah.

[Litigants and audience laugh.]

00:57:36 John Host The illustration is unsettling, and then the photograph of you holding it—

00:57:39 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah, both are—!

00:57:40 John Host —is unsettling. It has a Cindy Sherman quality to it.

00:57:43 David Guest That is—I'll take that! Yes.

00:57:44 John Host *[Laughing]* Yeah. There's something—well, no.

00:57:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** The question—

John: The thing is, you didn't take that photo. Someone else took it.

00:57:49 David Guest Yeah.

00:57:50 John Host That's someone else's work of art, David!

[David and audience laugh.]

00:57:53 Jesse Host The question of whether you have a shadow surrounding your mouth or a Sebastian Gorka—style...

[Audience laughter.]

...Van Dyke on your face—

00:58:01 David Guest We all make—

00:58:02 Jesse Host —*[stifling laughter]* is also deeply upsetting.

00:58:03 David Guest We all make mistakes when we're young.

00:58:05 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:58:06 John Host Which is what we're gonna determine today. Next piece of evidence you wanted to show?

00:58:09 David Guest Now this is the actual incorporation...

[Audience laughter.]

...of my incorporated company, which as you can see is called DPOP Productions Incorporated.

00:58:21 John Host Yes, and I can tell that it is actual. It is in—it is bilingual. It is from Canada. It is...

[Light laughter from Jorel or David and some of the audience.]

It is real, but why do I care about this? Why?

00:58:28 David Guest My point is he can keep the account, but he should change the name so—because I do post my professional work on YouTube, and I am posting currently some of my professional work on YouTube on this channel, 'cause it's the only one I have now. And it's the only one that I have that's got the name D-pop, which is a name that is hard to

get.

00:58:48 John Host Okay.

00:58:49 David Guest And I would like to keep that.

00:58:50 John Host Okay. Jorel—

00:58:51 Jesse Host Jorel, what are you posting on this channel now as a 19-year-old adult?

00:58:55 Jorel Guest Nothing. But I'm using—

[Audience laughter.]

00:58:58 David Guest I rest my case.

00:58:59 Jorel Guest But it's not the YouTube that's important to me. It's the fact that it's tied to this Google account, which I use every single day all the time and has all my files.

00:59:09 John Host Yeah, no, I understand.

00:59:11 Jorel Guest And you cannot change that name.

00:59:13 Jesse Host Are you, as this background research suggests, a musician and rapper?

[Beat.]

00:59:18 Jorel Guest Yes.

00:59:19 John Host Are you posting videos of yourself rapping on this YouTube account?

00:59:24 Jorel Guest No, I created a separate YouTube account, which is very easy to do.

[Scattered laughter.]

Very simple and requires no effort at all. I created a different YouTube account using my artist email and my artist name.

00:59:37 John Host In—

00:59:38 Jesse Host Jorel, what's your artist name?

00:59:40 Jorel Guest Well, the account is called Shonen Rap Music. It is, uh, very nerdy. And I make raps.

00:59:48 Jesse Host Are you prepared to rap at this time?

00:59:51 Jorel Guest I can—I can try. *[Laughs.]*

00:59:52 Jesse Host Okay. Can you please—

[Someone cheers.]

Can you please drop the beat, Jeff?

[Scattered laughter, and then drums.]

00:59:59 Jorel Guest *[Getting into it]* Yeah! Aughck! Yeah. Uh!

[Rapping] Keep it judicial, not official, it's RP
 Look at me, I'm representing the Starfleet
 I go beyond the darkness like Simon Pegg
 I write without Frost because that's today
 I went on JJHo, I say so like oh, I play Hova, no!

My say over's, oh! I go back if my overalls are above me
I never wanna say that Jean Grey is amazing!
Hey, please

I didn't rhyme that—

[Scattered audience laughter.]

—but I just wanna mention *Dark Phoenix* because it's so cool
and everybody knows that—well, sorry, not the movie
Just in case you were wondering
But I'm here plundering like a pirate
Argh!

Wonder thing that this is a family podcast so I'm not going to swear
or say the F-word or S-word or S-H-word or the others that are
associated

But I'm over here going back in that DPOP Incorporated doesn't
really matter!

Because you see, D-pop can be used in many names!
And there are many accounts using D-pop already!
The whole account had to use other numbers, so is he really the only
D-pop? No!
Everybody can be D-pop! I can be D-pop! And see when I rap to this
bebop, everybody knows that I can be D-pop, and he can be D-pop,
and it's my account so you should rule in my favor.

[Jorel stops, drums stop, audience cheers and applauds.]

01:01:08 Jesse Host

OHHH, HE WENT IN, SON! JOREL WENT IN!

*[Raucous applause and cheering continues, and a repeated
knocking, presumably John or Jesse with the gavel. John starts to
speak but is cut off by the crowd. Jesse's voice is starting to crack.]*

01:01:22 John Host

I DIDN'T EVEN TELL HIM WE WERE GONNA DO THAT!

Yeah. I didn't—

01:01:23 Jesse Host

I thought I was gonna embarrass him in front of his dad and a
thousand people!

[Audience and litigant laughter. Crowd dies down.]

01:01:28 John Host

Jorel?

01:01:29 Jorel Guest

Yes.

01:01:30 John Host

That was amazing.

[Jorel laughs. Audience cheers and applauds again.]

Jorel... Look. I don't understand what you're fighting over!

[Jorel and audience laugh.]

It's boring!

[They laugh again.]

It is—it is my inclination as a dad, that when some dad brings in... articles of incorporation?

[Jorel, Jesse or David, and audience laugh.]

To rule against him automatically!

[More laughter, and again as he continues.]

Just to remind him "Your time is over!" Your paperwork isn't gonna protect you from what's coming up behind you, and you just heard it! Jorel just killed it!

01:02:18 David Guest

He did!

01:02:19 John Host

And I—you know. Here's the thing! You, D-pop? Fine! Legally it's yours!

[Jorel or David laughs.]

I don't know if you wanna use that name or not. You wanna use—?

01:02:28 Jorel Guest

I do not.

01:02:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk

John: You do not wanna use that name!

Jorel: I just want the account because it has all my stuff on it.

John: Yeah! Of course! It's your account!

[Jorel laughs.]

01:02:33 John Host

Eminent domain on the account! Go make your own D-pop thing and try to stay relevant! Your baby boy's in a *[censor bleep]* spaceship to Earth!

[Audience cheers and laughs, Jorel also laughs.]

01:02:43 David Guest

Yeah!

01:02:44 John Host

Super powers! I find in Jorel's favor.

[Three live gavel bangs. Audience continues cheering and applauding.]

01:02:49 Jesse Host

[Stifling laughter] Jorel and David!

[Audience fades out.]

01:02:57 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

01:02:58 John Host

Thus ended an important evening in Canadian history. It's me, John Hodgman, again. Picking up the outro! Our thanks to all the litigants who shared their disputes with us! This episode was recorded by Jeff Bird and produced by Hannah Smith. Jesus Ambrosio is our editor.

You can follow us on Twitter. You know this! I'm [@hodgman](#), H-O-D-G-M-A-N. Jesse's [@JesseThorn](#), J-E-S-S-E-T-H-O-R-N. Hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](#). And we wanna thank Robbie Newell for naming this week's episode. Oh! And we're on

Instagram, at [@judgejohnhodgman](#). That's literally [@judgejohnhodgman](#), all one word, all small letters. And I personally am on Instagram at... [@johnhodgman](#)! All small letters, all one word.

Make sure to follow us there, here, everywhere, for evidence and other fun stuff. We'll see you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:03:48	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:03:49	Music	Transition	A cheerful guitar chord.
01:03:51	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:03:52	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:03:53	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:03:54	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.