

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:01	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. This episode, recorded live on stage in Washington, DC at the Lincoln Theatre!
00:00:13	John Hodgman	Host	We have some excellent cases for you! And we were joined on stage by our friend Linda Holmes, from <i>The Pop Culture Happy Hour</i> . And our musical guest was the great Brian Farrow. It was a <u>really</u> fun night, and we're so happy to share it with you... right now!
00:00:28	Jesse	Host	Let's go to the stage.
00:00:29	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:31	Jesse	Host	<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			Washington, DC, you've come to us desperate for justice! And we're here at the Lincoln Theatre to deliver!
			<i>[Cheering and applause swells.]</i>
			Let's bring out our first set of litigants. Please welcome to the stage Sarah and Susan!
			<i>[Cheering and applause swells again.]</i>
			Tonight's case: "Emergency You In Court!" (<i>Emergency</i> + "See you in court.")
			Sarah files case against her mother Susan. Susan is a volunteer EMT in a rural community. Sarah would like her mother to refrain from responding to emergency calls when Sarah is in town visiting.
			<i>[Audience laughter.]</i>
			Susan feels a responsibility to respond to the calls whenever they come through. Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide. Please rise—metaphorically—as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and delivers an obscure cultural reference.
			<i>[More cheering and applause. John waits for it to die down.]</i>
00:01:39	John	Host	Bailiff Jesse Thorn... I yield my time on the floor to DC native Jade Jones for the cultural reference. Please step forward.
00:01:49	Jesse	Host	So yielded.
			<i>[More cheering and applause. Jade waits for it to die down.]</i>
00:01:55	Jade Jones	Guest	<i>[Singing]</i>
			When I get up all in ya We can hear the angels calling us And we can see the sunrise before us And when I'm in that thing I make your body sing I make her say Wee ooh wee ooh wee Wee ooh wee ooh wee

Wee ooh wee ooh wee

[Audience laughter.]

Like a cop car!

[Louder audience laughter. Jade continues unfazed.]

Wee ooh wee ooh wee
Wee ooh wee ooh wee
Wee ooh wee ooh wee!

[Beat.]

[Speaking calmly] Judge.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:02:20	John	Host	Thank you, Jade!
00:02:21	Jesse	Host	Jade Jones!
00:02:23	John	Host	Stand by, please, Jade. Please swear them in, Bailiff Jesse Thorn.
00:02:30	Jesse	Host	Sarah and Susan, 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?
00:02:40	Sarah	Guest	I do.
00:02:41	Susan	Guest	I do.
00:02:42	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that he has never <u>been</u> an EMT, only a fraudulent medical doctor?
<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>			
00:02:53	Sarah	Guest	I do.
00:02:54	Susan	Guest	I do.
00:02:55	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:02:56	John	Host	Sarah and Susan, you may be seated. For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, can either of you name the piece of popular culture that Jade Jones sang when we entered the courtroom? Susan, let's start with you.
00:03:11	Susan	Guest	I think I heard it on a TV show <i>Active9</i> —uh, <i>9-1-1</i> .
00:03:15	John	Host	You heard it on the TV show <i>9-1-1</i> .
00:03:18	Susan	Guest	Yeah.
<i>[Scattered audience laughter.]</i>			
00:03:19	John	Host	Is that a TV show?
<i>[John and audience laugh.]</i>			
00:03:20	Susan	Guest	It is! <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
00:03:21	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:03:22	Susan	Guest	It's a real TV show.

00:03:23	John	Host	It's a—what's that?
00:03:24	Susan	Guest	It's a real TV show.
00:03:25	John	Host	It's a real TV show, and as a volunteer EMT is it your <u>favorite</u> TV show?
			<i>[Audience and Sarah laugh.]</i>
00:03:30	Susan	Guest	It's one I enjoy.
00:03:31	John	Host	It's like, "I don't—" <i>[laughs]</i> . "I don't get enough calls. Let's get some pretend calls up in here!"
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Sarah, what's your guess?
00:03:38	Sarah	Guest	My guess is it's that song that goes like "Wee ooh, wee ooh, wee!"
			<i>[John and audience laugh, Sarah stifles laughter.]</i>
			"Wee ooh, wee ooh, wee! Like a cop car." That—that one.
00:03:45	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:03:46	John	Host	Well—
00:03:47	Jesse	Host	It's not a bad guess.
			<i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>
00:03:50	John	Host	We'll add that into the guess book, but my question I have to ask—and I apologize, Sarah—is do you know the name of the song? The name of the song.
00:03:57	Sarah	Guest	No, of course not.
00:03:58	John	Host	Well, guess what? ...Neither do I!
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
			Jade? What is the name of the song, please?
00:04:04	Jade	Guest	The name of the song is "Mrs. Officer," by Lil Wayne.
00:04:07	Sarah	Guest	Ohhh.
00:04:08	John	Host	"Mrs. Officer" by Lil Wayne, as performed by Jade Jones. And Jade—
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			So Jade, you're a DC native, and you're a theatre person and a performer.
00:04:21	Jade	Guest	Yes. Yes.
00:04:22	John	Host	What's going on with you these days here in the District of Columbia?
00:04:25	Jade	Guest	Sure, I just finished <i>Into the Woods</i> at the Ford's Theatre.
			<i>[More cheering and applauding.]</i>

			Not to be confused with the Lincoln Theatre.
00:04:31	John	Host	Right, of course.
00:04:32	Jade	Guest	People easily confuse it because Ford's Lincoln...
			<i>[Someone in the audience laughs.]</i>
			Um—we—we get it.
			<i>[Some more laughter.]</i>
00:04:37	John	Host	Yeah. Oh, and this place totally named itself Lincoln Theatre to confuse people.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			Like, they were totally like "They're gonna think Lincoln died here." Then they're gonna come— <u>all</u> of the podcasts are gonna come here!"
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			"All the history nerds are gonna be like 'Let's go to Sic-Semper-Tyrannis—land!'" We got <u>tricked</u> .
00:04:51	Jade	Guest	Correct! Yes! So I'm a musical theatre actress. I will be working at the Shakespeare Theatre for the next six months. So if you like...
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			...high art, I would come out and see it. My Instagram is @littyofficial —I'm not making that up—so if you like Instagram, you can follow me.
00:05:08	John	Host	How do you spell that?
00:05:09	Jade	Guest	L-I-T-T-Y, Litty. Official.
00:05:14	John	Host	All I wanted to know that there was no underscore between Litty and Official, because all underscores are canceled. Alright!
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Jade Jones, thank you very much! We're gonna hear the case now!
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			Let's get to the case! Sarah and Susan! Sarah, you bring the complaint against Susan, your mother. Is that correct?
00:05:33	Sarah	Guest	That is correct, yes.
00:05:34	John	Host	And you—Susan, you live here in the DC area, or no?
00:05:38	Susan	Guest	No, I live in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, in a valley <u>in</u> Shenandoah Valley called Fort Valley.
00:05:43	John	Host	A valley within a valley?
			<i>[John and audience laugh.]</i>

00:05:46	Susan	Guest	It's a—
00:05:47	John	Host	This is some <i>Inception</i> stuff.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			How deep does it go?
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
00:05:51	Susan	Guest	It's a hanging—
00:05:53	Jesse	Host	Are you—I don't mean to be rude, but... are you a mole person?
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh, Jesse stifles laughter.]</i>
			Are you simply describing the center of the Earth?
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
00:06:02	Susan	Guest	It's a hanging valley. It's actually above—
00:06:04	John	Host	What are you talking about?!
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
			Hanging—a hanging valley?! A valley doesn't hang! A cliff hangs!
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
00:06:18	Sarah	Guest	It was named by George Washington, right?
00:06:21	Susan	Guest	Um, well...
			<i>[Susan and/or Sarah and the audience laugh.]</i>
00:06:23	John	Host	Wait a minute! Sarah, what's that supposed to mean about anything? The fact that it was named by George Washington is supposed to sort of fill me with utter reverence so I won't—I'll stop questioning the reality of what your mother is saying?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			"Oh, well, if it was named by George Washington, our first president, oh!" No. You know what? I believe patriotism is <u>questioning</u> authority.
			<i>[Audience laughs, cheers, and applauds.]</i>
			And I question your authority, Susan. What is a hanging valley?
00:06:53	Susan	Guest	It's a geological feature, and I don't remember how it—but it's actually above the Shenandoah Valley.
00:06:59	John	Host	So your valley's a little bit <u>above</u> the valley.
00:07:01	Susan	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:07:02	John	Host	So it's like here's the plateau, valley, and then "wooooh, valley!"
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:07:08	Susan	Guest	Well, not exactly, but yeah.

[Audience laughs harder, Susan chuckles.]

00:07:10 John Host Says here you live in the Shenandoah Valley, but you technically live in the valley within the valley. The hanging valley known only as Brigadoon.

[Susan and audience laugh.]

Orrr what is it again?

00:07:20 Susan Guest

Fort Valley.

00:07:22 John Host

Fort Valley. And there you are a volunteer EMT?

00:07:27 Susan Guest

I'm a volunteer EMT.

00:07:28 John Host

EMT being one of the great crossword puzzle answers.

[Light audience laughter.]

Those people know what I'm talking about.

[More laughter.]

And how many calls a week do you get, would you say?

00:07:38 Susan Guest

We average one to two calls a week.

00:07:41 John Host

And I pres—well, you said "we," so there's more than one of you?

00:07:44 Susan Guest

Yes.

00:07:45 John Host

Okay.

00:07:46 Susan Guest

There's the active running EMTs.

00:07:48 John Host

Mm-hm.

00:07:49 Susan Guest

There's about nine.

00:07:50 John Host

And when you say active running EMTs, you're people who—people who are—who are not volunteers? Or no.

00:07:56 Susan Guest

No, no. We're all volunteers.

00:07:57 John Host

All volunteers, right.

00:07:58 Susan Guest

Some people are not released, which means you're licensed to practice as an EMT. And some people are—just don't—have not been released. And some people have just moved, or gone away, but they're still part of the fire department.

00:08:15 John Host

Right.

00:08:16 Susan Guest

And so—

00:08:17 John Host

That's how it goes in rural communities.

00:08:19 Susan Guest

It is!

00:08:20 John Host

Right. I see you're wearing a hat, VFD hat. It's a very hard initialism to pronounce.

[Susan and the audience laugh.]

Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department, I presume?

00:08:30 Susan Guest

Yeah. We're all volunteer. We don't charge for services.

00:08:33	John	Host	Oh, well, thank you. Unlike the rest of America.
			<i>[Audience laughter and applause.]</i>
00:08:38	Susan	Guest	About eight of us, but a lot of them work outside of Fort Valley.
00:08:42	John	Host	Oh, okay.
00:08:43	Susan	Guest	Over the mountain.
00:08:44	John	Host	Right.
00:08:45	Susan	Guest	And so—
00:08:46	Jesse	Host	Just over the mountain, or also through the woods?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:08:50	Susan	Guest	A little bit of both, actually. <i>[Laughs.]</i> And you never know who's in Fort Valley when a call happens.
00:08:59	John	Host	Right. So when a call happens, how do you get alerted?
00:09:01	Susan	Guest	I wear a pager.
00:09:02	John	Host	Right.
00:09:03	Susan	Guest	And I have a radio.
00:09:04	John	Host	Right.
00:09:05	Susan	Guest	And it goes off.
00:09:06	John	Host	Is this a valley in ancient times?
			<i>[Susan and the audience laugh.]</i>
00:09:11	Jesse	Host	Yeah, I—I have a sub-question. Are you a drug dealer in 1994?
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
00:09:17	John	Host	You have a question within a question, a hanging question, as it were?
00:09:19	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
			<i>[More laughter from audience and litigant(s).]</i>
00:09:24	John	Host	Okay, you have a pager.
00:09:25	Susan	Guest	I have a pager.
00:09:26	John	Host	Right.
00:09:27	Susan	Guest	And I stop whatever I'm doing, and I get my car and I drive, and it takes about five minutes to drive to the fire department.
00:09:33	John	Host	Right.
00:09:34	Susan	Guest	And then—
00:09:35	John	Host	Maybe you should drive to where the person's having an emergency.
			<i>[Audience laughter.]</i>
00:09:37	Susan	Guest	It depends! Sometimes I do.
00:09:39	John	Host	Okay. Oh, right, 'cause you don't have the ambulance parked in your driveway.
00:09:42	Susan	Guest	I have a jump bag, all the released EMTs in Fort Valley have a jump

bag that has an AED and things that you can treat a trauma with.

00:09:50 John Host Mm-hm.

00:09:51 Susan Guest But it's usually—

00:09:52 John Host Do you have that with you tonight?

00:09:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** 'Cause I do some—a lot of heavy physical comedy, and I don't wanna—

Susan: Yeah, it's in—it's in the parking lot. *[Laughs.]*

[Audience laughs.]

00:09:56 Susan Guest It's wherever we parked when we got here.

00:09:58 John Host Okay, fine.

00:09:59 Susan Guest I do take it with me wherever I go. *[Laughs.]*

00:10:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Right. I'm sorry. I asked—you're trying to answer my questions here, and I'm distracting you.

Susan: I know, I'm sorry. *[Laughs.]*

00:10:04 John Host No, no, no.

00:10:06 Susan Guest If it's closer to me than the fire department, I go straight there.

00:10:11 John Host Gotcha.

00:10:12 Susan Guest And then somebody can go to the fire department and bring the ambulance to me.

00:10:15 John Host Right.

00:10:16 Susan Guest And so there's eight people. Fort Valley is 20 miles long and 5 miles wide, and we have about... nine released—eight or nine—

00:10:24 John Host Cool!

00:10:25 Susan Guest —EMTs that, um, can—

00:10:27 John Host Don't look to your daughter. She doesn't understand your life's work.

[Audience laughter.]

She wants you to stop.

00:10:34 Susan Guest And so if—

00:10:35 John Host She knows nothing of what life is like in Fort Valley.

[Sarah laughs.]

00:10:38 Jesse Host She's just hearing sounds coming out of your mouth and looking at you and wondering if they're like... Vampire Weekend albums?

[John, audience, and one or both litigants laugh.]

Her life is meaningless. It's just a long string of avocado toasts.

[More laughter.]

00:10:58 Susan Guest So—

00:10:59 John Host I would follow that life path.

[Audience and litigant(s) laugh.]

00:11:01 Jesse Host [Laughing] Yeah.

00:11:02 John Host Like, if it were just like, "Avocado toast, avocado toast, leaving to a grave in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn"? I'm there. I'm on my hands and knees. I'm gonna eat that up.

[Audience laughter.]

00:11:12 Susan Guest Follow that line. Anyway! Susan, I apologize.

00:11:28 John Host And so we meet, and sometimes only two of us show up, a driver and an EMT, and sometimes five or six people show up. And when we get there we decide who's the best team to go and take the person to the hospital.

00:11:31 Susan Guest And this discussion I presume takes about 45 minutes?

00:11:34 John Host [John, audience, and Sarah laugh.]

00:11:31 Susan Guest No, it takes—[laughs].

00:11:34 John Host "Gosh, Susan, I don't know! I mean..."

[More audience and litigant laughter.]

"You trained in CPR more recently. Let's get our certificates out and look at them."

[More audience laughter.]

"Who was the most recent person to train in CPR—will you hang on a second, Ma'am? We're trying to figure this out. So—"

[John and audience laugh.]

00:11:51 Jesse Host [Stifling laughter] "Let's—let's roll for charisma real quick."

[Audience laughs and applauds.]

00:11:58 John Host Okay. And then you take 'em to the hospital.

00:12:01 Susan Guest Right.

00:12:02 John Host Right. And how did you get started in this line of—not work, but volunteerism?

00:12:07 Susan Guest We moved there in 2012. We have horses, and we found a beautiful place to move to with our horses.

00:12:14 John Host Right.

00:12:15 Susan Guest And somebody that I met said "Do you wanna become an EMT?" and I said... [casually] "Yeah!"

[Beat.]

[Audience and litigants laugh.]

00:12:21 John Host That's amazing! So when you say "We," you're talking about you and—

00:12:23	Susan	Guest	My husband.
00:12:24	John	Host	Your husband.
00:12:25	Susan	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:12:26	John	Host	And your horses, how many horses do you have?
00:12:27	Susan	Guest	Now we have four big horses and two minis.
00:12:29	John	Host	Oh, wow! So—
			<i>[A sound that might be Jesse yelping?]</i>
			<i>[Litigants and audience laugh.]</i>
00:12:33	Susan	Guest	I have pictures!
00:12:34	Jesse	Host	How tall are the minis?
			<i>[Pause.]</i>
			Awww!
00:12:37	John	Host	Let the record show that Susan is indicating about three and a half feet, maybe four?
00:12:41	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Susan: Three.
			Jesse: Follow-up question—
			John: Three?
			Susan: Three.
			John: Okay.
00:12:44	Jesse	Host	<i>[Desperately]</i> Do you have any miniature donkeys, known popularly as donks?
00:12:47	Sarah	Guest	Awww.
00:12:48	Susan	Guest	<i>[Regretfully]</i> No.
00:12:49	John	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Aw.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			I'm sorry, Jesse. Someday.
00:12:51	Susan	Guest	I'm—
00:12:52	Jesse	Host	I find in your daughter's favor.
			<i>[Audience, litigant(s) and/or John laugh.]</i>
00:12:55	John	Host	Someday we'll find a case with donks for you.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			What are the names of all of the horses? Including the miniature horses, if you don't mind. Let's start with the four bigs, and then go to the two mins.
00:13:03	Susan	Guest	Bell, Wally, Zireo, Rags.

00:13:07	John	Host	Yeah! Zireo?
00:13:09	Susan	Guest	Yeah, he's from Colorado. He's a paint—
00:13:11	John	Host	Oh. Well, therefore I understand.
<i>[Audience and litigant(s) laugh.]</i>			
You may not know, that's a common Coloradan name.			
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			
00:13:18	Susan	Guest	For horses.
00:13:19	John	Host	Zireo.
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			
00:13:21	Susan	Guest	And the minis are Christopher Robin and Daisy.
00:13:24	John	Host	Oh!
<i>[Audience "aw"s.]</i>			
Yaaay, four horses! The miniature horses are kinda jerks though, right?			
<i>[Beat.]</i>			
00:13:30	Susan	Guest	No.
00:13:31	John	Host	No?
00:13:32	Susan	Guest	They're very sweet.
00:13:32	John	Host	They're sweet?
00:13:33	Sarah	Guest	They're really nice. Yeah.
00:13:34	John	Host	Sarah is jumping in now to finally defend her mother?
00:13:35	Sarah	Guest	Yeah.
<i>[Litigants and audience laugh.]</i>			
00:13:36	John	Host	Right.
00:13:37	Sarah	Guest	Well, like, <u>ponies</u> , you often hear have a lot of attitude.
00:13:39	John	Host	Yeah, I always heard that ponies have bad attitudes.
00:13:40	Sarah	Guest	But minis are different.
00:13:43	John	Host	Minis are just little horses! They're just little—
00:13:45	Sarah	Guest	Yeah.
00:13:46	Susan	Guest	They are, they're little horses.
00:13:47	John	Host	Yeah, they're like—
00:13:48	Jesse	Host	Just munching on them carrots, om nom nom nom nom nom nom.
<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>			
00:13:51	John	Host	I'm really upset that you didn't bring them today.
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			

00:13:55	Jesse	Host	But that's okay. I'll give you a fair hearing all the same. You think <u>you're</u> upset, John?
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
00:13:58	John	Host	And you moved to Mysterious Valley with your horses...
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			...in—you know, in retirement? If I may ask?
00:14:05	Susan	Guest	Well—
00:14:06	John	Host	Or a change of life of some kind?
00:14:07	Susan	Guest	My husband is a consultant, and so he—
00:14:10	John	Host	Never understood what that meant.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:14:13	Jesse	Host	It's a murderer for hire.
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
00:14:15	John	Host	That's right, I have to imagine.
			Okay, so your husband retired from... mysterious consultancy. Right? And you moved to Mysterious Valley—
00:14:23	Susan	Guest	Fort Valley. Mm-hm.
00:14:24	John	Host	I know what it's really called, but I'm gonna call it Mysterious Valley.
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
			Mysterious Hanging Valley. Impossible Valley. USA. And you just were asked to volunteer, and you said yes!
00:14:33	Susan	Guest	Mm-hm!
00:14:34	John	Host	And how many—you know, I don't want—I know you don't wanna brag. But like, how many lives would you say you've saved?
			<i>[Quiet audience laughter.]</i>
			Or been part of the saving of?
00:14:43	Susan	Guest	Most of my job is taking sick people to the hospital.
00:14:46	John	Host	I understand.
00:14:47	Susan	Guest	But there have been—we—we're far enough—
00:14:51	John	Host	And that—and by the way? Thank you for that.
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			I'm certainly not saying you have to save a life every time or else it's not worth it.
			<i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>

I'm just—*[laughs]* like, I'm really not saying you should say to whoever recruited you into this like, "This is boring! These are just sick people!"

[More laughter.]

"I thought it was gonna be life or death every time."

00:15:14 Jesse Host Yeah. "I got so excited when I saw them plunge that needle into the heart in *Pulp Fiction*, and this is just a bunch of whooping cough!"

[Audience laughs.]

00:15:25 Susan Guest Once or twice a year we have somebody that we have to get to the hospital very fast. We fly people out—

00:15:30 John Host Yeah.

00:15:31 Susan Guest —if they're having a stroke or a heart attack, or have serious trauma.

00:15:35 John Host About twice a year, you would say, a life is preserved. Intervention occurs that allows a life to continue.

00:15:41 Susan Guest Yeah.

00:15:42 John Host And you've been—let's say as part of the team, you are part of those efforts. And how many years have you been doing this?

00:15:48 Susan Guest I think I've been released since 2014.

00:15:51 John Host So that's, uh—*[mumbling mathematically]* mm-hm, carry the—mm-hm, right. Five years ago.

[Audience laughter.]

00:15:57 Susan Guest Mm-hm.

00:15:58 John Host So at a minimum, you've been party to five life savings. Would that be fair to say, Susan?

[Beat.]

I think that's fair to say.

00:16:05 Jesse Host Yeah.

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]

So stipulated.

00:16:10 John Host The point I'm raising, Susan, is that your daughter Sarah... would rather those people have died!

[Audience laughs and applauds.]

Is that not so, Sarah?!

00:16:22 Sarah Guest I—I think some people would say that.

[More laughter.]

00:16:26 John Host Yeah! I just did! The fact—*[laughs]* the fact that you are not saying "No, no, no!"...

[Audience and both litigants laugh.]

...suggests to me that you agree with those people! Is that not so?

00:16:39 Sarah Guest

That is not so.

00:16:40 John Host

Alright, finally.

00:16:41 Sarah Guest

Yes.

00:16:42 John Host

You put your human mask back on.

[Audience and both litigants laugh.]

Thank you for showing us who you are, though, to begin with.

00:16:47 Sarah Guest

Mm-hm.

[More laughter.]

00:16:48 John Host

So Sarah, where do you live in this world?

00:16:50 Sarah Guest

I live in Charlottesville, Virginia.

00:16:52 John Host

Charlottesville, Virginia.

[Some of the audience whoops and applauds enthusiastically.]

I agree.

00:16:55 Sarah Guest

Thank you.

00:16:56 John Host

How are—how are things there?

00:16:57 Sarah Guest

They—they've been better.

00:16:59 John Host

Yeah.

[John and the audience laugh.]

00:17:01 Sarah Guest

No, I actually—they might not have ever been better. I should stipulate that.

[Sarah, John and/or Jesse, and the audience laugh.]

00:17:08 John Host

Sounds like you enjoy living there. *[Laughs.]*

00:17:09 Sarah Guest

Yeah. *[Laughing]* I do. I do like living there, but... there's some things. You know. A-brewing.

00:17:13 John Host

It's—yeah. It's... yeah. It's happening everywhere.

00:17:16 Sarah Guest

Mm-hm.

00:17:17 John Host

What do you do there in Charlottesville, if I may ask?

00:17:19 Sarah Guest

I'm a grant writer for a small non-profit women's mental health clinic.

00:17:24 John Host

Oh, well thank you for what you do as well!

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

You are helping to save lives in a... much, much more indirect way.

[Audience laughter.]

00:17:33 Sarah Guest

I agree.

00:17:34	John	Host	But it is still important work.
00:17:35	Sarah	Guest	I hope so.
00:17:36	John	Host	And from time to time...
00:17:38	Sarah	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:17:39	John	Host	You make the journey over the hill and through the woods, and through the magic portal...
00:17:42	Sarah	Guest	It is a number of hills. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:17:44	John	Host	To the—and you go and you find the wardrobe, and you walk through it into...
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Into the impossible valley of Fort Valley.
00:17:52	Sarah	Guest	It's not an easy place to get to.
00:17:54	John	Host	No, it—what's involved? Is there a funicular?
00:17:58	Sarah	Guest	Like, switchbacks.
00:17:59	John	Host	Switchbacks.
00:18:00	Sarah	Guest	You have to go through the national forest.
00:18:02	John	Host	Right. That's <u>why</u> they have a volunteer...
00:18:04	Sarah	Guest	Yeah!
00:18:05	John	Host	...fire and EMT department.
00:18:06	Sarah	Guest	That's true.
00:18:07	John	Host	Because people can't come in there to save lives.
00:18:09	Sarah	Guest	It's difficult.
00:18:10	John	Host	You heard about the helicopter that they have to take in.
			<i>[Audience laughter.]</i>
00:18:12	Sarah	Guest	I know!
00:18:14	John	Host	If anyone gets really sick. I mean, it's basically a death bowl.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:18:17	Sarah	Guest	I know! <i>[Stifling laughter]</i> And my parents moved there when they retired!
00:18:19	John	Host	Right, exactly! And so when you go and visit...
00:18:22	Sarah	Guest	Yes.
00:18:23	John	Host	...and you're hanging out with your mom...
00:18:26	Sarah	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:18:27	John	Host	...and you're angry, 'cause she's responding to these emergency calls... tell me your side of the story!
00:18:32	Sarah	Guest	Okay. I will.
00:18:33	John	Host	So I may dissect it.
00:18:34	Sarah	Guest	So I have two small children. They love to visit their grandparents, they love to look at the horses.

00:18:39	John	Host	Yeah, I was gonna say.
00:18:40	Sarah	Guest	Yeah.
00:18:41	John	Host	Grandparents, sure, but horses, come on!
00:18:42	Sarah	Guest	Yeah, I mean—
<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>			
00:18:43	John	Host	You know what they're there for!
00:18:44	Sarah	Guest	She got too many ponies, I mean...
00:18:45	John	Host	Little Daisy, and little—what's the other little one's name?
00:18:47	Sarah	Guest	Christopher Robin.
00:18:48	John	Host	Christopher Rob—the whole audience says it in unison. "Christopher Robin!"
<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>			
So your kids love to visit.			
00:18:55	Sarah	Guest	Yes. They do.
00:18:56	John	Host	Right. And so what happens while you—?
00:18:58	Sarah	Guest	Let's just say you're there, you're hanging out, you know, doing something fun. And then all of the sudden these loud sounds go off, and my mom just like—like, she just bolts.
00:19:08	John	Host	What do you mean "loud sounds"?
00:19:09	Sarah	Guest	Just like, loud tones. You call 'em tones, right?
00:19:12	Susan	Guest	Yeah.
00:19:13	John	Host	Oh, this is the—
00:19:14	Jesse	Host	Like a reggae airhorn or something?
<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>			
<i>[Jesse and John imitate airhorn noises. John is sort of "pyow pyow pyow" and Jesse is more "bork bork bork bork!"]</i>			
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			
00:19:21	Sarah	Guest	It's... yeah!
00:19:22	John	Host	What do they sound like, Sarah, if you were gonna impersonate them? And, you know, don't hold back.
00:19:25	Sarah	Guest	They sound like... It's like "BAAAMP! BAAAMP! BAA—" That was probably not it at all. What does it sound like?
00:19:30	John	Host	Susan, was that a good impersonation, or no?
00:19:33	Susan	Guest	No.
00:19:33	John	Host	No, she says.
<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>			
00:19:34	Sarah	Guest	I was just guessing.
00:19:35	John	Host	Can you do it?

00:19:36	Susan	Guest	"Beep beep beep beep beep beep!"
00:19:37	Sarah	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> Oh, yeah.
00:19:38	John	Host	I have a new ringtone.
00:19:39	Susan	Guest	And then "doo-DAH!"
00:19:40	John	Host	What was that? What was the last one?
00:19:41	Susan	Guest	"doo-DAH!" And then—
			<i>[Sarah laughs.]</i>
00:19:43	John	Host	"Doo-dah"?!
00:19:44	Susan	Guest	Well...
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:19:46	John	Host	No thank you! They have to change that one!
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
00:19:52	Susan	Guest	And then they tell you what it is. Where and what it is.
00:19:54	John	Host	And they—are they—
00:19:55	Jesse	Host	They come over the radio then, John. They go—
00:19:57	Susan	Guest	It's over the radio.
00:19:58	Jesse	Host	"Hear me now!"
			<i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>
00:20:06	John	Host	Do they come over live over a radio in your house?
00:20:09	Susan	Guest	On my pager, yeah.
00:20:10	John	Host	But I mean—
00:20:11	Susan	Guest	Wherever I am.
00:20:12	John	Host	Right, but does a <u>voice</u> start talking to you?
00:20:14	Susan	Guest	Yes! It's 9-1-1.
00:20:15	John	Host	It's—oh, okay.
00:20:16	Susan	Guest	It's the people you call when you call 9-1-1.
00:20:19	John	Host	So it's the 9-1-1 operators...
00:20:20	Susan	Guest	Push a button.
00:20:22	John	Host	...alert <u>you</u> —
00:20:23	Susan	Guest	Push a button.
00:20:24	John	Host	And then they just start talking into the house.
00:20:26	Susan	Guest	Right. In wherever I am.
00:20:27	John	Host	Right. And they say "There is an emergency at blah blah blah blah."
00:20:29	Susan	Guest	Mm-hm!
00:20:30	John	Host	"Who will respond?" And you jump up and say—and you <u>jump</u> up and you <u>throw</u> your children—your grandchildren off your lap—
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>

00:20:36	Sarah	Guest	Yes!
00:20:37	John	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> And you're like "I cannot wait to get outta here!"
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
			You just like, <u>trample</u> over the Candy Land set...
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			Is this true, or is this not true, Sarah?
00:20:51	Sarah	Guest	I—it feels that way.
00:20:53	John	Host	It feels that way.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:20:54	Sarah	Guest	Yeah.
00:20:55	John	Host	You feel your mother is <u>too</u> responsive to these other emergencies—
00:20:58	Sarah	Guest	Yeah!
00:20:59	John	Host	—and not responsive enough to your family time.
00:21:01	Sarah	Guest	Yeah, I think that's accurate.
00:21:03	John	Host	Okay. And when your mom jumps up and goes away, how does that make you feel?
00:21:08	Sarah	Guest	You know, I could feel a little bit abandoned, or a little bit out of sorts. 'Cause I'm not—this is not my house.
00:21:13	John	Host	Right.
00:21:14	Sarah	Guest	It's their house. And so I'm oftentimes alone with my two small children on a 20-acre horse farm in the middle of nowhere.
00:21:23	John	Host	Right. And you're not—
00:21:24	Jesse	Host	What if you run out of carrots? Then what are those little horses gonna eat?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:21:27	John	Host	Yeah, they're gonna—
00:21:29	Sarah	Guest	She doesn't want us to play with the horses without her there.
00:21:32	John	Host	<i>[Gasps.]</i>
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Susan, why not?
00:21:38	Susan	Guest	Horses are large, dangerous flight animals, that if you don't know how to behave around them—because you don't come up and visit often enough—
			<i>[Sarah laughs, audience erupts into laughter and "OHHH"s.]</i>
00:21:53	Sarah	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> That was—that was good.
			<i>[Someone imitates an airhorn or emergency tone.]</i>
00:21:55	John	Host	Do you feel that Sarah does not visit often enough?

[Beat.]

00:22:00 Susan Guest I wish she could visit more often. But she and her husband both work. It's difficult. It's—

00:22:05 John Host Well, isn't it the case then that since they cannot visit as often as any of you would like, I presume... that shouldn't you maybe turn your pager off and spend what time you have with them with them? Rather than leaving them at risk of being trampled by your wild horses?

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]

00:22:22 Susan Guest Sometimes I'm the only EMT in Fort Valley.

00:22:26 John Host I thought you said there were like eight or nine of them!

00:22:28 Susan Guest But—

00:22:29 John Host Are they all just blowing it off?

[John and audience laugh.]

00:22:31 Sarah Guest Yeah. They are.

00:22:32 John Host Tell me, Sarah.

00:22:33 Sarah Guest So, she is the person who takes the most calls, year after year! She's the lieutenant—the EMS lieutenant?

00:22:39 John Host Oh!

00:22:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Sarah:** So she's like the most responsible—

John: So she's not Mrs. Officer, she's Mrs. Lieutenant!

00:22:43 Sarah Guest Yes! She's the lieutenant. But she—I think at times people know that she's there, and that she's gonna respond to all the calls, and so they're like "Meh."

00:22:52 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Wait, you're talking about sick people? They're like—

00:22:53 Sarah Guest Nooo! The other—

00:22:54 John Host "Oh, Susan's the only one left. I think this is a good time to get sick."

[Audience laughs.]

00:22:57 Sarah Guest The other EMTs.

00:22:58 John Host *[Laughs.]* Oh, I see. So they know—

00:23:00 Sarah Guest So I think that they know that she's dependable, so they can just sorta like...

00:23:03 John Host Oh, they're taking advantage of her!

00:23:05 Sarah Guest They're taking advantage of her! Yeah!

00:23:06 John Host Do you have any actual evidence that this conspiracy theory is true?

[Audience laughs.]

Susan is shaking her head no, Sarah says she knows. She understands.

00:23:12	Sarah	Guest	It's—yeah. I know. I get it.
00:23:14	Jesse	Host	Susan, do you have any other option? Can you press the pause button? Can you assign your responsibilities for a period of time to another volunteer EMT?
00:23:24	Susan	Guest	That's not how we work. We don't take duty shifts, because it—you can go a week or more without a call. And so if your duty—you know, you spend all that time waiting for something to happen that never happens. So the way it works there is if you are in Fort Valley and able to respond, you go. When you get to the call, like I said earlier, the person who is best able to deal with whatever the situation is...
00:23:59	John	Host	Does so.
00:24:00	Susan	Guest	Does so.
00:24:01	John	Host	Right.
00:24:02	Susan	Guest	<i>[Hesitating]</i> I <u>am</u> a top responder, but I'm <u>not</u> ...
00:24:06	John	Host	Oh. Not to brag.
			<i>[Susan or Sarah laughs.]</i>
00:24:07	Jesse	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Is this about your Medallion status, Ma'am?
			<i>[Audience laughs and applauds.]</i>
00:24:12	John	Host	<u>Top</u> responder.
00:24:13	Susan	Guest	Well, they have a banquet every year and they give you—
00:24:16	Sarah	Guest	Oh. Yeah.
00:24:17	John	Host	You get four stars every time?
			<i>[Audience laughs/applauds.]</i>
			Ohhh!
00:24:19	Jesse	Host	You get access to <u>all</u> the responder lounges around the world.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			If there's a responder upgrade available, you get it first...
00:24:28	John	Host	So, no—you—I imagined that it was like a rideshare driver situation, where every time someone has a heart attack they're pestered by their phone to rate their EMT driver.
			<i>[Sarah and/or Susan laughs.]</i>
			Four stars, top responder.
00:24:40	Susan	Guest	But I—the number I respond to is significantly less than the number I transport people out of Fort Valley. So I—
00:24:47	John	Host	Okay.
00:24:48	Susan	Guest	Frequent—and that's a—usually it's a total of about three hours to take somebody to the hospital and get everything done. But—
00:24:56	John	Host	Right. So you respond, you show up, someone else is better qualified to deal with it, you go back on home.

00:25:00	Susan	Guest	Right!
00:25:01	John	Host	Right. Okay. So tell me about the last time that your mom responded to a call.
00:25:05	Sarah	Guest	I don't know if I can remember the exact last time, but—
00:25:09	John	Host	Or one that sticks in your mind.
00:25:11	Sarah	Guest	Yeah. So one that sticks in my mind is that she had invited me and my family to visit them for the weekend. That she was gonna teach my daughter and I how to make strawberry jam.
00:25:21	John	Host	Nice! Very grandmotherly!
00:25:23	Sarah	Guest	It was a very like, lovely, grandmother-y gesture.
00:25:26	John	Host	Right.
00:25:27	Sarah	Guest	And so we get all the strawberries and the sugar in the big pot on the stove...
00:25:31	John	Host	Right.
00:25:32	Sarah	Guest	And then the tones go off.
00:25:33	John	Host	Beep beep beep beep beep beep beep beep!
00:25:35	Sarah	Guest	Yeah. And she's just gone! And then I have this like, giant pot—
00:25:39	John	Host	<i>[Low, grave]</i> "Susan, drop strawberry jam! Get out of house immediately!"
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
00:25:44	Sarah	Guest	I have this big pot of like, sticky strawberry goo—
00:25:47	John	Host	Yeah.
00:25:48	Sarah	Guest	—boiling on a stove! And I never—I don't know how to make strawberry jam!
00:25:52	John	Host	And how long—
00:25:53	Jesse	Host	You're thinking... <i>[Jamaican accent]</i> "Me not gwan make jam!"
			<i>[Audience and Sarah laugh.]</i>
00:25:56	Sarah	Guest	Yeah!
00:25:57	John	Host	How— <i>[laughs]</i> .
00:25:58	Sarah	Guest	Then I had this big responsibility. And no mother!
00:26:01	John	Host	Yeah. Well, certainly, no one comes home to visit their parents to have to spend <u>time</u> with their children.
			<i>[Audience and Sarah or Susan laugh.]</i>
			But how long was she gone for before the strawberry jam project re-started again?
00:26:12	Sarah	Guest	I mean, she was gone—I think at that time you <u>did</u> take them to the hospital. And so you were gone for several hours. I don't know. The strawberry jam got made, but...
00:26:20	John	Host	And do you—
00:26:21	Sarah	Guest	...could have been tastier.

[John laughs. Audience laughs and "ohhh"s.]

00:26:24 John Host Could have been tastier. Could have... Susan, do you recall this incident? And do you remember what the emergency was that you were responding to?

00:26:32 Susan Guest I remember the incident, but I don't remember... and I really couldn't tell you—

00:26:37 John Host Right.

00:26:38 Susan Guest —because of HIPAA laws, what the incident was.

[Audience, Sarah, and Jesse laugh.]

00:26:45 John Host Suffice it to say, it might have been something more of an inconvenience than... having half-made jam lying around.

00:26:51 Susan Guest I would assume so, because I really wanted to do it with them.

00:26:54 John Host Right.

00:26:55 Susan Guest And if that person needed to go to the hospital, or we could have flown them out, it takes a—pretty much everybody to get everything set up for flying somebody out. So—and it takes a long time.

00:27:07 John Host So what do you like about doing this, Susan?

00:27:09 Susan Guest I like helping the people in the community.

00:27:14 John Host Yeah.

00:27:15 Susan Guest I like knowing that I'm being supportive, and, you know, I do like the adrenaline rush. I mean, I—*[laughs]*.

00:27:23 John Host Do you think, Sarah—you say you have two children?

00:27:26 Sarah Guest Yes.

00:27:27 John Host And what's their ages and styles?

00:27:31 Sarah Guest *[Chuckles.]* I have a six-year-old daughter and an almost three-year-old son.

00:27:35 John Host So the three-year-old son is just a—

00:27:37 Sarah Guest Yeah.

00:27:38 John Host —a creature who just eats Legos and doesn't know what's happening, so that's...

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]

00:27:40 Sarah Guest Yeah. I agree completely.

00:27:42 John Host But your six-year-old daughter is obviously cognizant of what's happening—

00:27:45 Sarah Guest Mm-hm.

00:27:46 John Host —and that her grandmother is going away. *[Pointedly]* To save lives.

00:27:49 Sarah Guest Yes.

[Audience laughs.]

Everyone's very proud of her.

00:27:52 John Host Everyone's very proud of—of your mother. Right.

00:27:55	Sarah	Guest	My mother, yeah!
00:27:56	John	Host	Yes. And—yeah!
			<i>[Audience applauds.]</i>
			Well, obviously it is a sad situation that your daughter can't make jam with—what does she call you? Grandma?
00:28:07	Susan	Guest	Goggy.
00:28:08	John	Host	Goggy.
			<i>[Audience and John laugh delightedly.]</i>
			Could! This! Get! More! Adorable?
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
			I think this is the last episode of the podcast, Jesse. I think this is it.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
00:28:22	Jesse	Host	Yeah... we better close with a miniature donkey, or we're busted.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
00:28:26	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah!
			Don't you think that even though she's sad she can't make jam with her Goggy, she appreciates that Goggy's got responsibilities?
00:28:33	Sarah	Guest	Oh—
00:28:34	John	Host	And is kind of a superhero?
00:28:35	Sarah	Guest	For sure. And you know what, when we go to visit them, my mom takes us to the fire station and lets them climb up into the ambulance and the firetruck. Like—
00:28:43	John	Host	Right.
00:28:44	Sarah	Guest	It's like, super high-level grandma.
00:28:45	John	Host	But you're not asking your mother to stop <u>being</u> a top responder.
00:28:49	Sarah	Guest	No, not at all!
00:28:50	John	Host	Just a medium responder.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:28:51	Sarah	Guest	Yeah! I think—
00:28:53	John	Host	Or a sometimes responder.
00:28:54	Sarah	Guest	I think that she does take a lot of calls. I do think that she has even mentioned that people don't always respond when they know that she's there.
00:29:06	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Sarah: And so I think—yeah!
			John: So—well, obviously you've already accused the Fort Valley—
			Sarah: Yeah!

00:29:10	John	Host	And this time I will remember the name. Because you are accusing the other members of the Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department...
00:29:16	Sarah	Guest	Ooh. Ooh.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:29:18	John	Host	...of being creeps and shirkers.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			Who go out of town—or I should say out of valley—
00:29:24	Sarah	Guest	That <u>is</u> what you say.
00:29:26	John	Host	—when they <u>know</u> your mom is hanging around. 'Cause they're like "We can go away. We can eff off. Top responder will take care of it!" And when they're <u>even there</u> ... they get the "Beep beep beep beep!" and they're like "Never mind, Susan's got it!" They're all a bunch of losers and wastoids. These are <u>your words</u> , Madam!
			<i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
			You feel that she takes on more responsibility than she has to.
00:29:52	Sarah	Guest	I think so, yeah.
00:29:53	John	Host	Do you think that that's true, Susan, or no?
00:29:55	Susan	Guest	No.
00:29:56	John	Host	No, and you would never betray your colleagues, even though secretly you know Sarah's right.
00:29:59	Susan	Guest	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> No.
00:30:01	John	Host	Let the record show that she is saying no, but I know that she's saying yes.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:30:06	Susan	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> No.
00:30:07	John	Host	No. You know your colleagues, and you trust them, and you have each other's...
00:30:10	Susan	Guest	We have each other's backs.
00:30:11	John	Host	...backs, yeah, exactly so. So it's Sarah who's lying.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			It's—Sarah is a fabricator.
00:30:19	Sarah	Guest	That hurts. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:30:21	John	Host	<i>[Laughs knowingly.]</i> I think that that was a sincere form of, uh, feeling!
			<i>[Litigants laugh.]</i>
			I think that was a sincere expression of feeling! Does it not—does it hurt?

00:30:29	Sarah	Guest	Oh, it does hurt, yeah.
00:30:30	John	Host	Yeah.
00:30:31	Sarah	Guest	I will admit. Yes. It does hurt to feel like... you know, she actually doesn't like to leave the valley, because they depend on her! So she doesn't come and visit us as often as I would like.
00:30:42	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:30:43	Sarah	Guest	And when we go to visit them, sometimes we'll be alone there for almost the whole weekend. She can't—it's not every time that we go that she gets a call, obviously. Like, it's one to two a week.
00:30:53	John	Host	Let the record show that Mrs. Lieutenant Officer just gave her daughter some serious side-eye.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:30:56	Sarah	Guest	<i>[Gasps.]</i> I missed that.
00:30:59	John	Host	Do you—it was when you said "Sometimes we come and visit and she's barely there for the weekend."
00:31:03	Sarah	Guest	Yeah! I think that's accurate. Because it's not just the time that she's away. It's also that it's hard physical work that's also mentally and emotionally taxing, and she needs to rest afterwards.
00:31:16	John	Host	Sure!
00:31:17	Sarah	Guest	So she'll go and do it, and then she'll come back and maybe take a nap or rest.
00:31:20	John	Host	Right. Right.
00:31:21	Sarah	Guest	It's understandable, but she's still... away.
00:31:25	John	Host	Your father, your husband, is alive and in the picture?
			<i>[Sarah laughs.]</i>
00:31:28	Susan	Guest	Yes, he is.
00:31:29	Sarah	Guest	Yes.
00:31:30	John	Host	So is he also volunteering and doing stuff?
00:31:32	Susan	Guest	No.
00:31:33	John	Host	Sooo, what do the children call him?
00:31:34	Susan	Guest	Guppy.
			<i>[Audience and Sarah laugh.]</i>
00:31:39	John	Host	I'm sorry, I didn't hear that. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:31:41	Sarah	Guest	It's "Guppy."
00:31:42	John	Host	Did you say "Guppy"?
00:31:43	Susan	Guest	I said "Guppy."
			<i>[More delighted hoots of audience laughter.]</i>
00:31:46	John	Host	Guppy and Goggy...
			<i>[Audience and Sarah laugh.]</i>
00:31:48	Jesse	Host	God, I wish we could just drop the mics and walk off stage!

[More laughter.]

00:31:55 John Host Where! Is! Guppy! In this picture?! When Goggy goes away, doesn't Guppy step in?! And help out with the jams and the... things?!

[More laughter.]

00:32:02 Sarah Guest It's a 22-acre horse farm. There's a lot of work to be done! Like, when we go up it's the weekend. He's been working all week. Like, he's off, like, doing farm chores a lot.

00:32:11 John Host Do you have brothers and sisters?

00:32:13 Sarah Guest I do, yeah.

00:32:14 John Host Where are they in the world?

00:32:15 Sarah Guest They live in upstate New York.

00:32:16 John Host Do they visit and have similar complaints?

00:32:18 Sarah Guest They would not go on record as such.

[Audience laughs and "ohhh!"s.]

00:32:21 John Host Ohhh, right! You won't betray your colleagues, either.

[Audience and Sarah laugh.]

00:32:27 Jesse Host Do you have any sources in the deep state?

[More laughter.]

00:32:31 Sarah Guest No comment.

00:32:33 John Host So Sarah, if I were to rule in your favor, what would you have me rule?

00:32:35 Sarah Guest I would like it that when we come to visit, that she tell her colleagues that she would be unavailable to run calls. And that she would turn off her pager and the radio for the weekend. And also—this is something we didn't talk about yet, but she also is like, very active in the firehouse, and like... sometimes we'll go up there and she'll be like "Oh, yeah, there's bingo tonight, so I gotta leave at three to go like... run bingo."

00:32:57 John Host Yeah.

00:32:57 Sarah Guest So that she would just tell me if it's gonna be a bingo night before we get there.

00:33:01 John Host So you might plan ahead.

00:33:02 Sarah Guest Yeah!

00:33:03 John Host And not come for a bingo night.

00:33:05 Sarah Guest Or just know!

00:33:06 Jesse Host Plan to get a new grandma that weekend.

[Sarah, John, and the audience laugh.]

00:33:09 John Host Right. Have you ever considered hiring a substitute Goggy to hang around?

00:33:12 Sarah Guest Oh, no!

00:33:13	John	Host	Goggy... is it possible for you to tell your colleagues "I'm taking the weekend off"? I mean, I'm not talking about possible for you personally, but like, would it be acceptable within the... laws of the volunteer fire department?
00:33:29	Susan	Guest	It's not something that people do. <i>[Beat.]</i>
00:33:33	John	Host	Ever.
00:33:34	Susan	Guest	Unless you're drunk, no. <i>[Audience and Sarah laugh.]</i>
00:33:40	John	Host	Well, a solution has just presented itself. <i>[Audience and Susan laugh.]</i> I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decision! <i>[Laughter continues.]</i>
00:33:46	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom. <i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
00:34:03	Sarah	Guest	Sarah, how are you feeling about your chances in the case? I knew coming into this that I was gonna be the unsympathetic character. <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:34:10	Jesse	Host	Yeah. No. I— What are you, reality show producing our podcast? <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:34:15	Sarah	Guest	Everyone in the family that I told we were gonna do this, they were all like "You're gonna lose." <i>[Sarah, audience, and Jesse laugh.]</i>
00:34:22	Jesse	Host	Susan, how are you feeling?
00:34:24	Susan	Guest	<i>[Sarah makes a couple of dismayed/placating sounds as Susan speaks.]</i> I <u>hope</u> I am... supported, and keep—get to keep doing what I feel is necessary to do. I... <i>[Light audience cheering and clapping.]</i>
00:34:40	Jesse	Host	Hold your applause! <i>[Audience laughs.]</i> Well, we'll see what Judge John Hodgman has to say... in just a moment.

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

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:34:58 John

Host

So my dad is a grandparent to our children. A very devoted grandparent. He also does a lot for his community. He helps raise money for teacher development in the Brookline public schools, etc. etc., etc., etc.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

He's a great dad. He's a great dad! Great grandparent. He is a—trained as a bookkeeper originally, and has an actuarial view about existence, which is to say he lives with one foot in the grave.

[Audience laughs.]

He is constantly extrapolating towards death. And at one point I was visiting him when our chil—a few years ago, when our children were a little bit younger. And he said "I would like to set up a schedule where I see your children every three weeks, either here, in Boston or Brookline or New York, one visit or another."

I'm like "That sounds fine. Sure!" And he said "I've calculated—the reason I want to do this..."

[Audience laughs.]

"...is that I have calculated that I have about four more years where they will want to spend time with me."

[Audience and Sarah laugh through some dismayed "aw"s.]

00:36:11 John

Host

And I said "Hang on, Dad. We—I understand what you're saying. There is a period of transition when kids become preteens and teens, where they individuate, and they don't feel as excited about spending time with Guppy and Goggy."

[Murmur of audience laughter.]

"You're not wrong to think ahead to that time, I suppose. But if you are calculating the amount of time you have left, then the time you spend with them will be overshadowed by that, and it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and they'll realize that you're... a death-obsessed weirdo."

[John and the audience laugh.]

"If you just take it a little bit easy and not think about it that way and spend the time with them? You don't know how long they will enjoy spending time with you!" And I thought that that was very insightful on my part.

[Audience and Sarah laugh.]

Until I realized his calculations were absolutely correct.

[John, Sarah, and the audience laugh.]

Almost to the day. I mean, he didn't show me the spreadsheet, but I know there is one.

[Audience laughs.]

00:37:20 John Host

And while my children still love their Guppy, they are now on their way in their own lives, and they are not as interested in making strawberry jam with him. You know, this is what happens when you have children. I don't need to tell you, Susan. They are the entire investment of your life, and you are the entire investment of their lives, for a very intense period of time. And then they grow up and they reveal themselves, that they have always been whole human beings the entire time.

[John stifles laughter, audience and one of the litigants laugh.]

They have been tricking you into thinking they were just a reflection of your own self.

[More laughter.]

That you could take pictures of and put on Instagram and get street cred for their cuteness. But that's all over now! 'Cause now they're their own—now they wanna be away from you. And they go away. And that's a hard thing to deal with. And particularly when you go through transitions like that, and then into later adulthood and retirement. These are big transitions, big life changes, and you have to find a way to make yourself feel happy and fulfilled and reconnect.

[Suddenly scandalized] Don't put—don't stick your—let the record show that Susan just stuck her tongue out at Sarah!

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh, audience keeps laughing.]

'Cause you think you have it in the bag, don't you?!

00:38:34 Susan Guest

No!

00:38:35 John Host

You think you have it in the bag!

00:38:36 Susan Guest

No! No! Not at all!

00:38:38 Sarah Guest

You do.

00:38:39 Susan Guest

No!

00:38:40 John Host

You and your friends sit around the firehouse... *[stifles laughter]* talking about how—no, anyway...

[Audience laughs.]

You don't have it in the bag, Goggy.

00:38:53 Susan Guest

I know. *[Chuckles.]* I know.

00:38:55 John Host

You're a top Goggy, but you don't have it in the bag. Still figuring it out in my head, that's why I'm talking so much.

[Audience and one of the litigants laugh.]

So! Your mom went through this transition that you're gonna go through.

00:39:07 Sarah Guest

Yeah.

00:39:08 John Host

Right? And the transition she made was to go to a fictional valley.

00:39:13 Sarah Guest

Mm-hm.

[Audience laughs.]

00:39:15 John Host

Surround herself with dangerous horses.

[More laughter.]

And throw herself into the service of her community, both in terms of life-saving and bingo. And I know that you're proud of your mom!

[More laughter.]

00:39:27 Sarah Guest

I am.

00:39:33 John Host

You have your own family now.

00:39:34 Sarah Guest

Mm-hm.

00:39:35 John Host

And I think that you will come to appreciate—if not now then later—that while I'm sure Goggy loves you and her grandchildren very much, she loves her life!

00:39:45 Sarah Guest

Mm-hm.

00:39:46 John Host

This is in—it's inc—look. I know you're grateful for your mom. It's incredible to have a parent, when you're an adult, who is self-sufficient, engaged, healthy, saving lives. Dodging horses. I don't know what's going on—

[Audience laughs.]

00:40:05 Sarah Guest

She doesn't always dodge them.

[More laughter.]

00:40:08 John Host

No, right. *[Laughs.]* Do they getcha sometimes?

00:40:10 Sarah Guest

Yes.

00:40:11 Susan Guest

A neighbor blew up something and knocked—they knocked me down.

00:40:15 John Host

Who knocked you down?

00:40:16 Susan Guest

A neighbor blew up something really big, and my horses knocked me down.

[Concerned laughter from the audience.]

00:40:21 John Host

Why are we not talking about this?!

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]

00:40:26 Jesse Host

[Stifling laughter] John, we have other justice to dispense tonight!

00:40:28 John Host

I know, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I just want—*[laughs]* I just want a series

of novels set in your world!

[More laughter.]

Is that so much to ask?! A trilogy, at least!

You know, lots of people have adult parents who are not capable of taking care of themselves. Who have big—who do not manage this transition well. Maybe they have financial issues, maybe they have health issues, or maybe they're just like... you know, charting their course to the grave, like my dear father is doing.

[Light audience laughter.]

I love him so much.

This should be a point of joy for you. And while I appreciate that it is hard—that when you go to Fictional Valley to get a break from your children, so that you can pretend to be the retired mom that your mom is...

[Light audience laughter.]

...and she's not there to stick around and take care of it, that it's frustrating. And also hurtful! 'Cause you have traveled far and wide, through various dimensional portals, to get there!

[Audience laughs.]

00:41:29	Sarah	Guest	Several, yes.
00:41:34	John	Host	I share your suspicions, Sarah.
00:41:36	Sarah	Guest	Thank you.
00:41:37	John	Host	That there is... that your mom has taken on a mantle of responsibility, a heavy mantle of responsibility.
00:41:45	Sarah	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:41:46	John	Host	That her drunk colleagues do not share equally.

[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]

00:41:53	Sarah	Guest	You don't have to tell 'em we were on here.
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[Susan laughs quietly.]

00:41:54	John	Host	This may or may not be true. Just as you will not snitch on your siblings, so she will not snitch on her fellow FVVV...FDs.
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[Audience laughs.]

But nonetheless, I do not think she will put it down lightly. And it's clear she will not put it down even for her own daughter!

00:42:09	Sarah	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:42:10	John	Host	I cannot compel her to put down that mantle of responsibility. I appreciate that it's frustrating.
00:42:15	Sarah	Guest	Mm-hm.

00:42:16	John	Host	<p>Instead of having her be the role model of the Goggy who stays at home and makes jam, you have a wonderful role model of the Goggy who <u>starts</u> making jam, and then kicks it off the stove 'cause someone else is calling, 'cause her life is an adventure novel.</p> <p><i>[John, audience, and litigants laugh.]</i></p>
00:42:31	Sarah	Guest	That's true.
00:42:33	John	Host	<p>Your siblings were right, you are wrong.</p> <p><i>[Audience and one or both litigants laugh.]</i></p> <p>This is the sound of a gavel.</p> <p><i>[Three live gavel bangs.]</i></p> <p>Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.</p> <p><i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i></p>
00:42:40	Jesse	Host	<p>Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom. Thank you to Sarah and Susan!</p> <p><i>[Applause and cheering swells.]</i></p>
00:42:48	Sarah	Guest	Thank you!
00:42:54	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:42:56	Jesse	Promo	Judge Hodgman, we're taking a break from the stage in Washington, DC. You have a brand new podcast available right now!
00:43:05	John	Promo	<p>That's right! You know, last year Elliott Kalan and I were jawing about something or another with regard to the MaxFunDrive, and I made an idle promise that if we reached a certain number of new members that year, I would force Elliott Kalan to watch all 12 episodes of the legendary 1976 BBC miniseries about Ancient Rome <i>I, Claudius</i> and then record a podcast with me about it. And thankfully, the Maximum Fun members stepped up and either joined for the first time or upped their membership, and we made that number, so we made the podcast! And it's called <i>I, Podius</i>.</p> <p>The first episode just dropped a couple days ago. Every week we'll be releasing a new episode corresponding to each of the 12 episodes of <i>I, Claudius</i>. <i>I, Claudius</i>, if you have not seen it, is one of the greatest pieces of television of all time. And I say that even though it looks like it was recorded on a 1982 VHS machine that you rented from Videosmith and shot in your parents' basement. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i></p> <p>It has some of the <u>greatest</u> British character acting of all time. It's based on the historical novel by Robert Graves. It's funny, it's sad, it's touching, it's moving, it's disturbing... it's <u>really</u> terrific. And it's available at almost every public library. Public libraries <u>love</u> to stock that thing. If you go—if you have a public library card and your public library has a deal with the Internet website Hoopla, you can stream it for free. Or if you have some money lying around and wanna buy it on streaming or on DVD from PBS, it's not that expensive, and it's something that you might really enjoy!</p>

00:44:43	Jesse	Promo	Less than 20 bucks. I just looked it up on a popular, uh, e-commerce website.
00:44:48	John	Promo	Yeah!
00:44:49	Jesse	Promo	Less than 20 bucks digitally, and about \$10 on DVD.
00:44:53	John	Promo	Join us, won't you? As another favorite podcast of mine sometimes says. And watch along to <i>I, Claudius</i> , and then listen along to <i>I, Podius</i> , every week here on the Maximum Fun network! It's not too late to start and catch up!
			Jesse Thorn, what do you have going on?
00:45:09	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughing]</i> Oh, nothing as important as—as the launch of a podcast with no monetization strategy.
			<i>[Gets it together.]</i>
			That we made just because we're—we thought it would be fun and we're grateful to all of the MaxFun members who joined us during the MaxFunDrive.
			We do have a really great new podcast on Maximum Fun that will be ongoing called FANTI . I really have been loving listening to it. The hosts Tre'vell and Jarrett are both very accomplished entertainment journalists, and also very brilliant and hilarious. And they wanted to do a show—they came to us with the idea of doing a show about things that we love, but also are troubled by.
			They covered Kevin Hart in their first episode, the comedian Kevin Hart, and it was very full of insights, and laughs, and compassion, and righteous anger, and all of those things. And they got into even murkier waters in the second episode. I—it's a really—it's a great, insightful, smart, funny podcast, and we're <u>really</u> , really proud of it. And really proud of Jarrett and Tre'vell's hard work, and Laura our producer's hard work.
			So go check it out! Give it a try! It's called <i>FANTI</i> , F-A-N-T-I. For things you're half fan and half anti.
00:46:28	John	Promo	Check it out. You know, and to the point that Jesse made earlier, we do have the MaxFunDrive coming up. Thank you to all of you who stepped up and joined or upgraded your membership last year, to force me into a corner where I had to take many, many, many hours of my productive time to have fun with my friend Elliott and re-watch <i>I, Claudius</i> .
			But you know, now more than ever we, you know, appreciate your support as we go into MaxFunDrive this year! And if you like the stuff that we're making just on the fly, like <i>I, Podius</i> or the new podcasts that we're launching, and wanna see us keep it up, then I hope you will also keep it up and either join if you haven't before, or upgrade your membership this year. If you can afford it! And if you can't, we still love you, obviously.
00:47:15	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the show!
00:47:17	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>

00:47:18 John Host Please, everyone in this wonderful theater, put your hands together once again for Brian Farrow.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:47:35 Brian Farrow Guest *[Gentle guitar music as Brian sings.]*

*You only have to say so much
The rest you can say by touch
Don't struggle over words
Don't fret over verbs
Me and you, I know what I've heard*

*Only speak your native tongue
I hear your intentions, sung
And the sweet melody be found over me
Brush my skin, the meaning within*

*Tangled fingers and no delay
What more is there to say?
Firmness of hands
Hips that demand
Not one word can speak those commands*

[He vocalizes for several moments. Guitar slows and then stops.]

[Speaking] You can find me at @KidBFarrow on Instagram and BrianFarrow.com. Thank you all so much.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

[Brian starts up the guitar again.]

Y'all hear the guitar alright?

[Audience shouts and cheers affirmatively, scattered applause.]

00:50:07 Brian Guest *[Begins singing "The Bourgeois Blues" by Lead Belly.]*

*Land of the brave
Home of the free
Don't wanna be mistreated by no bourgeoisie
'Cause it's a boooourgeois town
Oh, this bourgeois town
I got the bourgeois blues and I'm gonna spread that news all around*

*Me and my wife
We was upstairs
Those white folks downstairs said, uh...
They don't want them [censor bleep] around here
'Cause it's a boooourgeois town!
Oh, this bourgeois town
I got these bourgeois blues, I'm gonna spread that news all around!
Yeah!*

*Them folks in Washington
They know how*

*Call a colored man names just to see him bow
'Cause it's a boooourgeois town
Oh, this bourgeois town
I got the bourgeois blues, I'm gonna spread that news all around*

[Guitar music dies down to a couple of strums.]

00:51:11 Brian Guest

[Transitioning from singing to speaking]

*Tell all the colored folks
Listen to me, all the colored folks
Raise your hand real quick!*

[Scattered cheering.]

[Brian and the audience laugh. Brian starts the guitar music back up.]

[Singing]

*Tell all the colored folks to listen to me
You don't wanna make your home in Washington, DC!
'Cause it's a boooourgeois town
Oh, this bourgeois town!
I got the bourgeois blues, gonna spread that news all around!*

[Speaking] Can y'all clap with me?

[Scattered, unsynchronized clapping.]

Uh, hold on. I gotcha.

[Brian starts a beat. The audience syncs up with him.]

There you go, that's where it is!

[Brian and the audience laugh. Synced clapping continues, and Brian continues the beat with no guitar music.]

00:51:50 Brian Guest

[Singing]

*This is the legacy of your town!
It didn't grow, it just changed the mold!*

[Laughs.]

*Don't play ignorant
Y'all should know
Nothing's gonna change until the veto rolls*

*So!
Get your lungs ready
Scream and shout
As I go ahead and take this song on out*

[Resumes guitar.]

*'Cause it's a bourgeois town!
Oh, this bourgeois town!
I got the bourgeois blues, gonna spread that news all around!*

Y'all can sing it, too!

*'Cause it's a boooourgeois town
Oh, this bourgeois town
I got the bourgeois blues, gonna spread that news all around!*

*Ohhh, I got the bourgeois blues
Gonna spread that news all around*

[Brian finishes up the guitar music, and the audience drops the synchronized clapping to applaud and cheer.]

[Speaking] Thank you, y'all!

00:52:53 Jesse Host

Brian Farrow!

[Audience cheers louder and then fades out.]

00:52:59 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:53:00 Promo Clip

Music: Relaxing ukulele music.

Manolo Moreno: Hey, you've reached *Dr. Gameshow*. Leave your message after the beep.

[Music stops.]

[Beep!]

Steve: Hello, this is Steve from Albany, talking about my favorite podcast *Dr. Gameshow*! *Dr. Gameshow* is a show where listeners submit their craaaazy ideas for gameshows, and the two hosts have to play them. And they often bring in celebrities and small children to share in the pain and hilarity.

At first it might seem like Jo Firestone has a contentious relationship with the listeners. But that is only mostly true! She actually really respects us. It's a lot like *Lethal Weapon*, where Jo is like "Oh, listeners! You're all loose cannons! You're outta control!"

And we're like "No, Firestone. You're too by the book! You've forgotten what it's like out there!"

And that's why I love the show!

[Beep!]

[Music resumes.]

Jo Firestone: Listen to [Dr. Gameshow](#) on Maximum Fun. New episodes every other Wednesday.

[Music fades out.]

00:53:47	Promo	Clip	<p>Music: Classical orchestral music.</p> <p>John Hodgman: Hey, everyone! It's I, John Hodgman of the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.</p> <p>Elliott Kalan: And I, Elliott Kalan of the <i>Flop House</i> podcast.</p> <p>John: And we've made a whole new podcast! A 12-episode special miniseries called <i>I, Podius</i>. In which we recap, discuss, and explore the very famous 1976 BBC miniseries about Ancient Rome called <i>I, Claudius</i>! We've got incredible guests such as Gillian Jacobs, Paul F. Tompkins, as well as star of <i>I, Claudius</i> Sir Patrick Stewart! And his son! Non-Sir Daniel Stewart.</p> <p>Elliott: Don't worry, Dan, you'll get there someday.</p> <p>John: <i>I, Podius</i> is the name of the show! Every week from MaximumFun.org for only 12 weeks. Get 'em at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.</p> <p><i>[Music fades out.]</i></p>
00:54:32	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:54:33	Jesse	Host	Should we introduce our special guest on tonight's program? Yeah, that's right, we have a special guest expert witness!
			<i>[Audience cheers.]</i>
			Surprise witness, folks!
00:54:42	John	Host	Yeah! Let's please introduce this person, won't you?
00:54:45	Jesse	Host	You know her not only as one of the greatest friends of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> , the coiner of our classic phrase— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> I—by the way, I just claimed it for us, I guess, by saying " <u>our</u> " classic—
00:54:57	John	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> That's good.
00:54:58	Jesse	Host	<u>The</u> classic phrase "little weirdies," oft referenced on this program.
			<i>[Scattered cheers.]</i>
			She's one of the hosts of NPR's <i>Pop Culture Happy Hour</i> . Please welcome Linda Holmes!
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
00:55:09	John	Host	Linda Holmes! Yesss! Yes! Yes!
00:55:21	Linda Holmes	Guest	Hi, y'all!
00:55:22	John	Host	Linda, what a delight to see you!
00:55:23	Linda	Guest	It's a delight to see you, too!
00:55:24	Jesse	Host	It's a real thrill—
00:55:25	Linda	Guest	Oh, thank you!
00:55:26	Jesse	Host	—to have a successful podcaster here tonight, folks.

[John and the audience laugh.]

00:55:28 Linda Guest Well, it's a very—this is a very imposing show to be part of if you're a person who has no act.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:55:37 John Host I feel like the Baroness Schroeder, I'm like I—
I feel the same way.

[Audience and Linda laugh.]

00:55:38 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah!

00:55:39 Linda Guest I'm like, "I would have brought my harmonica!"

[John and the audience laugh.]

00:55:43 John Host Do you play harmonica?

00:55:44 Linda Guest No, but it's the Baroness Schroeder—

00:55:45 John Host No.

00:55:46 Linda Guest Some of them know.

[Scattered cheers and applause.]

00:55:47 John Host Oh, I'm sorry.

00:55:48 Linda Guest Right?

00:55:49 John Host I misheard something.

00:55:50 Linda Guest Yeah. It's *The Sound of Music*. The baroness?

00:55:51 John Host Oh yes, right. Oh, right.

00:55:52 Linda Guest When all the children are singing and she has this wonderful line—
she's like one of the best characters in all of film.

00:55:57 John Host She is!

[Someone claps.]

00:55:58 Linda Guest And she says "Oh, I wish I'd known—" something about the singing,
and "I would have brought my harmonica."

00:56:03 John Host Right.

00:56:04 Linda Guest And it's this wonderfully dry...

00:56:06 John Host Yes.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

00:56:07 Linda Guest She deserves so much better.

00:56:08 John Host Just like, ice coming out of her mouth.

00:56:09 Linda Guest Absolutely!

00:56:10 John Host Yeah.

00:56:11 Linda Guest In the best way. When you're young you think that she's a villain.

00:56:13 John Host No!

00:56:14 Linda Guest And I'm not the first person to observe this, but when you're young

00:56:19 John Host you think she's a villain, and then you're kinda like... "Nah."
Yeah, no!

[Audience laughter.]

00:56:20 Linda Guest When you've seen enough moppets, it's like *[noncommittally]* "Mm..."

[John and the audience laugh.]

00:56:23 John Host It's—"I don't belong here," and she lets him go, basically, right?

00:56:27 Linda Guest She does!

00:56:28 John Host Yeah.

00:56:30 Linda Guest And she tells him "Go get your nun!"

[John and the audience laugh.]

00:56:31 Jesse Host When I was a kid my dad used to play the harmonica very badly. He would put on a tape, a cassette tape, and then just play along with it with his set of harmonicas. He was terrible, and I thought it was... the worst thing ever, when I was ten years old.

00:56:46 Linda Guest Yeah.

00:56:47 Jesse Host I would just be like "Look at my dad, oh god."

[Linda laughs.]

"Ugh, playing the harmonica." And I feel like growing up is understanding that actually it was the greatest thing ever.

00:56:57 Linda Guest Thing about him, yeah, uh-huh!

00:56:58 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:56:59 John Host Yeah.

00:57:00 Linda Guest Absolutely. Absolutely.

00:57:01 John Host So Linda, you—obviously you observe and comment on popular culture. But you recently became a bestselling novelist, author of *Evvie Drake*—

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:57:11 Jesse Host *Evvie Drake Starts Over.*

00:57:12 John Host *[Inaudible.]*

00:57:13 Linda Guest True.

00:57:14 John Host *Evvie Drake Stars Over.*

00:57:15 Linda Guest True!

00:57:16 John Host And how does it feel to be on the other side?

00:57:17 Linda Guest Well, it feels—uh, right now it feels tense, because I have to write another one. *[Laughs.]*

00:57:21 John Host Yeah.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:57:22 Linda Guest I have a contract for another one.

00:57:24	John	Host	When's the due date?
00:57:25	Linda	Guest	The first draft due date is April 1st.
00:57:29	John	Host	Oh, you'll never make it.
<i>[Audience and Linda laugh.]</i>			
You know, as a former publishing professional, I can tell you...			
00:57:35	Linda	Guest	Uh-huh.
00:57:36	John	Host	Those deadlines mean nothing. Like—
00:57:38	Linda	Guest	Yeah, but here's the thing—
00:57:39	John	Host	The deadline of every book contract should be April 1st.
00:57:41	Linda	Guest	Right. Okay—
00:57:42	John	Host	'Cause it is <u>meaningless</u> .
00:57:43	Linda	Guest	<u>But</u> ...
<i>[Audience and Linda laugh.]</i>			
Here's what you <u>don't</u> know.			
00:57:45	John	Host	Okay.
00:57:46	Linda	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> The original one was September.
<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>			
00:57:49	John	Host	Oh! You've already blown <u>by</u> a deadline! Yeah. Make them wait. Make them wait, Linda Holmes!
00:57:54	Linda	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah.
00:57:55	Jesse	Host	You two are Maine buddies, aren't you? You two are both Maine enthusiasts. <i>Evvie Drake Starts Over</i> is <u>set</u> in the great state of Maine.
<i>[Someone cheers.]</i>			
00:58:02	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Linda: True.
John: It's set in Maine.			
Linda: It's set in Maine.			
00:58:03	Linda	Guest	It's set in Mid-Coast Maine. If you've ever been to the kind of like, Rockland, Camden...
<i>[Some more cheering from the audience.]</i>			
00:58:07	John	Host	I'm sure I don't know what you're talking about.
00:58:09	Linda	Guest	...wonderful part of Mid-Coast Maine, it is set in that area, where I vacationed frequently when I was a kid.
00:58:15	John	Host	But you don't come back as an adult?
00:58:17	Linda	Guest	I do! I do when I can. We came back a couple times to the same cabins that we used to rent when I was in high school, or middle school. My family came back when we were all—when my sister and I were adults and she had little kids. But then I also went back a

couple times while I was working on the book.

00:58:34 John Host Right.

00:58:35 Linda Guest I actually wrote most of the second draft in the public—I wrote a bunch of the second draft in the public library in Camden.

00:58:40 John Host Oh, wonderful!

00:58:41 Linda Guest Which is veeery beautiful if you've ever been there.

00:58:43 John Host And you didn't call me, either. I was there, probably.

00:58:45 Linda Guest No, but I will tell you, one of my trips to Maine, I came back and I saw the Banana Man.

00:58:49 John Host Oh, really?

[Audience cheering.]

00:58:51 Linda Guest Yeah!

00:58:52 John Host Jonathan Niederer, the Fresh Banana Man?

00:58:53 Linda Guest I saw the Fresh Banana Man! I stopped at the rest stop and I came in and I said "I know you from the Internet."

[Audience laughs.]

00:58:58 John Host Oh, really?

00:58:59 Linda Guest Yeah! And I was not the first person to have done this with him.

00:59:02 John Host Yeah.

00:59:03 Linda Guest And he was basically like "...Yeah!"

[Audience and John laugh.]

00:59:04 John Host Yeah! Yeah.

00:59:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Linda:** That's kinda how it went.

Jesse: Yeah, nobody loves being the Fresh Banana Man like the Fresh Banana Man, God bless him.

John: That's right.

Linda: That's kinda how it went.

00:59:11 John Host Yeah. This is some old-school *Judge John Hodgman* stuff. Listen to the archives.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

In any case, time is short and there is still injustice! Let's hear some more cases. But we have to be fast 'cause we're moving along here. Time moves in one direction. Jesse Thorn, what do you say to putting ten minutes on the clock—

00:59:26 Jesse Host Okay.

00:59:27 John Host —so we can hear three cases in swift succession, what we call Swift Justice. Shall we?

00:59:32 Jesse Host Please welcome to the stage Liz and Immanuel.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

00:59:36	John	Host	Liz and Immanuel. Now, full disclosure, I must reveal that I saw Liz and Immanuel at Tattooed Mom Bar in Philadelphia last night. You're visiting from Philadelphia where you live, is that correct?
00:59:51	Immanuel	Guest	Yes.
00:59:53	Liz	Guest	Yes.
00:59:53	John	Host	Right. And who comes to this court to seek justice from me, John Hodgman?
00:59:58	Liz	Guest	I am taking Immanuel to court.
00:59:59	John	Host	You are—and what is your complaint against Immanuel?
01:00:02	Liz	Guest	I am lactose intolerant.
01:00:03	John	Host	Mm-hm.
01:00:04	Liz	Guest	And—

[Scattered cheering ("Woo!") and applause in the audience.]

[Liz laughs.]

Thank you.

01:00:07	John	Host	That is <u>such</u> a classic <i>JJHo</i> "woo."
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[Liz and the audience laugh.]

01:00:11	Liz	Guest	And often when we go to get coffee, I will first order like a soy mocha, for example.
01:00:19	John	Host	Right.
01:00:20	Liz	Guest	And then Immanuel will come up and order after me, and they will order like a mocha with "regular" or "normal" milk.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

01:00:29	John	Host	Immanuel will order... "regular" milk.
01:00:32	Liz	Guest	Yes.
01:00:33	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	John: Or...

Liz: *[Stifling laughter]* "Normal."

John: "Normal" milk.

[Audience laughter.]

01:00:35	John	Host	To differentiate their milk from your soy milk, or whatever.
01:00:39	Liz	Guest	Yes.
01:00:40	Linda	Guest	So you feel othered.
01:00:42	Liz	Guest	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Yes.
01:00:43	John	Host	Yes!
01:00:44	Jesse	Host	Is this a matter, Immanuel, of... cow milk hegemony?

[Audience laughter.]

01:00:51	Immanuel	Guest	I... I mostly just panic. Uh— <i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>
01:00:59	Jesse	Host	I think they found the key to the heart of the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> listener! <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:01:05	John	Host	Well, I mean, Immanuel, I happen to know that you use they/them pronouns.
01:01:09	Immanuel	Guest	Yes.
01:01:10	John	Host	So obviously you appreciate the irony in normalizing one certain <u>kind</u> of milk... <i>[Audience and Immanuel laugh.]</i>
01:01:20	Immanuel	Guest	That's—that's fair, yes. Yes.
01:01:23	John	Host	Against all other milks.
01:01:25	Immanuel	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
01:01:26	John	Host	That you are—that you have chosen to accept there is not a "normal" in—
01:01:30	Immanuel	Guest	Right.
01:01:31	John	Host	—in human personhood and interaction and so forth.
01:01:33	Immanuel	Guest	Right.
01:01:34	John	Host	So what leg do you have to stand on? <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:01:37	Immanuel	Guest	I mean a lot of it just comes from severe anxiety around like, ordering, and like, talking to anyone.
01:01:43	John	Host	Right. <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:01:44	Immanuel	Guest	And so like—so normally she'll order first, and it might not even be something I want, but I'm so panicked that I will just be like "I want the same—"
01:01:52	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	John: You just go—yeah, you just— Immanuel: "The same thing, but..."
01:01:54	John	Host	You go back to ancient social training.
01:01:56	Immanuel	Guest	Right. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:01:57	John	Host	And conditioning. And you're like <i>[frantic]</i> "Normal milk!"
01:01:59	Immanuel	Guest	Yes. <i>[Litigant(s) and audience laugh.]</i>
01:02:01	Linda	Guest	What would you—
01:02:02	John	Host	"Not that weird stuff; I'm not her!!!" <i>[Audience and litigant(s) laugh.]</i>

01:02:05	Linda	Guest	What would you prefer that they say? Dairy milk?
01:02:08	Liz	Guest	I think that saying something like "I would like whole milk" or "2% milk"—
01:02:12	Linda	Guest	Sure.
01:02:13	Liz	Guest	—would address their concern of not wanting to have a longer conversation.
01:02:17	Linda	Guest	Sure.
01:02:18	Liz	Guest	Quicker, even, than saying "normal" milk.
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			Because they <u>have</u> been asked sometimes to clarify!
01:02:26	Linda	Guest	Right.
01:02:27	John	Host	Sure!
01:02:28	Liz	Guest	I was also a barista for a while.
01:02:29	John	Host	Yeah.
01:02:30	Liz	Guest	And so I know, too—like, I'm not gonna pretend that there isn't a standard. So if somebody would say "I want a medium latte," they will default to dairy milk.
01:02:38	John	Host	The presumption would be to dairy milk, right.
01:02:40	Liz	Guest	So they don't have to <u>add</u> "normal." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:02:43	Linda	Guest	Oh, I see!
01:02:45	John	Host	You're—
01:02:46	Linda	Guest	So just don't—so just say "milk."
01:02:47	Liz	Guest	Yes.
01:02:48	Linda	Guest	Is your—would be part of your argument.
01:02:50	John	Host	Yeah, you know, regular milk. Oh, damn, I just did it!
			<i>[Audience and litigant(s) laugh.]</i>
			The anxiety defense is a strong defense in the court of Judge John Hodgman.
01:02:58	Linda	Guest	Mm-hm! Mm-hm.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:03:00	John	Host	Panic attack while ordering coffee is something I can field. Like, that's for sure.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:03:04	Liz	Guest	Can I argue again?
01:03:06	John	Host	Yes, please.
			<i>[Audience and Liz laugh.]</i>
01:03:07	Liz	Guest	So—
01:03:09	John	Host	Yeah. Liz felt me wrapping it up; she's like "This is <u>not</u> over."

[Audience laughs.]

01:03:12 Liz Guest

So—*[laughs]*.

01:03:14 John Host

"Can I argue more?" *[Laughs.]*

01:03:15 Liz Guest

I grew up lactose intolerant, obviously, and my mother for my entire childhood called my milk "special" milk.

01:03:23 John Host

Ohhh.

[Audience echoes John.]

01:03:26 Liz Guest

[Laughs.] So I have—

01:03:27 John Host

So this is bringing up some trauma for you.

01:03:28 Liz Guest

Yes. Yes.

01:03:29 John Host

Right. What's your favorite kind of non-dairy milk?

01:03:32 Liz Guest

Soy.

01:03:33 John Host

Soy. You don't care for the oat? That's big in the podcasts right now.

01:03:36 Jesse Host

Au courant, yeah.

01:03:37 John Host

Yeah.

01:03:38 Liz Guest

I'm okay with oat. Soy is my preference.

01:03:39 John Host

Okay with oat milk? And there's almond milk, what are the all—what are all the milks, Linda Holmes?

01:03:44 Linda Guest

My favorite is cashew, personally.

01:03:46 John Host

Cashew milk!

01:03:47 Linda Guest

Yeah.

01:03:48 Jesse Host

They make that out of a cashew (*kuh-SHOO*)?

[Audience laughs.]

01:03:50 John Host

Yeah.

01:03:51 Liz Guest

We get cashew almond milk, and Immanuel drinks it.

01:03:55 John Host

Right. Here is my order. Thank you, first of all, for coming to the court of Judge John Hodgman. Immanuel? You have to say "milk." Or "dairy milk." Stop othering Liz's soy milk.

[Scattered audience laughter.]

And I appreciate that it makes you anxious. But maybe you can just print out a little card.

[John and the audience laugh.]

That says "I suffer from ordering anxiety." *[Laughs.]* "Please just put regular milk in my coffee."

[More laughter.]

This is the sound of a gavel.

			<i>[Live gavel banging.]</i>
01:04:33	Jesse	Host	Immanuel and Liz!
			<i>[Audience cheers and applauds.]</i>
			Please welcome Julia and John!
01:04:37	Judge John	Host	Julia and John! Julia and John have entered the courtroom with a bo—he—John has something on a plate. And Julia has a bottle of maple syrup. Who—?
			<i>[Scattered audience laughter.]</i>
01:04:52	Jesse	Host	For the at-home listener, I just wanna clarify, John is wearing a Bonnaroo T-shirt.
			<i>[Audience laughs, Jesse stifles laughter.]</i>
			And the rest of the clothes a guy wearing a Bonnaroo T-shirt would wear.
			<i>[Audience laughs harder, litigants also laugh.]</i>
01:05:08	Julia	Guest	I was rea— <i>[laughs]</i> I was really hoping you would say that.
01:05:11	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
01:05:12	Julia	Guest	"Something. Say <u>something</u> ." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:05:13	Judge John	Host	I presume that you are here to seek justice for John's outfit. Is that correct?
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
			And that this weird stuff on a plate and this maple syrup is just something you carry around every day.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:05:23	Julia	Guest	I've given up on that one.
01:05:25	John	Host	I see. Well, you are Julia—
01:05:27	Julia	Guest	Yes.
01:05:28	John	Host	And you seek justice. What is the nature of your complaint?
01:05:31	Julia	Guest	Um, John scrambles our pancakes?
01:05:34	Judge John	Host	John <u>scrambles</u> ...
			<i>[Jesse and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:05:38	Guest John	Guest	Yep.
01:05:39	Judge John	Host	...your pancakes. And may I presume that what you have brought on stage is a scrambled pancake?
01:05:46	Guest John	Guest	Absolutely. Yep.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:05:48	Judge John	Host	Then I absolutely presume that.
01:05:49	Guest John	Guest	Yes.

01:05:50	Judge John	Host	John, wh—how do you—let— <i>[Audience and Guest John laugh.]</i> Set aside the fact that pancakes needed no improvement. <i>[More laughter.]</i> That it is a time-tested, delicious—though not for me, as a sweet; I don't care for sweets; I don't have a sweet tooth, I have an alcohol molar. <i>[Audience laughs.]</i> A time-tested thing, primarily tested <u>through</u> time, and improved through time, by the work and labor traditionally of frontier women. But that you, a white man in the 21st century... <i>[Audience laughs, scattered applause.]</i> ...have figured out a new way of making pancakes. Setting aside—! Setting aside all of <u>that</u> context... <u>how</u> do you <u>scramble</u> a pancake?
01:06:43	Guest John	Guest	First I just want to address this history of this? <i>[Litigants and audience laugh.]</i>
01:06:48	Judge John	Host	They're actually— So you're—you're telling me "actually." <i>[Audience laughs.]</i> I'm prepared—look. If you've done some serious pancake history? 'Cause I don't what <u>I'm</u> talking about.
01:06:57	Guest John	Guest	Oh, yeah.
01:06:58	Judge John	Host	I will definitely listen sympathetically. Go on.
01:07:03	Jesse	Host	Long—
01:07:03	Linda	Guest	You gotta understand the system, John.
01:07:05	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
01:07:05	Judge John	Host	Yeah. Right? The system. <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:07:06	Jesse	Host	Long ago, Francis Bonnaroo was at Burning Man— <i>[Audience laughs.]</i> And— <i>[laughs]</i> .
01:07:13	Guest John	Guest	So actually in the early 1900s, scrambled pancakes were invented in Germany, I believe.
01:07:17	Judge John	Host	Oh!
01:07:18	Guest John	Guest	Yeah.

01:07:19	Judge John	Host	And were they called scrambled pancakes?
01:07:21	Guest John	Guest	Actu—wait. This is—wait.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			I got it on a cocktail napkin.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			Okay— <i>[laughs]</i> .
01:07:29	Judge John	Host	I can see you've done a Bonnaroo level of preparation.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:07:30	Guest John	Guest	Oh, yeah.
01:07:31	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
01:07:32	Guest John	Guest	Yeah, Wikipedia.
01:07:33	Judge John	Host	Yeah.
01:07:34	Guest John	Guest	Wikipedia, cocktail napkin—
01:07:35	Judge John	Host	Wikipedia and a cocktail napkin, that's all you need.
01:07:36	Guest John	Guest	Yeah, cocktail— <i>[laughs]</i> yeah!
01:07:37	Jesse	Host	A cocktail napkin is otherwise known as a "Bonnaroo book."
01:07:39	Judge John	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
			<i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>
01:07:42	Guest John	Guest	Yeah...
01:07:43	Judge John	Host	"Does anyone have a spent piece of hash I can write with?"
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:07:47	Guest John	Guest	Cigarette, yeah. It's—it—it's, uh, called Kaiserschmarrn (<i>kai-zird-shmarn</i>). I can't say that.
01:07:52	Judge John	Host	Here, let me see it.
01:07:53	Guest John	Guest	Yeah, there you go.
01:07:54	Judge John	Host	Oh, very nice handwriting.
			<i>[Guest John laughs.]</i>
			Kaiserschmarrn (<i>kai-zir-CH-shmarm</i>)!
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Or, AKA... oh, god.
01:08:01	Guest John	Guest	Emperor's Mess.
01:08:02	Judge John	Host	Emperor's Mess.
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
			Linda Holmes—

01:08:06	Jesse	Host	<p><i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Also what America is known as!</p> <p><i>[Everyone laughs.]</i></p> <p>2019.</p>
01:08:14	Judge John	Host	Linda Holmes, I am passing the evidence to you for your scrutiny. And perhaps you may want to ask a question or two of the witnesses.
01:08:21	Linda	Guest	<p>Did you begin scrambling your pancake because you wanna salute the history of the... kaisershmocken—Emperor's Mess? <u>Or</u> because you can't make a pancake?</p> <p><i>[Audience laughs.]</i></p>
01:08:34	Guest John	Guest	I was impatient and it cooks faster.
01:08:37	Linda	Guest	Okay. Are you aware that the idea of a pancake, properly made, is that it has like a slightly bit of a crispy outside, and then it's like soft in the middle?
01:08:47	Guest John	Guest	I like the chewiness all around.
			<i>[Audience and Jesse or Judge John laugh.]</i>
01:08:51	Judge John	Host	Hey—!
01:08:52	Linda	Guest	I give up.
			<i>[Audience laughs, scattered cheering.]</i>
01:08:57	Judge John	Host	I—I wanna follow up Linda's question. Did you learn of the history of the kaiserschmart...zder...
			<i>[More audience laughter.]</i>
			...and like "Mm, I wanna give that a try! That sounds interesting!" or did you just <i>[censor bleep]</i> up a pancake?
			<i>[Audience laughs harder.]</i>
			And then be like "I bet there's a German word for this."
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			And like everything you think there's a German word for, you were right!
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:09:23	Guest John	Guest	Yeah, I was, uh—I was pretty hungover, and just, uh—
			<i>[Everyone laughs.]</i>
01:09:25	Judge John	Host	Really! I see.
01:09:26	Guest John	Guest	Yeah.
01:09:27	Julia	Guest	Yeah.
01:09:28	Judge John	Host	Interesting. New layers! <i>[Inaudible.]</i>
01:09:30	Linda	Guest	I guess as hangover food, it's clearly acceptable. I would say.

01:09:34	Guest John	Guest	Oh, yeah, yeah.
01:09:35	Judge John	Host	My question is, you wanted to make a pancake fast.
01:09:37	Guest John	Guest	Mm-hm.
01:09:38	Judge John	Host	Which is to say, you don't know when to flip a pancake.
			<i>[Linda or Julia cracks up, audience laughs.]</i>
			Right?
01:09:42	Julia	Guest	Truth.
01:09:43	Guest John	Guest	Yeah.
01:09:44	Judge John	Host	Because it's hard! It's hard to know. Julia, do you make pancakes?
01:09:46	Julia	Guest	Yes.
01:09:47	Judge John	Host	And do you make good pancakes?
01:09:48	Julia	Guest	Yes.
01:09:49	Judge John	Host	What do you like—what size do you like?
01:09:50	Julia	Guest	Um, medium. Sometimes I throw a couple mini... or large. Depends on how I'm feeling.
			<i>[Judge John, Julia, and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:09:56	Jesse	Host	You ever made them—
01:09:57	Judge John	Host	I thought you were trying to say "mini" and "large" were synonyms. "Sometimes I try and throw a couple mini, also known as large."
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:10:05	Julia	Guest	I also come from a long line of pancake makers. My father has made a pancake for breakfast every morning since probably I was born, or before.
01:10:13	Judge John	Host	Oh my goodness.
01:10:14	Jesse	Host	So by long line you mean you and your father.
			<i>[Litigants and audience laugh.]</i>
01:10:19	Julia	Guest	Yes.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:10:21	Linda	Guest	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> It does sound like her father counts as several.
01:10:24	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah, that's fair.
01:10:25	Judge John	Host	So—
01:10:27	Jesse	Host	"He eats the pancakes of many men!"
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
01:10:33	Judge John	Host	Your father makes a pancake every morning. I bet he's good at it!
01:10:35	Julia	Guest	He is!
01:10:36	Judge John	Host	What is his technique and how did he—and what did he teach you?
01:10:39	Julia	Guest	I learned more by watching, because it's a very—you know. It's his thing.

01:10:44	Judge John	Host	Right.
01:10:45	Julia	Guest	And it's the size of the pan. So I usually get a slice.
01:10:47	Judge John	Host	What are you talking about now, Julia?
			<i>[Julia and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:10:51	Julia	Guest	It's huuuge.
01:10:52	Judge John	Host	He makes a huge cake? Huge pancake?
01:10:54	Julia	Guest	A <u>huge</u> pancake. It's really good! But it's not quite what we're making.
01:10:57	Judge John	Host	Why do you associate only with men who don't understand what pancakes are?!
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
			I thought your father was gonna be a role model! Instead he's some other weird creep!
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:11:09	Jesse	Host	Yeah, this whole thing is something you need to address with your <u>therapist</u> , not us.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:11:14	Judge John	Host	<i>[Desperately]</i> When you make pancakes, they're just regular pancakes, right? Not giant pancakes? Not scrambled-up pancakes? Round pancakes in a cast iron pan, or maybe a non-stick pan?
01:11:24	Julia	Guest	Cast iron, and I usually do blueberry <u>or</u> chocolate chip.
01:11:27	Judge John	Host	Right.
01:11:28	Julia	Guest	And I do them very traditionally. I'm a very traditional pancake maker.
01:11:31	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	John: <i>[Heated]</i> Yeah, which is to say you <u>make pancakes</u> !
			Linda: Except the chocolate chips. Hmm.
			John: What? I'm sorry.
			Linda: I said except the chocolate chips; those are not traditional, really, I don't think.
			John: I think that they're—they're—
			Jesse: Oooh. Linda's steamed!
			Julia: Oooh.
			<i>[Indistinct crowd noises.]</i>
			Linda: Wow, okay!
			Jesse: Finally a voice for <u>real</u> pancakes!
			Linda: And the crowd turns on me, over chocolate chip pancakes!

Jesse: Could you elaborate on that? On the "not traditional" part?

Linda: I didn't say they're not good, I said they're not traditional!

01:11:50 Judge John Host

Well, I—you know. I think that the *Judge John Hodgman* crowd is always going to boo the exclusion of chocolate chips.

[Everyone laughs.]

It's the only thing they love about the podcast! They pick out the chocolate chips and then leave the rest of the podcast on the plate.

[More laughter.]

Alright, I'm gonna try these scrambled pancakes.

01:12:05 Guest John Guest

Alright.

01:12:06 Judge John Host

Now, do you wanna put maple syrup on?

01:12:08 Guest John Guest

Yeah.

01:12:09 Judge John Host

Well, let me do a taste with—

01:12:10 Guest John Guest

So they do have almonds and coconut oil. It's like almond—

01:12:13 Judge John Host

What are you doing?!

[Guest John chuckles, the audience cracks up.]

I mean, I just got my head around scrambled pancakes! But you're one of these guys who's like "Let's add on, add on!" What are you, Guy Fieri?!

[More laughter.]

"You know what this needs now, some jalapeños!"

[More laughter.]

01:12:33 Guest John Guest

It's like Emeril. Like, "Bam!"

01:12:35 Judge John Host

Yeah! Thank you for that ancient shout-out to my friend Emeril Lagasse.

[Linda, Guest John, and audience laugh.]

So you added in—I appreciate that you're warning me, from allergy point of view.

01:12:45 Guest John Guest

Yeah.

01:12:46 Judge John Host

The coconut oil is no problem. Actually a very good cooking oil for stuff like this, in my opinion. For when you're trying to cook eggs or pancakes or something that'll release easily. But the almonds are chunked up in here?

01:12:57 Guest John Guest

No, it's like—so it's like almond meal flour. It's like—

[Something clanks, possibly Judge John hurriedly setting down a fork.]

01:13:01	Judge John	Host	Jesus.
			<i>[Audience and litigants laugh.]</i>
01:13:05	Guest John	Guest	It's—
01:13:06	Judge John	Guest	Are you gluten-free? Is that what's happening?
01:13:07	Guest John	Guest	No, I'm just weird.
			<i>[Both Johns and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:13:11	Judge John	Host	No. There is no normal.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:13:14	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Guest John: That's right.
			Judge John: Understand, Immanuel?!
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:13:18	Judge John	Host	Alright. So this is not wheat flour.
01:13:19	Guest John	Guest	No.
01:13:20	Judge John	Host	Almond flour.
01:13:21	Guest John	Guest	Yeah.
01:13:22	Judge John	Host	Coconut oil. Any other allergens I should know about?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:13:25	Guest John	Guest	No.
01:13:26	Jesse	Host	He learned to do this at a Dr. Dog concert.
			<i>[More laughter. Muffled eating noises from the judge.]</i>
01:13:34	Judge John	Host	Alright, add the maple syrup.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
			Thank you.
01:13:37	Jesse	Host	Let the record reflect they have a... 75-gallon bottle of maple syrup.
			<i>[Jesse and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:13:43	Judge John	Host	It's in—it looks like nice maple syrup. What—is there something you wanna talk about? Is this your dad's big maple syrup company or something?
01:13:50	Julia	Guest	No, I wish.
01:13:51	Judge John	Host	Oh, okay. What brand is it?
01:13:52	Julia	Guest	I think it's Trader Joe's.
01:13:54	Judge John	Host	Oh, okay!
			<i>[Guest John and the audience laugh.]</i>
			Is there, uh, maple in the maple syrup? 'Cause I'm <u>deathly</u> allergic— <i>[taking a bite]</i> mm!

[Audience laughs.]

This basically tastes—first of all, it's got a very nutty under-taste. And it's a little—for that reason it's a little extra savory, and I like it.

01:14:08 Guest John Guest

Mm-hm.

01:14:09 Judge John Host

It tastes like... you are a three-year-old who took your pancake—

[Audience and litigants laugh. Laughter swells as Judge John presumably does some sort of physical comedy.]

It tastes like you're a three-year-old, who like, instead of eating his pancake, grabbed it in his little hands and went "Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!"

[More laughter.]

And left it behind, and I'm the older brother going like, "Eh, I'll eat it."

[More laughter.]

But altogether it's not an unpleasant taste. My question is, what kind of mess does it leave behind in the pan?

01:14:42 Guest John Guest

[Sighs.]

01:14:43 Julia Guest

Exactly! Um, a big mess in the pan. And then I go to make my pancakes right, and I don't have a pan.

01:14:49 Judge John Host

Right. 'Cause you don't clean the pan after you do your Emperor's Mess in it?

01:14:52 Guest John Guest

We have two pans.

[Audience and Guest John laugh.]

01:14:57 Judge John Host

I rule His and Her pans, one for the Emperor's Mess, one for Julia. Never touch her pan!

[More laughter.]

Keep your pan and your weird plans to yourself, sir.

[Live gavel banging.]

01:15:05 Jesse Host

Julia and John!

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

Please welcome Jason and Allison!

01:15:16 John Host

Jason and Allison, who comes to this court to seek justice before me?

01:15:20 Allison Guest

I'm coming to seek justice.

01:15:22 John Host

Thank you. And you are Allison, I presume?

01:15:24 Allison Guest

I am.

01:15:25 John Host

And what is the nature of your dispute?

01:15:28	Allison	Guest	I feel strongly sometimes when there has been some form of injustice towards myself or my husband that I want to speak up and say something to correct it. And that makes my husband <u>very</u> anxious.
01:15:42	John	Host	Well, that all sounds very reasonable and... rehearsed. <i>[Allison and the audience laugh.]</i>
01:15:49	Jason	Guest	What do you—what is actually going on here, Jason? So sometimes there's like an awkward social situation that kinda calls for a comment. And she'll say "I'm going to say something," and I'd really hope that she... doesn't... go say something. <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:16:01	John	Host	Why are you worried that she will go say something?
01:16:03	Jason	Guest	It's like a Spidey sense. It just feels really wrong. <i>[More audience laughter.]</i>
01:16:09	Linda	Guest	Just like, that she's talking, or...?
01:16:10	Jason	Guest	No! <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:16:16	Linda	Guest	Yeah. Sorry. Walked right into—no, I do have a question, though! I do have a question. I need an <u>example</u> . Like, are we—you don't want her to say something about politics, or you don't want her to say something about somebody punched you in the face, or... <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:16:32	Jason	Guest	When we moved into our house, our next-door neighbor used to tie their dog to our front tree.
01:16:36	John	Host	To <u>your</u> front tree.
01:16:39	Jason	Guest	To <u>our</u> front tree.
01:16:40	Linda	Guest	And... Allison is upset.
01:16:42	Jason	Guest	Yes.
01:16:43	Allison	Guest	I was. We at the time had two dogs ourselves.
01:16:46	Linda	Guest	Yes.
01:16:47	Allison	Guest	And the tree was clearly in the center of <u>our</u> front yard. And this dog could—the leash would reach to our front porch. And so this little dog would be barking on our front porch. It sometimes would bark at our neighbors who were walking on the sidewalk.
01:17:03	Linda	Guest	Mm-hm.
01:17:04	John	Host	Right.
01:17:05	Allison	Guest	And since it was tied to <u>our</u> tree—
01:17:06	Linda	Guest	Seemed like it was your dog.
01:17:07	John	Host	They thought <u>you</u> —
01:17:08	Allison	Guest	Yes.

01:17:09	Jason	Guest	Right.
01:17:10	John	Host	They thought that a-hole dog was yours.
01:17:11	Allison	Guest	Correct.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			And—
01:17:12	John	Host	It's <u>really</u> weird that your neighbor tied their dog to your tree.
01:17:16	Allison	Guest	Thank you! Yes, I—I agree.
01:17:17	Linda	Guest	It is.
01:17:18	John	Host	What was going on there, in your opinion?
			<i>[Pause.]</i>
01:17:20	Allison	Guest	I think they had done it for years before. We had just moved in.
01:17:25	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Linda: Ahhh. Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
			John: Ohhh, I see. Right.
			Allison: Yeah! And so we—
			Linda: Adverse possession.
01:17:29	John	Host	So rather than trying to blend into the neighborhood gently and go along with the traditions and customs...
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			...you kidnapped the dog.
			<i>[Audience laughs harder.]</i>
01:17:37	Allison	Guest	Mr. Bobo. I had nothing against him personally. He was a pleasant enough dog—
01:17:42	John	Host	Is this the dog or your neighbor?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Mr. Bobo's the dog?
01:17:46	Allison	Guest	Mr. Bobo is the dog.
01:17:47	Jesse	Host	Mr. Bob's the dog; <u>Goggy</u> is the neighbor.
			<i>[More laughter.]</i>
01:17:52	John	Host	Is Mr. Bobo no more?
01:17:54	Allison	Guest	Mr. Bobo and his family have since moved.
01:17:56	John	Host	Oh.
01:17:57	Allison	Guest	Yes. Not—not our fault.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:18:01	John	Host	Not in any provable way.

[Audience laughs harder.]

01:18:03 Jason Guest Right.
01:18:04 Allison Guest No. In fact we became friends. I—so ultimately I confronted, um...
01:18:09 John Host Mr. Bobo's owner.
01:18:10 Allison Guest Yes.
01:18:11 John Host Senior Bobo.

Did you—but this was awkward for you, Jason?

01:18:14 Jason Guest It just felt so weird. Yeah.
01:18:16 John Host Tell me more about how it made you feel.
01:18:18 Jason Guest We would see them a lot, and they were very friendly, and I had two—
01:18:21 John Host Yeah, that does feel weird.

[Audience laughs.]

01:18:25 Jason Guest We had two big dogs at the time, so I would walk them a lot, and so it just felt like I wanted to crawl inside myself. It was kinda... awkward.
01:18:32 John Host After she confronted them.
01:18:33 Jason Guest Correct. Yes.
01:18:34 John Host But was there any sense that there was a bad feeling about this?

[Beat.]

01:18:39 Jason Guest No.

[Light audience laughter.]

01:18:41 John Host Do you feel that your sensitivity to this issue is the fact that you're... *[stifling laughter]* gentrifying a neighborhood where they don't speak English?

[Audience laughs.]

01:18:50 Allison Guest I—I do wanna share this—the neighbors who ultimately did move away, before they moved away, they came to our son's first birthday party...
01:18:58 John Host Yeah!
01:18:59 Allison Guest We went to their granddaughter's first birthday party. We—they're very good people! It all—
01:19:04 John Host No! I mean, having hard conversations is part of being a neighbor. They're not all easy. And being willing to put yourself out there and engage in conversation, particularly if it's a cross-cultural conversation, is... you know. Whether it's responsible or brave or just basically human and decent, it's part of being a neighbor. And I'm glad that that seemed to have deepened your relationship with your neighbors until they inevitably got priced out of your neighborhood and had to leave.

[Audience, litigants, and John laugh.]

That wasn't your fault!

[More laughter.]

01:19:41 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Capitalism is fundamentally morally corrupt.

[More laughter, followed by cheering and applause.]

01:19:46 John Host In any case, I applaud your—you—presuming that you are not a sociopath who has tricked me... I applaud your assertiveness, and I encourage you, Jason, to be grateful that you have someone to hide behind.

01:20:01 Jason Guest Thank you.

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

[Live gavel banging.]

01:20:04 Jesse Host Jason and Allison!

01:20:07 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:20:09 Jesse Host Live Justice! From the Lincoln Theatre in Washington, DC. Our thanks to all of the litigants who shared their disputes with us. This episode recorded by Jeff Bird, produced by [Hannah Smith](#), edited by [Jesus Ambrosio](#). Our producer is the great [Jennifer Marmor](#).

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And hey! You made it this far into the credits. You owe it to yourself to get more John Hodgman content by subscribing to [I, Podius](#). Just—this is the end of this show, so you might as well listen to that next!

01:20:55 John Host Yeah, if you're one of these real dead-enders who goes all the way to the end of the credits...

[Both laugh.]

You're definitely gonna enjoy *I, Podius*, for sure.

01:21:03 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* We'll see you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:21:06 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:21:07 Music Music Guitar music, presumably played live by Brian Farrow.

01:21:17 John Host *[Singing "It's You I Like" by Mister Rogers.]*

*It's you I like
It's not the things you wear
It's not the way you do your hair
But it's you I like!*

The way you are inside

*Way down deep inside you
It's not the things that hide you
It's not your toys
They're just beside you*

[Speaking] That's a hell of a lyric, Mister Rogers.

[Audience laughs.]

[Singing]

*It's you I like
Every part of you
Your hair, your skin, your feelings
Whether old or new
I hope that you remember even when you're feeling blue*

*It's you I like
It's you, yourself
It's you!*

It's you I like!

[Brian finishes up on the guitar.]

[Speaking]

That's our show, everybody!

[Audience cheers and applauds.]

Kid B Farrow over here!

[More cheering and applause as the audio fades out.]

01:22:37	Music	Transition	A cheerful guitar chord.
01:22:38	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:22:40	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:22:41	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:22:42	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.