

00:00:01 Jesse Thorn Host *[Sound of gavel banging.]*

00:00:06 John Hodgman Host Welcome to the Judge John Hodgman podcast! I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn.

00:00:14 Jesse Host And I'm your Judge John Hodgman! This week's episode was recorded in my home Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the Wilbur Theatre in Boston!

00:00:40 John Host We have special musical guest Josh Kantor! The organist at Fenway Park. Among many other projects, he plays also with the Baseball Project and many other bands. Uh, but Josh is a kind man. A virtuosic musician. And he stopped by to play organ both before and during our Judge John Hodgman show.

*[Old-timey, baseball-y organ music.]*

—to take us back into old-timey times! When we were all allowed to gather together in the Wilbur Theatre in Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

00:01:09 Jesse Host *[Audience applauds wildly.]* People of Massachusetts! You've come to us desperate for justice! And we're here to deliver it to you—at the Wilbur Theatre in Boston!

*[Audience continues applauding.]*

Let's bring out our first set of litigants—please welcome to the stage Kristen and Jess!

*[Audience applauds.]*

Tonight's case—Knit, or Get Off the Pod! Kristen files suit against her friend and podcast cohost Jess! They started a podcast called *WWKD—Wine, Whine, and Knit Day*—in which they knit and talk about their lives. Since then, Jess has started crocheting instead of knitting!

*[Mixed laughter and scandalized noises.]*

Kristen feels this is dishonest and would like Jess to exclusively work on knitting projects while they record the podcast. Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide! Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and delivers his obscure cultural reference.

00:02:19 John Host *[Audience applauds, cheers.]* Why... do we care about podcasting? It is rich and beautiful. It helps us to better understand Euclidean geometry.

*[Light audience laughter.]*

It also helps to understand shapes and nature! And helps us to think about the shape... of our universe. The problem that has puzzled people for thousands of years. And still... is an open question. Bailiff Jesse Thorn, please swear the litigants in.

00:02:44 Jesse Host Kristen and Jess, 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?

00:02:54 Kristen Guest Yes.

00:02:55 Jess Guest Yes.

00:02:55 Jesse Host Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that he started knitting a sweater and he kept *[escalating in both pitch and volume]* knitting—and knitting—and knitting—and knitting?!

*[Light audience laughter.]*

00:03:06 Kristen Guest *[Through laughter]* Yes.

00:03:06 Jess Guest Sure!

00:03:08 Jesse Host Judge Hodgman, you *[though laughter]* may proceed.

00:03:09 John Host That was a good cultural reference.

00:03:11 Jesse Host *[Through laughter]* Thank you.

00:03:12 John Host It was Pee-wee Herman, right?

00:03:12 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:03:13 John Host Oh, phew!

*[Audience laughs.]*

Ohhh! I wouldn't—I wouldn't wanted to be hoist on my own knitted petard! So.

*[Audience laughs.]*

I don't know what a petard is. Can you knit one? Who cares. Moving on.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Uh, Kristen and Jess, you may be seated for an immediate summary judgment in one of yours favors. Can either of you name the popular culture, eh, popular culture is a stretch—the piece of culture? Mm, not even culture! The piece of...

*[Audience laughs.]*

—words that I said? *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

Who spoke those words? I'll give you a hint—the term “podcasting” in that phrase was a substitute for another term. It was not actually a quote about podcasting, but about something else. Uh, let's see. Uh, Kristen, why don't you guess first?

00:03:50 Kristen Guest Um... I am going to guess the... uh... renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead.

00:03:57 John Host Margaret Mead, the renowned anthropologist! Well, I can't find my pen, but I'll enter it into my mental guess book. Interesting. A woman scientist! Interesting. Hm.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Hm. Hm. Hm.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:04:19 Jess Guest Jess! You've heard Margaret Mead. Is that your guess or would you like to make another guess?  
00:04:21 John Host I would like to make another guess.  
00:04:20 Jess Guest Go for it!  
00:04:22 John Host Uh—I'm—  
00:04:24 Jess Guest Which—are you—wait a minute. Are you the crocheter?  
00:04:23 John Host I am.  
Yeah. Okay. Interesting. Hm.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:04:29 Jess Guest Hm. Hm.  
00:04:32 John Host Uh, I'm going to guess the Vogue Knitting Book?  
00:04:35 Jess Guest *[Through laughter]* The Vogue Knitting Book?  
00:04:36 John Host It is the knitter's handbook.  
The knitter's handbook—the Vogue Knitting Book. Written by a woman who is a scientist?  
00:04:42 Jesse Host Written by Anna Wintour.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:04:43 Jess Guest Sure. Yes. *[Laughs.]*  
00:04:46 John Host Uh, and Jesse, I presume you—as always—guess Pee-wee Herman?  
00:04:49 Jesse Host Yeah.  
00:04:50 John Host Alright! All guesses are wrong! No. That quote was from the TedxRiga Talk given by Daina Taimina, who is a—I believe Latvian—mathematician. The phrase that was omitted and replaced with 'podcasting' was 'hyperbolic plane.'

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:05:11 Jesse Host *[Through laughter]* You should've just had the whole audience say that together with you, John.  
00:05:16 John Host *[Through laughter]* Sure. I know. You guys all got it! I know.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:05:18 Jesse Host They're all just sitting up there like *[as though through gritted teeth]* "Hyperbolic plane!"  
00:05:22 John Host In 1997—that talk was given in 2012. In 1997, though, Daina Taimina discovered a way to represent hyperbolic geometry—physical space. And do you know how she did it?  
00:05:35 Jess Guest Knitting.  
00:05:36 John Host No!!!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:05:39 Jess Guest Crocheting!!!  
Ahh!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:05:41 John Host That was a classic touché-crochet!

*[Audience laughs.]*

			Crochet—she uses crochet. And do you know what the hyperbolic plane is?
00:05:50	Jess	Guest	No.
00:05:52	John	Host	Jesse, do you know what the hyperbolic plane is?
00:05:54	Jesse	Host	Yeah, but I'd rather not say.
00:05:56	John	Host	Right.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			You must know. It's simply the greatest plane in the world. Maybe even the universe! The absolute best—sine qua non—the best. The hyperbolic plane. I don't know what it is, either.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			I was making a joke on hyperbole. You see what I mean?
00:06:10	Jesse	Host	Mm.
00:06:12	John	Host	Uh, no. It's actually—it's a—it's, uh, it's in contrast to Euclidean space and spherical space. Instead of being a <u>flat</u> plane, on which points are mapped—or a spherical plane on which points are mapped—it is a plane of constant negative curve. And that is as far as I got in the Wikipedia before we had to start the show.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			But it is true that crochet... imitates—or can represent in three dimensions—uh, what almost nothing else can. Which is this—the hyperbolic geometry. Hyperbolic plane. So it's very sophisticated! I would hope that someone who is into crochet would know all of this!
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:06:49	Jess	Guest	Ooooh.
00:06:49	John	Host	But unfortunately, you <u>don't</u> .
			<i>[Jess laughs.]</i>
			So now we have to hear this case. So. Kristen! You bring this case against Jess.
00:06:58	Kristen	Guest	Yes.
00:06:58	John	Host	The person who is <u>really</u> into crochet but knows <u>nothing</u> about the hyperbolic plane.
00:07:02	Kristen	Guest	She's been doing it less than a year.
00:07:04	John	Host	Oh my goodness—well no wonder she doesn't know anything about it.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Uh, and so—how is it that you two come to know each other and knit so very much, indeed?
00:07:12	Kristen	Guest	Uh, I think we met through my mom, actually.
00:07:16	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:07:16	Kristen	Guest	Um, and... she and my mom were both in grad school at the same time?
00:07:20	John	Host	In what-what?
00:07:21	Kristen	Guest	Grad school?
00:07:22	John	Host	Oh, grad—I thought you said in "rascal."

00:07:24 Kristen Guest *[Laughs.]* Grad... school.  
00:07:26 John Host Right.  
00:07:27 Kristen Guest And... I would come home on winter breaks and she'd be hanging out basically with her classmates and I thought Jess was cool. Uh, and then I learned to knit and during Jess's, uh, dissertation phase that's what she did to relax. And so that's what I would do with her.

00:07:44 John Host What did you study in grad school? What I like to call rascal.  
00:07:49 Kristen Guest *[Laughs.]* Um, I studied theology. I was, uh, at Boston University School of Theology.

00:07:53 John Host Oh, okay!  
00:07:53 Kristen Guest Got my Master of Divinity.  
00:07:54 John Host Oh, wow! Excellent!

*[Lone cheer from the audience.]*

And, uh—

*[A few more cheers.]*

00:07:58 Jess Guest Uh, Jess?  
Yes. I was also at Boston University. Getting my PhD in Theological Ethics.

00:08:04 John Host Oh, okay. Great. And you didn't—  
00:08:05 Jesse Host Wait. Kristen, were you going to graduate school with your mom?  
00:08:09 Kristen Guest *[Laughs.]* Yup! *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:08:13 Jesse Host Oh, alright! I like this! *[Laughs.]*  
00:08:16 Kristen Guest Yup! *[Laughs.]*  
00:08:17 John Host Did—did you guys walk to school every morning holding hands?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:08:21 Kristen Guest No, because we did not live together.  
00:08:23 John Host I see. What was your mom studying?  
00:08:25 Kristen Guest Also *[though laughter]* theology?  
00:08:27 John Host I would've liked it if you had said "Satanology." *[Laughs.]*  
00:08:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** We learned to get along.

00:08:34 John Host **Kristen:** I can't lie! I'm under oath!  
Mm-hm. Sure. Uh, so alright. Fantastic. You're divinity students. You met in grad school. You discovered you have a shared interest in knitting. You start a podcast, which—obviously—this entire dispute is ginned up in order to buzz-market your podcast on my podcast—

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:08:51 Kristen Guest What is the name of your knitting podcast?  
00:08:54 John Host WWKD Podcast?  
00:08:59 Kristen Guest Wine—W-I-N-E—Whine—W-H-I-N-E—at knitting? What?  
00:08:59 John Host And knitting.  
And Knitting. Right? Okay. Very good. And so you—the two of you sit around and you knit and you talk about knitting? Or you talk about... anything under the sun?

00:09:07 Kristen Guest Um, well both! Uh, so we have some topic we talk about for the main part of the show and then at the end we talk about what we're

crafting or we both tend to do like philanthropic crafting? And so we'll highlight causes.

00:09:19 John Host Does the crafting involve other things besides knitting?

00:09:21 Kristen Guest It... does.

00:09:23 John Host Like, what sort of things? Scrapbooking?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:09:25 Kristen Guest I guess... yes.

00:09:27 Jesse Host Making those airplanes out of Coke cans?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:09:31 Kristen Guest Yes. We have had guests on our show who do all kinds of crafting!

00:09:34 John Host So it would seem that it's a fairly holistic crafting show. Not simply a knitting show.

00:09:39 Kristen Guest I didn't say it was explicitly a knitting show, but "knit" is in the title.

00:09:44 John Host And yet... you have beef with your friend—

00:09:47 Kristen Guest I do!

00:09:49 John Host Because she has chosen to do something that is basically knitting but not quite.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:09:54 Kristen Guest It's not the same thing! *[Laughs.]*

00:09:56 John Host Oh, it's not the same! Jess?

00:09:58 Jess Guest Yes.

00:09:59 John Host What is crochet?

00:10:01 Jess Guest Crochet uses a hook, uh, only one hook instead of two knitting needles, which you use for knitting.

00:10:08 John Host Mm-hm. I see.

00:10:09 Jess Guest Uh, you can make a lot more 3D things with crochet—

00:10:12 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess:** —very easily?

**John:** Mm-hm. Sure. While you're working in the hyperbolic plane, of course you can.

00:10:14 Jess Guest Exactly!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:10:18 John Host Exactly! That's why it's so good for the hyperbolic plane!

That's right. I mean, basically knitting is just—Euclidean. Right? Just flat stuff.

00:10:21 Kristen Guest Not true!

00:10:22 John Host Oh-ho!

*[Audience laughs.]*

I'll allow it.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:10:31 Jess Guest Hold that thought while we allow, uh, Jess to finish her thought.

00:10:36 John Host Uh, so—use yarn just the way—the same way you would use—

Yeah. You use yarn. That's interesting. There's a very big commonality—

*[Jess laughs.]*

00:10:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess:** Commonality with—with—yes. Knitting and crochet.

00:10:44 Jess Guest **John:** —between the two crafts. Mm-hm. Mm-hm. Right.  
Uh, but yeah! It's—it's... I think it is easier. It's more transportable than knitting is. Uh, you can—

00:10:52 John Host What?

00:10:53 Jess Guest It is! *[Laughs.]*

00:10:55 John Host Look. I used to have a wife.

00:11:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Audience laughs.]*  
**John:** We're still married.

**Jesse:** Before he agreed to come out on this tour.

00:11:04 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
We're still married and she's still alive...  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
—but she started knitting several years ago and I have not seen her since.  
*[Audience laughs.]*

00:11:16 Jess Guest But I've observed this from afar.  
Uh-huh.

00:11:17 John Host And I have discovered that it's pretty portable! Indeed... it can be taken anywhere!  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
You never have to leave it behind!

00:11:27 Jess Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
*[Laughs.]* Yes. I—

00:11:28 John Host You never have to engage with other human beings.  
*[Audience laughs.]*

00:11:33 Jesse Host So long as you have your knitting.  
I think it's fair to say that both knitting and crocheting... are activities designed specifically to be done while rewatching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer!*

00:11:45 Jess Guest *[All laughs.]*  
Yes! Exactly!

00:11:47 John Host How is knit—how is crochet more portable than knitting?

00:11:51 Jess Guest Because you don't lose stitches the same way that you do with knitting. So if you're using two knitting needles, your stitches can slide off?

00:11:59 John Host Right.

00:12:01 Jess Guest Whereas with crochet, it's very easy to see where you—

00:12:01 John Host Only—only—only if you're careless and lazy, though.  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
Let the record show that Kristen's nodding.

*[Both Jess and Kristen laugh.]*

I didn't mean to imply that you were in any way careless or lazy. I apologize. But why are you messing up your knitting all the time that you have to take crochet?

00:12:15 Jess Guest I—well, that's why I switched to crochet!  
00:12:17 John Host Is it really?  
00:12:18 Jess Guest No.  
00:12:18 John Host Oh, okay.

*[Jess laughs.]*

Uh, how did you get started and why do you like it better and why will you never go back to knitting no matter what your friend wants?

00:12:25 Jess Guest *[Laughs.]* Number one, I never said I would never go back to knitting. *[Laughs.]*  
00:12:28 John Host Okay. Alright.  
00:12:30 Jess Guest Uh, I—my mom crocheted when I was growing up. She never learned how to knit, but um... tried to teach me how to crochet a couple years ago and I never picked it up?  
00:12:39 John Host Mm-hm.  
00:12:40 Jess Guest And then—  
00:12:41 Jesse Host This was back when the two of you *[though laughter]* were in graduate school together.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:12:43 Jess Guest This is back when we were both back in graduate school, yeah. I only finished graduate school last year. Anyway. *[Laughs.]*  
00:12:48 John Host Congratulations!  
00:12:48 Jess Guest Yes. *[Laughs.]* Um, but I, uh, just wanted to try it! Because it looked like... I could do more things with it! So I taught myself how to do it!  
00:13:00 John Host So it is not merely an argument which I expected. Which is like, I wanted to try something different and I don't understand why Kristen should be upset. It—you're truly saying, this is better than knitting. Knitting is the worst!  
00:13:11 Jess Guest I— *[Laughs.]* No! That is not what I'm saying.  
00:13:14 John Host Okay.  
00:13:15 Jess Guest I'm—knitting is great! And I love knitting—  
00:13:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess:** —and I love knit things and I love people who knit.

**John:** Ew. That's very faint praise.

00:13:20 Jess Guest But I—right now, I'm in a crocheting phase. *[Laughs.]*  
00:13:23 John Host Okay. Well, so...  
00:13:24 Jesse Host Who knows what she'll be doing when she moves on to rewatching *Ange!*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:13:30 John Host As long as you never move into needlepoint, I have no problem with you.  
00:13:34 Kristen Guest Oooh.  
00:13:34 John Host That's painting by numbers and I do not care for it.

*[Audience laughs.]*



There is a high level—there is a high level of needlepoint, which is freehand needlepoint. And embroidery, like, uh, Kendall Cooper does. Check out my Instagram.

*[Audience laughs.]*

See an embroidered picture of my dumb cat!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:13:52 Kristen Guest Uh, Kristen—  
00:13:53 John Host Yes.  
00:13:59 Kristen Guest Uh, what's your—what's your problem with you friend exploring a  
00:14:05 John Host new kind of, uh, yarn-based handcraft?  
*[Laughs.]* Well... I... we started this podcast in particular—  
Yeah, I know about your podcast. Everybody—

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:14:11 Kristen Guest —check out the podcast! *Wine, Whine, and Knit!*  
00:14:12 John Host Not where I was going. But!  
00:14:14 Kristen Guest Mm-hm.  
Um, basically—we used to share—I realized we were still both,  
um... yarn-crafting together. Uh, but... she... I feel like she's kind of  
left me behind! 'Cause she has said that she thinks crochet is  
easier and I think you implied that you preferred it to knitting and  
thus, like... this is what I'm doing from now on. And I feel a little left  
behind. I feel like we started something together—  
00:14:42 John Host Right.  
00:14:43 Kristen Guest Um, and then I think—I kid you not—in like Episode 2 she was like,  
I wanna crochet! And in Episode 3 she was crocheting!  
00:14:50 John Host Oh!  
00:14:51 Kristen Guest And has not knit since then.  
00:14:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Kristen:** We're on like episode 47.

00:14:55 John Host **John:** A classic—  
Right! A classic podcast cohost bait-and-switch!

*[Audience laughs.]*

Like Jesse *[though laughter]* Thorn, when you and I started this  
podcast, it was supposed to be just talking about, uh, *Star Wars!*  
*[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:15:05 Jesse Host Yeah! *[Laughs.]*  
00:15:07 John Host And then you made me become an internet judge! *[Laughs.]*  
00:15:09 Jesse Host Yup.  
00:15:11 John Host Said it would be a better format and you're right.  
00:15:12 Jesse Host Yeah.  
00:15:14 John Host Absolutely. And all I wanted to do was talk about, uh, chain  
restaurants and fast food! We coulda been millionaires!

*[Jesse laughs loudly.]*

Uh, you—what kind of things do you make with crochet? You brought some evidence, correct?

00:15:27 Kristen Guest I did! Yes!

00:15:28 John Host Let's take a look at the evidence.

00:15:29 Jess Guest These are—these are Kristen's.

00:15:30 Kristen Guest These are mine.

00:15:32 John Host Oh, so this is your evidence.

00:15:32 Kristen Guest This is—this is knitting items that I have made. So, um, on the right-hand side is an example of a blanket I made for my cousin who is—

00:15:39 John Host Sure.

00:15:40 Kristen Guest Okay.

00:15:41 John Host No, no, no, no, no.

*[Audience laughs.]*

I was just acknowledging.

00:15:43 Kristen Guest Oh. That seemed—

00:15:45 John Host Thank you for describing it, by the way. 'Cause usually that falls to me and I'm terrible at it. So I appreciate that. For those of you listening along at home, Kristen will now describe what everyone else in the world is seeing.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Um, it's a rainbow—it's a large striped, rainbow color.

00:15:55 Kristen Guest

00:15:59 John Host It's not easy, is it? It's not easy.

00:16:01 Kristen Guest No, it's not!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:16:01 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Kristen:** Now I'm on the spot! *[Laughs.]*

**John:** Now that I put you on the spot!

*[Audience laughs.]*

It's some blankets and beautiful blankets that you knitted?

00:16:04 John Host

00:16:06 Kristen Guest Um, that I knitted for my cousin who was doing a Noah's Ark-themed nursery.

00:16:09 John Host Oh, very nice! And may I point out—they're flat!

00:16:12 Kristen Guest They are.

00:16:14 John Host They're purely Euclidean!

00:16:16 Kristen Guest The stuff in the other picture are not flat!

00:16:17 John Host Yeah! That's 'cause they're balls of yarn!

00:16:19 Kristen Guest No, they're not!

00:16:20 John Host Well, hope—oh, excuse me. I—

00:16:21 Kristen Guest No, they're not!

00:16:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Kristen:** And I have one here to show you!

**John:** I misunderstood. All I saw—  
00:16:23 John Host All I saw were paper bags full of yarn.

*[Audience laughs.]*

And I was having a traumatic response. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:16:32 Kristen Guest I did not consult with your wife before coming. I promise. Um—

00:16:35	John	Host	So those are not balls of yarn. That—those—you took balls of yarn, unthreaded them, and knitted them back into balls of yarn?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:16:44	Kristen	Guest	Sort of! Yeah!
00:16:46	John	Host	What are they, exactly?
00:16:46	Kristen	Guest	So this is one of my main, um, crafting for a cause projects?
00:16:51	John	Host	Oh.
00:16:51	Kristen	Guest	They are called Knitted Knockers.
00:16:53	John	Host	Ohhh!
			<i>[Light cheering, whooping, clapping from audience.]</i>
00:16:56	Kristen	Guest	I have one here. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:16:58	John	Host	Uh, may I—
00:16:59	Kristen	Guest	Yes.
00:16:59	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> —handle it?
			<b>Jesse:</b> Palpate it?
00:17:00	Kristen	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> You may.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:17:02	John	Host	Uh, this looks like... so it's a—it's like a little pillow. It's a knit pillow that is stuffed with—
00:17:09	Kristen	Guest	Like, Poly-fil? Like you would stuff a stuffed animal.
00:17:11	John	Host	Well I thought from—because you were a master of theology it might be the hair of a saint or something like that?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:17:16	Kristen	Guest	Not that kind of theology.
00:17:17	John	Host	No. Okay. So this is a Knitted Knocker.
00:17:19	Kristen	Guest	Yes.
00:17:20	John	Host	Is it... ohhhh! I think I know what it is!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:17:24	Kristen	Guest	It's a prosthetic breast for women that have had mastectomies.
00:17:28	John	Host	That's fantastic!
00:17:28	Kristen	Guest	It fits inside a regular bra and I'm part of an organization that gives 'em out for free to women who can't otherwise afford them.
			<i>[Audience applauds.]</i>
00:17:36	John	Host	That's amazing! I take back everything I said about knitting being flat, pointless, and uncharitable.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			And selfish.
00:17:48	Kristen	Guest	Thank you! I appreciate that. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:17:50	John	Host	Uh, so. Jess.
00:17:52	Jess	Guest	Yes.
00:17:54	John	Host	What incredible charitable things have you created—
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			—with your crochet skills?
00:17:59	Jess	Guest	I have also made Knitted Knockers.
00:18:01	John	Host	No, no. I understand.

*[Jess laughs.]*

00:18:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk But they're knitted. Do you see what I'm saying?  
**Jess:** They're—you can make—there is a—

00:18:10 John Host **John:** It seems to me that the whole point of this case is which is better—knitting or crocheting?  
I've decided. *[Laughs.]*

00:18:12 Jess Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
There is a crochet pattern for Knitted Knockers.  
00:18:15 John Host Oh, okay!  
00:18:17 Jess Guest Yeah. So I—I made—I actually recruited people to make Knitted Knockers— *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:18:25 John Host That were given to, uh, Boston Medical Center.  
Okay. I—

*[Jess laughs. Audience applauds.]*

00:18:32 Jess Guest Look, I appreciate that you've also—you've also done good work in your life. But—  
00:18:34 John Host Yes. *[Laughs.]*  
You really are kind of drafting off of...

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:18:45 Jess Guest Kristen's incredible revelation right now. Let's go to the next piece of evidence. What do we—what do we have here?  
00:18:47 John Host Uh, so this was my first crocheting project?  
00:18:47 Jess Guest Sure.  
00:18:51 John Host Because I'm an overachiever? Um, I made a—  
What—what makes this an overachievement in the world of crochet?

*[Audience laughs.]*

No, I—that's a sincere question! It's—it looks like—it looks like a big blanket but of course... because it is crochet, it is full of huge holes.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:19:08 Jess Guest And... would in no way retain heat in any way. *[Laughs.]*  
00:19:10 John Host It is—  
It also is, by the way, very flat. Which really...

*[Audience laughs.]*

—really rejects the whole promise of crochet as representing 3D structures and the hyperbolic geometry that everyone is talking about at TEDxRiga. But it's still a beautiful piece of work. So you created this—but it's an overachievement 'cause it's so big—it's—a lot of it, right?

00:19:31 Jess Guest Yes. So it... it's over 140 granny squares?  
00:19:35 John Host Oh. I see.  
00:19:37 Jess Guest That I then had to—  
00:19:38 John Host And that's a regular unit of measurement in crochet?

*[Audience laughs.]*  
00:19:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess:** Granny squares? Yes. Yeah, it is! *[Laughs.]* Um—  
**John:** Granny squares? Alright. Yeah.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
00:19:45 John Host Rather gendered, I would say. But go on.  
00:19:48 Jess Guest *[Laughs.]* Uh, that I then had to stitch together into one, uh, one piece.  
00:19:53 John Host And, uh, I'm—I may note as well that you are sitting here, uh, looks like you're sitting at your podcast station for your podcast *Wine, Whine, and Knit*.

*[Jess laughs.]*  
And one thing I notice you're not doing is podcasting. You're just showing off your crochet!  
00:20:07 Jess Guest Uh—  
00:20:09 John Host It's an audible medium.  
00:20:09 Jess Guest Yes.

*[All laugh.]*  
00:20:14 John Host We—we also have social media for our podcast! *[Laughs.]*  
No, I understand. I'm just—you know I'm just teasing. It's a beautiful piece of work.  
00:20:17 Jesse Host To be fair, John, if you wanna show off crochet, audio might be the *[though laughter]* best medium.

*[All laugh.]*  
00:20:25 John Host Of course, all this evidence will be available on the *Judge John Hodgman* page of MaximumFun.org, as well as our Instagram—Instagram.com/JudgeJohnHodgman. See, I can plug stuff too!

*[All laugh.]*  
00:20:34 Jess Guest So this is meta. It's our meta, uh, blanket. Sorry.  
00:20:38 John Host Your meta blanket?  
00:20:40 Jess Guest Our meta blanket. Ooh!  
00:20:42 John Host Oh. Geez that didn't work out well.  
00:20:44 Jess Guest *[Laughs.]* Uh, our meta blanket for the podcast because it is—was created—I forget how we— *[Laughs.]*  
00:20:51 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess:** —define this. *[Laughs.]*

**John:** Somehow this is—somehow this is harder to understand than hyperbolic geometry.  
**Jess:** I think it has something to do—I think it—  
**John:** It's a—it's a meta blanket? It's a blanket about a blanket?  
*[All laugh.]*

00:21:03	Jess	Guest	Well I think it had something to do with that it was birthed from the podcast. I think.
00:21:08	Kristen	Guest	It came out of the podcast. Anyway. Nevermind.
00:21:11	Jesse	Host	In some ways it was created out of necessity when they ran out of white guys with dreadlocks for whom to make hats.
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:21:20	Kristen	Guest	If I may add, this is an example of, uh, Jess's proficiency in general? She's like, I think I wanna crochet! And it turns out like... a—a Pinterest Win instead of a Pinterest Fail.
00:21:34	John	Host	Terms I do not understand.
00:21:36	Kristen	Guest	Oh. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:21:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jess:</b> That sounded like a compliment.
			<b>Kristen:</b> It's really, really good. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:21:40	John	Host	Next— <i>[Laughs.]</i> Next slide, please.
00:21:43	Jess	Guest	Ah.
00:21:43	John	Host	Now what—
00:21:44	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> Now what am I seeing? Kristen, this is—
			<b>Jess:</b> This is—these are some examples of what Kristen makes? Um, 'cause Kristen tends to stick only to three things? She makes baby blankets—which is the top, uh, left corner. She makes Knitted Knockers. Uh, top right corner. And that's her cat, Ruby.
00:22:01	John	Host	Very nice.
00:22:02	Jess	Guest	Um, and she makes scarves! And that's <u>all</u> she makes. Uh...
00:22:06	John	Host	You notice how cats really like yarn?
00:22:08	Jess	Guest	Yeah! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:22:11	John	Host	How can a creature that is so snobby embrace its cliché so heartily?
			<i>[Audience laughs. Jesse laughs loudly.]</i>
			Next slide, please. Alright. <u>Now</u> we are into some stuff here. I—this is—first of all, going from top left... clockwise around.
00:22:31	Jess	Guest	Yes.
00:22:32	John	Host	This looks like a crochet Cthulu.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:22:34	Jess	Guest	Yes.
00:22:36	John	Host	But without an eye.
00:22:36	Jess	Guest	Yes.
00:22:37	John	Host	This looks like a teddy bear wearing a crochet cable-knit sweater.
00:22:41	Jess	Guest	Yes.
00:22:41	John	Host	You got a crochet Baby Yoda, which is very of-the-moment. Oh, look! There's one right here!
			<i>[Assorted responses from the audiences—whistles, "ooohs," applause, cheers.]</i>
			Oh no!

00:22:54 Jesse Host *[Jess laughs. Loud cheering and clapping from audience.]*  
 Now folks—I wanna clarify, for those of you who might not know.  
 Baby Yoda...

*[Audience laughs.]*

—is not the Yoda. He's a yoda. He's... just in case anybody didn't know.

00:23:11 Kristen Guest *[Waits for audience laughter to die down.]*  
 I heard you were a medium *Star Wars* fan.  
 00:23:13 Jesse Host Yeah. I'm a medium *Star Wars* fan.  
 00:23:15 John Host That's why—that's—

*[Scattered applause, whooping from audience.]*

That's why he wouldn't let me do that podcast.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:23:25 Jess Guest So—so this is crochet. This is a Baby Yoda. Very of-the-moment.  
 00:23:26 John Host Very of-the-moment.  
 00:23:26 Jess Guest Yes.  
 00:23:27 John Host And then... coming around again, you knitted an incredible wineglass. That's incredible!

*[All laugh.]*

00:23:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** It's breathtaking.

00:23:35 John Host **John:** Look at that!  
 I mean, it's crystal clear! And it's—

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:23:39 Jesse Host What—how would you even begin to do that?  
 00:23:41 John Host It appears to be entirely non-porous!  
*[Through laughter]* Yes, exactly so! And a beautiful spherical, uh, crochet paperwork—paperweight behind it!

00:23:48 Jesse Host Paperwork. *[Laughs.]*  
 00:23:49 John Host Uh, no. What am I seeing here? What are you trying to show me with this exhibit?

00:23:53 Jess Guest I'm showing you some examples of the things that I have made since I've started crocheting? Which—again—has been less than a year ago?

00:23:59 John Host Right!  
 00:24:00 Jess Guest Um, and so I've done a decent number of different things. I've—  
 00:24:04 John Host Your point being, you're really good at it and you should—and your friend shouldn't hold you back.

00:24:08 Jess Guest Well, I just think I should be allowed to make what I wanna make.  
 00:24:10 John Host How do you respond to that, Kristen?  
 00:24:13 Kristen Guest I have not said she can't crochet. I just think she should be knitting at some point in time.

*[Some cheers, laughter from audience.]*

00:24:20 John Host Is there any other evidence to see? Let's take a look.

00:24:23	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Kristen:</b> Oh, yeah. Those are blankets I made.
00:24:29	John	Host	<b>John:</b> Okay. More stuff. Go, go, go. We can't— There we go! That's what—  <i>[All laugh.]</i>  <i>[Goofy voice]</i> Oooh! My tongue's coming out! <i>[Regular voice]</i> This is a different cat?
00:24:36	Jess	Guest	Yes. This is <u>my</u> cat.
00:24:38	John	Host	What is the name of this cat?
00:24:38	Jess	Guest	Igby.
00:24:39	John	Host	Igby?
00:24:40	Jess	Guest	Igby.
00:24:41	John	Host	Yeah.
00:24:41	Jesse	Host	Why do you keep him in a drawer?  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:24:44	Jess	Guest	He's sleeping on my husband's lap while he's doing work at home.
00:24:47	John	Host	Oh. That's very—that's very nice.
00:24:48	Jess	Guest	But he's missing a tooth so his tongue sticks out.
00:24:50	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> Oh, that's great.  <b>Jesse:</b> Ohhhhhh! I love it!  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:24:53	Jesse	Host	I'm missing a tooth!  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:24:58	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:24:59	John	Host	Did you have its tooth removed so it would look cuter?
00:25:02	Jess	Guest	No.
00:25:03	John	Host	Okay. Good. I'm just—
00:25:04	Jesse	Host	Idea for that corgi up there.  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:25:06	John	Host	Yeah. That's right. Just a quick monster check. Monstrosity check there. Any other evidence? No. There we go. Alright! So—I—I don't quite—first of all, I don't quite understand... what the dispute is! Kristen. I mean... look! She made a Baby Yoda! This is to be celebrated!  <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>  Do you know what I mean? Like, you put that online, all of a sudden people are gonna be subscribing to <i>Wine, Whine and Knit</i> by the dozens and dozens!  <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:25:32	Kristen	Guest	She's made it <u>very</u> clear she does not want to go into a Baby Yoda sales market, in all fairness.
00:25:38	John	Host	Well it's highly competitive right now. That's true.  <i>[All laugh.]</i>  Also you get sued by Disney.



*[Kristen laughs.]*

Uh... but y'know, it seems to me that this craft has—shares a—  
shall we say—strands of DNA with knitting enough—

*[Some laughter, some boos from audience.]*

—that it is something that you could talk about on the podcast?  
That you could do together? I don't understand how—how does it  
make you feel... when... Jess crochets instead of knits?

00:26:07 Kristen Guest  
00:26:14 John Host

So... I probably also have a bit of overachiever in me? And... I—  
How many granny squares' worth?

*[All laugh.]*

00:26:16 Kristen Guest  
00:26:19 John Host

Well, so I can't—  
1,000?!

00:26:20 Kristen Guest  
00:26:22 John Host

I can't crochet! So I can't communicate in granny squares.  
Ahhhhhh!

00:26:25 Kristen Guest  
00:26:26 John Host

It might—

00:26:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
00:26:31 Kristen Guest

You know what? You know what color Baby Yoda is?

**John and Jess:** Green.

Uh-oh.

*[Audience laughs; laughter grows.]*

00:26:37 John Host

I think she was making a—she wasn't making Baby Yoda. She was  
making you—

00:26:39 Kristen Guest  
00:26:40 John Host

No!  
—green with envy!

*[All laugh.]*

Rubbing it in your face in a very soft way.

*[All laugh.]*

00:26:51 Kristen Guest

Do you feel jealous that you can't crochet?

Uh... sure! I—I haven't even attempted because I'm still trying to  
figure out knitting and... Jess was also already way ahead of me in  
knitting, whenever I started knitting. And...

00:27:05 John Host  
00:27:06 Kristen Guest

Oh, okay.

I never even got a chance to catch up! Because she changed her  
medium.

00:27:08 John Host

Jess, how do you feel when Kristen says she feels left behind by  
you as a friend and fellow craftsperson? Because you're better than  
her at knitting and now you've tossed that aside like garbage.

*[Audience laughs.]*

You've moved on to crochet and all your granny squares that she  
doesn't even know how to make one of them.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:27:26 Jess Guest

I... I mean... I love my friend? And I want to support her? And if she  
asked me to show her how to do these things I would be happy to  
do—I would be happy to do that!

00:27:39	John	Host	Kristen, would that be a solution for you? If Jess <u>showed</u> you how to crochet?
00:27:42	Kristen	Guest	Maybe.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:27:46	John	Host	Mmmm. Have you ever asked?
00:27:48	Kristen	Guest	No.
00:27:48	John	Host	Have you ever offered?
00:27:49	Jess	Guest	No.
00:27:51	John	Host	Alright!
			<i>[All laugh. Kristen and Jess laugh at length.]</i>
			If I were to rule in your favor, Kristen, what would you have me rule?
00:27:59	Kristen	Guest	That... at <u>least</u> ... every five...? Episodes? She needs to be knitting.
			<i>[Lone cheer.]</i>
			While we're recording.
			<i>[Long silence.]</i>
			She can crochet whenever she wants to!
00:28:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> It just—it just—
			<b>Kristen:</b> And in all the other recordings!
00:28:16	John	Host	It just occurred to me that as much buzz marketing as I've been doing for your podcast, I don't know that I understand what's happening.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
00:28:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> They're knitting... and they're recapping episodes of <i>Veronica Mars</i> !
			<b>John:</b> When you're knitting—are—
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
00:28:36	John	Host	When you're recording the podcast, are you supposed to be knitting?
00:28:40	Kristen	Guest	We usually are working on our projects.
00:28:41	John	Host	Working on your projects.
00:28:42	Kristen	Guest	Yes.
00:28:42	John	Host	Are you talking about your projects?
00:28:43	Kristen	Guest	Yes!
00:28:43	Jess	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:28:44	John	Host	So you're not talking about other stuff.
00:28:46	Kristen	Guest	Not usually.
00:28:46	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Kristen:</b> We're usually talking about...
			<b>John:</b> You're talking about the craft.
00:28:48	Kristen	Guest	Yeah.
00:28:49	John	Host	And are you concerned that crochet is gonna dilute the brand? People aren't gonna know what they're tuning in for?

00:28:54 Kristen Guest Well, there is a part of me that's like—"knit" is in the title and so if I were to start to crochet, neither one of us are knitting anymore! Why are we called *Wine, Whine, and Knit*?

00:29:04 Jesse Host Do you think this is—  
00:29:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John**: Because it's a dumb pun! That's why!

**Jesse**: —actually—

*[Both guests laugh.]*

00:29:07 John Host Your podcast can be about anything!  
00:29:09 Jesse Host Do you think that this is actually—do you think those semantics are actually significant to you? Or is there something in the podcast that makes it essential that knitting be going on?

*[Long pause.]*

Do you feel like you—it would make you a liar to crochet during a knitting—a podcast with "knit" in the title?

*[Light audience laughter.]*

00:29:26 Kristen Guest I think if—if—we abandoned knitting altogether. And like, just quit knitting. Then it seems really weird.

00:29:35 John Host I'd listen to a Quit Knitting podcast.

*[All laugh.]*

00:29:42 Jesse Host You'd play it around the house, is that what you're saying?  
*[Laughs.]*

*[All laugh.]*

00:29:44 John Host That's right. Well, I'd—I'd—I'd play it—it would be a, um... a—a—a podcast that I would play while my wife was asleep.

*[All laugh.]*

*[In deep, serious, hypnotic tone.]* Quit knitting. Quit knit— *[Regular voice]* No. It's great. I love it. It's fantastic. She's great at it.

*[Audience laughs.]*

What would I—what would you—she's great! She is great at it! Stop!

*[Audience laughs.]*

Talk more about that in the verdict. Now.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Uh, Jess. What would you have me, uh, rule if I were to rule in your favor?

00:30:12 Jess Guest I think I should be allowed to make whatever I want. Because I'm still making something regardless. It's not like I quit doing anything. I'm still making something every episode that we record. And that I think Kristen needs to expand her horizons because she tried making a hat one time and it—and failed.

00:30:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jess**: And has not a—no. A knit hat.

00:30:35 John Host **John:** A crochet—a crochet.  
00:30:36 Jess Guest Oh!  
She's never—the only 3D things Kristen makes are the Knitted Knockers. But she—she tried to make a hat once. It came out looking like a Hershey kiss.

*[Audience laughs.]*

And she has never attempted it again. And I think she needs to go back and attempt it again.

00:30:52 Jesse Host I have a—I have a really important question here.  
00:30:54 Jess Guest Yes.  
00:30:55 Jesse Host It seems like... each of you... is very... *[long pause]* good student, achievement-oriented.

00:31:02 Jess Guest Yes.  
00:31:03 Kristen Guest Yep.  
00:31:03 Jesse Host You each have advanced degrees in perhaps the most goody-two-shoes of subjects—

*[All laugh.]*

—you could possibly—you are—I am looking right now at four goody shoes.

*[All laugh.]*

Do you think... Kristen... that not embracing this new medium in part is a reflection of your embarrassment that you would be bad at it, and Jess, do you think that embracing new media is a way to run from your need to be perfect at each successive medium?

00:31:41 Kristen Guest Yes for me. I admit that.  
00:31:45 Jess Guest I don't know if it's a need—running away from a need to be perfect. I just—I like learning new things.

00:31:51 Jesse Host Mm-hm.  
00:31:52 Jesse Host What's next? Oils? Performance? Earthworks?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:31:56 Kristen Guest We haven't even covered all the other mediums she's done *[though laughter]* on the podcast!  
00:32:00 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Coming up next—

**Jesse:** What are the other ones? Spiral Jetty 2!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:32:04 John Host That is a really obscure cultural reference.

*[Audience laughs.]*

And I applaud it.

00:32:07 Jesse Host Yeah. Google it when you get home, folks.  
00:32:10 John Host What are the other ones?  
00:32:10 Kristen Guest Uh, well, she... drew the, uh, Cinderella's Castle on a pair of shoes that she bought at Michael's. Like it full-on looks like Cinderella's Castle.

00:32:21 John Host You drew on shoes?

00:32:22 Jess Guest Yes.  
00:32:23 John Host Shoe-drawing?

*[All laugh.]*

Is this something that you're pioneering?

*[Audience laughs.]*

Alright. I—I like to imagine, by the way—I realized a couple seconds after you finished that sentence that Michael's is a craft store? But before that I was imagining you going to basically a drug dealer's house?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:32:48 Jess Guest To buy shoes you can draw on? *[Laughs.]*  
I've made light-up Mickey ears. It's a lot of Disney crafting that happens. But yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:32:53 John Host Alright. You're really looking to get sued by that company!  
00:32:56 Jess Guest *[Through laughter]* Yeah.

*[All laugh.]*

00:32:59 John Host How long have you done the podcast for? How many episodes?  
00:33:03 Kristen Guest It will be 47 this week.  
00:33:04 John Host Oh, you're baby—  
00:33:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** You're baby podcasters! Right? I see what you're saying.

**Kristen:** I know. Yep. Okay.

00:33:08 John Host **Jess:** Yes.  
Alright. I think I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decisions. I'm going to go into my crocheted, uh, Baby Yoda flying egg, uh, to think it over. I'll be back in a moment with my decision.

00:33:18 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom!

*[Audience applauds loudly.]*

00:33:32 Kristen Guest Kristen, how are you feeling about your chances in the case?  
Not super great. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

Um... I—I don't want Jess to feel like she can't craft whatever she wants to craft. I think there probably is some, uh... jealousy on my part that she can just pick up literally whatever and be really good at it the first time around. And I made a hat that looked like a Hershey kiss! *[Laughs.]*

*[Jesse laughs.]*

00:33:59 Jesse Host Jess, how are you feeling about your chances?  
00:34:01 Jess Guest Uh, I'm feeling okay? Um... I'm a little... I don't want Kristen to feel bad, though. *[Laughs.]* So. *[Laughs.]* I don't know. *[Laughs.]* There are no winners, I think. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:34:16 Jesse Host Well, that's our slogan on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast!

*[All laugh. Some applause from audience.]*

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

00:34:35 John Host *[Audience applauds, cheers.]*  
So... I went... to Brookline High School.

*[Loud cheers, applause from audience.]*

Near here. And I went to that high school... with a woman... who is now my wife. And the two of us went to high school with another woman who is now the wife of our mutual best friend. And we're all four of us together a lot of the time, and it's quite adorable.

00:35:06 Jesse Host I've seen it.  
00:35:07 John Host Yeah!

*[All laugh.]*

00:35:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk It's cute right?  
**Jesse:** It's adorable.

00:35:10 Jesse Host **John:** Cute stuff!  
Yep.

*[Long pause. Audience laughs.]*

00:35:15 John Host Now, my wife and Christine—our friend from high school—are both avid knitters. Also they do other, y'know, handiwork and other crafts and stuff like that.

00:35:25 Jesse Host Building airplanes out of Coke cans.  
00:35:26 John Host That's right. *[Laughs.]* No, they don't do that. Uh, it's mostly—mostly, uh... yarn and little bits of thread and string-based crafts. That drive me up a tree. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:35:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk As someone who dislikes clutter.  
**John:** And little bits of string all over the place.

00:35:42 John Host **Jesse:** Are they just—  
And paper bags in particular. Don't care for it!  
00:35:46 Jesse Host Are they just making nests for baby birdies? *[Laughs.]*  
00:35:48 John Host Mmm... maybe. And... Christine's husband—Jonathan Coulton—and I... feel left out. When they're sitting there doing their handcrafts. And ignoring us. Because after all—we are... white men. Everyone should be paying attention to us!

*[Audience laughs.]*

And at one point... we said to our respective wives, together—like, you sit there at social occasions and you knit and you knit and you knit and you knit. How would you feel if we were out at a bar or at dinner or hanging out together and when you were knitting,

Jonathan and I each took out a Revell model kit of a, uh, aircraft carrier or something—

*[Audience laughs.]*

—and—and broke open some glue, and started doing that and not talking to you! And they said—we probably wouldn't notice.

*[All laugh. Some applaud.]*

It's fine. You got the correct message—we don't wanna talk to you!  
*[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

That was long ago. Now I've come to appreciate what a lot of, uh, psychologists have already acknowledged. Uh, and physicians! Which is—small, uh, handcraft with, uh, bits of string and so-forth—knitting and crocheting and stuff—is profoundly meditative and therapeutic! And sharpens the brain! Uh, as well, it—it is a strange—and it's—in this weird, liminal, hyperbolic space—which is a misuse of that word, but bear with me, I'm trying to draw it all together—kinda knit it all together, if you will.

*[Audience laughs.]*

'Cause I knit with words, not strings!

*[Some audience laughter, a lone applauder.]*

It—it exists in this place where it is at once highly personal? Where you are in tune with your brain? And also highly social! Where two people can be working on a completely different project and they're just doing this repetitive motion over and over again, tuning up their brain. They're touching—they're tuning into something that's going on deep in the brain while also being able to talk about, um, *The Mandalorian* or whatever it is that you're interested in. And that I realize is why Jonathan and I felt so annoyed. Not 'cause we were being ignored, but because we were missing out on this. I mean, the truth of the matter is that there's a reason why there's such a history—particularly in this region of the United States known as New England—have you heard about it, Jesse?

00:38:08 Jesse Host  
00:38:10 John Host

Not familiar.

Yeah. It's uh—

*[Light applause.]*

—the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the State of Maine; the State of Vermont; the State of New Hampshire; Rhode Island; I think that's it!

*[All laugh. Lots of applause from audience.]*

You know, this—this is a region built—built on... *[Laughs.]* The Puritan principle of, uh, crippling emotional reticence?

*[All laugh.]*

And the need— *[Laughs.]* And the need to be thrifty and productive at all times. And during a period of time when our forebearers— particularly, uh, the—the—our—our female forebearers were—hey! Never—the idea of having therapy and talking about emotions was not allowed. Also, women weren't supposed to have inner lives! Right? *[Laughs.]* Like, they weren't—they didn't exist to have inner lives! Why would they have emotions! Right? But women figured out that if they knit and they created quilts they could be together and they could talk to each other and they could, essentially, meditate and become fuller, happier human beings! So I think it's a fascinating—I'm jealous of what you can do. I'm jealous of the fact that you can make a fake boob and a Baby Yoda. Well done.

*[All laugh. Some in the audience begin applauding.]*

I think it's a valuable thing to make a podcast about! But this speaks to the issue at hand! The conflict that you're having! Which is—you are both together in this partnership and in this friendship and you are also alone! As we all are. Always.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Even with our closest friends. Even with our spouses. We are together *[ominously]* but ultimately we die alone.

*[Audience laughs.]*

That is why it is important to like what you like. That is why it's important to follow your passions and not be held back by friends who are not ready to let you go.

*[Some light cheers, "ooh" from audience. Then a long pause, followed by laughter.]*

Looking at you, Kristen!

*[All laugh.]*

00:40:03 Jess Guest

00:40:05 John Host

Mm-hm!  
But also—you have an obligation to your friend who is also—though this is not a business yet—I don't know if you're making money off of your knitting podcast—  
Actively losing money.

00:40:14 Kristen Guest

00:40:14 John Host

*[Audience laughs.]*  
Actively losing money.

*[Audience laughs.]*

Yeah! Yarn's expensive, right? *[Laughs.]* Yeah. Uh—you have—but you also have a creative partnership that needs to—that needs to be nurtured and grow. And you've heard that your friend feels left behind by you! 'Cause you're at a higher skill level than she is, and you're ditching her! And you—friends don't ditch their friends! So



00:40:39 Kristen Guest Kristen, you've asked that crochet can be a part of the podcast.  
00:40:40 John Host Right?  
Mm-hm.  
Um, but that it only be a—a portion of the podcast. That it be a segment. Like, once every five episodes or something? Was that what you had in mind?  
00:40:47 Kristen Guest Yes.  
00:40:49 John Host Okay. That's not enough. Not enough crochet. That's—we have to find a balance between togetherness and aloneness. And... so that—so that, uh, Jess can do her thing but also you guys can continue to weave together your lives. More tapestry metaphors! Easier than hyperbolic space metaphors!

*[All laugh.]*

I have an idea... that I think is pretty good.

*[All laugh. Then long silence.]*

And that is—and I think it's gonna help your podcast. I think it's gonna give it an edge. Instead of it just being about knitting, it should be knitting versus crochet. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs. Some applaud and cheer.]*

00:41:39 Jesse Host Like, *Ecks vs. Sever*.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:41:41 John Host Yeah, exact— *[Laughs.]* Now that you make that comparison, maybe it's not such a great idea.

*[All laugh.]*

I think you should... embrace this conflict rather than seek to erase it. You can keep the name of your podcast. It's good. It should be—knitting is the backbone of the podcast, but embrace the fact that your friend is going into this new craft, and make that into a segment of the podcast! So one segment you're teaching her how to knit better? Another segment you're yelling at her for crocheting.

*[All laugh.]*

Then talk about the relative merits of both. I would say once—I—I don't think crochet should be once every five episodes? I think it should be a segment of every episode. While there should also be a pure knitting segment, where Jess is teaching you some new knitting skills so that she doesn't leave you behind. This is the sound of a gavel—

*[Sound of a gavel.]*

Judge John Hodgman rules. That is all.

*[Audience cheers, applauds.]*

00:42:39 Jesse Host Thank you to Kristen and Jess!

*[Applause continues at length.]*

00:42:54 Kristen Guest Hey—really quickly—what’s the name of the podcast, again?  
00:42:57 John Host *WWKD Podcast.*  
00:43:02 Jess Guest *Wine, Whine, Knitting, D. [Laughs.] Day?*  
00:43:03 John Host Yes.  
You know what? Maybe a new name.

*[All laugh.]*

Thank you so much!

*[Audience applauds.]*

00:43:13 Promo Clip *[Sound of gavel.]*  
**Music:** Gentle, upbeat piano music.

**Helen Hong:** Hey, J. Keith.

**J. Keith van Straaten:** Hey, Helen! I hear you have a true/false quiz you want me to finish!

**Helen:** I do! Here we begin: We host a trivia gameshow podcast on the MaxFun network called... *Go Fact Yourself!*

**J. Keith:** True!

**Helen:** Correct! The show is all about celebrity guests answering trivia questions about things J. Keith enjoys.

**J. Keith:** False. We sometimes don't talk about baseball or cats.

**Helen:** Thank god. It's questions about things they enjoy! Next, we bring on surprise experts every episode.

**J. Keith:** True!

**Helen:** Correct! Final question: It's just the two of us sitting alone with these guests.

**J. Keith:** False.

**Helen:** Correct! We have a live audience at the Angel City Brewery!

*[Audience cheers and claps.]*

**Helen:** See?

*[A bell dings.]*

**Helen:** You can hear *Go Fact Yourself* every first and third Friday of the month, and if you don't listen, you can go fact yourself!

**J. Keith:** True!

00:44:01 Promo Clip *[Music finishes.]*  
**Music:** Dramatic, movie trailer–esque music.

*[The hosts use very "announcer" voices in this promo.]*

**Mark Gagliardi:** We interrupt the podcast you're listening to to tell you about another podcast! That's right: [We Got This with Mark and Hal](#).

**Hal Lublin:** That's correct, Mark! This is Hal. We do the hard work for you! Settling all of the meaningless arguments you have with your friends.

**Mark:** So tune in every week on the Maximum Fun network for *We Got This with Mark and Hal*, and all your questions will be asked... and answered.

**Hal:** You're welcome!

*[Music reaches an apex and quiets down.]*

**Mark:** Alright. That's enough of that.

00:44:32 John Host  
**Chorus:** *[Singing] We Got This!*  
*[Gavel bangs.]*

*[Audience applauds.]*

Now Jesse, we have a lot of friends here in the Boston area, as well as quite a few litigants. We've been here before. We've heard cases from people here before. Very recently, a couple, uh, in Cambridge, Massachusetts—

00:44:47 Jesse Host  
00:44:48 John Host  
00:44:49 Jesse Host

Mm-hm.

—uh, came to our—

The existence of which you refuse to acknowledge.

00:44:53 John Host  
*[Light audience laughter and applause.]*  
Look. I've seen no proof.

*[Jesse laughs.]*

You know what I mean?

*[Audience laughs.]*

Show it! Show me! Like, you know what I mean? Show it to me on a map. Impossible! You know what I mean? Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Uh... some time ago—a fairly recently time, actually, a couple, uh, from Cambridge came to our courtroom asking for guidance as to whether or not, uh, the—the wife of this couple should be allowed to try again. Uh, to start a new project... based on a failed past project. The failed past project was a bucket of worms.

*[All laugh.]*

00:45:31 Jesse Host  
*[Through laughter]* On the countertop, Uh, that—how could that fail? Yeah!

00:45:32 John Host Specifically, a compost system based on worms eating old, uh, kitchen scraps and then pooping out fertilizer. That's what worms do; that's what the novel *Dune* is about. So—

*[All laugh.]*

And unfortunately, it all went wrong. That first one went wrong. First experiment went wrong. 'Cause some flies got in there and laid some eggs and they turned into horrible grubs. That escaped. Also that's what *Dune* is about.

*[All laugh.]*

So... Evan asked me to prohibit Ann from starting the worm compost again. And I said no, I wanna see more worms!

00:46:12 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:46:13 John Host And they're here with us tonight... to give us an update!

*[Audience cheers and applauds.]*

00:46:18 Jesse Host Please welcome Evan and Ann!

00:46:20 John Host Evan and Ann... with the vermiculture report from Cambridge, Massachusetts! It is—it is Cambridge, correct?

00:46:28 Evan Guest Yes.

00:46:28 John Host Yeah. Interesting.

00:46:30 Evan Guest People's Republic of Cambridge.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:46:31 John Host Sure.

*[A few scattered laughs, whoops, applause.]*

I remember hearing that joke when I lived here as a child.

*[Audience laughs.]*

But I still don't believe in where you live. Anyway. Uh, nice to see you in person! Um... now, the way that this ended... was that I—I—I said that Ann deserved a second shot because the first worm bin got compromised. You left it outside, right? And you left a sign on it saying "Come on, flies, and live here!"

00:46:59 Ann Promo Uh, someone else left it outside? But I gave him permission.

00:47:02 Jesse Host But she did make the sign and the sign didn't say "Come on, flies."

00:47:05 John Host Come on, flies!

00:47:05 Jesse Host It said—

*[Ann laughs.]*

"Come on, flies, into my husband's boots!"

*[All laugh.]*

00:47:11 John Host Yeah. Do you have any worms in your boots? Any grubs in your boots?

00:47:14 Evan Guest Not yet. Uh, not yet.

00:47:17 John Host Ann... the reason that I gave you permission—or that I ordered in your favor, Ann, I should say—'cause I don't give anyone permission. They do what they want. Uh, that I ordered in your favor

and allowed you to start a second worm composting, uh, bin, was that I saw a very beautiful ceramic upscale one on a website and I bought it for you guys.

00:47:38 Ann Guest Yeah. And it was really nice of you.

00:47:40 John Host Well, you're welcome.

00:47:41 Jesse Host Everyone look under your chairs!

00:47:46 John Host *[All laugh uproariously. Much applause and cheering.]*  
You get a worm bin! You get a worm bin! You get a worm bin!  
*[Laughs.]* So I want to know—did—I mean, this thing looks like it was designed... by a mid-century Danish artisan.

00:48:15 Jesse Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
It is white ceramic. With cork involved. It seemed very attractive—almost biological in form, to me.  
Though I have to say, John, immediately in our subreddit at MaximumFun.Reddit.com, there were two strong reactions. One was from someone who worked in municipal composting who said—unless you send it to a special place, the worm farm—the worm farts kill the earth. But a special place can capture the farts and turn them into fuel.

00:48:43 Jesse Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
I didn't follow that one entirely? But... I like that it had "worm farts" in it.

00:48:47 John Host Signed, the ghost of Frank Herbert.

00:48:49 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:49:08 Ann Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
The other one was concerns about the size and viability of the attractive, uh, vermiculture compost bin that you chose. Specifically that it didn't have a spigot? To run off the worm juices?

00:49:09 John Host *[Sounds of disgust from audience.]*  
What is the special term for the—for the worm juice?  
Worm tea?  
Worm tea. Ughhh.

00:49:28 Jesse Host *[Sounds of disgust and laughter from audience. Ann laughs.]*  
I like to call it Nightcrawler Liquor.

00:49:29 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
So—look. I knew when I bought this thing for you... with the—with the company credit card, by the way, Jesse.  
Oh, thank you, John.  
Yeah. You're welcome. That—things that look nice don't always work best. And I was kinda hoping... that you were gonna bring it here tonight so that (a) I could see how big it was and how beautiful it was in person; and (b) I could watch you as you smashed it at my feet—

*[Audience laughs.]*

—and cursed my name. And turned this stage into a writhing mass of worms.

*[Audience laughs.]*

But you didn't bring it with you. So how big is this thing? Like, how big is it, would you say?

00:49:57 Ann Guest

Oh, I'd say about the size of a corgi.

*[All laugh.]*

Maybe, like, half as tall.

00:50:04 John Host

About the size of a corgi but about, uh, one millionth as opinionated?

00:50:07 Ann Guest

If you—yeah. Took off the legs.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:50:09 John Host

So it's pretty—that's pretty big! That's a—

00:50:11 Ann Guest

It was like, reasonably large. So... uh, I also read all of the comments on the Reddit and Instagram. Um, and I would agree—someone wrote a very detailed critique of the design flaws. Um, so we just got it set up. We didn't set it up before Christmas 'cause we were waiting for the holidays. But, um—

00:50:26 John Host

Right. Because you thought someone was gonna bring you 500 to 1,000 worms in your stocking!

00:50:30 Ann Guest

Yeah. Well, so that's actually one of the updates. Um, so—  
*[Laughs.]* They were also—there was a stream of commenters who also critiqued me paying for worms. Um, and they said I spent too much on worms and I should've just asked a friend *[though laughter]* for some worms. And I'm like, *[though laughter]* I'm the friend with the worms!

*[All laugh.]*

00:50:47 Jesse Host

Yeah. It's her thing!

00:50:49 Ann Guest

Yeah. So, uh... so we decided because it was a—a little bit smaller bin and we were concerned—well, "we." I was concerned about the greenage. Um, we were just starting with 25 to 50 worms. This time. I feel like that's enough for Cambridge!

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:51:03 Ann Guest

No. Well, the thing about the worms is they actually like self—  
*[inaudible].*

00:51:06 John Host

You wanted 500 to 1,000 worms.

00:51:09 Ann Guest

Well, the worms self-regulate their population? So they will, actually, like, adjust to the right size of the bin.

00:51:16 Jesse Host

That's dark.

00:51:17 Ann Guest

Yeah.

*[All laugh.]*

00:51:17 Jesse Host

That's really dark.

00:51:22 Ann Guest

I mean, someone—I think it was someone else on Reddit did call this easily the most unfair ruling in the history of the podcast. Which I thought *[though laughter]* was pretty rich.

00:51:29 John Host

Why was it—

*[All laugh.]*

00:51:34 Ann Guest —as rich as earthy worm loam!  
00:51:35 Evan Guest Yeah, exactly. *[Laughs.]*  
Which is also why we didn't really wanna bring it on? 'Cause, y'know, I take the tea to work and just the thought of like accidentally spilling, like, worm tea and worms all over—  
00:51:44 John Host Worm tea on the tea! That's no good, is what you're saying.  
00:51:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Evan:** No. That'd be a bad look.

00:51:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ann:** Yeah.  
**Ann and John:** Yeah.

**Ann:** Um—so yeah. If—

00:51:50 John Host **John:** Uh—I woulda sent—  
I woulda sent a car for you. In fact—

*[Jesse laughs.]*

Can we send an Uber over to pick it up and bring it over here before the night's out?

*[All laugh.]*

00:52:00 Ann Guest Just don't leave it outside, I guess.  
Yeah. Uh, no. It is—but it is very beautiful. I would say. It's not ceramic. It is, like, a—some sort of poly material but it's like—it's a hefty one. The cork is really nice. It's definitely—it's actually in the middle of our dining room table right now?

*[All laugh.]*

00:52:12 John Host Yeahhhh!  
00:52:14 Jesse Host Martha Stewart style!  
00:52:14 Ann Guest We don't—yeah. We don't—we don't have a lot of counterspace and Evan was like... so pleased that he got his way—I don't know. You didn't really get your way at all. But I think that—because I didn't get what I wanted you felt like you got what you wanted?  
00:52:28 Jesse Host It's called—

*[All laugh.]*

00:52:31 Evan Guest Now—now—now—now if I don't finish my salad I can just like take the top off the thing and pour it right in.  
00:52:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Right there at the table!

**Evan:** *[Inaudible.]*

00:52:37 Evan Guest Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Right at the table.  
00:52:38 Jesse Host Evan is practicing self-gaslighting.

*[All laugh.]*

00:52:40 Ann Guest Um... yeah. But I—  
00:52:43 Evan Guest But I'm very happy. Yeah.  
00:52:45 Ann Guest Yeah. I would—I would say like several people including some colleagues have reached out to me and said that they are now considering getting a worm bin. And I would say if you're

considering getting this worm bin, like, one thing that does seem tricky about it eventually is... it would be hard to get the compost back out? With, like, you would have to take a long break to have it be finished. Um, so I do think there's some kind of like... ergonomic, like, process things. I don't know. I'm not like an operations person. But.

00:53:11 John Host Is—you—I mean, obviously, it's still early.

00:53:14 Ann Guest Yeah. We're very early—I mean, we're like one week in. But I'm just looking at...

00:53:17 John Host Right. And your optimism seems cautious at best.

[All laugh.]

00:53:20 Ann Guest Yeah. I mean, I really [though laughter] want—

00:53:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ann:** —that, like, four-tier one.

**John:** I'm pretty con—

00:53:24 John Host Say it again?

00:53:25 Ann Guest I really want that four-tier worm bin.

00:53:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Yeah. But that looks ugly.

**Ann:** It looks so—

00:53:29 John Host You understand?

[Audience laughs.]

00:53:30 Ann Guest It is definitely—like, it's not a good look. But...

00:53:32 John Host That—that looks like something you would have in a post-apocalyptic bunker. Not—

00:53:36 Ann Guest Well, maybe, uh, Kristen or Jess would come draw Cinderella's castle on it for me!

[Audience laughs.]

00:53:42 John Host Oh, callback!

00:53:43 Ann Guest Yeah!

[Audience laughs.]

00:53:45 John Host Uh—if—

[All laugh.]

My prediction is? That this beautiful piece... of... of worm colony art... is actually... a piece of \*bleep\* and will not work.

[All laugh. Some applaud.]

And I really don't know what's gonna happen... when that self-actuates. When you realize that I bought you a piece of garbage.

[Audience laughs.]

I mean, you—it's not even—it's—it's a—it's a piece of garbage that's not even good at making garbage good. Do you know what I mean? Like—

[Audience laughs.]

00:54:21 Ann Guest Yeah.



00:54:22 John Host Which is the whole point of it! And then you're going to have this dispute once more and you'll have to come back on the podcast and we'll talk about it again.

00:54:28 Ann Guest Well, I would say what you do is I think you like really helped open the discourse around vermicomposting? So—

00:54:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Sure! That's basically been my mission for a long time.

**Ann:** It's more of like a by-product?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:54:36 John Host Yeah. I—

00:54:37 Jesse Host What are—what are you doing with the worm's farts?

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:54:40 Ann Guest Uh, I think they're being absorbed by the cork.

00:54:43 Jesse Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:54:44 Ann Guest Yeah.

00:54:45 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:54:46 Evan Guest I—I think—you can think about these things too much. Y'know.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:54:52 Jesse Host Sorry if I care about the planet!

*[All laugh.]*

*[Through laughter]* If there's one lesson that I would like the podcast listeners to take away, is don't overthink the bucket of worms you have in your dining room table.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:55:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk I'm glad you have this new conversation piece. Well, keep us posted as what goes on.

**Evan:** Oh, we will!

**Ann:** Yeah.

00:55:10 John Host As the worms eat and poop.

00:55:11 Ann Guest Yes.

*[Audience laughs.]*

00:55:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Thank you very much. Evan and Ann, everybody!

**Ann:** Will do.

**Evan:** Thank—thank you.

*[Audience applauds.]*

00:55:14 Jesse Host Evan and Ann!

*[Applause continues.]*

John, so far... we've only distributed one justice to Boston and I think Boston requires many more justices! *[Pronounces it with a long "e," as though pluralizing a word that would have been "justicis" in the singular.]*

00:55:25 John Host Yeah. I think that this is still a lawless land and we have some litigants who are ready to step up and present their disputes in a segment we call Swift Justice! But before we do, let's welcome back to the stage our very special guest, Josh Kantor! Josh Kantor, everybody!

*[Audience applauds, cheers, and whistles.]*

Now—if you don't know—Josh is obviously a musician. Uh, he's a friend of the—of the podcast. Uh, he has his band—your band is called...

00:55:50 Josh Kantor Guest Oh, Jim's Big Ego.  
00:55:53 John Host *[Through laughter]* Yeah. That's right. Uh, and—uh—Josh is among many other—he's a fan of comedy. He's probably the world's greatest mid-career Tom Noonan lookalike.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Uh...

00:56:03 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** I'm glad to find my people out there!

00:56:07 John Host **Jesse:** You got mad at me for bringing up earthworks!  
That's right. *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

Uh, and—and—and, uh, Josh also is the organist at Fenway Park!

*[Audience applauds and cheers.]*

So when you're—when you're there at the ballpark and bored out of your mind—

00:56:24 Jesse Host It happens. It's a lugubrious game.  
00:56:29 John Host Uh, and Josh plays some cool indie rock. That's the one—he's the one who's doing it! He's up there in the corner of a upper-deck bar next to the chicken wing table, playing his heart out on the organ. So thank you very much, Josh, for joining us!

*[Audience applauds and cheers.]*

00:56:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** I really appreciate it!

**John:** Thank you!

*[Applause and cheering continues.]*

00:56:44 John Host So... we're gonna hear—let's put, uh, let's put 10 minutes on the clock. Hear as many cases as we can in that time. And Josh? Maybe you'll play a little, uh, intro and outro music for our litigants?

00:56:53 Josh Guest Sure, sure!  
00:56:54 John Host Great! Let's get it going! Swift Justice!  
00:56:56 Jesse Host Please welcome our first litigants: Joshua and Ema!

*[Organ plays intro music.]*

00:57:02 John Host Joshua... and Ema. Uh, which of you brings this case before me for justice?

00:57:08 Joshua Guest I do.  
00:57:09 John Host And I—excuse me. And I presume you are Joshua?

00:57:11 Joshua Guest I am.  
00:57:11 John Host And what is the nature of your dispute?  
00:57:13 Joshua Guest Um... so... Ema and I are married. And, uh, we have a car. And I have a drivers license—  
00:57:20 John Host That's a lot of bragging so far.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
00:57:22 Joshua Guest And— *[Laughs.]* I have a driver's license.  
00:57:24 John Host Whoa-ho-hoo!  
00:57:26 Joshua Guest And—  
00:57:27 John Host Whoa-ho-ho-hoo!  
00:57:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Joshua:** Ema—

**John:** You are—

**Jesse:** I have three pairs of shoes!  
00:57:30 John Host *[Mockingly]* You are a real grownup, aren't you?

*[Audience laughs.]*  
Married with a car and a license!  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
Next you're gonna tell me you're legal to drink!

*[Audience laughs.]*  
:57:39 Joshua Guest I wear underpants every day.  
*[Audience laughs.]*

00:57:47 John Host And Ema does not have a driver's license. Ohhh. Because you're a child!  
*[Audience laughs.]*

00:57:49 Ema Guest No!  
00:57:52 John Host No?  
00:57:52 Ema Guest I'm of legal age.  
00:57:53 John Host You're of legal age! Yeah. You're also married!  
00:57:55 Ema Guest Yes.  
00:57:56 John Host And you probably have some accreditation.  
00:57:58 Ema Guest Sure!  
00:58:00 John Host Uh, and so—  
00:58:00 Ema Guest I have a Massachusetts State ID.

*[Audience laughs; some applaud.]*  
00:58:05 John Host I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. What kind of ID?  
00:58:08 Ema Guest The Massachusetts State ID?  
00:58:10 John Host Still don't understand what you're saying.  
00:58:12 Jesse Host "Commonwealth."

*[Audience laughs.]*  
00:58:14 John Host Wanna try one more time?  
00:58:17 Ema Guest The state ID?  
00:58:19 John Host Ahhhh! "Commonwealth!"

00:58:22 Ema Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
00:58:25 John Host Commonwealth. Eh.  
It probably says “State of Massachusetts” on it anyway.

00:58:30 John Host *[Ema laughs.]*  
So it’s—it’s a—uh, it’s a losing and pointless battle that I’m waging on behalf of commonwealths. But I’m with you there, Pennsylvania and Kentucky! Alright.

00:58:42 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
00:58:43 John Host Uh, Virginia. Also.  
Uh... but anyway. Uh, you don’t have a drivers license and um, and why is this a problem?

00:58:50 Joshua Guest  
So we, um... like to go on, uh, road-trip type vacations often. Sometimes we’ll drive from home. We’ll go to New Hampshire for the weekend or something like that or we’ll fly somewhere and rent a car. And drive several hundred miles. Stopping at various points along the way.

00:59:08 Jesse Host  
We know what road trips are, sir!

00:59:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[All laugh.]*  
**John:** What is an example—

00:59:18 Jesse Host  
**Jesse:** We’ll use the round wheel—  
—on the left-hand side of the front of the car... to change directions. There are two pedals at the bottom of the car...

00:59:28 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
Sometimes we will turn on a radio... or... a Bluetooth device to listen to a podcast. We look at scenery as we go by! What are the kinds of road trips that you go on?

00:59:40 Joshua Guest  
So most recently, um, we did a five-day trip between Houston and New Orleans?

00:59:46 John Host  
00:59:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk I believe you have some, uh—  
**John:** —evidence you need to show us.

00:59:51 Joshua Guest  
00:59:51 John Host **Joshua:** Yes. There is some evidence. So.  
Up on the screen—so—  
00:59:52 Joshua Guest Thank you, Connor.  
00:59:53 John Host So this—  
00:59:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk This is the route you took from Houston—  
**Joshua and John:** —to New Orleans.  
00:59:55 Joshua Guest Yes. So we stopped along the way at various places—  
00:59:58 John Host Yeah. Road trip. We got it.

*[All laugh.]*

01:00:09 Joshua Guest  
01:00:09 John Host It’s fun! But the point is...? You do all the driving.  
01:00:12 Joshua Guest Yes.  
And you would like to not do all of the driving.  
I would like to not... always have to be doing all the driving, but I think there’s also a safety component to it?

01:00:19 John Host Oh?  
01:00:21 Joshua Guest Um, in case there was some kind of an emergency. Um, I’m the only licensed driver!

01:00:27 John Host Ema, do you know how to drive?

01:00:29 Ema Guest Somewhat.  
01:00:31 John Host In an emer—

01:00:33 Jesse Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
There's a round wheel...

01:00:39 Ema Guest *[All laugh.]*  
01:00:41 John Host I can't really park.  
You can't park? No. No one can.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:00:54 Joshua Guest Uh... do you—so—do—do you feel that you could drive in case of  
01:00:56 John Host an—like, what kind of emergency do you imagine is going to  
happen, Josh?  
Um, I don't know. I have a stroke? *[Laughs.]*  
Yeah.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:01:04 Joshua Guest If you're driving and you have a stroke... I don't think Ema being  
licensed to drive is going to help your situation.  
Or... a cocktail? *[Laughs.]*

*[Audience laughs.]*

Maybe? *[Laughs.]* Or two?

01:01:14 John Host *[Some applause from audience.]*  
I would think if you're driving and have two cocktails, that's an  
emergency for your marriage.

*[Joshua laughs.]*

Uh, it's—we have had a case where, uh, it was a husband-and-wife  
situation. And they only had a manual transmission and the wife  
could drive but she didn't know how to drive a manual. And I  
ordered her—because they had a child—they—I ordered that she  
should learn how to drive a manual-shift car. (A) so that if  
necessary you could drive a person to the hospital, and (B) uh,  
because it's awesome to know how to drive a manual transmission  
car!

*[Audience laughs.]*

It's fun! It's fun. And knowing how to do things and being legal to do  
them is also fun. So why am I—given this precedent, and given the  
obvious—obvious life truth that knowing how to do things and being  
allowed to do them legally is fun—and hitting benchmarks and  
milestones in life as you grow older and march, eventually, towards  
death—is fun—

*[Audience laughs.]*

What is—what is your reason for not wanting to learn... to drive  
properly and get a license?

01:02:20 Ema Guest *[Long pause.]* Well I don't think driving is particularly fun? But it's a necessity? And I've taken driving lessons! It's just I haven't taken the exam yet.

01:02:30 John Host Right! Okay. So you don't like it!

01:02:33 Ema Guest Nope!

01:02:34 John Host Okay.

01:02:34 Ema Guest Not at all.

01:02:35 John Host And you live in a city where you don't have to drive.

01:02:37 Ema Guest I know, right?

01:02:38 John Host Yeah. I—

*[Audience laughs.]*

In fact, you live in a city where it's advisable that you never drive.

*[All laugh.]*

01:02:47 Joshua Guest You're raising—you're raising your finger?  
Well, I just—okay. So there—can we—can we look at the next picture, please?

01:02:51 John Host Let's please look at the next picture.

01:02:53 Jesse Host I didn't see him raise the finger. Was he raising the official finger of Massachusetts drivers?

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:02:56 Joshua Guest Wrong picture. Wrong—this is the wrong picture!

01:02:59 John Host You may not have noticed, but Josh raised an index finger very subtly and politely, which is how a Boston driver indicates they'd like to move into the next lane.

*[All laugh.]*

01:03:10 Joshua Guest It's the wrong—it's the wrong picture. Sorry.

01:03:12 John Host This is the wrong—this is a picture of—of—

01:03:13 Joshua Guest Yes. This is her evidence.

01:03:16 John Host You and Ema...

01:03:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Together.

01:03:18 John Host **Joshua:** There's one more picture.  
Where are you in this photo, Ema?

01:03:19 Ema Guest We're in, uh, uh—well, we were in an all-inclusive in Cancun where we did not have to drive. Well, he didn't have to drive. And we had a lot of fun, too!

01:03:29 John Host You—you managed to have fun without driving—

01:03:31 Ema Guest I know, right?

01:03:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ema:** That's possible! *[Laughs.]*

01:03:34 John Host **John:** —from Houston to New Orleans. Right.  
Okay. That's fine. It looks like you're having a good time. Uh, next slide, please?

01:03:38 Joshua Guest There we go. Okay. So!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:03:42 John Host We—  
So—come back, buddy!

*[Audience laughs.]*

Let the record show I am looking for evidence... that is going to sway me to Josh's side of the case. He's very eager to see a particular slide. We see them—

*[Audience laughs and applauds at length.]*

We see them in Cancun together. Joshua's like, no, no, no, no, no. That's the wrong slide. I have a very particular slide in mind that's going to pertain directly to my case! That Ema should learn how to drive!

*[Audience laughs.]*

And then we get to the slide... of a snowy field and a dog leaping over a stream. And Joshua goes—there we go.

*[All laugh; audience also applauds.]*

It might as well have been a crocheted Baby Yoda!

*[Audience laughs.]*

For all that it seems to have to do with what you're talking about. But I bet you're gonna weave me a word picture that proves what's happening here! What's going on in this photo that I need to pay attention to?

01:04:43	Joshua	Guest
01:04:44	John	Host
01:04:46	Joshua	Guest
01:04:47	John	Host
01:04:48	Joshua	Guest
01:04:52	John	Host

So. This is in the White Mountains.

Sure.

In New Hampshire.

Yep.

And it is not just a snowy field; this is a trail. Several miles long. So—

I understand what a trail is.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:04:54	Joshua	Guest
01:04:59	John	Host
01:05:00	Joshua	Guest
01:05:00	John	Host
01:05:01	Joshua	Guest
01:05:10	John	Host
01:05:11	Joshua	Guest
01:05:13	John	Host
01:05:13	Joshua	Guest

You can't—you can't see it. But we are wearing crampons—

Crampons?

Yes.

Right.

And the snow is—is very deep on either side of the trail and I fell in up to my, uh... waist. Several times.

Yeah.

And that is our dog, yes. And um—

What's the name of your dog?

Kristofferson.

*[Audience laughs and applauds.]*

01:05:16	Jesse	Host
01:05:18	John	Host
01:05:19	Jesse	Host

That's good. That's good.

Cute dog!

Good. Second tier. First tier is Hambone, but.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:05:23	Joshua	Guest
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And—for example—if we were in the White Mountains in the snow and I were to, y'know, break an ankle or something, no cell phone

reception—who's gonna drive to the hospital? Or what if something happens to the dog?  
01:05:37 John Host Where is the car?!  
01:05:39 Joshua Guest Several miles down the trail!  
01:05:41 John Host So it doesn't matter!

*[All laugh.]*  
01:05:44 Ema Guest *[Through laughter]* That's what I said! That's what I said!  
01:05:46 John Host Everyone pictured will die!

*[All laugh.]*  
01:05:50 Joshua Guest The—the dog would pull me out on a makeshift, um...  
01:05:55 John Host The dog would pull you out—  
01:05:57 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Joshua:** On—I would—I— *[Laughs.]* We would latch—we would lash—

**John:** Go on. I wanna hear—the whole fantasy you have in your head!

*[All laugh.]*

01:06:02 Joshua Guest —together branches.  
01:06:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** You'd lash together branches. The dog would?!

**Joshua:** Together branches and lay me on the branches and the dog would pull—no!  
01:06:08 Joshua Guest Forget it. *[Laughs.]*  
01:06:10 Jesse Host Yeah. I think he could do that.

*[All laugh.]*  
01:06:11 Ema Guest He's a small-to-medium-sized dog.  
01:06:15 Jesse Host How come the dog doesn't have a driver's license? Answer me that!

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:06:18 John Host He's got a sweet—got a sweet harness!  
01:06:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Joshua:** Yeah. It's a sweet harness.

**John:** You could put—  
01:06:22 John Host You could put a flask of whiskey in there and also a note saying "Save—save me from dying! Enjoy this whiskey in return! I had a couple of cocktails and I felt in the snow and my crampons fell off!"

*[All laugh.]*  
01:06:32 Joshua Guest Exactly. I rest my case.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:06:38 John Host Do you know how to use a—*[pauses as audience continues laughing]*. Alright. I find in Ema's favor.

*[John bangs the gavel. All laugh, Ema especially.]*  
01:06:51 Jesse Host Please welcome Michael and Maggie!

*[Organ plays intro music with exciting flourish at the end.]*  
01:06:57 John Host Josh—Josh Kantor. Do you know how to drive?  
01:07:01 Josh Guest Yes.  
01:07:02 John Host Good.



*[Audience laughs.]*

01:07:04 Josh Guest  
01:07:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
[Through laughter] Thank you.  
I don't, but I know how.

**John:** Wait, you know—

**Jesse:** You don't drive.

01:07:08 Jesse Host  
01:07:11 Josh Guest  
01:07:12 Jesse Host  
01:07:12 John Host  
**Josh:** I don't drive.  
You know about the roundie and the pedals and...  
Right.  
Okay.  
Do you—do you—do you, uh—

*[Someone laughs.]*

01:07:15 Josh Guest  
01:07:17 John Host  
I brought this on the subway, so.  
Oh, okay. Great.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:07:19 Josh Guest  
01:07:21 John Host  
Uh, are you licensed to drive?  
Yes.  
Okay. Oh hi, you guys!

*[All laugh.]*

01:07:25 Crosstalk Crosstalk  
**Jesse:** Michael and Maggie.

01:07:26 Maggie Guest  
01:07:27 John Host  
01:07:30 Michael Guest  
**John:** You must be Michael and Maggie!  
Yes. Hi.  
Michael—you're wearing a Hartford Whalers cap.  
The greatest sports logo of all time.

*[Light audience applause.]*

01:07:31 John Host  
01:07:33 Michael Guest  
01:07:34 John Host  
01:07:35 Michael Guest  
01:07:35 John Host  
01:07:37 Michael Guest  
01:07:39 John Host  
That's right. I would—  
I heard your insult earlier.  
Say it again?  
I heard your insult earlier.  
My insult?  
About Connecticut!  
Oh, about Connecticut.

*[A couple of light "boos" from the audience.]*

Oh, yeah. It was just—it's just some interregional joshing!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:07:45 Michael Guest  
01:07:46 Jesse Host  
Yeah. It's okay.  
No one really knows what Connecticut is, anyway.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:07:50 John Host  
Yeah. It's like, uh, it's like the Cambridge of states!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:07:54 John Host It's rumored—it's rumored—uh, basically what happens is I drive over a border and it says "Connecticut welcomes you" and then I fall asleep until I get to Massachusetts. *[Laughs.]*

01:08:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Audience laughs.]*  
**Jesse:** I really only—

01:08:07 Jesse Host **John:** I go into this trance!  
I really only know it as an address on the back of a pill bottle.

01:08:11 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
Oh! *[Laughs.]* Okay.  
*[Audience laughs.]*

01:08:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk We actually had a great meal in Union, Connecticut today.  
**John:** At the Traveler Restaurant!  
**Jesse:** We did! Traveler Restasurant. Books and food.  
*[Cheering, applause from some audience members.]*

01:08:21 John Host Yeah! You— *[Laughs.]* You—have you ever been there?

01:08:24 Michael Guest No.

01:08:25 John Host Oh, and I thought you were from Connecticut.

01:08:27 Michael Guest Hartford. It's a little far away.

01:08:28 Maggie Guest I'm not.

01:08:29 John Host Hartford's not very far away from Hartford. It's—alright.

01:08:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** You—did you drive from—  
**Jesse:** Yeah. Connecticut's not that big of a state, dude! *[Laughs.]*  
Did you drive from Hartford today on 84?

01:08:33 John Host No. No. No.

01:08:34 Michael Guest **John:** Okay. 'Cause it's just right there over the line on 84.

01:08:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Michael:** I understand.  
You get a tuna melt, you get three books for free!  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
They just buy up—they just take books out of libraries that are closing. *[Laughs.]*  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
And give them away! A bunch of Tom Clancys. Anyway. Hi!  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
You both know how to drive? What's the problem? Who wants justice?  
*[Audience laughs.]*

01:09:01 Michael Guest Alright. Uh, what—Michael, what is the justice you seek?

01:09:04 John Host So. We have a four-year-old and an eight—nine-month-old now.  
Mm-hm.

01:09:05	Michael	Guest	And I took the four-year-old—he was two when I took him to a store. I'm not gonna buzz market.
01:09:12	Jesse	Host	It's okay. Supermarket?
01:09:13	Michael	Guest	Nope. Nope. Um, Target.
			<i>[Scattered whooping, laughter in audience.]</i>
01:09:17	Michael	Guest	Yeah.
01:09:18	John	Host	Yeah. Yeah. That's not okay. I'm sorry.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:09:21	Michael	Guest	You were right. You were right. I was wrong. She was at work. She's a nurse. She works overnights. And, um—
			<i>[Long whoop and cheer of "Woo! Nurses!" from the audience, followed by some laughter and applause.]</i>
01:09:26	John	Host	Yeah! I'm—that's amazing! You're a nurse! Fantastic!
01:09:29	Maggie	Guest	Thank you!
01:09:29	John	Host	I rule in your favor. Next?
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
01:09:37	Michael	Guest	Uh, Michael, what do you do besides complain? Um.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:09:41	John	Host	I'm an auto appraiser.
01:09:41	Michael	Guest	Say again?
01:09:42	John	Host	Auto appraiser.
01:09:45	Michael	Guest	Auto appraiser. Alright. Cool! Yeah. You definitely know how to drive a car then.
01:09:46	John	Host	Yes. Right? Good.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:09:47	Michael	Guest	So I go to load my son in the cart.
01:09:49	John	Host	Yeah.
01:09:50	Michael	Guest	The shopping cart. And I ask him if he wants to go in the front or the back.
01:09:53	John	Host	Right.
01:09:54	Michael	Guest	So. He says—I wanna go in the front. So I go to load him in the basket where everything goes.
01:10:01	John	Host	Right. Where you—the front!
01:10:03	Michael	Guest	Right.
01:10:04	John	Host	Right.
01:10:04	Michael	Guest	But—
01:10:04	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> The dangerous area that children shouldn't be allowed to choose to ride in.
			<b>Michael:</b> Exactly. Where the—the—the seat says not to put them there.
01:10:11	John	Host	Yeah. Not the child seat. Near the pushbar.
01:10:14	Michael	Guest	Correct.
01:10:14	John	Host	Right? Did you just toss your child into the main basket—
01:10:17	Michael	Guest	Yes.

01:10:17	Jesse	Host	Like a bag of oranges!
01:10:19	John	Host	So he can roll around in there.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:10:20	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Michael:</b> Right. And fall out. Yeah.
			<b>John:</b> And get—y’know—
01:10:23	John	Host	Metal mesh marks on his face and stuff.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			Right.
01:10:25	Jesse	Host	Did you at least give him crampons? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:10:30	Michael	Guest	So I go to load him in the front of the cart.
01:10:32	John	Host	Right.
01:10:32	Michael	Guest	And he says—no, I want to go in the <u>front</u> .
01:10:35	John	Host	Uh-huh.
01:10:37	Michael	Guest	And I say, this <u>is</u> the front. He’s like, no it’s not! He goes, mommy says the <u>other</u> side is the front. And points to the seat. And—
			<i>[Scattered applause from audience which grows into appreciative laughter.]</i>
01:10:48	Maggie	Guest	Thank you.
01:10:54	John	Host	So let me get this... straight.
			<i>[Audience laughs. John pauses while the audience laughs at length.]</i>
			I’m at a store. Unnamed variety store. With a classic grocery pushcart. Right? And I’m standing with my hands on the pushbar. Right? ‘K? You can picture this? I mean, I’m not—I’m not a mime.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			By training.
01:11:22	Jesse	Host	But by inclination.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:11:27	John	Host	And I’m pushing on it.
			<i>[Audience laughs. John pauses at length.]</i>
			Mime—mime by hobby.
			<i>[Audience laughs; some applaud.]</i>
			No, okay! So—here I am. I’m going this way. This end that I’m pushing... what end is that?
01:11:46	Maggie	Guest	The front. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Mix of applause and derisive boos from the audience.]</i>
01:11:54	John	Host	Why?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>

01:11:56	Maggie	Guest	I suppose... that it is from the perspective of the passenger? And when they're in the seat—
01:12:04	John	Host	Right.
01:12:05	Maggie	Guest	—up front, they're with me in the front and if they're in the bucket they're in the back.
01:12:09	John	Host	Right. So—
01:12:10	Maggie	Guest	And—
01:12:10	John	Host	Just like in a car—
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:12:14	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> If you're sitting in the seat—
			<b>Maggie:</b> I've heard that argument before.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:12:17	John	Host	If you're sitting in the seat of a car and you're facing this way, and your mommy is pushing you this way—
			<i>[All laugh.]</i>
			—this is obviously the front of the car!
01:12:27	Maggie	Guest	Correct. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
01:12:28	John	Host	Right? Just like when you're driving! And you're going like this!
01:12:30	Maggie	Guest	It might not make sense, but it's how it is.
01:12:33	John	Host	Actually, now I understand. It's like—it's like you're driving a car in reverse!
01:12:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Maggie:</b> It's a—it's a gift!
			<b>John:</b> This is more physical activity I've had in months.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:12:41	John	Host	So it's—it's from the point of view of... your <u>child</u> .
01:12:44	Maggie	Guest	Yes.
01:12:45	John	Host	Imagine them... driving in reverse. They're sitting facing this way. This would be the front? You appreciate how much mind work has to go into this?
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:12:55	Maggie	Guest	I do.
01:12:55	John	Host	It is rather counter-intuitive—how did you start thinking of it this way? Did you grow up this way?
01:12:59	Maggie	Guest	Yes.
01:13:01	John	Host	Really?
01:13:01	Maggie	Guest	I've never thought of it anything different and I never realized it was a point of contention with Mike and I? Until two years ago.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			And we've known each other for over twelve years. So it only came about when the children started riding in the cart.
01:13:13	John	Host	Right. That's when they started narking on you. Going, mommy calls this the front!
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:13:16	Maggie	Guest	Yes. Exactly. <i>[Laughs.]</i>

01:13:19	John	Host	And—and—and—and—and—uh, Michael is like, who did I marry? It's like—  <i>[All laugh.]</i>  It's like when McNulty finds all the samurai swords in, uh, Idris Elba's apartment in <i>The Wire</i> ! What—who was I tracking?!  <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>  <i>[Jesse sighs.]</i>  <i>[All laugh.]</i>
01:13:38	Jesse	Host	Get back to something <u>everyone</u> can relate to? Like monumental artworks <i>[though laughter]</i> utilizing the land?
01:13:45	John	Host	Spiral Jetty? Yeah.  <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:13:46	Jesse	Host	<i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah.
01:13:47	John	Host	So—where did you grow up?
01:13:49	Maggie	Guest	Uh, South Shore.
01:13:50	John	Host	South Shore of what?
01:13:52	Maggie	Guest	Massachusetts!
01:13:52	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Cheers and applause from audience.]</i> <b>John:</b> Oh, so—Massachusetts.
01:13:55	John	Host	<b>Maggie:</b> Best commonwealth ever. Uh... is that some kind of upside-down land?  <i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
01:14:03	Maggie	Guest	Did—did other people in your family refer to grocery carts this way? So we polled a lot of family members and friends and my entire family agrees with me.  <i>[Scattered applause and cheers.]</i>
01:14:10	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	So I— <b>Maggie:</b> I blame my mother.
01:14:12	Maggie	Guest	<b>John:</b> And they don't—
01:14:14	John	Host	And what she taught me. Are there people who agree?
01:14:18	Maggie	Guest	<i>[Affirmative cheering and applause from audience.]</i> Thank you!
01:14:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Scattered boos from audience.]</i> <b>John:</b> What is happening?  <b>Jesse:</b> Do you people pull the cart through the store?
01:14:28	John	Host	<i>[Mixed reactions from audience, including boos.]</i> Easy! Easy! Bob Justice is later!

01:14:31 Jesse Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
Somebody just went—no! It's just the front!

01:14:35 Maggie Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
Sounds like my son. *[Laughs.]*  
01:14:38 Jesse Host No matter what the crooked media tells you. *[Laughs.]*

01:14:42 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
In this podcast, we celebrate... regionalisms. It gives interesting tapestry and texture to everyday life. To know that in, uh, South Carolina they drink cheerwine, whereas in Maine they drink moxie. Uh—

*[Light cheers from audience.]*

That there are different ways you pronounce things. That there are different ways that, uh, that there are different—greeting conventions! I am willing to accept... that in the South Shore, there is a microclimate—

01:15:13 Maggie Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
I have a large family.  
01:15:15 John Host No! I understand.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:15:20 Maggie Guest It's a lot of us. *[Laughs.]*  
01:15:22 John Host You said we polled family and friends. And my family all agree.  
01:15:26 Maggie Guest Well—  
01:15:27 John Host You ignored the friends!

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:15:29 Maggie Guest A lot of the mothers agreed with me.  
01:15:31 John Host Sure. Okay. I understand that something—  
01:15:33 Maggie Guest No data to back that up, but.  
01:15:35 John Host No, no. I'm just saying—some—some convention grew up—some convention of understanding grew up in the microclimate of the South Shore that is a profoundly counterintuitive—

*[Audience laughs.]*

—understanding. No offense to you yellers in the group. I think now, more than ever, however—I mean, I respect regional difference. But we *[though laughter]* need—we need to establish some baselines of reality that we can all agree on.

01:16:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[All laugh; cheers and applause from audience.]*  
**Maggie:** Don't let him be right!

01:16:09 John Host **John:** And I have to say...  
I feel... that most people would agree that the leading edge of any vehicle—

*[Audience laughs.]*

—that is moving in that direction would be the front.

*[Audience laughs, then erupts into cheers and applause.]*

The leading edge that is moving this way is the back. I'm sorry—I'm sorry. You and your—you and your various moms can call it whatever you want. But I want you to raise your kids to be part of the whole world—

*[Audience laughs.]*

—so at the very minimum, I'm going to say—and I hate to say it—teach the controversy.

*[Audience laughs. Jesse laughs loudly. Josh plays organ outro.]*  
Michael and Maggie! Please welcome... Chloe and Matt!

01:16:44 Jesse Host

*[Josh plays organ intro.]*

01:16:53 John Host

Chloe and Matt!

01:16:54 Matt Guest

Yes.

01:16:55 Chloe Guest

Yes.

01:16:55 John Host

Who comes to this court seeing justice?

01:16:56 Chloe Guest

I do.

01:16:57 John Host

It is I, Chloe! And what justice do you seek?

01:17:00 Chloe Guest

My husband here... has not ever—in his entire life—owned a cell phone.

01:17:07 John Host

Oh!

*[Loud whoop from audience, followed by some cheering.]*

01:17:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Matt:** There—there's some—some select—

**Chloe:** Yes. I get that reaction a lot. You're not married to him!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:17:13 Matt Guest

—select fans out there! Okay! *[Laughs.]*

01:17:16 John Host

Is it groundswell support already for Matt?

01:17:18 Matt Guest

Some. Some.

01:17:19 Chloe Guest

Yup. And I would like him to get one for the car for emergencies.

01:17:24 John Host

Sure. Seems perfectly reasonable.

01:17:27 Chloe Guest

Yes.

01:17:28 John Host

I mean, after all—what if you're driving around and your crampons—

01:17:31 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Matt:** What—I was gonna say—if I misplaced my crampons? Yeah!

**John:** —accidentally—yeah! Your crampons—

01:17:34 John Host

—stick to the accelerator and you can't stop the car.

01:17:37 Matt Guest

Right! I'd need to order more crampons!

01:17:38 John Host

Yeah. And then you'd go into a ditch and you need some help.

01:17:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**John:** What are you gonna do? That's—wait a minute.

**Matt:** That's—this is true. Yeah.

**Chloe:** We also—

01:17:42 John Host

Do you know—do you know how to drive?

01:17:45 Matt Guest

Yes.

01:17:45 John Host

Do you—you—you're a licensed driver.

01:17:46 Matt Guest

Fully licensed. And—

01:17:48 John Host

Right. You accept certain forms of technology.



01:17:50 Matt Guest Completely. Yes.  
01:17:50 John Host Okay.  
01:17:51 Matt Guest This is not a crusade on my part. I'm not saying nobody should own a cell phone or, y'know, it's bad for the world.  
01:17:56 John Host Right! Live and let live is your feeling!  
01:17:58 Matt Guest I'm saying it's not for me!  
01:18:00 John Host Why is it not for you?  
01:18:00 Matt Guest Because—being—the idea of being—  
01:18:02 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** —on—

**John:** You don't want the government to track you?

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:18:04 Matt Guest On—yeah. Yeah. It's through the black helicopters. Yeah. No. Um—I don't—I don't need it for my job. I don't need it necessarily socially. I am involved with the social media and whatnot. Um, and—I don't... um... I don't want to be... I—I—I guess the idea—  
01:18:22 John Host You are involved with the social media.  
01:18:23 Matt Guest Yes.  
01:18:25 John Host But you don't have a phone.  
01:18:25 Matt Guest The Book of Faces and whatnot. Yeah. So.

*[All laugh.]*

01:18:29 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Do you—do you—do you dial it up on your Compaq Presario?

**Jesse:** Doing bits over here!

**Matt:** *[Through laughter]* That's right! Yeah.

*[All laugh.]*

01:18:34 Matt Guest Right into CompuServe. Yeah. No. Um—no. Um...  
01:18:36 John Host What do you do for a living?  
01:18:39 Matt Guest I have, uh, I'm gainfully employed and have been for 17 years. I am an accountant.  
01:18:44 John Host Great!  
01:18:44 Matt Guest So there's no, like, dire need of, like, quick! I need to get hold of Matt. What's 2+2? Let's get—

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:18:49 John Host Right. Okay.  
01:18:50 Matt Guest Let's get him immediately on the phone.  
01:18:52 John Host But you have clients!  
01:18:52 Matt Guest Yes. Yeah. And the like.  
01:18:54 John Host And how do they reach you?  
01:18:54 Matt Guest They--there is a phone line—  
01:18:55 John Host Rotary telephone?  
01:18:55 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** —that exists. Yes. That's right. Yeah. Rotary. Yeah. That's right. Um—

**John:** Landline? Mm-hm.  
01:18:59 Matt Guest Or— *[though laughter]* or, I do have email and all the rest of that stuff. So I'm not absent forms of communication.  
01:19:04 John Host Kristofferson the dog brings you messages from afar?  
01:19:06 Matt Guest Completely! Yeah!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:19:08 John Host Way better than Lassie! Yeah! *[Laughs.]*  
01:19:13 Matt Guest Okay. And so you've just never had—is it that you've just never had  
01:19:15 John Host one and you don't see why?  
Correct. I've never adopted it.  
Great. But—but—uh—uh—Chloe has said why she wants to feel  
secure that when you're out there on the road doing your door-to-  
door CPA or whatever it is?

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:19:24 Matt Guest Well, yeah.  
01:19:25 John Host How much do you travel? How far does he travel, Chloe? Like—  
01:19:27 Chloe Guest Um, he works in Andover? Which is 30 miles north.  
01:19:31 John Host Right. Okay.  
01:19:33 Chloe Guest Our car also does not have a spare tire.

*[A few "Ooooh"s from audience.]*

01:19:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Oh. Oh.  
**Chloe:** Yes.  
01:19:38 John Host No, that's bad.  
01:19:39 Chloe Guest Mm-hm.  
01:19:40 John Host Yeah.  
01:19:40 Matt Guest Mm-hm.  
01:19:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Do you have... like, AAA or do you have roadside assistance  
for insurance?

**Chloe:** Yes, but how would you call that...

*[Audience laughs, applauds, cheers.]*

01:19:50 Chloe Guest —from the side of the road?  
01:19:53 John Host Matt, she makes a good case.  
01:19:53 Matt Guest Mm-hm.  
01:19:55 John Host Have you ever had a breakdown or a flat tire?  
01:19:57 Matt Guest Never have. My, uh—  
01:19:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** —maintenance

**John:** Right. Oh, so it never will happen!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:20:00 Matt Guest My—yeah! Of course! Yeah. *[Laughs.]* In perpetuity! Y'know. My  
maintenance schedule is regular and comprehensive. Uh—

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:20:08 Chloe Guest And—I'm not—  
This is true. Yes. We've been told more than once that our car is in  
excellent condition from professionals.  
01:20:14 John Host What kind of car do you have? I mean—excuse me. What kind of  
Subaru do you have?

*[All laugh appreciatively; applause from audience.]*

01:20:18 Matt Guest Right.  
01:20:20 Chloe Guest We actually have a Hyundai Elantra.  
01:20:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** Yes.

**Jesse:** Ohhhhh... kay.

01:20:27 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
You got a Subaru. Anyway.

01:20:28 Matt Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
Yes. So there's that. Um—  
01:20:30 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** But at any rate—

01:20:32 John Host **John:** It must've come—  
It must've come with a spare tire.  
01:20:33 Chloe Guest Nope.  
01:20:33 Matt Guest No, it didn't.  
01:20:35 John Host Did—you bought it used?  
01:20:36 Chloe Guest No. He—he wanted that car and, uh, he does most of the driving  
and I said okay.

01:20:41 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Does it have—

**John:** How did you get it without the spare tire?

**Jesse:** Yeah.

01:20:47 Matt Guest **Chloe:** It—it came with—  
This little... kit? That's supposed to like fix all punctures? But I'm—  
I'm—I'm dubious about this concept. For that.

01:20:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Yeah. Yeah. I—yeah. And obviously because you're dubious,  
you're taking no action to—  
-

01:20:56 Matt Guest **Matt:** So. I don't—yeah.  
Oh, clearly! Yeah!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:20:58 Jesse Host That's right!  
So the car—the car doesn't have... I—I had a car for a while that  
didn't have a spare tire.

01:21:03 Matt Guest Mm.  
01:21:03 Jesse Host And—but it had run-flat tires. And so—and a pressure sensor so it  
would tell you if there was a hole in your tire and you could drive a  
pretty fair distance.

01:21:11 Matt Guest Yes. That's correct. So I—I will know when an emergency is about  
to ensue.

01:21:16 Jesse Host Do you have that on the Elantra?  
01:21:17 Matt Guest Yes.  
01:21:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Run—run—what did you call it? Run flat? I've never heard of  
run-flat tires.

**Matt:** Well, not run-flats. But I don't work for the government or  
anything.

01:21:22 Jesse Host Yeah. Run-flat tires have like strong sidewalls so you can—you can  
drive—I don't remember. 10 or 20 miles on them.

01:21:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Oh, okay. Great.

**Matt:** Yeah.

01:21:29 John Host **Jesse:** Yeah.  
Oh. Okay. Uh—I would imagine—I mean, this is one very specific circumstance in which you could be left high and dry on the hard highways and byways and, uh, and uh, Mass pikes.

01:21:41 Matt Guest  
01:21:42 Crosstalk Crosstalk **And Massholes! Don't forget.**  
**John:** Yes. That's right.

01:21:43 John Host  
01:21:45 Jesse Host **Matt:** That's right. Yeah. Mm-hm.  
There are other—I mean, anything could happen! You know—  
Are there those roadside telephones in Massachusetts? Uh, to use to call emergency services?  
01:21:50 John Host Yeah. But none of 'em work.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:21:56 Matt Guest No. There are. But I mean, I don't know what roads you're taking to get to—  
They're in museums now. Uh—no. It's—I—I firmly—this may be a firmly naïve belief that—  
01:22:03 John Host I think that that's true.  
01:22:05 Matt Guest The concept of dot-dot-dot still holds some currency in this day and age.  
01:22:10 John Host Yeah. But you understand that we also—you live in a—a part of the world where... there—there might be another winter. Before too long.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:22:18 Matt Guest Preferably—  
01:22:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** Yeah. One on top of another. Well—mm-hm. Right. Mm-hm.

01:22:25 John Host **John:** I mean, I'm hoping! I'm hoping there will be a real winter again! But who knows.  
Uh, that it might be, uh—if—if you were to have some—a—a—a bad accident? Uh... or be—y'know, be—by the side of the road and it's cold out? You run out of fuel before someone comes along? This is... this is basically *Mad Max* world. You know that.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:22:40 Matt Guest Yeah. Yeah.  
01:22:41 Chloe Guest I would also like to put on record that I'm not asking for him to get, like, the latest iPhone. I want whatever today's equivalent of a Nokia brick is?

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:22:49 John Host Yeah! I mean, this seems like a very basic safety tool to have. And I really don't see any reason why I should not order you to get one.  
01:22:58 Matt Guest I'm resigned to your judgment, whether that be the latest Samsung Galaxy whatever or if it's a Jitterbug. Mm-hm.

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:23:06 John Host You're not even bothering to put up a defense!  
01:23:08 Matt Guest Oh—because I'm sure society is not in favor of—of this—this, uh, viewpoint!

*[Audience laughs.]*

01:23:13 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]*  
I think his defense, Judge Hodgman, is—in an emergency, what do you have if you do not have your principles?

01:23:28 John Host *[All laugh. Audience applauds and cheers.]*  
You—yeah! You—you do. You have frostbite and bleeding out from a leg wound!

01:23:33 Matt Guest *[Matt laughs.]*  
But principles!  
01:23:35 John Host I mean... but—just for the sake of argument. Argue!

01:23:37 Matt Guest *[Audience laughs.]*  
Grr! Um... let's see here.

*[All laugh.]*  
I, um... hm...

01:23:51 John Host *[Audience laughs.]*  
You have until our noses touch.  
*[Audience laughs.]*  
I will not back off until you start speaking.

01:24:00 Matt Guest *[All laugh.]*  
Do you believe that, y'know—  
01:24:02 John Host I know—  
01:24:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** —an invasion of—space is—is still—

01:24:06 Matt Guest **John:** —you are—yes!  
Uh, a violation regardless of whether I can call it in on a cell phone or not. Um...

*[Audience laughs.]*  
However—  
01:24:12 John Host Are you from New England?  
01:24:13 Matt Guest Not originally!  
01:24:14 John Host Oh. But you chose to live here.  
01:24:15 Matt Guest That's right!  
01:24:15 John Host So this closeness must be painful for you.  
01:24:18 Matt Guest It's—

*[Audience laughs.]*  
It's—  
01:24:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Chloe:** He's—he—  
**Matt:** It's unusual.

01:24:22 John Host **John:** Where—  
Where are you from originally?  
01:24:23 Matt Guest Originally from Indiana.  
01:24:24 John Host Indiana.

[A few cheers from the audience.]

01:24:25 Matt Guest Mm-hm. That's right. Mm-hm.

01:24:27 John Host That's—that—that's—those are wide-open spaces.

01:24:29 Matt Guest Correct. Mm-hm.

01:24:29 John Host Alright. So you're talking so I'm backing off.

01:24:31 Matt Guest That's right. And I will acknowledge in the—

01:24:34 John Host It may be—I'm going to offer you an argument since you don't care to make one yourself.

01:24:37 Matt Guest No. That's—that's fine. That's—

01:24:39 John Host Which is that—Chloe says that Andover's 30 miles away. To a person from Indiana, that is next door.

01:24:46 Matt Guest That is practically true.

[Audience laughs.]

01:24:48 John Host It does not feel—this is a—not feel like a place where you would be really lost in a wilderness, unable to hail someone down.

01:24:54 Matt Guest Practically true.

01:24:56 John Host And the likelihood of that person being a serial killer is maybe only 30%.

[Audience laughs.]

01:25:00 Chloe Guest He also goes on fairly long road trips at least once a year without me!

01:25:04 John Host [In a warning, sing-song voice] Here I come back!

01:25:08 John Host Where do you go on road trips?

01:25:09 Matt Guest Uh, back home. To—

01:25:11 John Host Back home to Indiana.

01:25:11 Matt Guest That's right. So.

01:25:13 John Host And you don't—and you don't have a GPS or anything. You know the road—

01:25:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** I do have GPS. That's, uh, that's— [Laughs.]

**John:** Alright. There we go. [Laughs.]

[Audience laughs.]

01:25:20 John Host Here's the thing, Matt, that really—I mean, I just don't get the resistance. Because you—you have your Compaq Presario. You have a sweet digital watch. You, uh, you have a Hyundai Elantra. Uh, you have a—you're—you're willing to use a GPS. You're not anti-technology. You're being tracked already 'cause of the satellite.

01:25:38 Matt Guest Undoubtedly.

01:25:38 John Host Right. So—why not just throw—for emergency's sake—a charged flip phone into the center console of the car just in case something should happen? Are you a survivalist?

01:25:49 Matt Guest Uh, I have no bunker that I'm aware of.

[Audience laughs.]

01:25:54 John Host That is stocked with anything. How does it make you feel when your husband's on the road and you can't reach him?

01:25:58 Chloe Guest Um... I just pray that I'm not a widow?

[Mix of shocked, horrified, and sympathetic sounds. Then audience begins to laugh.]

01:26:07 John Host Yeah.  
01:26:09 Matt Guest How does that make you feel, Matt?  
01:26:13 John Host Mm. Everything about solid driving records kind of wilts in  
01:26:14 Matt Guest comparison.  
01:26:16 John Host Yeah!  
01:26:16 John Host Putting it that way. So. Mm-hm.  
01:26:16 John Host Because past performance isn't guarantee of future performance!  
01:26:16 John Host Come on! You work in finances!

*[Audience laughs; applauds.]*  
01:26:27 Matt Guest It's a fair argument. Yes.  
01:26:29 John Host You should get—here's what you need to get.  
01:26:32 Matt Guest Okay.  
01:26:33 John Host You should get a spare tire.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:26:41 Matt Guest You should get a safety blanket. A reflective blanket.  
01:26:42 John Host Yeah.  
01:26:43 Chloe Guest Put it in the back of your car and a first aid kit.  
01:26:45 Matt Guest That's already there.  
01:26:46 Crosstalk Guest First aid is, yeah.  
01:26:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Yeah. The safety blanket isn't the first aid—yeah. Right.

01:26:49 John Host **Matt:** Safety blanket—yeah. Mm-hm. Mm-hm.  
01:26:49 John Host Well—yeah! So good. Good job. You're almost there.

*[Audience laughs.]*  
01:27:00 Matt Guest You get a portable tire inflator. \$100 on any internet, uh, retailer.  
01:27:00 John Host Right.  
01:27:05 Matt Guest Very valuable to have. Uh, get, um, a flashlight.  
01:27:07 John Host Mm-hm.  
01:27:07 John Host A crossbow.

*[All laugh uproariously.]*  
01:27:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Chloe:** He's quite the indoor cat.

01:27:14 Chloe Guest **Matt:** *[Through laughter]* Thank you.  
01:27:16 John Host I don't think he could do that. *[Laughs.]*  
01:27:16 Matt Guest Look.  
01:27:17 John Host Do I need—  
01:27:17 John Host I'm not saying you have to use it? But brandish it.

*[All laugh.]*  
01:27:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Matt:** Yeah. Do I need camouflage as well? *[Laughs.]*

01:27:25 Jesse Host **John:** You have to get—  
01:27:25 Jesse Host You don't have to go to the sporting good store and get a crossbow  
01:27:25 Jesse Host like that. It—you can go somewhere you're already going—the  
01:27:25 Jesse Host Renaissance Faire!

*[All laugh; audience applauds.]*  
01:27:37 John Host Yeah. Maybe grab a halberd as well!  
01:27:40 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Yeah.

01:27:41	Jesse	Host	<b>Matt:</b> <i>[Through laughter]</i> Yeah. That's right.
01:27:42	Matt	Guest	And a falcon.
01:27:43	John	Host	A flail. Yeah.
			And—an unkillable, dumb flip phone that will charge in your car and be there in case of emergency. Just in case something should happen. A deer could canter out into the road!
01:27:56	Matt	Guest	Mm-hm.
01:27:56	John	Host	And you could smash into it and your car would be totaled! And then you'd wanna call Chloe and say—
01:28:01	Matt	Guest	Mm-hm.
01:28:02	John	Host	It's okay. I just killed a deer.
			<i>[Audience laughs.]</i>
			This is the sound of a gavel!
			<i>[Sound of a gavel.]</i>
01:28:07	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> Chloe and Matt!
			<b>Chloe:</b> Thank you!
			<b>John:</b> <i>[Inaudible]</i> of justice!
			<i>[Josh plays a final organ flourish.]</i>
			<i>[Gavel sound.]</i>
01:28:12	Jesse	Host	Thank you to all of the Judge John Hodgman litigants who shared their cases with us at the Wilbur Theatre in Boston. And our thanks to the staff of the theatre, who were kind and gracious hosts.
01:28:24	John	Host	As always!
01:28:25	Jesse	Host	Yes, indeed. Our thanks to Tom McCaffrey for naming the case "Knit, or Get Off the Pod!" This week's episode recorded by Matthew Barnart, edited by Jennifer Marmor, and produced by the ever-capable Ms. Hannah Smith. Thank you, Hannah! You can follow us on Instagram @JudgeJohnHodgman and on Twitter. Uh, @Hodgman and @JesseThorn. Submit your cases at <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/jjho">MaximumFun.org/jjho</a> or email <a href="mailto:Hodgman@MaximumFun.org">Hodgman@MaximumFun.org</a> . No case... is too small! We'll talk to you next time! On the Judge John Hodgman podcast.
			<i>[Gavel bangs.]</i>
01:29:08	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org.
01:29:12	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:29:13	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:29:14	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.