

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:02	Jean	Guest	Welcooome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I am Guest Bailiff Jean Grae, filling in for Jesse Thorn. He's not on this beach. This week: "Trash Action Lawsuit." ( <i>Class action lawsuit.</i> )
			Kelly brings a case against her husband Andrew. Their next-door neighbors tend to leave their garbage cans at the curb for a long time after the trash collectors come through. Andrew wants to bring the neighbors' cans back to the house for them, but Kelly thinks it's too passive-aggressive for him to do so. I have so many opinions.
			Who's right?! Who's wrong?
00:00:36	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jean speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:38	Jean	Guest	Only one can decide. Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:45	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:46	John Hodgman	Host	Thank you, Guest Bailiff Jean Grae. Here it comes:  "I'm sad because I'm happy. And I'm happy 'cause I'm mad. And I'm mad 'cause it sounds sappy to be happy when you're sad."
			Supreme Guest Bailiff Jean Grae, please swear the litigants in.
00:01:06	Jean	Guest	Kelly and Andrew, please rise and raise your right hands.
00:01:09	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:01:10	Jean	Guest	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever else?
00:01:17	Andrew	Guest	I do.
00:01:18	Kelly	Guest	I do.
00:01:19	Jean	Guest	Hm. You—you <u>didn't</u> rise, but okay.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
			Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that I have <u>heard</u> him pronounce "despite" ( <i>de-spite</i> ) as "des-pitay" to spite people?
			<i>[The litigants laugh.]</i>
00:01:31	Andrew	Guest	I do.
00:01:32	Kelly	Guest	I do.
00:01:33	Jean	Guest	Alright. Well, uh, Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:01:36	John	Host	Ahhh, Guest Bailiff Jean Grae, so happy to have you back!
			<i>[Jean laughs.]</i>
			Jesse Thorn couldn't make it today. Jean—
00:01:41	Jean	Guest	Hi.
00:01:42	John	Host	—stepping in. One of our very faaavorite guest bailiffs, Jean Grae, if

you don't know. Last name is spelled G-R-A-E.

00:01:50 Jean Guest That's right.

00:01:51 John Host Uh, to avoid copyright infringement suits from Marvel Comics.

00:01:56 Jean Guest Nooo.

00:01:57 John Host No.

00:01:58 Jean Guest No.

*[John chuckles.]*

I—I liked the "A-E" before, uh, Elon Musk and Grimes ruined it.

*[John and the litigants laugh.]*

I—I like—I like faeries (*fai-er-eez*).

00:02:10 John Host Yeah. Right.

00:02:11 Jean Guest I like the encyclopaedia (*en-sike-lo-pai-dee-uh*).

00:02:12 John Host Yeah! Right!

00:02:13 Jean Guest Big, big fan of the "A-E."

00:02:15 John Host Big fan of the "A-E"—

00:02:16 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:02:17 John Host —and I'm a big fan of the Jean Grae (*Gray*) "A-E."

00:02:20 Jean Guest Jean Grae (*Grai*). *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:02:21 John Host Gr—comedian, storyteller, performer, singer, musician, polymath.

00:02:26 Jean Guest *[Sighs.]* I'm so tired.

00:02:28 John Host Uh, pastor (*pas-tor*) of her—of her own—

00:02:30 Jean Guest Mm-hm. Louis Pasteur (*pas-TOOR*).

00:02:31 John Host Her—*[stifles laughter]* Louis Pasteur.

*[John and Jean laugh.]*

Louis Pasteur of her own church, the Church of the Infinite You. Which started as a show in the basement of Union Hall here in Brooklyn. It's a legit daytime church. It's also a legit—

00:02:45 Jean Guest It's—it's a church!

00:02:46 John Host It's a legit daytime drinking church.

00:02:48 Jean Guest Yeah! *[Laughs.]*

00:02:49 John Host Now available to all on [Twitch.tv](https://www.twitch.tv)! We'll tell you where to find it—

00:02:54 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:02:55 John Host —and when to find it, and it's important that you find it.

00:02:58 Jean Guest It really is.

00:02:59 John Host But meanwhile we're here to dispe—'cause it's very special. It's very special, Jean, as are you. You're my friend.

00:03:02 Jean Guest *[Chuckles.]* You're my friend, too! Can I just say, before we get into this, how excited I am? 'Cause I... love... confrontation.

*[John laughs/groans.]*

Alright, proceed. Let's go! *[A couple of enthusiastic exclamations.]*

00:03:12	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I do not care for—I <u>do not</u> care for it! That's why I am the judge— <i>[laughs]</i> —and not the litigant, so I can <u>tell</u> people who's right and wrong—
00:03:21	Jean	Guest	Ohhh.
00:03:22	John	Host	—and then I can sneak away. That's the point of a podcast, is no one ever sees each other. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> No one has to see each other face to face.
00:03:27	Jean	Guest	Ahh.
00:03:28	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jean:</b> I'll confront <u>every</u> tree.
			<b>John:</b> But in fact, now because we're—
00:03:30	John	Host	Because we're doing, uh, <u>all</u> kinds of things differently and we're all recording from home now, I can—I can see the litigants! This is case number two in history, Jean... where I've been recording from home but I can <u>see</u> the litigants' faces, and they're nice faces!
00:03:45	Jean	Guest	Does it change it for you?
00:03:46	John	Host	It—it does, mainly 'cause I can remember their names and know who's speaking.
			<i>[John and someone else laugh.]</i>
			'Cause—'cause, uh, 'cause their names are attached to their faces, which is really—
00:03:54	Jean	Guest	Yes.
00:03:55	John	Host	Honestly, we should have that. In all of life. I don't understand why—
00:03:58	Jean	Guest	Full people? Mm-hm.
00:04:00	John	Host	Just, uh, name tags all the time! Name tags everywhere. But Kelly and Andrew, nice faces...
			<i>[Someone says something that sounds cut off at the beginning.]</i>
			This is <u>your</u> confrontation, not mine.
			<i>[Kelly laughs.]</i>
			You may be seated.
00:04:11	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:04:12	John	Host	For an immediate summary judgment in <u>one</u> of yours' favors, can either of you name the piece of culture I referenced when I entered the courtroom? Kelly, what's your guess?
00:04:21	Kelly	Guest	I'm gonna go with a Shel Silverstein poem?
00:04:24	John	Host	Mm, it's very—
			<i>[Jean and Andrew both make interested listening sounds.]</i>

—it's very Shel-y Silverstein-y! Yeah!

00:04:28 Jean Guest

Mm!

00:04:29 John Host

Yeah, it's very Shel-y Silverstein-y. Uh, okay, we'll put that into the guess book. I'm not saying that it's wrong or right, or medium. Everything—there are no wrong answers except for the one that... I say is wrong. Uh—*[laughs]* uh, Andrew, what is yours?

00:04:46 Andrew Guest

Uhh, the word "sappy..."

00:04:48 John Host

Mm-hm.

00:04:49 Andrew Guest

...put me in a certain, uh, timeframe. So... I'm gonna guess something by James Thurber.

00:04:56 John Host

Something by James Thurber. To use a sports metaphor, that's a fairly good ballpark. For my kind of thing. I—I'm—my book *Vacationland*, as you know, did not win the James Thurber Prize for American Humor.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

In 2018. But was a finalist!

00:05:14 Jean Guest

Hey!

00:05:15 Andrew Guest

I'd like to change my guess to Dorothy Parker, then.

*[Multiple people laugh, someone gasps.]*

00:05:20 John Host

You can't Algonquin Round Table your way outta this, Andrew.

Nice cuts, nice drops! ...But all guesses are wrong! I'm gonna give you another hint. But this one is non-binding.

If Jesse had been here, 'cause this fits so well, I would have used this quote, but I would have changed certain names. So see if this gives you a better clue:

"John Hodgman is the exact opposite of how I think you should behave. I just think of it as a negative view of the positive mind I have. Jesse Thorn is sweet and nice, and also sympathetic, as kids can identify with him, even though he looks like such a bizarre character."

*[Jean laughs quietly.]*

"Eight feet two inches, and a beak eighteen inches long."

Any guess now as to which piece of popular culture I was referencing? Kelly? Andrew?

00:06:07 Andrew Guest

It's from *Sesame Street*?

00:06:09 John Host

It is from *Sesame Street*. The song I quoted—and I did not sing it, 'cause I don't know this one. The lyrics to the song "I'm Sad Because I'm Happy" by Oscar the Grouch!

*[Both litigants or one litigant and Jean exclaim in acknowledgment.]*

For this is a case about—

00:06:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John & Andrew:** —trash cans.

*[Jean laughs.]*

**Kelly or Andrew:** Yes.

00:06:25 Jean Guest Ohhh.

00:06:26 John Host You never thought about trash cans, did you?! You're just like "Ehh, it sounds like Shel Silverstein, and I know—"

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

"—I know Hodgman loves complaining about not winning that Thurber Prize, I'm gonna throw Thurber in there."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

The—the cultural reference has to refer to the case! And in this case, yours is a case... of trash cans. The quote that I gave you as the hint, of course, was Carroll Spinney.

00:06:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Andrew:** Carroll Spinney.

**Kelly:** Mm-hm.

00:06:48 John Host The late Carroll Spinney. Talking about Oscar being the opposite of Big Bird.

00:06:52 Andrew Guest Mm-hm.

00:06:53 John Host In any case, I thought also that the—that Oscar the Grouch, Jean—you—Oscar the Grouch is the best, right?

00:06:59 Jean Guest 'Cause he loves confrontation.

*[Jean laughs, John stifles laughter.]*

00:07:02 John Host He loves confrontation.

00:07:03 Jean Guest He's—he is very blunt.

00:07:05 John Host Yep.

00:07:06 Jean Guest And, um, he doesn't—he's not doing it in a malicious way. He's like—

00:07:09 John Host Right.

00:07:10 Jean Guest "I just wanna—let's just talk about it."

00:07:13 John Host Right.

00:07:14 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** "Let's get it out in the open."

**Jean:** "Like, now. It's gonna happen now. What's wrong with you?"

*[John laughs.]*

00:07:17 John Host Yeah.

00:07:18 Jean Guest Why don't you move into a trash can—

*[John and Kelly laugh quietly.]*

—and maybe you would wanna address some things immediately.

00:07:23 John Host Yeah!

00:07:24 Jean Guest "But because you're so comfy where you are, you're not doing that."

00:07:26 John Host Yeah, that's right.

00:07:27 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:07:28 John Host He's like "I live in the trash. Check your privilege."

*[Jean laughs.]*

"This is what you should be seeing."

00:07:31 Jean Guest "Talk about it. Now."

00:07:33 John Host Also, I feel like we're all living in a trash can right now.

*[Someone laughs, someone sighs.]*

Like, Oscar the Grouch never left that trash can!

00:07:40 Jean Guest Well, to be fair, it was very large on the inside. Like, he—he lived in a loft.

00:07:46 John Host Yeah. The trash can, you'll recall, Kelly and Andrew, from *Sesame Street*, Oscar's trash can is larger on the inside...

00:07:53 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:07:54 John Host ...than on the outside. It's huge. It's a TARDIS! It's a TARDIS.

*[Kelly chuckles.]*

00:07:56 Jean Guest Yeah! Basically.

00:07:57 John Host Everyone knows that Oscar the Grouch is a Time Lord.

*[John and someone else laugh quietly.]*

This is known! This is known. Anyway, so here we all are in our respective trash cans, talking to each other through these tin cans, making human connection wherever we can. Lot of can talk, all of a sudden.

*[Everyone else chuckles.]*

So Kelly, you bring this case, uh, to my court?

00:08:14 Kelly Guest I do.

00:08:15 John Host And what is the justice that you seek? What is the problem with your husband?

00:08:20 Kelly Guest I would like Andrew to let go of the idea of bringing the trash cans back for our neighbors. Because I don't feel it comes from a place of good spirit. I think it comes from a place of... nosy neighbor. Um, and—and a bit of passive-aggressive messaging as to, you know, how you need to take care of your cans. Um—

00:08:48 John Host So let me see that I understand what's going on here. Now you—you live in a—in a suburban type environment.

00:08:53 Kelly Guest Yes.

00:08:54 John Host Right? Detached houses.

00:08:55 Kelly Guest Yes.

00:08:57 John Host And, uh, whereabouts do you live? And I would prefer your specific street address.

*[Everyone laughs.]*

00:09:04 Kelly Guest Uh, we live in Southeastern Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia.

00:09:08 John Host Okay. And the way trash collection works in your neighborhood is... first of all, it gets collected, which right now seems like a freaking god-or-whatever—damned miracle.

00:09:18 Andrew Guest Yeah.

*[Kelly or Jean laughs.]*

00:09:19 John Host I'm so glad it's—we have a civilization, still. Working on it! Working on holding onto it.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

But in any case, you put your trash out in bins. Right?

*[One or both litigants "mm-hm."]*

We call 'em cans.

*[Another "mm-hm."]*

We call 'em cans.

00:09:32 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Kelly:** Twice a week.

**John:** The trash at the e—at the edge—at your curb. Right?

**Kelly:** Mm-hm. Yep.

00:09:35 John Host Right.

00:09:36 Kelly Guest Yep.

00:09:37 John Host Twice a week. What are the days?

00:09:38 Kelly Guest Tuesday and Friday.

00:09:40 John Host Tuesday and Friday. And the trash collector comes and takes away the trash, and leaves the bins behind—

00:09:45 Kelly Guest Mm-hm.

00:09:46 John Host —that is, the cans, behind. And then each homeowner goes out to collect those bins and brings them back up into your gr—your garage, or whatever.

00:09:53 Kelly Guest Correct. Yep.

00:09:54 John Host Right. But your neighbors... don't do it. And Andrew wants—to do what, Andrew? When your neighbors don't bring their trash cans back up to their houses, and leave them hanging around on the street looking like literal trash...

00:10:10 Andrew Guest Mm-hm!

00:10:10 John Host You wanna do what?

00:10:12 Andrew Guest I wanna take them back away from the street and return them to where the neighbors store their trash cans when they're not out for trash.

00:10:21 John Host And I presume they store them in their living room, and you get them into the living room by throwing them through the window.

*[Jean and Kelly laugh.]*

00:10:27 Andrew Guest Yes.

00:10:28 John Host The plate glass window. Right?

00:10:29 Andrew Guest With a brick in the bottom for good measure, yeah.

*[Kelly or Jean laughs.]*

00:10:31 John Host Yeah, exactly so. No, where would—like, when you're doing this trespassing...

*[Someone laughs.]*

...where do you, uh—where do you drop off the cans?

00:10:39 Andrew Guest So they keep their cans, uh, right on the side of their house?

00:10:44 John Host Right.

00:10:45 Andrew Guest So, uh, it's a very short distance from the street to where their cans go. It doesn't require me to open a gate or go into a back yard. It— it's just a matter of pulling it about... 18 feet from the street up to the side of their house.

00:10:59 John Host Onto their property.

00:11:00 Andrew Guest Right.

00:11:01 John Host And next to their property.

00:11:02 Andrew Guest Right.

00:11:03 John Host While holding their property.

00:11:04 Andrew Guest Correct.

*[Kelly and/or Jean laugh.]*

00:11:05 John Host Yeah. Okay, I'm just wondering. *[Laughs quietly.]* And how long has this been going on, that it's been getting on your nerves?

00:11:12 Andrew Guest Uh... About ten years.

00:11:16 John Host Ohh boy, oh boy! This is a—

00:11:17 Jean Guest *[Sighing]* Andrew... *[Laughs.]*

00:11:18 John Host —neighborly fight for the ages! And how often do you go out there and like—Kelly, how—like, what's the standard operating procedure now? That Andrew does this, and you want him to stop? Or that Andrew wants to do it, but you tell him "Don't do it"?

00:11:31 Kelly Guest He wants to do it, and—and—so there is a bit of backstory, in that the previous occupant of the house was a wonderful woman who— she was our neighbor when we first moved in, 20 years ago. Um—

00:11:47 John Host Hang on, hang on. I'm just gonna interrupt you for a second.

00:11:49 Kelly Guest Mm-hm.



00:11:50 John Host Keep—keep rolling on this. Jean Grae, I realized that we don't have a—we don't have any stings for this show, you know what I mean?

*[Jean laughs.]*

We don't have—we don't have anything like "backstory," like *[dramatically]* "Backstory!"

00:11:58 Jean Guest Yeah, yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:11:59 John Host You know what I mean? Like—*[laughs]*.

00:12:00 Jean Guest Alright, d'you—?

00:12:01 John Host Can you give me a quick backstory sting that we can drop in?

00:12:03 Jean Guest Yeah. Do you wanna do the—that bit before, or you want me to just say it right now?

00:12:06 John Host No, just do it—do it now, and—and—

00:12:08 Jean Guest Alright.

00:12:09 John Host —and I'll make Kelly start all over again.

*[Kelly and Jean laugh.]*

00:12:12 Jean Guest BACKSTORY!

*[As a diminishing echo]* Backstory, backstory, backstory...

00:12:15 John Host *[Laughs quietly.]* Thank you. Alright, Kelly. Start again, and say "There's a bit of a backstory."

00:12:20 Kelly Guest There's a—*[laughs]*. *[Inaudible]*.

00:12:21 John Host And then leave a pause, so that we can insert that. And Jennifer Marmor, producer? Leave this all in. I want people to see what goes on behind the scenes.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:12:28 Kelly Guest So there was a bit of a backstory.

00:12:30 Music Music Short, electric pulse.

00:12:31 Jean Guest BACKSTORY, backstory, backstory...

00:12:33 Kelly Guest Again, our previous neighbor, um—uh, was a wonderful woman. When we first moved in, she was in her 80s. Um, she was—she was our neighbor for about ten years. And as she—she was very independent well into her 80s and early 90s.

00:12:47 Andrew Guest Mm-hm.

00:12:48 Kelly Guest And it—she got to a point where she couldn't take the tra—she wanted do. And, you know, she had about a teaspoon's worth of trash, but would diligently bring it out every Tuesday and Friday. And she struggled with the cans. And so we walk our dog every morning, and past their house. We live on a dead end street. And so in going past their house, we developed a system for our older neighbor, where we would take the can out for her as we passed by to leave for the dog walk, and then the trash men would usually come by by the time we returned, and Andrew would return the can up to her porch and help her out.

And so he wants to do this now, with the new neighbors.

00:13:32 John Host Right.

00:13:33 Kelly Guest Um, who are a lovely couple. But a perfectly capable couple—

00:13:37 John Host What happened to your—what happened to your older neighbor?

00:13:39 Kelly Guest Oh.

00:13:40 Andrew Guest Mm.

00:13:41 Kelly Guest She did pass away at the age of 96. And so, um—

00:13:43 John Host Oh, that was... very—very rude of her.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

Very rude.

00:13:45 Kelly Guest But she was beloved. She was—

00:13:47 John Host Yeah, no, that's wonderful.

00:13:48 Kelly Guest Um, and so—and they're a—they are a wonderful couple. I have no... complaints about them as neighbors. And—but they just leave their cans out much longer than—than anybody else on the street. And so he wants to, on the way back from the dog walk, return the cans, you know, to their property. And I feel like it's a different situation, and that it's gonna be seen as passive-aggressive and judgmental.

00:14:15 John Host Uh, Andrew—uhhh, how well do you know—are these your next-door neighbors?

00:14:19 Andrew Guest These are our next-door neighbors.

00:14:20 John Host On which side?

00:14:22 Andrew Guest Uh, on our left side facing the street?

00:14:25 Kelly Guest No, I—I think he meant on your, uh, your mother's or your father's side.

*[Everyone laughs.]*

00:14:32 John Host So how well do you know them, Andrew?

00:14:34 Andrew Guest I—I didn't know them terribly well. Uh, in the last couple of weeks I've gotten to know 'em, though—

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

—know them quite a bit better! Which, uh, has been very nice. We haven't really had that opportunity in the past. But, uh... I—I know them a little. They are actually relatives of Aunt Edie.

00:14:50 John Host Uh-huh.

00:14:51 Andrew Guest So they are members of her family. We know them, we know their child, we know their parents for friendly hellos across the fence. Uh—

00:15:00 John Host Okay.

00:15:01 Andrew Guest We know their dogs.

00:15:02 John Host You know their names.

00:15:03 Andrew Guest Yes. Yes.

00:15:04 John Host You don't have to say their names. I don't wanna—uh, but you know.

00:15:05 Andrew Guest Mm-hm!

00:15:06 John Host Do you know if they're listeners to this podcast?

*[Jean and Kelly laugh.]*

00:15:09 Andrew Guest I do not know that factually one way or another.

00:15:10 John Host Because this would be record-breaking passive aggression.

*[Jean and Kelly laugh.]*

If you came up here on this podcast to send your neighbors a little message.

00:15:19 Jean Guest Let's take a quick recess, and we'll be back with more of Kelly and Andrew's case in just a moment.

00:15:26 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:15:29 John Promo Hey, everyone, it's your Judge John Hodgman, here in my chambers at home in Brooklyn, which I have not left in some time. And while we are all dreaming of getting outside again, and traveling this world, one thing I'm doing to keep my mind sharp and occupied is learning Spanish! Learned it in college. Lost it. Getting it back again! Looking forward to that time I can get out there and speak some Spanish to people! In all so many nations of the world, including New York City.

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I really enjoy Babbel a lot. I really enjoy the podcasts that they put out. I really enjoy the app. It's terrific! And it's a great way to pass the time and start planning for that time when you can get out there and speak to people in different languages.

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Babbel: Language for life.

00:17:25 John Promo We're also happy to be joined in support this week by Sun Basket! Not too long ago I received my first Sun Basket, in ecologically friendly packaging. The ingredients for several different meals, which I made and enjoyed. I made some coconut shrimp, which was the

first thing my teenage daughter ate and said "This tastes good" to me during this entire period of time we're all at home together, and I've been cooking every night. Coconut shrimp, biig hit!

Chicken tortilla soup, a Thai-style shrimp curry—green curry. All of it was delicious. All of it was easy. I enjoyed it! Sun Basket sent to my door, in wonderful little paper sacks, all of the organic produce and high quality ingredients that I needed, all measured out, to make these meals snippety-snap. Term I just made up. And as I mentioned, I didn't have to leave my door! I mean, if you're someone who is practicing social distancing, trying to stay out of the supermarkets, trying to give those essential workers a break from your face... maybe you're someone who's immunocompromised, or an older person. Or maybe you have someone in your life who needs some help getting high-quality nutrition.

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Okay, I gotta jump back into the courtroom with my friend Jean Grae... get back to this case.

00:19:49	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:19:50	John	Host	Andrew, now that you know your neighbors so very well, they're pals, friendly—know their dogs or whatever—have you just said to them "Would you please bring your trash cans up?"?
00:20:00	Andrew	Guest	No.  <i>[Jean or Kelly laughs and/or starts to speak.]</i>
00:20:03	John	Host	I have not. Uh, I— You say that as though that's an impossible thing for <u>anyone</u> to say.  <i>[Jean and Kelly laugh.]</i>
00:20:06	Andrew	Guest	To me that's more judgmental than just bringing the cans up. Uh, my portion of the backstory, which Kelly of course can't speak to, is—
00:20:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jean:</b> Hold on, hold please, hold please. <i>[Laughs.]</i>  <b>John:</b> Hang on, hold for—hold for the sting.

**John or Andrew:** Yep.

00:20:18 John Host  
00:20:19 Music Music  
00:20:19 Jean Guest

Hold for the sting.

Short, electric pulse.

ANDREW'S BACKSTORY!

*[As a diminishing echo]* Backstory, backstory, which Kelly can't speak to, backstory...

*[John and one or both litigants laugh.]*

00:20:27 John Host  
00:20:30 Andrew Guest

Alright, go on, Andrew.

For a while, for maybe a year or so or—or more... the cans would lay in the street, I would get bothered about it, I would grouse and complain to Kelly about it. But I wouldn't do anything, and I would just come inside. And after a little while, I thought to myself "Well, this is silly. If it's bothering me, why not do something about it? If I did the same for the former resident there without being asked, why not do the same for the current resident who lives there without being asked? So I'll put the can back, and... we're both winners! Their cans are back, and it's not bothering me."

00:21:04 John Host

So if I understand this correctly, your backstory is that your relationship with Aunt Edie, your helping her with the cans, started by your just doing it one day.

00:21:13 Andrew Guest

Yep.

00:21:14 John Host

And then eventually she caught on.

00:21:15 Andrew Guest

Mm-hm!

00:21:16 John Host

And said "Thank you for... trespassing. Thank you for bringing my property back to my property."

*[Jean and Kelly laugh.]*

"Don't know why there's a horse's head in this one."

*[Someone laughs.]*

"Message received, I guess. But if you don't mind doing it for me, that would be great."

00:21:28 Andrew Guest

Yeah. Yeah, I would put them up on her porch and she didn't... like it, but she understood that her, uh, limitations made that the most practical solution.

00:21:39 John Host

Okay.

00:21:40 Andrew Guest

She was grateful for the effort but it bothered her that she couldn't do it on a personal level. She was very independent.

00:21:46 John Host

Jean, make up names for these neighbors, please.

*[Kelly laughs quietly.]*

00:21:48 Jean Guest

Uhhh, Jam-iss? That is James (*Jaymz*), with—

00:21:51 John Host

James (*Jam-iss*)?

00:21:52 Jean Guest —it's James (*Jam-iss*). And, uh—

00:21:54 John Host Uh-huh.

00:21:55 Jean Guest And... uh, Lam-iss.

*[Any further instances of "James" in this transcript are pronounced "Jam-iss" unless otherwise specified.]*

00:21:57 John Host James and Lam-iss... and the last name?

00:22:00 Jean Guest Flurb.

*[Beat.]*

00:22:03 John Host So—*[laughs quietly.]*

00:22:04 Jean Guest James and Lam-iss Flurb. Go ahead.

00:22:06 John Host James and Lam-iss Flurb. "Hi, I'm James."

00:22:08 Jean Guest "I'm Lam-iss. We're the Flurbs."

00:22:10 John Host "I know, it's cute, isn't it?"

*[Jean and John laugh quietly.]*

That's how they introduce themselves. "We know it's cute."

00:22:15 Jean Guest "We know. We know." *[Chuckles.]*

00:22:17 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jean & John:** We know.

**John:** We know. We know our first names sound alike.

**Jean:** We know. *[Chuckles.]*

00:22:20 John Host "Anyway, we're the Flurbs."

*[John and Jean laugh.]*

"Just moved into the neighborhood. Don't know the rules. Hope someone will tell us at some point!"

00:22:27 Jean Guest "You guys like trash cans?"

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:22:30 John Host But—

00:22:31 Jean Guest "You guys like trash cans."

00:22:32 John Host "We're proud of our cans."

00:22:33 Jean Guest "So proud."

00:22:34 John Host "We like the world to see 'em." How long do the Flurbs leave the cans out for Andrew?

00:22:37 Andrew Guest Routinely, they're out there for the next trash collection day.

00:22:42 Kelly Guest Two days.

00:22:43 John Host The—couple of days.

00:22:44 Andrew Guest Yeah.

00:22:45 John Host Yeah. But then after the last trash collection day, do they just roll it

over to the next week? Do they ever bring them back?

00:22:52 Andrew Guest They do occasionally bring them back, yes. They do eventually bring them back.

00:22:55 John Host Come on, Flurbs.

00:22:56 Andrew Guest But they've been out there for multiple days, yes.

00:22:58 John Host Come on, Flurbs. And why does this bother you so much?

00:23:02 Andrew Guest Well, uh, they are the only people on the street who leave their trash cans out that long.

00:23:07 John Host Right.

00:23:08 Andrew Guest The cans are very visible. They're... unattractive. They are sometimes in the street.

00:23:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Andrew:** You sometimes have to drive around them.

**John:** No, I understand the nature of the complaint, but I mean...

00:23:17 John Host Aside from people having to drive around them—it obviously strikes a deeper chord with you. How does it make you feel when you see those—those cans lying all over the place?

00:23:28 Andrew Guest It seems like it would be a very small thing to take care of? And I—sometimes I'm—I'm just... put out that somebody won't do something which seems quite small to take care of the street.

00:23:42 John Host Gotcha. Yeah, okay. Well, in fact you sent in some evidence. Oh, Kelly, did you wanna—

00:23:46 Kelly Guest Mm-hm.

00:23:47 John Host —jump in?

00:23:47 Kelly Guest It's a dude thing. Um, he—

00:23:50 John Host Okay!

00:23:51 Kelly Guest There's a little bit of a... Andrew sees it a little bit of a competition in the—in the... the men of the street. To who brings their cans back first, and quickest, and everything.

00:24:03 John Host Is this a competition that exists in real life, or only in Andrew's mind?

00:24:07 Kelly Guest *[Laughs.]* I think it's only in Andrew's mind.

00:24:10 John Host Andrew, have you considered, uh, inviting everyone to join a Google Spreadsheet?

*[Someone laughs.]*

And say "You know what would be fun, is we all time how long it takes for us to get our trash cans back, and we can fill in our best times on this spreadsheet! Wouldn't that be fun?"

00:24:24 Andrew Guest Well, I have prepared such a document. Uh—

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:24:27 John Host Is that true? *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:24:28 Andrew Guest Did not submit it, but—no. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:24:29 John Host Oh. Well, you did submit some evidence—and Jean Grae, do you

00:24:33 Jean Guest have—do you have the evidence? You have access to the evidence?  
I do. I do. I have it right here.  
00:24:35 John Host Alright. I—I'm looking at exhibit...  
00:24:37 Jean Guest Mm-hm.  
00:24:38 John Host ...A, here. "The trash can in question. Please note that there are no other trash cans visible."

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Now, all these extremely dramatic photos will be posted on our *Judge John Hodgman* page at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

*[Someone laughs, John stifles laughter.]*

And I'm gonna tell you right now, I'm—this picture of a lonely trash can on a suburban street is definitely gonna be the number one most faved pic on the *Judge John Hodgman* Instagram. For sure.

*[Someone laughs.]*

Who posted this pic? Who sent in this exhibit to me?

00:25:06 Andrew Guest I did.  
00:25:07 John Host Yeah. So when you look at that can, you're—tell—like... narrate your feelings to me.

*[Someone laughs.]*

Just look at it right now.

00:25:15 Andrew Guest When I look at that can, I think... "The street would be better if that can was not there. I'm going to make the street better. I'm going to put that can back."

00:25:25 Jean Guest May I ask a question here? Kelly? Uh, does Andrew have these feelings about other items within the household, when things may be out of place? To him. Or are not put away?

00:25:41 Kelly Guest To be fair, he's very consistent in that if—he will take it upon himself to put things away, and to straighten. He's wonderful around the house. I can't say anything bad about that. But, um—

00:25:53 Jean Guest But say if you had been using something... using an item.

00:25:55 Kelly Guest Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:25:56 Jean Guest And stepped away.

00:25:59 Kelly Guest Mm-hm.

00:26:00 Jean Guest Do you find that these things get put away before you may be done with them?

00:26:03 Kelly Guest *[Laughs.]* Yes.

00:26:04 Jean Guest Alright.

00:26:05 John Host Ahhh!

00:26:06 Kelly Guest Yes.



00:26:07 Jean Guest Check me out.

00:26:08 John Host Jean Grae, permission to add a sting of my own?

00:26:10 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:26:11 Music Music Short, electric pulse.

00:26:12 John Host INCREDIBLE QUESTION! Question, question, question...

CRUX FOUND! Found, found...

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Kelly, what was it—what's an example of a thing that got put away before you were done using it?

00:26:24 Kelly Guest Well, you know, I might leave a glass next to the sink and say "I will take care of that, but I need to go do something first." And then by the time I get back it is, uh, in the dishwasher.

*[Someone makes a strained sound.]*

00:26:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jean:** Yes. Yes. I—

**John:** You've even given indication that you're gonna be coming back to it?!

*[Kelly laughs.]*

00:26:39 Jean Guest Yeah. I'm bringing this up because my husband has to say things like that to me.

00:26:45 Kelly Guest Ah.

00:26:46 John Host Ohh!

00:26:47 Jean Guest Like, "I'm still using this item. Don't do anything with it."

00:26:50 John Host Because you'll clear it away, Jean.

00:26:52 Jean Guest Oh, yes, I will.

00:26:53 John Host Right.

00:26:54 Jean Guest One hundred percent.

00:26:55 John Host So you're—you're a little bit Team Andrew here, it sounds like. Yeah, Andrew—

00:26:58 Jean Guest No, I'm not. No, I'm not!

00:26:59 John Host Oh—okay! Okay.

00:27:00 Jean Guest No, don't get me wrong.

00:27:01 John Host Alright.

00:27:02 Jean Guest I just wanted to see if it was coming from the same place. I understand where it's coming from.

00:27:06 John Host Maybe the problem is coming from inside the house.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

Calling from inside the house.

00:27:08 Jean Guest Yes.

00:27:09 Andrew Guest May I just clarify that?

00:27:11 John Host Alright. Andrew, go ahead.

00:27:12 Andrew Guest In this example, Kelly... if you place the glass near the sink, near the dishwasher, and you say "I will take care of that," are you indicating that you are going to re-use the glass? Or are you indicating that in a few moments' time, you are going to put it in the dishwasher?

00:27:30 Kelly Guest Does it matter?

00:27:31 John Host I feel like we're not even here, Jean. This is incredible.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

00:27:33 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:27:34 Andrew Guest It does matter! Because if you are indicating to me that you are going to re-use that glass, is one thing. But if you are saying "In a few moments, I'm going to put that into the dishwasher," and I—to be a good guy—put it in the dishwasher for you.

00:27:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jean:** Mmm. Mm-mm.

**John:** Mmmmmm, the good guy...

00:27:52 Andrew Guest Then we've both benefitted.

00:27:53 Jean Guest *[Whispers]* Andrew.

00:27:54 Andrew Guest You've not had to put the dish in the dishwasher.

00:27:55 Jean Guest *[Whispers]* Andrew.

00:27:56 Andrew Guest You were not going to re-use it. It was a dirty dish. I saved you a step, and I got the counter cleared.

00:28:02 Jean Guest *[Whispering]* Ohhh, boy...

00:28:03 John Host Question, Andrew. What is your profession? Professional hair-splitter?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:28:07 Andrew Guest Close enough. I'm a fundraiser.

00:28:09 John Host Oh! Alright! Does that require splitting hairs?

00:28:12 Andrew Guest Let's just say it requires looking at things from a lot of different perspectives.

00:28:17 John Host Alright. That's fair.

00:28:18 Jean Guest God. Andrew...

*[Multiple people laugh quietly.]*

Why is this an issue?! Why is this whole thing an issue? You've got all the right tools in place. All of them! *[Sighs.]* Is scolding a part of this show? It hasn't been before.

*[Kelly and John laugh.]*

But can we just put that in? Can I just have a one-on-one with Andrew at some point during this?

*[Andrew and Kelly laugh.]*

'Cause I—*[laughs]*.

00:28:44 John Host I will allow it. I will recuse myself.

*[Jean sighs, Andrew laughs.]*

00:28:47 Jean Guest Not yet.

*[John laughs.]*

Not yet.

00:28:49 John Host Okay.

00:28:50 Andrew Guest May I introduce one other item in the—what I think is germane to this story?

00:28:55 John Host Yeah! Of course.

00:28:58 Andrew Guest So, uh, our next-door neighbor has a snow blower.

00:29:01 John Host Okay.

00:29:02 Andrew Guest And in the winter, when it snows, he snow-blows our front walkway. We—

00:29:08 John Host That's very nice. This is the same neighbor?

00:29:09 Andrew Guest It is.

00:29:10 John Host These are the Flurbs?

00:29:11 Andrew Guest Yes, it's the Flurbs.

00:29:13 John Host James Flurbs?

00:29:13 Jean Guest Is it James or Lam-iss?

*[Kelly laughs.]*

00:29:15 John Host Let's say, uh, Lam-iss Flurb is the snow-blower.

00:29:19 Andrew Guest So, uh, Lam-iss will snow-blow our front walkway. The sidewalk and the front walkway. He'll do several on the street. We've never asked him to do that for us. We appreciate it, and I do not take it as a judgment that I haven't shoveled fast enough.

00:29:38 John Host Kelly, I see you want to jump in there.

00:29:40 Kelly Guest I do. So, I believe that Mister... Flurb—

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

—is doing our neighbor on the other side of our house. He goes down and does their entire walk, and front walk, and driveway apron. And so the reason he does our front walk—while it is very much appreciated and everything—it's because it's on the way.

00:30:04 Jean Guest Mm.

00:30:05 Kelly Guest To where he's going. And it would be a really—um...

*[Kelly and Jean laugh.]*

...really bad move to go around or to stop snow-blowing the—the 40 or so feet—

00:30:16 John Host And shove your snow-blower through your—right, yeah.

00:30:18 Kelly Guest *[Laughing]* Right.

00:30:19 John Host Well, I mean, it's truly a mystery for the ages what Mr. Flurb's motivations are. There's no way to ever know.

*[Jean laughs.]*

00:30:26 Kelly Guest And I've made him brownies for doing that.

00:30:28 John Host Really? Did you let him know that you did it?

*[John, Jean, and Kelly laugh.]*

00:30:32 Jean Guest Did you leave them in the counter in your house?

00:30:34 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Yeah, exactly. "These are for the Flurbs. But it's not appropriate for us to let them know." Yeah.

*[Jean and/or Kelly laugh.]*

Uh, so let me just make it—understand clearly, Andrew, before I give you a chance to respond. When Flurb snow-blows, it's the sidewalk in front of your home...

00:30:51 Andrew Guest Correct.

00:30:52 John Host But he in this case does not—he does not snow-blow your walkway up to your door or your driveway, right?

00:30:57 Andrew Guest No, that is correct.

00:30:59 John Host Right, okay. It is a Schrödinger's cat mystery as to whether Flurb is doing this as a favor to you, or just because it's more convenient to keep blowing, as it were.

00:31:09 Andrew Guest Correct.

00:31:10 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Keep on blowing, *[as an echo]* blowing, blowing, blowing...

**Jean:** I love that song.

00:31:13 Andrew Guest Much like our sidewalk being on the way to the other house, uh, the trash cans and putting them back are on the way to our house.

00:31:22 John Host Right, but you understand that I'm—

00:31:23 Andrew Guest So—

00:31:25 John Host —what you're doing is different, in the sense that you are going on—you're taking their property and going onto their property. Whereas the sidewalk is shared. It is communal to the neighborhood.

00:31:38 Andrew Guest Okay. I see that point, yes.

00:31:41 John Host These second exhibits, exhibits B and C...

00:31:43 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:31:45 John Host ...I—are adorable, and I just wanna discuss. First of all, there's a—they're essentially dramatic renderings.

*[Multiple people laugh quietly.]*

Of the situation in the house. The—your dog Penny here.

00:31:56 Andrew Guest

Mm-hm.

00:31:57 John Host

The caption is "This photo depicts our dog Penny stalwartly watching the street for trouble. Please note this work is exhausting, and sometimes Penny needs to rest her head," and Penny is resting her head on your couch, looking out that window. Staring, perhaps, with dismay, at that lone trash can.

And then we here—have here an action shot of—*[stifles laughter]* of frustration!

00:32:19 Jean Guest

Which I enjoy.

*[John and Kelly and/or Andrew laugh.]*

Now—

00:32:22 John Host

Kelly and Andrew looking out the window at that one trash can. Andrew's hands extended!

*[Someone laughs.]*

In a—

00:32:29 Jean Guest

Mm-hm.

00:32:30 John Host

—in almost a crucified position of dismay.

00:32:32 Jean Guest

Mm-hm.

00:32:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Kelly:** It's Penny and Andrew, but yeah.

**John:** "Augh!"

*[Kelly laughs.]*

**Jean:** I—

00:32:36 John Host

Like, what would be your vocalization there, Andrew, when you see that? Like, "WHAT the WHAT?"

00:32:40 Jean Guest

I believe that's a "Come onnn!"

00:32:42 John Host

"Come onnn!" That's right, that's a classic. "Come on."

00:32:45 Andrew Guest

That's exactly what it is, yeah.

00:32:46 John Host

"Come on."

00:32:47 Jean Guest

I have done this, this position, with our cat Littles, directly at many things outside of the window.

*[Someone or multiple someones laugh quietly.]*

So as soon as I saw this, I was like "I—*[sighs]*. I wanna tell him how much I relate." Except... there's such an easy fix.

*[Whispering]* Oh, Andrew...

*[Not whispering]* I feel you. But I don't feel you.

*[Everyone else laughs.]*

00:33:08	John	Host	Alright, Jean. I'm gonna ask Andrew to approach the bench for a quick—
00:33:11	Music	Music	Short, electric pulse.
00:33:12	John	Host	SCOLD sesh!
00:33:13	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John &amp; Jean:</b> Scold sesh!
00:33:15	John	Host	I'm going to recuse myself from this, Andrew. This has no bearing on what my decision may ultimately be. Um—but, uh, our guest bailiff has requested a scold sesh.
00:33:25	Jean	Guest	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Thank you.
00:33:26	John	Host	And, uh—and I think you're gonna get one. So...

*[Andrew laughs.]*

Please approach the bench.

00:33:29	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Scuffle. Footsteps.]</i>
00:33:32	Jean	Guest	Andrew. Um... I—I think this is probably the case, uh, where I can relate to something so much. I don't like things—and especially lone items, and especially after things are clean and you can see that things are clean—being left out. Making everything uncomfortable. It makes me very uncomfortable inside. I don't like a messy computer desktop. I'm like "Why can't you just—you can rein all that in."

And I learned that I—very early on in life, I'm like, hey, if something's bothering you, and it's—it feels like it's a reasonable thing to say, that a good thing to do is to be able to confront people about it. And it seems like you're taking those steps at home. I see that that happens. And then it seems like you might be living with a lot of frustration not being able to say things out of the home. And... you need to. It's okay. It's okay to say "Hey, something's bothering me." It's alright. It's not trespassing to do that. It is trespassing to actually trespass.

*[John and possibly someone else laugh quietly. Jean stifles laughter.]*

To physically use your body. But to verbally be able to do that... is something that's good for you. It's something that's good for relationships. It's something that's good for everyone. And as a person who would very much triple consider trespassing on anyone's grounds because... it's a very important thing that I had to learn, to be able to confront people. I really, really—I feel like we're all around the same age. You—you—you gotta do this, man.

*[A dog barks extensively in the background. Someone laughs quietly.]*

You can't—you—whoever that dog was is agreeing.

*[The dog barks again. Someone laughs quietly again.]*

			Thank you.
00:35:48	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> Is that... is that Penny?
			<b>Jean:</b> Is that Penny?
			<b>John:</b> Is that Penny in the background?
			<b>Kelly:</b> That is Penny, I apologize.
			<b>Jean:</b> Penny—
			<b>John:</b> No, don't apologize, I love Penny!
00:35:53	Jean	Guest	Penny is back there being like "Come on, man. Let's—"
			<i>[The barking continues. Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:35:57	John	Host	<i>[Imitating dog]</i> "Roo roo roo, yeah! <i>[More dog noises/indistinct speech.]</i> "
00:35:58	Jean	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Also doing a dog voice]</i> "Your—yeah! Wh—all the stuff she was saying! I was in the picture! That's—exactly!"
			<i>[The litigants laugh. Penny continues barking.]</i>
00:36:03	Music	Music	Short, electric pulse.
00:36:03	John	Host	DOG CAMEO!
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
			<i>[Back to regular voices.]</i>
00:36:05	Jean	Guest	I—what—however the judgment goes today, I just want you to leave here remembering not to stifle yourself anymore. 'Cause it can be really unhealthy! And... it's okay. To say things that you need to say.
			<i>[Beat.]</i>
00:36:28	Music	Music	Short, electric pulse.
00:36:29	Jean	Guest	END SCOLD SESH!
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:36:33	John	Host	Jean, what do you think—like, 'cause we all hate the idea of, for example, doing call banking.
00:36:40	Jean	Guest	Mm! Mm.
00:36:41	John	Host	Even for politicians who we love.
00:36:45	Jean	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:36:46	John	Host	Even when the election is perhaps the most high-stakes election in our lifetime, it is uncomfortable for us to call up our neighbors in the United States...
00:36:55	Jean	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:36:56	John	Host	...cold, and say "Hey, would you consider voting for this person,

rather than destroying what's left of civilization?"

00:37:02 Jean Guest

Yeah.

00:37:03 John Host

And often there is a script that goes along with it, that helps the person get into it.

00:37:11 Jean Guest

Mm-hm.

00:37:12 John Host

So if you were writing a script for Andrew—and Andrew, I'm not ruling in Kelly's favor, necessarily; I'm just hearing all the evidence. But I take Jean's scold sesh under advisement, and if you were to write a script for Andrew, what would you have him say or do in order to express himself productively and get the outcome that he wants?

00:37:33 Jean Guest

Well, I think forming it yourself is great. And you know how to do that, because you're in fundraising, and you don't get into fundraising without knowing how to get money out of people. Like... you're a salesman. You know what to do. However, I think it's really important to start with—because these are people you know, and people you've spoken to before, and it's not coming out of nowhere—is to say "Hey. I've got something that's been bothering me for a really long time. And I—I've been trying to work out, like, why I haven't said it before." I would even bring up the fact that this happened.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

'Cause what you don't want when you approach someone and start telling them something, and you're like "Hey, I've been thinking about it," and they might talk to other people and they're like "Have you been—did you do an entire—did you start a mini-series about this? Before you spoke to me?"

*[John laughs, Jean stifles laughter.]*

You wanna give them all the information. And you want everything to be out in the open, so that you guys can actually have a clean-slate relationship. So I think, you know, form your own thing, but the most important thing to include is to be completely honest about it! Even if it seems like what you're telling them might be unreasonable to them, it's not unreasonable to you.

00:38:51 John Host

Mm.

00:38:52 Jean Guest

That's really important.

00:38:53 John Host

So Andrew, if you went over to the Flurbs, or you waited until you saw them next time, sort of—whatever, and you said, uh... "Hi. Um, I just wanted you to know that—it's a small thing, and I'm sorry to bring it up, but... when you don't bring your bins back up, it just—it's a point of distraction to me. It's a me thing, but it's something that I notice, and I've even went to so far as to go on a podcast, almost literally trashing you about it."

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

"Do you mind bringing the cans back up? Or would you mind if I just brought them back up, if that would be easier?" Like, if you said that...

00:39:38 Jean Guest

Mm-hm!



00:39:39 John Host ...what do you think—what do you think would happen? What are you afraid might happen?

00:39:46 Andrew Guest I think that's judgmental, to my way of thinking? That I'm—that to me seems a little bit like a scold sesh for our neighbors, for not bringing their bins back up.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:39:55 Jean Guest But aren't you already doing that inside?

00:39:58 Andrew Guest See, I don't—I don't sincerely believe that that's what I'm doing inside.

00:40:03 Jean Guest Ah.

00:40:04 Andrew Guest I really don't think me putting the cans back is scolding my neighbors. Now, if my neighbors asked me to ever stop—if they saw me do that and said "Dude! Don't do that!" I wouldn't continue it. But to me, I sincerely believe that it's not a scolding as much as it's just being neighborly and we all benefit.

00:40:28 John Host So Kelly, if I were to rule in your favor, what would you have me rule?

00:40:31 Kelly Guest So, to be fair to Andrew, I—I'm not looking for him to confront the Flurbs. And I know you can't legislate thought. But... I just don't want it to bother him. I don't want him to get frustrated. I don't want him to make himself older than he is, and the street busybody.

*[John snorts, Kelly stifles laughter.]*

You know? I don't—I just would rather he see it as the small thing that it is, and that they have other things to worry about, and that... you know, to live and let live.

00:41:06 John Host So Andrew, have you done this yet? Or is this just a dream?

00:41:12 Andrew Guest Returning the cans?

00:41:13 John Host Yeah. To the Flurbs.

00:41:14 Andrew Guest Yes. I have done that, uh—I've done that at least once in Kelly's presence, and it did not go well.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:41:22 Kelly Guest I asked him not to.

00:41:23 John Host Right. And have the Flurbs ever acknowledged it?

00:41:26 Andrew Guest No.

00:41:27 John Host Have they ever said anything about it? No. Nothing.

00:41:29 Andrew Guest No.

00:41:30 John Host How many times would you say you have done it?

00:41:33 Andrew Guest I have not done it more than...

*[Long pause. Kelly and/or Jean laughs.]*

...six times.

00:41:39 John Host Okay. Just for a moment, Kelly, I want you to turn off your audio. Okay? So you can't hear. Go into a cone of silence. Kelly has taken

off her headphones, I can see that. It's a benefit of this new way of doing things. She can't hear what you're saying. Andrew, how many times, really? Twenty-five? Thirty? Thirty-five?

00:41:56 Andrew Guest

No, really! Uh—

00:41:57 John Host

Six?

00:41:58 Andrew Guest

Yeah, it's like six! Because I—it wasn't very long ago that I even started to do it. For a while I just... walked past.

00:42:08 John Host

Kelly can come back online. You have no—you have no idea how—he does this every day. Even when the cans aren't there.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

No. He verified that he has only done it the half dozen times.

00:42:21 Kelly Guest

I believe that.

00:42:22 John Host

Honestly, Guest Bailiff Jean Grae, this is truly something of a game changer for me! Because now it's written into the silent code of the neighborhood. Obviously this is not a neighborhood where people—

00:42:33 Jean Guest

Yeah.

00:42:34 John Host

—uh, express themselves to each other that much.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

And—

00:42:36 Jean Guest

Yeah. No. No. I need—I would love to go talk to the entire neighborhood.

00:42:39 John Host

*[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:42:40 Kelly Guest

If I may, what I would like to know is that if Andrew found his cans put back every day before he had a chance to get home...

00:42:52 Jean Guest

Mm.

00:42:53 Kelly Guest

...or before it was on his timeframe, how he would feel.

00:42:58 Music Music

Short, electric pulse.

00:42:59 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**John:** INCREDIBLE QUESTION! Question, question...

**Jean:** WHOA!

*[Kelly laughs quietly.]*

00:43:01 John Host

I'll allow it. Andrew, how would you feel if you came home and saw your cans having been can-handled by another person...

*[Kelly or Jean laughs.]*

...all up alongside your house, or where—whatever? You knew that someone else had been fondling your cans.

*[Andrew or Kelly laughs.]*

How would you feel?

00:43:18 Andrew Guest

I would not have a problem with that. If they—

00:43:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jean:** Mmm.

**John:** I have a real problem with it!

*[Kelly and/or Jean laugh.]*

00:43:23 John Host I'm thinking about it right now, and it feels weird to me! *[Stifles laughter.]*

Sorry go ahead.

00:43:26 Andrew Guest Yeah, I will say there's one small caveat, which is if somebody brought them up out of the street and put them onto my driveway alongside the house, which is not where I keep them, but it would—they're out of the street, I'd have no issue with it. We keep ours in the back yard. If they brought them through our gate and put 'em in our back yard, that would—yeah. That would skeeve me out a little bit.

00:43:44 John Host Mm-hm.

00:43:45 Jean Guest Would you—would you—

00:43:46 Andrew Guest But if somebody brought them—

00:43:47 Jean Guest Sorry, Andrew. I was just gonna ask if you would rather have them talk to you about it, rather than to touch them first.

*[Beat.]*

00:43:53 Andrew Guest ... Yeah!

00:43:54 John Host Hm!

00:43:55 Andrew Guest Yep!

00:43:56 Kelly Guest I'm not sure I believe that answer. *[Laughs.]*

00:43:58 John Host Well, I think I've heard enough in order to make my decision. I'm going to go in my Tuffrite plastic shed next to my chambers. Uh, sit here for a moment. Contemplate. I'll be right back in a moment with my decision.

00:44:11 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jean speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]*

00:44:12 Jean Guest Please rise slightly as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:44:18 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Door shuts.]*

00:44:19 Jean Guest Kelly, how are you feeling about this? How do you feel like it went?

00:44:23 Kelly Guest I'm feeling pretty good! Um, I don't—I don't wanna force Andrew into anything he doesn't wanna do in regards to confrontation, but as far as the nature of the case, I think I'm feeling pretty good.

00:44:35 Jean Guest Okay. Andrew? How are you doing? I've been pretty rough on you today.

00:44:39 Andrew Guest Yes. Uh—

*[Jean and/or Kelly laugh.]*

Two scold seshes have not made me feel great about my chances.

00:44:46 Jean Guest Mm-hm.

00:44:47 Andrew Guest I am hopeful that with two scold seshes, uh, I will have been informed enough by the court that perhaps the judge will see in my

favor.

00:44:57 Jean Guest We will see what Judge John Hodgman has to say about that. We'll be right back.

00:45:03 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:45:05 Promo Clip **Music:** Light, mid-tempo rock.

**Jesse Thorn:** Hey, MaxFunsters! It's Jesse Thorn. This week on my public radio interview show *Bullseye*, I'm talking with Tina Fey and Robert Carlock about creating *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, 30 Rock*, and also just kind of... why they're the best at everything. *[Laughs.]*

**Tina Fey:** There was a window of time when we—we'd just go to awards things and pick up our prizes and party with the people from *Mad Men*.

**Jesse:** You can find *Bullseye* at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org) or wherever you listen to podcasts. Just search for "Bullseye with Jesse Thorn."

*[Music finishes; cheers in background.]*

00:45:42 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:45:44 John Promo Guest Bailiff Jean Grae, we are in chambers taking a break from this case. What have you got going on? What are your plugs?

00:45:50 Jean Promo A lot of things. I love plugs. Three-prong, two-prong, any prong!

*[John snorts.]*

I've got a church. Church happens every other Sunday.

00:45:58 John Promo That happens on [your Twitch stream](#).

00:46:00 Jean Promo It happens on my Twitch. Um, I really like saying "Twitch." And, uh, it's—it's good! It's good for you. If the word "church" is throwing you off, don't let it. Just come for some good vibes and feels, and... and, uh—and change your life! You could do that.

00:46:16 John Promo Yeah! I've been to church both in—IRL and online.

00:46:21 Jean Promo Mm-hm.

00:46:22 John Promo And every time, you know, ba—so people will understand what they're gonna see on this Twitch stream—and it's [JeanOfTheGraes](#) is your Twitch channel, right?

00:46:30 Jean Promo Yes, it is.

00:46:31 John Promo Jean's gonna be standing in front of a virtual stained glass window with an image of Kermit the Frog on it. Something like that.

00:46:36 Jean Promo Maybe! Maybe.

00:46:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Yeah, it changes every time.

**Jean:** It changes.

00:46:39 John Promo That's the beauty of fake backgrounds.

*[Jean chuckles.]*

And you'll usually have a wonderful musical accompanist.

00:46:45 Jean Promo Yes.

00:46:46 John Promo Kwame Brandt-Pierce.

00:46:47 Jean Promo Mm-hm.

00:46:48 John Promo Or who did it last time? I forget the name of that—

00:46:50 Jean Promo Chris Keys did it last time.

00:46:51 John Promo Chris Keys. Yeah. Right.

00:46:52 Jean Promo Mm-hm.

00:46:53 John Promo You give a little sermon. There's a lot of fun in the chat accompanying the Twitch.

00:46:57 Jean Promo Mm-hm.

00:46:58 John Promo You—we sing songs.

00:46:59 Jean Promo There's a choir.

00:47:00 John Promo The choir dropped in last time.

00:47:02 Jean Promo Yeah.

00:47:03 John Promo It's real, and it's funny. And it's real, and it's funny.

00:47:07 Jean Promo Mm-hm. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:47:08 John Promo And it's, uh—it's all the emotions! And it's okay to feel emotions.

00:47:11 Jean Promo Yeah, it is.

00:47:13 John Promo And then Chris Keys has an album out. I'm—I'm gonna throw this plug.

00:47:17 Jean Promo Mm-hm.

00:47:19 John Promo An album out with your husband right now! Right?

00:47:21 Jean Guest Yeah, he does. It's called—

00:47:23 John Promo Quelle Chris and Chris Keys.

00:47:24 Jean Promo Yep! It's called *Innocent Country 2*. It is out right now, and it'll be out until, uh, nothing is out anymore! 'Cause that's how things work.

*[Both stifle laughter.]*

So—you don't even have to leave your house to get it! It's great.

00:47:36 John Promo If you wanna hear that album, where—where to go? [Bandcamp](#)?

00:47:39 Jean Promo Yeah.

00:47:40 John Promo Bandcamp—

00:47:41 Jean Promo You can go to Bandcamp, you can go anywhere I think!

00:47:42 John Promo Yeah.

00:47:43 Jean Promo Anywhere.

00:47:44 John Promo Quelle Chris and Chris Keys, and all—Google Jean Grae, and go to [her Bandcamp](#)! And listen to all the incredible multiple, multiple albums of music and spoken word genius that she's put out there!

00:47:55 Jean Promo Yeah. Will you be confused at first? Sure.

00:47:57	John	Promo	Yeah. But, you know, we all are.
00:47:59	Jean	Promo	That's what I like.
00:48:00	John	Promo	As for me, I've got <i>Get Your Pets</i> . I do it every week day. This is my Instagram Live show where I interview people's cats and dogs and other pets. I've had the immense pleasure of interviewing Littles, Jean's—
00:48:14	Jean	Promo	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Mm-hm!
00:48:15	John	Promo	—Jean's and Quelle's cat. It was one of the funniest things that has ever happened in my life.
00:48:19	Jean	Promo	Yeah.
00:48:20	John	Promo	I can't describe—I can't describe why I laughed so hard. You can't—it's like <i>The Matrix</i> . You gotta see it for yourself.
			<i>[Jean laughs.]</i>
			Unfortunately, that moment is lost to time, 'cause I do it Instagram Live and Stories, and it goes away after a while.
00:48:35	Jean	Promo	Like a memory!
00:48:36	John	Promo	So when you see me announce on <u>my</u> Instagram, <a href="#">@johnhodgman</a> , " <i>Get Your Pets</i> at four PM today," or " <i>Get Your Pets</i> at two PM today," or " <i>Get Your Pets</i> at <u>five</u> PM today," 'cause, you know, all days are different. Even though they don't <u>seem</u> that way right now. Please join us! It's a lot of fun, and it's—
00:48:50	Jean	Promo	It's very pure.
00:48:51	John	Promo	It's very—yeah! It's just—
00:48:53	Jean	Promo	It's a pure show.
00:48:54	John	Promo	It's a show of emotional support animal therapy. And, um—and we have a good time. So those are the things, aside from of course the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, which is ongoing and wonderful, thanks to Jesse Thorn and Jennifer Marmor, and this week Jean Grae! So!
00:49:10	Jean	Promo	<i>[Whispers]</i> Yeah!
00:49:11	John	Promo	Let's get back to the courtroom for <u>my</u> verdict!
00:49:13	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:49:15	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jean speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:49:16	Jean	Guest	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.
00:49:22	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:49:23	John	Host	Thank you, Kelly, Andrew, you may be seated.
00:49:25	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:49:26	John	Host	Andrew, I appreciate why you are... sensitive to the scold sesh. It's no fun. Scold seshes are no fun to receive. Or to give! But your argument that moving the trash bins <u>silently</u> is somehow not a scold? Mm-mm. No way. The story that you tell yourself, that you're being a nice guy? That's not what's going on.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Once when I was in my 20s and I worked at a literary agency, I shared a floor with two other cubicles. And the other young assistants on the floor, they did not get along all the time. And one of the complaints was the woman, who was not me, felt that the man, who was not me, smelled bad. BO. Body odor.

And one day—*[stifles laughter]* I hear her over the cubicle say to him "Hey. Um... something stinks around here! Uh, I happen to have this can of deodorant. Why don't we both put some on?"

*[John and someone else laugh.]*

And he got furious! 'Cause he knew what it was! It was a scold! She couldn't believe it, said "I was just trying to be nice to him!" Was not being nice! *[Laughs.]* You're correcting the universe the way you want it to be!

And I understand! This argument that you give about moving the glass before Kelly's done with it 'cause you're being nice to save her a step, or you're moving the bins 'cause you're being neighborly. That's the story you're telling yourself! You're moving these things because you want the universe to be a certain way. You are correcting the world to fit what you want it to be.

00:51:00 John

Host

Which I also get. A lot. I mean, I don't know if you guys saw the Kenneth Branagh *Murder on the Orient Express*. I never cared for Hercule Poirot. Me? I'm a Miss Marple guy! That's the way I've always been. To me, Hercule Poirot was just this... fatuous busybody show-off. Until I saw Kenneth Branagh step in a pile of manure. Some kind of feces. I don't know whether it was dog poop, or something, in the opening scenes.

He steps in—he's walking through the city, and he steps in dog poop, let's say it was. And the look on his face—'cause Kenneth Branagh's a professional actor; he's good at it.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Look on his face is so pained. And then he takes a step back, and then he puts his other foot in the dog poop. Because as he explains, "It's not the dirt that annoys me. It's the imbalance." And all of a sudden, Hercule Poirot became a real character for the first time in all of my experience of reading or watching these, uh, Hercule Poirot mysteries. Which goes back a long way, 'cause I'm a weird.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

And the problem is he is cursed with perception, and an intrinsic need for balance. And I'm not suggesting this is you, but once you understand that Poirot is working out of a compulsion to do what he has to do, it's not only merely a much more interesting character, but a much more human character. And he's channeling his compulsion for good.

Your living room acting in this shot is incredible. You're the Kenneth Branagh of frustration in the living room.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

This is obviously staged. I mean, Kelly, you did not capture this in the moment.

00:52:56	Kelly	Guest	I captured him with his arms <u>down</u> . They were—they—but then he lifted his arms, yes.
00:53:01	John	Host	Yeah, but who told him to lift his arms?
00:53:02	Jean	Guest	Mm.
00:53:03	John	Host	You're a great director; he's a great actor.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

But I feel in you this feeling of like, "Come onnn! I don't wanna look at this can anymore!" And that's fine! I don't think you should have to look at it, either! The Flurbs are flurbing up!

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Doesn't matter why they're doing it. They're—they're—they're flurbing up! They're not following the rules. And it's causing you distraction, and you have a right to take care of that.

And that's why, Kelly, I'm sorry to say, I cannot find in your favor. I can't compel Andrew to stop feeling the way he's feeling. 'Cause this is a deep thing! This is something he thinks about! And I don't think that it's necessarily bad that he's done this six times!

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Because the Flurbs don't seem to mind. The Flurbs don't give a flurb about anything!

*[Someone laughs.]*

Maybe. Which is all the more reason, Andrew, that it should not be a problem to just let them know that this is what you're doing. And get their permission. 'Cause you have to get their per—you can't. You can't! You can't be going on people's property with their property, touching their property! Without their permission. And it will be granted. I guarantee you. The Flurbs don't flurb it! They don't flurb.

*[Beat.]*

00:54:28	John	Host	I'm gonna rule—I can't rule in Kelly's favor. I'm gonna rule in your favor. I think you should do it! I think it's a neighborly thing to do. I think it's a <u>nice</u> thing to do. But the next time you do it, you have to say hi to them. Ding-dong, maybe. A little ding-dong. <u>Or</u> you can write a note. But just say "You may have noticed that I've moved your cans back from the curb a couple of times. I hope that that doesn't bother you. I'm glad to keep doing it, but if you would prefer me not to, I won't."
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And then see what they say. I'm sure they're gonna be like "Yeah, thanks for doing that work for me."

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

But it's just a—this is a principle of law. Like, it's a minor thing. But the fact that you did it for Aunt Edie before does not set a legal precedent for you to do it whenever. If I were really not on your side here, Andrew, I would have ordered Kelly—*[stifles laughter]* I would have told you to take your headphones out. In fact, you know what? Take your headphones out, Andrew. There we go. Turnabout is fair play.

*[Quietly]* Kelly. Sometime in the future... take your time. I want Andrew to forget all about this. I want him to forget that he ever—like, take years. By then, the Flurbs and you will be on great terms. It'll be great. And one day, without telling Andrew, I want you to take those bins in, and secretly put them by the side of the house before he can get to them. And document what he says about it.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

He's gonna be expecting it.

00:56:02 Kelly Guest

Right, right.

00:56:03 John Host

For weeks, months, maybe even a year. But when he's—when he doesn't notice, when he—this has receded into the back of his mind. Let me know what hap—do it. Let me know what happens.

*[Louder]* Alright, Andrew! You're good.

*[Beat.]*

We were just talking about how much we like you.

*[Kelly or Jean laughs.]*

00:56:19 Andrew Guest

Oh!

*[Kelly or Jean laughs.]*

00:56:20 John Host

This is the sound of a gavel.

00:56:21 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[Trash cans clattering.]*

00:56:24 John Host

Judge John Hodgman rules, that is all.

00:56:26 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[As Jean speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]*

00:56:27 Jean Guest

Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom again!

00:56:32 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[Door shuts.]*

00:56:33 Jean Guest

That's a lot of ins and outs. *[Sighs.]* Much like my feelings on this case. Kelly, how do you feel about this verdict?

00:56:42 Kelly Guest

I think it was fair. Um, and in good faith, and to meet Andrew where he's at, I'm willing to have the conversation with the—

00:56:53 Jean Guest

Mm-hm.

00:56:54 Kelly Guest

—with the Flurbs. So that he can do what he feels compelled to do.

00:56:59 Jean Guest I'm excited. I think this went well. I—I—I would have ruled differently. But then again, I'm a real judge.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:57:09 Andrew Guest Andrew, your feelings on this verdict?

I—I think the judge, uh, had great wisdom in the verdict. I think this is absolutely the correct thing to do. I think it leads with positivity. I think it, uh, allows everybody a graceful way to... not continue with this, if anybody's uncomfortable with it, but it also gives everybody a graceful way to continue with it if everybody's okay with it. I'm very pleased.

00:57:34 Jean Guest Thank you, Kelly. Thank you, Andrew. I'm so happy.

00:57:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Andrew:** Thank you!

**Kelly:** Thank you!

**Jean:** I'm so happy we got to this place.

00:57:40 Jean Guest Andrew, you can't touch others' stuff, fam. You can't. You can't. You can't.

*[Kelly laughs.]*

Get outta here.

00:57:44 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:57:46 Promo Clip **Music:** Tense sci-fi music.

*[Speaker 1 narrates in voiceover intercut with dialogue from the show.]*

**Speaker 1:** Strange planets, curious technology, and a fantastic vision of the distant future. Featuring Martin Starr.

**Martin Starr:** So we're going on day 14. Shuttle still hasn't come.

**Speaker 1:** Aparna Nancherla.

**Aparna Nancherla:** *[Cheerful and electronic]* The security system provides you with emotional security! You do the rest!

**Speaker 1:** Echo Kellum.

**Echo Kellum:** Can you disconnect me, or not?

**Speaker 1:** Hari Kondabolu.

**Hari Kondabolu:** I'm staying.

**Speaker 1:** From *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Geoffrey McGivern.

**Geoffrey McGivern:** Could you play Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"?

**Speaker 1:** It's *The Outer Reach: Stories from Beyond*.

**Speaker 2:** Now available for free at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), or anywhere you listen.

*[Music fades out.]*

00:58:30	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:58:33	Jean	Guest	<i>[Enthusiastically distorted]</i> Aaand that's another case in the boooks! In this voooice!
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Continuing the voice]</i> Before we dispense some—
00:58:39	John	Host	Jean!
00:58:40	Jean	Guest	<i>[Continuing the voice]</i> What?
00:58:41	John	Host	Jean, before—
			<i>[She laughs.]</i>
			Before we continue, let me just say what a delight it is to have you on again.
00:58:46	Jean	Guest	<i>[Regular voice]</i> Oh, it's always fun!
00:58:47	John	Host	Jean Grae, Church of Infinite You is every other Sunday afternoon?
00:58:52	Jean	Guest	That's right, because <u>every</u> Sunday is too much!
			<i>[Beat.]</i>
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:58:56	John	Host	Too much!
			And you can follow Jean Grae on Instagram at <a href="https://www.instagram.com/jeanniegrigio">@jeanniegrigio</a> , and on Twitter at <a href="https://twitter.com/JeanGreasy">@JeanGreasy</a> . I've got those memorized.
00:59:04	Jean	Guest	Thank you!
00:59:05	John	Host	Type "Jean Grae" into your Google machine.
00:59:08	Jean	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:59:09	John	Host	<a href="https://www.twitch.tv/jeanofthegraes">JeanOfTheGraes</a> on Twitch TV.
00:59:10	Jean	Guest	That's right.
00:59:11	John	Host	And that's Jean, J-E-A-N, of, T-H-E, G-R-A-E-S, 'cause you love the "A-E"s.
00:59:17	Jean	Guest	Aee.
00:59:18	John	Host	Just gotta get these plugs in before we get to Swift Justice so people know. Follow Jean. Find out when church is.
00:59:24	Jean	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:59:25	John	Host	Find out all the things that she's doing, 'cause everything she's doing is great.
00:59:28	Jean	Guest	Thank you! There's a couple more shows coming up, so be sure to

get ready for Sunday brunch, which is gonna be every Sunday that church is not. And, uh, I'll—*[laughs]* I'll be DJing and cooking a meal. Because I like to multitask. Also on Twitch.

00:59:47 John Host Jean Grae! Making work for yourself.

00:59:49 Jean Guest That's right.

00:59:51 John Host Yeah. Making it hard. Alright. Before we dispense some Swift Justice, we wanna thank Logan Green for naming this week's episode "Trash Action Lawsuit." If you would like to name a future episode, just "like" *Judge John Hodgman* on Facebook. We regularly put out a call for submissions there.

Follow us on social media! I am on Instagram at [@johnhodgman](#). I'm on Twitter at [@hodgman](#). And Jean, of course, [@jeangreasy](#), and on Instagram [@jeanniegrigio](#). We just talked about it. Hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](#). Check out the [Maximum Fun subreddit](#) to discuss the episode. Jean, I've been—I've been popping into the subreddit. Lot of nice people over there!

01:00:28 Jean Guest Mm-hm!

01:00:29 John Host And of course check out the [pictures](#) of Penny and of frustrated Andrew.

*[Jean chuckles.]*

On Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](#)! Where we regularly post the evidence and other fun stuff from our listeners. And thank you to Jennifer Marmor.

*[Jean claps and cheers.]*

Now, Jean. Since you are the guest bailiff...

01:00:46 Jean Guest Yeah.

01:00:47 John Host But, as we know, a real life judge.

01:00:50 Jean Guest Yes. Clearly.

01:00:52 John Host I'm gonna let you take Swift Justice!

01:00:53 Jean Guest Alright.

01:00:54 John Host I'm gonna pitch it to you. Now... I'm taking a break, as we go to Swift Justice! Where we answer your small disputes with a quick judgment.

Douglas says:

"My wife Molly loses her keys constantly, and refuses to use the key hook I hung up inside the door, even though she admits that it helps her keep track of her keys. Judge—" in this case, Jean Grae—

01:01:15 Jean Guest Mm!

01:01:16 John Host "—would you please order Molly to use the key hook?"

01:01:20 Jean Guest Molly! You gotta use that goddamn key hook! What are you doing?! You know what it's for? It's for hooking your keys on! So you don't lose 'em! All you gotta do is start a routine. Use that! Use the key hook, Molly!

Judgment.

01:01:34	John	Host	It's true that if you know that you're losing your keys all the time, and you know that the hook helps, you <u>got</u> to put the keys on the hook! And it's the same thing—you build new habits in life!
01:01:45	Jean	Guest	You build new habits.
01:01:46	John	Host	It's possible! It's possible.
01:01:47	Jean	Guest	You—it only takes three times!
01:01:48	John	Host	Right!
01:01:49	Jean	Guest	After the third time that you put those keys on the hook, it's a thing!
01:01:52	John	Host	That's about it for this week's episode! Submit your cases at <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/jjho">MaximumFun.org/jjho</a> . Or email <u>me</u> , hodgman@maximumfun.org. That's hodgman@maximumfun.org. I get those emails. I read 'em. I sort 'em. I can't reply to all of them. I try. But—but my eyes will pass over them! And I know that this is true: there is no case too small. There is only cases too medium.
			We'll see you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast! That's Jean Grae, everybody! See ya next tiime!
01:02:22	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:02:24	Music	Transition	A cheerful guitar chord.
01:02:25	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:02:26	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:02:28	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:02:29	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.