

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:02	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week, clearing the docket. And with me as always is the Barbecue King of Brooklyn, New York—
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			—Judge John Hodgman.
00:00:15	John Hodgman	Host	That's not anywhere <u>near</u> —well, maybe—no, not anywhere <u>near</u> true!
00:00:20	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> There's a lot of barbecue—
00:00:21	John	Host	Yeah!
00:00:22	Jesse	Host	As soon as I said that out loud, I remembered that the food trend of Brooklyn eight years ago was barbecue restaurants.
00:00:29	John	Host	Yeah, yeah, yeah! They realized— <i>[laughs]</i> that if you put a brisket in a smoker for a day, it becomes money. Like, it's—
00:00:37	Jesse	Host	Yeah. <i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:00:39	John	Host	Like, people in Brooklyn will line up for <u>days</u> to eat Texas-style smoked brisket. And it's not—there are <u>so</u> many places now, it's—there is no Barbecue King! This is a barbecue Game of Thrones over here!
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			There's just <u>so</u> many kings!
00:00:58	Jesse	Host	As we record this, we can see each other from across the nation thanks to the magic of Internet.
00:01:03	John	Host	Yeah.
00:01:04	Jesse	Host	And, uh, you're wearing a Fox Barbecue hat—
00:01:06	John	Host	That's right.
00:01:07	Jesse	Host	—from Atlanta, Georgia, that was a gift to us when we performed in Atlanta!
00:01:11	John	Host	That's right! Our friend Chuck Bryant from the <i>Stuff You Should Know</i> podcast dropped by with some <u>really</u> nice barbecue before our Atlanta show. This was back during the before times, when we could meet each other and eat in front of each other.
00:01:25	Jesse	Host	Yeah, and hug Chuck Bryant.
00:01:26	John	Host	And, uh—and hug Chuck Bryant. But that's an—and by the way, that's a top—that's one of the top hugs.
00:01:30	Jesse	Host	Yeah, it's a dream hug.
00:01:32	John	Host	And he gave us both Fox Brothers Barbecue baseball hats. And I was saying to you before we started recording, I'm quite fond of it, even though it's a <u>low</u> hat. I've got a—I like a hat with a—I like a baseball hat with a lotta height.
00:01:45	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:01:46	John	Host	I—you know, I grew—I—

00:01:47 Jesse Host A ten-gallon baseball hat.

00:01:48 John Host Yeah, ten-gallon baseball hat! Because unless I've got a high hat on, my hair is limp. And it's—looks painted on. And then my round Charlie Brown face looks terrible. Unless I have a little height on my hat, and a little length in my beard. And then I—finally I have a rectangular face.

00:02:07 Jesse Host You're a very handsome guy, Judge Hodgman.

00:02:08 John Host You—hey, you know what? You're very handsome. Jennifer Marmor, I can see you as well. Look, physical beauty is nothing compared to who we are inside. Especially now that I've been eating so much Biscoff Butter.

[Jesse laughs.]

You know about Biscoff Butter, you guys?

00:02:23 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* That's—that's like a cookie spread?

00:02:26 John Host Yeah! Yeah, remember when we used to be able to fly around the country to go places? And—

00:02:30 Jesse Host Sure.

00:02:31 John Host Yeah. And sometimes on the airplane, especially if you flew Delta, which I did, they'd hand you European Biscoff Cookies?

00:02:39 Jesse Host Sure, they're tasty cookies.

00:02:40 John Host Yeah. Turns out they sell it as a butter. Jennifer Marmor, did you know that?

[Pause.]

She's nodding.

00:02:45 Jesse Host She's nodding yes.

00:02:46 John Host We would—look. If it weren't for what's going on in the world, I would never have been able to see Jennifer Marmor nod. So that's a— that's a plus.

[John and Jesse laugh.]

Anyway, a lot of Biscoff Butter in our house right now. Jesse, it's so nice to see you! And to talk to you. Because as of this day, this recording... we, the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast program, is a Webby Award Winner!

00:03:16 Jesse Host Congratulations to we.

00:03:17 John Host *[Laughs.]* Congratulations to we, all of us! And thank you very much to you, the Webbys, and to you listeners and litigants and expert guests and supporters and guest bailiffs and everyone else, and sponsors! I happened to have a different teleconference during the Webby Awards. So—

[Both laugh.]

So I had to send in Tom Hanks to accept it for me.

00:03:40 Jesse Host Sure.

00:03:41 John Host Oh, that would have been a great gag. Why didn't I think about that? I couldn't get Tom Hanks, but I betcha I could've gotten Nick Offerman to do it.

00:03:47 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:03:48 John Host Shoot. Well, maybe next year. But meanwhile, Jesse Thorn, I'm here in my chambers and I'm crawling out of this huge swag bag that the Webbys sent me!

[Jesse laughs.]

Did you get one?

00:04:02 Jesse Host I—no, I didn't get a swag bag!

00:04:04 John Host Ughhh, I'm so mad at them! The—I mean, the Webby gift bag... you know, they talk about the Oscar gift bag being pretty lux, but the Webby gift bag is amazing! 'Cause you know, the Webbys are the Internet's—*[stifles laughter]* the Internet's premier award. Founded in 1996. So they sent me this huge bag, and guess what's in it?

00:04:26 Jesse Host Flooz. *[Stifling laughter]* The Internet currency.

00:04:28 John Host *[Laughs.]* Good pull. Good pull. *[Laughs.]*

00:04:32 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Thank you. Courtesy of FogDog.com.

00:04:36 John Host There you go. *[Stifles laughter.]* Oh, man, that brings me back!

I was gonna start with a case of Jolt and a case of Surge.

00:04:42 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:04:43 John Host Plus a Motorola StarTAC.

00:04:45 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Mm-hm?

00:04:46 John Host An original gold beta CD-ROM of *Duke Nukem 3D*.

[Jesse laughs.]

A crate of 200 random—this was weird, that it was random—random print edition issues of *PC World* magazine.

00:04:59 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:05:01 John Host A DVD copy of Sandra Bullock's *The Net*, delivered by Cosmo.com. Didn't know they were still around.

00:05:08 Jesse Host Wow!

00:05:09 John Host And this is a—I mean, this thing is collectible! This is the original Pets.com sock puppet.

00:05:14 Jesse Host Wow!

00:05:15 John Host Yeah. And what's—

00:05:16 Jesse Host Did it come with Michael Ian Black?

00:05:18 John Host Just his hand. *[Laughs.]*

00:05:20 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah, wow. I'm gonna send him—*[stifles laughter]*. I'm gonna send Michael a note, and let him know if cauterization is on us.

00:05:28 John Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]* Yeah, I'm really—it's a little gruesome, honestly,

but...

00:05:33 Jesse Host Eh, but collectible!

00:05:34 John Host That's—I think the fact is he wouldn't give it up.

00:05:38 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:05:39 John Host Do you know what I mean?

00:05:40 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:05:41 John Host And honestly, knowing Michael Ian Black a little bit—wonderful guy.

00:05:45 Jesse Host Really nice man.

00:05:47 John Host But if he still had that sock puppet and they came for it, I think he wouldn't give it up. Think he'd fight for it.

00:05:51 Jesse Host *[Sighing/whispering]* Yeah. Yeah...

00:05:52 John Host They'd have to take—they'd have to hold him down. Take it off by force.

00:05:55 Jesse Host Yeah. All I got in mine was just one copy of *Computer Currents* magazine.

00:06:00 John Host Mm-hm.

00:06:01 Jesse Host But! I've been dialing into BBSes all day.

00:06:04 John Host *[Laughs.]* What was your first email address? Do you remember?

00:06:08 Jesse Host *[Exhales thoughtfully.]* I don't remember what it was. But I went to this, like, fanc—very fa—I was the scholarship kid. I should be clear. At a very fancy private middle school.

00:06:17 John Host Mm-hm.

00:06:18 Jesse Host That had Internet and email before the web.

00:06:22 John Host Yeah.

00:06:23 Jesse Host So this would be 19—I got my first email address in 1992.

00:06:27 John Host Whew!

00:06:28 Jesse Host And, uh, we had to use... Pine. Do you remember something called Pine?

00:06:33 John Host I do. I remember that. I remember that.

00:06:36 Jesse Host Pine, and then you could dial into the school.

00:06:38 John Host Yeah.

00:06:39 Jesse Host And connect with your modem.

00:06:40 John Host Yeah.

00:06:41 Jesse Host And then, uh, you could get on Pine—

00:06:44 John Host Right.

00:06:45 Jesse Host —and then you could send messages to the other sixth-graders.

00:06:50 John Host *[Exhales thoughtfully.]* Wow!

00:06:51 Jesse Host That was the only people you knew that had email addresses at the time, was the—your fellow sixth-graders.

00:06:57 John Host Yeah. My first email address was assigned to me in college, and I think it was a series of numbers. It looks like an autogenerated

password that Google would make for you now. It's like—random numbers.

00:07:12 Jesse Host Some of our listeners don't know where you went to college, but you went to the University of Prodigy.

00:07:16 John Host

At—*[laughs]*.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

That's right. At dear old CompuServe U.

[Jesse laughs.]

And, uh, the only person I knew who had an address was my oldest friend in the world, Damon Graff, who I've known since we were three. So I sent him two messages and got two back.

But then I got Internet in my room in college at the dorm, and I've told this story before. I was just sitting in my room, quietly, hunting and pecking at my Macintosh SE.

00:07:47 Jesse Host

Mm-hm.

00:07:48 John Host

And I heard a faint... scratching. Not even a knock, a scratching on my door. And I opened it, and the—and the—and the tall, impossibly skinny wraith of a dude who I knew as the Inter—the computer guy, the computer enthusiast in the dorm, said "Would you like to have the Internet in your room?"

And I'm like, "Yeah, okay."

And he ran a cord in, and he put it into my computer, and he showed me how to dial up bulletin boards and stuff. And it was all print, obviously. No in—no—this was—this would have been 1992. Right? It was all print, no visuals whatsoever. And the first two things I found were a group having a heated discussion as to whether or not, uh, Harrison Ford's character in *Blade Runner* was an android or a human.

00:08:43 Jesse Host

Mm-hm.

00:08:44 John Host

Fights, about that.

00:08:45 Jesse Host

Sure. Right.

00:08:47 John Host

And then the other thing I just found was just people trading prose erotica.

[Jesse laughs.]

I was like... "Huh!" And the Internet has never changed. It's exactly that, still.

[Both laugh.]

People fighting over nerd stuff, and, uh, hugging and kissing. But thank you, the Webbys!

00:09:03 Jesse Host

Thank you, Webby Awards.

00:09:04 John Host It's—I mean, it's re—it just, you know, this is a... I was quite surpri—I mean, I was surprised to learn we were nominated. And very surprised to learn we won, and in particular in this context of where we are in the world today. Just, every little bit helps! It really lightened my day. And, um—

00:09:23 Jesse Host It's always good to know that you beat Will Ferrell at something.

00:09:27 John Host Yeah. And thanks, obviously, to all of the listeners who expressed their support on the Webbys website. Did you know that the Webbys have a website?

[Beat.]

00:09:35 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:09:36 John Host Yeah.

00:09:37 Jesse Host Website.com, I think.

00:09:38 John Host Webs—*[laughs]* website dot... What do you think is on Website.com? We'll talk to—we'll get to justice in one second, but I gotta—I gotta know.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

Website.com... Yeah! Guess what? It—you can create a website. *[Laughs.]* That's all.

00:09:52 Jesse Host Yeah. Yeah. The only, uh, website our listeners should be visiting—besides MaximumFun.org—is Zombo.com. That's advice from me in 1999 to you now, 21 years later.

00:10:06 John Host Uh-huh.

00:10:07 Jesse Host It's still rolling. Zombocom.

00:10:08 John Host Uh-huh.

00:10:09 Jesse Host Let's get into some justice, John! Here's something from Brian. He says:

"My wife Samantha never caps pens or clicks them closed. This dries them out, and then I have to throw them away. She claims it makes them easier to access. I feel uncapping a pen takes milliseconds at most. I would like you to order an injunction stipulating my wife is only allowed to leave her pens uncapped, and for my pens to be left capped when not in use."

00:10:40 John Host *[Sighs/groans quietly.]* Can we go back to talking about Zombo.com? This guy's upset 'cause his pens are dry?

00:10:46 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:10:47 John Host Alright.

00:10:48 Jesse Host His pens are dry. Ah, he's probably got some stray marks to deal with as well.

00:10:52 John Host *[Scoffs quietly.]* I—this is a—this is clearly a felt-tip sitch, right?

00:10:56 Jesse Host It must be, because I don't think the rollerballs are drying out to an appreciable extent. Certainly not to the extent that they have to be discarded.

00:11:04 John Host Right.

00:11:05 Jesse Host Are these, like, dry-erase markers?

[John laughs quietly.]

That's the ones that really dry out.

00:11:09 John Host They do! It's right there in the name.

00:11:10 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:11:11 John Host What kind of pen do you use around the house or in the office? When you're writing by hand, what do you use? What—it doesn't have to be a pen. Could be a crayon, sten—a pencil.

00:11:23 Jesse Host I have a couple of, uh, nice pens that I like to use.

00:11:27 John Host Uh-huh. Go on.

00:11:29 Jesse Host I like a Kaweco Sport. Which is a—

00:11:32 John Host Ooh!

00:11:33 Jesse Host —an affordable, compact fountain pen.

00:11:36 John Host Ooh!

00:11:38 Jesse Host I like that a lot. I have a fancy fountain pen, too, that I got through menswear connections long ago.

00:11:45 John Host Uh-huh.

00:11:47 Jesse Host But the main—the—and the Kaweco Sport is a great pen, a cartridge fountain pen. It—the—there's plastic ones that cost like \$20, and then I think mine is brass and it cost a little more than that, but not much more.

But the pen that I use on a day-to-day basis is the one that was recommended to me by avo!—you know, as we've talked about many, many times on *Judge John Hodgman—Wirecutter*.

00:12:09 John Host Yeah.

00:12:10 Jesse Host Which is a Uni-ball Signo.

00:12:13 John Host Oh!

00:12:14 Jesse Host And, uh, it's a very nice pen! And it writes beautifully. And very affordable.

00:12:19 John Host My wife, who is a high school teacher, likes a fountain pen. I find them to be too scratchy.

00:12:27 Jesse Host Mm.

00:12:28 John Host But that's just a matter of taste. And then she also likes those pens that are like, really fi—like, fine-tipped?

00:12:36 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:12:37 John Host Like—do you know what I mean? Like, I don't know if there's felt up there, or—I don't think a ball could be that small! It like—it's like writing with the edge of—the end of a needle. Do you know that kind of pen?

00:12:47 Jesse Host Yes. I know exactly the kind of pen you're talking about.

00:12:49 John Host Also very scratchy to me. I like a smooth thing, so I—I treated myself recently to a box of Pilot G2s, one millimeters, which are the bold.

And those were always my go-to, but I think I got a dud box, 'cause these are not good enough. These aren't—these aren't laying down the ink I like. I like a nice bold thing.

00:13:08 Jesse Host

Wow. Yeah, well, you're a bold man!

00:13:12 John Host

Yeah! I am bold. Right. So, in any case, this—uh, yeah! Um, Samantha doesn't cap the pens. They dry out. He has to throw them away. She doesn't cap them 'cause she claims this makes them easier to access.

[Pause.]

I don't know. Samantha, come on. I mean...

[Both laugh.]

That's kinda of a... crummy excuse. Like, there's—it's hard to justify not capping a pen. It's a pretty easy thing to do. And you know, maybe when we lived in an age of true abundance, when we could go out to the stationery store or press a button on the Internet we were talking about earlier—head over to Zombo.com—and get a pen delivered to your door within five seconds... you might be able to justify just, like, rolling through pens. The sheer wasteful materialism of rolling through pens that you can't bother to re-cap.

But there's nothing good about the situation we're in, except a moment of reflection to say "Oh! I should be more mindful of the resources that I use." Don't let your pens dry out, Samantha! That's what I say! Keep 'em closed! Preserve whatcha got! Don't let it slip through your fingers!

00:14:43 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:14:44 John Host

Am I right, or am I wrong, Jesse Thorn?

00:14:46 Jesse Host

You're absolutely right. And frankly, I don't think they're probably drying out all that much, but I do think that they almost certainly are leaving stray marks.

[John laughs.]

And I cannot abide by stray marks.

00:14:57 John Host

Do you know in the original draft of *Edward Scissorhands*, it was, uh, *Edward Felt-Tip Hands*?

[Laughs quietly.]

00:15:02 Jesse Host

[Stifling laughter] No, I did not know that!

00:15:04 John Host

True story.

00:15:05 Jesse Host

'Cause in the actual movie he's a rollerball, is that correct?

00:15:08 John Host

[Laughs.] That's right.

00:15:11 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:15:12 John Host

Uh, yeah. Leaving stray marks. Stray marks.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

I don't like felt-tips—

00:15:15 Jesse Host Cynthia—

00:15:16 John Host I don't like felt—by the way, I'm just gonna say this. I don't like felt-tip pens, either.

[Beat.]

00:15:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** How do you feel about felt-tip?

Jesse: Wow. What about a permanent marker?

00:15:23 John Host I love a Sharpie.

00:15:25 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:15:26 John Host I do love a Sharpie.

00:15:27 Jesse Host It's very satisfying to be able to write on anything. Feel like a king.

00:15:30 John Host That's right! Feel—

00:15:31 Jesse Host Or a monarch.

00:15:32 John Host Feel like a Barbecue King of Brooklyn. Alright, what does Cynthia have to say?

00:15:35 Jesse Host "I'd like to have the judge preside over a pressing household issue regarding wearing shorts during winter inside the house. My husband starts wearing them in January."

[John snorts.]

"We live in New York."

00:15:48 John Host Jesse... sartorial klaxon.

00:15:51 Jesse Host Yes.

00:15:52 John Host You know about how men dress up.

00:15:53 Jesse Host *[Sighing]* Yeah, I do.

00:15:55 John Host Shorts... in the house. When is it okay, in your opinion?

[Long pause. A dog in the background.]

00:16:05 Jesse Host *[Sighs.]* John...

00:16:10 John Host Yeah.

00:16:11 Jesse Host Everyone has their own path through the world.

00:16:17 John Host Mm-hm!

00:16:18 Jesse Host Each one among us makes our own choices.

[More barking.]

00:16:24 John Host What have you done with my bailiff? *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:16:26 Jesse Host We each live with the consequences of those choices.

00:16:31 John Host Yes?

00:16:33 Jesse Host And some people love to wear shorts.

00:16:36 John Host Mm-hm!

[Pause.]

00:16:39 Jesse Host My college roommate Mike...
00:16:41 John Host Mm-hm.
00:16:42 Jesse Host ...did not own pants.
00:16:44 John Host Mm!
00:16:45 Jesse Host Now, he was—and is—a powerfully built, relatively short Filipino man.
00:16:53 John Host Mm-hm.
00:16:54 Jesse Host And had spectacular calves. I know you're quite proud of your calves, John, and rightly so.
00:17:00 John Host I'm arguably the Calf King of Brooklyn. That I could say, for sure.
00:17:05 Jesse Host Mike Manuel, the Calf King of Hayward, California—
00:17:10 John Host Fair.
00:17:11 Jesse Host —had beautiful calves, and wore his shorts well. *[Stifling laughter]* And his mom had to buy him a pair of pants when he went home for a wedding or something.
00:17:18 John Host Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
00:17:20 Jesse Host But through the winter of Santa Cruz, California, he wore shorts, even in the rain.
00:17:24 John Host Mm-hm!

[Beat.]

00:17:27 Jesse Host But he was a s—he was—*[sighs]*. I mean, John, what do you THINK I think about this?!

[John cracks up.]

I think... put some pants on! It's not so bad to wear pants! It's FINE to wear pants! It's perfectly fine to wear pa—I do not understand this compulsive need to—this like, *[whimpering cartoonishly]* "Ohh! If—if I wear pants—ohh! Ohhh! Ohhhh! My calves will be too hot!"

[John laughs. Jesse drops the voice.]

Look! If it's really hot outside, and you're walking around outside, wear shorts! I have shorts! I live in Los Angeles! It's hot in the summer! I hate the heat! I wear shorts. I'm not nuts about it.

[John laughs.]

But I do it! But it's not gonna kill you to wear pants!

00:18:17 John Host Listening to you work really hard at being... tolerant and accepting of other people's leg-covering, when this is truly your area of expertise, it was a—it was fun. It was a little upsetting. As I said. I don't know whether that was Coco or Sissy in the background barking.

[Jesse laughs.]

But clearly your dogs were upset about this. They're like, "What—what is ha—who is—what—what has happened to my master?"

[Laughs quietly.]

00:18:44 Jesse Host John, here's—

00:18:45 John Host "Who is this pod person who has replaced him?"

00:18:47 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* Here's what happened! I'm thinking about the cargo shortsmen in my life.

00:18:51 John Host Yes.

00:18:52 Jesse Host And how much I love them. I'm thinking about Chuck Bryant.

00:18:55 John Host Chuck Bryant.

00:18:56 Jesse Host A cargo shorts enthusiast. I'm thinking about Justin McElroy!

00:18:59 John Host Yep.

00:19:00 Jesse Host Who—I'm sure Justin McElroy's worn cargo shorts in the snow. And God bless him, I love Justin McElroy.

00:19:06 John Host Yeah, of course.

00:19:07 Jesse Host A brilliant man, a wonderful talent, a handsome guy, a charmer. A delight. And at home... in his cargo shorts.

00:19:15 John Host Mm-hm.

00:19:17 Jesse Host And I don't wanna prevent anyone from living their life their way. But I can say it's not a choice that I would make, John. It's not a choice that I would make.

00:19:26 John Host *[Sighs.]* I have feelings about this. Because... you know, we're living in a difficult time. I am currently... wearing track pants.

00:19:40 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Oh, wow!

00:19:41 John Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:19:43 Jesse Host I can only see you from the waist up! I'd like to see you in a—in a full tracksuit! "Mandelbaum, Mandelbaum, Mandelbaum!"

[Both laugh.]

00:19:54 John Host I mean, there was a time on this podcast that I said if—you know, if you are wearing elastic-waist pants in a non-athletic situation, that you are committing a crime against your adulthood. Because you are devolving into baby form.

I had a pair of track pants when this started. And I realized that I was gonna be eating a lot of Biscoff Butter.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

And I also realized I needed some what Paul F. Tompkins and Janie Haddad Tompkins—co-hosts of the great *Stay F. Homekins* podcast—what they call soft clothes. What others call loungewear or athleisure. Because I was just gonna be around the house a lot. And I needed to build in a lot of napping, to cope with this.

So not only did I start wearing track pants more, I bought extra pairs of them! For the first time in my life, I bought sweatpants, and I'll

wear 'em around the house!

[Beat.]

I'll tell you what, though. They're not shorts. *[Laughs quietly.]* Drew the line.

00:21:05	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
00:21:06	John	Host	Drew the line!
00:21:07	Jesse	Host	John, I own—I own sweatpants! I wear 'em around the house!
00:21:10	John	Host	Yeah.
00:21:11	Jesse	Host	Soft clothes!
00:21:12	John	Host	Soft clothes. 'Round the house. Oh, it's just so nice! I <u>love</u> to feel... my shapely, muscular calves, comforted and <u>consoled</u> by the soft heather gray of some Adidas track pants. I don't want them flopping around!

That said, we're all doing the best we can. I appreciate that this is not a new habit for Cynthia's partner. This is something that probably goes back years and years, back when—before we were at home all the time. If we're lucky enough to be able to do so.

So I will say that as long as we are safer at home, observing stay-at-home recommendations, orders, regulations, whatever they are in whatever state or county you live in, I'll give anybody a pass for anything that they wanna wear at home.

[Beat.]

I put on shorts the other day, and I was so—I was so, so surprised and grateful that I could still fit into them. Boy, oh boy.

[Jesse laughs.]

'Cause it was hot. Um, but yeah. I think I share your, uh, baseline dislike, I think, of grown men wearing shorts as basic wardrobe. Unless they are living in a tropical environment. Like Atlanta, Georgia. I'll give Chuck a pass on that. Atlanta summers, you don't wanna mess with those.

00:22:40	Jesse	Host	Huntington, West Virginia, home of Justin McElroy.
00:22:42	John	Host	Yeah. Yeah.
00:22:44	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Hayward, California, <i>[non-committal "hmmm"-esque noise]</i> .
00:22:46	John	Host	Yeah. Culturally, there are different places where you can wear shorts all the time, inside and out.
00:22:51	Jesse	Host	Yeah. All Filipinos get a pass from me. Shorts <u>and</u> flip flops.
00:22:55	John	Host	Yeah. I would not wear shorts to a cocktail party, unless it was summertime and outside and hot. Otherwise I would wear pants. It's—the thing of it is, the thing I'm getting hung up on here, Jesse, I realize, is that there is a certain kind of guy in the Northeast and in New England...

00:23:14	Jesse	Host	Oh, yeah.
00:23:15	John	Host	...a region of five states and one commonwealth in the—in the—in Southeastern Canada. Where guys will wear shorts <u>inside</u> during the winter, and <u>outside</u> during the winter.
00:23:28	Jesse	Host	Wow.
00:23:29	John	Host	And <u>that</u> is something I <u>do not</u> care to see. The guys who are wandering around Greenfield, Massachusetts in December or February in shorts? They tend to seem to be at the end of a long, sad story.
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
			Walking down the—walking down the middle of a—not the middle of the road, but walking down a sidewalk in a car-travel town like Greenfield, <u>walking</u> , and wearing shorts... out of a bar? That's what I associate wearing shorts in the winter with. And it's not—I don't <u>know</u> what these guys are going through. I don't know <u>why</u> they like it. But it tends to be guys that I think are going to... dislike <u>me</u> , and say mean things to me, in my historic growing up in New England.
			So I don't wanna put that on Cynthia's husband. If he needs to wear shorts inside during the winter, especially now, I'm gonna grant him a stay of judgment. But if he's wearing those shorts <u>outside</u> during the winter? No. Come on, dude. Dress appropriately for the weather.
00:24:36	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:24:39	Jesse	Host	Let's take a quick break. A dispute... with song! is coming up on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:24:46	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:24:49	Promo	Clip	James Arthur: Hi, I'm James, host of <i>Minority Korner</i> , which is a—?
			Speaker 1: Podcast that's all about intersectionality. It's hosted by James with a guest host every week.
			Speaker 2: Discussing all <u>sorts</u> of wonderful issues; nerdy and political.
			Speaker 3: Pop culture—
			Speaker 1: Black, queer feminism.
			Speaker 4: Race. Sexuality.
			Speaker 5: News.
			Speaker 6: You're gonna learn your history. There's self-empowerment. And it's told by what feels like your best friend.
			Speaker 2: Why should someone listen to <i>Minority Korner</i> ?
			Speaker 7: Why not?
00:25:12	Promo	Clip	Speaker 8: Oh my god. Free stuff.

James: There's not free stuff.

Speaker 1: The listeners of *Minority Korner* will enjoy some necessary LOLs, but mainly a look at what's happening in our world through a colorful lens.

Speaker 2: People will get the perspective of... marginalized communities.

Speaker 1: I feel heard. I feel seen.

Speaker 9: Like you said, you need to understand how to be more proactive in your community, and this is a great way to get started.

James: Join us every Friday on MaxFun, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Multiple speakers: [Minority Korner!](#) Because together, we're the majority.

00:25:39 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:25:42 Jesse Host

Welcome back to the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. We're clearing the docket this week. And we have something from Sylvie.

"Dear Judge Hodgman,

Please help me. My husband Trevor is a sponge-leaver. We live in an apartment with no dishwasher, and we love to cook, so we generate a lot of dishes. When my husband washes the dishes, he inevitably leaves the wet, sudsy sponge in the sink, where it festers, mildews, and mingles with whatever bits of food get rinsed off of incoming dishes. It's intolerably disgusting to go to wash up and find a cold, wet, smelly, dirty sponge in the sink."

00:26:18 John Host

Jesse? Jesse, let me just pause you there for one second to point out... this is the part of the letter—you know, you send in your submissions to MaximumFun.org/jjho, or simply write hodgman@maximumfun.org. I get all the submissions, I get all the letters, and I read 'em—I read 'em all! I try to respond to all of them. And chances are if you have not heard back from me, it's because I have filed it over to Jennifer Marmor to consider for the docket or for the live litigant cases, or whatever. And I'm—you'll hear back from us that way.

But I have been getting disputes from people fighting about how to do the dishes, for—every week, for ten years. It is such a common dispute, and one that I vowed privately that I would never hear again on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast, in any form. Docket, Swift Justice, live litigant, whatever it is. It's settled. It's dumb.

But... then I read this next sentence. And I decided we had to hear this one. Please, continue.

00:27:24 Jesse Host

"I have begged and pleaded, and even composed a shaming song—"

[John cracks up.]

"—about the travails of being a sponge-leaver's wife. Having observed my father-in-law's treatment of sponges, I suspect that his behavior might be genetic. But I beg for intervention, nonetheless. I would like you to order my husband to wring out the sponge and put it on the side of the sink to dry after each use."

00:27:48 John Host *[Emphatically]* "A shaming song must be heard," I decided.

00:27:53 Jesse Host Yeah. I think that's reasonable.

00:27:55 John Host So I asked Sylvie, "Well, I'll hear your case if you record the shaming song and send it in." And I believe she did. Is that correct?

00:28:03 Jesse Host Jennifer Marmor says yes, from her home in Los Angeles.

00:28:07 John Host Alright.

00:28:08 Jesse Host Uh, you want—you wanna play that song for us, Jen?

00:28:10 John Host Thumbs-up from Jennifer Marmor.

00:28:12 Music Music *[The song is slow, a cappella, and heartfelt, with a haunting touch of reverb. John and Jesse laugh underneath.]*

Sylvie:

*Ohhh, hard is the life
Of a sponge leaver's wife
When he leaves the sponge in the sink*

*It never will dry
And she always will cry
For a sponge leaver's sponge always stinks
Yes, a sponge leaver's sponge always stiiinks.*

[Song ends.]

00:28:49 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Both laughing.]*

Jesse: Holy cow, John!

John: Wow! I had not—

00:28:54 Jesse Host Sylvie's got some pipes!

00:28:55 John Host I had not listened to it until that moment. I refused to listen to it. She can really sing!

00:29:02 Jesse Host That had some major, like, "May the circle be unbroken" vibes.

00:29:06 John Host Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah! She can really sing! Boy, oh, boy. If I were Trevor... I wouldn't only be extremely excited to have this person in my life, and listen to what they have to say about basic sink hygiene... I'd be a little scared.

[Jesse laughs.]

Be a little scared that if I don't do the right thing, I'm gonna be thrown out of a pickup truck or something!

[Both laugh.]

You know?

00:29:35 Jesse Host It's a hay wagon, maybe?

00:29:36 John Host Yeah, maybe a hay wagon!

00:29:39 Jesse Host Something—I'm thinking something *Little House on the Prairie*-ish.

00:29:42 John Host Yeah. Sylvie also shared a photo. She made reference to how her father-in-law, Trevor's father, also is a gross spongeman. And she sent a photo that I will never allow to be posted—

[Jesse laughs.]

—on the *Judge John Hodgman Instagram*. Because it is a real-time photo, from her father-in-law's house, of a sponge—*[stifles laughter]* sitting on top of the sink, with a raw turkey neck on it! On the sponge!

00:30:14 Jesse Host Ohhh. Ohhh!

00:30:16 John Host Like he was taking the giblets out of a turkey for a holiday dinner, and just sorta like, randomly placed the turkey neck and the bag of giblets onto the sponge. And later, Trevor, at the same meal, brushed his teeth and spat into the sink... and spat on the sponge too. On the turkey-neck sponge. Turkey-Neck Sponge, by the way, being one of my favorite bands from the nineties.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

So, yeah. Trevor and his dad have problems understanding—*[stifles laughter]* we have enough contagion in this world right now! You don't need to be spitting on or necking up a sponge! Rinse it out with hot water, put it on something that will allow air circulation underneath it, and... listen to your wife when she sings to you!

00:31:05 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:31:06 John Host I don't understand, Trevor.

00:31:07 Jesse Host Just get a brush. How about that?

00:31:11 John Host What's your dish-cleaning implement of choice, Jesse Thorn?

00:31:15 Jesse Host I use a brush. I use a brush with a handle on it, so that I don't have to get my hands all up in there.

00:31:20 John Host Something imported from Japan, I presume? Or the—

00:31:23 Jesse Host Yeah, it's the one the Wirecutter recommends. *[Laughs.]*

00:31:25 John Host Yeah, right. *[Laughs.]*

00:31:26 Jesse Host It works great! I'm not joking, it really is! *[Laughs.]* I—you know, you can run it through the dishwasher once in a while, if you have a dishwasher. I do that.

00:31:34 John Host Yeah. That's a good thing.

00:31:36 Jesse Host I like the plastic bristle brush. You know, this reminds me of the wonderful comedian Todd Glass. I don't know if you've ever met Todd Glass.

00:31:43 John Host I have met Todd Glass, and I'll tell you what, he's wonderful.

00:31:47 Jesse Host One of the great comedians here in the great city of Los Angeles. A delight of a man, with many strong and carefully observed

convictions. And in his most recent special, or perhaps the one that preceded it, he had these theories about—he grew up very lower middle class, and he has these theories about what poor people and rich people do.

00:32:09 John Host Mm-hm.

00:32:10 Jesse Host And the ones that I think about all the time are—*[stifles laughter]* "Poor people back into parking spaces—"

00:32:16 John Host Mm-hm.

00:32:17 Jesse Host Which, I don't even know if that's true. I don't know if it's true, but the specificity of it is dazzling to me.

00:32:20 John Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm, mm-hm!

00:32:23 Jesse Host "Rich people never leave their dish soap on top of the sink."

00:32:28 John Host They just leave it in the sink?

00:32:29 Jesse Host They put it—no! They put it under the sink.

00:32:32 John Host Ohhh! I see what you mean. Right, right, right. They don't—

00:32:35 Jesse Host Yeah. It's never out!

00:32:36 John Host Right. You gotta—right.

00:32:37 Jesse Host Unless dishes are being done.

00:32:38 John Host Right. Uh, I would say... I'm a Dobie spongeman myself. I like a Dobie. Not Ado—not Adobe Flash, the web add-on.

00:32:52 Jesse Host Not Larry Doby, the first African-American player in the American League.

00:32:56 John Host No. Um, I'm talking about a Dobie sponge. It's a scrub sponge! I like that one the best.

00:33:01 Jesse Host Hm.

00:33:02 John Host And you know what? I have a pump on my sink.

00:33:06 Jesse Host Oh, sure.

00:33:08 John Host So I fill it up with the Dawn, or Palmolive, or whatever. I'm moving between the worlds that Todd Glass has outlined.

00:33:14 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:33:15 John Host You know what I mean?

00:33:17 Jesse Host Yeah, well, that's our lot as entertainers.

00:33:20 John Host *[Laughs.]* That's right. That's right.

00:33:21 Jesse Host We travel between worlds.

00:33:23 John Host Right. We—even though we are, let's face it, probably the biggest celebrities in the world now that we are Webby Award–Winning podcasters. We still—

00:33:30 Jesse Host Yeah, I mean, we are Zombo.com-level celebs!

00:33:33 John Host Right. We still have to be approachable, relatable, and convince people we're just like them.

00:33:38 Jesse Host Alright, here's something from Mike:

"I'm writing to request an immediate injunction against my friends

Mitch, Brendan, Matt, and Rebecca. They're quarantined separately, but play the video game *StarCraft* with each other online."

They're—I should clarify here. This is just me interjecting something. They're quarantined in the year 2004.

[John cracks up.]

"I've never played the game, and have no desire to play, but they've included me in a group text that they use exclusively to talk about and set up games. I've tried replying with gross pictures of rotten food and Pete Rose's underwear ads."

[Both laugh.] I did not know the Hit King made underwear ads. That is not appealing. He's not known for his—his grace and beauty. More for his pugnacious tenacity and, uh... betting on his own team.

"But they still won't remove me from the text."

[John laughs quietly.]

"I would like to petition the court to remove me from the text chain."

00:34:37 John Host

[Laughing] I'm sorry, Jesse.

My attention was diverted for a moment while I looked up "Pete Rose underwear ads," and... boy, oh boy. This is a po—this is an image that we are definitely—

[Jesse bursts out laughing.]

00:34:53 Crosstalk Crosstalk

John: —definitely posting to the Instagram. Until—

Jesse: *[Laughing]* Holy—holy crap! Wait! But look at Steve Carlton!

John: Yeah. So—

Jesse: *[Still laughing]* Look at what he's wearing! Oh my goodness!

00:35:04 John Host

[Laughs.] This is an ad from 1977—

00:35:07 Jesse Host

Is this like a singlet that Steve Carlton is wearing?!

00:35:10 John Host

Yeah. Well, it's a nylon A-shirt and brief.

00:35:15 Jesse Host

Okay, so it's a combo. There's a—there's a seam there.

00:35:17 John Host

Jockey—

00:35:18 Jesse Host

[Laughing] I thought it was like a wrestling *[inaudible]*.

00:35:19 John Host

Jockey International, the underwear brand from Kenosha, Wisconsin, did a ad campaign in magazines in 1977 called "Take Away Their Uniforms, And Who Are They?" And they have a bunch of famous athletes of 1977 wearing just their underwear. And it is aalarming! Both in the un—the sort of unapologetic lumpy manness of all of these athletes, and this beautiful seventies-style way of hairiness and weirdness and asymmetry. And also the underwear styles!

[Jesse laughs.]

Jim Hart is wearing a—Jim Hart of the St. Louis Cardinals wearing a Life A-shirt and a slim guy boxer. Jojo White of the Boston Celtics wearing an Alonce Brief.

[Jesse laughs.]

This is the best part. Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds—do you know what it—[laughs] do you know what his style of Jockey underwear is called?

[Both laugh.]

You see it there?

00:36:20	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah, I do!
00:36:22	John	Host	International Skants! S-K-A-N-T-S, International Skants!
00:36:29	Jesse	Host	Ken Anderson of the Cincinnati Bengals is just wearing, like, exercise-type stuff!
00:36:34	John	Host	Yeah.
00:36:35	Jesse	Host	A low-rise sports short. He looks pretty good. And Jim Palmer is a gorgeous man. I mean, you can see, looking—even though he's wearing the International Skant Tropics Brief—
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			Wait, <u>Tropez</u> (<i>tro-pay</i>) Brief.
00:36:47	John	Host	<u>Tropez</u> Brief, right.
00:36:48	Jesse	Host	T-R-O-P-E-Z. Sorry, it's small on the screen here. Even though he's wearing a <u>ridiculous</u> , like, string bikini.
00:36:56	John	Host	Yeah.
00:36:57	Jesse	Host	Uh, Jim Palmer looks pretty good. But that's 'cause Jim Palmer is a remarkably handsome man. Almost none of the other—outside of being professional athletes, none of these other men were selected for their good looks. And... you can see why Jim Palmer was an underwear spokesperson for like a decade after this, and all the rest of these guys just went back to, uh...
00:37:22	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	John: <i>[Laughs.]</i> Being—
			Jesse: Playing guard for the Boston Celtics. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
00:37:25	John	Host	Right. Being incredible athletes.
00:37:26	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Betting on baseball.
00:37:29	John	Host	Jennifer Marmor, I'm texting you this image now for you to post on the Instagram , until we receive a cease and desist order from Jockey, Pete Rose, or all of culture.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

And for some reason we have set up the precedent that we can now see you, but we cannot hear you. So I would like to—I would just like to watch your face as you open this file.

00:37:51 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Steve Carlton has a look on his face like, "What? Underwear?! I'm a dang pitcher!"

[Both laugh.]

00:38:02 John Host Jennifer Marmor is looking at the image now, and I'd just say that... a—a—a look of... sort of... despair has crossed her face. *[Laughs.]* Not disgust, it's just, like, a deep—a deep sigh. An exhalation of resignation.

[John or Jesse laughs quietly.]

00:38:24 Jesse Host I think the most interesting thing about Pete Rose is that this is—you know, this has to be the... late seventies.

00:38:31 John Host '77.

00:38:32 Jesse Host And Pete Rose appears to have, uh... a quarantine haircut!

00:38:36 John Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

00:38:37 Jesse Host He seems to have given himself that haircut. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:38:39 John Host Yeah, he is a true—Pete Rose—I don't know a lot about sports, but I knew enough about Pete Rose to know that the—the—I would not be surprised by seeing his odd bowl cut. I am surprised to see every other part of his body, in significant detail.

Well, anyway, back to the case. Um, if this Pete Rose underwear ad has not gotten them to take you off the text thread yet, they will never do it, Mike. They're obviously trying to annoy you at this point. And there must be a technological solution! You have to be able to block that thread, I would think, without blocking all the individual persons? I will do what you ask. I will order Mitch, Brendan, Matt, and Rebecca to take you off the thread. I know they will not.

And if they continue to harass you in this way—*[sighs]*, I don't know what—what solution is there, Jesse Thorn? Do you have one for Mike?

00:39:40 Jesse Host *[Inhales or exhales thoughtfully.]* I think they should just loop me in on this. I just—I'm—I'm not really on any group text messages. I always feel kinda left out when people talk about 'em. I just—just my wife's family have one.

00:39:52 John Host Yeah.

00:39:53 Jesse Host It's just them liking pictures of each other's children.

00:39:55 John Host That's a good solution. Mike? If you hear the sound of my voice, now or in the future, write me at hodgman@maximumfun.org. And if you can add me to that text thread, do so. And then when I hear from them again, I will yell at them directly.

00:40:15 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:40:17 John Host And then I will block you all and throw my phone into a lake of fire.

00:40:21 Jesse Host *[Quietly]* Someone pushed my door open.

00:40:23 John Host Oh—*[laughs]* sorry, I didn't see! Ohhh!

[Both laugh quietly.]

Meanwhile, Sissy the dog has come in to lick Jesse's nose! I think this is probably a good time for a nose-lick break.

[Jesse laughs.]

When we come back, we'll hear a case from a former litigant about her weird dad, plus a note from my old *Daily Show* pal Rob Riggle about a *Daily Show* memory that I discussed on [a past episode](#)! So come on back, and we'll hear more of *Judge John Hodgman* after this brief nose-lick break.

00:40:57 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:41:00 Promo Clip

[A telephone rings.]

Hotshot Hollywood Producer: Listen, I'm a hotshot Hollywood movie producer.

Music: Fun, grooving music begins to play quietly in the background.

Producer: You have until I finish my glass of *[articulating]* kom-bu-cha to pitch me your idea. Go.

[Slurping sounds.]

Ify: Alright! It's called *Who Shot Ya*: a movie podcast that isn't just a bunch of straight, white dudes. I'm Ify Nwadiwe, the new host of the show and a certified BBN.

Producer: BBN?

Ify: Buff Black Nerd!

Alonso: I'm Alonso Duralde, an elderly gay and legit film critic who wrote a book on Christmas movies.

Drea: I'm Drea Clark, a loud, white lady from Minnesota!

00:41:25 Promo Clip

Ify: Each week, we talk about a new movie in theaters and all the important issues going on in the film industry.

Alonso: It's like *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* meets *Cruising*!

Ify: And if it helps seal the deal? I can flex my muscles while we record each episode.

Producer: I'm sorry, this is a podcast?! I'm a movie producer. *[Disdainfully]* How did you get in here?

Drea: Ify, quick! Start flexing!

Ify: *[Dramatically]* Bicep! Lats! Chest! [Who Shot Ya](#), dropping every Friday on [MaximumFun.org](#), or wherever you listen to podcasts.

[Music ends.]

00:41:52 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:41:55 Jesse Promo We're taking a break from the courtroom to update our listeners on what we have going on. What's going on with you, John?

00:42:02 John Host Well, of course, I cannot do like shows. For obvious reasons. But as I have mentioned before, I will be virtually returning to my hometown of Brookline, Massachusetts—in New England, in the commonwealth of Massachusetts—for two great events. Tomorrow, June the 4th, I will be appearing virtually in conversation at the Brookline Booksmith, my hometown bookstore. BrooklineBooksmith.com will give you all the information as to how and when you can join the virtual conversation, and we'll all have a very good time together.

Brookline Booksmith of course, like a lot of independent bookstores, has been, you know, working steadily behind the scenes to get you all of your reading material while you're staying at home. And, uh, mailing it out. And they're doing a wonderful job of it! And I'm thrilled to be able to support them.

And then on June the 9th, I will be crossing the street to my old haunt and employer, the Coolidge Corner movie theater, where I will be hosting a virtual Q&A along with Coolidge Corner staff member Anne Continelli about our shared favorite documentary, *Grey Gardens*! And if you go over to Coolidge.org, you can find out all the details about that as well as see all of the virtual screenings they're hosting of great arthouse and independent films, including *Driveways*, the last film made by Brian Dennehy; including a virtual screening of the documentary about Pauline Kael, called *What She Said*, which I definitely wanna check out; and all kinds of other really cool staff picks and events and virtual events that are helping keeping the Coolidge Corner Theatre going when it can't... be a theater!

Sooo, please check those events out if you care to! And also today—let's see if I got this right. If tomorrow's June the 4th, and I'm at Brookline Booksmith, then next week is June the 9th and I'm at the Coolidge, that means today is June the 3rd, which means... it's my birthday.

00:44:06 Jesse Host *[Laughs quietly.]* Happy birthday, John!

00:44:09 John Host Thanks, Jesse, I appreciate it. Time is moving on.

00:44:13 Jesse Host Let's get back to the courtroom.

00:44:14 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:44:17 John Host We're back with the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast! Jesse can't talk right now, because now another dog has gotten into his office!

[Jesse laughs/groans.]

Coco the dog!

00:44:25 Jesse Host Sissy pushed my office door open, and then she came in and sat on my lap. But then Coco was jealous, so she came in and sat on my lap. But Coco's not a nose-licker. She's just resting her head on my shoulder.

00:44:37 John Host Awww.

00:44:38 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* I'm pretty excited about this case from Melissa.

00:44:41 John Host Let's hear it.

00:44:43 Jesse Host "I see justice against my father, the [Zero Coke](#) guy—"

00:44:46 John Host Haaa!

00:44:47 Jesse Host "—for another issue." *[Laughs.]*

I hadn't thought about the Zero Coke guy in a while! *[Laughing]* That was a guy who drank Coke Zero but always called it Zero Coke!

00:44:58 John Host Yeah. Like most weird dads on the program, he did this specifically to annoy his child. Melissa, in this case.

[Jesse laughs.]

Now, apparently he has not learned his lesson. So Melissa's back. What's the beef now with weird dad?

00:45:14 Jesse Host "I'm staying with my parents right now, due to the pandemic. I brought home a bunch of food from my Brooklyn apartment, and told them I'm happy to share. One of the things I brought with me is a jar of Italian pistachio spread."

00:45:27 John Host Mm!

00:45:28 Jesse Host "Which is a gift my parents gave to me. This stuff is incredibly delicious, and I'm slowly making my way through the jar, wanting to savor it as long as possible. I've noticed my dad eating it on a few occasions in the past couple of weeks, and asked him nicely to please not eat it all up, since it was a present from him to me. He argued all food in the house is now fair game."

[John quietly cracks up.]

"And since he paid for it, he's allowed to eat it." Two classic dad arguments! Pure, classic dad arguments. "Please order my weird dad to stop eating the present he got me before it's all gone."

00:46:03 John Host *[Sighs.]* Do you have something in your pantry currently, Jesse, that because of what's going on in the world or just general scarcity, like, you're enjoying it a little bit at a time? Hoping that no one comes in and eats it all?

00:46:20 Jesse Host Yeah, and it's something that I theoretically got as a present for my wife.

00:46:24 John Host Oh! That you got as a present for Theresa!

00:46:27 Jesse Host I claimed that it was a gift for Theresa, but in fact I knew that it was secretly as much as gift for me as for my wife.

00:46:34 John Host Tell me! What is it?

00:46:35 Jesse Host It's Luxardo cherries.

00:46:39 John Host Ooooh, Luxardo cherries!

00:46:41 Jesse Host Luxardo cherries. They're the fancy kind of maraschino cherry. And Ben Harrison—

00:46:49 John Host Yeah.

00:46:50 Jesse Host —our MaxFun colleague, the host of *The Greatest Generation* among other podcasts—

00:46:55 John Host Yes.

00:46:56 Jesse Host He—one—he is a real cocktail nut.

00:46:59 John Host Uh-huh.

00:47:00 Jesse Host Very serious cocktail nut.

00:47:01 John Host Right.

00:47:02 Jesse Host And one day he told me, "What are you—what are you doing, eating regular maraschino cherries? You should be getting the Luxardos."

00:47:09 John Host Mm-hm.

00:47:10 Jesse Host I said, "Luxardos? Gimme a break. How much better could a Luxardo be? Maraschino cherries are maraschino cherries. You had one Shirley Temple, you've had 'em all."

It turns out Luxardo cherries are INCREDIBLE!

00:47:23 John Host Yeah.

00:47:24 Jesse Host But they cost like \$20 a jar or something. *[Laughs.]*

00:47:26 John Host Yep. Yep.

00:47:28 Jesse Host So... *[laughs]* you really have to plan out your eating. You can't just sit there and eat 'em.

00:47:33 John Host Look. We live in a time right now where we are reminded that a lot of the world doesn't have access to whatever they want, whenever they want. It's a good reminder! Like Brian and his wife Samantha, who just thinks that, uh, there's an endless sea of felt-tips for her to dry out. And I don't know how long it's gonna take for this jar of Luxardo cherries that I'm ordering for you, Jesse, right now—

[Jesse laughs.]

I don't know how long it's gonna take to get to you. It could be weeks. But I am thrilled to send you some Luxardo cherries, as a tribute to our friendship. And I am also thrilled to offer to Melissa, to send her a jar—a big old nice jar—of pistachio... cream? I don't even know what it is. I'll look it up. Melissa? Email me. Let me know the brand of pistachio... butter you want. I'm gonna send it to you. That's gonna be for you only. And your dad—the Zero Coke dad—cannot have any of it.

[Jesse laughs.]

My only—my only stipulation... I'm gonna send you two jars. One for you to hide and have later on your own when you want. And one for you to only eat in front of him.

00:48:59 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:49:00 Jesse Host *[Quietly cracks up.]*

00:49:02 John Host Because guess what, Zero Coke guy?! This is a great time to be generous! It's a terrible time to be a weird dad playing mind games so that he can steal stuff from his own daughter. Be generous of spirit, thought, and action right now, if you can help it! Don't steal people's pistachio... mousse, or—eugh, I don't even know what it is. What would you even have it on? Maybe I'll get some, too.

00:49:30 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah! I kinda want some!

00:49:31 John Host Just—alright, I'm gonna send you a gift box! Maraschino cherries—

[Both laugh.]

Maraschino cherries and, uh, pistachio, uh—uh, pâté. Jennifer Marmor, anything you need?

00:49:47 Jesse Host She says no.

00:49:48 John Host No, she says no. Alright. I gotta send her something to make up for this picture that I sent to her of Pete Rose in his International Skants.

[Both laugh.]

00:49:59 Jesse Host So we heard from a few listeners in response to [episode 461](#), "The Ballad of Silvia, Fernando, and the Cat." We talked about the order of putting on socks and shoes, which led John to talk about a time he noticed that Rob Riggle put on his shoes before putting on his pants! Rob at the time had said that it was "a Marines thing."

00:50:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Yes, Rob is a—Rob is a reti—uh—

Jesse: Rob is—Rob's a vet.

00:50:24 John Host He's a veteran of the United States Marines.

00:50:26 Jesse Host Well, we asked Rob to elaborate on that, and he sent us this message.

00:50:32 Clip Clip **Rob Riggle:** *[Clears throat.]* Hey, John Hodgman, my friend! My good friend. Hey, listen, I—*[laughs]*. Uh, I heard you recount the tale of me putting on socks and shoes before I put on my pants during our days in—at *The Daily Show*. And somehow this stuck out to you. I guess I claimed it was a Marine thing. Listen, I claim a lot of things are Marine things when I do something unusual, and people generally give me a wide berth with that.

[John and Jesse laugh quietly under the message.]

However! There is some—some truth to the madness, I guess. Um, listen. It's much easier to go into battle with no pants on than it is with no shoes on. It's a simple mobility thing. You know, if you've gotta run across rough terrain, rough ground, rocks, glass, um, all kinds of metal, scrap metal, um, you need to be able to run. If you get a few cuts on your legs, whatever, big deal. But you gotta be able to move. Mobility is key.

So that's why when you have to prioritize in dressing, you get on your shoes first! Then the rest. 'Cause you never know when you're gonna have to move out. It's just an old—it's just an old rule! No big deal. Um, and that's, uh—that's what I recall! I hope you're well, brother.

00:51:56 John Host I guess his—that makes a lot of sense. And I remember him sort of explaining that to me at the time. And I can't see what Pete Rose is wearing in this photo, but I bet he probably put on his socks and shoes first, too.

[Jesse laughs.]

Because you never know when you might have a baseball emergency, you might be sent out onto the field wearing only your skants.

00:52:16 Jesse Host

So you think he's probably wearing some, like, filed metal cleats.

00:52:20 John Host

Yeah. No, I'm sure he's wearing baseball shoes and socks.

[Jesse laughs.]

Just in case. At all times! At all times. Now, I took—I was reassured that my memory was not completely broken when Rob, my—my friend—my old friend, as he pointed out so pointedly... uh, when Rob sent me this message, but I did not discount the possibility that not only did he lie to me back then when he did it about this being a Marine tradition, but that he might be lying to me still, just to make fun of me on my own podcast. Very, very possible. Love you, Rob.

00:52:57 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:52:58 John Host

But he's a joker! Luckily, a listener named Zack also wrote in, independently, claiming that he had also been in the Armed Services, and confirming what Rob had said to me. And he added another detail, regarding dress uniforms. Jesse, would you read that, please?

00:53:18 Jesse Host

"It's also worth noting that while wearing dress uniforms, shirt stays were used to keep the dress shirt taut and wrinkle-free while being worn. These are attached at the bottom of the shirt and at the top of the socks, so one had to put their socks and shirt on before their slacks."

That's like an—it's like an elastic band that attaches to the top of the socks and the bottom of the shirt.

00:53:41 John Host

Oh!

00:53:42 Jesse Host

And that keeps the socks up and the shirt down.

00:53:44 John Host

That's amazing! I want that!

00:53:46 Jesse Host

Yeah? Well... It's available to you! Just go to your, uh, what are those called, CPOs?

00:53:54 John Host

What if I wear shorts over them? Would that be appropriate?

[Jesse laughs.]

If I wrote dress shoes—*[laughs]* dress socks, a dress shirt, and Bermuda—

00:54:03 Jesse Host

And military dress shorts?

00:54:05 John Host

[Laughing] And military dress shorts—

[Jesse laughs.]

—with the shirt stays coming down the side of my beautiful calves.

00:54:11 Jesse Host

"A bonus note," says Zack. "It was common practice among my peers and I that you had both boots on before you tied them, as it's much easier to run to action with two un-tied boots than it is with only one tied boot."

00:54:28 John Host Well, there you go! Thank you very much, Zack and Rob, for confirming my faulty memory and providing some insight.

00:54:38 Jesse Host John, I think we've come to the end of this episode of *Judge John Hodgman*. You know how I can tell?

00:54:44 John Host Because Coco the dog is sitting on your lap, saying it's time to go?

00:54:46 Jesse Host Uh, yeah. She said, uh—she said it was time to go, using a power of a dog's body that, while completely silent, can be heard by all in the room. Through their nose. If you know the power that I'm talking about that dogs have.

[John laughs.]

[Stifling laughter] That symbolizes that you should get in a different chair, or go to another room.

00:55:14 John Host Alright. Jesse's gotta give his chair up for Coco. Let's get us outta here.

00:55:19 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* The docket is clear. That's it for another episode of *Judge John Hodgman*. Our producer is Jennifer Marmor. Follow us on Twitter at [@JesseThorn](#) and at [@hodgman](#). We're on Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](#). Make sure to hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](#), and check out the Maximum Fun subreddit to discuss this episode! That's at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](#). Submit your cases at [MaximumFun.org/jjho](#), or email hodgman@maximumfun.org.

Since we won that Webby, I wanna offer a special thank-you not only to our capable producer Jennifer Marmor, but our other producers who have worked on the program, Jesus Ambrosio and Hannah Smith, and especially to what I have decided her title is our founding producer, Julia Smith, who put in many years of work to make this show what it is, and we're very grateful for Julia's efforts.

00:56:14 John Host Hear, hear.

00:56:15 Jesse Host Along with everybody who's worked on our show. We're very proud.

00:56:20 John Host A lot of the greats! A lot of—Mark McConville, Matt Gourley!

00:56:24 Jesse Host Ah! Mark McConville and Matt Gourley, of course!

00:56:27 John Host Yeah! They were—

00:56:28 Jesse Host Thanks to them!

00:56:29 John Host The *Pistol Shrimps Radio* show stars! Used to—

00:56:32 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:56:33 John Host Used to cut tape for *Judge John Hodgman*!

00:56:37 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:56:38 John Host And yes, I also echo your thanks for everyone who's worked on this show, and Julia especially. Thank you.

00:56:44 Jesse Host We'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:56:47 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:56:50 Music Transition A cheerful guitar chord.

00:56:51 Speaker 1 Host [MaximumFun.org](#).

00:56:52	Speaker 2	Host	Comedy and culture.
00:56:54	Speaker 3	Host	Artist owned—
00:56:55	Speaker 4	Host	—audience supported.