

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. This week: "Neverlandmark Case."
			Jessie files suit against her husband Ryan. During a past relationship, Ryan's ex-girlfriend made him a <i>Peter Pan</i> -themed painting, and he still has it. Jessie wants to get rid of the painting, but Ryan can't bring himself to do it.
			Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide.
00:00:26	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:27	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:32	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:33	John Hodgman	Host	We all know <i>Peter Pan</i> . <i>Peter Pan</i> is the story of a young woman who gets ensnared in a relationship with an adulterous narcissist, a guy who literally commands his partner to be his mother, but it's okay, 'cause the young woman thinks her love can fix him! But the narcissist cannot be fixed! And he eventually leaves Wendy for a younger woman, who happens to be Wendy's own daughter!
			Bailiff Jesse Thorn, swear them in.
00:00:59	Jesse	Host	Jesse, Ryan, please rise and raise your right hands.
00:01:00	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:01:02	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever?
00:01:07	Jessie	Guest	I do.
00:01:08	Ryan	Guest	I do.
00:01:09	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that he's... more of a Smee?
			<i>[The litigants laugh.]</i>
00:01:16	Jessie	Guest	Yes.
00:01:17	Ryan	Guest	Absolutely.
00:01:18	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:01:20	John	Host	Ughhh.
00:01:22	Jesse	Host	I just wanna be clear. Judge Hodgman, I picked Smee only because Smee has the funniest name, not because you're Smee-like.
			<i>[The litigants laugh.]</i>
00:01:28	John	Host	I—you know what? Harsh but fair. Harsh... but fair. I mean, you know—you look at me. You look at my dumb mustache and beard. You can't see it on the podcast, but you can probably hear. I'd <u>like</u> to be Hook. No, I'm Smee.
			<i>[Jesse and someone else laugh quietly.]</i>

Ugh. Right. Bailiff Jesse Thorn. Alright. Jessie and Ryan, you may be seated.

00:01:51 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Chairs scrape.]*

00:01:52 John Host For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, can you name the source of the piece of... arguably popular culture—I'm just gonna say you're never gonna get it.

00:02:03 Jesse Host Not this time. Never, never gonna get it.

00:02:06 John Host You're never gonna get it. Not this time.

[The litigants laugh.]

I could see a situation where—*[laughs]*—Smee has finally stopped taking the guff from Captain Hook, and then he goes down into his little bunk, and his little hammock, and listens to En Vogue. *[Laughs quietly.]* I bet he loves En Vogue!

00:02:26 Jesse Host *[Laughs quietly.]* I can see a situation where I hijack this podcast and transform it into an En Vogue tribute podcast.

[Jesse and the litigants laugh.]

00:02:34 John Host I could also see that situation! And Jesse, you'd be welcome to do so. But first we have to administer justice in this, the very last episode of *Judge John Hodgman*, *[stifles laughter]* before it is turned into an En Vogue podcast.

[One or both litigants laugh quietly.]

One of the litigants is named Jessie. Jessie Non-Thorn, what is your guess?

00:02:52 Jessie Guest Well, I'm honestly really relieved that I have no idea what it is. And I'm even more relieved that Ryan's face tells me he has no idea what it is.

[Ryan chuckles.]

But I'm guessing that it is the BBC production *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*.

00:03:05 John Host Oh! What's *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*?

00:03:08 Jessie Guest It is a delightful comedy performance from the Cornley Polytechnic Society, the same people who did *The Play That Goes Wrong* on Broadway.

00:03:16 John Host Oh, yes! I saw that!

00:03:18 Ryan Guest It's their Christmas panto.

00:03:20 Jessie Guest It's—it is honestly a really wonderful 40 minutes.

00:03:24 John Host Listen to Ryan dropping the British theatre lingo. "Their Christmas panto."

00:03:27 Ryan Guest That's me.

00:03:29 Jessie Guest He does that.

[Ryan chuckles.]

00:03:30 John Host Ryan Non-Gosling...

00:03:32 Ryan Guest That's me.

00:03:33 John Host And by the way, that's your joke. Before we even started rolling here, we were having a heck of a time. We're gonna have such a fun conversation! In a minute, after I bring it down for a while in a second. But we're gonna have a great time.

[One or both litigants laugh.]

We're already having a great time. That fun conversation we were having before we were rolling was lost to time. It has gone off to Neverland. Can never be recovered. But it was fun. We were chatting—I'm here, by the way, everyone, in Maine. Still. Up here at WERU, in Orland, Maine. 89.9 in Blue Hill, 99.9 in Bangor, and all across the world at WERU.org.

Through the glass across from me is summertime producer Joel Mann. Joel?

00:04:14 Joel Mann Guest John, every time you come to Maine, it's a sunnier day for us. Thank you.

00:04:17 John Host What did you do with the real Joel? Why are you—why are you saying sentences all of the sudden?

[One or more people chuckle.]

Okay, we'll get back to you. He's—*[laughs]*. He's been replaced! Like a changeling! In a fairy tale! Much like *Peter Pan*! Oh, right! Ryan Non-Gosling, what is your guess?

00:04:34 Ryan Guest I'm gonna go with a young adult novel called *Peter Pan in Scarlet*.

00:04:40 John Host No, you're never gonna get it.

[One or both litigants laugh.]

You're talking about the official sequel to *Peter Pan*? *Peter Pan in Scarlet*?

00:04:45 Ryan Guest Uh, yes.

00:04:47 John Host That was licensed? That was officially allowed by the Great Ormond Street Hospital? Which holds the copyright to *Peter Pan*? It was willed to them by J. M. Barrie? And they commissioned—ooh, I wish I had this. I really was reading the Wikipedia page this morning. What's the name of the author of that book, Ryan Non-Gosling? Do you know?

00:05:08 Ryan Guest Ooh, *Peter Pan in Scarlet*? I don't. I do not know who wrote that one.

00:05:12 John Host It's Geraldine McCaughrean (*Mih-CRAWN*), I wanna say. I can't—M-C, capital C, A-U-G-H-R-E-A-N. Mih-croggin? Or Mih-CRAWN?

00:05:23 Jessie Guest What a name.

00:05:25 John Host A young adult author who wrote the official sequel to *Peter Pan*, according to the J. M. Barrie estate. And what was that about? Do you know?

00:05:36 Ryan Guest I have no idea. I have not read it.

00:05:38 John Host Okay.

00:05:39 Jessie Guest You haven't?!

00:05:40 Ryan Guest No.

00:05:41 John Host 'Cause you love *Peter Pan*, right?

00:05:42 Ryan Guest I stop at *Peter and the Starcatcher*. *Peter and the Starcatcher* is as far as past canon as I go.

00:05:46 John Host Got it. Okay. We'll talk about your love for *Peter Pan*.

But all guesses are wrong. By the way, this is a first. A *Judge John Hodgman*, eh—yeah, it's a *Judge John Hodgman* first, Jessie Non-Thorn and Ryan Non-Gosling. You know why?

00:06:02 Jessie Guest Wow.

00:06:03 John Host The quote is me!

[Jessie gasps.]

00:06:04 Ryan Guest Ooh!

[Jesse and the litigants laugh.]

00:06:07 John Host I have done an obscure cultural reference to things I've said on *Judge John Hodgman* before, but this time it's just something that I wrote this morning.

[Beat.]

[Jessie laughs.]

00:06:18 Ryan Guest Well... *[Laughs.]*

00:06:19 John Host I meant to get a cultural reference together. But then I—I went down this thought hole, *[laughs]* and I ended up writing this long thing about *Peter Pan*, and like, "This is too long. I gotta fudge this and put it into the cultural reference." Because I'm—we are gonna have a fun talk about *Peter Pan*.

But I did go into that Wikipedia page and learn all those things that I just told you about, the Great Ormond Street Hospital and blah blah blah. But also—*[stifles laughter]*—

00:06:44 Ryan Guest Mm-hm.

00:06:45 John Host I also had to re-visit *Peter Pan*! Both the memory of the movie, and the book, and the play, and boy, oh boy, oh boy, there was a lot of *Peter Pan* that I had blocked out. There is a lot of *Peter Pan* in the world, but there's a lot of problematic *Peter Pan* in the world.

[Ryan laughs.]

00:07:03 Jessie Guest Amen.

00:07:04 Ryan Guest *[Laughing]* Amen.

00:07:05 John Host I mean, *Peter Pan*... is a creep. *[Laughs.]* I didn't realize that! I didn't think about it, until then, but it's like—yeah, he's likable, because he doesn't grow up! Which is actually a tragedy. *[Laughs.]* And to J. M. Barrie's credit—you're gonna have to listen to this for a little bit. You guys ready? You sitting down?

00:07:23 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jessie:** Oh, yeah.

Ryan: Strapped in.

Jessie: We—we're here.

00:07:24 John Host So to J. M. Barrie's credit, he does portray Peter's inability to grow up—his immortality—it's sorta fun, but it's really dark. It's this immortal arrested adolescence that is a true—the true and tragic horror show that it would be, when you meet someone who has never grown up. Right? Peter is full of fun tricks and sayings, and he's lively, but like any child, he's also emotionally small-minded, completely self-obsessed, dangerously chaotic, and completely—until he's gotta go save Wendy, like, basically completely unaware of the danger that he poses to his so-called friends.

I mean, frankly, Peter Pan is only rivaled in his bland sociopathy by one other character in literature, and that is Ferris Bueller, who is the worst.

[The litigants crack up.]

00:08:16 Jessie Guest Wow.

00:08:17 John Host This is a pre-verdict verdict. This is a verdict on Peter Pan. And then we're gonna talk about your painting. Your *Peter Pan* painting.

Also, we need to point out: *Peter Pan*, the book, the play, the famous Disney movie... is racist.

00:08:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ryan:** Oh, yeah.

Jessie: Oh, so racist.

00:08:36 John Host Right? It's racist. It's racist... AF. Now, this is a family friendly podcast. But I feel like the kids who listen to this need to know what I mean when I say "racist AF." That means "racist... as *Friends*." As in the TV show *Friends*.

[The litigants laugh.]

Which wasn't actively racist. It only didn't acknowledge the existence of non-white people, until Aisha Tyler showed up. *[Laughs.]* For a long, long time, there was no people of color on that *Friends*. No one in New York City! Except maybe some background actors.

[One of the litigants sighs.]

So *Peter Pan*, both play, book, and movie, is not passively racist. It is actively peddling in ignorant, gross stereotypes about Native Americans. That were not a product of their time. Because even in 1904, in reviews of the play and the book, it was recognized that the tribe of Indians in this story was composed entirely of incredibly offensive, worn-out stereotypes, and pulp literary cliches. They weren't even stereotypes about real people. They were stereotypes about stereotypes, the pulp literary cliches that J. M. Barrie had absorbed from Victorian-era boys' adventure books, in which the concept of a non-white, non-British Empire "other" was so common, and thoughtlessly accepted, and cruel, that Barrie couldn't even be

bothered to keep his racist terms straight.

And if you wanna know what I mean by that, I'm not gonna say it. Look up on the Internet, as I did this morning, what the name of the quote-unquote "tribe" of the Indians is. And you will be like—your gob will be smacked. It's a very offensive term that is usually used to describe another group of traditionally exoticized, dehumanized, and marginalized people.

00:10:28 John Host So, yeah. We gotta say this. We gotta—I had to say this. I don't know how Disney got a pass on this for the movie. Even 'til now, when they finally had to hide *The Song of the South* away in a hole. I do know why. It's 'cause the racist dehumanizing of Native Americans was/is more acceptable more recently than the racist dehumanizing of Black people.

And until there's a podcast about the Native Americans in *Peter Pan*, you just have to go and listen to Karina Longworth's six-part miniseries of her podcast about movies, *You Must Remember This*, that she did last November on *Song of the South*. Which is an incredible investigation about how even the most liberally-minded white people casually accepted this stuff as okay. They just—they held their nose. If they saw it, they held their nose, kinda looked away, and then came back. To the stuff they liked.

So, okay. There. Thank you, Jessie and Ryan. We're gonna have a nice time today. A fun conversation about this painting... of you, Ryan, as Peter Pan? Is that right?

00:11:35 Ryan Guest Uh, no. I am certainly not, uh, portrayed as the main character in this piece.

00:11:41 John Host It is a painting of Peter Pan.

00:11:42 Jesse Host You're more of a Smee?

[John snorts.]

00:11:45 Ryan Guest It is a painting of the three Darling children and Peter Pan in silhouette, going across the moon.

00:11:51 John Host Okay.

00:11:53 Ryan Guest With text from an actual book of all of my favorite parts of *Peter Pan*, that I marked up, and she pulled out, and then incorporated into the painting.

00:12:03 John Host Now, I've not looked at the painting, 'cause this case does not hinge on... the content of *Peter Pan*, but rather this painting that was given to you by... an ex-girlfriend? Is that correct, Ryan?

00:12:16 Ryan Guest That is correct.

00:12:18 John Host And your relationship with Jessie now is what?

00:12:21 Ryan Guest She is my wife. I am her husband.

00:12:23 Jessie Guest We've been married for almost a year.

00:12:25 John Host Happy almost an anniversary. Good job.

00:12:28 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jessie & Ryan:** Thank you!

00:12:29 John Host I'm glad you did it last year.

[John and the litigants chuckle.]

00:12:32	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Jessie: Oh, we are, too!
			Ryan: [Laughing] We are, too!
00:12:34	John	Host	And Ryan, I presume that this was given to you because you love <i>Peter Pan</i> , as a concept, as a thing, as a thing. Right?
00:12:42	Ryan	Guest	I do. It was given to me—we were dating in college. And for a project she had to do for school, she was being asked to make a piece of painting incorporating light and the use of light, and so to dovetail it in, she was like, "Well, I might as well make something worthwhile." And she knew that I loved <i>Peter Pan</i> , and so she asked me to mark up my favorite pieces and put it together, and gave it to me on a date.
00:13:09	John	Host	And Jessie, you would like this thing to go into the fire.
00:13:14	Jessie	Guest	I mean, I don't really feel the need to burn it. <u>But</u> ... I don't really see a good way to give it away to someone else, because it <u>is</u> such a personal gift, and even has, like, "Dear Ryan" on the back. So I don't really see another option.
00:13:27	John	Host	Right.
00:13:28	Jessie	Guest	It's either, like, the garbage, or—or a burning bonfire of hate. I don't know. One of the two.
00:13:33	John	Host	[Snorts.] Well, wait a minute. Let's get to the point here. So first of all, you know, thank you for letting me—Ryan, I know that this is a piece of culture that means a lot to you, obviously. And you're also obviously aware of all of its problematic content.
00:13:48	Ryan	Guest	Most certainly.
00:13:49	John	Host	Yeah.
00:13:50	Ryan	Guest	It is very easy to see, and hard to overlook.
00:13:52	John	Host	So tell me what <i>Peter Pan</i> means to you, such that this painting—which I have not reviewed the evidence yet. That's gonna be—my final judgment will be based on—in part on the quality of the piece itself, my reaction to it, so I don't wanna look at it just yet. But tell me what <i>Peter Pan</i> means to <u>you</u> , such that this painting was inspired.
00:14:13	Ryan	Guest	Absolutely. I grew up as part of a performing family, actually. My dad is a performer. And so I grew up in the theatre as a kid.
00:14:23	John	Host	Yeah.
00:14:24	Ryan	Guest	My first introduction to <i>Peter Pan</i> was actually the Mary Martin musical.
00:14:28	John	Host	Mm-hm. Yeah.
00:14:29	Ryan	Guest	By Comden and Green. And then later, the Cathy Rigby, which is better because they improved the fly system.
00:14:34	John	Host	Yeah.
00:14:35	Ryan	Guest	But every version of <i>Peter Pan</i> , I—I read the play, and then read the novel, and then read the novel that it was based on, and then, like, every movie that's come out. There's just—there is something about <i>Peter Pan</i> —and like you said, the very digestible, very tropic things

that are tropic because they are based in allegory, and based in, like, the roots of truth. Like, there is something about, like, the loss of innocence vs., like, the cost of innocence.

00:15:05 John Host Mm-hm.

00:15:06 Ryan Guest And youth. About, like—Peter Pan is that perpetual boy, and he wants to be that boy, but it also means that he never gets love, and he never gets intimacy, but he avoids responsibility. And—and there's something about it that just—there is no version of *Peter Pan* in which at some point I don't end up crying watching it.

00:15:25 John Host Yeah.

00:15:26 Ryan Guest Like, whether it's "Tinker Bell has taken the poison, and now we all have to clap to believe in fairies," or *Finding Neverland*, which is the whole movie, because—don't—it's just—I can't watch that movie anymore. I cry too—

00:15:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jessie:** Haven't you only seen it—you've seen it once.

Ryan: I watched it twice.

Jessie: Oh!

00:15:40 Ryan Guest I watched it one time, and then watched it a second time, because I was like, "It couldn't have been that bad," and it was, and I cried so hard. *[Clapping on each word]* Don't kill Kate Winslet.

[John laughs.]

Titanic understood that.

[Jessie laughs.]

And in *Hook*, when he realizes that family is what matters, and he goes back home. Like, there's no version of *Peter Pan* where it doesn't, like, hit me on like a base, human level.

00:16:02 John Host Mm-hm!

00:16:03 Ryan Guest In which you're happy about the joy of it, and sad at the tragedy of it!

00:16:07 John Host Mm-hm.

00:16:08 Ryan Guest And you understand the cost of what it means to grow up. And I love that about *Peter Pan*.

00:16:14 John Host It's definitely very heart-wrenching. There's some deep stuff at play, for sure, in *Peter Pan*. I'll be honest, I couldn't watch it. I was—I was never very—I love Disney parks. I was never very into Disney animated movies, aside from appreciating them as cultural touchstones. That's me speaking as a nine-year-old. *[Stifles laughter.]* That's what I would say. "I appreciate this as a cultural touchstone."

[The litigants laugh.]

But one of the things that's true about Disney animated movies is that they go—they punch you in the gut. And Tinker Bell...

00:16:45 Ryan Guest Mm-hm.

00:16:46 John Host ...sacrificing herself—a woman sacrificing herself to save this narcissist who has paid no attention to her. *[Laughs.]* It really hit me hard.

00:16:56 Ryan Guest And continues to pay no attention to her afterward.

00:16:59 John Host Yeah. I know! He's a monster! *[Stifles laughter.]* But, you know, I find that to be, to me, the big revelation of my—my rethinking of *Peter Pan* was like... "Oh, yeah." There's also a reason why you watch *Ferris Bueller*. Like, something extremely interesting and fun about a person who both subverts the rules, and also shows why the rules are kind of... necessary! Anyway...

00:17:29 Jessie Guest Jessie Non-Thorn, are you still here? *[Laughs.]*

00:17:30 John Host I am still here, yeah.

00:17:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk I'm sorry. Ryan and I went down a little—we went to Neverland together for a second.

00:17:36 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ryan:** Second star to the right.

00:17:41 John Host **Jessie:** Oh, I've heard it—I've heard it before, so... *[chuckles]*. It's not news.

00:17:41 John Host Jessie, what—how do you feel about *Peter Pan*?

00:17:46 Jessie Guest I like *Peter Pan*. It doesn't hit me the same way it hits Ryan.

00:17:50 John Host Right.

00:17:51 Jessie Guest And that's because, like, one of Ryan's particular—I think everyone has something that makes them cry. And Ryan's particular thing is children growing up. And obviously there's hardly any piece of art that captures that quite the way *Peter Pan* does. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:18:04 John Host Yeah.

00:18:05 Jessie Guest And so he connects to it so deeply. I don't have that same connection to *Peter Pan*. I do have a harder time getting past the—the racist aspects of it.

00:18:14 John Host Mm-hm.

00:18:15 Jessie Guest But I do appreciate it as the—the exploration of what it means to grow up, and what it means to be an adult, and to be a child. And its recognition that all children are monsters. Um—

[John and the litigants laugh.]

00:18:28 John Host That's not true.

00:18:28 John Host Well, it's a—it's a fairy tale in the tradition of real fairy tales, which are much more ambiguous. We'll talk more about that later. But Jessie, I interrupted you. So what would be your version of *Peter Pan*, in your cultural life? Is there something that you really dig?

00:18:44 Jessie Guest Oh, something that I connect to?

00:18:46 John Host Yeah.

00:18:47 Jessie Guest I am far more, I guess, connected to high fantasy stories.

00:18:55 John Host *[Whistles.]* Here we go.

00:18:56 Jessie Guest And also, like, *Grimms' Fairy Tales*.

00:18:57 John Host Yeah!

00:18:58 Jessie Guest Um—*[laughs]*. Yeah. I don't have anything against darker fairy tales. It's just the—the "growing up" thing isn't my particular cup of tea.

00:19:06 John Host Yeah.

00:19:07 Jessie Guest I like stories of people overcoming great difficulty, usually adults.

00:19:10 John Host Okay. Yeah.

00:19:12 Jessie Guest Like—not adults, necessarily. But like, not necessarily selfish children. I—I like stories where I can connect and admire the main character.

00:19:20 John Host Yeah, people, like, growing into adulthood, and leaving childish things behind, and being able to part with, say, a painting made by an ex-girlfriend.

[Ryan laughs.]

00:19:31 Jessie Guest You—you could say that. Yeah.

00:19:33 John Host Like, that—that measure of kind of—like, "I don't want—wah, wah! I don't wanna let the past go!"

[Jessie laughs.]

As opposed to, "I am an adult, and I realize nostalgia is the most toxic impulse. It is time to put this behind me."

Ryan, I'm just being—I'm being—

00:19:47 Ryan Guest I'm being painted with a Paul Ian brush here.

00:19:49 John Host Yeah, I'm being cheeky.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:19:54 Jesse Host Let's take a quick recess! And hear about this week's *Judge John Hodgman* sponsor. We'll be back in just a moment on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:20:01 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:20:04 Jesse Promo It's *Judge John Hodgman*. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. You know, every week, our program is supported by the members of MaximumFun.org. Everybody who's gone to MaximumFun.org/join. And we thank and salute each and every one of you. We're also supported this week by our friends at Babel.

00:20:21 John Promo Yeah. You know, look. There's a young person in my life who is about to go to college. Not to brag, but she was placed in French II in college. Pretty good.

00:20:31 Jesse Promo Wow.

00:20:32 John Promo Yeah. And it reminded me, I spent all this time in high school and college, learning French and Spanish. And never using them! And I live in a city that is—has a huge Spanish-speaking population. It's a point of shame for me. I'm not gonna go back to college to re-learn Spanish. Guess what? I don't have to.

00:20:56 Jesse Promo You're not Rodney Dangerfield.

00:20:57 John Promo Yeah, I'm not Rodney—*[stifles laughter]*—oh, boy. You know, maybe

when this is all over, and all colleges are really open again, and we can travel, and we can—we can dine out. We can do everything that we wanna do, when we build this new, better normal. I hope that will happen before my daughter finishes college. So I can ruin her life by re-applying to Yale, and going to Yale again. While she's there. That would just be so much fun.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

And then I could take Spanish again! But until then, what am I gonna do? I'm gonna go to Babbel! Babbel can help you re-connect with any language that you learned in the past, fast. The daily lessons are 10 to 15 minutes. They start by teaching you words and phrases you will actually use. The lessons are thoughtfully created by over a hundred language experts. And the teaching method has been scientifically proven to be effective, across multiple studies.

This is what I was looking up. Guess the languages that you can learn.

00:21:50	Jesse	Promo	Spanish.
00:21:51	John	Promo	Yes.
00:21:52	Jesse	Promo	French.
00:21:53	John	Promo	Yes.
00:21:54	Jesse	Promo	Italian.
00:21:55	John	Promo	Yes.
00:21:56	Jesse	Promo	German?
00:21:57	John	Promo	Yes!
00:21:58	Jesse	Promo	Slovak?
00:21:59	John	Promo	No. But: Indonesian, Norwegian, Polish, Swedish, Dutch, Turkish, Portuguese, and Danish. That's great!

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00:22:31	Jesse	Promo	That's B-A-B-B-E-L.com , and the promo code is "Hodgman."
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We're also supported this week by our friends at CuriosityStream, which is a streaming service exclusively for documentaries.

00:22:45	John	Promo	Wow.
00:22:46	Jesse	Promo	We know that a lot of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> listeners are smartypants who love to learn.
00:22:49	John	Promo	Yeah!
00:22:50	Jesse	Promo	I'm world-famous for my love of life-long learning. And CuriosityStream is the perfect streaming service if you wanna learn about history, nature, science, food, technology, travel. There are all kinds of cool people involved in these documentaries, including our friend Nick Offerman.

00:23:04	John	Promo	Yeah, that's right! Nick Offerman, Chris Hadfield, the very famous Canadian astronaut? Look, citizen of the world.
00:23:10	Jesse	Promo	I feel like he is legally required to be referred to as "astronaut Chris Hadfield." <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
00:23:14	John	Promo	Astronaut Chris Hadfield! David Attenborough.
00:23:17	Jesse	Promo	Or "guitar astronaut Chris Hadfield."
			<i>[Both stifle laughter.]</i>
00:23:19	John	Promo	That's true. Just an incredible array of incredible personalities, bringing you incredible true stories about stuff you might, uh, be curious about! And you can easily stream everything from, guess what, your TV, your phone, your tablet, your computer. Look, you know where to get these things. You're curious. You figure it out yourself.
00:23:38	Jesse	Promo	The slogan of CuriosityStream is, "Don't try to use a Sony Watchman."
00:23:43	John	Promo	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah.
00:23:44	Jesse	Promo	"But besides that, you can watch it anywhere."
00:23:46	John	Promo	No Zune. No Zune.
00:23:48	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> Yeah, you can't—can't stream it on your Zune. That's—that's the one downside of Cur—upside? So many great documentaries, pretty affordable, lots of cool people involved, you can watch it on a lot of different devices. Downside, no Zune app.
00:24:02	John	Promo	Yeah.

Everyone loves documentaries. People are constantly searching existing streaming apps for documentaries. How many times have you been looking for an incredible thought-provoking or moving documentary, true life story, and then you accidentally find yourself watching a Rob Schneider movie? Then it's like, "This isn't a documentary, this is a joke!"

[Jesse laughs.]

No. CuriosityStream solves that. It's all docs! All docs! Nothing else. Nothing but docs. Go to CuriosityStream.com/hodgman, or go to CuriosityStream.com and use code "Hodgman" to sign up. It's just \$14.99... a month? No! A year! CuriosityStream.com/hodgman, you get CuriosityStream for a whole year for \$14.99. That's a great deal.

CuriosityStream.com/hodgman. H-O-D-G-M-A-N.

00:24:59	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back into the case.
00:25:01	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:25:04	John	Host	There seems to be a premise that you have <u>both</u> brought to the virtual courtroom, that you <u>are</u> ready to move on from this painting. In other words, Jessie Non-Thorn said the issue isn't whether to throw it in a metaphoric fire, but what is the best <u>way</u> to dispose of it, given that it is so personal.

Ryan, have you agreed in principle, and in your heart, that it might

be time to let this thing go?

00:25:28 Ryan Guest There is certainly an element of, "It does not quite have a place in our literal or metaphorical lives."

00:25:37 John Host Okay.

00:25:39 Ryan Guest In our literal lives, there's literally no place on our walls in our New York apartment to hang this thing.

[Jessie laughs.]

We have enough other art that is good, and great, and the walls are taken up with that. And the metaphorical of... it is a lovely thing, and it does mean a lot to me, and it means a lot to my past, and it is a very personal gift. But it also feels strange to embrace, like, "Yep, this is a thing given to me by a girl that I used to date. And now I'm gonna hang it in my kid's nursery." Like, that feels weird. That seems like a poor decision in life.

00:26:10 John Host Are you still in touch with this person? Is this person still a part of your life?

00:26:14 Ryan Guest We talk very occasionally.

00:26:16 John Host Right.

00:26:17 Ryan Guest We ended on great terms. She lives in the city. Now here's the very strange and salient point. Uh, her name is also Jessie.

[John snorts, Ryan laughs.]

00:26:26 John Host This is a fairy tale.

00:26:27 Jessie Guest This is not strange. It was the nineties! *[Laughs quietly.]* Everyone was named Jessica!

00:26:31 Ryan Guest *[Laughing]* You're not wrong.

00:26:33 John Host *[Laughs.]* En Vogue was burning up the charts, *Friends* was... also burning up the charts, and everyone was named Jessie.

00:26:41 Ryan Guest She works in theatre.

00:26:42 John Host Mm-hm.

00:26:43 Ryan Guest She's a lighting designer on Broadway. And so occasionally, when she has friends and family tickets, she throws them my way. So we have gone and seen—Jessie and I, my wife Jessie and I, have actually seen some shows that she has lit, off of her discount.

00:26:57 Jessie Guest I have not.

[John snorts.]

00:26:59 Ryan Guest That was how we got the *Sweeney Todd* hookups.

[John gasps.]

00:27:03 Jessie Guest You didn't tell me that. It was a birthday present.

00:27:04 Ryan Guest Yeah.

00:27:06 Jessie Guest Oh my gosh.

00:27:07 Jesse Host Wow, it was a birthday present?

[John and Jessie laugh.]

00:27:12 Ryan Guest Yes. She throws free Broadway tickets my way occasionally.

00:27:16 Jesse Host Don't talk past this birthday present thing.

[Ryan laughs.]

Did you also give her the *Peter Pan* painting as a birthday present?

[Everyone laughs.]

00:27:24 Ryan Guest No, absolutely not!

00:27:25 Jesse Host Or was that Christmas or Hanukkah or something?

00:27:27 John Host *[Laughs.]* Jessie! How does it feel to learn that your tickets to *Sweeney Todd* were copped off of... Ryan's old lover that he kept secret from you?!

00:27:38 Jessie Guest *[Laughs.]* I mean, I'm heartbroken.

[Ryan laughs.]

I'm sad that I ever grew up.

[John snorts.]

No, it's fine.

00:27:44 John Host You're married to a trickster! A trickster. A mischievous trickster.

00:27:48 Jessie Guest I mean, I—I did know that when I married him. So...

00:27:51 John Host Yeah.

00:27:52 Ryan Guest Yeah, you went in eyes wide open.

00:27:53 Jessie Guest Yeah.

00:27:54 Ryan Guest Uh, I will say that Wife Jessie and Ex-Girlfriend Jessie have met.

00:27:59 Jessie Guest It's true.

00:28:00 Ryan Guest And have shared a meal together. And have played Broadway karaoke bingo together.

00:28:06 John Host Yeah.

00:28:07 Jessie Guest And when two people play Broadway karaoke bingo... no hard feelings can exist.

00:28:12 John Host Oh, I—yeah. I mean, look. This is a symbol of maturity, and non-childishness, right? That you're all getting along together just fine. That you have moved on to a new relationship, and yet there are no hard feelings, and that's great. It's terrific.

Does Other Jessie know that you're contemplating moving on from this painting?

00:28:34 Jessie Guest She does not. And I actually have floated the idea of offering to return it to her—

[John shudders.]

—if it's that precious, but that also feels very bad. So...

00:28:42 John Host *[Shudders again.]* Yeah.

00:28:43 Jessie Guest I don't know. I honestly don't know the social, um, contract of this situation. *[Laughs.]*

00:28:49 Ryan Guest *[Stifling laughter]* Nope.

00:28:50 John Host Do you know if she listens to podcasts?

[The litigants laugh.]

00:28:55 Jessie Guest Right before we were about to record, Ryan looks up and says, "Do you think we should warn Jess that we're doing this?" And then we both shrugged, and said, "Maybe."

00:29:05 Ryan Guest We did some Internet research. She has not liked this podcast specifically on her Facebook page.

00:29:12 Jessie Guest Or Twitter.

00:29:13 Ryan Guest Or Twitter. *[Laughs.]*

00:29:14 John Host Oh.

00:29:15 Ryan Guest *[Laughing]* We actually did do this very specific research.

00:29:16 John Host Oh.

00:29:17 Ryan Guest So we're not positive whether or not she listens to this show.

00:29:20 Jessie Guest So we can't say she doesn't listen. But we can say we're not sure that she does.

00:29:24 John Host Throw her painting down a well, then. Please. Now.

[Someone stifles laughter.]

No, it's fine. I'm not gonna punish the painting for Other Jessie's podcast tastes. That's not how I roll. I'm not a punitive trickster god. I'm just a adult human judge.

Ryan, you present this as a issue of... decor. You don't have room to display it anymore. And even you acknowledge it's a little weird to have around, say, in—do you have children? Are you expecting children? 'Cause you mentioned something about it.

00:29:58 Ryan Guest We do not have, nor are currently expecting, but plan at some point in the vague future to have them.

00:30:04 John Host To steal an infant from a perambulator? *[Stifles laughter.]* And raise it in a Neverland of your own?

00:30:08 Ryan Guest From Kensington Gardens. You've got it.

00:30:10 John Host Yeah.

00:30:11 Jessie Guest That's the working plan.

00:30:13 John Host If you had your druths, Ryan, would you like to just... keep this thing, and display it? Are you really ready to let go of it? Like, when you look at the painting, how do you feel about it?

00:30:24 Ryan Guest I am—because I am 31 and a millennial, and we are overly nostalgic, as every tabloid tells us—am a very nostalgic person.

00:30:37 John Host Mm-hm.

00:30:38 Ryan Guest And I do like things of the past, and I've had this painting now for

seven or eight years.

00:30:43 Jessie Guest Almost a decade.

00:30:44 John Host Mm-hm.

00:30:46 Ryan Guest And has hung in my college apartment, and then when I first moved to New York—

00:30:49 John Host Mm-hm.

00:30:50 Ryan Guest —and then in a couple of different places. And so it is—it is a memory, not really of the relationship that I had, but of—it reminds me more of my past self, rather than of the past relationship that I was in. I have a couple of other things that I have always had. Like, I've got a Yankees pennant from when I was like six that is still hanging in our house.

00:31:11 John Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:31:12 Ryan Guest Like—and so I am a nostalgic person, by definition. And this painting—I would be a little sad to see it go. And so I'm—I am of two minds. One is, if we were to keep it, I would want to put some effort into it, and maybe get it a nice frame, and maybe make it a little more presentable, to find its place on the wall, and find its place not just stashed in a closet somewhere.

00:31:38 John Host Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

00:31:40 Ryan Guest Or, if we do let it go, find a replacement for it. Something that has a—a spiritual tie from the past to the future. And I would make Jessie get me a new one.

[Jessie laughs.]

If she's gonna get rid of my painting, I want a new one, and she has to get it for me.

00:31:56 John Host Some kind of new *Peter Pan* artwork?

00:31:58 Ryan Guest A new *Peter Pan* piece. Something that still represents my connection to that and the past. But if this particular *Peter Pan* does not suit her, her personality and her flexibility, she can get rid of it, but at the cost of getting me a new one.

00:32:12 John Host Oh, you mean that your wife is gonna commission a new painting from your ex-girlfriend?

[The litigants laugh.]

00:32:19 Ryan Guest Uh, maybe not that specifically. Maybe she finds something she likes on DeviantArt, or—or Redbubble. Or we actually do have a couple of artist friends, that I'm sure could make a lovely painting. It's one of the benefits of living in New York. There is no shortage of up and coming wanna—painters who want to paint things.

00:32:38 John Host So you don't have anything, a particular piece in mind.

00:32:42 Ryan Guest No.

00:32:43 John Host That you're using this older painting for as leverage to get.

00:32:47 Ryan Guest No. I do not have a current piece that I am trying to wrangle out of the deal.

00:32:52 John Host Right. You're not a master strategist. You're not a master emotional

strategist. You flit and fly from impulse to impulse, like Peter Pan.

[Pause.]

00:33:00 Ryan Guest

I—I am a Lost Boy.

00:33:02 John Host

[Snorts.] What do you do for a living?

[Pause.]

00:33:06 Ryan Guest

Uh, musical theatre.

[John sighs.]

I sing and dance. I never grew up. I play pretend. I've done *Peter Pan* on stage. That's happened. I played—

00:33:15 John Host

Who did you play?

00:33:16 Ryan Guest

—Captain Hook for Disney Cruise Lines.

00:33:18 John Host

WHOA! Joel Mann, did you hear that?

00:33:21 Joel Guest

I did, Judge.

00:33:23 John Host

Would you call that burying the lead?

00:33:25 Joel Guest

Absolutely.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:33:30 John Host

How did I—! That's—I just wanna—look. We don't have time—

[John and the litigants laugh.]

—to go into your experience playing Captain Hook on the Disney Cruise Line. For how many times?

00:33:43 Ryan Guest

I was at sea for six months.

00:33:46 John Host

Speaking of nostalgia! I mean, I—first of all, I'm thinking, like, "Oh, wasn't it great when there was theatre and there was cruises?"

[Laughs.] You—

[John and Jessie laugh.]

You were—I mean, it's lucky you survived. You were at the most virus-y place in the world!

00:33:59 Ryan Guest

I was the nexus of badness, yes.

00:34:02 John Host

But I—oh, I can't—I mean, look. You know, I talked about that six-part podcast series from Karina Longworth, *You Must Remember This*, on *Song of the South*?

00:34:10 Ryan Guest

Mm-hm.

00:34:11 John Host

Like, I could easily do a six-part podcast with you about this experience that you had. I have so many questions that need to be answered.

[Jessie laughs quietly.]

But we'll have to table that for a debrief later on. Ryan, do you agree to that at some point?

[Jessie laughs.]

00:34:23 Ryan Guest Absolutely. I love talking about that.

00:34:26 Jessie Guest His stories are wonderful.

00:34:27 Ryan Guest They are pretty wild.

00:34:30 John Host I just—all I'm gonna ask you to do is do a Captain Hook voice. Do a line. Do something.

00:34:36 Ryan Guest Alrighty. Um...

[Hook voice; English, raspy, high-energy] "Blast that Peter Pan! It was he that cut off me hand!"

00:34:44 John Host *[Gasps.]* Riveting.

00:34:45 Ryan Guest *[Back to his usual voice]* Thank you!

00:34:46 Jesse Host Yeah. Cruise Line quality!

[John and Ryan crack up, Jessie laughs.]

00:34:50 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** *[Sympathetic pain sounds]* Oh, you're never gonna get it!

Ryan: Augh, god! The first cut is the deepest!

John: You're never gonna get it!

[Ryan and/or Jessie laugh.]

00:34:56 John Host Not from Jesse Thorn!

00:34:57 Jessie Guest That stung me.

[Ryan laughs.]

00:35:00 John Host Ouch. And Jessie, may I ask what—what do you do in the world?

00:35:06 Jessie Guest I work for a big publishing house in the city. Making eBooks things.

00:35:10 John Host Oh! Also someone who refused to grow up. *[Laughs.]*

00:35:14 Jessie Guest I guess so. Yeah.

00:35:16 John Host People in publishing—you know. It's just like people in podcasts. Anyone in the arts. We don't wanna grow up.

00:35:22 Jessie Guest It's true. *[Sighs.]* So we take a salary hit, and we just live in our land of pretend.

00:35:26 John Host I know, it's just—it's just pretend work. It's pretend business. It's money-losing business, for funs. You know what it's like? It's sorta like community radio. You know what I mean, Joel? Joel, did you ever—

[The litigants laugh.]

Joel, did you ever grow up?

00:35:37 Joel Guest No.

00:35:38 John Host Right. Jesse Thorn, did you ever grow up?

00:35:40 Jesse Host *[Reluctantly]* Yeah...

00:35:42 John Host Yeah? *[Stifles laughter.]* Some have grown-up-ness forced upon them.

00:35:45 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:35:47 John Host Yeah.

So, alright. Jessie. This is a crux that I gotta un-crux. How much of your dislike for this thing is aesthetic? How much of it is, "Let's put childish things behind us"? And how much of it is, if any, resentment because of a previous, uh, assignation?

00:36:07 Jessie Guest I think it is 70% aesthetic dislike. I don't think it is very... pretty.

00:36:13 John Host Right.

00:36:14 Jessie Guest I just don't—I don't like it. And I'm not—I'm not a professional artist, so I guess I don't know all the rules of art. But, uh, I don't see that it's following the rules, nor do I see that it's breaking them in an interesting way. So...

00:36:26 John Host Alright. I guess it's time for me to look at this piece of art.

00:36:29 Jessie Guest Please.

00:36:30 John Host Here I go. Exhibit A. Submitted by Jessie. A photo of the painting.

Yeah. You say that Other Jessie made this in college?

00:36:45 Ryan Guest Uh, yes.

00:36:46 John Host Yeah.

00:36:47 Jessie Guest I think it shows.

00:36:48 Jesse Host I would say it's at least cruise ship quality.

[John snorts.]

00:36:52 Ryan Guest *[Laughing]* Oh, gosh.

00:36:54 John Host Do you know what? I've never been on a Disney cruise. But I've been on a couple of other cruises with my friend Jonathan Coulton, a couple of other lines. And my friend Jesse Thorn. I think you're onto something there, Jesse. Thorn. Yeah. I could see this hanging in a—a landing between promenade deck and lido deck. For sure.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:37:14 Jesse Host I'll say I look at this picture, I think... "This is a painting done by a very talented lighting director."

[John snorts, the litigants laugh.]

00:37:26 Jessie Guest The use of light is really wonderful! It's true.

00:37:30 John Host Jesse Thorn, you can't see this, but you're cracking Joel Mann up over here in Maine. I've never seen him smile this much in the past five years.

00:37:39 Jesse Host It genuinely—like, my very sincere evaluation of it is that it's a very interesting-looking and competently executed piece. It has some interesting ideas. I think she incorporated the pages from the book, like the literal pages from the book, beautifully. And it is much more—it's a much more sophisticated work of art than I imagined when it was described.

That said, I could see it not being to plenty of people's taste or fitting decor. And it doesn't take my breath away in its extraordinary artistic achievement.

00:38:15 John Host Thank you very much, *Antiques Roadshow* Jesse Thorn. Appreciate that.

[Jesse and the litigants laugh.]

Art appraiser. Everyone can go to the *Judge John Hodgman Instagram account* and see [this](#), and all of the evidence from our cases, at any time, and you can judge for yourself. But I would say this is a very endearing, very sentimental work of art, executed commensurate to a college-age person's skill and sensibility. It's cute! It's cute. It's a little—maybe cutesy, even.

But you know what? Ryan, you're sentimental and cutesy, right?

00:38:50 Ryan Guest If nothing else.

00:38:52 John Host Yeah.

00:38:53 Jessie Guest And endearing.

[Ryan laughs.]

00:38:54 John Host And endearing, too!

00:38:56 Ryan Guest I was raised to be charming, not sincere.

00:38:58 John Host *[Snorts.]* Wow, that's an incredible quote.

00:39:00 Ryan Guest Sondheim, I can't—I can't take credit for it.

00:39:03 John Host Ohhh. Excuse me, I apologize. And now, Jessie, you also submitted some photos of other pieces of art in your home? Is that what I'm looking at here?

00:39:12 Jessie Guest Yeah. So the other art in our home is also usually handmade. Like, by friends or by me.

00:39:17 John Host Yes.

00:39:18 Jessie Guest And it's all very sentimental as well. And I guess it just feels weird to have this... also very sentimental, homemade piece, but from someone not in our current world of relationships.

00:39:31 John Host Mm-hm. And also, I'm gonna say that, you know, these—these works of art are... a little bit more mature in their style and execution.

00:39:41 Ryan Guest Very much so.

00:39:42 Jessie Guest And also collages!

00:39:43 John Host Yeah.

00:39:44 Jessie Guest Now, they're not fancy. Because I just made them on cardboard. With old magazines. But...

00:39:48 John Host I'm sorry, you made—you made these things. I missed that.

00:39:52 Jessie Guest Yeah, those are all mine.

00:39:53 John Host Oh, wow! Well done. Very nice. Yeah, I think—

00:39:57 Jessie Guest Thanks!

00:39:58 John Host I think you've got the eye.

00:39:59 Ryan Guest I agree.

00:40:00 John Host The—yeah. This is like, art that's grown up.

00:40:04 Jessie Guest And I don't love all of them, but one of them Ryan won't let me get rid of, because he's sentimental. So...

00:40:09 John Host They'll all be available for your review on the show page on MaximumFun.org, and obviously at the Instagram account, [@judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). But which one—which one would you like to get rid of, Jessie, that Ryan doesn't want you to get rid of?

00:40:22 Ryan Guest And this is news to me.

00:40:24 Jessie Guest We've had this conversation.

00:40:25 Ryan Guest Which one are you wanting to get rid of?

00:40:26 Jessie Guest The Conservatory Garden. There's one that's—

00:40:27 Ryan Guest Oh! We can't get rid of that one!

00:40:28 Jessie Guest Exactly.

[John snorts.]

So there's one that I made—I—we were—got engaged in the Conservatory Garden in Central Park. And I wanted to make a collage of it, and it is huge. It's like three feet long.

00:40:40 Ryan Guest It's massive.

00:40:41 Jessie Guest And it didn't turn out quite the way I was hoping, but...

00:40:45 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Ryan:** It's a collage you made of the place I proposed to you! We can't get rid of that!

[John sighs.]

Jessie: And I hid—I hid a diamond ring in the collage, so...

00:40:51 Jessie Guest It's also a fun game for guests.

00:40:54 John Host You hid a diamond ring in the collage?!

00:40:57 Jessie Guest Not a real one.

00:40:58 John Host Oh.

00:40:59 Jessie Guest But like, a picture of a diamond ring is one of the pictures of the—from the magazines that I put in there.

00:41:02 John Host Oh. That would—if you had pasted your engagement ring into this collage, I would agree with Ryan. *[Stifles laughter.]* You should probably not throw it away.

00:41:09 Ryan Guest Maybe—

[The litigants laugh.]

00:41:10 John Host Alright.

00:41:12 Jessie Guest No. Excuse me. It's just a photo.

00:41:15 John Host And then finally we have a photo here of Ryan as Captain Hook. See, this is why I didn't know. 'Cause I didn't review the evidence,

'cause I was trying to remain neutral.

00:41:24 Jessie Guest I will—

00:41:25 Ryan Guest That is actually not a picture of me as Hook.

[Jessie laughs.]

I am in—over his right shoulder, as one of the—uh, that is a different production of *Peter Pan* that I did.

00:41:34 John Host You're rocking a tambourine in this one. Yep. And you're looking—I would say you're looking at the foregrounded actor playing Captain Hook, in this other, non-Disney Cruise production. You're looking at Hook with a lot of envy. I will say.

00:41:48 Ryan Guest Uh, I am his understudy.

00:41:50 John Host Yeah.

[Someone stifles laughter.]

That's right. You're hoping that that Smee that Captain Hook is sitting on will collapse, and then Hook will break his neck.

[The litigants laugh.]

And fall into a crocodile.

00:42:00 Ryan Guest And I can step into the limelight.

00:42:02 John Host Still—you're still Peter Pan. You're Peter Pan at heart. Alright. Well, this misdirection has basically sealed your fate. I thought I was looking at a picture of you as Captain Hook!

[The litigants laugh.]

If I were to rule in your favor—let's just be blunt here before I go in and make my decision. If I were to rule in your favor, Jessie, what would you have me rule?

00:42:24 Jessie Guest I would have you rule that we gracefully and gratefully acknowledge this painting's meaning to Ryan, and then discard it.

00:42:32 John Host How would you discard it?

00:42:33 Jessie Guest *[Sighs.]* See, that's the tricky thing. I think—I can't think of a better option than—it's like, trash or... or, uh, burial at sea? Like...

00:42:44 John Host Mm-hm.

00:42:45 Jessie Guest I don't—I'm not sure.

00:42:46 John Host Mm-hm.

00:42:47 Jesse Host What about the free section of Craigslist?

00:42:48 Jessie Guest Ohhh.

00:42:50 John Host Yeah.

00:42:51 Jessie Guest Now that—that would probably work.

00:42:52 Jesse Host Now, Craig happens to be a *Judge John Hodgman* listener. I think he could probably hook you up.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:42:59 John Host Yeah, but don't tell Jessie that Craig's hooking us up, 'cause we like to keep secrets from her.

[Jessie laughs.]

00:43:04 Jesse Host [Stifling laughter] Tell her it's a birthday present.

00:43:05 John Host [Laughs.] Yeah!

[The litigants laugh.]

00:43:07 Ryan Guest Oh no!

00:43:08 John Host "As a birthday present, I got you one free listing on Craigslist. You're welcome."

Ryan, if I were to rule in your favor, what would you have me order? You're ready to let go of this thing, but you—but you're not, are you? You wanna replace it with another thing?

00:43:23 Ryan Guest If you were to rule in my favor, I would probably want you to rule that we put some effort into it and get it a nice frame, and find it a place. In our house.

00:43:34 Jessie Guest So we can take it out of the closet?

00:43:35 Ryan Guest Yes.

00:43:36 Jessie Guest Okay.

00:43:37 John Host Is that where it is now?

00:43:38 Ryan Guest It currently hangs on the inside door of a closet. Of the linen closet.

00:43:43 John Host Mm-hm.

00:43:44 Jessie Guest Every time I get a towel, I have to look at it.

00:43:46 John Host You don't want to look at it at all, ever again.

00:43:49 Jessie Guest Um, not really.

00:43:51 Ryan Guest And I would settle as a backup verdict that she gets rid of this, but gets me a new piece of *Peter Pan* art.

[Jessie laughs.]

00:43:58 John Host I think I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decision. I'm going to go into my Skull Island to contemplate this case, and I'll be back in a moment with my verdict.

00:44:09 Sound Effect Sound Effect [As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]

00:44:10 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:44:13 Sound Effect Sound Effect [Door shuts.]

00:44:14 Jesse Host Jessie, how are you feeling about your chances here?

00:44:17 Jessie Guest Well, I feel... pretty good. I mean, I would be happy to get Ryan a backup piece of *Peter Pan* art. And I think we could have a good time selecting that. So I didn't even realize that was an option, but if that's the verdict, then that is fine by me. Framing it would be a little bit more of a—a pull. Because first of all, very hard to get a frame. And, uh, second of all, have to keep looking at it.

00:44:41 John Host "Very hard to get a frame."

00:44:42 Jesse Host Wait, it's very hard to get a frame?

[John laughs quietly.]

00:44:45 Jessie Guest It is if you're not—*[laughs]*. Okay, let me rephrase. *[Stifling laughter]* It's hard for me to get a frame, because I'm not willing to spend a ton of money.

00:44:52 Jesse Host Okay. *[Laughs.]* I was like, "You know, they have a type of store. I'm not gonna tell you what type it's called, but..."

[Jessie laughs.]

"...you'll probably figure it out."

00:45:01 Jessie Guest I'm limiting myself here.

00:45:04 Jesse Host I know it's hard to access specialty retail in New York City.

[Jesse and Jessie laugh.]

00:45:10 Jessie Guest Well, it is kinda right now.

00:45:13 Jesse Host But maybe if everybody piled into the truck and drove the 40 miles to the Super K-Mart, you could find a frame.

00:45:20 Jessie Guest I'm sure we could locate one.

00:45:21 Jesse Host Ryan, how are you feeling?

00:45:24 Ryan Guest I am feeling pleased as punch. If I lose the case, I've made my case honestly and fervently, and I can do no more. I have—I have done my best. I'll say I don't feel good about the verdict going in my direction. Mainly because I believe the judge may or may not be correct in his assessment of *Peter Pan*, and the right to love it as much as I do.

00:45:50 Jesse Host Well, we'll see what the judge has to say about all this when we come back in just a second on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:45:56 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:45:58 Promo Clip **Music:** Guitar strums as singer counts out "One, two, one two three four." Up-tempo guitar and harmonica music plays in the background.

Justin McElroy: Hi, everybody! My name is Justin McElroy.

Dr. Sydnee McElroy: I'm Sydnee McElroy!

Justin: We're both doctors, and—

Sydnee: Nope. Just me.

Justin: Okay, well Sydnee's a doctor and I'm a medical enthusiast.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: And we created *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine!

Sydnee: Every week I dig through the annals of medical history to bring you the wildest, grossest—sometimes dumbest—tales of ways we’ve tried to treat people throughout history!

Justin: And lately we do a lot of modern fake medicine. Because everything’s a disaster. But it’s slightly less of a disaster every Friday, right here on MaximumFun.org, as we bring you *Sawbones: A Marital Tour of Misguided Medicine*. And remember:

Sydnee: Don’t drill a hole in your head.

[Music ends.]

00:46:40 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:46:42 Promo Clip

Music: Gentle, rhythmic music underscores the dialogue.

Janet Varney: We are so thrilled at your interest in attending Hieronymous Wigenstaff’s School for Heroism and Villainy! Wigenstaff’s beautiful campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities, and instructors with real-world experience! We are also proud to say that our alumni have gone on to be professional heroes and villains in the most renowned kingdoms in the world!

But of course, you are not applying to the main school, are you? You’re applying for our sidekick and henchperson annex! You will still benefit from the school’s amazing campus, and! You’ll have a lifetime of steady employment. Of course... there’s no guarantee how long that lifetime will be.

Travis McElroy: Join the McElroys as they return to Dungeons and Dragons with *The Adventure Zone: Graduation*. Every other Thursday on Maximum Fun, or wherever podcasts are found.

[Music ends.]

00:47:33 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:47:34 Jesse Promo

Judge Hodgman, we’re taking a break from the case. Let’s get in chambers and talk about what we’ve got going on. What’s going on with you, John?

00:47:43 John Promo

Well, we’re nearing the end of my and David Rees’s short form animated show, the name of which shall never be named on this podcast due to its family friendliness, set in the fictional Richardsville, North Carolina. If you are listening to this on the day this podcast is released, then tomorrow, Thursday, August 20th, you can go to FXX at ten PM. Watch the TV show *Cake*, for which our show is a segment.

This week’s episode, "The Mystery of the Moaning Ghost." One of the most *Scooby-Doo*-ish episodes of our series, featuring the wonderful vocal talents of Jon Glaser and Griffin Newman and Kristen Schaal, and I dare say this is one of the funniest ones that we’ve got going. I love it. "Mystery of the Moaning Ghost."

David Rees’s character and I are hired by Jon Glaser, who is a shady attorney, to process serve a ghost. We have to subpoena a ghost.

[Jesse laughs.]

It's a lot of fun. Our show—I'll refer to it as "our show"—airs every Thursday night until it ends, which is coming up. On Thursday nights at ten, on FXX, as part of the show *Cake*. If you can't watch it live, or want to see it again, you can watch it the next day on Hulu. You can watch *Cake* season three, 'cause *Cake* has all sorts of really cool short form animated and non-animated weird little shows like ours, and it's a terrific show in its own right. Or if you just wanna watch whole episodes of our bit, you can go to Bit.ly/dicktown. That's Bit.ly/D-I-C-K-T-O-W-N, all small letters, all one word. I don't know why Bitly assigned us that URL. But that's the one we got.

00:49:29	John	Promo	This was a lot of fun to make, and I hope if you haven't checked it out, you might, and if you like it, tell someone. Jesse, what do you got going on?
00:49:37	Jesse	Promo	Well, the summer clearance sale continues in the Put This On Shop. You can get 40% off almost everything in the store with the code "Summer Sale" at PutThisOnShop.com . You can also get 25% off fine jewelry with the code "Fine Summer." I'm looking right now at a bicycle medal, a silver bicycle medal, from 1927, with a giant penny-farthing in its design. Which is that giant—one giant wheel, one tiny wheel type of bicycle.
00:50:09	John	Promo	Hey! Hey, I've seen <i>The Prisoner</i> . I know what a penny-farthing is. "Be seeing you."
00:50:12	Jesse	Promo	[Laughs.] Also, a tie clip to celebrate the centennial of Vancouver, British Columbia. A collection of pins from the 1920s with various breeds of dogs. And some great enamel pins from I'm gonna say the seventies, maybe the early eighties, of hot-air balloons. Colorful hot-air balloons that say "Mexico" on them. Among <u>many</u> , many other items. Including our handmade pocket squares and bandanas, which are perfect for wrapping around your face if you're so interested, and vintage clothes, and stuff for boys, stuff for girls. Stuff for folks who aren't boys are girls. All kinds of stuff at PutThisOnShop.com , and again that code is "Summer Sale" for 40% off everything except fine jewelry, which you can get 25% off with the code "Fine Summer." Let's get back to the case!
00:51:04	Sound Effect	Transition	[Three gavel bangs.]
00:51:06	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]
00:51:07	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.
00:51:11	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[Door shuts.]
00:51:12	John	Host	So first of all, a verdict on <i>Peter Pan</i> . I am not here to cancel <i>Peter Pan</i> . <i>Peter Pan</i> is obviously a cultural touchstone, [stifles laughter] as nine-year-old John Hodgman knew. And still knows. And it is so for a reason: because it is mysterious, weird, complicated. It's good, and it's bad. It probes strange feelings that people <u>have</u> about childhood. There are versions of <i>Peter Pan</i> that celebrate eternal

childhood. But it is clear to me, based on my research, that actual *Peter Pan* doesn't.

And there's lots and lots and lots of culture that has racist stuff in it. That is either intentional or unintentionally harmful. In the stuff that we love! And we—you know, we hold our noses. Or grimace, or roll our eyes, say, when you're showing your kids the movie *Peter Pan* for the first time, and you've completely forgot about "What Made the Red Man Red," the incredibly offensive, racist song, in that movie. You're like, "Ooh, I forgot about this. Let's just white-knuckle through this." That's how I showed it to my kids. *[Stifles laughter.]*

All I'm saying is, when you see this stuff, to realize you're holding your nose, and to think about why you're doing it. In fact, don't hold your nose! Open your nose, and breathe in the stink. And think about it. And talk about it with the people you're sharing it with! Kids, in the most—for the most part.

And so part of the reason that I would not cancel *Peter Pan* is that what is good about it, we discussed with Jessie Non-Thorn earlier, is that like fairy tales—like real fairy tales; they get plucked from public domain by certain animation companies and kind of spiffed up—there is a dark strangeness to *Peter Pan*. Peter Pan is not a good guy, nor is he a bad guy. He is a child, and the exploration of the chaos of childhood is obviously something that resonates deeply with people.

00:53:35 John

Host

The tension between childhood and leaving childhood is very meaningfully explored in *Peter Pan*, even though J. M. Barrie himself put in this completely execrable and non-necessary bit of racism, because white guys in England at that time just tossed off racism like it was nothing.

It is a piece of art that is worth engaging in. And I'm not just saying that 'cause I don't want Disney to cancel me 'cause they own everything. I wanna be MODOK in a Marvel movie. Please, Disney. Please don't cancel me.

[Ryan laughs.]

Please don't fire me from culture. And by the way, Warner Brothers? That thing I said about *Friends*? I still love *Friends*! And by the way, don't cancel me, 'cause I got this incredible pitch! For a *Friends* spin-off. Put on the air now. It's more friends who live in a different—it's set in the same time period, exactly the same period as *Friends*, but it's different friends living in a different apartment, and they hate the other friends.

[John and Ryan laugh.]

You re-use old footage! It's incredible. Yeah, see? Ryan likes it. Sold in the room with Ryan.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:54:40 Ryan

Guest

[Laughing] I'd watch that show!

00:54:42 John

Host

Yeah. *More Friends*. *[Laughs quietly.]* And you know, they could a

diverse cast. Like, show what New York was like in the nineties.

Anyway, look. So I'm not on you, Ryan, for loving *Peter Pan*. People like what they like. They love what they love. You've obviously explored all of the aspects of *Peter Pan*.

Now, I thought this thing was going to hinge on nostalgia. The tension, as I say, between... you know, being a child and growing up! And I, as you know, am against nostalgia. Because it aims to hold on to a past that is usually illusory, and as well suggests that time can go backwards, or that you can hold on to the past. You can hold on to a painting, but you can't hold on to the past.

So you would think I would come down very hard on you, Ryan. Not merely for loving this problematic piece of art—not the painting, but the subject. But also trying to hold on to the past.

But what this hinges on is something that was glossed over very early by Jessie, and me. Which is it is inscribed to you. It's written—your name is written on the back, from Other Jessie. And when something is given to you, and it is inscribed, you can't just put it on the street! Someone will find it, and they'll find out. *[Stifles laughter.]* That you don't want the thing that they gave you! It's horrible! Like, I'm hoping that Jessie never listens to this podcast! Other Jessie. I mean, Other Other Jessie. *[Stifles laughter.]* Jessie Non-Thorn Non-Thorn.

Because she's gonna be hurt! Probably. That you wanna get rid of this thing. So the solution is simple: Jessie Non-Thorn Non-Thorn, if you're listening? I am ordering Ryan to keep this treasured gift forever. This is the sound of a gavel.

00:56:43 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:56:45 John Host Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.

Hold.

[Pause.]

[Whispering] Okay. Now that Jessie Non-Thorn Non-Thorn is no longer listening, and I saved you from that social embarrassment...

[The litigants laugh.]

[No longer whispering] ...you gotta throw this painting into a crocodile, quick.

[The litigants crack up.]

The best place for this thing would be a parent's basement. For you to never have to deal with it again. You never have to give it up. But you never have to have it. And then as you grow older, and your parents grow older, and maybe their house accidentally burns down, this problem is solved for you.

[John and the litigants laugh.]

The next best place for it to be is for you to send it on a journey. That is appropriate to it. To its sentimental importance to you. Because here's the thing, Ryan. I do think that you know—you have said yourself, "It would be weird to hang this in my kid's room." It is a beautiful gesture that someone who cares about you made for you, at a certain time in your life. But you know that that time is over, and also, the person you've chosen to spend your life with going forward... just doesn't like it! She doesn't even wanna look at it in the closet. If you had a thousand rooms, would it be fair to say, Jessie Non-Thorn, that you would not wanna look at this thing?

00:58:15 Jessie Guest If we had a thousand rooms, I actually would feel differently about it.

00:58:19 John Host Okay.

00:58:20 Jessie Guest But we live in a one-bedroom apartment, so...

00:58:21 John Host Alright.

00:58:22 Jessie Guest We don't—we're kinda low on space. And I, as a New Yorker, am terrified of acquiring items.

00:58:26 John Host Alright.

00:58:27 Jessie Guest Or having too many items.

00:58:28 John Host Alright. So here's the solution: Ryan?

00:58:31 Ryan Guest Yes.

00:58:32 John Host You're in musical theatre, right? A booming business right now. Just make a lot of money and get a thousand-room mansion.

[Ryan laughs quietly.]

And if you can't do that, then what I would suggest is you leave it in the closet until such time, as time moves forward—not backwards, ever—forward, into a new and better normal that we're all gonna make together. Once we have a vaccine, once we are able to move, once we are able to speak to each other's faces again, you're gonna take Other Jessie out to dinner, and you're gonna say to her, "I think that it's time for me to part with this. I love it, and it will always be meaningful to me. Do you think you would like to have it back to give to somebody else? Because if not, my plan is to fly—" What is it, two stars to the right and straight on 'til morning?

00:59:20 Ryan Guest Second star to the right.

00:59:22 John Host Well, whatever, I was close.

"Fly second star to the right, straight on 'til morning, to Disneyland"—a place that I love—"to get on that *Peter Pan* dark ride"—a thing that I think is great. It's like you're in a gondola in someone's living room.

[Ryan laughs, John stifles laughter.]

"I'm gonna take the painting with me. I'm gonna get on the ride with the painting. And I'm gonna get off the ride without the painting."

[The litigants laugh.]

"And then I will walk out of Disneyland."

00:59:52 Ryan Guest *[Laughs.]* Fling it into the abyss!
00:59:54 John Host I bet she will be okay with that.

Finally, I order Jessie—Non-Thorn, your wife, Ryan—to commission from one of your artist friends a painted version of this photo of you not as Captain Hook, but as tricorner hat tambourine man in the background.

[The litigants laugh.]

A painted version of that photo, with the caption, "I was raised to be charming, not sincere." This is the sound of a gavel.

[Jessie laughs.]

01:00:24 Sound Effect Sound Effect A tinkly "magical" sound effect.
01:00:25 John Host Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.
01:00:27 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jesse speaks below: Chairs scrape, footsteps, door shuts.]*
01:00:28 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom. Ryan, how do you feel?
01:00:34 Ryan Guest Elated. I think that the judge has honorably and rightfully ruled, and I cannot wait to be arrested by Disney police.

[Jessie laughs.]

As I try and leave something on a ride in the middle of the darkness.

01:00:50 Jesse Host Jessie, how about you?
01:00:52 Jessie Guest I think having a painting of himself as tricorner man with the caption "Charming, not sincere" is everything Ryan has ever wanted in life. So I'm thrilled, and I can't wait to figure out which artist friend would be best suited to create this beautiful piece of artwork.
01:01:10 Jesse Host Jessie, Ryan, thanks for joining us on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:01:15 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:01:16 Jesse Host Another *Judge John Hodgman* case in the books. We'll have Swift Justice in just a moment, but first our thanks to Alex Butschli for naming this week's episode, "Neverlandmark Case." If you'd like to name a future episode, make sure to like *Judge John Hodgman on Facebook*.

You can follow us on Twitter at [@JesseThorn](#) and [@hodgman](#). Hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](#), J-J-Ho. And check out the MaxFun subreddit, [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](#), to chat about [this episode](#). We're also on Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](#), where you can make your own evaluation of the Neverland painting.

Judge John Hodgman produced by the ever-capable Miss Jennifer Marmor. This week's episode edited by Hannah Smith.

Now, Swift Justice! Where we answer small disputes with quick judgment. Rebecca asks:

"Who should clear the last few seconds off the microwave timer at work? The next person to use it, or the monster who stopped it before it was done?"

01:02:18	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I mean, I know that you have a Breville Smart Oven. You have a microwave, though, right, Jesse?
01:02:25	Jesse	Host	I do have a microwave, yes.
01:02:27	John	Host	You ever have that experience when you're walking into the kitchen, and you're like, "I wonder what time it is." And you glance to the clock on the microwave, and you're like, "It's 17 seconds o'clock? What's going on?"
01:02:39	Jesse	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> Yes.
01:02:40	John	Host	<i>[Laughs quietly.]</i> Yeah. And do you do what I do when you realize that the last person who used it, maybe even yourself, didn't clear the timer? And therefore, you don't know what time it is? Do you—do you take the microwave and throw it away?
01:02:59	Jesse	Host	Uh, yeah. Typically, yeah.
01:03:00	John	Host	Right. Joel, what do you do?
01:03:04	Joel	Guest	I reset it.
01:03:05	John	Host	You reset it after you use it?
01:03:06	Joel	Guest	Any time I see that it's 17 o'clock.
01:03:11	John	Host	So you're saying that there's someone in your house who maybe doesn't clear the time.
01:03:15	Joel	Guest	That would be me.
01:03:16	John	Host	You do it. You're the—you're the—
01:03:17	Joel	Guest	I'm—I'm the monster.
01:03:18	John	Host	The perpetrator.
01:03:19	Joel	Guest	Yeah.
01:03:20	John	Host	Alright. Joel's the monster. Even the monster knows: Don't be a monster! When you're done using that microwave, clear the countdown! Let us know what time it is. That's all I got.
01:03:36	Jesse	Host	That's it for this week's episode. Submit your cases at MaximumFun.org/ijho , or email hodgman@maximumfun.org . No case is too small. We'll see you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
01:03:49	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:03:51	Music	Transition	A cheerful guitar chord.
01:03:52	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:03:54	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:03:55	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:03:56	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.