

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:01	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week, clearing the docket. And with me as always is the first member of the expanded Supreme Court, Judge John Hodgman.
00:00:15	John Hodgman	Host	Hello, uh, my Bailiff Jesse Thorn. This episode is being released on 11/11/2020, but it's being <u>recorded</u> , because of time, before then. But still, 11/11. Make a wish, everybody.
00:00:28	Jesse	Host	Mm!
00:00:29	John	Host	Okay! I just made my wish. <i>[Deep breath.]</i> Hoo! Alright. Anyway, um—
00:00:32	Jesse	Host	You have to kiss your watch.
			<i>[Makes a kissy noise.]</i>
00:00:34	John	Host	Is that true? Is that a sup—uh—?
00:00:36	Jesse	Host	That's how it worked in my middle school. You had to kiss your watch.
00:00:38	John	Host	You had to kiss your Swatch??
00:00:39	Jesse	Host	Hey, look, that's what Debbie Sue told me.
00:00:42	John	Host	I had a, uh—when I was in early high school, I had a Keith Haring Swatch. Keith Haring limited edition Swatch.
00:00:50	Jesse	Host	Mm!
00:00:51	John	Host	It made me the coolest guy working in the stockroom at Conran's on, uh, Exeter Street.
00:00:55	Jesse	Host	Sure.
00:00:56	John	Host	And then I took it off, 'cause it was too sweaty, and I left it on the loading dock, and I never saw it again.
			Hey! Uh, normally I start these things by thinking I have nothing to say at the top, and then all of the sudden I'll talk for 30 minutes about a Keith Haring Swatch or whatever. But we don't have time for that! Because we have two incredible special guests here to clear the docket with us. I'll introduce them individually, and then I'll describe the thing they are known for working on together.
			Josh Clark is a former <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> expert witness! Who reminded me today that he already told the story of his tattoo on this podcast!
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
			Which is one of my favorite tattoo stories of all time. So too bad for you new listeners. Go into the archives! And he's a—
00:01:38	Josh Clark	Guest	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> Thank you for having me.
00:01:40	John	Host	You're welcome! He's also, as you can tell, a <u>super</u> lovely, funny guy, who chose to do a ten-part podcast series on the end of the world.
			<i>[Josh chuckles.]</i>

Called *The End Of The World with Josh Clark*. While located above him, randomly, in my Zoom gallery, Charles W. "Chuck" Bryant of course is my partner in hosting the MaxFunCon Pub Trivia Quiz, whether in Lake Arrowhead or on the Internet. As well as the cohost with me on my award-winning, all-*Avengers* movies run of episodes on Chuck's own podcast, *Movie Crush*.

*[John and someone else stifle laughter.]*

Which is Chuck's podcast. It's a great podcast where he talks to people and himself about his favorite movies. But—and you should subscribe to both of those podcasts! *The End Of The World* and *Movie Crush*, depending on how you feel that day.

But you might know them much, much, much, much better for their podcast called *Stuff You Should Know*. Josh and Chuck, welcome!

00:02:40 Chuck Bryant Guest

Thanks!

00:02:41 Josh Guest

Thank you, John!

00:02:42 John Host

Thanks for joining us here on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. Uh, an old podcast! We've been around for almost a decade. But you've been around for... a dozen years. Right?

00:02:54 Josh Guest

Easy. Maybe two, three decades by this time.

00:02:57 Chuck Guest

Yeah.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:02:58 Josh Guest

Uh, yeah! I think it was 2008. April of 2008 when we started.

00:03:04 John Host

April of 2008! Holy moly.

00:03:05 Josh Guest

Mm-hm. Yeah.

00:03:07 John Host

And you guys were one of the original super-duper popular podcasts. And Jesse Thorn always explained it to me that it was because you had the best title for a podcast.

00:03:18 Josh Guest

You know, that's actually—Jesse's quoted on our Wikipedia page, I think.

*[Jesse or Chuck laughs quietly.]*

Explaining that we have the best title for a podcast ever.

00:03:23 Chuck Guest

Is he really? *[Laughs.]*

00:03:24 Josh Guest

Yeah! It's on our—I believe—I mean, I read it once or twice a month.

*[John chuckles.]*

So last time, it was still on there. Last time I looked.

00:03:31 Chuck Guest

Oh, wow.

00:03:32 John Host

What—and Jesse, explain why it's the best title for a podcast.

00:03:36 Jesse Host

Well, because when you hear "*Stuff You Should Know*," it's like a challenge to listen to it.

*[Chuck or Josh chuckles.]*

So in—especially in the olden days, when there were no famous podcasts, and no famous people with podcasts—

00:03:47 John Host

Right.

00:03:48 Jesse Host

And all you saw was a little tiny graphic—

00:03:49 John Host

Right.

00:03:51 Jesse Host

—on your iTunes, on your desktop iTunes... say, "*Stuff You Should Know*..."

"Ehhh, I know—I already know stuff!"

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And you click on it! It's a hook!

00:04:00 John Host

It's a hook!

00:04:01 Josh Guest

You fell into the spiderweb.

00:04:02 John Host

That's right.

00:04:03 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:04:04 John Host

And I have happily never climbed out. I mean, this does go back a—you know, at least a decade before Conan O'Brien invented podcasting.

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

So it's pretty amazing that you guys have... And you know, Chuck and Josh—you know, Wyatt Cenac was the one who turned me onto *Stuff You Should Know*.

*[Somebody "Mm-hm"s.]*

He's like, "This is a podcast you should know. It's called *Stuff You Should Know*."

I was like, "I get it. I wanna listen." Did. ...I'm not sure you're gonna feel—how you're gonna feel about this.

*[Chuck and Josh chuckle.]*

But I was like—I was immediately hooked. And it's because I like to learn about stuff. I think one of the earliest episodes I listened to was about catapults, and pumpkin catapult competitions.

00:04:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Chuck:** Oh, good lord.

**Josh:** Oh, Punkin Chunkin!

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:04:47 John Host

Pump—Punkin Chunkin, Punkin Chunkin, Punkin Chunkin. I remember that.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:04:50 Chuck Guest It's one of our worst episodes.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:04:52 John Host No—but it was—even at—*[laughs]*. Let me say this, Chuck. Josh. Even at your worst, you're so great.

*[John stifles laughter, someone else laughs.]*

Because it doesn't need to be about anything! You guys just have this great rapport. And I was like—and I remember turning to my family in the car going, "This is the—this is the new *Car Talk* right here. This is the new *Car Talk*."

*[Josh or Chuck laughs quietly.]*

00:05:10 Josh Guest We've been concerned!

00:05:11 John Host And my family was like, "Speaking of the car, will you please keep your eyes on the road and stop talking about podcasts?"

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

00:05:16 Jesse Host I tried to talk a public radio network into making a public radio show out of *Stuff You Should Know*.

00:05:20 Josh Guest I remember that!

00:05:23 Jesse Host I bet they rue the day that they failed to say yes to that plan.

*[Jesse stifles laughter, others laugh.]*

I told them the same thing.

00:05:28 Josh Guest I remember that!

00:05:29 John Host Now, look. I'm gonna say this. *Stuff You Should Know* is one of the most downloaded podcasts in history. How do I know that? 'Cause it's on the back of this book I am holding.

*[Someone chuckles.]*

Which is called *Stuff You Should Know: An Incomplete Compendium of Very/Mostly Interesting Things*. And this book is coming out November 24th, 2020. In just a couple weeks. And also on November 24th, I would be remiss if I did not point out that I will be hosting Josh and Chuck on an amazing VTE—that's a virtual ticketed event.

*[Stifles laughter.]*

But everyone knows what a VTE is at this point.

*[Chuck and Josh chuckle.]*

It's an amazing book event organized by Little Shop of Stories in Decatur, Georgia. Georgia, of course, where *Stuff You Should Know* is headquartered. And each ticket includes a book, a signed bookplate—so you guys are gonna sign a bunch of bookplates? It's—

00:06:23 Chuck Guest No, already did.

00:06:24 John Host You already did it.

00:06:25 Chuck Guest That's a lot of fun. I'm sure you know.

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

00:06:28 John Host I'll tell you a story about that after the break. That's a tease. I don't know if you know podcasts, but that's how you keep people listening.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

And each ticket includes a book, a signed bookplate for you to put into the book, plus... I don't know if you guys know this, but I'm adding this on. A coupon for one free look at Josh Clark's tattoo, if you ever see him in person.

*[Chuck laughs.]*

00:06:49 Josh Guest Oh, my.

00:06:50 John Host One free peek! So get your tickets at [Bit.ly/JJSYSKO](https://bit.ly/JJSYSKO). That's J-J-S-Y-S-K-O.

*[Chuck laughs.]*

And—it's just a combo of "JJHo" and "Sysk." It's not a very good one.

*[Josh laughs.]*

[Bit.ly/JJSYSKO](https://bit.ly/JJSYSKO), all capital letters. Weirdly, uh, [Bit.ly/VTEYSK](https://bit.ly/VTEYSK)—V-T-E-Y-S-K—[stifling laughter] Virtual Ticketed Events You Should Know—was taken. So I had to do the other one. Anyway—

00:07:25 Chuck Guest I don't even have a book yet, John! It looks great.

00:07:28 John Host They had to send me one—it does. I'm holding a physical copy of the book. You can—

00:07:32 Chuck Guest I have not even seen that.

00:07:33 John Host This is what it sounds like.

*[John thumps the book a few times.]*

00:07:34 Josh Guest You still haven't gotten yours??

00:07:35 Chuck Guest I still don't have my books!

00:07:36 Josh Guest That is weird, Chuck.

00:07:37 Chuck Guest Yeah.

00:07:38 Josh Guest I think they're lost in the mail or something.

*[John knocks on the book a few more times.]*

00:07:40 Chuck Guest Well, that's alright. Ballots take precedence.

00:07:41 John Host Yeah, well, you know the—yeah. *[Chuckles.]* The mail is busy with other stuff.

00:07:45 Josh Guest *[Laughs.]* Yeah, that's true.

00:07:46 John Host But by the time November 24th rolls around, shipping is gonna be speedy. And I think you're gonna want this physical book, 'cause it's beautifully laid out with fantastic illustrations, and it's just a—

*[Somebody "Mm-hm"s.]*

It's something you wanna browse through! You know, you pick it up off a side table.

00:08:01 Josh Guest Mm-hm.

00:08:02 John Host And browse through it at any moment! As I was doing earlier. But we'll talk more about that later. In the meantime, we have some justice to dispense. Are you guys willing to weigh in with your well-informed decades of information researching informed opinions on these matters of dispute?

00:08:20 Josh Guest I've spent the last several weeks perusing, um, American case history, just randomly picking cases.

00:08:26 John Host Yeah.

00:08:27 Josh Guest Looking for precedents to rule through, or by. So yes, I feel pretty qualified right now.

00:08:32 John Host Alright, Josh is on board. What about you, Chuck?

00:08:35 Chuck Guest Yeah, I mean, I've been waiting for this—I wanna pull off the, uh, trifecta. The JJHo trifecta. I've been a litigant.

00:08:41 John Host Yeah.

00:08:42 Chuck Guest Uh, I've been waiting on this moment.

00:08:43 John Host Right!

00:08:45 Chuck Guest And very secretly, when, uh, Monte Belmonte—I want him to catch a cold one summer.

*[John laughs.]*

So I can fill in as guest bailiff.

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

00:08:53 John Host That would be the triple—that's right, I'm—I apologize! Because of course, you and Emily were litigants on the podcast.

00:09:00 Chuck Guest That's right!

00:09:02 John Host As to whether or not you would be allowed to personally, uh, widen a doorway in your home.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:09:07 Jesse Host I remember some unlicensed contracting.

00:09:10 John Host Yeah.

00:09:11 Chuck Guest Yeah, Jesse had—one of the great Jesse lines of all time was on that episode. Which was that I subscribe to the old carpenters rule of thumb, which is, "Measure nonce, cut once."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:09:24 John Host Well, I've seen that doorway in person, and it looks great. And I know

that you had a professional and a friend come in and do it. What was that gentleman's name again?

00:09:32 Chuck Guest

It's Isaac! 'Cause he made you a gavel, too, I think.

00:09:34 John Host

He made me a wonderful gavel. Isaac, we're thinking of you. But look, Isaac. You're in the past now. Nostalgia is a toxic impulse.

*[Someone laughs.]*

All this stuff is in the past. Now we must move forward into the future. Jesse, do we have any dockets to clear?

00:09:48 Jesse Host

Here's a dispute from Tom:

"My friend Dana and I are journalists at the local newspaper. I've always used a straight-line distance to explain how far apart two places are, because that's the literal definition of distance. Dana argues driving distance makes more sense, because that's how people think about how far away something is. If you find in my favor, I'd like you to order Dana to use straight-line distances in her stories and petition to have an entry about measuring distances added to our newspaper's stylebook.

00:10:20 John Host

Hm!

*[One of the guests echos this.]*

This is—this has some real ramifications.

00:10:24 Jesse Host

Yeah, this goes far beyond *The Daily Bugle*.

00:10:26 John Host

*[Laughs.]* That's right. We don't know the name of the newspaper, right? The local newspaper?

00:10:31 Jesse Host

No, we don't.

00:10:32 John Host

I'm gonna presume it's *Le Monde*.

00:10:33 Jesse Host

Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:10:37 John Host

Uh, what do you—?

00:10:38 Jesse Host

The locality in that place is le monde?

00:10:40 John Host

Le monde. Le monde.

00:10:41 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:10:42 John Host

What do you say, Josh and Chuck? Should this local newspaper describe distance by driving mileage...

*[Somebody "Mm-hm"s.]*

...as opposed to what, uh, corvid enthusiasts call, "As the crow flies"?

*[Someone chuckles.]*

00:11:00 Chuck Guest

Josh is a bit of an expert. Are you gonna tell 'em about your newspaper history?

00:11:04 John Host

Yeah, that's right.

00:11:05 Josh Guest

I mean, uh—I don't know how relevant that is, because I think this

person who describes distance by driving distance might be the only person in the world who does that.

00:11:14 John Host Mmm!

00:11:16 Josh Guest I think it's—I don't know if I've ever met anybody who said, "It's like, X number of miles away," unless you're getting in the car, typing in, like, wherever you're going on Waze, and then go by that.

00:11:26 John Host Right.

00:11:27 Josh Guest Otherwise it seems to be, like, as the crow flies, when you're just talking about how far away, say, like, the next town over is.

00:11:33 John Host Mm-hm. So you're a crow flyer.

00:11:36 Josh Guest Yeah, what is it? I'm a—a corvidite?

00:11:39 John Host You're a corvidite. Corvids are the ravens and the crows, right? Corvids?

00:11:45 Josh Guest I don't know! That sounds like a separate case entirely.

00:11:48 John Host I gotta look it up now. I feel really embarrassed. I thought I was so smart, and now—yeah. "The corvidae is a—*[laughs]*—a cosmopolitan family of oscine passerine birds that contains..."

*[Someone snorts.]*

Alright. Which ones—which ones am I not listing? There's one I'm gonna leave out.

*[Someone laughs.]*

Crows, ravens, jackdaws, jays, rooks, treepies, cho—choughs. I don't know that one.

00:12:14 Jesse Host Did you say "treepies"?

00:12:15 John Host *[Laughing]* Treepies.

00:12:17 Josh Guest That sounds delicious.

00:12:19 John Host "Shut your treepiehole." And nutcrackers. There's one—there's one corvid that I left outta the list that's in the Wikipedia page.

00:12:28 Josh Guest I'm gonna say seagulls.

00:12:29 John Host Incorrect.

00:12:31 Chuck Guest I'm gonna say swallow.

00:12:32 John Host Incorrect. I'll give you a hint.

00:12:33 Josh Guest I'm gonna say finch.

00:12:35 John Host Oh! Interesting. No.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

There are a lot of birds. Let's narrow it down.

00:12:38 Josh Guest *[Stifling laughter]* I'm gonna say parrots.

00:12:40 John Host *[Laughs.]* Okay, you know what? Sure.

00:12:41 Jesse Host Do I get to guess?



00:12:43	John	Host	No, it's magpies!
00:12:44	Jesse	Host	Augh!
00:12:45	Josh	Guest	That's what Jesse was gonna say.
00:12:46	Jesse	Host	I was gonna say marmot.
<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>			
00:12:48	John	Host	Because ma—because the corvids are super smart, and the display remarkable intelligence...
00:12:54	Josh	Guest	Have you ever seen a seagull walk around? It's smart!
00:12:57	John	Host	Yeah, they're—no, they're dumb. I've seen a lot of seagulls, and they're dumb. You can trick a seagull so easy.
00:13:03	Jesse	Host	We're talking here about birds that are known to scientists as "the scheming birds."
00:13:09	John	Host	Yeah!
<i>[Josh or Chuck laughs.]</i>			
00:13:10	Jesse	Host	Birds that are always making a plan against us.
00:13:12	John	Host	Well, that's not a joke! Because crows—it's been scientifically proven that crows hold grudges.
<i>[John and Josh stifle laughter.]</i>			
			They do!
00:13:19	Josh	Guest	It's true! It's true.
00:13:20	John	Host	They hold grudges. They recognize faces. And they pass their grudges down to their young! Like, there are people in town that the crows hate who are hated by <u>generations</u> of crows. And they'll run—they make a run at you! And magpies, of course, are notorious thieves.
00:13:35	Josh	Guest	Well, Heckle and Jeckle were magpies. They were pretty smart. And they could hold a grudge, too.
00:13:41	John	Host	I always thought they were crows. You know what—you know one of the ways they're smart?
<i>[Long pause.]</i>			
00:13:46	Chuck	Guest	How?
00:13:47	John	Host	Thank you, Chuck. Thank you.
<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>			
			I was really—wow. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:13:52	Jesse	Host	Sorry, I quit my job as sidekick briefly, and then signed back up.
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			
			Chuck finally got to live his dream of being a guest bailiff.
<i>[More laughter, John cracks up.]</i>			

00:14:00	Josh	Guest	Oh, there you go, alright!
00:14:01	Chuck	Guest	That was it!
00:14:02	Josh	Guest	That's the hat trick.
00:14:03	John	Host	You know one of the ways they're smart, Chuck?
00:14:06	Chuck	Guest	How?
00:14:07	John	Host	They fly real straight!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

That's why they fly straight, from point A to point B, "as the crow flies." That is the measurement over land, without impediment of curves or natural terrain. Chuck, what do you think? Josh says as the crow flies is the normal, and should be newspaper standard style.

00:14:27	Josh	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:14:28	Chuck	Guest	Yeah, so, I—I guess I'm a little confused. Is this person saying <u>in</u> the newspaper, if they're referring to, uh, two towns, that they should refer to them as the crow flies or, you know, actual mileage in a car?
00:14:43	John	Host	So—
00:14:44	Jesse	Host	Yeah, exactly. They—
00:14:45	John	Host	Yeah.
00:14:46	Jesse	Host	She wants to count up the road miles. He wants to measure the distance between them on a map, and check it against the—the key.
00:14:55	John	Host	Yeah.
00:14:56	Chuck	Guest	No, I think it's gotta be crow flies, then. That'd be weird. 'Cause there are different ways to get places, and...
00:14:59	Jesse	Host	Right.
00:15:00	Chuck	Guest	Yeah.
00:15:01	John	Host	Well... okay. But here, let me—
00:15:02	Jesse	Host	It would be great if she was calculating it by circuitous routes.

*[Multiple people laugh, Jesse remains vocally straight-faced.]*

Like, unnecessarily circuitous routes. She's like, "Well, I would go through Duluth."

*[More laughter.]*

"Just 'cause I gotta get some of those maple candies I love!"

00:15:14	Josh	Guest	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> Right. Or she <u>only</u> uses historic highways.
00:15:18	John	Host	Right.
00:15:19	Jesse	Host	Yeah.

*[John and Jesse laugh.]*

Everything—

00:15:20 John Host Yep.

00:15:21 Jesse Host She believes all distances should be counted by distance on Route 66.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:15:25 Josh Guest That's right.

00:15:26 John Host So let me produce a counterargument to this. Because actually, I am not sure. I—crow flies felt right to me, but then I thought about it. 'Cause you both know that I spend some time every year, as much as possible, up on the coast of Maine. And the coast of Maine, the shoreline is so shattered, and twisty, and broken, and haunted, that distances that are very close as the crow flies...

00:15:49 Chuck Guest Mm-hm.

00:15:50 John Host ...are actually quite long drives. And it's not about circuitous routes. It's the only way to get there, unless you're a crow. So for example, the distance—and you may wanna jot this down. The distance between Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse on Mount Desert Island...

*[Someone laughs, someone else "Mm-hm"s.]*

Historic lighthouse. And, say, some random other point in Maine at roughly... 44 degrees, 15 minutes, 57 seconds North—

00:16:16 Josh Guest *[Laughs.]* Oh no!

00:16:17 John Host —by 68 degrees, 34 minutes, and 9 seconds West as the crow flies... That distance is only 11.82 miles. We can—we can round up to 11.83.

00:16:29 Josh Guest Mm-hm.

00:16:30 John Host Whereas by car, the shortest and only route between those random coordinates and the famous Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse... is in fact, 50—more than 50 miles. Hang on.

*[Rustling.]*

I wrote it down, and then I threw it away.

*[More rustling.]*

No.

*[Quiet chuckling from the others.]*

00:16:49 Jesse Host No?

00:16:51 John Host I made all these notes about this!

*[More rustling.]*

00:16:55 Josh Guest That one says, "Chuck = one with beard."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:16:58 John Host That's right. Mm. "Which one? Which one is it?"

*[Jesse or Chuck laughs.]*

So the distance between these two points in Maine is 11.82 miles as the crow flies, but 51.3 miles as the car drives.

00:17:11 Josh Guest

Mm-hm.

00:17:12 John Host

And that's about an hour-and-15-minute drive. And when you get there, all the crows—obviously they beat you! They're already there! And they're circling in a terrifying mockery of a halo around the waiting figure of Randall Flagg, AKA the Dark Man, AKA the Walkin' Dude, AKA Walter o'Dim, that ancient smiling charismatic embodiment of chaos, tyranny, and self-destruction who has always been in Bass Harbor, Maine, waiting for you, and now you are his pawn.

[Beat.]

[A couple people chuckle.]

You ever read *The Stand*, you guys? *The Stand*?

00:17:44 Chuck Guest

No.

00:17:45 Josh Guest

I'm familiar with Randall Flagg from the, um, *Dark Tower* series more than *The Stand*.

00:17:48 John Host

Yeah, that's right. Yeah, yeah. He was a major bad guy. The major bad guy in *The Dark Tower*.

00:17:53 Josh Guest

Yeah.

00:17:54 John Host

I don't wanna—I don't think that Stephen King listens to this podcast, but it's—I love Stephen King novels so much. But—and I don't normally curse on this podcast—but I don't f-[bleep] with *The Dark Tower*. That's not on my list.

[Chuck laughs.]

00:18:06 Josh Guest

May I make a counterargument to your counterargument?

00:18:08 John Host

Please! Counter on a counter.

00:18:11 Josh Guest

It seems to me that very few people turn to their local newspaper for driving directions to, you know, the town that's two towns over or up the coast. So no one's expecting how many car miles it takes to get from point A to point B. I think they're already expecting as the crow flies.

00:18:29 John Host

Mm-hm.

00:18:30 Josh Guest

But since the—you do make a good argument. I would propose that these guys compromise.

00:18:35 John Host

No!

00:18:36 Josh Guest

And give—and give—bear with me.

00:18:39 John Host

Alright.

00:18:40 Josh Guest

And give the miles—or kilometers, depending on where you are—

00:18:43 John Host

Oh, here we go.

00:18:44 Josh Guest

—as the crow flies, from point A to point B. And then just simply put in parentheses after that, "(Further by car.)"

*[Someone exhales heavily.]*

00:18:53 Jesse Host If they're gonna write a style guide—

*[Someone laughs.]*

—why don't they just indicate in the style guide that you should say by what method you're calculating the distance?

00:19:00 Chuck Guest Right.

00:19:01 Jesse Host It would take like two words. You can say—let's say you're talking about Lefton, and you say, "Meanwhile, a 30-mile drive away in Righton..."

*[Someone snorts.]*

Or you say, "Meanwhile in Righton, just 20 miles away as the crow flies..."

00:19:21 John Host That is both—clarity is what we are after here.

00:19:24 Jesse Guest Yeah. And my—

00:19:26 John Host And I—right.

00:19:27 Jesse Host And I will extend that to say that my personal preference, clarity-wise, is that if there is no clarification, you're talking about the literal distance.

00:19:36 Josh Guest Is that as the crow flies?

00:19:37 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** That's as the crow flies.

**Jesse:** That would be as the crow flies.

00:19:39 John Host So Jesse Thorn, you're also weighing in saying the default should be as the crow flies.

00:19:45 Jesse Host Absolutely. Though I would prefer, in most situations, clarity. Especially if you're talking about traveling.

00:19:52 John Host It's interesting! Because I—my initial thought I shared with all of you, which is that as the crow flies is—for sort of gross general estimates of distance between two towns or whatever, obviously we are talking about as the crow flies. Right?

00:20:07 Chuck Guest Yes.

*[Someone "Mm-hm"s.]*

00:20:08 John Host And that therefore, that should be the default. And saying, "As the crow flies" should be unnecessary. And the reason that I initially thought that is that that's just the way we've always done it! But take my extremely compelling exception of Maine aside. The entire coast of Maine that you're willing to write off. Goddamn inland elites.

*[Josh laughs.]*

Leave—leave to confused wandering. If you set that aside, though, I think that we're in a different time! Because I know all that stuff, 'cause I used a computer program. And I—I think it's important to think a little bit about how Google Maps and Apple Maps and other maps' programs have changed our thinking. Because it is much,

much easier and common now to find driving distances between two points at a highly precise level than ever before. And it's actually hard to figure out how—the distance between two points as the crow flies on a map program.

00:21:09 Chuck Guest

That's true. MapQuest doesn't do that.

00:21:12 John Host

Oh, you got in your plug for MapQuest, finally.

*[Someone chuckles.]*

I don't know how much...

00:21:16 Chuck Guest

Still making that MapQuest money.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:21:19 John Host

I am going to—with great respect, I'm gonna overrule all of you! I think the default should now be driving distance!

00:21:25 Josh Guest

Booo!

00:21:27 Jesse Host

What if it's pollution? What if there's a power station, and you say, uh, "The pollution extends all the way to Righton, 20 miles away."

00:21:39 John Host

Well, then you say, "A radius of 20 miles," I think you would say.

00:21:42 Chuck Guest

Ohhh.

00:21:43 Josh Guest

Not necessarily. It could just be by the way the wind blows! It's not—it's not like pollution spreads out in a perfect circle around the epicenter. It just moves around with the wind!

00:21:54 Jesse Host

There are plenty of times when you're talking about distance that you're not talking about transportation. And there's plenty of times you're talking about transportation that you're not talking about driving on roads!

00:22:04 John Host

Now we're getting "as the wind blows" and "as the crow flies"?

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:22:07 Josh Guest

Right!

00:22:08 Jesse Host

What if I take the subway??

00:22:09 John Host

Why—we have science now! Why do we need crows and winds?

00:22:13 Josh Guest

But I think that's why I like it! And I think I agree with Jesse here that like, specificity really helps, and you could go with both. As long as you're specific. But I think I like specificity because, "As the crow flies is" a very pleasant, earthy phrase.

00:22:26 John Host

Yeah. Yes.

00:22:27 Josh Guest

That I don't wanna phase out thanks to the, you know, Big MapQuest.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:22:33 Chuck Guest

Also, if you were in Maine, you would say, *[Maine accent]* "You don't wanna go over there! The pollution's terrible there!"

*[Drops accent.]*

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

00:22:41 Jesse Host *[Insincerely]* Yeah. Yeah, John, that's how people in Maine talk. Exactly. It's a perfect impression of how Mainers talk to each other.

*[More laughter.]*

00:22:47 Chuck Guest Thank you. Thank you.

00:22:49 John Host Jennifer. We can cut all of Chuck out of this?

*[More laughter.]*

Like—like, *[inaudible]* can we have someone else record his lines, or—? Hm? Alright.

No, I'm just as, uh, *[going into the accent]* guilty of occasionally talking in a Down East accent. Ehh-ah. If you were to tell someone how to get to one place or another, Bass Head Harbor Light Head House, from those coordinates I gave you, *[slips briefly into Cockney]* and you didn't say—

*[Someone laughs.]*

*[Still trying]*—"As the crow flies," they'd be mighty mad at you.

00:23:16 Chuck Guest Wait, are you from London?

00:23:17 Josh Guest That was—yeah, there was—I think that was the Midlands!

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:23:19 John Host *[Usual voice]* Well, you know, it's...

00:23:20 Jesse Host *[Exaggerated cockney accent]* "Hello, guv'nor, it's me, the lighthouse man!"

*[Someone laughs.]*

"The Mayor of Maine! I'm here to catch some lobsters, I am!"

*[Josh cracks up. Jesse drops the accent.]*

00:23:30 John Host Alright! *[Stifles laughter.]* Here is the deal. I think obviously, that you have some common sense understanding of when distance as the crow flies is more apt and helpful and useful than distance as the car drives. And if you are talking about the relative distance between Perry and Calais (*Kal-ay*), then you might as well give as the crow flies as the default. Basically, I think that's a straight drive anyway.

But if you're talking about the relative distance between... Bar Harbor and Calais (*Kal-iss*), Maine—which is spelled like Calais (*Kal-ay*), but is different—you'd best give the driving miles, unless you specifically say, "As the crow flies."

And I like what Josh Chuck says. I'm willing to accept the "as the crow flies" as the default, so long as it is specific that you say, "As the crow flies. If you are giving driving instructions, then you have to make sure that you are clear that that is driving mileage.

And if you are in a place like Maine, where the as the crow flies distance is stupid and makes no sense, 'cause no one would ever fly

on the back of a crow from those two places—between those two places—then you should just be clear it is 51 point—now I have to find my note again.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

Fifty-one point three miles by road to the Bass Head Harbor Lighthouse. Bass Har—Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse! That's what it's called.

*[Beat.]*

That does sound like a compromise, but I think clarity has to rule the day here. Clarity is more important than either Tom or Dana being correct. "As the crow flies" should be used when you are describing measuring distances that way. Especially if it's going to be confusing otherwise.

00:25:11 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:25:12 Jesse Host Let's take a quick break. More items on the docket coming up in just a minute on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:25:18 John Host I'll tell you what, though. If you do drive from those coordinates and take that long drive to Bass Harbor, it's not as fast, but you do get to pass by Acadia Provisions on, uh, on High Street in Ellsworth, and that's the only place in Maine where they have Taylor pork roll. That's just a life hack for you. Goodbye.

*[Someone stifles laughter.]*

00:25:36 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:25:38 Jesse Promo It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. Every episode of the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast is of course supported by the members of MaximumFun.org. All of the folks who've gone to MaximumFun.org/join to become members, who have sustained us through these difficult times. We are ever so grateful to every single one of you.

This week, we are also supported by a couple of sponsors! First of all, our friends at CuriosityStream.

00:26:05 John Promo Ooh!

00:26:06 Jesse Promo Which is, "Smart TV for your Smart TV! Netflix for documentaries."

00:26:11 John Promo Yeah. This is a streaming TV service that's just, like, all incredibly awesome documentaries. And I, uh—I took advantage of the promo that you're gonna hear about. I signed up for a year, for an incredible low, low price. You're gonna hear about it. Don't worry about that right now. This is what I'm telling you about.

I was like, "I—what am I gonna get here?" 'Cause I'm feeling tense. I'm feeling tense. There's still—there's—a tension is in the air. I'm like, "Oh. I know exactly what I'm watching tonight to relieve my tension. Owls!"

*[John and Jesse laugh.]*

00:26:45 Jesse Promo *[Laughing]* Yes! Hoot, hoot!



00:26:46	John	Promo	<p><i>Owls: Masters of the Night?! Come on! I <u>know</u> I wanna watch <i>Owls: Masters of the Night!</i> I can't wait to just unwind and turn my brain off, and watch those owls turn their heads all the way around!</i></p> <p>Or I might watch <i>Seasons of the Otter</i>, which would be adorable.</p> <p><i>[Both laugh.]</i></p> <p>But it's not just, like, pure, like, "cute and amazing animals in nature" dopamine. There's stuff from history. There's a—there're documentaries about viking women. <i>The Beasts of Halloween</i>. There's true crime! Everyone loves true crime and unsolved murders, and weird science and history!</p> <p>Jesse Thorn, I was looking through CuriosityStream. Everyone loves... <i>Salt Fat Acid Heat</i>, right?</p>
00:27:27	Jesse	Promo	Sure!
00:27:28	John	Promo	<p>Samin Nosrat's cooking show, <i>Salt Fat Acid Heat</i>? But what about <i>Pain, Pus and Poison</i>?</p> <p><i>[Both laugh.]</i></p> <p>Hosted by Michael Mosley! This is a three-part show created by the Open University. Three episodes. First one's on pain. Second one's on pus. Third is on poison. The history of pain, and how people have traditionally tried to solve the problem of pain. You might be interested, as a chronic migraine... liver-with-er.</p>
00:27:54	John	Promo	The only thing that comforts me, John, in difficult times, is our friend Nick Offerman.
00:27:56	John	Promo	Mm-hm. Yeah.
00:27:59	Jesse	Promo	And don't worry, Nick Offerman <u>does</u> have a documentary series on CuriosityStream, about the history of domestic life!
00:28:05	John	Promo	Is that true?!
00:28:07	Jesse	Promo	That is true! With the great Nick Offerman. I—it warms <u>my</u> heart.
00:28:10	John	Promo	Plus they have exclusive programs featuring David Attenborough, Stephen Hawking, Chris Hadfield...
00:28:14	Jesse	Promo	That's the famous space guitarist!!!
00:28:16	John	Promo	Space guitarist, spaceman Chris Hadfield! And you can easily stream everything from your TV, phone, tablet, or computer. CuriosityStream. I really—
00:28:26	Jesse	Promo	Now John, this sounds great, but I don't wanna spend a ton of money on this.
			<i>[Both stifle laughter.]</i>
00:28:31	John	Promo	Well, look. Even if you were <u>not</u> listening to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, I was surprised by how affordable CuriosityStream is. For a full year of high-definition owls, I would expect to pay \$40 or \$50 for a year, and feel like that was a bargain.
00:28:47	Jesse	Promo	Yeah. And that's just for the owls! I mean, that's not even adding in the otters.

00:28:51	John	Promo	<p>Yeah! Right! Just for the owls! But for a high-definition one-year annual subscription to CuriosityStream—access to all of these documentaries about history, nature, science, food, technology, travel, and more—it's \$19.99. Which is really affordable! But guess what? Go to <a href="https://CuriosityStream.com/hodgman">CuriosityStream.com/hodgman</a>—or just go to <a href="https://CuriosityStream.com">CuriosityStream.com</a> and use code "hodgman" to sign up—it's just \$14.99 for the whole year! Fifteen bucks! For a year's worth of owls?! Come on. This is a no-brainer. And I know most of you are some-brainers!</p> <p><i>[Jesse laughs.]</i></p> <p>'Cause you're smart. You listen to this podcast. <i>[Laughs.]</i> CuriosityStream.com/hodgman, or go to CuriosityStream.com and <u>use</u> code "hodgman" to sign up.</p>
00:29:40	Jesse	Promo	We're also supported this week by our friends at Babbel. If you're interested in learning a new language—
00:29:47	John	Promo	¡Sí!
00:29:48	Jesse	Promo	You know your reason why. For me, I need to brush up on my Spanish because as soon as the world reverts to normal, uh, I'm gonna get down to Mexico City so I can go flea market shopping with my mom.
00:30:00	John	Promo	I was just gonna say! I wanna go to Mexico City so bad with you and your mom, and go flea market shopping!
00:30:05	Jesse	Promo	You're invited.
00:30:06	John	Promo	So I hopped over to <a href="https://Babbel.com">Babbel.com</a> . Logged in, 'cause I'm a member. And guess what they had? They had a little unit—a little five-minute lesson on the interesting sights of Mexico City! El Museo Nacional de Antropología! Plaza de la Constitución!
00:30:24	Jesse	Promo	Dude, that museum is <u>so</u> cool, John! That is an <u>amazing</u> , breathtaking museum.
00:30:29	John	Promo	Museum! You mean "el museo"?
			<i>[Both laugh.]</i>
00:30:32	Jesse	Promo	¡Sí, claro!
00:30:33	John	Promo	El Museo Nacional de Antropología?
00:30:36	Jesse	Promo	Yeah.
00:30:37	John	Promo	Yeah. No, it's a—it looks amazing!
00:30:38	Jesse	Promo	I wanna get to that Museo de Tamayo. That's my next stop. I didn't get there on my last trip.
00:30:44	John	Promo	I've been wanting to go to Mexico City for years. It was my next big destination. Jesse, you and I have talked about it. I've been brushing up on my Spanish because I believe there is a future, and I believe that future holds Mexico. For you, it could be some other place that you might get to travel that you've always wanted to go to! Germany! France! Denmark!
00:31:06	Jesse	Promo	You might wanna reconnect with your cultural routes! Maybe you're a second or third generation American, and your grandmother's first language is not the—is not English, and you wanna be able to speak

			the language of your foreparents!
00:31:19	John	Promo	Yeah, maybe your grandma is Polish! Maybe your grandma is Turkish! By national origin. Or Swedish!
			Babbel offers instruction in all these languages, and more. It's the language-learning method designed to get you speaking your new language within weeks, with daily 10-to-15-minute lessons. You start with words and phrases. Like, "¿Dónde está el parque ecológico?"
			And then the sentences gradually get more complex. And soon, you're practicing short conversations with your computer, or your phone, or your tablet! Its interactive dialogue and speech recognition technology helps to improve your pronunciation and accent (ax-AHNT), so you feel confident when you speak.
00:32:01	Jesse	Promo	And we have a special offer for <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> listeners!
00:32:05	John	Promo	Right now, Babbel is offering our listeners three months free! With the purchase of a three-month subscription with promo code "hodgman." That's tres meses!
00:32:14	Jesse	Promo	¡Sí!
			<i>[John stifles laughter.]</i>
			Promo code "hodgman."
00:32:17	John	Promo	<a href="https://www.babbel.com">Babbel.com</a> —B-A-B-B-E-L dot com—is offering our listeners three months free with the purchase of a three-month subscription, with promo code "hodgman."
00:32:28	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the docket!
00:32:29	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:32:32	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. This week we're clearing the docket with Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant, the hosts of the podcast <i>Stuff You Should Know</i> , and the authors of the forthcoming book of the same name. Here's something from Jeremiah. He says:
			"I am a gardener, and I make my own compost and mulch. One of the best ingredients for them is shredded autumn leaves. We don't have any large trees, so I have been acquiring leaves from the area. When neighbors take their yard waste out for pickup, I will briefly open their bags just to make sure it's leaves or mostly leaves. Then I put them in my car and take them home."
			<i>[Pause. There is a buzzing/whirring sound getting louder in the background.]</i>
			Hold on one second. There's <i>[inaudible]</i> <u>immediately</u> outside my window.
00:33:09	John	Host	Speaking of shredded autumn leaves! That's—leave it in! That is thematically appropriate. There's a leaf blower out there. We are in—we are in the midst of autumn. Shredded autumn leaves sounds, frankly, delicious.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly. The noise is still happening.]</i>

00:33:25	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:33:26	John	Host	And this is an important one!
00:33:27	Jesse	Host	Sounds like a good emo band, too.
00:33:28	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Right?
			<i>[Josh laughs.]</i>
00:33:31	Jesse	Host	"Opening for The Promise Ring, it's Shredded Autumn Leaves!"
			<i>[Everyone else laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Reading]</i> "My partner Liz says this is stealing. The residents are paying for the city to take them. She also says it's weird, and makes me look like a foliage perv."
			<i>[Someone "Hm"s.]</i>
			"But I don't disturb the residents, or trespass onto private property. Liz would like you to rule that I stop picking up leaves from the curb. I would like you to rule that I be allowed to continue."
			<i>[Either the leafblower stops, or Jesse's audio is muted.]</i>
00:33:57	John	Host	Alright. Well, so this issue goes all the way back into the past. <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> verdict number 38, " <u>Pepperoni Pauper</u> ," in which we discussed the inherent indignity of going through the trash bin at a Canadian pizza parlor for coupons. Or really going through <u>anyone's</u> trash. Your own or someone else's.
			Josh, Chuck? You live in communities where people put out trash bins and trash bags for collection, correct?
00:34:21	Josh	Guest	Yes.
00:34:22	Chuck	Guest	Yes.
00:34:23	John	Host	Alright. What do you think about Jeremiah's, uh, "leaf-peeping and taking" scheme?
00:34:30	Josh	Guest	Well, I'm actually split on the two, because if you'll notice, there's two things in there. One is that he's bothering the neighbors, or that he's a perv, a leaf perv—"foliage perv," I think is how Liz put—or Jeremiah put how Liz put it. And then the first is that he's stealing. I disagree with the idea that he's stealing.
00:34:52	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:34:54	Josh	Guest	By the very evidence that Liz uses, which is that people are paying for this to be taken away. I would say that people aren't paying for someone <u>specific</u> to take it away.
			<i>[Someone stifles laughter.]</i>
00:35:04	John	Host	Right.
00:35:05	Josh	Guest	So long as it's taken away, I think they're okay with it. If he were bringing <u>his</u> leaves and putting them with somebody else's leaves—
00:35:12	John	Host	Yes.
00:35:13	Josh	Guest	—and not paying for somebody to take it away, <u>that's</u> actually more

theft than what he's doing.

00:35:17	John	Host	Right.
00:35:18	Josh	Guest	But I do agree that he could be considered weird, or odd, or a foliage pervert, um, by people who have hangups about things like that. I don't think that there's anything inherently wrong with it. I think he's <u>definitely</u> not stealing. If he doesn't have leaves of his own, I say help yourself to your neighbor's leaves, because they're not gonna care.
00:35:40	John	Host	Chuck, did you—have you ever gone through your neighbor's trash?
			<i>[Chuck and Josh chuckle.]</i>
00:35:44	Chuck	Guest	No! But I gotta say, as a—you know, as a weekly listener to this show for years and years, this case is like—the Venn diagram of this case is—I feel like the JJHo universe is collapsing on itself or something, because I immediately am thinking of—
00:35:58	John	Host	Yeah. It's—we're trying to keep up with the times.
			<i>[Multiple people chuckle.]</i>
00:36:02	Chuck	Guest	I'm immediately thinking of the mom who would, uh, steal plant clippings from neighbors and shopping malls?
00:36:10	John	Host	Yeah. From shopping malls, not neighbors.
00:36:13	Chuck	Guest	Okay. Shopping malls. I'm— <i>[laughs]</i> .
00:36:14	John	Host	She would go into shopping malls and take clippings from the potted plants there, and re-plant them herself.
00:36:16	Chuck	Guest	Right. Yeah. And I'm also recalling the guy sort of recently who would move his neighbor's trash cans back to his house from the street?
00:36:27	John	Host	Right. Right. Right.
00:36:29	Chuck	Guest	And I think there's been a "dog poop in trash can" thing? Like, this—
00:36:32	John	Host	Oh, yeah!
00:36:33	Chuck	Guest	This is a very common theme here.
00:36:34	John	Host	Yeah. I mean... Basically, Chuck, you live in a suburban neighborhood. My question to you is this.
00:36:39	Chuck	Guest	It's not suburban.
00:36:41	John	Host	Yeah, no, alright. I—I stand corrected. And we'll leave all of this in.
00:36:43	Chuck	Guest	Okay.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:36:44	John	Host	The point I'm making is that you have a house on a street.
00:36:47	Chuck	Guest	Mm.
00:36:49	John	Host	And you take your garbage out to the curb. Correct? That's not what happens in my apartment building, where I—
00:36:55	Chuck	Guest	Yeah, we've got two—like, a big recycling bin, a big trash bin...
00:36:58	John	Host	Right.
00:36:59	Chuck	Guest	One goes in one, one goes to the other, goes out to the street, and I have seen people put stuff <u>in</u> these trash cans. I don't think it's nice to put dog poop in there.

00:37:06	Jesse	Host	No.
00:37:07	John	Host	Right.
00:37:08	Chuck	Guest	But I do think it's okay to crib some—some fall foliage.
00:37:13	Josh	Guest	Sure.
00:37:14	John	Host	Would—so if you saw someone taking some leaves out of your garbage bag—or took the whole garb—like, opened the garbage bag, looked at it, ascertained "leaves..."
00:37:23	Chuck	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:37:24	John	Host	And then left with it. You would be—that's cool.
00:37:27	Chuck	Guest	Great.
00:37:28	John	Host	"At least he didn't put Jesse's dog's poop in my—in my, uh, trash can."
			<i>[Josh or Chuck laughs.]</i>
00:37:34	Chuck	Guest	Yeah, I think that's totally fine. 'Cause I would <u>assume</u> —
00:37:36	John	Host	Right.
00:37:37	Chuck	Guest	—some non-nefarious usage.
00:37:40	John	Host	'Cause that's what Jesse's doing now. He's mailing his dog's poops all over the country, to put in other people's garbage cans.
			<i>[Someone laughs.]</i>
00:37:46	Josh	Guest	You getting money for that, Jesse?
00:37:47	John	Host	It's not money, it's just spite! He just—
00:37:49	Josh	Guest	Oh! <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
00:37:50	John	Host	Look. I am with you both. Jeremiah's right, and Liz is... wrong. Garbage that is on the curb is abandoned property.
			<i>[Someone stifles laughter.]</i>
			I would check with your local, uh, town hall or whatever. But I would be <u>extremely</u> surprised if you didn't learn that stuff that is left out on the curb is free for people to grab. It's also free for private detectives to go through to learn stuff about you!
00:38:18	Josh	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:38:19	John	Host	That's why you gotta—
00:38:20	Josh	Guest	That turned up in a lot of the case law that I looked over, John.
00:38:22	John	Host	Really, did it?
00:38:23	Josh	Guest	Oh, yeah!
00:38:24	John	Host	Yeah, that's why you have to <u>shred</u> your autumn leaves, rather than put them out whole. 'Cause that—otherwise...
00:38:29	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> Identity theft is the real problem.
			<b>John:</b> They'll see the notes that you took on those. Yeah, exactly.
			<i>[Chuck and Josh laugh.]</i>

00:38:32	John	Host	And I think that it's—and I think he's doing a nice thing! I would say this. Chuck, thank you for giving us a history of—of garbage-y disputes that have occurred on this podcast.
00:38:46	Chuck	Guest	And minor theft.
00:38:48	John	Host	And minor theft. In the case of the woman who was clipping, you know, fronds from, uh, ferns at the mall or whatever it was, that's private property. That's theft. You're not supposed to be... Kant's categorical imperative would say, "Don't do something you wouldn't be comfortable with <u>everyone</u> doing." And if everyone was cutting off a frond, that would be bad. You wouldn't have any fronds left! You'd be frondless.
			<i>[Someone stifles laughter.]</i>
			And then they'd have to shut the mall, 'cause that's the only thing keeping malls open.
			<i>[Josh and John laugh.]</i>
			So that, right, and the moving the trash cans, that's <u>also</u> interfering with someone's personal property, which those trash cans are.
00:39:25	Josh	Guest	Yeah.
00:39:26	John	Host	And personal space, and perhaps literal property boundaries, you know, as you're walking them back up to their own house. But the garbage in there... That's fair game. You wanna grab some shredded autumn leaves? Go for it!
			You will look like a weirdo to the people in that house, as you go through their trash. That's what it comes down to. Some people go through other people's trash for treasures, as part of a lifestyle of radical recycling and freeganism. Some people go through people's trash because they have no choice. They have to find food to eat, or things to turn in to recycle to make some extra money. All are fair game.
			<u>But</u> , if you wanna be a—I think— <u>good</u> neighbor, part of being a good neighbor means <u>not</u> giving your neighbors something to worry about with you. Not giving them the sense, like, "Well, if he's gonna go through our trash, what else is he gonna do? Pee in our windows?"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:40:27	Chuck	Guest	Yeah. Totally.
00:40:29	Josh	Guest	"When's he gonna show up without pants?"
00:40:30	John	Host	Right, exactly! Exactly.
00:40:33	Jesse	Host	I just wish there was <u>some way</u> to... to communicate with neighbors.
00:40:38	John	Host	No, it's impossible, unfortunately.
			<i>[Chuck and Josh laugh.]</i>
			That's what we've determined, time and time again.
00:40:41	Chuck	Guest	Good point.

00:40:42 John Host Yeah! There's no way—

00:40:44 Josh Guest He could—he could leave—he could create like a little, um—a little card, or note, or something that he left.

00:40:49 John Host Yeah!

00:40:50 Chuck Guest Ooh!

00:40:51 Josh Guest Almost like a calling card that said something like, "Just using the leaves for mulch. Thank you for them." And then maybe his trademark could be like, he leaves a Skor bar or something behind, too, as like, "Thank you." You know?

*[Someone exhales sharply.]*

You'd get known for that...

00:41:04 John Host Wow. Yeah!

00:41:05 Josh Guest *[Snaps.]* Like that, if you leave the Skor bar.

00:41:08 Jesse Host I think all *Judge John Hodgman* questions should come with the standard proviso that, you know, maybe we just say it out loud once, and then everyone knows from here on that that's appended to the end of every question. It says, "Blah blah blah blah blah, question mark... PS, I am not willing to talk to anyone who is not already my intimate."

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

00:41:29 John Host I am really into this idea of leaving behind a Skor bar or something!

00:41:33 Chuck Guest Yeah!

00:41:34 John Host Like, and leave it—right? And you leave—you—I mean, this would get—now get expensive. It would kind of—but if, like, I was like—just leave it atop a velvet glove.

00:41:42 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:41:44 John Host And a letterpress printed card that says, "You have been visited by Jeremiah, the Gentleman Leaf Thief."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:41:50 Chuck Guest Yeah.

00:41:51 Jesse Host I think—I think at the end of the day, you're looking to be called the Something Bandit.

*[John cracks up.]*

It doesn't really matter. Just the Something Bandit.

00:42:00 John Host That's right. Yeah! I would go—if there are neighbors who are routinely giving these things away, I would knock on their door. Leave them a note. Leave your number or an email address, in case they don't want you to do this. I love the idea of leaving a card. "You have been visited by the Leaf Bandit of Jeremiah's block," or whatever.

*[Someone chuckles.]*



I think that's part of being neighborly, *[stifles laughter]* is letting people know why you're going through their trash.

*[Someone laughs.]*

What do—they don't want—*[laughs]*—they don't want to think that you're some kind of private eye! Like some kind of former teen detective who's now a grown-up middle-aged man trying to solve mysteries for teenagers in North Carolina, Bit.ly/dicktown! They wanna know that you're their neighbor.

00:42:38 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:42:39 John Host That was just a plug. Always be plugging.

00:42:41 Jesse Host Okay, here's something from Darcy:

"Does consuming blood count as cannibalism? The squad has been debating it since January, and I'm not even sure what side I'm on anymore."

00:42:52 John Host Wait a minute—

00:42:53 Jesse Host First of all, I just wanna say, John?

00:42:54 John Host Yeah.

00:42:55 Jesse Host I'm impressed that The Squad found time to be re-elected to Congress and debate this question.

*[Everyone laughs.]*

00:43:02 John Host This—yeah! Are we talk—*[laughs]*—The Squad, of course, is the—how we refer to four members of Congress. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Ayanna Pressley, right? Those are the four. Those are The Squad.

00:43:17 Chuck Guest I think so.

00:43:18 John Host Right? And the idea that they're sitting around debating whether or not drinking blood is—counts technically as cannibalism is—really does sound like the worst Facebook conspiracy theory of all time.

00:43:29 Chuck Guest Yeah. Yeah.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:43:30 Josh Guest I'm sure it's out there, though! That's the new Internet rule.

00:43:34 Jesse Host Yeah, plus when you're doing all that Twitch streaming, you gotta have something to talk about.

00:43:37 John Host That's right. *[Laughs.]* It's like The Squad are gonna hold a press conference. "Yeah, we drink blood, but it's—we've dis—we talked about it. It's technically not cannibalism."

00:43:45 Jesse Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:43:46 John Host "A podcast told us." That's what the stakes are here!

*[Josh or Chuck laughs.]*

Speaking of stakes, Jesse Thorn, we are talking about drinking human blood, so there will be some discussion of Draculas in this.

00:43:55	Chuck	Guest	Yeah. I was about to say, that's just—
00:43:56	Jesse	Host	Thank you for the trigger warning.
00:43:57	Chuck	Guest	That's the elephant in the room.
00:43:58	John	Host	Some content warning for you. It's the Dracula in the room! I wonder if you could turn an elephant into a Dracula.
00:44:05	Jesse	Host	Any animal can be a Dracula. A lot of people think that only bats can be Draculas, but any animal can be a Dracula if they get bit by another Dracula.
			<i>[Someone chuckles.]</i>
00:44:12	Josh	Guest	Yeah.
00:44:13	Chuck	Guest	There's Bunnacula.
00:44:14	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:44:15	John	Host	There's Bunnacula, of course!
00:44:16	Jesse	Host	That's a perfect example. <i>Celery Stalks at Midnight</i> . Read it. Important book.
00:44:19	John	Host	That was a Writers House author book when I was in my first job at the literary agency! <i>Bunnacula</i> put a—gave me a paycheck in my twenties!
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
			Thanks, <i>Bunnacula</i> . Let me tell you something, though. A Dracula elephant would be hard to deal with. 'Cause they already have tusks. You know what I mean?
00:44:38	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm.
00:44:39	John	Host	Are those gonna get longer and pointier?
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:44:40	Jesse	Host	Well, I mean, one of the problems for the Dracula elephant is the tusks kinda get in the way!
00:44:45	John	Host	No, but it's—but they got that, uh—that hose nose. What do you call it, a trunk?
			<i>[Someone makes a slurping sound.]</i>
00:44:50	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
			<i>[John and Chuck laugh.]</i>
00:44:51	Josh	Guest	I like "hose nose" from now on!
00:44:54	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Elephants are one of the only Draculas with hose noses.
00:44:58	Josh	Guest	It's also a great putdown for an elephant, too. Like, "Outta the way, hose nose!"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:45:02	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Uh, elephants—elephants get so sick of being called that in middle school.
00:45:07	Josh	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> I'll bet.

00:45:08	Chuck	Guest	Yeah. On eighties sitcoms?
00:45:09	Jesse	Host	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Yeah.
00:45:10	John	Host	Elephants are the most decent, amazing, wonderful, compassionate—
00:45:13	Chuck	Guest	Yes they are.
00:45:14	John	Host	—empathetic, long-lived, and intelligent creatures on Earth. They're basically the crows of the mammals.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
			But less scheme-y!
00:45:23	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Josh:</b> Mm-hm.
			<b>Jesse:</b> Yeah.
00:45:24	John	Host	And they take circuitous routes that only they understand. And I don't know why anyone would put down an elephant. Don't call an elephant a hose nose. Unless he's a Dracula! In which case it's self-defense.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:45:35	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:45:36	John	Host	So—alright, first of all, Chuck and Josh, I gotta ask you each—and this is for real, now. Chuck.
00:45:42	Chuck	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:45:43	John	Host	Are you a Dracula? Or no.
00:45:46	Chuck	Guest	<u>Am</u> I a Dracula?
00:45:47	John	Host	Or no.
00:45:48	Chuck	Guest	Well, no. I was about to say I can't be because I'm a podcaster, but as we all know, Draculas can have any job.
			<i>[John snorts.]</i>
00:45:54	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse &amp; Josh:</b> Yeah.
00:45:55	Josh	Guest	It's true.
00:45:56	Jesse	Host	It's true.
00:45:57	John	Host	Josh?
00:45:59	Josh	Guest	Am I a Dracula?
00:46:00	John	Host	Or no. Are you a Dracula, or no?
00:46:03	Josh	Guest	Um...
			<i>[Pause.]</i>
00:46:05	Jesse	Host	And you have to tell the truth, even if you're undercover.
00:46:06	John	Host	That's right.
00:46:07	Josh	Guest	Oh!
00:46:08	John	Host	Even though Draculas are notorious liars!
00:46:10	Josh	Guest	Is that enforceable, though?

00:46:12 John Host Yes. You're under fake oath.

00:46:13 Jesse Host I'll enforce it. I have the equipment.

*[Chuck laughs.]*

00:46:14 Josh Guest Alright.

00:46:15 John Host Yeah.

00:46:16 Josh Guest Well, then, I—I can neither confirm nor deny that.

00:46:20 John Host *[Shudders.]* A little too close to—

00:46:23 Josh Guest Do you know what that's called? That, uh—that particular phrase?

00:46:26 John Host Umm, "Killing the bit"?

*[Everyone laughs. Someone claps.]*

00:46:34 Josh Guest Think you just saved it, John.

00:46:36 Jesse Host The classic "No, and"!

00:46:37 Josh Guest Oh, boy.

00:46:39 John Host What is it? Where did it come from?

00:46:40 Josh Guest It's called—it's called a Glomar response.

00:46:42 John Host A what what?

00:46:43 Josh Guest It came from the C—the Glomar response. It came from the CIA in the seventies. Where they were asked if they were trying to get their hands on a Russian sub that had sunk, and the CIA said, "We can neither confirm nor deny that."

00:46:54 John Host But what is the origin of the word?

00:46:56 John Host The *Glomar* was the name of the ship that they were actually using to get their hands on that Russian sub.

00:47:01 John Host Ohhh! The *Glomar* response!

00:47:03 Josh Guest The *Glomar Explorer*. Mm-hm!

00:47:05 John Host Well, let me just—

00:47:06 Josh Guest *[Stifling laughter]* Sorry about killing the Dracula thing.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:47:09 John Host No, you did great! I just needed to affirm that you guys are not Draculas. But it's interesting, you know? I—I looked up a thing one could learn. My new podcast, *Things You Can Learn*.

*[Chuck and Josh chuckle.]*

The clinical term—people—some people do drink blood.

00:47:23 Josh Guest Yes.

00:47:24 Chuck Guest Uh-huh.

00:47:26 John Host And those who have a pathological obsession with the idea of drinking blood, or who actually do it as a habit, that's—*[stifles laughter]*—clinical vampirism.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

Also known, officially, as Renfield syndrome.

00:47:39 Chuck Guest Ohhh.

00:47:40 John Host After the character from Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Which frankly—Renfield, of course, was Dracula's little... helper.

00:47:44 Jesse Host And it's not to be confused with Ren Faire syndrome, which is where you're always making your own chain mails.

*[Everyone else laughs.]*

00:47:55 Chuck Guest We've all drank our own blood, though, right? I mean, that's a weird human response, to—

00:47:58 Josh Guest Sure.

00:47:59 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:48:00 John Host Right.

00:48:01 Chuck Guest —to put your finger in your mouth and drink a little bit of that sweet iron-y goodness.

00:48:03 Josh Guest I think the difference is if you do that and you're like, "This is... pretty great." Or you're like, "What do other people's blood taste like?"

00:48:09 John Host That is actually a condition called autovampirism, where you are—you become addicted psychologically to drinking your own blood, on purpose.

00:48:16 Josh Guest Huh.

00:48:17 John Host So here, let's break it down. Uhhh, would you be a cannibal... Chuck... if you accidentally drank some of your own blood from like, a—a cut on your finger, or a bruised lip, or whatever?

00:48:35 Chuck Guest No, I don't think so. I think a cannibal is a—and I might not be correct, but in my view, a cannibal is someone who actually consumes flesh.

00:48:45 John Host So! You're saying that even someone who drinks blood on purpose—num nummy—

00:48:52 Chuck Guest Mm-hm.

*[Someone stifles laughter.]*

00:48:53 John Host That's not a cannibal? Even if it's someone else's blood?

00:48:56 Jesse Host You would not say that "Num nummy" is the cry of a cannibal.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:49:02 Chuck Guest No, I would say no, unless there're, you know, little tiny bits of flesh in there.

00:49:05 John Host It's a cannibal on a liquid diet!

*[Chuck and Josh laugh.]*

You're gaining sustenance from a human... tissue! I don't—gee, boy oh boy, Chuck, what do you—I mean—

00:49:14 Chuck Guest It's not tissue, though.

*[Pause.]*

00:49:17 John Host Josh, is blood tissue?

00:49:19 Josh Guest Oh, man. This is just a horrible rabbit hole. Yes, I think—

*[Someone laughs.]*

I think blood is tissue.

00:49:25 Chuck Guest Yeah.

00:49:26 Josh Guest I think.

00:49:27 John Host Yeah. "An ensemble of similar cells that together carry out a specific function," which is, in this case, bleed.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:49:36 Josh Guest I—I think you would be a cannibal if you drank other people's blood, but not necessarily if you drink your own blood? Unless you are... drinking it specifically for the purpose of drinking it. Yeah. Then yes. If you drink blood to drink blood, then you—you may be a cannibal.

*[John snorts.]*

00:49:53 Jesse Host "If you've got four cars on your lawn, and don't none of 'em work... You might be a cannibal."

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:50:01 John Host Well, first of all, I just want everyone to know, don't drink blood. *[Stifles laughter.]* Dooon't do it. Don't do it. For—it's—I can understand why you would be interested. It is 93% protein, and only 1% carb, *[stifles laughter]* so it's good if you're—it's good if you're keto. Might be attractive. But no, human blood—don't drink it. Never mind the violation of someone else's body that might be involved. Never mind the possibility of contagion.

The fact is, uh, based on some science and health websites that are designed well enough for me to trust them—and I looked at a lot of 'em—the consensus is that beyond just a little bit of your own blood or someone else's blood, our bodies are not really set up to digest it. And drinking a fair amount—if such a thing can be described—of blood can actually cause a condition—an overload of iron called hemochromatosis.

Because our bodies are not great at getting rid of iron. And you get hemochromatosis, that actually could be a fatal situation. So... Don't do it. But I'm gonna say, based on this illuminating discussion, here's my judgment:

If you ingest a little bit of blood from your own cut lip, or your own cut finger, or whatever, or like, you're chewing your fingernails or whatever, you accidentally swallow some fingernail, or some of that... fingernail meat around it...

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:51:23 Josh Guest That's tissue.

00:51:24	John	Host	<p>Tissue? Right? If that just happens unintentionally, you are <u>not</u> a cannibal. If you <u>accidentally</u> drink someone else's blood, or <u>their</u> fingernail tissue—<i>[stifles laughter]</i>—by accident, a small amount? I don't know how—you can figure out a scenario, I'm sure. If it happens by accident in a small amount, you are <u>not</u> a <u>cannibal</u>.</p> <p>But if you eat or ingest <u>any</u> amount of that on purpose for the purpose of doing it, as Josh said to drink blood as blood, that is an <u>act</u> of cannibalism. And then if you <u>cook</u> any of it, then you're <u>definitely</u> a cannibal. Then you just get a capital-C, Cannibal. Which is awful. But at least you're not a Dracula.</p>
00:52:11	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:52:13	Jesse	Host	Do you think they named him Hannibal 'cause it rhymes with "cannibal"?
00:52:16	John	Host	Yes.
00:52:18	Jesse	Host	Yeah. I think so, too.
00:52:19	John	Host	Yes. I think that is true.
00:52:20	Jesse	Host	Let's take a quick break. A dispute about leftover snacking, and a letter from a member of Gen Z when we return.
00:52:26	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:52:28	Promo	Clip	<i>[A telephone rings.]</i>

**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!

00:52:53	Promo	Clip	<p><b>Ify:</b> Each week, we talk about a new movie in theaters <u>and</u> all the important issues going on in the film industry.</p> <p><b>Alonso:</b> It's like <i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i> meets <i>Cruising</i>!</p> <p><b>Ify:</b> And if it helps seal the deal? I can flex my muscles while we record each episode.</p>
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**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.]

00:53:21 Sound Effect Transition

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:53:24 Jesse Promo

It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. We're taking a quick break to mention what we've got coming up. Among other things, John, you have an event coming up with Josh and Chuck!

00:53:31 John Promo

That's right! I'll be interviewing Josh and Chuck—Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant of the *Stuff You Should Know* podcast—for their book, *Stuff You Should Know: An Incomplete Compendium of Mostly Very Interesting Things*. And that will be a live-ticketed event, virtual, in conjunction with the great bookshop there in Decatur, Georgia, Little Shop of Stories. If you want to get a ticket and get a book and get a bookplate—if you wanna hear me get Josh to tell the story about his ridiculous tattoo—go to [Bit.ly/JJSYSKO](#). That's capital J—this is all capitals, actually. J-J-S-Y-S-K-O.

Meanwhile, David Rees and I still have our ten episodes of our short form animated show called *Dicktown* available on Hulu.

[Bit.ly/dicktown](#). Either all small letters or all capital letters! I've got both Bit.lys now. That's how professional I am. That's how much I hope that you all get a chance to check this show out. It's a PG-13 show, as the title might suggest. But I would say a 13-year-old would be okay watching it.

00:54:39 Jesse Promo

Man, I was watching one last night, John, that was—[stifles laughter]—that was—I was rolling. It was a—[laughs]—it was almost exclusively about David Rees saying things about the movie *Gymkata*.

[Both laugh.]

It was—obviously, just David Rees came in one day to your writing session, your joint writing session, and said, "This week's episode is just me listing things I know about the movie *Gymkata*, the legendary film that combines gymnastics skills with karate kills."

00:55:09 John Promo

Gymnastics and karate! *Gymkata*! Uh, it's a really fun show, and we're hoping and working very hard to get a chance to make some more of them. And one of the main and perhaps only way to get that chance is to get people to watch it! So if you haven't had a chance to check it out, please do! And if you have checked it out and you liked it, please spread around the word. [Bit.ly/dicktown](#).

Of course, my book *Medallion Status* is available now in paperback. You can pick up a paperback copy from your local bookstore or library. Or if you wanna order one from a big or small retailer, or a local bookshop, or an independent bookstore, [Bit.ly/MEDALLIONSTATUS](#). All capital letters, all one word. You can



also call my friends at Books Are Magic, which is a bookstore here in Brooklyn, where I will be routinely signing and inscribing copies of *Medallion Status*, *Vacationland*, or any of my other books that you care to order. And they will ship them to you!

Books Are Magic. Just Google that. "Books Are Magic." You can call them up, or order it online and say that you would like a signed copy or a personalized copy. If you're ordering something from my back catalogue, like *The Areas of My Expertise*, or *More Information Than You Require*, or *That is All*, give them a little extra time to order it. But they've got a whole mess of copies of *Medallion Status* there in paperback, that I would be so happy to sign and inscribe for you, or for your friends and family as holiday gifts.

00:56:43 John Promo

Now, one last thing I'm gonna mention. We were so excited, once again, to listen to the Bat Brothers last week. We got a huge response from everybody who remembered those brothers, and those bats. [Chuckles.] One of those Bat Brothers is a—is a super sweet guy that I continue to follow on Instagram, Noah Sturdevant. And he has just brought out a short little self-published anthology of funny science fiction stories, including contributions from Piers Anthony and Cat Rambo and so many others.

It's called *Quick Draw!*, and the profits go to True Colors United, which goes to help homeless LGBTQ teens. And Noah is a terrific person. This looks like a really fun book. If you wanna check it out, just go to [Bit.ly/BATBROBOOK](https://bit.ly/BATBROBOOK), all one word, all capital letters. [Bit.ly/BATBROBOOK](https://bit.ly/BATBROBOOK), to check out *Quick Draw!*

And while you're Bit.ly-ing, check out [Bit.ly/BATBROSHIRT](https://bit.ly/BATBROSHIRT). Because we still have available for you, Bat Brothers Home Renovation T-shirts, designed by our friend Sam Potts over there at the MaxFunStore. And a direct link there is [Bit.ly/BATBROSHIRT](https://bit.ly/BATBROSHIRT). They're fun shirts. I'm gonna get one.

00:58:02 Jesse Promo

Jesse, what do you have going on?

Well, of course I am always podcasting on *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* and *Bullseye*, my, uh, vulgar comedy podcast—

[John snorts.]

—and high-minded arts and culture NPR show, respectively. I'm also still the proprietor of the Put This On Shop, a vintage and antique shop for beautiful things of all kinds. Including, most recently—we've—we're still launching new stuff every week. We got a really cool LBJ campaign pin—

00:58:31 John Promo

Mm-hm!

00:58:32 Jesse Promo

—that's in the shape of his famous Stetson open-road hat.

00:58:35 John Promo

Ooh, I'm looking at that right now!

00:58:36 Jesse Promo

You know the famous LBJ ranch hat.

00:58:38 John Promo

Yeah!

00:58:40 Jesse Promo

We have a pretty stunning gold-on-silver sort of 1940s, uh, Mexican, nautically themed ring. We have hand-painted neckties with the

monograms F, J, K, or N. That's what we have. It's—look. You go, you find something. I can't ask for every letter in the alphabet. They only had F, J, K, and N—

*[John laughs.]*

—so if you have one of those letters in your name, good luck grabbing those at [PutThisOnShop.com](https://PutThisOnShop.com). I have a—also have an ID bracelet, a silver ID bracelet, that says "Jimmy" on it. So if your name is Jimmy, we need you at [PutThisOnShop.com](https://PutThisOnShop.com). And I thought I would mention—you know, sometimes I mention the fancy stuff.

00:59:22	John	Promo	Right.
00:59:23	Jesse	Promo	And we <u>have</u> some very beautiful, fancy stuff. I mean, if you wanna cork your decanter with a sterling silver top hat, I got you. But also, we have these early plastic, um—uh, I think they're celluloid, probably— <a href="https://PutThisOnShop.com">alphabet pins</a> , with almost every letter of the alphabet represented. And, uh, they're beautiful. They are genuinely very old. And they're eight bucks apiece! So go get one at <a href="https://PutThisOnShop.com">PutThisOnShop.com</a> . Shipping is free with the code "justice."
00:59:55	John	Promo	I mean, if you want an elegant sterling silver ring, if you want a tea patch, if you want 1940s hand-painted monogrammed ties, if you want an atomic made-in-Japan candle holder... porcelain seagull stickpin?! Come on!
01:00:07	Jesse	Promo	It's a beautiful seagull.
01:00:08	John	Promo	It's a b— <i>[laughs]</i> .
01:00:09	Jesse	Promo	<a href="https://PutThisOnShop.com">PutThisOnShop.com</a> , and use the code "justice."
01:00:11	John	Promo	Where else are you gonna go? Come on. <a href="https://PutThisOnShop.com">PutThisOnShop.com</a> , use the promo code "justice."
01:00:17	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the docket.
01:00:18	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:00:20	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're here with the hosts of <i>Stuff You Should Know</i> , the authors of the new <u>book</u> <i>Stuff You Should Know</i> . Here is something from Catherine:  "I'm requesting an injunction against my husband, Brax. He's a dear and sweet man."
01:00:38	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> "Also an alien insect."  <b>Jesse:</b> "However, he has one irritating habit."
01:00:40	Jesse	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i> He's not a—all husbands should be named after Adult Swim characters.  <i>[Multiple people laugh quietly.]</i>
01:00:48	John	Host	Alright, what's Brax's deal?
01:00:49	Jesse	Host	"He's a dear and sweet man. However, he has one irritating habit. He's not a big snacker, but sometimes wants just a little nibble of a leftover. The problem is he'll take a bite of said leftover, then put it back in the refrigerator, bite mark and all. This happens most with pizza, but today I found that he did it with some leftover crêpes."

Pictures of this mayhem are attached. Will you please order that Brax stop this gross habit? And if he wants just a taste of something, he has to cut off a piece with a knife!"

01:01:19 John Host Okay. So Catherine sent in two pieces of evidence, two photographs, that will be available on the show page at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), and of course on our Instagram account, where you can see all the evidence each and every week, and has a fun little comment community as well, of its own. I encourage you to sign in and follow [@judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). Uh, two photos—

01:01:42 Jesse Host And what we see, John, in these two pictures, are a piece of pizza and a crêpe which have clearly been visited by the Munching Bandit.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

01:01:52 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Chuck:** Did he leave a Skor bar?

**Josh:** Did he leave the card?

01:01:54 John Host Yeah, he left no card! Well, you know what? Uh, his bite marks are his signature! Because these bite marks are very, very clear. You could probably create a perfect plaster dental mold of Brax's teeth.

*[Someone laughs.]*

01:02:05 Jesse Host Yeah, these are what I would call cartoon munch holes.

*[More laughter.]*

01:02:09 John Host That's right. I can tell you this, though, Catherine. Good news. Brax? Not a Drac. I can tell from looking at this. Your husband's not a Dracula. No fang holes. That's how you know.

Josh and Chuck, we've all been stuck inside with our loved ones for a long time. And a lot of... oh, you know. Whatever we feel about civilization outside our homes, definitely civilization inside our homes has been collapsing. Uh, and descending into sheer chaos as the veneer of humanity gets stripped away, and we're just weird, farting creatures who live with each other.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

What have you—I'll pose this question to both of you, and you can answer if you have one. What is the thing that you feel like you've really let slip during this time of staying home safely and responsibly?

*[Pause.]*

Whether or not it affects your partner.

01:03:07 Josh Guest For me, I've really gotten into wearing the exact same outfit for...

01:03:14 John Host Yeah.

01:03:15 Josh Guest ...three days in a row. And that outfit is frequently my favorite pair of workout shorts.

01:03:24 John Host Yeah.

01:03:25 Josh Guest That I haven't worked out in in many months now.

*[John laughs.]*

And that have a pretty good-sized hole in an unfortunate place, so... that's kind of how I've let myself go.

01:03:35 John Host I feel you.

01:03:36 Josh Guest Which seems to be kind of, like, a pretty big way of letting yourself go, now that I say it out loud on record.

01:03:41 John Host That's okay. Listen. We're all doing as—the best we can in this situation. Chuck, what do—is there anything that's kinda fallen apart in your household?

01:03:48 Chuck Guest Yeah. You know, I think the, um—with delivery increased to homes for various things, I think the, uh—the inside, like, nine-foot radius around our front door is generally cluttered.

*[Someone chuckles.]*

01:04:03 John Host Is that as the crow flies, or driving?

*[Josh laughs, Chuck stifles laughter.]*

01:04:05 Chuck Guest As the crow flies. It's been pretty cluttered.

01:04:07 John Host Uh-huh.

01:04:08 Chuck Guest With boxes and packing—uh, not packing peanuts, but the little—

01:04:12 John Host Right.

01:04:14 Chuck Guest —uh, poppy things that you can pop.

01:04:16 John Host Yeah.

01:04:17 Chuck Guest So yeah, that gets a little messy.

01:04:19 John Host Your tolerance for visual pollution and clutter is maybe a little bit higher than it used to be?

01:04:24 Chuck Guest Yeah, breaking down those boxes for recycling is something that's happening like once a week.

01:04:27 John Host Yeah, forget about it.

01:04:28 Chuck Guest Instead of as it comes in.

01:04:30 John Host Plus, uh, Jeremiah the Gentleman Box Thief is waiting for you to put those outside.

01:04:34 Chuck Guest That's right.

*[Josh laughs.]*

01:04:35 John Host "Where—why can't we get going on this? I need this for the box fort that I'm making."

Uh, yeah. I'm—I mean, I'll—I will say the thing that I think about often is how comfortable I have become wearing elastic waist pants.

01:04:52 Chuck Guest Soft clothes?

01:04:53 John Host I mean, yeah. "Soft clothes," as Paul F. Tompkins and Janie Haddad Tompkins would say. Like, I—I believe in soft clothes of an evening, when you're ready to relax. But there is no evening anymore, you

know? There—

*[Josh and John laugh.]*

01:05:05 Josh Guest

It's all evening!

01:05:06 John Host

It's allll evening! And... you know, it's like a decision every day! Like, "Am I going to wear fitted pants today, or am I really just gonna wear these track pants"—"me wearing track pants—I mean, I think probably, I—the image of me wearing track pants probably just made a lot of our listeners just... vomit right now!

*[Multiple people chuckle.]*

And that could be a real problem! But it's true. I've been wearing track pants. And listeners to *Judge John Hodgman* will know, from my previous stances of wearing pajamas on an airplane—sorry, Cory Doctorow—or in general, wearing leisurewear in everyday life, is—my opinion was very low of that. But now... it's not merely that my moral tolerance has changed for this, for comfort, 'cause I think we deserve comfort when so much of the world around us is trying to make us uncomfortable, or is doing so anyway.

But also, I can't fit into my pants anymore! I can't even fit...

*[Someone laughs.]*

01:06:03 Jesse Host

Yeah. At this point, the only pants I wear are those Jennifer Lopez ones that say "Juicy" on the butt.

*[Someone laughs.]*

01:06:08 John Host

Yeah, that's right!

01:06:09 Chuck Guest

Nice.

01:06:10 John Host

So I—look. I'm gonna admit that I've taken a bit of pizza outta the fridge, and put in—put back a Brax-style chomped slice.

*[Someone chuckles.]*

And I have felt bad about myself. That's a bad thing to do. That's gross. That's a visual indicator that you have just saliva'd on this thing. Which, by the way, Brax and Catherine, they live together, they probably share a lot of saliva! But there is a—there is an—you wanna hide the fact that you've slobbered all over this slice of pizza. A little bit. You wanna maintain a level of civilization in your house. This is no good, Brax. It's no good when I did it. It's no good when you do it. And especially when there's such a simple solution.

When you want to eat some of the pizza, but not all of it... just cut off a slice with your pizza sheers! Everyone's gotta get pizza sheers. You know that. We've ruled that *Judge John*—on *Judge John Hodgman*, best way to cut pizza is scissors. Just get some dedicated pizza sheers. And the crêpes, just get out your ciseaux de crêpe! That's French for "crêpe scissors."

*[John and someone else stifle laughter.]*

You're welcome, Babbel. Free advertising for today. Ciseaux de crêpe!

01:07:27 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:07:29 John Host What do you think, guys? Am I wrong, or am I right?

01:07:31 Josh Guest You couldn't be more right.

01:07:32 John Host Oh, phew.

01:07:34 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** I mean, that's just—

**Chuck:** I say you're wrong.

01:07:35 John Host You say I'm wrong?!

01:07:37 Chuck Guest Yeah, I don't think it's a big deal.

01:07:38 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Gosh, I—

**Josh:** Oh, man.

*[Jesse laughs.]*

01:07:40 Josh Guest I think the fact that we have things like forks and pizza sheers, and that we've had these things for hundreds, thousands, countless years, and that they're—they're so handy. They're usually right by where the pizza and the crêpes are.

01:07:55 John Host Yeah!

01:07:57 Josh Guest That you just open a drawer and pull it out, and then you—you cut it! And it's just... That's—that's the—to me, the bare minimum threshold of civilization, not leaving—

01:08:10 John Host It's a sign of respect for the people you're living with, which is like, "I'm not—I'm going to—I know that I'm just a farting, sweating, ingesting monster."

01:08:20 Josh Guest Yeah.

01:08:21 John Host "But I'm gonna try to pretend to be something else for you."

01:08:23 Josh Guest *[Laughs.]* Right! Right. Yeah. I think that is a—

01:08:27 John Host Those were my vows, by the way. Yeah.

01:08:28 Josh Guest That's a real—that's a loving thing that you can do for somebody. *[Laughs.]* Nice.

01:08:31 John Host But Chuck is very low-key.

01:08:32 Chuck Guest Yeah.

01:08:33 Josh Guest Yeah.

01:08:34 John Host And I—yeah. And you know something? If I were in Chuck's house—and I've been in Chuck's house. I had to go over there and inspect the widening of that door. Looked good.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

And if I opened the fridge—which would be a very intrusive thing to do as a guest, but Chuck wouldn't care—and I saw a piece of pizza that Chuck had had a bite out of it and put back in there, I would not think ill of my host. I would be like, "You know what? I admire

Chuck's laidbackness," and I might chomp a bit, too. 'Cause that's the Chuck way. I got you.

01:09:03 Josh Guest Well, Chuck is well-known for, before guests come over, taking a fork and cutting the bite marks off of the pizza in the fridge.

01:09:10 John Host *[Laughs.]* Well, he and Emily are wonderful hosts.

01:09:15 Jesse Host I'm with you, Judge Hodgman. I have a similar thing that happens to me every time I go to my friend, uh, Kool's house. Um, I'll go for the front—oh, Kool-Aid Man is his full name.

*[Everyone else laughs.]*

Uh, I'll go for the front door, initially. Then I'm like, "He's just laidback about how he enters and exits homes!"

*[More laughter.]*

01:09:37 John Host To that I say, "Ohhh, yeahhh."

01:09:40 Jesse Host *[Bursts out laughing.]*

Okay, we have a letter to read here, Judge Hodgman. A letter about Generation Z, from a listener named Tristan.

01:09:49 John Host That's right, Jesse. So Josh, Chuck, over the summer, Guest Bailiff David Rees and I heard [a dispute](#) about whether or not it's okay to burn books if they are written by Tucker Carlson or Bill O'Reilly, and their ilk. If you wanna know what the verdict was, go back and listen to that episode, 'cause I don't remember anything that ever comes outta my mouth anymore.

David and I, though, wondered whether or not Generation Z has the same visceral reaction that we of Generation X might have to the idea of physical book burnings, given how much of those younger people's schoolwork and reading is now done on screens. Tristan, an 11-year-old girl, wrote to me about this, and here's what she had to say:

"Dear Judge John Hodgman,

You implied that Generation Z doesn't read actual paper books, if they read at all. I think that statement was a bit ignorant! Because as I write this, I'm in the middle of reading a paper book entitled..."

Jesse, you may wanna step outta the room.

"Entitled *Breaking Dawn*." It's a Dracula book!

*[Chuck and Josh laugh quietly.]*

01:10:53 Jesse Host Disgusting that they can be in books.

01:10:55 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* She's reading a book about Draculas! Paper Dracula book!

"I am not just speaking for myself. I have friends who love to read, just like me. I hope you understand that not all of Generation Z fits that stereotype of being device-addicted. A lot of us love to read, and

not on devices. I know I would be appalled by a book-burning, even if the books were written by racist conservatives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I'm a big fan of your podcast."

Well, Tristan, I thank you. And I do stand corrected. In fact, the younger people who are in my life, uh, read more paper books than I do! And it's a—I think there's still—there's an obviously very generationally enduring pleasure that comes in picking up a book. About Draculas. And reading it. Even if Jesse Thorn would like you to burn that book about Draculas, and probably it's the safest thing to do, 'cause you don't know! A physical book about Draculas? A Dracula could come out of it! A Dracula could pretend to be a book, right, Jesse?

01:11:51	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Absolutely.
01:11:52	John	Host	Right.
01:11:54	Jesse	Host	In fact, I'm not 100% certain that a book couldn't, itself, be a Dracula.
01:11:58	John	Host	That's a—it's a—it's back and forth!
01:12:00	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
01:12:01	John	Host	They're marginal creatures of the night! Tristan, I hope your book isn't a Dracula. Also, Tristan, I hope you're not actually reading Tucker Carlson books. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> But okay. I—point taken. Speaking of books—
01:12:13	Jesse	Host	Come onnn, Zoomers love Carlson!
			<i>[Josh and Chuck laugh quietly.]</i>
			Well-known fact! Well, they <u>love</u> Lou Dobbs. They <u>like</u> Tucker Carlson.
			<i>[Josh, Chuck, and John laugh.]</i>
01:12:24	John	Host	That's right.
01:12:24	Chuck	Guest	Fair.
01:12:26	Jesse	Host	You know, John, I'm the only Millennial here.
01:12:28	John	Host	Oh, boy.
01:12:30	Jesse	Host	You guys are all Gen X-ers. Uh, I only read books on vinyl.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
01:12:37	Josh	Guest	Ewww!
01:12:38	John	Host	Speaking of books, both physical <u>and</u> audio... Josh and Chuck, you have a book coming out! In just a few days. Called <i>Stuff You Should Know: An Incomplete Compendium of Very</i> —and then that's crossed off, and it says <i>Mostly Interesting Things</i> . By you Josh Clark, and you Chuck Bryant, and your co-writer Nils Parker.
01:13:00	Josh	Guest	Mm-hm. Great guy.
01:13:01	John	Host	And I would encourage you, Tristan, to pick up this book and read it.
01:13:08	Chuck	Guest	Then burn it.



01:13:08 John Host Don't burn it!

*[Someone laughs.]*

Don't burn this book. You wanna have this one around. 'Cause this is one you can just dip into. For example, Jesse Thorn, here's a question based on some information that I got from this book.

01:13:20 Jesse Host Mm-hm?

01:13:21 John Host Think it through. Can you tell me the connection between cyanide, almonds, and asparagus?

*[Pause.]*

01:13:28 Jesse Host Hm. Well, cyanide is a famous poison.

01:13:31 John Host Right.

01:13:33 Jesse Host Almonds are a type of nut.

01:13:36 John Host Mm-hm!

01:13:38 Jesse Host Um, that people eat a lot of when they're on a diet and they wanna tell you about it.

*[Everyone else laughs.]*

01:13:44 John Host Mm-hm?

01:13:46 Jesse Host And, uh, asparagus... is... uh, one of the things that is way better when you're a grown-up than when you're a child. So as far as I can tell, there is no connection, John.

01:13:56 John Host I don't know! Josh or Chuck, you wanna take this one?

01:13:59 Josh Guest So, cyanide has an almond smell. And not everybody can smell the almond smell, and not everyone can smell asparagus pee, either.

01:14:07 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Josh:** Isn't that correct?

**Chuck:** Right.

**John:** That's right.

01:14:08 John Host Yeah, that's exactly right! I was—cyanide—it's, uh, Swedish—according to your book, Swedish chemist Carl Scheele determined in 1782 that cyanide gas smells like bitter almonds. I mean, at first he was like, *[sniff sniff]* "What is this, marzipan?" *[Sniff sniff sniff.]* "Nope! Almonds."

*[Someone laughs.]*

That's what—*[laughs]*—that smelling, that's what we call Swedish chemistry. But in any case—

*[Someone laughs.]*

01:14:33 Jesse Host Marzipan and cyanide, by the way, are two things you should never eat.

*[Everyone laughs.]*

01:14:40 John Host Yeah, don't eat cyanide. But as you say, Josh—and this is the thing

that blew my mind. 'Cause I had never heard of this about any other substance, but only 50% of people can actually smell that bitter almond smell, that famous from detective novel bitter almond smell of cyanide. In the same way that a certain percentage of people just don't have the genetic receptor to smell that weird urine—asparagus-tainted urine smell!

01:15:05	Josh	Guest	For a while, they had it a little bit backwards, at least with asparagus. They thought that some people didn't <u>smell</u> —or that didn't <u>produce</u> asparagus pee.
01:15:13	John	Host	Produce. Right.
01:15:15	Chuck	Guest	Mm-hm.
01:15:16	Josh	Guest	And then they finally thought to bring in some people, um—
01:15:18	Chuck	Guest	With noses.
<i>[John snorts.]</i>			
01:15:20	Josh	Guest	Yes, with noses. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
01:15:22	John	Host	What we call Swedish chemists.
01:15:23	Chuck	Guest	Yes.
01:15:24	Josh	Guest	And they found that some people can smell it, some people can't, but everyone makes a—a terrible smell when they pee after eating asparagus.
01:15:31	Chuck	Guest	I like that smell.
<i>[Beat.]</i>			
01:15:33	John	Host	Wow.
<i>[Someone snorts.]</i>			
01:15:34	Josh	Guest	It's not <u>totally</u> unpleasant—
01:15:35	Jesse	Host	<u>Wow</u> . Talk about a leaf perv!
<i>[Chuck laughs.]</i>			
01:15:38	John	Host	<u>Whoa</u> .
01:15:40	Josh	Guest	But it's, uh—it's a little rough.
01:15:42	John	Host	Look, November 24th, 2020 is when this book comes out. It's also when you and—you Chuck, and you Josh, and me John, are gonna have a VTE. A virtual ticketed event! A live book event in conjunction with Little Shop of Stories down there in Decatur, Georgia. And not only will we talk about <u>all</u> the amazing fun facts that you put into this book, and have a good old time talking, but if time allows... hm? I'll tell you, Chuck, that bookplate story that I was gonna tell you.
<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>			
About me going into autohypnosis while signing bookplates.			
<i>[More laughter.]</i>			
And it was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life. But if time doesn't allow, we'll kill that story so we have enough time for me			

to tell Josh's tattoo story, which is one of the greatest things I've ever heard in my life. It makes me so happy.

*[Chuck laughs quietly.]*

01:16:37 Josh Guest

I love that.

01:16:39 John Host

[Bit.ly/JJSYSKO](https://bit.ly/JJSYSKO).

*[Josh and John laugh.]*

Bit.ly/J-J-S-Y-S-K-O. All capital letters, all one word. Your ticket gets you a book. Your ticket gets you some face time with us. But most importantly, you get to see what I've had the pleasure of seeing for the past hour or so: the wonderful faces of my friends Josh and Chuck of *Stuff You Should Know*. Thank you so much for being here, you guys!

01:17:09 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**Chuck:** Thanks, man. Thank you guys.

**Josh:** Thank you for having us. To both of you!

01:17:12 Jesse Host

Our thanks to Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant for joining us today. You can follow Josh on Twitter at @Josh\_um\_Clark? and Chuck is at @MovieCrushPod. Their book *Stuff You Should Know: An Incomplete Compendium of Mostly Interesting Things* comes out on November 24th. It's available for pre-order now. Visit [StuffYouShouldReadBooks.com](http://StuffYouShouldReadBooks.com) for more.

The docket is now clear! That's it for another episode of *Judge John Hodgman*. Our producer is the ever capable Ms. Jennifer Marmor, whose husband Shane walked through the background in his favorite gym shorts earlier on!

*[Someone chuckles.]*

01:17:49 John Host

Yeah!

01:17:51 Jesse Host

We are on Twitter at [@JesseThorn](https://twitter.com/JesseThorn) and [@hodgman](https://twitter.com/hodgman). We're on Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). Make sure to hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets #JJHo. And check out the Maximum Fun subreddit—that's at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com/r/MaximumFun)—to chat about this week's episode. You can submit your cases—and we do need your cases, always—at [MaximumFun.org/jjho](https://MaximumFun.org/jjho). Or just email [hodgman@maximumfun.org](mailto:hodgman@maximumfun.org).

01:18:19 John Host

And listen! If you are a podcaster like Josh and Chuck, if you've got a setup for talking and sounding good already, and you've got a dispute? Don't make up a dispute. But if you've got a dispute and you've got some pretty good microphones, hoo! You're gonna go top of the pile.

01:18:34 Jesse Host

Yeah. That's the truth.

01:18:36 John Host

We'll find a way to make it work. *[Stifles laughter.]*

01:18:37 Chuck Guest

You could be on a lot of podcasts these days, truth be told.

01:18:40 Jesse Host

For the last few years, we have booked studios for our litigants. These days, uh, for obvious reasons, we are unable to send them to studios. So if you do have some equipment, indicate that in your note. And we'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman*

podcast.

01:18:57	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:19:00	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:19:01	Speaker 1	Guest	<a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> .
01:19:03	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:19:04	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:19:05	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.