

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:02	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week, clearing the docket. And joining me from Orland, Maine, is... a man wearing a mons—a T-shirt that says "monster"! I guess a human monster! Judge John Hodgman!
00:00:19	John Hodgman	Host	It says "monster" on my T-shirt, which you can see, Jesse, because though you are in Los Angeles, where there be monsters—end of the map.
00:00:27	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm.
00:00:28	John	Host	And here I am across the country, through the... <i>[reluctant and stifling laughter]</i> I guess <u>miracle</u> of teleconferencing?
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			I don't know. The—the—
00:00:36	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> The burden of teleconferencing, yes.
00:00:38	John	Host	The curse-blessing, the—the clessing of teleconferencing? You can see that my T-shirt says "monster." It's a—it's an antique brand of fireworks. The rest of the T-shirt has a picture of a monster on it.
00:00:49	Jesse	Host	Yeah. That's a cool T-shirt!
00:00:50	John	Host	But what I realized, looking—well, thanks. I saw an ad on Instagram and just had to have it.
00:00:54	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:00:56	John	Host	But what I noticed is—because in teleconferencing I can see myself, which is <u>bad</u> . But I'm reversed, also. And I never realized that—that—d'you know what "monster" spells backwards, Jesse?
00:01:05	Jesse	Host	What?
00:01:06	John	Host	"Restroom."
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			Almost.
00:01:10	Jesse	Host	Yeah, pretty much.
00:01:11	John	Host	Almost spells "restroom."
00:01:12	Jesse	Host	You know, John, I had a friend in middle school—still a—still a friendly acquaintance.
00:01:16	John	Host	Sure.
00:01:17	Jesse	Host	Patrick Michaels.
00:01:18	John	Host	Right.
00:01:19	Jesse	Host	And Patrick—
00:01:20	John	Host	You were also in middle school at the time, let's be clear.
00:01:22	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:01:23	John	Host	Right.
00:01:24	Jesse	Host	I—that—thank you for clarifying that. Um, no, I was in elementary school; I was just super cool.

00:01:28 John Host *[Giggles.]* Wow! You hung with the older kids.

00:01:33 Jesse Host My friend Patrick Michaels, uh, could say any phrase backwards. Immediately. Instantly. It was the most extraordinary gift, skill, talent that I've ever observed in person. He can still do it. I talked to him a couple years ago. He works for ProPublica now. He's a journalist.

00:01:53 John Host Sure! Yeah!

00:01:54 Jesse Host And, uh, I—I confirmed. He can still do it. It's amazing. I mean, honestly, when he went to interview at ProPublica, I imagine that they said, "Okay, we've taken a look at your investigative reporting. And it looks pretty good. Can you say phrases backwards? Instantly?" and he was like... "Yitslani" or whatever. *[Laughs.]*

00:02:16 John Host Acil... bup... orp.

00:02:18 Jesse Host Yeah. Acilbuporp.

00:02:19 John Host "ProPublica" backwards.

00:02:21 Jesse Host There you go.

00:02:22 John Host "Show me—show me to the backwards monster, please. I need to use the toilet."

*[Jesse laughs.]*

00:02:38 Jesse Host That's a common phrase. Jesse, I am here—I'm here live in the studios, of course. The solar power studios of [WERU.org](http://WERU.org). We're gonna clear... the docket, and dispense some justice. Is that correct? I believe that is correct. Uh, let's take a look at what we have from Heather in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania:

"It's sweet corn season here in Pennsylvania. I like to roll my hot corn on the cob directly on a stick of butter for maximum butter coating of the cob."

00:02:58 John Host Mm. Can I make an objection already?

00:03:01 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yes.

00:03:02 John Host It's not sweet corn season in Pennsylvania. It's sweet corn season everywhere! In the East of the United States.

00:03:06 Jesse Host Yeah. Sure.

00:03:08 John Host Don't be so—*[sighs]*—so biased! Joel, do you eat corn?

00:03:12 Joel Mann Guest Yes I do.

00:03:13 John Host Sweet corn season here in Maine, right?

00:03:14 Joel Guest Yes it is.

00:03:15 John Host How do you butter your corn?

00:03:17 Joel Guest I make an herb butter.

00:03:18 John Host Okay...

00:03:19 Joel Guest And then brush it on.

00:03:20 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:03:21 John Host Boy, oh boy. I didn't know this was gonna get so involved.

00:03:23 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Joel and his compound butters.

*[John or Joel laughs quietly.]*

00:03:25 John Host Wow.

00:03:26 Jesse Host So sick of Joel's compound butters. *[Laughs.]*

00:03:28 John Host Wow. Wow. Then brush it on...

00:03:31 Jesse Host America's Test Kitchen over here.

00:03:32 John Host Alright, I—I overrule my own objection to get back to this case. Joel, you made me overrule my own objection!

00:03:38 Joel Guest Sorry.

00:03:41 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* "My husband thinks—"

*[Recovers.]*

No apology is acceptable for compound butter talk.

"My husband thinks the only civilized way to butter corn is to place butter on a slice of bread—"

00:03:52 John Host Oh!

00:03:53 Jesse Host "—and use the buttered bread to smear butter on the corn."

00:03:56 John Host Oh!

00:03:57 Jesse Host "As our family's sole meal planner, shopper, and cook, I feel I have the final say in butter management. Please order my husband to stop trying to control my corn-buttering."

00:04:11 John Host Mm! Interesting. Jesse, is it sweet corn season in California?

00:04:16 Jesse Host Yeah, I think it is, but I think that because California is America's fruit basket...

00:04:22 John Host Right.

00:04:23 Jesse Host ...uh, we have plenty of tasty things to eat all year round. *[Laughs.]* And so it's less of a big deal. I know that, like—

00:04:30 John Host Yeah.

00:04:31 Jesse Host For example, in visiting my family in Washington, DC as a child...

00:04:35 John Host Right.

00:04:36 Jesse Host ...the height of sweet corn season was a—a big cultural event.

00:04:41 John Host Right.

00:04:42 Jesse Host Whereas for me, I'm like, "Great. We can get cherimoyas right now."

00:04:46 John Host Yeah. You can dip your satsumas in olive oil any old time there in, uh, Southern California.

00:04:51 Jesse Host Exactly. I got grapefruits growing in my back yard, John.

00:04:55 John Host Right!

00:04:56 Jesse Host They fruit twice a year!

00:04:57 John Host When you would visit your—your people in the District of Columbia, would you put butter on your corn?

00:05:03 Jesse Host Yes, of course.

00:05:04 John Host Would you brush it on with a brush?

00:05:06 Jesse Host No! John, no! *[Stifles laughter.]* They had a corn set, John!

00:05:10 John Host Tell me what a corn set is.

00:05:13 Jesse Host They had little corn-shaped skewers that you stick into either side of the corn.

00:05:15 John Host Mm-hm. Right.

00:05:17 Jesse Host And they had a butter stick holder that had a plunger on one end, and a round-y part on the other end—

00:05:24 John Host Whoa.

00:05:25 Jesse Host —that you could use to rub the end of the stick of butter onto the corn. It was fantastic! One of my fondest childhood memories.

00:05:32 John Host You would pick up the stick of butter? With this... device?

00:05:36 Jesse Host The stick of butter was inside—if you imagine... a box. If you imagine a butter stick-shaped box.

00:05:43 John Host Okay.

00:05:44 Jesse Host In one end of the box, you can push in, like a plunger.

00:05:47 John Host Right.

00:05:48 Jesse Host And the other end of the box has a concave shape, like, uh, the shape of a piece of corn.

00:05:55 John Host Right.

00:05:56 Jesse Host And so you hold the box, and you go, "vrip, vrup, vrip, vrup, vrip, vrup." You're turning it with your little corn-shaped skewers.

00:06:02 John Host Boy, oh boy.

00:06:03 Jesse Host And what do you got at the end? A perfectly buttered piece of corn! There's no butter on your hands. You didn't have to mess with a butter knife. Uh, you didn't have to—*[cracking up]* ruin a perfectly good piece of bread!

00:06:13 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* I don't know! I—I—*[laughs]*.

I grew up in a "roll the corn in the butter" family.

00:06:19 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:06:20 John Host And I would say—I will not recuse myself, simply because that is... the best way to butter corn. What I'm gonna say is the best way to butter corn—until I heard about this bread mechanism—the best way to butter corn is roll it in the butter.

Second best way: Brush it on. Third best way: Use some weird box. I don't even understand that thing. I don't believe in it. And I don't understand it. Sorry.

00:06:46 Jesse Host It's fantastic. Fantastic device.

00:06:49 John Host But where does the brea—does the bread overtake rolling it in the butter? Now, here's one of the things about rolling the corn in the butter. This was fine for me and my mom and dad. We were a small group of corn-rollers. We were all on board for it. We didn't mind. It was not gross to any one of us.

But in mixed company, you gotta be sure that everyone is on board with rolling that corn in the butter.

Oh, it's so—it's such—because it is a very—it is a very wonderful sensation to just feel that butter melt under that hot corn. And it leaves a very satisfying impression. Reverse impression of the corncob in the butter. But that could be gross to some people!

So I kind of admire Heather's husband's solution here! Because you are getting full—if you don't have the special box. The magic butter box that Jesse Thorn had in the District of Columbia.

00:07:42 Jesse Host Northern Virginia, but continue.

00:07:43 John Host Sorry, Northern Virginia. You might as well be saying, uh, Vermont now. Northern Virginia.

00:07:49 Jesse Host And Central Virginia.

00:07:51 John Host Yeah, forget about it. Blue state.

00:07:52 Jesse Host Fairfax.

00:07:53 John Host But if you have that piece of bread and butter, that is self-contained. That is at your plate. You are not sharing that butter. You're not grossing anybody else out, necessarily, by dipping your cor—your food directly into a shared condiment.

Now, I thought that this guy had just made this thing up, Jesse. I thought this guy made it up, and he thought it was the best. But you know where he got it from?

00:08:12 Jesse Host Where?

00:08:14 John Host A movie! Called *WarGames*.

00:08:17 Jesse Host They do that in *WarGames*?!

00:08:18 John Host Yes! I looked it up on the Internet! Using the Internet, I found out... that Matthew Broderick's pretend dad in the movie—the actor William Bogert—there's a dinner table scene where he does exactly this! He butters a piece of white bread. Rolls the corn... in the bread. And then takes a bite of it, and goes, "Ogh! This corn is raw!"

And his wife goes, "Can't you just taste all the vitamins and minerals?"

It's a weird moment of... comedic relief? But if you look at the video of him buttering this corn... John Badham, who directed this movie? Must have been really excited about this corn-buttering technology. *[Stifles laughter.]* Because—as much as he was excited about a modem. Because there—so much screen time is given to this guy slathering butter on his bread. I'm gonna get to the bottom of this! If you have access to John Badham, or you worked on the movie *WarGames*, or you know where this came from, get in touch with me.

I also had remembered this exact scene, except I remembered it from *Breaking Away*. But it was *WarGames*, it turns out. So this goes back to 1983, at least.

00:09:21 Jesse Host We're taking this podcast to DEFCON 5.

00:09:24 John Host *[Snorts.]* Now that I've heard the technology described, and I've seen it in action, I have to say there's something, uh, appealingly dad-ish about it, for sure. But in order to slather that butter on that bread, that butter would have to be so soft that if you were to—to roll corn in that butter? The butter itself would immediately liquefy, and spill all over the table.

I don't like to split the baby in half. But I'm gonna say... there is no one way to enjoy your corn. And in times past, when I have served guests corn, I give them a stick of butter to do with as they will. And I take my own stick of butter, and that one's just for rolling. Will I go through the whole stick of butter? Probably. It's not wasteful. But I would rank—now that I've seen this technology, I would rank:

Rolling in butter. Basting it with a brush. You're welcome, Joel.

00:10:13 Joel Guest Thank you.

00:10:14 John Host Moving a box over it. And then... butter on bread. Also good. And a great callback to *WarGames*, and to the very accomplished working actor William Bogert, who appeared in many, many TV shows and movies until he passed away last year at the age of 84.

And who also, by the way, it turns out, was married to a woman named Eren Özker... who was the only woman Muppeteer on *The Muppet Show* for the first season. She performed Janice. And... basically that character, 'cause there are no other female characters in *The Muppets*. Sorry. They gotta do something about that. *[Stifles laughter.]*

Heather can do it her way, and her husband can do it his way, and the—neither of them need to control the other. Do it the Hodgman way. Just get as much butter on the table as possible, to use in as many ways as possible. Next time, uh, sweet corn season rolls around in Pennsylvania, why don't you have one stick of butter for rolling, one stick of butter for brushing, one stick of butter for... breading, and one stick of butter for boxing? Have a corn-buttering party!

*[Suddenly intense]* But never—the worst of all is taking a knife and trying to butter your corn with a knife. It's the stupidest way of buttering corn in existence.

00:11:23 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:11:25 Jesse Host You know, it is corn season here in Southern California. And I had a corn disaster this past weekend.

00:11:31 John Host Oh no! What happened?

00:11:33 Jesse Host My mother-in-law and I took my two younger children, Frankie and Oscar, to the California Science Center.

00:11:40 John Host Yeah.

00:11:41 Jesse Host In Exposition Park here in Los Angeles. We visited the space shuttle.

00:11:44 John Host Yes?

00:11:45 Jesse Host They have a real space shuttle there.

00:11:47 John Host Whoa! Alright!

00:11:48 Jesse Host And they have... bad food... at the California Science Center.

00:11:53 John Host Mm-hm. Astronaut Ice Cream, I presume.

00:11:56 Jesse Host They do have Astronaut Ice Cream, which is—there's no more consistent disappointment than Astronaut Ice Cream.

*[Jesse and John laugh.]*

Space Pen, pretty good!

00:12:05 John Host Right.

00:12:06 Jesse Host Astronaut Ice Cream, pretty bad. So—

00:12:09 John Host How would you feel about an Astronaut It's-It? A freeze-dried It's-It.

00:12:12 Jesse Host You know they have mini It's-Its now.

00:12:14 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* What?! Min-It's-Its?

00:12:15 Jesse Host Yeah. I'm pretty excited about that. Yeah. It's a new—new development.

So anyway, we decide we're not gonna eat inside the California Science Center and pay science museum food court prices for science museum food!

00:12:28 John Host Right.

00:12:29 Jesse Host Because right outside the California Science Center, there are a number of vendors set up, selling the street foods typical of Southern California.

00:12:39 John Host Sure.

00:12:40 Jesse Host So my kids got hotdogs.

00:12:43 John Host Right.

00:12:44 Jesse Host You know, Southern California—style hotdogs, wrapped in bacon.

00:12:46 John Host That's right.

00:12:47 Jesse Host Very tasty. And I got esquites, which is, you know, corn off the cob. And typically with, uh—it's the off-the-cob equivalent of elotes, which are barbecued with mayonnaise, and cheese, and usually chili and lime.

00:13:05 John Host Yeah.

00:13:06 Jesse Host And off the cob, there's usually also cilantro and—and, uh, you know, sometimes there's fresh chilis in there.

00:13:13 John Host Nice!

00:13:14 Jesse Host Um—and, uh, you know—

00:13:15 John Host So far, no disaster. No disaster to this story.

00:13:18 Jesse Host A favorite food of mine! You know? Love—love to get it.

00:13:21 John Host Mm-hm.

00:13:22 Jesse Host Feeling—feeling a bit peckish. Walking around in Los Angeles. Stop and buy some from, uh, somebody that's pushing a special cart.

00:13:30 John Host Right.

00:13:31 Jesse Host And, uh—*[laughs]*—my esquites came with corn and mayonnaise.

So far, all good.

00:13:39 John Host I love it.

00:13:40 Jesse Host And a little bit of nacho cheese sauce, and that's it. *[Laughs.]*

00:13:45 John Host Mm!

00:13:48 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* And it was intensely gummy.

00:13:49 John Host Hm!

00:13:55 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* And to say it lacked flavor contrasts really—

00:13:59 John Host Mayonnaise and nacho cheese sauce? That's—that was not a winner for you?

00:14:02 Jesse Host Ju—*[laughs]*—just a little nacho cheese sauce.

00:14:06 John Host You know what you need to fix that disaster?

00:14:08 Jesse Host What's that?

00:14:09 John Host Well, you know, you can't take nacho cheese sauce away. You can't take those ingredients away; you have to add something. You know what you have to add?

00:14:15 Jesse Host What?

00:14:16 John Host Compound butter.

00:14:17 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* "This needs—"

00:14:18 John Host What's in your compound butter, Joel?

00:14:19 Joel Guest Uh—*[clears throat]*.

00:14:20 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Please say cilantro and jalapeños.

00:14:24 Joel Guest A little hot sauce.

00:14:25 John Host Okay.

00:14:26 Joel Guest Um, a little, uh, celery salt, maybe.

00:14:29 John Host Whoa. What's going on? Joel, keep going!

00:14:32 Joel Guest Um, and melted butter. I microwave it, and... make a liquid out of it.

00:14:36 John Host Right. So you—you melt the butter, and you infuse it.

00:14:40 Joel Guest Right.

00:14:41 John Host With hot sauce and celery salt.

00:14:42 Joel Guest Right.

00:14:43 John Host And then you baste it on with a brush.

00:14:45 Joel Guest Right.

00:14:46 John Host That's pretty hot, Joel, I gotta tell you.

*[Joel laughs quietly.]*

It's pretty good. I would've thought up in Maine, it would've just been all... mayonnaise and nacho cheese sauce.

00:14:51 Joel Guest Well, I'm from the District of Columbia, too. Just like Jesse.

00:14:55 John Host Everything's getting very confused.

*[Joel laughs quietly.]*



Let's move on with the justice.

00:14:58 Jesse Host Yeah. Here's something from Helen in Boulder, Colorado:

"I bring suit against my wife Chelsea. We've been living in several different basement apartments during the COVID pandemic uncertainties, with varying levels of dampness and, worse, spiders."

00:15:15 John Host Oh, boy.

00:15:16 Jesse Host "I believe that spiders have no place in the home. Personally, I squish them."

00:15:21 John Host Ow.

00:15:22 Jesse Host "Chelsea believes there's no harm in having them scurry about, doing their business, as long as they're not crawling on her. This leads to spider scares. Finding them behind the toilet, in the shower, and most upsettingly, in a coffee cup I was about to use.

Chelsea says I should just get used to it. Judge, please order Chelsea to either kill, or trap and transport outside, every spider she sees to save my poor nerves."

00:15:56 John Host Jesse, what's your spider protocol? Kill, or catch and release?

00:16:00 Jesse Host I'm not bothered by spiders, personally.

00:16:02 John Host Right.

00:16:03 Jesse Host However, my wife is.

00:16:06 John Host Yeah.

00:16:07 Jesse Host And I will kill whatever bug my wife asks me to kill. Because we share a great love.

00:16:13 John Host Right. I am bothered by spiders personally, and by personally I mean very personally.

00:16:17 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:16:18 John Host Like, they prank call me.

00:16:19 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Right.

00:16:20 John Host You know? Like—and they—

00:16:21 Jesse Host They're—they're constantly ordering pizzas sent to your address?

00:16:24 John Host Yeah. Somehow it's a—it's a number that I recognize, and I answer the phone like a dope, and it's a spider! And he goes, "Mid-tier comedian." That's what he says to me. "Mid-tier comedian John Hodgman has answered the phone."

00:16:36 Jesse Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Mm-hm. Yeah. Yeah.

00:16:39 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** And I'm sorry, but it's hard not to take that personally!

**Jesse:** You know why; Jim Gaffigan didn't answer!

*[Both laugh.]*

00:16:43 John Host How dare—*[stifles laughter]*—don't put Jim Gaffigan in mid-tier with me. Jim Gaffigan is Diamond Medallion!

00:16:49 Jesse Host No! They had to move down a tier! From the Gaffigan tier. *[Laughs.]*

00:16:53 John Host No, they're like, "Hey, John. Hey, John. Mid-tier comedian."

I'm like, "Ooh, you spiders! Why are you—?"

They're like, "Don't take it personally, man. It's just a prank call." It's hard not to take that personally!

00:17:03 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:17:04 John Host But I don't squish 'em. One day my dad said, "Don't—spiders are your friends. They eat the other bugs. If you don't want 'em in your room, pick 'em up with a little piece of paper. Put 'em outside." And to this day, it is hard for me to squish a spider.

Jennifer Marmor, what do you do with spiders?

00:17:20 Jennifer Marmor Producer When I lived alone, I would usually try to pick them up with a piece of paper and put them outside.

00:17:28 John Host Right.

00:17:29 Jennifer Producer Um, because squishing it is just gross to me, even though... I want it—

00:17:34 Jesse Host It can stain your wall.

00:17:35 Jennifer Producer Yeah! It's disgusting. Now I just say... *[quavering]* "Shaaaane! There's a spiders!" *[Laughs.]*

And my husband gets it.

00:17:45 John Host And—but—and what does he do with it?

00:17:47 Jennifer Producer He usually squishes it. 'Cause he doesn't care. And I don't care as long as it's dealt with. *[Laughs.]*

00:17:50 Jesse Host *[Chuckles.]* Shane's a real macho dude, that's why.

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:17:54 Jennifer Producer Really. *[Laughs.]*

00:17:58 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* He's one of those big tough cartoonist types.

00:17:59 Jennifer Producer Yeah.

00:18:00 John Host Let's go around the J-Squad. Around the horn with Joel. What do you do with spiders?

00:18:03 Joel Guest Squash 'em.

00:18:04 John Host Squash 'em.

*[Beat.]*

Guys, put your spiders outside! I'm not shy of—of killing a bug. It's not uncommon after, uh, my wife who is a whole human being in her own right falls asleep before me... and the lights are out in the bed... and I'm going down a deep Wikipedia hole about this actor William Bogert and his wife the Muppeteer. And in the dark. And, you know, the screens are not very good in our bedroom.

And all of the sudden, *[stifles laughter]* I got all kinds of bugs flying onto my phone screen! They love that phone screen! And I squish 'em with my thumb. On the screen. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:18:41 Jesse Host Wow.

00:18:42 John Host I'm not shy about it! Not shy about it. I don't mind killing a moth, especially a—a browntail moth. Right, Joel?

00:18:49 Joel Guest Absolutely.

00:18:50 John Host Yeah, those guys are the worst. They're worse than spiders! A browntail moth comes from a caterpillar called a browntail moth caterpillar invasive to this area of Maine. And if you get—*[stifles laughter]*—if you touch one of these things, you get a rash for a week. If you inhale its little—its little fur? You could have respiratory problems that send you to the hospital.

Browntail moth caterpillar, get outta here! I'll kill a browntail moth any day. One that I will not kill? Rosy maple moth. I found the most beautiful moth hanging around my kitchen. *[Chuckles.]* It was drinking a cup of coffee and having a cigarette.

And I'm like, "Do I gotta squash a moth tonight?" And he said, "No, look at me!" And I looked at him, and it's like, this beautiful moth. With these, like, fuzzy—fuzzy pink legs, and fuzzy pink wings, and beautiful, uh—what—you know Peeps? The yellow marshmallow, uh, ducks? Or chicks, or whatever they are?

00:19:40 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:19:42 John Host He had antennae the color of Peeps. So cute! Took a picture of him. Put him up on [@johnhodgman](#) Instagram account. Everyone's going, "[That](#) is a rosy maple moth. You're the luckiest guy in the word to see one."

It's not fai—it's not fair, bugs! I'm sorry. Some of you get up on my screen, and you get squashed. Some of you show up sporting some fuzzy pink wings, and I save you. Some of you are not insects, you're arachnids, and my dad told me you are my friend! And so I don't squash you.

The baseline is, how—whatever your policy for dealing with spiders, everybody in your basement apartment has gotta get on board with it. If Helen is not feeling the spiders in her life... well, then, Chelsea, you gotta take care of... your wife, who is a whole human being in her own right, and get rid of the spiders when you see 'em! Take 'em outside. Do what I do. Take 'em outside. Get 'em on a little piece of paper. Climb up the ladder to the tiny window just under the ceiling in your basement apartment. Open it. It's probably painted shut. I'm painting a very sad picture here of your lives together in Boulder.

Let it out! And I hope, Helen, for your sake, that you, um, eventually enjoy the non-subterranean life that you would obviously prefer.

00:20:52 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:20:54 John Host Jesse, what were the bugs that came outta the walls when you were sleeping in the basement? Mongolian bloodworms?

00:20:58 Jesse Host Yeah, I told my—I told my therapist about that the other day. I lived in a basement room at my dad's house. And sometimes when I was asleep, they would have to go through my room to get from the garage to the rest of the house. Just 'cause of how the house was

built; it was not a legal room. And they would leave my door open, and... slugs would come in.

00:21:22 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* That's what it was.

00:21:24 Jesse Host And then there would be slug tracks in my room.

00:21:27 John Host Yeah.

00:21:28 Jesse Host And then a couple times there was this—this bug called a Jerusalem cricket that's genuinely terrifying.

00:21:34 John Host Oh, I don't know that one.

00:21:35 Jesse Host Don't Google it.

00:21:36 John Host I'm going to!

00:21:37 Jesse Host And... *[stifles laughter]* it's so gross. And, uh, I told my therapist about this, just in a different context—

00:21:43 John Host OH MY GOD.

*[Beat.]*

00:21:44 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah, it's awful. It's so, so gross.

00:21:47 John Host Why did you tell me to Google it?!

00:21:50 Jesse Host I told you—*[laughs]*—Jennifer just Googled it, too, dang it!

00:21:52 Jennifer Producer *[Laughing]* I had to! I had to see what we were talking about!

00:21:56 Jesse Host I know. And you should've used DuckDuckGo! Now all you're gonna get is, uh, targeted ads for Jerusalem crickets. *[Laughs.]*

00:22:02 Jennifer Producer Augh, Google!

00:22:04 Jesse Host So, anyway—!

00:22:06 John Host Joel, I'm texting you this thing.

00:22:08 Joel Guest Okay.

00:22:09 Jesse Host This is terrible.

My therapist says to me, "You know, they should've just gone the other way, or closed the door behind them."

00:22:18 John Host Joel just flinched.

00:22:19 Joel Guest Yikes.

00:22:21 John Host *[Laughs.]* I'm sorry. What were you saying? I'm all about a Jerusalem cricket right now.

00:22:26 Jesse Host My therapist told me they could've just gone the other way, or closed the door behind them. Uh, or done something about it.

*[John stifles laughter.]*

And I was like, "Uh, yeah! Now that you mention it, I guess they could've done those things."

00:22:38 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* I thought you were talking about the Jerusalem cricket could close the door behind it. Like it would wander into your room—

00:22:42 Jesse Host Oh, yeah. *[Laughing]* I mean—

00:22:43	John	Host	—and just, like, creeeak shut. And it's like, "Hello, Jesse." <i>[Laughs.]</i> "I am a potato bug."
00:22:47	Jesse	Host	It's big enough! I mean, that guy's like— <i>[laughing]</i> that guy's like four inches long!
00:22:51	John	Host	I don't care for it.
00:22:53	Jesse	Host	Terrifying! Terrifying creature.
00:22:54	John	Host	Don't care for it. Yeah.
00:22:57	Jesse	Host	Anyway, we're gonna take— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —we're gonna take a quick break to hear from this week's partner, uh, Jerusalem Crickets Inc. You might've seen them in your Google searches.
			We'll be back with more cases to clear from the docket on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:23:09	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:23:11	Jesse	Promo	It's the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, and as <u>always</u> , our show is brought to you by you. The members of <a href="http://MaximumFun.org">MaximumFun.org</a> . Our thanks to every single one of <u>you</u> .
			We're also grateful this week to have the support of Rotman Business School.
00:23:25	John	Promo	Rotman Business School is the business school associated with the University of Toronto. Hey, are you getting the most out of your job? The answer is almost never, "Yeah!" Sometimes it's, like, "Mm, I don't know!"
			Could that whole thing that you do for eight hours <u>or more</u> a day be better than it is? Probs. It's a good question to ask yourself from time to time, anyway. Maybe you can do something about it.
			Whether you're looking for new opportunity or wanna make yourself a stronger candidate for promotion, how you present yourself is key to taking the next step. Jesse, you know what you have? Executive presence.
00:23:59	Jesse	Promo	Thank you, John! That's very kind of you.
00:24:01	John	Promo	Well, you—you run an organization, and you—you carry yourself with confidence. You show your colleagues support and care. And your communication skills are top notch. That's what I call executive presence, and that's <u>also</u> ... what the University of Toronto Rotman Business School calls executive presence!
00:24:22	Jesse	Promo	You know, John, my father went to business school when I was a kid! When I was, like, 12, 13 years old...
00:24:28	John	Promo	Right.
00:24:29	Jesse	Promo	...he enrolled in business school and got an MBA. And you know, he used his experience getting an MBA—it was <u>immensely</u> valuable to him in <u>his</u> work running an NGO! So, you know. If you think that the only people who go to business school are, uh, evil arbitrage guys, or whatever... uh, no! The skills that you learn in business school can be <u>immensely</u> valuable. My dad ended up <u>teaching</u> in business school. He taught business communications.

So, uh, yeah! I encourage people to think about a graduate degree as an adult, or remotely, or whatever works for you, and Rotman seems like a great choice to me.

00:25:14 John Promo

Yeah, the University of Toronto Rotman School of Management is ranked number 17 in the world for open enrollment executive education by the *Financial Times*. It's one of the best schools in Canada.

Rotman's unique virtual executive presence program equips you with tools and tips to engage, and help, and, uh—and promote, and support others. They've designed a comprehensive virtual program to work around your current schedule.

Visit [UofT.me/executivepresence](http://UofT.me/executivepresence)—that's UofT, as in University of Toronto, dot M-E/executivepresence—to learn more and apply. Classes start September 15th, so start your application today. Save your seat.

00:25:56 Jesse Promo

That's [UofT.me/executivepresence](http://UofT.me/executivepresence). Rotman! Here's where it changes.

We're also supported this week by our friends at Brooklinen! Oh, we love Br—

00:26:09 John Promo

Brookline-N!

*[Beat.]*

00:26:11 Jesse Promo

Yeah, we love Brooklinen for many reasons, not least of which is that—*[laughs]*—

00:26:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk

**John:** It's the name of my hometown.

**Jesse:** *[Stifling laughter]* It's the name of Hodgman's hometown with an N at the end.

00:26:19 John Promo

With an N at the end. Brookline-N.

00:26:20 Jesse Promo

I mean, if there was a Sanfranciscan that made—

00:26:23 John Promo

Shh! Don't give that away! That's gonna be—that's gonna be a company!

00:26:26 Jesse Promo

—*[stifling laughter]* that made premium—premium home goods at reasonable prices, I would probably be pretty pumped about that, too, so I get it, John.

00:26:34 John Promo

Jesse, we know each other very well, so you know very well—you know me good. You know that one of the questions I'm always asking is... "Does it come without buttons or zippers?"

00:26:43 Jesse Promo

Yeah, you ask that at restaurants, which is weird.

00:26:45 John Promo

Brooklinen—*[chuckling]* yeah, I know.

"I'll have the [Kung Pao chicken](#). Wait a minute!"

*[Jesse laughs.]*

"Does it come without buttons and zippers?" I'm not talking about food! I'm talking about loungewear!

00:26:55	Jesse	Promo	Ooh.
00:26:56	John	Promo	Brooklinen loungewear comes without buttons <u>or</u> zippers. Expect tees and tanks that drape as only jersey can! And joggers that project an athleticism you'd almost leave the couch to live up to.
00:27:09	Jesse	Promo	I love to project athleticism. I don't like to <u>participate</u> in athleticism—
00:27:12	John	Promo	Yeah.
00:27:14	Jesse	Promo	—but I like to project it.
00:27:15	John	Promo	Yeah. Brooklinen, I love you very much. But if I put on those joggers, I'm just gonna be projecting, uh, nap time. No one will believe that I'm an athlete.
00:27:25	Jesse	Promo	The folks at Brooklinen sent us some of this loungewear.
00:27:27	John	Promo	Yeah. Mine's en route.
00:27:28	Jesse	Promo	You know what I'm doing 24/7? Lounging, babyyyy.
00:27:32	John	Promo	Yeah, lounging!
00:27:33	Jesse	Promo	Kick back. Crack a cold... cola.
00:27:36	John	Promo	Brooklinen's loungewear has classic cuts, and guess what? <u>No</u> zippers, for limitless comfort. So you can luxuriate in coziness all day.
00:27:45	Jesse	Promo	If you're like me, you're sick of being <u>limited by zippers</u> ! Well, Brooklinen's got your back, and bonus points: They offer bundle deals on loungewear, so you can get more comfort for less money. Look, there's a <u>reason</u> that Brooklinen has over 75,000 five-star reviews and counting. We <u>shan't</u> tell you what it is, but perhaps you can infer it!
00:28:07	John	Promo	It has something to do... with cozy bundles.
00:28:10	Jesse	Promo	Yeah.
00:28:11	John	Promo	Brookline-N! I'm saying it that way so you know how to spell it! Go to <a href="https://www.brooklinen.com">Brooklinen.com</a> and use promo code "Hodgman" to get \$20 off with a minimum purchase of \$100.
00:28:23	Jesse	Promo	That's <a href="https://www.brooklinen.com">B-R-O-O-K-L-I-N-E-N.com</a> , and enter promo code "Hodgman" for \$20 off with a minimum purchase of \$100.
00:28:33	John	Promo	That's <a href="https://www.brooklinen.com">Brooklinen.com</a> , promo code "Hodgman."
00:28:37	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the docket!
00:28:38	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:28:40	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. We're clearing the docket this week, and we have something here from Cheryl in Bellevue, Washington.
00:28:49	John	Host	These aren't even true crickets, it turns out! They're <u>not</u> true crickets—
00:28:52	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:28:53	John	Host	—nor true bugs! Because they're not part of the order of Hemiptera—
00:28:57	Jesse	Host	What are they, lobsters?!
00:28:58	John	Host	—nor are they native to... Jerusalem! Yeah, I know. They're land lobsters. Mmm. A delicacy.

00:29:04 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Oh no! I'll stick with the bucket of scallops, please.

00:29:10 John Host *[Laughs.]* "Their highly adapted feet are used for burrowing beneath moist soil." Eugh!

*[Jesse voices a groan of despair.]*

00:29:20 Jesse Host "To feed on decaying root plants and tubers. They are not—"

00:29:23 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Aw, I shouldn't've left those tubers around!

"They are not venomous, *[stifles laughter]* but they can emit a foul smell, and are capable of inflicting a painful bite."

Guess what? Jerusalem crickets? You're banned from listening to the show. If I see you crawling on my screen, I'm gonna smush you with my thumb. And it's gonna be gross, 'cause you're huge. But I'll do it. You're no rosy maple moth! Nor are you my friend the spider. Get outta here! Banned.

00:29:48 Jesse Host "Hi," says Cheryl. "My name is Cheryl Crow. You might recognize my name from my infamous '[I Make My Sunbaskets at Night](#)' song and video."

00:29:59 John Host Oh, it is Cheryl Crow!

00:30:00 Jesse Host So, we were spo—

00:30:01 John Host The famous Cheryl Crow!

00:30:02 Jesse Host Yeah, the one from the "Sunbaskets at Night" video on Instagram.

00:30:05 John Host Yeah! She posted on the—she posted, uh, her video on the Maximum Fun subreddit, of her singing—

*[Singing to the tune of Corey Hart's "Sunglasses at Night"]*

*I make my Sunbaskets at night... so I—*

00:30:15 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:30:16 John Host *[Speaking]*

I can't even remember the rest of it. I was so excited to see that. Is there another Cheryl Crow?

00:30:21 Jesse Host I don't—I honestly couldn't tell you. There is one other song with that melody.

00:30:25 John Host What is it?

00:30:26 Jesse Host It was during the hyphy era of Bay Area hip-hop. It went—

*[Singing]*

*I wear my stunna glasses at night!*

*[Speaking]*

Big part of hyphy was wearing stunna shades.

00:30:35 John Host Oh!

00:30:37 Jesse Host "Hand over your stunnas."



00:30:38 John Host It's also the tune of the alphabet, and... *[stifles laughter]* uh, "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Same tune! Did you know that?

00:30:44 Jesse Host Well, there you go!

00:30:45 John Host Yeah!

00:30:46 Jesse Host "Anyway," Cheryl says, "I've been a longtime fan of the show, and I have a dispute with my husband regarding our microwave. He thinks I should give him a grace period of around a minute or less after his item has been microwaved before I take his item out and put mine in.

I contend it's the job of the original microwaver to time their presence accurately if they want the option to further heat their item. Please order that he stop complaining when I take his items out of the microwave.

PS,  
This may or may not relate to the fact that I warm up my coffee in the microwave approximately 35 times a morning."

00:31:25 John Host *[Snorts.]* Oh, I didn't realize that Cheryl Crow is also my mother-in-law when she visits.

*[Jesse laughs.]*

Um, I have a confession to make, Jesse.

00:31:35 Jesse Host What's that?

00:31:36 John Host I let Cheryl Crow slip through on this one 'cause she's adorable. And she made that song.

00:31:40 Jesse Host Right.

00:31:41 John Host This is a—this is a nothing case. It's an obvious solution. Get your stuff out of the microwave, Cheryl's husband.

00:31:46 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:31:49 John Host There's nothing really to discuss here. I just like Cheryl Crow. I love her song. Her—what's her famous song again? "I Make My Sunbaskets at Night." So I hope that you're happy, Cheryl, that I ruled in your favor. I was biased in your favor to begin with, 'cause you're adorable, and you did a great job with that song.

Get your stuff out of the microwave.

00:32:05 Jesse Host I sent it to my friend Tyler from college, and he liked it a lot.

00:32:08 John Host Yeah!

If you leave your stuff in the microwave, then it might as well be garbage. Get it outta there! Wait. Wait until it's done. Unless you're defrosting a roast, in which case you're defrosting things wrong. The only thing you should be using your microwave for is softening butter, making compound butter, making popcorn... heating up rice. That's good. Heating up water if you don't have a kettle handy.

...That's about it, right? That's all you need—that's all you can really use a microwave for. Heating up coffee, if you... don't care about how coffee tastes.

00:32:40 Jesse Host You know, John... I have a friend who has a, uh, podcast. My friend Adam Lisagor.

00:32:45 John Host Yeah, of course!

00:32:46 Jesse Host Has a podcast called "All Consuming," where he, uh—he and his co-host try products from social media advertisements.

00:32:54 John Host Mm-hm?

00:32:55 Jesse Host Very fun podcast. And, uh, he and his co-host reviewed this mug with a chip and a heater inside it.

00:33:03 John Host Ooh!

00:33:05 Jesse Host And the mug itself keeps your beverage at a certain temperature. Sort of like a sous vide.

00:33:11 John Host Oh! It has a little heating element inside of it?

00:33:15 Jesse Host Yeah! And you re-ch—and a re-chargeable battery.

00:33:19 John Host That sounds pretty good!

00:33:20 Jesse Host And I thought... I thought, "That's a ridiculous idea." But you know what? They used it; they said it works great; they loved it.

00:33:28 John Host Maybe they could be a partner of our—

00:33:29 Jesse Host Just saying, Cheryl Crow!

00:33:30 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Uh—I could—I could see why your husband and you might be, uh, having somewhat of a standoff over this 35 times a morning hyperbole. But, uh, yeah. Cheryl's husband, get your stuff out of the microwave. Jesse, I got—I—I just got some—speaking of food. I just got some news that's really bumming me out.

00:33:50 Jesse Host What's that?

00:33:52 John Host I just got a letter from a listener in Japan named Craig. And Craig—you remember how I have two secret ingredients to this new high-concept burger that I'm trying to put out into the world? And one of them is secret, and the other one is a hash brown?

00:34:03 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:34:04 John Host Well, guess what? They put hash browns on hamburgers in Japan all the time!

00:34:09 Jesse Host Holy cow.

00:34:10 John Host All—he sent me pictures! Pictures of hamburgers with hash browns on them! Including the McDonald's Idaho Burger!

00:34:16 Jesse Host Hm!

00:34:17 John Host And then Jan wrote to me saying, uh, "Yeah, they put hash browns on burgers in Germany as well! They call them rösti burgers."

00:34:25 Jesse Host Hm.

00:34:26 John Host And you know where Jan is writing from, specifically?

00:34:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Where? Hamburg?

**John:** Hamburg! *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:34:30 John Host For real!

00:34:31 Jesse Host Wow. Wow.

00:34:34 John Host But I still got my secret weapon. That other secret ingredient. I revealed it to Chuck Bryant the other day. He seemed to appreciate it.

I have two big secrets. One is the secret ingredient to the—my special hamburger concept. And the other is what I did in the urinal next to Harold Bloom, uh, when we were on a break from the class that I took with him at Yale. Famous Shakespearean—Shakespeare scholar, and author of *The Western Canon*. The book about the Western canon.

I will reveal one of those secrets after the credits. So listen to the rest of the show.

00:35:04 Jesse Host Here's something from Bethany in Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

"After a long, isolated winter spent entirely indoors, I made plans with my BFFs Sarah and Kate to regularly visit local beer gardens in our hometown. We agreed to take turns picking the location. When it was Kate's turn to pick, she insisted on going to a lakefront beach with cabanas instead of an actual beer garden.

I protested, as a beach is clearly not a beer garden. A proper beer garden should be reminiscent of the original type of German [*brief German accent*] biergarten."

Just doing my best there. I don't know if I got that right.

00:35:49 John Host Sure.

00:35:50 Jesse Host Yeah.

"With outdoor communal seating, and an atmosphere of... [*harsh and with German accent*] gemütlichkeit!"

[*Someone laughs quietly.*]

00:35:58 John Host That means "geniality." Geniality. Friendliness and geniality.

00:36:03 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:36:04 John Host Yes.

00:36:05 Jesse Host [*Stifling laughter*] That's why I said it with typical German friendliness and geniality.

00:36:09 John Host [*Stifles laughter.*]

[*Harshly and with German accent*] Gemütlichkeit!

00:36:12 Jesse Host "A beach with cabanas evokes an entirely different vibe!"

00:36:18 John Host I would agree.

00:36:19 Jesse Host She wants something that's more like a, uh... you know, a classic dirigible hanger.

[*John laughs.*]

"Kate believes that the beach can also be considered a beer garden, as it is an outdoor seasonal space in which to drink. It just has, quote, 'sand instead of grass.'"

00:36:37	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> Wow. Kate.
			<b>Jesse:</b> Period, end quote.
00:36:39	Jesse	Host	"I'm requesting an injunction against Kate. I ask that she desist in picking a non-beer garden establishment for our beer garden hangouts."
00:36:50	John	Host	Wow. And where do they live?
00:36:52	Jesse	Host	Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
00:36:53	John	Host	Milwaukee, Wisco—oh, okay. So this lake beach, this is a Lake Michigan beach.
00:36:59	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:37:00	John	Host	I don't like that. I don't like that at all. I know—I <u>know</u> that these Great Lakes have beaches. I <u>know</u> that they have tides. I get it. But you know me; I don't like lakes. They make me nervous. Where's that water coming from? Where's it going? It's just sitting there. Just— <u>things</u> are rotting at the bottom. That's where the Jerusalem cricket comes from, is my bet!
00:37:20	Jesse	Host	Yeah. I feel like it's impossible to know a lake's plans.
00:37:23	John	Host	Yeah! You don't—it's just—it's—it's plotting! Is what a lake is doing. It's just sitting there scheming.
00:37:29	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm.
00:37:30	John	Host	The ocean's rolling all over the place! It doesn't care about you!
00:37:34	Jesse	Host	No.
00:37:35	John	Host	It doesn't care whether you live or die. It's gonna roll in; it's gonna roll out! It takes its trash with it. A lake is just sitting there staring at you on the beach. "Beach." Come on.
			But even so—even though a <u>Milwaukee... lake beach...</u> is not <u>precisely</u> the Caribbean vibe, it is certainly not a <u>beer garden</u> . It is not filled with, uh, gem—gem— <u>gemütlichkeit</u> . Geniality. A beach bar is filled more with, um, what they call... fehlender salzstreuergeist.
			That's the—that's the feeling of not being able to find your lost shaker of salt. Did you know that?
00:38:15	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> No, I did not know that.
00:38:19	John	Host	I—I'm sorry that I translated that poorly, Jan. Jan in Hamburg, I apologize. I translated it and probably pronounced it poorly. But that's what Google told me to do, after it got tired of... sending me pictures of Jerusalem crickets, which is all I see now. Thanks, algorithms.
00:38:34	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Inside your eyelids.
00:38:35	John	Host	A beach bar is different. Than a beer garden. So if you've made an agreement to go to a beer garden, go to a beer garden. There's nothing wrong—I mean, it's not—look. It's not for me. I don't wanna go to a <u>beach</u> in Milwaukee and have a lake <u>stare</u> at me. That's not <u>fun</u> for me. No matter how thoroughly it embraces Jimmy Buffett–style Margawaukeeville. But you can go to it if you wanna do that. If you live in Milwaukee. It's great.

But what is Milwaukee known for? Dark 'N' Stormies? No. Beer. Hasenpfeffer Incorporated! For heaven's sakes, go to a beer garden if you're in Milwaukee! What a great thing to do! Don't pretend that you're somewhere else. Be where you are! But if you have to go to that beach, that lake beach, just—just admit what it is. It's a lake beach, not a beer garden.

00:39:21 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:39:23 John Host Don't like 'em. Don't like lakes! Toddy Pond isn't bad. You like Toddy Pond, Joel?

00:39:29 Joel Guest Don't like lakes or spiders.

00:39:30 John Host Really?

00:39:31 Joel Guest Nope.

00:39:32 John Host What about Craig Pond?

00:39:33 Joel Guest No ponds. Ocean.

00:39:36 John Host Alright. I take it back. I was gonna give Toddy Pond a pass. I take it back. For Joel. No lakes.

00:39:41 Jesse Host I'm gonna take a vacation in Milwaukee, do some snorkeling.

00:39:44 John Host I'm—you know what? Milwaukee is terrific. One time—*[stifles laughter]*—one time, I did a show in Milwaukee with our friends Kristen Schaal and Eugene Mirman, at the Pabst Theater. A beautiful theater! The band Hanson had just passed through the Pabst. And they had left behind their—in the—in their—in the beautiful green room of the Pabst Theater, Hanson had—the three brothers Hanson left behind several, uh, cases of their new endeavor, which is a Hanson-branded beer. Did you know this?

00:40:18 Jesse Host I had heard about this, yeah!

00:40:20 John Host So you know what the name of the beer is.

00:40:21 Jesse Host It's on-brand for them.

00:40:22 John Host Yeah.

00:40:23 Jesse Host I don't remember what it is, but it's a pen.

00:40:25 John Host MmmHops. *[Laughs.]*

00:40:26 Jesse Host MmmHops! That's what it is. *[Chuckling]* Yeah. I remember.

00:40:29 John Host MmmHops!

00:40:30 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:40:31 John Host I love—good for you, Hanson. And then Eugene Mirman took us to... a late-night establishment, a bar, that was created by some uber-dad at the tail-end of the Cold War. It was, like, this James Bond-themed bar that you could only enter through a secret door in the back of another bar? In which case you would sit down in a booth, and it would rotate you into the secret bar, or go through a different side door, and you'd have to do a humiliating little dance. And then it would let you in through a, um—it would let you in through a fake bookshelf.

And then at some point, Eugene said, "Here. Sit in this—*[stifles laughter]* sit in this chair." And I did. And everyone laughed at me. I'm like, "Why are you laughing?" And then I was strapped into the chair

and lowered through the floor—

*[John and Jesse laugh.]*

—to be deprogrammed. It was a wild scene! Place is called SafeHouse. It's not a surprise! People in Milwaukee know about it. People in Milwaukee are probably rolling their eyes that I went to this dad bar. But I had a great time, and it was full of people having a good time!

00:41:36 John Host

When I rolled back through Milwaukee again with our friends from RiffTrax, Kevin Murphy and Bill Corbett, I was like—and we did a performance at Turner's Hall, I said, "Let's—I have a place to take you. After the show."

And I took them there, and we did the humiliating little dance that we had to do. We went through the bookshelf. And... we were the only ones there. No—it was a—it was a Friday night. And it was not early, nor was it particularly late. It was primetime. But it turns out... Eddie Vedder was playing in town. *[Stifles laughter.]* So all the dads went to that instead.

*[Jesse laughs, John stifles laughter.]*

So Murphy and Corbett and I just—just had a sad beer in this basement, with this one bartender who is bored out of his mind, and his girlfriend was lying in a booth, asleep.

Milwaukee! I can't wait to come back and visit you. Let's go there and do a show, Jesse.

00:42:33 Jesse Host

I'd love to. Special guest Robin Yount.

Let's take a quick break. When we come back: A listener who has married themselves.

00:42:41 Sound Effect Transition

*[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:42:44 Promo Clip

**Music:** Fun, cheerful music.

**Kirk Hamilton:** Video games!

**Jason Schreier:** Video games!

**Maddy Myers:** Video games! You like 'em?

**Jason:** Maybe you wish you had more time for them?

**Kirk:** Maybe you wanna know the best ones to play?

**Jason:** Maybe you wanna know what happens to Mario when he dies?

*[Kirk chuckles.]*

**Maddy:** In that case, you should check out [Triple Click!](#) It's a podcast about video games.

00:43:00 Promo Clip

**Jason:** A podcast about video games?! But I don't have time for that!

**Kirk:** Sure you do. Once a week, kick back as three video game experts give you everything from critical takes on the hottest new releases—

**Jason:** —to scoops, interviews, and explanations about how video games work—

**Maddy:** —to fascinating and sometimes weird stories about the games we love.

**Kirk:** *Triple Click* is hosted by me, Kirk Hamilton.

**Jason:** Me, Jason Schreier.

**Maddy:** And me, Maddy Myers.

**Kirk:** You can find *Triple Click* wherever you get your podcasts, and listen at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

**Maddy:** Bye!

*[Music finishes.]*

00:43:28 Sound Effect Transition

*[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:43:32 Jesse Promo

Judge Hodgman, we're taking a quick break from clearing the docket. We've got something very exciting coming up. For all of the *Judge John Hodgman* fans out there, or as I like to call them... *Judge John Hodgman* fans!

00:43:45 John Promo

We have a very, very special online streaming event coming up. It's the London Podcast Festival! We've been so lucky to visit the London Podcast Festival in the past. We hope to do it again in-person in the future. But in the mean time, we're thrilled that the London Podcast Festival is coming back to King's Place with a mix of live in-person and virtual streaming events, like ours.

*Judge John Hodgman* online streaming event, London Podcast Festival, will be occurring! On Thursday, September 9th. Take out your Filofaxes. I'll say it again. Thursday, September 9th, at 12:30 PM Pacific, 3:30 PM Eastern, and 8:30 PM... British Summer Time.

And since it's online on the King's Place pay-per-view player, if you have a ticket and can't watch it live at any of those times, the show's gonna be available for you to review for a few days after that. So don't worry if you don't have any idea what British Summer Time is. Neither do they!

*[Jesse laughs quietly.]*

Tickets at—

00:44:42 Jesse Promo

That's the one week a year when they can eat a tomato.

00:44:44 John Promo

That's right. It's high corn season! But they call it maize.

Tickets and more info at [KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest](http://KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest). And if that's not confusing enough for you, I also made a Bitly. Go to

[Bit.ly/JJHODGMAN](https://bit.ly/JJHODGMAN). That's JJHODGMAN, all capital letters. And of course that's J-J-H-O-U-D-G-M-A-N, because that's how they spell "Hodgman" in England.

00:45:13	Jesse	Promo	Wow. Or you could just Google "London Pod Fest Hodgman" or something. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:45:18	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> <i>[Stifling laughter]</i> <a href="https://bit.ly/JJHOUDGMAN">Bit.ly/JJHOUDGMAN</a> . <b>Jesse:</b> Here's the point, John—!
00:45:20	Jesse	Promo	We don't know when we're gonna be able to go on tour safely and effectively. We would love to come personally to your town, and one day we will again, but right now <u>every single</u> Your Town in the world... can watch a live <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> <u>from</u> the London Podcast Festival, or <u>via</u> the London Podcast Festival, on September 9th. It is gonna be a lot of fun. We will have live litigants. I will be wearing my little outfit. Yeah, that's right! I have a little outfit, and I'm gonna wear it.
00:45:50	John	Promo	I will wear my judge's robes! And by the way, I know we have a lot of great listeners in... England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland... in the Republic of Ireland...
00:46:02	Jesse	Promo	Lot of listeners in Puppy Dogs' Tales!
00:46:03	John	Promo	<i>[Snorts.]</i> And— <u>and</u> throughout the European continent and beyond, but, uh, we need some cases for this London Podcast Festival. So I will be giving special consideration to people who have English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh accents. Uh, please make them authentic. Don't, uh—don't pretend. Don't pretend to have an accent.
00:46:22	Jesse	Promo	Yeah. Don't do a voice.
00:46:23	John	Promo	Don't do a voice.
00:46:24	Jesse	Promo	This is mostly for my uncle—for my Uncle John in Belfast.
00:46:27	John	Promo	<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> Uh, speaking of Belfast, there's a town in Maine called Belfast that is, um, about an hour south of here. And I am in Maine, in the studios of <a href="http://WERU.org">WERU.org</a> . I'd like to just give a little shout-out to WERU. Joel! You listening?
00:46:41	Joel	Promo	I am listening.
00:46:42	John	Promo	I'm shouting out to the radio station. You know why?
00:46:44	Joel	Promo	Why?
00:46:45	John	Promo	It's good. I listen to it from time to time, but lately—normally I put on like, uh, public radio in the background. But— <i>[struggles]</i> —the news could be better these days. Right? I need something else to put on.
00:46:55	Joel	Promo	You get tired of it.
00:46:56	John	Promo	Get <u>tired</u> of it. So I've been listening—and also, WERU, we can always get it. Can always dial it right into our stereo receiver. And I was listening on Sunday morning. <i>Acadian Highway?</i>
00:47:05	Joel	Promo	Oh, yeah.
00:47:06	John	Promo	Incredible!



00:47:07	Joel	Promo	Yep.
00:47:08	John	Promo	All, uh—all Franco—uh, Franco-American-Canadian-French language music. From the Acadian—in the Acadian style. It was great!
			And then in the—and then I went on listening, and in the evening, uh, the show <i>Women's Windows</i> ?
00:47:21	Joel	Promo	Yeah!
00:47:22	John	Promo	With Linda Washburn?
00:47:23	Joel	Promo	Yeah!
00:47:24	John	Promo	Played—all the sudden I'm listening to, "If I Knew You Were Coming I'd've Baked a Cake"!
			<i>[Joel chuckles.]</i>
			And then the whole—the whole house was toe-tapping to it. <a href="http://WERU.org">WERU.org</a> . It's a great— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —it's a great station! Put it on in the background! Or listen to it actively. <a href="http://WERU.org">WERU.org</a> .
			Jesse, what do you have going on?
00:47:39	Jesse	Promo	You know, John, people always talk about the incredible influence that the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast has had on the podcasting community as a whole.
00:47:46	John	Promo	Sure.
00:47:47	Jesse	Promo	You know, uh, we've been doing this for a <u>decade</u> .
00:47:50	John	Promo	Mm-hm.
00:47:51	Jesse	Promo	And, you know, in that time, many other podcasts have started. Um—
00:47:57	John	Promo	Oh, really?
00:47:58	Jesse	Promo	At one point Snoop Doggy Dogg was going to do a podcast with our same format, but it never happened. I'm surprised that Snoop Dogg would not follow through on a commitment. He <u>seems</u> like a reliable guy.
			But I, the other day, went on a podcast called <i>god or whatever</i> .
00:48:16	John	Promo	Oh!
00:48:17	Jesse	Promo	Which of course is a beloved catchphrase from the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I went—I agreed to go on this podcast simply because it was called that. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:48:24	John	Promo	Wow!
00:48:25	Jesse	Promo	Apparently that's—that's <u>my</u> criterion! But it was a really lovely conversation. It's a podcast about, uh, faith in its many forms. The host is a, uh... a hospital chaplain, I believe.
00:48:39	John	Promo	Oh!
00:48:40	Jesse	Promo	Recent—as of recently, a divinity school graduate. And, um, had a really... emotional, and deep, and for me, moving conversation about... faith, and, um, my experiences working in a church for several years as an atheist. <i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>

And, uh, my experiences coming to terms with the passing of my father, and... all kinds of things. I—I thought it was a really beautiful conversation. And I think the podcast—uh, I did not check how many people listened to it before I agreed to go on it. As I said, I agreed to go on it 'cause, uh—

00:49:19	John	Promo	'Cause of its name.
00:49:20	Jesse	Promo	—it was named after a catchphrase from our show, yeah.
00:49:22	John	Promo	Yeah.
00:49:23	Jesse	Promo	Uh, I think, like—I think, like, 30 people listened to it before. But I thought it was really good, so... I'm—I wanna give it the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> bump.
00:49:31	John	Promo	Hey, everybody! Go check out the podcast <i>god or whatever!</i> And, oh! Coming to me over the wire here on Google—eugh. First of all, pictures of Jerusalem crickets.
00:49:41	Jesse	Promo	Yeah.
00:49:42	John	Promo	Yeah, you better go right away to <i>god or whatever</i> podcast, <i>[stifles laughter]</i> 'cause apparently Snoop Dogg is suing them. For using <u>his</u> catchphrase; weird.
00:49:48	Jesse	Promo	Wow.
00:49:49	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> Hm! Huh! Huh!
			<b>John:</b> Weird! Huh. Snoop Dogg, no!
00:49:53	John	Promo	Leave this podcast alone! Listen to it; you might get something from it, Snoop Dogg!
00:49:59	Jesse	Promo	Very litigious. Not chizill at all.
00:50:03	John	Promo	You should listen to this, uh, podcast, Snoop, before you sue it. You might get something out of it! <i>god or whatever</i> , it's called. Go search for it. We're very happy to share that catchphrase, for free.
00:50:12	Jesse	Promo	Anyway, <i>[stifles laughter]</i> let's get back to our docket.
00:50:15	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:50:17	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. Now, Judge Hodgman. Before we went to break, I teased a listener who married themselves.
00:50:26	John	Host	Right.
00:50:27	Jesse	Host	Uh... I don't know— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —I don't know what that <u>means</u> . I don't have any <u>context</u> on this; I did <u>not</u> read the script before we started recording. So <u>what</u> does it <u>mean</u> ? A listener who married themselves.
00:50:41	John	Host	Actually, it's a reference back to episode... 521, which was " <a href="#">The Mighty Eagle of Mid-Tier Comedy Podcasting</a> ."
00:50:48	Jesse	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> I don't listen to <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> . Mostly listen to this one baseball podcast.
00:50:53	John	Host	Well, you—during this we were—we had a dispute over how generous one should be when giving a wedding gift if you're not attending the wedding. And in passing, you mentioned the idea of a person marrying... oneself. In other words, having a wedding

ceremony just for themselves, and not getting married to anybody else.

And I said, "Well, if we have any listeners who married themselves at any time in history, please write and let us know. Uh, because I'm sure that's a thing." And I meant it sincerely! And we got a very sincere response back from our friend of the court, Hannah Cyrus!

I don't mind saying her last name! She's a fixture on the *Judge John Hodgman*. She and her sister Afton were featured in episode 282, when we did our live show in Portland, Maine. Afton wanted Hannah to get a phone that—a cell phone that worked. Because she was living here in Blue Hill, Maine. And working at the Blue Hill Public Library. Where I would see Hannah quite a bit! Uh, over the past couple of years, because it's a lovely place to work, and she's a—she's a librarian!

She's since got a new job. By the way. She left the Blue Hill Library. Did you know that, Joel?

00:51:56 Joel Guest

No, I didn't!

00:51:57 John Host

Hannah's up in the Bangor Library now.

00:51:59 Joel Guest

Step up.

00:52:00 John Host

It's a pretty big job. She's still commuting. She's still in—

00:52:03 Jesse Host

That's the big leagues.

00:52:04 John Host

Yeah. Yeah. That's the one. Different—whole different county. But in any case, Hannah wrote in saying that she, in fact, held a wedding... for. her. self. A non-wedding for her 30th birthday, which occurred just before the COVID lockdown. She said:

"I invited all my friends from the different parts of my life to come together for a big party, and dinner, and dancing. I made a wedding-style website. I rented out the very affordable Central Hall for the purpose of the party. I got catering from a local restaurant. I made homemade bunting from old scraps of fabric, and hung up twinkle lights."

Boy, oh boy. Hannah Cyrus is in—in the—neck-and-neck in the adorable contest with Cheryl Crow.

"The whole thing was very festive. People gave toasts, including my sister Afton. Many of my friends had a sleepover at the Blue Hill Public Library"?! What?!

00:52:54 John Host

"And everyone had a great time. It sounds self-indulgent, and it was. But I love my birthday, and I realized by the time I was turning 30 that I had no desire or intent to ever get married. But I still wanted the opportunity of a great party that friends could attend from near and far, meet one another, and celebrate. I was so pleased that many of my loved ones made the trip, and honestly, thinking back on it during the pandemic is one of the things that kept me going."

That's amazing, Hannah! We miss you at the library! I go—I go to work there, Jesse. I sit by Hannah's old desk, and people keep coming up, going, "Where's Hannah? Where's Hannah? Where's

Hannah?" And the—and the person who has replaced Hannah, who seems very nice and I'm sure is very competent, says, "Hannah's hit the big time. She's up at Bangor."

00:53:35 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:53:36 John Host

Bangor Public Library.

00:53:38 Jesse Host

She's a millionaire now.

00:53:39 John Host

I know, but this whole thing about—now that I know that sleepovers at the Blue Hill Public Library are allowed? Hannah, don't tell them. I'm gonna start Airbnb-ing the audiobook section. I'm gonna start renting it out.

*[Jesse laughs.]*

It's hard to find—it's hard to—

00:53:52 Jesse Host

It's quiet there.

00:53:53 John Host

Hard to find rentals in Maine this summer!

00:53:55 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:53:56 John Host

You'll bring your own sleeping bag. And you can nestle in underneath the—the... display of Rowantrees Pottery. It will be great. Two hundred dollars, please.

00:54:04 Jesse Host

*[Laughs.]* Wow! Does that come with a bucket of scallops, or?

00:54:10 John Host

It comes with a—it comes with a half gallon of scallops.

00:54:12 Jesse Host

Okay.

00:54:13 John Host

Yeah.

00:54:14 Jesse Host

*[Laughing]* Fair enough.

00:54:15 John Host

They have good—

00:54:16 Jesse Host

*[Laughing]* In a—

00:54:17 John Host

They have good—*[stifles laughter]*—they have good Wi-F—

00:54:18 Jesse Host

In a cardboard milk container?

00:54:20 John Host

Yeah. They have good Wi-Fi there. If you're a member you get access to their high-speed Wi-Fi, which is fantastic. I happen to know that they have a complete set of Alan Moore's *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. Which is great.

Uh, and, uh—and, you know. If you wanna buy a copy of... a novel called *Chang & Eng* for \$2, you can get it outside.

00:54:41 Jesse Host

It's a bargain at any price.

00:54:42 John Host

It is. I love you, Darin.

00:54:44 Jesse Host

Our docket, clear. That's it for another episode of *Judge John Hodgman*.

Our producer, Jennifer Marmor! This week's episode edited by Valerie Moffat. Our engineer in Maine is Joel Mann, program and operations manager at WERU Community Radio in Orland, Maine.

You can listen to WERU at WERU.org, and you can follow Joel on

Instagram! His handle is [@themainemann](https://www.instagram.com/themainemann). M-A-I-N-E-M-A-N-N.

Follow us 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](https://twitter.com/hashtag/JJHo)! And of course, check out the Maximum Fun subreddit to [chat about this week's episode](https://www.reddit.com/r/MaximumFun) at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com/r/MaximumFun).

You can submit your cases—and we ask you to do so!—at [MaximumFun.org/ijho](https://MaximumFun.org/ijho). Or email them to [hodgman@maximumfun.org](mailto:hodgman@maximumfun.org). Helpful if you let us know if you've got any, uh, recording equipment at the house, but that is not a requirement, for you to have access to recording equipment, but useful to know. And, uh, throw your telephone number in there so Jennifer can give you a call if she wants to talk to you about your submission!

00:55:58 John Host We promise you, only Jennifer will call you, not spiders.

00:56:01 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* [MaximumFun.org/ijho](https://MaximumFun.org/ijho), or email [hodgman@maximumfun.org](mailto:hodgman@maximumfun.org). We'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:56:11 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:56:15 John Host Secret post-credits sequence, deploy! Thank you for hanging around to listen to my secret. I am going to reveal one of the two secrets. And Jesse, normally, I encourage you—'cause you're a busy fella.

00:56:30 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:56:31 John Host I encourage you to go on about your day.

00:56:32 Jesse Host I'm usually busy projecting... executive presence.

00:56:36 John Host That's right.

00:56:37 Jesse Host And athleticism.

00:56:38 John Host That's right. *[Stifles laughter.]* And I know—I know you've got other podcasts to oversee, and produce, and create, and so forth, but... thank you for sticking around here in the post-credits sequence to hear my secret.

Now, I have two secrets that I can share with the audience. One is... the non-hash brown secret ingredient to my high-concept burger. The other is... what happened when I stood at a urinal next to Harold Bloom the famous literary critic during a break during the Shakespeare Tragedies course I took with him in college.

Which do you think I shall reveal?

00:57:10 Jesse Host I'm gonna say... that you will reveal... what happened when you stood next to Harold Bloom at the urinal.

00:57:17 John Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:57:18 Jesse Host When you took the Shakespearean Tragedies course from him in college.

00:57:23 John Host So, I told the story. That I had used the urinal next to Harold Bloom. And it was a very scary thing to do. 'Cause he was—he was a very—very big deal on campus. BDOC. But that's a lie. I didn't use that urinal. Because as soon as Harold Bloom came in to use the urinal

next to me, I couldn't pee-pee anymore.

00:57:44 Jesse Host Oh no.

00:57:45 John Host And I was so embarrassed about this that I reached down and I agitated the water to make it sound like I was peeing. So that Harold Bloom would think I was peeing.

*[Jesse cracks up.]*

For some reason, that was important. *[Laughs.]* I didn't want Harold Bloom to think... that I couldn't pee next to Harold Bloom.

And as far as my second secret ingredient for my high-concept burger? Chuck Bryant knows it. You know it, Jesse. You know it, Jennifer. Joel, you know it. Right?

*[Beat.]*

00:58:16 Joel Guest I think so.

00:58:17 John Host Yeah. I told you already.

00:58:18 Joel Guest Right.

00:58:19 John Host Bleep this out. It's *[bleeep]*.

*[Beat.]*

This thing is gonna—this thing is gonna go great. As soon as I get it together, Jesse, I promise you.

00:58:26 Jesse Host John, you know, you weren't the only one with a celebrity literature professor.

00:58:30 John Host Yeah? Who'd you get?

00:58:31 Jesse Host Kasey Mohammad. You know what he said when, uh, he was explaining metonymy to our class?

00:58:38 John Host No.

00:58:39 Jesse Host He said it's when you refer to something... by something with which it is associated. Like if you have a friend... who lives in the swamp, *[stifling laughter]* and you call him Swampy Swamperson.

*[Both laugh.]*

Kasey Mohammad was a cool—is—is a cool guy. He's a cool guy.

00:58:57 John Host That's so weird that Harold Bloom used the same explanation. Swampy Swamperson!

00:59:00 Jesse Host Well, he was—they were both quoting from Chaucer, so... *[Laughs.]*

00:59:04 John Host That makes sense. Now I understand.

00:59:06 Jesse Host Okay, goodbye, everybody!

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:59:09 Music Transition A cheerful ukulele chord.

00:59:10 Speaker 1 Guest [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

00:59:12 Speaker 2 Guest Comedy and culture.

00:59:13 Speaker 3 Guest Artist owned—  
00:59:14 Speaker 4 Guest —audience supported.