

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:02	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. This week: "Hampering with the Evidence." Katherine brings the case against her husband Andy. When they go on short trips to visit her dad, Katherine would like to pack her clothes in a laundry basket. Andy is opposed! He says it's just not practical. Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide.
00:00:26	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:28	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:35	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:36	John Hodgman	Host	"They kept us hidden. We were the big family secret. Everybody hated us, except our aunt. You see, he <u>likes</u> the dark. He doesn't like to be seen. Not even by me sometimes. And you know what else? He talks to me. Without words. I just hear him whispering in my brain. Sometimes he talks for hours and hours, and won't shut up. He calls it... the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast." Bailiff Jesse Thorn, please swear in the litigants. <i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:01:06	Jesse	Host	Katherine and Andy, please rise and raise your right hands.
00:01:08	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:01:09	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever?
00:01:14	Katherine	Guest	Yes.
00:01:15	Andy	Guest	I do.
00:01:16	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that when <u>he</u> visits the laundromat, he carries his laundry in one of the legendary wire sculptures of mid-20th century Japanese American artist Ruth Asawa? <i>[Beat.]</i>
00:01:30	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Katherine: Yes. Andy: I do.
00:01:31	Jesse	Host	I don't know what the premise of that was. I just... have been thinking a lot about the work of Ruth Asawa lately, John. Judge Hodgman—
00:01:37	John	Host	They're great for MyUndies!
00:01:39	Jesse	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:01:40	John	Host	Oh, wait a minute. They're not a—they're not a podcast sponsor, are they? <i>[John, Andy, and Jesse laugh.]</i>

They're great for my non-brand underwears!

[Jesse and Andy chuckle.]

00:01:48	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:01:49	John	Host	Katherine and Andy, you may be seated.
00:01:50	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[Chairs scrape.]
00:01:51	John	Host	For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, can either of you name the piece of culture that I referenced as I entered the courtroom? Everything that I said was a direct quote from a piece of culture, except for the part where I said "He calls it the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast." That was obviously... my imitation of a joke.
			Uh, Katherine. Do you have a guess?
00:02:14	Katherine	Guest	God. Uh, it sounded like—[sighs]—some kind of children's literature. Um...
00:02:19	John	Host	Mm!
00:02:20	Katherine	Guest	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i> .
00:02:23	John	Host	Oka—oh, interesting! <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i> ! Huh. Okay! That—definitely big—
00:02:29	Jesse	Host	A classic of children's literature, <u>and</u> a classic of Cantinflas literature.
00:02:33	John	Host	What's that??
00:02:35	Jesse	Host	Cantinflas was in the—[stifles laughter]—the Clown Prince of Mexico! He was in <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i> .
00:02:40	John	Host	Thank you very much, Bailiff Jesse Thorn!
00:02:42	Jesse	Host	Cantinflas.
00:02:44	John	Host	Alright. You know why I like your guess, Katherine?
00:02:47	Katherine	Guest	You do?
00:02:48	John	Host	Yeah. I do like your guess. You wanna know why I like it?
00:02:49	Katherine	Guest	Why?
00:02:51	John	Host	Well, how do they travel around the world in 80 days?
00:02:52	Katherine	Guest	Um, I think they take, like, trains, and...
00:02:55	John	Host	Planes, and automobiles. But also a—don't they float around in a—in a balloon?
00:03:01	Katherine	Guest	That's—I've never read it. I used to think that that was the <u>only</u> way they got around the world, and it's not.
00:03:08	John	Host	There's definitely a—there's some—
00:03:09	Katherine	Guest	There's some balloons.
00:03:10	John	Host	There's some lighter-than-air travel in that, right?
00:03:11	Katherine	Guest	I would think so.
00:03:12	John	Host	And when you're in a balloon, in a hot-air balloon... what are you floating around in?
00:03:16	Katherine	Guest	A basket.
00:03:17	John	Host	A baskeet.

[Katherine chuckles.]

Like a lau—like a laundry hamper basket!

00:03:20 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Katherine:** That's right!

Andy: Ahhh.

00:03:22 John Host Andy, I—I think you've got this one. I think you've got—

[The litigants laugh quietly.]

I think you've got a guess, and I think you're right.

00:03:26 Andy Guest Was that a hint, what you just said? Or no?

00:03:30 John Host Well, I'm just looking at you, and I just got a feeling. We're the same age, right? May I ask your age?

00:03:35 Andy Guest I am 50.

00:03:37 John Host Yeah. When's your birthday, June 3rd?

00:03:38 Andy Guest October 25.

00:03:40 John Host Oh, okay! I'm a little bit older than you, then.

00:03:43 Andy Guest Okay.

00:03:44 John Host Belated happy birthday.

00:03:45 Andy Guest Thank you.

00:03:46 John Host But you got a beard. You're—

[Andy and John laugh.]

You got a beard and glasses.

00:03:49 Andy Guest Uh-huh.

00:03:50 John Host You're 50 years old. This puts you in the—in the range.

00:03:53 Andy Guest I basically am you.

00:03:55 John Host ...Okay! I'll decide.

00:03:56 Andy Guest Yeah. Uh, is it, uh—I don't know. The only—couple things occurred to me. Uh... *The Sixth Sense*? Something like that?

[Katherine laughs.]

00:04:04 John Host *The Sixth Sense*. Okay, I understand why you made that guess!

00:04:07 Andy Guest What's that nineties movie with Don—Dan Aykroyd? *Nothing but Trouble*? Do you know this movie?

00:04:12 John Host *[John chuckles knowingly.]*

You can hear me and the *Flop House* boys in *The Flop House* talk about that... wildly disturbing movie.

00:04:20 Andy Guest It was—yes. It was quite a surprise when I got it from the video store.

00:04:23 Jesse Host Probably best known as Tupac's onscreen debut.

00:04:26 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** *[Laughs quietly.]* That's right.

Andy: Yes. Mm-hm.

00:04:27 John Host Along with the rest of the Digital Underground.
00:04:29 Andy Guest Mm-hm.
00:04:30 Jesse Host Yeah.
00:04:31 John Host Yeah. Nooo. Don't see that movie, everybody.

And nor can I endorse the movie that is the actual answer, because indeed all guesses are wrong. I can't endorse this movie, 'cause I have ever seen it. Though around the lobby at the Coolidge Corner movie house where I worked as a teen—a late teen—this movie came up a lot. It is a cult horror film from 1982. You like cult horror movies, Andy?

00:04:55 Andy Guest Eh.
00:04:56 John Host Alright. Alright! See, I didn't read you correctly. You're more—
00:04:58 Andy Guest Is it *Basket Case*?
00:04:59 John Host It was *Basket Case*, yes.
00:05:01 Andy Guest Wooow. See, that's why I was asking if it was a—a hint.
00:05:04 John Host Well, you should've took it!
00:05:05 Andy Guest Yeah!
00:05:06 John Host 'Cause you guessed those other ones wrong first.
00:05:08 Andy Guest Very, very wrong, yeah.
00:05:09 John Host What do you know about *Basket Case*, Andy? Explain to the audience.
00:05:12 Andy Guest Uh, it is—yeah, it's—I—I've never seen it.
00:05:15 John Host Me neither.
00:05:16 Andy Guest Uh, I've seen, like, a review video on YouTube sort of summarizing it. There's a—is it—are they twins separated at birth?
00:05:25 John Host Yeah. It's a story about a—a guy named Duane, who was a conjoined twin. And against his wishes, the conjoined twin was separated from him. And the conjoined twin's name is Belial. And the conjoined twin, the twin that is separated from Duane, is... a sort of monstrous creature. That Duane keeps in a basket. A laundry basket. Under his bed.
00:05:47 Andy Guest Mm-hm.
00:05:48 John Host And every now and then, someone says, "What's in the basket?"

And the audience goes, "Don't ask!"

But they do anyway, and it opens it up, and Belial's, like, claw gets them in the face. Super cheap movie, it was made for 35 grand. The claw is actually a rubber glove worn by the director Frank Henenlotter. Cult movie. Two sequels. That's all I know about it. It could be wildly—I mean, it was made in 1982; it could be wildly problematic in ways that I do not want to touch. It could be radioactive as far as I know. So don't see it, kids.

[Someone laughs quietly.]

But yeah, *Basket Case* was what I was going for there. But I—yeah! I read you wrong; you're more of a... *Nothing but Trouble* guy.

00:06:26 Andy Guest *[Laughing]* Uh-huh. Yes.

00:06:28 John Host More of a *Sixth Sense* fella.

00:06:29 Andy Guest I mean, those are both pretty grotesque movies, from what I—what I understand.

00:06:32 John Host You've never seen either of them?

00:06:33 Andy Guest Oh, I've seen, uh, *Nothing but Trouble*.

00:06:35 John Host But you haven't seen *The Sixth Sense*?

00:06:37 Andy Guest Oh, I've seen—I saw that in the theater.

00:06:38 John Host Oh, okay. I was gonna say, out of all three movies, the one you saw was *Nothing but Trouble*.

00:06:41 Andy Guest *[Laughs quietly.]* Uh-huh.

[Katherine chuckles.]

00:06:43 John Host When did you rent it?

00:06:44 Andy Guest *Nothing but Trouble*?

00:06:45 John Host Yeah.

00:06:46 Andy Guest It would've been, like, 1992 or something like that, '93.

00:06:47 John Host Oh, it must have just come out! You mu—you—it must have been hot on the shelves of the video store of new releases!

00:06:48 Andy Guest I was on the... burning edge of culture at that point.

00:06:55 John Host I'm gonna tell you. No matter what you think—no matter how much bad movie you think you can tolerate, *Nothing but Trouble* is... too much bad movie.

00:07:04 Andy Guest I enjoyed it! I recall watching it two or three times, uh, but...

00:07:07 John Host Alright, I think I'm ready to make my decision.

[The litigants laugh.]

But I guess we oughta hear from Katherine first. Katherine, you seek justice in this case.

00:07:16 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:07:17 John Host What is the justice you seek? What is the problem? What is the dispute?

00:07:20 Katherine Guest So every time we go see my dad, it's a four-hour car drive.

00:07:23 John Host Mm-hm.

00:07:24 Katherine Guest We stay in a hotel. We only go for two nights. I don't want to spend a lot of time, like... trying to get out the door. So one time, I had the great idea, I think, to—instead of wasting my time folding all the laundry, and putting it in a suitcase, deciding what to bring—

00:07:43 John Host Right.

00:07:44 Katherine Guest Just—I had a pile of clean laundry sitting on the bed. Just put it in the

basket. Unfolded. Put it in the car, and take it with us.

00:07:53 John Host So you're saying you take the—the clean laundry, still fresh from the dryer—

00:07:56 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:07:57 John Host *[Sniff, sniff.]* It smells good, it's warm to the touch. Toss it in the hamper, and go.

00:08:00 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:08:01 John Host *[Exhales sharply.]* Wow, I love it.

00:08:03 Katherine Guest And then, like, once we get to the hotel and we have nothing to do there, and we're just sitting around, then I fold the laundry there.

00:08:11 John Host And you put it, like, into the drawers?

00:08:13 Katherine Guest Yeah!

00:08:14 John Host Of, like, the modular wardrobe—slash—flatscreen TV—

00:08:17 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:08:19 John Host —cabinet that they have?

00:08:20 Katherine Guest Yes.

[John exhales sharply again.]

And we live out of the drawers for two days, and then pack all of the nice clean clothes back in the laundry basket.

00:08:27 John Host Well, wait a minute! Wait a minute. By then they're dirty, aren't they?

00:08:29 Katherine Guest Not all of 'em, because I take a lot of laundry.

00:08:31 John Host Ohhh, okay. You take more than you need.

00:08:33 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:08:34 John Host 'Cause you don't know!

00:08:35 Jesse Host She takes a whole basket, John!

00:08:36 John Host It's like a lottery. You don't know what's in that dryer!

00:08:40 Katherine Guest We're only going for two days, so it can't be—

[John exhales sharply again.]

We won't miss anything.

00:08:44 John Host Andy, it's gonna be very hard for you to mount a defense.

[Andy laughs quietly.]

'Cause you already told me that you like *Nothing but Trouble*, you've seen it more than once.

00:08:51 Andy Guest Uh-huh.

00:08:52 John Host A. And B, I love this. I love this. Normally when we're dealing with, uh... husband and wife, heterosexual couples—you are married, correct?

00:09:00 Andy Guest Yes.

00:09:01 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:09:02 John Host Yeah. It's the guy who comes up with a "I know a better way to do it!" kind of scheme.

00:09:06 Andy Guest *[Laughs.]* Uh-huh.

00:09:09 John Host But Katherine's come up with one... and I gotta say, I kinda love it! *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:09:12 Andy Guest Yeah. I'm not above coming up with a "I got a better idea" scheme, but just in this case, this—this solution did not sit right with me.

00:09:18 John Host Well, how come?

00:09:19 Andy Guest Uh—

00:09:20 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* 'Cause it made you feel like a fugitive from justice?

00:09:22 Andy Guest *[Chuckles.]* No, it feels very impractical. Like, a suitcase is a very practical, useful invention. It zips up. You can carry it any which way you want. You can roll it, you can carry it with the handle. Things don't fall out of it everywhere. And the thought of just putting a whole bunch of random laundry into a laundry basket that's open at the top—I just picture it spilling everywhere, your clothes are on the ground outside of the hotel—

00:09:46 John Host Wait, you're talking about the thought of it. Has it ever happened? Katherine, have you ever done it?

00:09:51 Katherine Guest I have. He doesn't remember, but I have.

[Jesse cracks up, John stifles laughter.]

00:09:55 John Host Why doesn't he remember? He saw—he took one look at that laundry hamper as a suitcase, and fainted?

[The litigants laugh.]

00:10:00 Katherine Guest Yeah!

00:10:02 John Host Blacked out, doesn't remember any of it?

00:10:04 Katherine Guest He had a really strong reaction to—to this idea. Which is out of character for him.

00:10:10 John Host Yeah, he seems like a pretty even-keeled sort of person.

00:10:12 Katherine Guest And he doesn't care about, um, a formal way to do things, either.

00:10:17 John Host What do you mean?

00:10:18 Katherine Guest He's not one to stand on ceremony. He—he's not a very neat and tidy person.

00:10:23 Andy Guest Hey! *[Laughs.]*

00:10:24 Katherine Guest *[Laughing]* In ge—in general. Like, I just—

00:10:26 Jesse Host Just looking at him, I can tell he wears toe shoes to church.

00:10:30 Katherine Guest *[Laughs.]* He's not uptight. He's... easygoing. I—it was just surprising. I was very surprised by his reaction!

00:10:37 John Host So when—when you did it—how many times have you done it? Just this one time?

00:10:41 Katherine Guest Well, definitely one time when we went to see my dad. And I might have done it once when we went to the beach.

00:10:47 John Host Okay.

00:10:48 Katherine Guest For, like, a vacation.

00:10:49 John Host Right. And the first time you did it, you were going to see your dad.

00:10:52 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:10:53 John Host Now, you live in North Carolina. Is that correct?

00:10:54 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:10:55 John Host Whereabouts?

00:10:56 Katherine Guest We live in Durham.

00:10:57 John Host Pretty cool town.

00:10:58 Katherine Guest Mm-hm.

00:10:59 John Host Andy, you own a bar and grill there or something?

00:11:02 Andy Guest Mm-hm! I believe you've eaten at it once.

00:11:04 John Host Oh, really? What's it called?

00:11:05 Andy Guest It's called Geer Street Garden.

00:11:06 John Host Yeah, I've been there.

00:11:07 Andy Guest Yeah.

00:11:08 John Host I went there with the Cook brothers after a show.

00:11:10 Andy Guest Yep, that's right!

00:11:11 John Host Phil Cook and his brother... Other Cook.

00:11:14 Andy Guest It's so weird that his mom named him Other.

[Andy laughs quietly, John stifles laughter.]

00:11:16 John Host I just know him—Belial, I think it was.

00:11:18 Andy Guest *[Chuckling]* Yes.

00:11:19 John Host Phil Cook brought his brother in a basket to the back yard of your place!

00:11:21 Andy Guest Uh-huh. Yep!

00:11:23 John Host After a show that we did. David Rees was there. We had a great time, we had a great meal, we had a great evening. Say the name of it again?

00:11:30 Andy Guest Geer Street Garden.

00:11:31 John Host Geer Street Garden! Katherine, did you also wanna talk about this place?

00:11:36 Katherine Guest No, I was gonna say we are big fans of *Dicktown*.

00:11:38 John Host Thank you very much! I appreciate that.

00:11:39 Katherine Guest Yeah. And I'm hoping a second season will be out soon.

00:11:43 John Host Well, you know, David Rees and I are working very hard on a secret project. And that's all I can say about that.

00:11:49 Andy Guest We look forward to hearing it.

00:11:50 John Host Hang on, I gotta look up this other Cook brother. I feel terrible about it.

[Clicky-clacky typing.]

Brad! Duh.

00:11:58 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* That was some very bold gaslighting, Andrew.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:12:02 Andy Guest Worth a try.

00:12:03 John Host Brad! Brad, I'm sorry I forgot you. I always remember you in my heart. Brad Cook. I think maybe I blacked it out because that's my father-in-law's first name. But I love my father-in-law! I don't know what it was. Who knows why we remember or forget anything? Never mind a hamper of clothes.

00:12:18 Andy Guest Yeah.

[Katherine laughs quietly.]

00:12:19 John Host So where does your dad live, Katherine? You're going from Durham to where?

00:12:22 Katherine Guest Culpeper, Virginia.

00:12:24 John Host Mkaaay. Four-hour drive. What kind of car do you drive?

00:12:27 Katherine Guest A Honda CRV. Is it—is it okay to say that?

00:12:30 John Host Yeah, of course it is.

00:12:31 Katherine Guest Okay.

00:12:32 John Host We can buzzmarket Honda if we're gonna buzzmarket Geer Street Garden.

Describe your husband's reaction, Katherine, when you loaded up this hamper for the first time into the CRV, to take to Culpeper.

00:12:43 Katherine Guest Well, it—his reaction was before I loaded it up. It was in the house, and he—he was just, like, "No! You—you can't do that! That's not right!"

00:12:53 John Host And you did it anyway?

00:12:54 Katherine Guest I did it anyway, yeah.

00:12:55 John Host Was it chaos?

00:12:57 Katherine Guest No, it worked out beautifully.

00:12:58 John Host Were underwears flying all over the place?

00:12:59 Katherine Guest No. Also, his clothes were not even in the basket. I'm pretty sure he packed a suitcase for himself.

00:13:05 Andy Guest I did pack a suitcase.

00:13:07 John Host Yeah! So you were packing, Katherine, for yourself, and—

00:13:10 Katherine Guest And the two boys.

00:13:11 John Host And two—and the two children that live with you?

00:13:13 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:13:14 John Host Right.

00:13:15 Katherine Guest And their clo—they have so many—you—if you ever folded a basket of kids' laundry, it takes forever.

00:13:20 John Host I don't do it anymore, but I have done it. It does take forever, 'cause it's little tiny pieces.

00:13:25 Andy Guest Yeah. By volume, it's—there's more pieces.

00:13:28 John Host Yeah. And Andy, this happened, and—and did anything go wrong? Did any of your... Did any of your horrible predictions come true?

00:13:35 Andy Guest No, I think my, uh—I don't really have much memory of it, so I don't think anything particular went wrong. But that didn't change my opposition to the—the action.

00:13:46 John Host Katherine says that you're a slob. You don't care.

[The litigants laugh.]

You're low-key.

00:13:51 Andy Guest I—I think it could be argued that I'm a slob in some ways.

00:13:53 Jesse Host A lot of people are saying that you wear toe shoes to church.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:13:56 John Host Yeah, I'm hearing a—I'm hearing from a lot of people, toe shoes at church.

00:14:00 Andy Guest Yeah.

00:14:02 John Host Uh—you seem like a low-key guy. What is it, do you think—I mean, now that we established that your fears did not come true—and probably wouldn't except on a very windy day, depending on the top layer of the hamper.

00:14:11 Andy Guest *[Laughs quietly.]*

Uh—no, there's other circumstances that could lead to it spilling. Clumsiness. You know, you open the back of the car, maybe something's shifted around. It's got a hatchback, so you open it, it could tip out. Uh, I have other objections, too.

00:14:25 John Host Okay, keep going! I like all these possibilities.

00:14:28 Andy Guest I think my main objection is that it—it is very impractical in that you are just wadding up a bunch of random laundry. Whatever happened to be in that load of laundry. You have no assurance in that load that you have the things that you'll actually want or need.

00:14:43 John Host Yeah. I know.

00:14:44 Andy Guest And inevitably you will have a whole bunch of stuff that you do not need.

00:14:47 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* I know.

00:14:48 Andy Guest And so to me, it just feels like the sensible thing to do—the practical thing to do—

[Someone laughs.]

—would be to go through it, find the stuff you need, put that into a suitcase, and leave everything else there.

00:14:57 John Host I know, but you're going to Culpeper! Live a little!

[Andy laughs.]

Come on!

00:15:02 Andy Guest Is this—if this is what's defined as "living a little," I don't wanna live, brother.

00:15:05 John Host Well, how old are your boys?

00:15:08 Andy Guest Uh, ten and eight.

00:15:09 John Host Yeah. This is living a lot, frankly.

[The litigants laugh.]

This is the adventure of a lifetime!

00:15:13 Andy Guest An open basket of laundry is the—is the—?

00:15:15 John Host Yeah! It's just like, "Who know—who knows?" It's like, uh, getting a prize ball, or a—

00:15:18 Andy Guest Right. Roll the dice, huh.

00:15:19 John Host You know, like a—a mystery bag at a toy store! You don't know what's gonna be in there!

00:15:22 Andy Guest Okay! I mean, if that's your view on it. I—I understand that. But that's—that's not how I viewed it.

00:15:28 John Host Well, it's none of your clothes, anyway.

00:15:30 Andy Guest It's true.

00:15:31 John Host You already packed a suitcase.

00:15:32 Andy Guest I also describe it as, um, smacking of spiritual laziness.

00:15:38 John Host Oh ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho—ho ho ho—

00:15:39 Andy Guest In that there—there's a—

00:15:40 John Host Hold on, hold on, I'm not done "ho-ho"ing!

00:15:41 Andy Guest *[Laughs.]* Okay.

[The "ho-ho"ing continues. Katherine laughs.]

00:15:44 Jesse Host You know what the classic example, John, of spiritual laziness is, right?

00:15:47 John Host No?

00:15:49 Jesse Host It's wearing shoes to church that only have one compartment for your entire foot.

[The litigants and John laugh.]

00:15:54 John Host That's right. If you—if you wanna show respect to God or whatever, you better—you better show them that you have all ten digits that they gave you.

00:16:03 Andy Guest God is a "them"?

00:16:04 John Host Or whatever!

[The litigants chuckle.]

Well, listen! I'm sorry. I didn't realize—I forgot that you are a—*[stifles laughter]*—that you are an ordained minister of the church of spiritual discipline. Please tell me why a hamper is spiritual laziness.

00:16:18 Andy Guest Because there's a—a clear and obvious thing that you should be doing, that will make your life easier. But instead of doing that, you're doing this other thing, which makes everything more complicated and creates work for you once you're on your trip.

[Beat.]

00:16:31 John Host Permission to approach the bench? Oh, yes, I give it to you. You are the judge. Thank you, Judge!

[Katherine chuckles.]

What could be easier than throwing all the laundry into the hamper?! That's really easy!

00:16:42 Andy Guest Are you—*[stifles laughter]*—are you asking me?

00:16:45 John Host No, I'm making a rhetorical—

00:16:46 Andy Guest Oh.

00:16:47 John Host I'm posing a rhetorical question.

00:16:48 Andy Guest I have an answer for your rhetorical question.

00:16:50 John Host God Or Whatever, I ask thee! Because God is a "thee" in this case.

00:16:54 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:16:55 John Host Andy.

I ask thee, God—Or Whatever—what could be easier? Than to throw all the laundry into the hamper?

"Why, I daresay nothing would be easier," respondeth my God Or Whatever to me.

God Or Whatever, I ask thee! Am I adding work to my journey? By traveling with a—all my clothes in a hamper?

God Or Whatever asks me: "Doeseth it all fall out?"

I say—in this case, "No."

Then God Or Whatever sayeth unto me—and including thee—now you're a thee, Andy—"No, because you are going to fold those clothes one way or the other, anyway. You are not adding work, my child with ten digits. And what's more, my child, I trust you. You may wear whatever shoe covering you have, and care to wear, because I trust you are not hiding that you have mutilated your toes in order to, uh, spite me."

This is the Gospel that was given to us onto this day by God Or Whatever, through me, your Judge John Hodgman. Welcome to church!

Anyway—

00:18:02 Jesse Host John, I think we just found a major new revenue stream. Touring church youth groups as the improvised Bible guys.

[John cracks up, Katherine chuckles.]

00:18:12 John Host I love it!

00:18:13 Jesse Host Watch out, *VeggieTales!* Jesse and John are coming.

00:18:16 John Host That's right.

I guess, Andy, what I'm trying to say is that... I can certainly appreciate why you would say putting the clothes into a hamper would be worldly laziness. Because—a mundane laziness, because you're not packing a bag. You're just—you're not making a selection. You're grabbing your clothes, dare I say willy-nilly.

00:18:38 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:18:39 John Host It's a big gamble that you get all the clothes that you want.

00:18:43 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:18:44 John Host And that is laziness of this mortal plane. But spiritual laziness—I don't think you've defined it for me properly. I don't think I understand it. Because that, to me, suggests that it is morally incorrect, as opposed to practically incorrect.

00:18:59 Andy Guest Mm, I don't think I mean morally incorrect. I just mean it, uh—it—it speaks to a—a deep, like, bone-level refusal to do what you ought to in this situation.

00:19:12 Katherine Guest Mm-hm. I would agree with that.

[Andy cracks up.]

00:19:15 John Host You would agree with it!

00:19:16 Katherine Guest *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah!

00:19:18 John Host Th—that rather undermines your case, Katherine.

00:19:19 Katherine Guest Well, no—I'm not saying I'm wrong, though! Who likes to pack a bag? It's—it's... a rat race. Like—

00:19:26 Andy Guest I think this is, like, a—

[Someone laughs quietly.]

—a spiritual defiance of, uh, all that is right in the same way that, like, Lucifer being kicked out of Heaven was a defiance.

00:19:36 Katherine Guest You're calling your wife Katherine a lazy devil?

[Katherine laughs.]

00:19:39 Andy Guest I might be. *[Laughs quietly.]*

00:19:41 John Host Who deserves to burn? And you say that it—there is no moral component?

00:19:43 Andy Guest No, not burn! Maybe—maybe given her own realm of, uh, hellish existence to preside over, like Lucifer was.

00:19:50 Jesse Host Let's take a quick recess, and hear about this week's *Judge John Hodgman* sponsor! We'll be back in just a moment on the *Judge*

John Hodgman podcast.

00:19:59 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

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

00:20:03 Jesse Host I have some practical questions, Judge Hodgman.

00:20:05 John Host Yeah, please. I'm staying on the spiritual realm for this one.

00:20:09 Jesse Host Katherine, is this something that you only want to do when you are traveling to visit your father?

00:20:14 Katherine Guest Yes. Uh, well... And maybe somewhere like a vacation to the—like I said, the beach, where you're gonna be there for a while, you're gonna have to do laundry when you're there. I might consider it in that case. But no, not if you're on an airplane, obviously. Or like—

00:20:31 Andy Guest A-hah.

00:20:32 Katherine Guest Um, it—no! I wouldn't—I wouldn't do it if we were visiting your family, Andy.

00:20:37 Andy Guest *[Laughs.]* A-hah! That was my question. Next question.

00:20:41 John Host Oh!

00:20:42 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Andy says—Andy keeps saying, "A-hah!" like he's proved something.

[The litigants laugh.]

He's like, "A-hah! Another mode of transportation listed!"

[More laughter.]

"A-hah! You've forgotten scooters!"

[Andy laughs.]

Uh, Katherine, when you visit your dad, do you engage in any activities that require particular kinds of clothing? Such as going swimming, going out to dinner, going to church. Uh—

[John snorts.]

Attending events, and so forth.

00:21:08 Katherine Guest No. I mean, there's a hotel pool. We always bring the kids' swimsuits. So I throw those in the basket. But no, my dad—we go out to the same Chinese restaurant every time we see him. We hang out at his apartment. There's nothing going on. And no offense, Culpeper, but—it's a very cute town!—um, but we aren't going out to fancy dinners. We don't go to church. We hardly see anybody but my dad.

00:21:35 Jesse Host You said you're bringing children on these trips?

00:21:37 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:21:39 Jesse Host What are you teaching them?

[Katherine laughs.]

00:21:40 Andy Guest Thank you.

00:21:42 Katherine Guest Maybe Andy could teach them to pack a suitcase.

00:21:44 Andy Guest *[Chuckles quietly.]*

00:21:47 John Host I—I have supervised them packing!
When you say you supervise them packing, what do they—they each open their suitcase, and you walk back and forth behind them, with a long ruler?
[The litigants laugh.]
Watching them as they fold their clothes, making sure that the—that each shirt is folded to the appropriate inch length, or what?

00:22:01 Andy Guest It's—it's not that involved. I don't even care if stuff is folded. In fact, my clothes are not always folded, but they go in a bag that you can zip up.

00:22:09 John Host There's the closure to it.

00:22:12 Andy Guest Yes.

00:22:13 John Host You seek closure.

00:22:14 Andy Guest Yes! And—and—yeah.

00:22:15 John Host Right. Which is more disturbing to you? The fact that something might fall out of the basket? Or the fact that some of the—the things in the basket may be a mystery?
[Someone laughs.]

00:22:26 Andy Guest Which is more...

00:22:28 John Host Yeah.

00:22:29 Andy Guest I think the mystery-ness. The—the, uh—

00:22:31 John Host Mystery-ness.

00:22:32 Andy Guest The—no assurance that you have what you're gonna need.

00:22:35 John Host Yeah, I gotta say, Katherine, when you said that you selected swimsuits to make sure that you brought them, and you threw them in the hamper as well, you started to lose me there. Because now I realize it's not just—it's not just random.
[Katherine laughs.]
I was so loving the total wild card basket.
[Andy laughs.]
You lost me a little bit there, I have to say.

00:22:55 Katherine Guest It's also about saving time. And getting on the road before noon. I don't wanna spend another hour at home folding laundry, and packing laundry, before we get on the road.

00:23:04 John Host Yeah!

00:23:06 Katherine Guest So it's about saving time.

00:23:08 Andy Guest That's what I meant by spiritual laziness, though. It's like, yes, you save a little bit of time. But you—what you get in return for that is chaos, unpredictability, and stuff—potential for stuff spilling everywhere.

[Someone laughs.]

00:23:20 John Host Yeah. Because God Or Whatever told you to telleth your wife to spend more time doing the laundry.

[Andy laughs.]

00:23:26 Katherine Guest Mm-hm.

00:23:27 John Host And packing properly.

00:23:28 Andy Guest Uh—

[Katherine laughs.]

God Or Whatever doesn't speak so clearly to me.

00:23:33 John Host Andy, you threw in two big "a-hah"s. That I was witness to. And the first "a-hah" is very merited, because of course, "A-hah! You would not bring a laundry basket or hamper onto an airplane."

00:23:45 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:23:46 John Host That makes sense to me. Nor would I advise that you bring one onto a hot-air balloon. Because then you are not only dealing with moving the basket from one conveyance to another, but that is a terrifying basket-in-basket proposition.

[The litigants laugh quietly.]

The second "a-hah" was more interesting to me, though. And I would like to probe it. Katherine promised she would never bring a laundry hamper to your family's house.

00:24:09 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:24:10 John Host And you "a-hah"ed in a very gratified way.

[Andy chuckles.]

What is that all about?

00:24:15 Andy Guest Uh, I think it—it—to me, it showed that her desire to do this is not strictly a desire to have things be easy and simple. That there's more to it than that. Because the distances are the same. To visit my family in Charlotte, North Carolina takes about two hours. It's, uh, you know, a day or two-day trip at most. It's kind of a similar trip.

00:24:34 John Host Wait a minute! I heard it was four hours to Culpeper. Two hours to Charlotte.

00:24:37 Andy Guest Yeah—two hours to Charlotte, okay.

00:24:40 John Host You think I don't know these roads? You don't think I don't—I haven't had the distance between Charlotte and the Research Triangle of Chapel Hill, Durham—

[The litigants laugh quietly, John stifles laughter.]

—and, uh, what's the third part? Raleigh? Drummed into my head by David Rees all this time?

[The litigants laugh.]

00:24:54 Andy Guest I was banking on Hollywood elites not, uh—not understanding.
00:24:57 John Host How would you feel if Katherine walked into your father's house with her—with her luggage in a laundry hamper?
00:25:02 Andy Guest Embarrassed, frankly.
00:25:03 John Host And what do you think it would say?
00:25:04 Katherine Guest Seriously?
00:25:05 Andy Guest Yes.
00:25:06 John Host Oop. Maybe I'll stay out of this.
00:25:07 Andy Guest What would I say? I think I would just give my dad a look and roll my eyes like, "Oh my god. Can you believe this?"
00:25:11 John Host Mm-hm. And how would that make you feel, Katherine?
00:25:14 Katherine Guest I mean, I don't care what they think.

[Andy laughs quietly.]

00:25:17 John Host Mm-hm.

[Katherine laughs.]

How do you feel when you're walking into the hotel you're staying in in Culpeper? The Culpeper Arms, or whatever.

[The litigants laugh.]

And Katherine pulls out—*[stifles laughter]*—Katherine, we might as well—

[She laughs.]

We might as well buzzmarket them, too. Where do you stay in Culpeper?

00:25:34 Katherine Guest I really like this particular hotel. It's a Holiday Inn Express.
00:25:39 John Host Sure.
00:25:40 Katherine Guest We stay in the same one every single time.
00:25:42 John Host Can't go wrong with an HIX.
00:25:43 Katherine Guest It's nice! They have a pool.
00:25:46 John Host Right. I—believe me, I've been there.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:25:48 Andy Guest They have the pancake machine.
00:25:49 John Host You can definitely go wrong with the HIX. I have no—

[Katherine laughs, John stifles laughter.]

—I have no particular loyalty to Holiday Inn. I just liked thinking of it as HIX.

[The litigants chuckle.]

How do you feel when—when Katherine walks into the—what passes for a lobby at the Holiday Inn Express to check in to your room, carrying a laundry basket full of clothes?

00:26:08 Andy Guest Yeah, still, uh—not as embarrassed, but slightly embarrassed.

00:26:12 Katherine Guest I have a hard time believing you're actually embarrassed.

00:26:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Andy:** Why?

John: Why?!

00:26:16 John Host He's under fake oath, Katherine! Did you not appreciate that your husband might be embarrassed by you walking around with a laundry basket full of clothes in public places?

00:26:22 Katherine Guest *[Laughs.]*

I—I absolutely do not care if he is embarrassed—

00:26:29 John Host Mm-hm.

00:26:30 Katherine Guest —but I don't believe that he is embarrassed, because you should see his car!

00:26:34 John Host Wait. Here. God or—

[The litigants laugh.]

Okay. Tell me—tell me about his—

00:26:37 Andy Guest Objection!

00:26:38 John Host Tell me about his car.

00:26:40 Katherine Guest He rolls around town in a car—it's an old, beat-up Volvo—

00:26:45 John Host Wait a minute.

00:26:46 Katherine Guest And I almost—I almost—

00:26:47 John Host Wait a minute. I love him already. Let's go.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:26:50 Jesse Host Yeah. This is getting good!

00:26:51 John Host I like this! What is it, a Two—

00:26:52 Katherine Guest There's nothi—

00:26:53 John Host A 240? Tell me it's a 240.

00:26:54 Andy Guest No, I—I had a 240 until about 1997.

[John exhales sharply.]

I know.

00:27:00 Katherine Guest He trashed the interior. It's just full of trash. Literally. Also—

00:27:05 Andy Guest At one—*[laughs]*—

00:27:06 Katherine Guest —he lets it break!

00:27:07 Andy Guest At one point a, uh, 20-quart container of chicken broth spilled in there—

[John cracks up.]

—in July.

00:27:14 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* That's a lot of quarts!

00:27:15 Andy Guest It's in—it was nuts, yes. And it was—I was too busy with work stuff to deal with it, and so the—it just soaked into the carpet. And, uh, I took it to the detail place. They were like, "No problem."

[Katherine laughs, Andy stifles laughter.]

"We use—we'll use, uh, enzymes."

00:27:28 John Host Yeah.

00:27:29 Andy Guest The enzymes did nothing.

00:27:31 John Host What they call the classic anti-broth.

00:27:32 Andy Guest Yes.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:27:33 John Host Didn't do anything, huh?

00:27:35 Andy Guest No. And so for a couple years after that—

00:27:36 Jesse Host *[Strained]* "Have you the anti-broth?!"

[Someone laughs quietly.]

00:27:39 Andy Guest For a couple of years after that, it smelled like a corpse.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

00:27:44 John Host ...Yeah!

00:27:46 Andy Guest *[Stifling laughter]* I'm digging my own grave here, but...

00:27:47 Jesse Host I like that you were too busy with work things—

00:27:50 Andy Guest *[Chuckling]* Uh-huh.

00:27:51 Jesse Host Which basically—I think just means other 20-quart containers.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:27:54 Andy Guest Indeed it does, yes!

00:27:55 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Of chicken broth.

00:27:57 John Host Yeah, but this is your—this is your work vehicle! Isn't it, Andy? Allow me to defend you. I mean—

00:28:01 Andy Guest Uh, no, not always. It just was that particular weekend.

00:28:04 John Host Oh, okay. So you—you were driving your kids around in a... chicken corpse car?

00:28:10 Andy Guest Yeah, except they—everybody refused to get in it for a couple years.

00:28:14 John Host I don't even think I could—

[Jesse laughs.]

As much as I love a Volvo 240, either sedan or wagon—I prefer the wagon diesel if possible—I don't even think I would get into a—a chicken corpse version of that car.

00:28:25 Andy Guest You get used to it.

00:28:26 John Host I don't wanna get used to that.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:28:29 Andy Guest Perhaps this experience is why I'm worried about, uh, open-topped containers spilling.

[Beat.]

00:28:36 John Host You understand the difference between—

[Someone laughs quietly.]

—say, a basket of clean laundry and a gallon of scallops, don't you?

[Jesse and the litigants laugh.]

00:28:43 Andy Guest Theoretically, sure.

00:28:44 John Host An open gallon of scallops (*rhymes with "gallops"*)—excuse me, Joel, scallops (*rhymes with "dollops"*).

[Katherine chuckles.]

00:28:49 Jesse Host I have to say, Katherine. As a person who's always been very uncomfortable with the prospect of having a—a bellhop carry his bags—not 'cause I think they're gonna steal them or break them, just I just feel weird walking next to them while they carry my stuff.

00:29:02 Katherine Guest Mm-hm.

00:29:03 Jesse Host I honestly can't imagine a more thrilling power move—

[Katherine laughs.]

—*[laughing]* than tipping a bellhop to carry your basket of laundry to your room. Like, "Thank you so much. Here's \$5. Thanks for carrying my spilling basket."

[Katherine laughs.]

00:29:24 Andy Guest There are no bellhops at the HIX.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:29:28 Katherine Guest I have one more, um, reason why I like to do this method.

00:29:33 John Host Please!

00:29:34 Katherine Guest So, it's way better, in my opinion, to come home with extra, folded clean laundry after a trip, and put it away in the drawers, than to come home to a giant pile of unfolded laundry sitting on the bed.

00:29:49 John Host Mm-hm.

00:29:50 Jesse Host Katherine, what are you doing with the dirty laundry?

00:29:53 Katherine Guest Uh, put it in, like, a trash bag. Until—

[Jesse and Katherine laugh.]

—until we get home.

00:29:58 Jesse Host Yeah?

00:29:59 John Host Let me quickly understand. Let me make sure that I understand the system, so that I can rule fairly.

00:30:04 Katherine Guest Okay.

00:30:05 John Host The system is: You're gonna see your dad. You get your laundry hamper. Take everything out of the dryer, put it in there. Then think, "What—do we need bathing suits for the pool at the HIX?" Throw them in there as well. Maybe a couple other must-have items, like toe shoes for church or whatever.

[Someone laughs quietly.]

Walk that from your house—are you going up or down stairs?

00:30:29 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:30:30 John Host Alright. There's some—

00:30:31 Katherine Guest Down.

00:30:32 John Host There's some chance of spillage there. Like, are you topped up in that laundry basket? Like, is it a mound situation?

00:30:36 Katherine Guest It's never overflowing. No. No.

00:30:39 John Host No. Alright. Flat-top laundry basket. Walk it down carefully. Kick open the door. Put it into the back of the CRV. Start driving to Culpeper. An hour later, realize you forgot your husband and sons.

[The litigants chuckle quietly.]

Go back, get them. Check in to the hotel. Once you're in the hotel, you put it down. You unpack. Everything in the laundry basket goes into the drawers?

00:31:02 Katherine Guest No, you dump it on the—*[laughing]* you dump it on the bed!

00:31:05 John Host Yes.

00:31:06 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:31:07 John Host This is what I need to hear! All the details.

00:31:09 Katherine Guest You dump the laundry on the bed.

00:31:10 John Host Yeah. Fold it.

00:31:11 Katherine Guest And then fold it.

00:31:13 John Host Mm-hm.

00:31:14 Katherine Guest When I have nothing else to do.

00:31:16 John Host Right. Well, except see—

00:31:17 Katherine Guest 'Cause I'm stuck in a hotel room.

00:31:18 John Host —see your father. You're not allowed to go over for a while?

00:31:21 Katherine Guest *[Laughs.]* I mean, you're always spending some time in the hotel.

00:31:25 Andy Guest Yeah, it is a couple hours in the morning.

00:31:27 Jesse Host John, you know what you do in a hotel when there's—when you're on a trip! It's Shark Week, and you don't have cable at home—

00:31:33 Katherine Guest Exactly.

00:31:34 Jesse Host —so you just watch shark things the whole time.

00:31:37 Andy Guest *Teen Titans Go!*, in our case.

00:31:38 John Host That's true, just watch—I mean, here's what—here's what I picture. Tell me where I'm wrong, Katherine. 'Cause I've been to hotels with little kids before. You get to the hotel. The kids scream and scream about going to the pool as quickly as possible.

00:31:51 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:31:53 John Host Andy takes them down—

00:31:54 Andy Guest Yes!

00:31:55 John Host For the first time in 17 weeks, you have 15 minutes to yourself. To watch Shark Week, and—

[Katherine laughs.]

—and quietly fold clothes. And it's—it's one of the most meditative and wonderful moments you can have.

00:32:06 Katherine Guest That's... pretty close, yes.

00:32:09 John Host Yeah.

00:32:10 Katherine Guest Yeah! It's—

00:32:11 John Host I don't mean to tell you your feelings the way you tell Andy his feelings, but that's what I'm picturing. Oh, yeah! Yeah, I tagged you for telling him that he shouldn't be embarrassed for—

[Katherine laughs.]

—for the laundry hamper. You're gonna be hearing about that in the verdict for sure. I heard that.

00:32:20 Katherine Guest Oh boy. I don't understand why he would be embarrassed.

00:32:24 John Host I know. That's a different—but you'll understand when we get to the verdict.

00:32:27 Andy or Jesse Guest Yeah! That's clear!

00:32:27 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah.

[Katherine cracks up.]

00:32:30 Andy or Jesse Host That's part of it!

[The litigants laugh.]

00:32:33 Jesse Host Katherine, what do you watch in the hotel room?

00:32:36 Katherine Guest Usually the kids are in charge of that. Um, so it—but it—but they—

you know, it's always *Spongebob* or *Teen Titans Go!* Yeah.

00:32:44 John Host Yeah.

00:32:45 Jesse Host Yeah, you could do a lot worse.

00:32:46 Katherine Guest Yeah!

00:32:47 Jesse Host You could do a lot worse in a hotel room than *Spongebob* and *Teen Titans Go!*

00:32:49 John Host And then—just so that I understand—you fold the clothes, you put them away.

00:32:53 Katherine Guest In the drawers. Mm-hm.

00:32:55 John Host In the drawers. Right. And then you use them over the visit. You're putting your—the things that are dirty now into, like, a garbage bag.

00:33:03 Katherine Guest Yes. Or you know, like the laundry bag that they give you at the hotel.

00:33:07 John Host Right. The hamper, meanwhile, is just not being used at all at this point?

00:33:11 Katherine Guest Well, you put your dirty clothes in the hamper.

00:33:14 John Host In the hamper. Right.

00:33:15 Katherine Guest Mm-hm.

00:33:16 John Host Then at the end of the trip, you put those into the garbage bag—

00:33:17 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:33:18 John Host —and then you put the remaining clean clothes into the hamper, garbage bag goes on top of that. Put it into the CRV, go home. Phew! Good visit with dad. And then you put the dirty stuff into the laundry, and the folded stuff gets put away.

00:33:32 Katherine Guest Yeah!

00:33:33 John Host *[Exhales thoughtfully.]* Gotta say, Andy, I love it. Gotta say I love it.

00:33:38 Jesse Host Now, Andy, your system is... You take the 20-quart jug—

[The litigants crack up, Jesse stifles laughter.]

—of chicken broth.

00:33:46 Andy Guest Mm-hm! Extra thick and rich.

00:33:48 John Host Make sure the top is loose.

00:33:49 Katherine Guest Yes.

00:33:51 Jesse Host You go—*[laughs]*—you go to the detail place, ask:

[Rasping] "Have you the antidote?"

[Katherine cracks up.]

00:33:56 Andy Guest Well, you're skipping a step. Which is that you put it in the back of your car, and you wedge it in with some things you think will probably hold it.

00:34:03 John Host Right.

00:34:04 Andy Guest And then... when you have to brake very rapidly, you suddenly realize that it—it cannot, because you hear a very loud "glug, glug"

sound.

00:34:12 John Host And then you have trauma that you experience for the rest of your life.

[Katherine laughs.]

Around any open container, which I understand!

00:34:19 Andy Guest Yeah. I have flashbacks sometimes.

00:34:23 John Host Andy, Katherine has already said that she's not going to embarrass you in front of your father by using her routine at your house. You dad's house, I mean.

00:34:29 Andy Guest *[Laughs.]* Uh-huh.

00:34:31 John Host What would you have me order besides that, if I were to find in your favor?

00:34:34 Andy Guest Uh, that she is never again to suggest bringing an open container of unfolded laundry on a trip, rather than packing a bag like any sensible person would do.

00:34:45 John Host Katherine, what would you have me order if I were to find in your favor?

00:34:48 Katherine Guest That next time I suggest doing my method, I don't get any pushback! That he just keeps his mouth shut, *[laughing]* and lets me do things my way!

00:35:00 John Host What are you afraid, finally, Andy, is going to happen if I were to rule in Katherine's favor? That your sons will take this as a habit?

00:35:10 Andy Guest *[Laughs quietly.]* No! No, I'm not afraid of that.

00:35:12 John Host That—that you will lose your standing? That everyone will know... that the guy who runs Geer Road Garden—

[The litigants laugh.]

—is married to the laundry hamper packing lady?

00:35:24 Andy Guest Hmm.

00:35:25 John Host That your—that you—

00:35:26 Andy Guest Yeah, I—

00:35:27 John Host That God Or Whatever—

[Andy laughs.]

—will smite your house?

00:35:29 Andy Guest I think the—

00:35:30 John Host For the sin of spiritual indolence?

00:35:32 Andy Guest The—the fear of embarrassment and the idea of spiritual indolence is less annoying to me than just the inconvenience of happing this open-top container rather than a handy suitcase that's easy to manage.

00:35:45 John Host I see. I think I've heard everything I need to in order to, uh, make my decision. I am going to go down the street to the laundromat and

smell it for a while. And, uh, ruminate. And then I will be back in a moment, uh, with my verdict.

00:35:58	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]</i>
00:35:59	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.
00:36:04	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:36:05	Jesse	Host	Katherine, this is an extraordinary system you've developed. <i>[One or both litigants laugh.]</i>
00:36:12	Katherine	Guest	How are you feeling about your chances in the case I'm—I'm hopeful! I really am. I think it's a good system. It's a lifehack. <i>[Jesse laughs quietly.]</i>
00:36:19	Jesse	Host	Anybody is welcome to use it. <i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Oh, you're open-sourcing it, huh?
00:36:23	Katherine	Guest	Yeah!
00:36:24	Jesse	Host	Creative Commons License. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:28	Andy	Guest	Andrew, how come <u>you're</u> not folding the laundry? I do fold my own laundry. I'm not allowed to fold her laundry, because I don't do it the correct way.
00:36:34	Jesse	Host	Who folds the kids' laundry?
00:36:36	Andy	Guest	We both do.
00:36:37	Jesse	Host	That's good. My wife folds the kids' laundry, so... God bless her forever.
00:36:43	Andy	Guest	How are you feeling about your chances, Andrew? I feel like I presented my case well. I—I think that, you know... I have logic and common sense on my side.
00:36:51	Jesse	Host	Plus that corpse smell. <i>[The litigants and Jesse laugh.]</i>
00:36:57	Sound Effect	Transition	We'll see what Judge Hodgman has to say about all this when we come back in just a second. <i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:37:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:37:02	Promo	Promo	<i>This dynamic ad has not been transcribed, as it changes weekly.</i>
00:42:13	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:42:15	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]</i>
00:42:16	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.
00:42:22	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:42:23	John	Host	So first of all, Andy, I'm gonna say this. I think—I think you need to get your theology correct. I do not live in a world where there is a

God Or Whatever that casts favor or displeasure, whom I must please in some way in order to be spiritually un-lazy. I don't wear toe shoes to church; I don't go to church. I am a—an agnostic. In the sense of "I truly don't know." And not knowing means not... really... caring.

You say that there isn't a moral component to this, but I think that you're misstating your position. Or... I don't understand it. Let me put it that way. Because your practical arguments are all sound, and we all agree you would not take a hamper on an airplane, or a hot-air balloon. Or through a train station. Right? Or any place where you're getting in and out of taxis and moving around a lot. Right? Think we all agree that.

And there are some practical pitfalls to Katherine's procedure here. There is the possibility of spillage. There is that one staircase. You don't know what's gonna happen on a staircase.

And you're absolutely right that there's nothing particularly un-practical about a suitcase! Particularly if it's on wheels! It's—it's eminently practical.

00:43:45 John Host

But what truly seems to bother you, I think, is the embarrassment you feel when you contemplate seeing your father see your wife standing there with a basket of unfolded clean laundry, saying, "This is my wardrobe."

What really seems to bother you is the reality of going into the Holiday Inn Express with your wife carrying a hamper of laundry. Because you feel being seen, and you feel embarrassment, and you feel shame. Right? You say that this is not a moral issue, but I would ask you to interrogate that a little bit in yourself. Because shame and embarrassment have a—a kind of code. They're kind of encoded with, "Someone is watching. Even if I can't see them. Someone is judging, even if they're not here."

You know what I mean?

00:44:43 Andy Guest

Mm-hm.

00:44:44 John Host

I mean, my morality is "Don't hurt other people." Right? But there is a—there is a different kind of... traditionally patriarchal morality that comes through various religions, which is, "Here is the right way to live. And if you don't do it... I shall smiteth you."

That's a painful way to live, in my opinion.

Because the truth of the matter is that at the Holiday Inn Express, no one cares about you. If they see you, they don't care what you look like. *[Stifles laughter.]* They don't care how you pack! You don't need to impress them! There is no judgment in the Holiday Inn Express. And it should remind you that truthfully, in this world, if you're not hurting another person, there really should be no judgment at all.

And the fact is you're in this Holiday Inn Express, right? And you have two relatively young kids, who—you know, toddlers are hard. But what are they, nine and ten? Eight and ten, did you say?

00:45:42 Andy Guest Eight and ten, yeah.

00:45:44 John Host Hoo! You know, you heard what Katherine said. They're—they rule the roost! She doesn't get to watch any TV in the hotel room. It's all *Teen Titans Go!* And the other one. And you know what? That's wonderful. Because, you know, when our kids were that age and we would go to a hotel, they also ruled the TV. And that's how I learned about *Phineas and Ferb*, and *Wonder Pets!* And got to see some of the best—the best culture that I've ever seen! *Teen Titans Go!* is great.

But you can appreciate why—*[stifles laughter]*—as both of you being parents to young kids, the chance for adventure is low. It's minimized when you're un—you're in the thrall of two young kids on the one side, and parental obligation of a visit on the other. Like, on a visit to Culpeper to see your dad? The most amount of adventure you're gonna have is, *[stifling laughter]* "Did I bring underwear?"

[Katherine laughs.]

"Or not? What happens if I didn't?"

[The litigants laugh, John stifles laughter.]

"I might have to go to the mall!"

[Katherine chuckles.]

00:46:45 John Host So there is that element, right? There is that element. That I love from the very beginning. That I actually think is undermined by the fact that you're even picking bathing suits. Because imagine if you showed up and there were no bathing suits. What—what lesson would your children learn then? They would have an incredible story to tell, once they become short story writers later.

[Katherine laughs.]

00:47:06 Andy Guest Mm-hm.

00:47:07 John Host I love—I love the wildcard aspect of this plan. And I do think that it has actual practical applications. Because when you come home, and you got a—a garbage—or you know, a laundry bag full of dirty laundry and a hamper full of clean laundry, that seems very tidy to me. And I'm someone who appreciates tidiness.

But Katherine, now I must turn to you! It is true that Andy feels embarrassment. The fact that he spilled 20 quarts of chicken broth in his car—

[Katherine laughs.]

—does not invalidate the fact that he can be embarrassed in other situations of... less-than-tidiness, shall we say. You can be surprised that he feels embarrassed. But you can't say to Andy, "You don't have the right to feel that way."

Because here's the thing. In the Holiday Inn Express, no one is thinking about you. No one cares. And why should you care what

other people think? But in your marriage, you are thinking of each other, and you should care about what the other person thinks, and feels.

If he is embarrassed, then you have to acknowledge that that is causing him discomfort in some way. Not just say, "You don't have the right to, because your car is a piece of junk. Full of broth."

[Katherine chuckles.]

"You drive around in a broth car, dude. You don't have the right to be embarrassed." That's no good.

00:48:30 John Host

All of this said, the request from Andy is this: You never again suggest packing in the hamper. And I'm gonna rule in his favor. The reason being, I don't think you should suggest it. Just do it.

[Katherine and Jesse laugh.]

I—I think—I think that there is an element of "Live and let live" within this arrangement. Where when you go to visit your father in Culpeper, you can go ahead and pack the hamper your way. Obviously you've already said you won't visit his dad in Charlotte and do this, and I mean, who knows? Maybe Andy would be disowned if he saw—if his dad saw you with this laundry basket.

[Katherine laughs.]

Be aware that it embarrasses Andy. But within this circumstance of visiting your dad, that's your family visit. Do it your way. With regard to the beach, I would advise you not to try to expand this system yet.

[Katherine laughs, John stifles laughter.]

Until—until and unless, and it may never happen—Andy's embarrassment level changes! It might not! You know? Andy—Andy has his own thing to reckon with. With the idea of an uncovered bucket of stuff in a car. He's gotta work on that.

[Katherine chuckles.]

00:49:46 John Host

I would also say that you should make sure that your kids understand—and Andy, you should pack a bag nicely, and Katherine, you should explain to your kids what your system is. So that, much like people who are of two different faiths, the kids can decide as they grow older how they want to be.

00:50:05 Andy Guest

They've already taken sides.

00:50:07 John Host

Oh! I didn't know that.

00:50:09 Andy Guest

Yes!

00:50:10 John Host

Have they both chosen the same side?

00:50:11 Andy Guest

No! Interestingly, the messier of our two children—the one that we can never get to help with family cleanups—uh, he sided with me, that a suitcase is more sensible. And the more, uh, tidy and, uh, rule-following child has sided with Katherine.

00:50:28 John Host Yeah. Honestly, I—here I am talking about, like, "You should get over your shame about being judged by strangers," and I—and you know, look. We all have that! I—I wouldn't walk into, uh—I wouldn't walk into the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles with a—well, maybe I would, actually. That would be a cool—

00:50:43 Jesse Host That would be amazing!

00:50:44 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* That would be so cool.

00:50:45 Jesse Host Just think what Mary-Kate and Ashley would think.

00:50:47 John Host That would be so cool if I walked into the Chateau with a big—a big hamper of laundry and said, "Take care of this, won't you?" and they would say, "Of course!"

00:50:55 Jesse Host David Spade's head on a swivel, "What?!"

[John cracks up, Andy chuckles.]

"Why didn't I think of that?!"

[Katherine chuckles.]

00:51:00 John Host But yeah. I would be wary of walking into a nice hotel with a hamper full of dirty—uh, or unfolded laundry, let's say. There are social—there are circumstances in which that would be... unusual. And maybe a little uncomfortable. I would say the Holiday Inn Express is not one of those circumstances. Let it all hang out at the HIX.

But yeah, that's interesting! I think that that's an—that's—if anything, this dispute has helped you gain some insight, or points of interrogation, into how your sons think! And see the world.

And obviously, *[chuckles]* which parent they like better!

[The litigants laugh.]

So have fun with that! I think you should feel good that I'm ruling in your favor, because I really am—Katherine—asking you to hold the line, for now, to this one trip to your dad. I love the system. I love the randomness. I love the adventure. Maybe it'll make more sense to Andy over time, or maybe it won't. And if it doesn't, you just have to respect that.

This is the sound of a gavel.

00:51:57 Music Music Brief clip of Pitbull's "Hotel Room Service" from the album *Pitbull Starring in Rebelution*.

We at the hotel, motel, Holiday Inn!

[Music stops.]

00:52:01 John Host Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.

00:52:02 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]*

00:52:03 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:52:08 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Door shuts.]*

00:52:09 Jesse Host Katherine, how do you feel about your "defeat" that... steals victory from the jaws of defeat—? I don't know exactly how to characterize it.

[Katherine laughs.]

How are you feeling?

00:52:18 Katherine Guest I feel—I feel great! I think it's fair. And as long as I can just keep doing that when we go see my dad, I'll be happy.

00:52:26 Jesse Host How do you feel, Andy?

00:52:27 Andy Guest Uh, I feel like it's a travesty. It's a miscarriage of justice. The judge seized on one, uh—the way I phrased my request—that she never again suggest it—and expanded that to rule in my wife's favor.

[Katherine laughs quietly.]

00:52:42 Jesse Host Someone has... spilled injustice—

00:52:45 Andy Guest Twenty quarts of it.

00:52:46 Jesse Host Twenty quarts of injustice in the interior of your life.

00:52:49 Andy Guest It stinks to high Heaven.

00:52:50 Jesse Host And no one—no one has the anti-stock.

[The litigants laugh.]

Andy, Katherine, thanks for joining us on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:52:57 Katherine Guest Thank you.

00:52:58 Andy Guest Thank you!

00:52:59 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:53:01 Jesse Host Another *Judge John Hodgman* case in the books! In just a second, we'll offer some Swift Justice. First our thanks to Twitter user @bikesarefun for naming this week's episode, "Hampering with the Evidence."

00:53:13 John Host And I just—I would like to thank all of the Twitter users who suggested, uh, case names this week. They're all a lot of fun. I loved "Hampering with the Evidence." I wanna special shout-out to the many people who suggested "Basket Case," but obviously I was gonna use *Basket Case* for the cult ref, so I couldn't do it. But thank you, everyone! It was really great.

00:53:28 Jesse Host If you wanna name a future episode, follow us on Twitter for the naming opportunities, at @JesseThorn and @hodgman. While you're there you can also hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets #JJHo. I like to click on that hashtag; I'll—I'll search that hashtag every couple days, check to see what people have to say about this week's episode. Lot of fun.

Join the conversation on Reddit at MaximumFun.Reddit.com, and if you wanna see the evidence for this week's episode and other episodes, go to Instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman. You know—you know what I'm gonna have Jen do, John?

00:54:02 John Host No, what?

00:54:03 Jesse Host Go on our Instagram and post the part of *Waiting for Guffman* where—where the narrator goes, "Oh, I love beans."

00:54:11 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** "Don't get me started on beans!"

Jesse: "Big, fat, hot, juicy beans!"

00:54:14 Jesse Host "Don't get me started on beans!"

Did you know that's David Arquette and Rosanna Arquette and, uh, the other Arquettes' dad that plays that character?

00:54:22 John Host That's Daddy Arquette?

00:54:24 Jesse Host That's Daddy Arquette.

00:54:25 John Host Oh! He's really funny in it.

00:54:28 Jesse Host Our producer is Jennifer Marmor. Our editor is Valerie Moffat.

00:54:30 John Host And hey, everyone! We're very excited. We have an episode coming up featuring one of our favorite guests, J. Kenji López-Alt. The food writer. The food scientist. The very popular YouTube... fooder.

[Stifles laughter.]

00:54:44 Jesse Host Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:54:45 John Host Who films himself making the food with his GoPro on his—on his forehead.

00:54:49 Jesse Host That's the technical term, John. *[Laughs.]*

00:54:50 John Host Yeah.

00:54:51 Jesse Host "YouTube fooder."

00:54:52 John Host He's a YouTube fooder! He's [been on the show before](#), we—we really enjoy him. And so if you have any disputes that are specifically kitchen disputes, disputes about food, disputes about how to make certain foods, disputes about which foods are good or bad, disputes about—no disputes about how to wash the dishes. We're done with those.

00:55:12 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:55:13 John Host Covered 'em up.

00:55:14 Jesse Host No dishes disputes. But that's the only thing we're taking off the table within the confines—you can have refrigerator disputes!

00:55:19 John Host Yeah. Refrigerator disputes. You could have blender disputes. You could have... immersion blender disputes!

Anyway, write to me at hodgman@maximumfun.org, or obviously you can submit via the form at MaximumFun.org/jjho!

00:55:33 Jesse Host We'll take any cases, of course. But if you have a kitchen dispute, we're looking for them particularly. MaximumFun.org/jjho, or email hodgman@maximumfun.org.

Now, here's some Swift Justice! Mika says:

"Tupperware. My wife calls it... Tubberware. Because it's a bunch of

small tubs. Her sister calls it Tufferware, because the material is tough. They both need to call it by its proper name: Tupperware."

00:56:05	John	Host	Uhhh... Tupperware is a brand name.
00:56:09	Jesse	Host	That's true.
00:56:10	John	Host	It is a brand name that has <u>become</u> a generic name in usage. Much like Aspirin. Or Trampoline! <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
00:56:18	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm!
00:56:19	John	Host	You know Trampoline was a registered trademark?
00:56:20	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm.
00:56:21	John	Host	For a—a rebounding bouncer? But unless you are—Mika, you are—I mean, I <u>dare</u> you, Mika, to look into that cupboard, or wherever you keep your Tubberware. I dare you to send me a picture of an actual registered trademark for Tupperware on the bottom of any of those tubs. Chances are you don't have any of that stuff. You probably have some kind of common knockoff made by any number of different, um, supply brands!
			Sooo unless it says "Tupperware," your wife can call it Tubberware, your sister can call it Tufferware. I love <u>both</u> of those words. They sound fun!
00:56:55	Jesse	Host	That's it for this week. We'll talk to you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:56:59	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:57:02	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
00:57:03	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org.
00:57:05	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
00:57:06	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
00:57:07	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.