

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:00:03	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week to clear the docket! And with me, as always, is the king of Maine barbecue, Judge John Hodgman.
00:00:14	John Hodgman	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I... am <u>not</u> the king of Maine barbecue. But I'll tell you something. Jeff—you know, Jeff? That couple, Jeff and Maribeth, who run the Maine Hideaway?
00:00:23	Jesse	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> Oh, sure, Jeff, from Maine. Yeah, <u>Maine</u> Jeff. Yeah.
00:00:26	John	Host	Yeah, Jeff—Maine Jeff? Also a member of the J-squad? He sent some brisket over my way that he smoked on an Aaron Franklin smoker... that came into—into our town's possession.
00:00:37	Jesse	Host	Is this a <u>municipal</u> smoker? This is something that some— <i>[stifling laughter]</i> some <u>bonds</u> got sold to—
00:00:42	John	Host	Yeah.
00:00:43	Jesse	Host	—raise money to buy this smoker for the town?
00:00:46	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> We—we raised some money. Mm-hm.
			<b>Jesse:</b> To enhance the quality of life?
00:00:48	John	Host	That's exactly right. It was either repair the culverts, or get this smoker. And the people of Maine spoke.
00:00:52	Jesse	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Mm-hm. "Sorry, volunteer fire department, bad news for you!"
00:00:58	John	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> "You only have <u>one</u> cot this season."
00:01:00	Jesse	Host	It's <u>good</u> news. They're gonna be hosting fundraisers with that smoker. No doubt about it.
00:01:03	John	Host	The smoker is great, but tools are only as good as their craftsperson. And Jeff smoked some <u>beautiful</u> brisket, and—and just drop— <u>left</u> it on top of my car in the driveway. Didn't even come in and say hello!
			<i>[Jesse cracks up.]</i>
			Technically it was Maribeth. That's what we call Maine hospitality! Right, Joel?
00:01:22	Joel Mann	Guest	Ah, yeah.
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
00:01:23	John	Host	Yeah. Someone leaves food on your car. Doesn't come in and say hello. Everyone's happy. Everyone's happy. We had food. No trouble at all, and boy was it delicious, and I'll post it on Instagram. You can check it out on my Stories. I'll probably have to put that on the—on <u>my main</u> , as they say. Thing that they call a "main feed." Um, because—
00:01:40	Jesse	Host	Oh, great. You're brisket on main, now?
00:01:42	John	Host	Yeah, I'm brisket on main! I'm—I'm here <u>in</u> Maine, as you know. At the solar power studios of WERU, available, uh, on your FM dial 89.9 in Orland, Maine. Or on your websites at <a href="http://WERU.org">WERU.org</a> .

With Jesse Thorn and Jennifer Marmor there in Los Angeles, and Joel across the glass. Joel, Jesse, Jennifer, I have in my hand a package from a—another member of the J-squad. Jerome in New Albany, Indiana, sent me some bolo ties! Remember [that episode?](#)

00:02:11 Jesse Host Yeah. He was quite the artist.

00:02:13 John Host Yeah.

00:02:14 Jesse Host And quite—*[laughing]*—quite the negotiator.

00:02:19 John Host *[Laughing]* Joel—

00:02:20 Jesse Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Someone asked me, "Why aren't you selling those bolo ties in the [Put This On Shop?](#)"

I was like, "I do not think he will give me wholesale prices. That does not seem to be—" *[Laughs.]*

00:02:30 John Host No. Well, he only has... something like 700 bolo ties... in his homemade Meow Wolf-style art installation there in New Albany, Indiana, where he got his friend Kathryn to paint some beautiful, Hubble Telescope-inspired, uh, space-scape murals.

And I, uh—I negotiated a good price for two homemade bolo ties, and he sent them, and I'm opening them now.

*[Rustling and crackling.]*

People love the sound of packaging. This is what it sounds like to unwrap packaging on a podcast. Get all your ASMR stuff—! These bolos are falling out!

00:03:04 Jesse Host We gotta start opening the latest *Paw Patrol* toys. So we can really get rich on the Internet.

00:03:08 John Host I really shou—yeah, this should've been a whole unboxing. Joel, I don't remember which one I said I would give you. The—the turquoise one, or the tiger's eye.

00:03:16 Joel Guest Tiger's eye—well, ask Lyle what he would like. See which one he wants; I'll take the other. I'll defer to him.

00:03:20 John Host Pretty nice bolo ties, right?

00:03:22 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Joel:** Beautiful.

**Jesse:** They're pretty nice!

00:03:23 John Host Yeah.

00:03:24 Jesse Host You know what they look a lot like?

00:03:25 John Host No.

00:03:26 Jesse Host They look like jewelry that could've been made by, uh, Kaitlin Olson's character on *Hacks*. Very—very funny, very high-quality television program *Hacks*.

00:03:34 John Host These bolo ties are pretty heavy 'cause they're made of stones. Different semiprecious, and then definitely not precious stones and tiles, and wirework. We'll, uh—Joel, you and I will model these later. Take a photo; we'll put it up on the *Judge John Hodgman* [Instagram](#), okay?

00:03:48 Joel Guest Okay.

00:03:49 John Host Are you gonna wear this tonight at the Pentagöet Inn when you play jazz with the Night & Day Jazz Trio?

00:03:53 Joel Guest I will.

00:03:54 John Host Okay. Thank you very much.

00:03:55 Joel Guest And I'll tell 'em where I got it from.

[John scoffs. Joel laughs quietly.]

00:03:56 John Host Don't buzzmarket Jerome's bolo ties.

[Joel chuckles, John stifles laughter.]

Tell 'em you got it from the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:04:01 Joel Guest Right.

00:04:02 John Host Don't buzzmarket the—this guy—I paid top dollar for these bolos. He doesn't need any help from us.

But Jesse Thorn, you did not get any bolo ties in the mail. You had delivered to you... various instances of injustice, correct?

00:04:14 Jesse Host That's absolutely correct. They're here on the docket, uh, in our courtroom, and I—I think we should start clearing 'em out!

00:04:20 John Host Alright! Let's clear that docket!

00:04:21 Jesse Host Here's a case from Eileen in Corvallis, Oregon:

"When we go out walking, my sister Amy prefers to walk on sidewalks in neighborhoods, rather than any of our beautiful forest trails here in Corvallis."

00:04:34 John Host Hm.

00:04:35 Jesse Host "She's worried we're going to run into a cougar on the trail."

00:04:39 John Host Mm!

00:04:40 Jesse Host "But she likes the forest! She just forgets. Once, we ended up walking ten miles out of town because she loved the wooded trails so much. We've never seen a cougar on a trail, but we have bumped into a pack of coyotes in a neighborhood.

Please, order my sister to walk with me in the forest twice a month.

Unrelated but of note: Amy trains guide dogs for fun, and has a three-legged dog named Papaya."

00:05:08 John Host Wow!

00:05:09 Jesse Host I'm grateful for that note. I'm—it's so noted!

00:05:11 John Host Put it in the record. Three-legged dog named Papaya.

00:05:13 Jesse Host Put it in the record.

00:05:15 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Great name for a dog.

**Jesse:** Yeah.

00:05:16 John Host Of any number of legs. But especially, I think a three-legged Papaya

is fantastic.

00:05:20 Jesse Host I love a scratch-and-dent dog, John.

00:05:21 John Host Yeah. Well, maybe that dog had run into a cougar at one point or another.

00:05:25 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:05:26 John Host Maybe—maybe that's where that leg went. Into the tum-tum of a cougar, AKA mountain lion. AKA catamount. AKA puma (*pyooma*). Could be. You ever see one, Jesse? Sometimes there's wildlife that wanders into the world of Los Angeles, no?

00:05:40 Jesse Host Yeah. In fact, there have been... uh, mountain lions that have wandered into Los Angeles. There are some that live in Los Angeles. Uh, but I have never seen one.

00:05:49 John Host How can they afford it?

00:05:50 Jesse Host *[Chuckling]* I know.

00:05:52 John Host Pretty bougie! Pretty bougie.

00:05:53 Jesse Host The rents are too dang high! Yeah.

*[John and/or Joel laughs quietly.]*

Um, I—I've seen bobcats, and I have seen... coyotes.

00:06:01 John Host Yeah.

00:06:02 Jesse Host Uh, but I have never seen a mountain lion. In Los Angeles, outside of the zoo.

00:06:06 John Host The concern here is that Amy is afraid of running into a mountain lion on a forest trail in Corvallis, Oregon. Is that correct?

00:06:14 Jesse Host Yeah, that's correct. Beautiful country, Corvallis.

00:06:16 John Host Beautiful—beautiful country. Corvallis, Oregon. And I'm gonna say this. I did a little research? And there are cougars around Corvallis. This is not an unfounded concern on Amy's part. There are quite a few cougars—been sighted over the past couple of years. In fact, Jesse, I looked up the Corvallis High School. Do you know what the name of their athletic teams is?

00:06:39 Jesse Host Oh my gosh. What?

00:06:41 John Host The Spartans.

00:06:43 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Oh, sure! Well, they—they were fierce fighters of history.

00:06:46 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** *[Stifling laughter]* Do you know—alright.

**Jesse:** *[Laughing]* Makes sense. Known for their ferociousness.

**John:** *[Stifling laughter]* I really wish that it had been the Cougars, but—but it wasn't.

**Jesse:** Yeah.

00:06:53 John Host But I am glad that I went down that Wikipedia hole, because I found out—d'you know what the name of their high school newspaper is in Corvallis?

00:06:59 Jesse Host What's that?

00:07:00 John Host *The High-O-Scope*. H-I-G-H-hyphen-O-hyphen-"Scope." This is on the Internet! This is on Wikipedia; it has to be true. I can't figure it out.

00:07:11 Jesse Host It's not, like, a—a DEVO album?

00:07:13 John Host *[Stifles laughter.] The High-O-Scope.*

And I also saw on that Wikipedia page that Brad Bird, the famous director—

00:07:20 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:07:21 John Host —is a graduate of Corvallis High School. And I've met him before! So I wrote him, and I said, *[stifles laughter]* "Have you ever seen a cougar, Brad Bird? When you were in high school in Corvallis?"

*[Half beat.]*

00:07:30 Jesse Host You wrote that to the—the director of *The Iron Giant*.

00:07:34 John Host Yes. And *The Incredibles*. But guess what? ...He doesn't use that email anymore. *[Stifles laughter.]* Got bounced back.

00:07:40 Jesse Host Mm. Hm, hm, hm.

00:07:41 John Host I'm not—I'm not as connected as I used to be.

00:07:43 Jesse Host Mm, mm...

00:07:44 John Host I don't have feet on the ground in Corvallis anymore.

00:07:47 Jesse Host You got that *Iron Giant* email. Not that *Mission Impossible* email.

00:07:51 John Host Yeah, exactly so. But even so...! I have access to the rest of the Internet, not just Wikipedia and—and Brad Bird's old email. And the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that there are... Get this. How many cougars do you bet there are in the state of Oregon, Joel?

00:08:08 Joel Guest Fifty.

00:08:09 John Host No!

*[John or Joel stifles laughter.]*

No, but it was almost that in—in the n—in the sixties, it was down to double digits. But since there, there's been a cougar boom! In Oregon. Six thousand some-odd cougars in Oregon! That's three times the reported numbers in Idaho or Washington State.

Now, Jesse, that's a controversial number because... the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife apparently include—they—they count cougar kittens in that count.

00:08:38 Jesse Host Mm.

00:08:39 John Host Because they're very cute. Cougar kittens are cute.

00:08:41 Jesse Host Yeah, the little 'uns.

00:08:42 John Host Yeah, you gotta—if you see them, you gotta count 'em.

00:08:43 Jesse Host But they're less of a threat.

00:08:45 John Host Yeah, that's true.

The point is, whether it is 6,000, or 3,000, there are cougars in those woods. And Amy may be scared specifically because of a news story that I found from 2019, September—2019—the *Corvallis Gazette Times*—in Corvallis! A person named Peter Idema went on a solo run through the Dunn Research Forest, which may be one of the forests that Eileen and Amy are walking through, and on August 31st saw a cougar down the trail. It says here—

*[Stifles laughter.]*

—quote, "He did his best to scare it off, yelling and waving his arms. But the cat crept steadily toward him, finally approaching so close—*[stifles laughter]*—that Peter Idema was able to kick it in the head, and thus escape."

*[Jesse bursts out laughing.]*

Guy kicked a cougar on a trail! *[Laughs.]*

00:09:34 Jesse Host *[Eventually stifles laughter.]*

"That's my purse; I don't know you!"

00:09:36 John Host *[Laughs.]* It was incred—an incredible story of—! I mean, I feel bad for the poor cougar. But that was a—uh, in a scary situation, sometimes you gotta kick a cougar in the—in the snoot!

In any case... that's terrifying. But! Peter Idema still runs in the Dunn Forest, according to this 2019 article. But he doesn't run alone, and he carries bear spray with him to spray a cougar, rather than kick it. And he follows the ODFW guidelines for cougar encounters. Which are, Amy and Eileen:

Face the cougar. Don't turn your back on it. Make yourself appear large. Back away slowly. Don't turn and run. That'll trigger its chase instinct. If attacked, don't play dead; fight back. If it's a kitten? If it's a cougar kitten? Count it. It counts!

00:10:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Jesse bursts out laughing. John laughs quietly.]*

**Jesse:** That's the little 'uns.

**John:** Just go, "One!"

**Jesse:** Yeah.

**John:** "One!"

00:10:32 John Host Maybe you get to see two cougar kittens, and you get to go, "One! Two!"

00:10:35 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:10:36 John Host And also, keep Papaya off the trail. 'Cause dogs can be attractive to cougars, apparently. Papaya doesn't need that kind of static in Papaya's life. Papaya's only got three legs already.

So that's how you walk the trails of Corvallis, Oregon, practicing cougar safety. And I guarantee you that none of this, Eileen, is going to make Amy feel any safer. *[Laughs.]* If anything, I'm sure Amy is now... super-duper terrified. Because the—this guy Peter got chased by a cougar! Even though there have only been 27 fatal cougar attacks in North America... since 1890! It's not a thing that happens. It may be that Amy just will not feel comfortable walking on those cougar trails.

Jesse, what do you think I should order? Should I order Amy to walk the forest trails twice a month?

00:11:25 Jesse Host Look. I've walked on trails with bear spray.

00:11:27 John Host Yeah?

00:11:28 Jesse Host I have a—a remote mountain cabin. Where there are bears.

00:11:30 John Host That's right! Yeah.

00:11:32 Jesse Host As well as cougars!

00:11:33 John Host Right.

00:11:34 Jesse Host I haven't had occasion to see one on a trail, thank goodness.

00:11:37 John Host Right!

00:11:38 Jesse Host But I carry bear spray with me, if I'm—if I'm walking the dogs, or walking with my wife or my children.

00:11:42 John Host Right!

00:11:43 Jesse Host I think that's responsible behavior.

00:11:45 John Host Right!

00:11:46 Jesse Host But if someone came to my mountain cabin and said they just weren't comfortable walking in the woods with me... think I would have to respect that!

00:11:55 John Host Yeah.

00:11:56 Jesse Host So the most that I would suggest you could—you could order would be to... order that she... consider that she actually likes it, and that it is relatively safe, especially if she takes precautions.

00:12:08 John Host I forgot about—that Eileen pointed out that Amy loves the woods. She just forgets. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:12:14 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah.

00:12:15 John Host She forgets that she loves them. I get it!

00:12:16 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:12:17 John Host I understand! I mean, Amy may have read this story about Peter Idema getting chased by a cougar! But it is important in life to balance... "single anecdote," such as this 2019 news story, with "overwhelming statistic." Or I guess, in this case, extremely underwhelming statistic. That there have been only reported 27 fatal cougar attacks in North America in more than a century. You will probably be okay.

I would advise, Amy, that you consider going by statistics rather than anecdote, and get some bear spray, and get a—get a dog-sitter for Papaya, and going with your sister out into the wooded trail—I think

twice a month is too much to ask, Eileen! But maybe just for some immersion therapy, for some... comfort-regaining, and confidence-building, uh, one forest trail a month. And you have to wear a special anti-cougar suit.

*[Jesse laughs, John stifles laughter.]*

That, uh, that we're gonna sell. On Put This On Shop.

00:13:13	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:13:15	Jesse	Host	You know what— <i>[laughs]</i> —as soon as I heard that you're supposed to make yourself appear bigger, I immediately in my mind was hiking in one of those inflatable Missy Elliott outfits.
00:13:25	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Exactly! There you go!
00:13:28	Jesse	Host	Pull the rip cord on <u>that</u> bad boy. <i>Pwshht!</i>
00:13:30	John	Host	Yeah! Yeah.
00:13:31	Jesse	Host	"Later for you, cougar!"
00:13:32	John	Host	Fill it with a semi-solid foam.
00:13:35	Jesse	Host	Mm.
00:13:36	John	Host	A <u>tooth-proof</u> foam.
00:13:37	Jesse	Host	Mm-hm!
00:13:38	John	Host	No, I think it'd be okay for you to get out there once a month, Amy, and build your confidence up. After all, you're seeing coyotes in the neighborhood!
00:13:45	Jesse	Host	Just remember the hit song from my new reboot of <i>Oliver!</i> ? "You've Got to Kick a Cougar or Two"?
			<i>[John cracks up.]</i>
			Not even really a joke. Okay, here's something from Laura, in Culpeper, Virginia—
00:13:59	John	Host	For a—for a mid—for a <u>mid-tier comedian</u> like me, it's enough.
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			Enough to make me laugh. "Got to Kick a Cougar or Two!"
00:14:07	Jesse	Host	From Laura— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —in Culpeper, Virginia:  "I live in a very religious area. Around Christmastime, store clerks commonly ask—"
00:14:14	John	Host	<i>[Cockney accent]</i> "Please, sir, can I have some fewer pumas ( <i>pyoomas</i> ) on this trail?"
			<i>[Accent stops.]</i>
00:14:19	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah, that one's—it fits the meter perfectly.
00:14:22	John	Host	It's kind of a stretch rhyme.
00:14:23	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> We're gonna have to bring in Lin-Manuel Miranda on this. That's a guy who has a sense of—of the internal structure of a lyric. That we lack.



00:14:35 John Host Lin, if you're listening to this, I am officially commissioning your updated re-imagination of *Oliver!* as a musical entirely about pumas (*pyoomas*).

00:14:45 Jesse Host Yep. We're excited to watch *Vivo*. Let's all watch *Vivo*.

00:14:48 John Host Indeed-o!

00:14:49 Jesse Host See, that's another examp—we could get—Lin, punch that up, too. *[Stifling laughter]* Punch John's response to that up.

00:14:53 John Host Punch up the whole—punch up the whole thing.

*[Both stifle laughter.]*

00:14:56 Jesse Host Okay! Here—*[stifles laughter]*—here is what Laura in Culpeper, Virginia, says:

"I live in a very religious area. Around Christmastime, store clerks commonly ask questions. 'So! You done with your Christmas shopping yet?'

My husband thinks honest answers like, 'I don't celebrate Christmas' or 'I'm an atheist' are too confrontational. For the sake of social ease, I'm happy to lie. But answering either yes or no often engenders follow-ups. Like, 'Have you got 'em all wrapped yet?' or 'Who do you still have left to shop for?'"

00:15:29 John Host Mm.

00:15:30 Jesse Host "I'm not a jerk!"

*[John laughs quietly.]*

"If someone says Merry Christmas, I'll say it back! But I draw the line at holding a conversation in which I need to invent fake present-wrapping scenarios. Please, order my husband to stop telling me that I'm rude for answering honestly."

00:15:47 John Host Hmm. Culpeper, Virginia. Here's something that you don't know about Culpeper, Jesse: There are only two Ps in "Culpeper."

00:15:55 Jesse Host Wow!

00:15:56 John Host P-E-P-E-R! Yeah! I didn't know that. Do you know what the sports teams at, uh, Culpeper County High School are called?

00:16:01 Jesse Host What are they called?

00:16:02 John Host Blue Devils.

00:16:03 Jesse Host Mm.

00:16:04 John Host Not germane, but did you know what the motto of Culpeper, Virginia is?

00:16:08 Jesse Host What?

00:16:09 John Host "Preserving the past... Wrapping the presents."

*[Jesse cracks up.]*

00:16:13 John Host They love—*[laughs]*—they love asking questions about—it's actually "Preserving the past, embracing the future." I guess that may be true; I don't know. But I—uh, I guess—I guess they love asking

questions about wrapping presents around, uh, the holiday time there in Culpeper, Virginia!

I don't know. I don't know, Jesse. I don't thi—it's never rude to tell the truth! Do you think?

00:16:32 Jesse Host No, I—I think that you could... manage the tone of your response.  
00:16:38 John Host Yeah. You could tell—you—there is a way to tell the truth rudely. If you just—if the person said, "Uh, done all your Christmas shopping?" and then you just lean over and go... "I AM A ONE-PERSON WAR ON CHRISTMAS, AND YOU ARE MY NEXT CASUALTY!"

That would be kind of rude, I think.

00:16:53 Jesse Host "So, you done with your Christmas shopping yet?"

"THERE IS NO GOD."

00:16:58 John Host "Or whatever!"

00:16:59 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:17:00 John Host To use our famous catchphrase. And the name of a good podcast that you like. *god or whatever*.

00:17:05 Jesse Host I mean, you might consider doing some Christmas shopping. If you have people in your life who do celebrate Christmas. It's not gonna turn you into a believer to get a thoughtful gift for someone.

00:17:14 John Host No, I mean—

00:17:15 Jesse Host I'm not saying you have to, I'm just saying it—it's—it's worth considering. I—I don't believe in God! Personally. Sorry, uh, God-believers; that's nothing against you. And, uh, I—I like celebrating Christmas; it's nice.

00:17:27 John Host Yeah! Look. I mean, I'm not here to convince Laura to celebrate Christmas, or believe in God. Uh, I—I think that it i—

00:17:34 Jesse Host We're here to cele—to convince Laura to celebrate Christmas AND believe in God!

*[John cracks up.]*

Okay, let's get down to it.

00:17:42 John Host Okay. Num—*[laughs]*—

00:17:43 Jesse Host Let's talk specific verses.

00:17:47 John Host No—I mean—*[sighs]*. Here's the thing. I think saying, "I don't celebrate Christmas" is the perfect answer to... "Have you done—are you done shopping for Christmas presents?" I think that'll shut it down right away. You will not get any Christmas present wrapping update follow-ups to "I do not celebrate Christmas."

And even if you were to say, "I am an atheist, and I don't celebrate Christmas," that's truth! And you can speak it. I mean, I think that there are ways to speak truth that are designed to make other people uncomfortable. And that's... no fun.

Like, you know, getting up in someone's face and really letting 'em—*[stifles laughter]*—letting them have your truth hard. And that's no fun

whether you're telling someone you're an atheist, or whether you're telling someone they believe in the wrong god! That's no fun. That's no good.

And sometimes the truth, even when stated politely, will make someone else uncomfortable. Like, you could make that, uh, shop attendant feel a little uncomfortable, because... uh, they believe in God, and you don't? But that's okay! You know what? Maybe they're—maybe they're questioning what they believe in! Maybe people don't wanna feel totally comfortable all the time! Discomfort is how we progress, and learn, and share with each other! And in a—in a quiet way, maybe you're giving comfort to someone who has grown up in a tradition that they are thinking maybe isn't for them. And when they hear you don't celebrate Christmas... maybe they feel less alone! You know?

00:19:12 John Host "When a woman tells the truth, she is creating the possibility for more truth around her."

00:19:24 Jesse Host I believe that that quote is from, uh, Adrienne Rich's incredible book of essays *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence*, though I'm not entirely sure.

00:19:26 John Host I was gonna guess it was from *Deuteronomy*.

00:19:27 Jesse Host The *Book of Deuteronomy*?

00:19:28 John Host Mm-hm.

00:19:31 Jesse Host The book of dude-eronomy? ...Never mind.

00:19:37 John Host I think that when someone is asking that question... there's no reason to lie to them.

00:19:38 Jesse Host Right!

00:19:44 John Host But there is reason to remember that they're offering you that question in an attempt to make... a friendly interaction.

00:19:45 Jesse Host Yeah!

00:20:12 John Host They're offering it in—in the spirit of a generous season about which they care very deeply, and maybe they haven't considered that other people don't celebrate, uh, that holiday. And it could be valuable to them to consider that.

00:20:13 Jesse Host Uh, but I think as long as you're offering the truth in the same spirit with which they... inquired—you know, with which they offered you... I think it's fine!

00:20:16 John Host Yeah!

00:20:17 Jesse Host Just—try saying it with a smile! Try saying it kindly.

00:20:18 John Host Yeah! Well, I—and there's nothing to suggest that Laura isn't saying it kindly. But absolutely. I mean, it—it is a gesture of goodwill that you can reply to in the spirit of goodwill. It is a gesture of kindness that is—that deserves to be responded to with kindness. That is the spirit of "the season," no matter what you call it. Ideally the season all the year round.

But that does not preclude you from also being truthful. Is it a little bit of a bomb? To drop that you're an atheist in conversation at the Culpeper Colonnade on Montanas Drive? Or Pepperberries gift shop

on East Davis Street? Maybe!

And you know, husbands telling their wives to lie to make the husbands feel more comfortable—that's not a good look, Laura's husband. And I'm just using husbands and wives in this term because that's the relationship between Laura and her husband. But if in your—in—if you're in their—if you're in the midst of this life with your partner, it's... your job to back 'em up.

Back up their truth. Don't ask them to hide—hide that truth... in a [*uncertainly*] bushel.

00:21:20	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[ <i>Three gavel bangs.</i> ]
00:21:22	John	Host	Is that a Biblical thing?
00:21:23	Jesse	Host	"Don't ask them to hide that truth in a bushel." As the old saying goes.
00:21:27	John	Host	From the <i>Book of Dude-eronomy</i> ?
00:21:29	Jesse	Host	Preserving the past, wrapping the present.
00:21:31	John	Host	As that one dude said to that other dude in the <i>Book of Dude-eronomy</i> ? Heh heh heh heh.
00:21:36	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jesse:</b> [ <i>Chuckles.</i> ] Having some <i>Deuteronomy</i> fun here.
			<b>John:</b> Oogh, I'm reti—Joel.
00:21:39	John	Host	This is it, I'm—this is the last episode.
00:21:41	Joel	Guest	Alright.
00:21:42	John	Host	Yeah. I'm retired.
00:21:43	Joel	Guest	Okay.
00:21:44	John	Host	Okay. Get another podcast in here, Joel.
00:21:46	Joel	Guest	Jesse, you got anything going?
00:21:48	Jesse	Host	I mean, honestly, no, Joel.
			[ <i>Joel and Jesse laugh.</i> ]
			My whole—my whole career's pretty pro forma at this point. [ <i>Laughs.</i> ]
00:21:57	John	Host	Get a McElroy in here. You gotta get a McElroy.
00:22:01	Jesse	Host	Yeah. That's a route to success in podcasting.
			Okay! We're gonna take a quick break to hear from this week's partner. We'll be back with more cases to clear from the docket on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:22:11	Sound Effect	Transition	[ <i>Three gavel bangs.</i> ]
00:22:14	Jesse	Promo	It's the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, and as always our podcast is brought to you <u>by</u> you. Our members. All the folks who've gone to <a href="http://MaximumFun.org/join">MaximumFun.org/join</a> and kicked in a few bucks for the production of this show, and the other Maximum Fun shows that they listen to. Thanks to everybody who's done that!

We're also grateful this week to have the support of our friends at

			Babbel. Judge Hodgman, have you, this week, learned a helpful foreign phrase?
00:22:41	John	Promo	Claro que sí, Jesse.
			"Señor. ¿Hay más de seis mil pumas en el estado de Oregon? ¿Sí o no?"
			Do you know what that means?
00:22:50	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughing]</i> Sí! S—oh, sí!
00:22:55	John	Promo	Sí, claro que sí. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
			Haya <u>más</u> de seis mil pumas en estado de Oregon.
00:23:01	Jesse	Promo	Yeah, if you count the kittens.
00:23:02	John	Promo	Yeah! There are more than six thousand pumas in the state of Oregon. That might be something you need to <u>say</u> in Spanish at some point! Or not. Who cares? You don't learn a language <u>merely</u> to learn how to communicate with your friends and neighbors, or the people that you're visiting when you are able to travel. That's <u>obviously</u> an incredible benefit.
			But you also learn a language because it's fuuun! You train your brain! It's not—you're not <u>wasting</u> your brain on that <i>New York Times</i> Spelling Bee. Ugh. You're training your brain to think in more international terms. And the funnest and <u>easiest</u> way to train your brain, and learn a language that you can actually <u>use</u> in other countries, is Babbel.
00:23:40	Jesse	Promo	Their 15-minute lessons make it the <u>perfect</u> way to learn a new language on the go. They design those courses with practical, real-world conversations in mind. Things that you'll use in everyday life!
00:23:53	John	Promo	Por ejemplo, "¿Cuánto cuesta este spray de puma?"
			<i>[Jesse laughs.]</i>
			"How much does this puma spray cost?"
			Right now, save up to 65% off your subscription when you go to <a href="https://www.babbel.com/hodgman">Babbel.com/hodgman</a> . That's <a href="https://www.babbel.com/hodgman">Babbel.com/hodgman</a> for up to <u>65%</u> off your subscription!
			Babbel! Language for life.
00:24:16	Jesse	Promo	We're also supported this week by the Rotman School of Management.
00:24:21	John	Promo	Jesse, I am a podcaster. I am a <u>former</u> minor television personality. Uh, I love Toronto, and the University of Toronto, which is where the Rotman School of Management <u>is</u> . But... I don't know! Is business school for me? I—I have this idea of who goes to business school, and it doesn't feel like me.
00:24:40	Jesse	Promo	Well, I mean, look. There are some people who go to business school because they match your idea of who goes to business school. If you're one of those people, the Rotman School of Management might be for you.

But I will tell you that when I was a young teenager—when I was 13, 14—my own father, a lifelong professional organizer, a guy whose career was in the Veterans' Peace Movement—

*[Stifles laughter.]*

00:25:04 John Promo

Mm-hm!

00:25:05 Jesse Promo

—and the Independent Living Movement for people living with disabilities... um, a guy who, you know, had worked for California Rural Legal Assistance... went to business school! And the reason that he went to business school was because he wanted to learn the skills necessary to ultimately run an NGO! Which he did for many years, doing organizing and community-based development in Laos, in India, and around the world.

And he told me that—he told me all about how essential his business education was in that. And in fact, he went on to become a business school professor! He taught business communications for—for some time.

And you know, the point here is that... Sure. Business school is for... the business person that you imagine when you imagine business people. And if you're in that kind of business, it can help you get ahead in your career! It can help you get a career started. But it's also for people who wanna develop their skills.

00:26:07 John Promo

And I know that the University of Toronto Rotman School of Management is one of the best schools in Canada, and the world. I know that it's ranked number 17 for open enrollment executive education by the *Financial Times*. And you know, one thing—when you say your dad went to business school, I would imagine he actually went to a school, right? He had to go into a classroom and sit down—?

00:26:27 Jesse Promo

Sure.

00:26:28 John Promo

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00:26:45 Jesse Promo

Visit [UofT.me/executivepresence](http://UofT.me/executivepresence). [UofT.me/executivepresence](http://UofT.me/executivepresence) to learn more and apply. Class starts September 15th. Start your application today to save your seat.

00:27:04 John Promo

That's [UofT.me/executivepresence](http://UofT.me/executivepresence).

Rotman. Here's where it changes!

00:27:10 Sound Effect Transition

*[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:27:12 Jesse Host

Welcome back to the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. We are clearing the docket. And we have a case here from Anne:

"My husband John and I disagree about the best way to remove eggs from the carton—"

00:27:22 John Host Hang on. Jesse? I'm sorry. Hang on—hang on one—hang on one second.

00:27:25 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:27:26 John Host Sorry, Anne. I just want you all to know that that joke, the *Book of Dude-eronomy*?

00:27:29 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:27:30 John Host That joke was made to me by David Guyon in college.

00:27:33 Jesse Host Okay.

00:27:34 John Host He wasn't a dad then! He was just a college kid. And—

00:27:38 Jesse Host Yeah?

00:27:39 John Host —but we're both dads now; we're both elderly. We both make corny jokes. And he was just visiting me here in Maine, and that's why it was in my mind. David Guyon, solid joke.

00:27:48 Jesse Host These days it's—it's airbrushed on the side of your classic cars that you've been working on.

00:27:53 John Host On my van, I'm gonna have airbrushed a mural, and it's gonna be, uh—uh—Jeff Bridges in a—in a robe, and it's gonna say "The Book of Dude-eronomy" on it.

[Jesse laughs.]

And all kinds of people are gonna love me for it, even though I just watched that movie again and I still don't get it. Sorry, I love the Coen brothers, but I do not get that one. I don't get it.

00:28:12 Jesse Host Oh, man. Wow! Wow! WOW.

00:28:16 John Host But I wanna be—I want—but I'm middle-aged now, and I wanna be liked! That's why I'm getting the van, with—with Jeff Bridges and John Turturro and—and, uh, John Goodman on it, and Sam Elliott, and it says "The Book of Dude-eronomy."

And I'm gonna show this to my kids and I'm like, "Sorry. You can't go to graduate school; I had to get this van."

And they'll be like, "We saw this coming."

00:28:32 Jesse Host John's more of a *Ladykillers* guy.

00:28:34 John Host No—! Hey—! Mm! Ah!

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

*Miller's Crossing* for life.

00:28:37 Jesse Host Yeah, it's a good one.

00:28:38 John Host *Serious Man. O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

00:28:39 Jesse Host That's a great one, love that. Oh, excellent one.

00:28:42 John Host I love them so much, those Coen brothers—I auditioned for, uh, *Burn After Reading*. Didn't get it. Didn't get it.

00:28:49 Jesse Host Were you gonna be—[cracking up]—the part where John Malkovich is going, "I'm bigger! Than ever!" and he's doing step aerobics in his

boat?

00:28:58 John Host It was between me and John Malkovich, you're right.

*[Jesse continues cracking up.]*

It was. It was. He was auditioning. He wasn't offer-only, he was auditioning for that. *[Inaudible.]*

00:29:07 Jesse Host Malkovich is top-tier.

00:29:09 John Host Can I just say one thing before we go? Hey—you know what? I'll—I'll tell you all a little story... after the credits, about that.

00:29:16 Jesse Host Here's a case from Anne:

"My husband John and I disagree about the best way to remove eggs from the carton. I prefer to take the eggs from alternating ends of the carton so that the remaining eggs are grouped in the middle. My husband prefers to remove eggs from one end only.

My method ensures that the carton is usually balanced. My husband argues that with his method, he can grab the egg-heavy end, and the weight of the carton will balance in his hand.

The problem is that I always grab the carton in the middle! And the unbalanced load from his method sometimes makes the carton unstable.

Look. We haven't dropped any cartons yet. But if we did, the dog—see pic!—would lick up the eggs."

*[Stifles laughter.]*

00:30:06 Jesse Host Now, Anne did provide a—a diagram of the egg methods. But I think this is clear enough. You're alternating taking them from the front and the back, so that the weight remains in the middle, in her system. And in John's system, he's always pulling them from the front—whatever is frontmost—so the weight becomes, uh, back-heavy.

00:30:27 John Host Yes. But I think it's really important that Anne included this diagram, for two reasons. One, so that we could put it up on the *Judge John Hodgman Instagram account*. As well as the show page at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Along with this wonderful picture of their dog! Did you see this dog, Jesse? Scroll down.

00:30:42 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Awww! The dog has an egg on its nose! It's—it's like *[inaudible]*. He's like, "Ohhh! How'd this egg get here?"

00:30:55 John Host I guess this is some kind of, like, a boxer, would you say? Some kind of boxer? Got a boxy—

00:30:59 Jesse Host *[Recovering briefly]* Yeah, looks like... some kind of boxer mix. *[Laughing again]* But most boxers don't have an egg on top of their snoot.

00:31:06 John Host They've trained their dog to stand silently with an egg on his nose, like a very good boy. And I don't even know what the name of this dog is! They don't even say the name of the dog.

00:31:15 Jesse Host *[Recovering again]* Ah, in my head, I call it Tater.



00:31:18 John Host Yeah. I call him Eggo.

00:31:21 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* Both good.

00:31:22 John Host Anyway! *[Stifles laughter.]* I'm also glad that Anne sent in this diagram, because it made it clear... just how deep in their brain this habit is embedded. This is—this is more—let me give you—let me tell you something, Anne. You've never dropped these egg cartons. And you never will!

I mean, how many times, Jesse, have you reached into your fridge, and grabbed an egg carton, and because of the lack of balance it went FLIP, seesawing out of your hand and onto the floor? And all the dogs come round and lick up the egg yolk. A hundred times? Two hundred times? Or zero.

00:31:55 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* I've almost dropped it for this reason before.

00:31:58 John Host You have?!

00:31:59 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* If I'm honest!

*[Stops laughing.]*

I've dropped it, but like, inside the refrigerator.

00:32:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Because Theresa put the eggs in the wrong end??

**Jesse:** *[Stifling laughter]* I started doing this when that happened to me.

**John:** Really?!

**Jesse:** No, it was all me.

00:32:09 Jesse Host Yeah. It's me—it was me.

00:32:11 John Host Ah—*[sighs]*. Jennifer Marmor, how many times have you dropped the egg carton pulling it out of the fridge? Because of lack of balance.

00:32:16 Jennifer Marmor Producer Zerooo.

00:32:18 John Host Zero times.

*[Beat.]*

00:32:19 Jennifer Producer Sorry, Jesse.

00:32:20 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:32:21 John Host No, I don't wanna deny Jesse's lived experience! I just didn't—maybe I misunderstood how common this was.

00:32:25 Jennifer Producer I just felt really sassy how I said zero. I felt bad.

00:32:28 John Host I love it, it was great! I love a sassy zero from Jennifer Marmor.

*[Jennifer laughs quietly.]*

00:32:31 Jesse Host Yeah, I say bring the sass, Jen.

00:32:32 John Host Joel, you wanna up the sass? How many times you drop the egg carton?

00:32:35 Joel Guest Zee-ro!

00:32:36 John Host Whoa, too much sass!

00:32:38 Joel Guest *[Mildly]* "Zero"?

00:32:39 Jesse Host Wow.

00:32:40 John Host *[Laughing]* That's good.

00:32:41 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:32:42 John Host Holy moly. I got—I got sass stuck in—

00:32:43 Jesse Host Split the difference.

00:32:44 John Host I got—I'm gonna get my—I have to get my ears cleaned, 'cause of the—all the sass that's in there.

Yeah, I—I could see—alright. You know what? Alright, Anne. I was gonna say you're never gonna drop that egg carton due to lack of balance, but I guess it does happen. Right, Jesse?

00:32:55 Jesse Host I mean, it happened to me. It was—it was a two-or-three-inch drop. It was just awkward.

00:33:00 John Host Right.

00:33:01 Jesse Host You know. It didn't break any eggs, it just landed on—

*[John laughs quietly.]*

—back on the shelf, 'cause I—I forgot.

00:33:07 John Host And if you don't know who the last person to grab an egg was... and—and you're—live in a house where you have diametrically opposed egg-grabbing—I'm not gonna say "styles." Systems. This is one of those situations in a heterosexual couple where both the husband and the wife have a system. Very unusual for *Judge John Hodgman*.

00:33:27 Jesse Host I mean, this is basically... I'm looking at these Xs and Os. This is basically a football team's offense install. There—*[laughing]*—there's two—two brilliant, offensive minds!

00:33:39 John Host And they—and they're not compatible! They're not—these systems are not compatible with one another.

00:33:44 Jesse Host Yeah...

00:33:45 John Host So I guess—I guess if you—I guess if you have in your mind one system, and the other person's using the other system, then there could be a real question mark about what to expect when you pull that egg carton to make your omelettes, or whatever.

00:33:57 Jesse Host Or to put an egg on your dog's snoot.

00:33:59 John Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, I was gonna say, "You can't make an omelette without putting an egg on your dog." Everyone knows that. It's in the *Book of Dude-eronomy*.

00:34:06 Jesse Host Yep.

00:34:07 John Host But—

00:34:08 Jesse Host It's what one dude said to another dude.

00:34:09 John Host So here are the—there—here are the solutions. One solution, simple

solution: Get your own eggs! Not every married couple—or non-married couple—have the means to have each of them have an individual California king size bed in separate villas facing each other across a reflecting pool. I get it. And lots of people would prefer to actually live—*[stifles laughter]*—live their lives in close proximity with their partners, even while sleeping. I get it.

But I bet it's within your means for you each to have your own egg carton. Like... right? Like, eggs take a long time to go bad. Why are you wiggling your eyebrows there, Jesse, at me?

00:34:49 Jesse Host

I'm just loving it! I'm loving His and Hers egg cartons!

00:34:53 John Host

Yeah! Like, you—you both have a system. Each of your systems is valuable and works for you. Get some separate egg cartons! Buy separate eggs; it doesn't mean that you don't trust each other! *[Stifles laughter.]*

It doesn't mean that—it doesn't—it's not a—it's not, uh... It's not a defilement of your marital vows to keep separate eggs. Do that!

Here's another solution. This is the one that I use in my home: No more egg cartons. Egg basket!

*[Jesse or Joel exclaims quietly.]*

You don't have to keep eggs in the fridge! If you're using them swiftly, they can stay out on the counter. And... you can put them all in a beautiful wire egg basket! Where they're all jumbled up together. Or you can put that egg basket in the fridge if you'd prefer cold eggs. It's up to you! Then you're not worrying about balance at all, 'cause they're all jumbled up together.

00:35:37 John Host

*[Whispering]* But here's my guess.

*[Whispering stops.]*

Is the jumbling up will drive one or both of you to extreme distraction. Because I don't think anyone who has a system like this... doesn't care about egg order. I don't think they want jumbled-up eggs. I think they want their system to work. You could get a rigid—

00:35:54 Jesse Host

They wanna open up that refrigerator and call, "Twenty-four fly, six jumbo left."

00:35:59 John Host

Exactly. *[Stifles laughter.]* Exactly. So, I mean, you could try an egg basket for a while, but I bet you wouldn't like it. You could also get, like, a rigid, permanent egg container? You know, like, a—not a cardboard box, but a—a thing that often comes with a new refrigerator? You can get a egg... container, that's rigid, that is never gonna flop outta your hand. 'Cause it's too solid.

00:36:20 Jesse Host

And it's translucent, transparent. That's what I have; it's transparent. I never have to wonder where the eggs are or where the center of balance is; I can see it as soon as I open that refrigerator door.

00:36:30 John Host

But I bet you even that wouldn't work for you... Anne and her husband. Because looking in that transparent egg container and seeing that the eggs are being pulled from the wrong side? Is just gonna become a point of friction in your marriage.

Respect your differences. Respect your different systems. Get. Two. Different. Egg cartons!

00:36:51	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:36:53	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> And also—
			<b>Jesse:</b> <i>[Laughing]</i> Look at this dog, he's got his little egg on his snoot.
			<b>John:</b> Yeah. I mean, really— <i>[laughs]</i> —
00:36:57	John	Host	That—now that I think about it, that's really the—the perfect egg storage solution for your family. Just put your eggs on your dog. <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
00:37:04	Jesse	Host	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Yeah, just get a dozen dogs!
00:37:06	John	Host	Yeah, get a dozen dogs, each of which has an egg balanced on their little snout!
00:37:09	Jesse	Host	Here's something from Janice in Silver Spring, Maryland:  "Is butter a condiment?"
00:37:14	John	Host	Oogh.
00:37:15	Jesse	Host	"My husband and two daughters say yes, but I'm adamant that the answer is no! Have you ever <u>seen</u> butter on a condiment stand at a baseball game or fast food restaurant? I don't think so!  My six-year-old son was on the fence about this, but ultimately reasoned that Condiment Man from <i>LEGO Batman</i> does not spray his enemies with butter! So butter cannot, in <u>fact</u> , be a condiment."
00:37:40	John	Host	Mm.
00:37:41	Jesse	Host	"Please help our family settle this weird dispute, so we can once again live together in harmony."
00:37:47	John	Host	I... am going to confess that this email has been in the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> inbox for a while. And the reason for this is that every time I look at it—first of all, I get mad. Because I'm like... I made a vow—not to <u>you</u> , the listeners, but to myself—to not hear any more "Is X food a Y food?"—type cases.  There's no upside to it. Food— <i>[sighs]</i> . Food <u>history</u> is too complicated, food <u>usage</u> is too personal. <i>[Sighs.]</i> It just engenders argument.
00:38:20	Jesse	Host	I just assumed you hadn't replied to it because, uh, you were waiting to finally be cast in one of those <i>LEGO Batman</i> movies, like every other—
00:38:27	John	Host	It's never gonna happen.
00:38:29	Jesse	Host	— <i>[laughing]</i> mid-tier comedian.
00:38:30	John	Host	Never gonna happen. Never gonna happen. Not—not to a guy who—
00:38:34	Jesse	Host	Let's get Hodgman in a <i>LEGO Batman</i> !
00:38:36	John	Host	No, my—

00:38:37 Jesse Host Those *LEGO Batmans* are fun!

00:38:38 John Host My—oh, of course! I would love it! But—

00:38:40 Jesse Host One of 'em had a *Gymkata* joke, a joke about *Gymkata*, the movie *Gymkata*!

00:38:44 John Host Oh—!

00:38:45 Jesse Host Karate skills, martial arts kills.

00:38:46 John Host You mean, uh, an anima—an animated pro—

00:38:47 Jesse Host Wait. Gymnastics skills... Gymnastics skills, karate kills.

00:38:53 John Host You're saying an ani—a—a form of animation had a *Gymkata* joke, are you're not talking about... *Dicktown*? On, uh, Hulu? [Bit.ly/dicktown?](http://Bit.ly/dicktown?)

00:39:01 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* I did appreciate the—I really appreciated the *Gymkata* joke in *Dicktown*.

*[Stops laughing.]*

Let's get—let's get *Gymkata* jokes into all animated—Brad Bird? We're sending you an email.

*[John laughs.]*

To your old email address.

00:39:14 John Host Yeah. Check your old email. *[Stifles laughter.]* Check your old inbox, Brad Bird, because we've got a suggestion for you. Put *Gymkata* in every animated thing.

00:39:21 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:39:22 John Host That was on episode two of *Dicktown*, "The Mystery of the Maybe—"

00:39:24 Jesse Host It's an action movie about gymnastics, Brad Bird.

00:39:26 John Host Yeah. "The Mystery of the Maybe Boyfriend." Episode two, co-starring the incredible Anna Akana as Meg. Check it out. Anna Akana's so great.

Where were we? Oh, yeah, this is the other reason that the epis—

00:39:38 Jesse Host Where were we, John? We were in the town square! Where we got chased by, uh, homicidal mad people... and there just happened to be a pommel horse there in the—*[laughing]*—in the town square!

*[Stifling laughter]* So we were able to kick them away using our gymnastics skills, combined with our karate kills!

00:39:57 John Host Pommel horse in the town square is not actually that uncommon here in New England. Pretty common—

*[Jesse chuckles, John stifles laughter.]*

00:40:03 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* From the director of *Enter The Dragon: Gymkata*.

00:40:08 John Host So this is us avoiding this question, right? Because, A—

00:40:11 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:40:12 John Host —it's a—another one of those, "Is X food a Y food?" questions. And

B, this is the other reason that I've avoided this question for so long: 'Cause after the first time I read this, it got into my brain, and now I'm like... "Is butter a condiment?" Maybe it is!

I don't know, Jesse. Like, my instinct initially is... Butter is not... a condiment. It's not a ketchup or a mustard! Right? Like, a condiment is something you put on food... at the last second! Before it's served. But if butter is not a condiment, how do you explain buttered popcorn?

00:40:44 Jesse Host I would argue, from my perspective?

00:40:47 John Host Please.

00:40:48 Jesse Host That while—

00:40:49 John Host As a first-class butterfingers who's constantly dropping egg cartons all over the place, your perspective—

00:40:52 Jesse Host Thank you.

00:40:53 John Host —is valuable!

00:40:54 Jesse Host I would argue that while butter, in its natural form—or semi-natural form—probably fits a technical definition of "condiment," it doesn't fit the spirit of "condiment." If you asked for a suite of condiments, and butter was there, you would say, "Weird! Butter is there."

That said, *[stifles laughter]* I do feel like a compound butter maybe is a condiment.

00:41:22 John Host I don't know! You—let's go to the [King of Compound Butters](#). Joel!

00:41:26 Joel Guest It's certainly food for thought.

00:41:28 John Host *[Disgusted sigh.]* Brother. Sass.

00:41:30 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Oh, boy. I guess we just got a preview of what's on—what's on the side of Joel's van.

00:41:37 Joel Guest Scallops.

00:41:38 Jesse Host *[Cracking up]* Scallops...

00:41:43 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[John was laughing more quietly, now recovering.]*

**Jesse:** Scallops and fun.

**John:** I can't wait to see your airbrushed van mural featuring a—a gallon of scallops, and a—and then the motto, "It's certainly food for thought."

00:41:51 John Host Compound butter? Condiment, or no.

00:41:53 Joel Guest Yes.

00:41:54 John Host Regular butter? Condiment or no.

00:41:56 Joel Guest Yes.

00:41:57 John Host Alright! Wow. There's a strong argument for butter being technically a condiment. I went—I—I did enjoy this question, because it gave me the pleasure of reading... *[stifles laughter]* Wikipedia's list of condiments, which... may be my new favorite novel. There's just a lot—*[stifles laughter]*—there's a looot of interesting condiments out there in the world. A lot of—

00:42:17 Jesse Host To my mind, the primary function of a condiment is to add flavor, and while butter does add flavor, the primary purpose of butter is to add fat.

00:42:27 John Host Right. Well, I'll say this. Yes.

00:42:30 Jesse Host Although that could be said of mayonnaise!

00:42:32 John Host Well, here's the—here's the thing. Because you know, behind all of this... issue of, "Is butter a condiment or not?" was really my existential crisis around, "What is mayonnaise?" 'Cause that's the one I care about. And mayonnaise is obviously—it would seem obviously a condiment.

But if you eliminate butter from condiment-ness for the reason that you stated, that it adds—that it adds fat, and flav—well... That it adds fat and salt, the two biggest components of the mayonnaise experience... and the two things—the two flavors I love the most, then—then does mayonnaise then get kicked out? Of the family of condiments?

I'll tell you, this list of condiments on Wikipedia includes a lot of incredible fish sauces, and pastes, and preserves, and stuff. It does include butter. But is also includes hummus, and icing? So... it's all wrong. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:43:28 Jesse Host Yeah. I would say that I'm looking at the list here... and the only one I agree with is Gentleman's Relish.

00:43:35 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Which is definitely a condiment.

**John:** Mmm! I forget what Ge—that's anchovy paste, isn't it? Basically?

00:43:40 Jesse Host Yeah, it's like an anchovy paste.

00:43:41 John Host Didn't we get that—? I think I got a bunch of Gentleman's Relish with you, in... one of the famous department stores in London that has a food hall. Not Harrods.

00:43:50 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:43:51 John Host Fortnum & Mason?

00:43:53 Jesse Host Yeah, Fortnum & Mason's.

00:43:54 John Host Yeah. That was a good day.

00:43:55 Jesse Host That's a—man. Fortnum & Mason's, there's a—there's a tourist trap that delivers.

00:44:00 John Host Hoo!

00:44:01 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* What an amazing place that is.

00:44:03 John Host Ohhh, man—I cannot wait—look. We're gonna be, obviously, at the—virtually attending the London Podcast Festival this year, but I cannot wait 'til we get to go back in person, go to Fortnum & Mason... I'm gonna buy some more Turkish delight! It's—it's not Turkish, and it is definitely not a delight, *[stifles laughter]* but Fortnum & Mason boxes it up so nice that I wanna buy it and bring it home with me.

Turkish delight, not a condiment.

I hate to go to the dictionary definition of things, but I do think... that the etymology of the word "condiment" does offer a clue to why it feels weird to call butter a condiment. It comes from the Latin "condimentum," meaning "spice, seasoning, or sauce."

Which itself comes from the Latin "condire," meaning "to preserve, pickle, or season." And I think "preserve" must include "ferment." Because one of the oldest condiments that we—that we know of is called garum, and it was used in Ancient Rome, and throughout the—you know, the Mediterranean, and the—the cradle of civilization... since the dawn of time.

And this is fish guts that are fermented to create an umami paste flavor that is the heart of—

00:45:15	Jesse	Host	Yeah, a sort of gentleman's relish.
00:45:17	John	Host	Yeah. That is the heart of Gentleman's Relish; that is the heart of Worcestershire Sauce; that is the heart, obviously, of the various fish sauces throughout Southeast Asia. There are arguments that fermenting of fish was part of early ketchups. Uh, if you buy the—if you buy the argument that, uh, the term "ketchup" comes from the Malaysian "kicap."
00:45:39	Jesse	Host	And many non-fermented condiments, like ketchup—
00:45:43	John	Host	Yeah.
00:45:44	Jesse	Host	—contain vinegar for preservation.
00:45:47	John	Host	Exactly! That's the pickling part of the "condire."
00:45:49	Jesse	Host	Including mayonnaise!
00:45:50	John	Host	Including mayonaaaise! Thank you! And mustard, of course, is just mustard seed and vinegar. But there—I do feel like there needs to be... a pungency, a piquancy, in order for it to fit the "condimentum" family. And as you point out, mayonnaise gives you the vinegar. But where did mayonnaise come from, Jesse? Aioli! Garlic! Piquancy!
			Just because <u>my</u> beloved Hellmann's Mayonnaise—Best Foods, if you're West of the Mississippi—is pretty... darn bland, it doesn't mean that Duke's Mayonnaise isn't pretty dang tangy!
			There is a tang to mayonnaise that puts it in the "condiment" category. And while butter itself is not a condiment, but an ingredient—and, indeed, a—a <u>food</u> —compound butter? I'm gonna give it to Joel. Just for his corn on the cob.
00:46:39	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:46:41	Joel	Guest	Thank you.
00:46:42	John	Host	You're welcome, Joel.
00:46:43	Jesse	Host	John, can I plug a mayonnaise recipe?
00:46:45	John	Host	Please do!
00:46:47	Jesse	Host	So past guest on <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> , Kenji López-Alt—
00:46:50	John	Host	Yes!
00:46:51	Jesse	Host	—has an <u>amazing</u> mayonnaise recipe.



00:46:55 John Host Oh!

00:46:56 Jesse Host I had tried to make mayonnaise half a dozen times. It never really worked right, and I was like, "You know what? This isn't worth it. I'm just gonna use this mayonnaise in the fridge." Uh, these days, my fridge mayonnaise is a Kewpie Mayonnaise—

00:47:08 John Host Ohhh, sure!

00:47:09 Jesse Host It's a nice mayonnaise.

00:47:10 John Host Now, Kewpie Mayonnaise comes from Japan, if I'm correct, right?

00:47:12 Jesse Host Yeah, that's correct.

00:47:13 John Host There is an—an Americanized Kewpie Mayonnaise that you find for sale. You gotta make sure you get that original Japanese Kewpie Mayonnaise. 'Cause the Americanized one, it has no monosodium glutamate in it.

00:47:25 Jesse Host Hm.

00:47:26 John Host But you can—if you go to a good Asian grocery, you can get that Kewpie Mayonnaise with the MSG in it. And MSG is fine for you, it's—there's no problem with that. It's just a natural compound. That increases the umami flavor in foods.

00:47:37 Jesse Host So this is the outlines of this recipe. And by the way, I said there's vinegar in mayonnaise. Lemon juice. There's an acid.

00:47:45 John Host There is an acid!

00:47:46 Jesse Host In mayonnaise.

00:47:47 John Host Yeah.

00:47:48 Jesse Host For preservation.

So, all you have to do is make this mayonnaise—and it blew my mind—is you have to have a stick blender. You have to have an immersion blender.

00:47:57 John Host Got—I have one.

00:47:58 Jesse Host Yeah. I—I have one as well. And you have to have a jar where the opening is a little bigger than the stick blender.

00:48:04 John Host I have—yeah.

00:48:05 Jesse Host If it's a lot bigger than the stick blender, it's not gonna work, but most stick blenders are—will fit very comfortably, uh, but closely into the—you know, like a bell jar.

00:48:15 John Host Yeah. I have one of those. Got it.

00:48:16 Jesse Host You know, a canning jar.

00:48:17 John Host Got it off the shelf. What else?

00:48:19 Jesse Host You put your oil—

00:48:20 John Host Got it. Hang on.

00:48:21 Jesse Host You put your egg.

00:48:22 John Host Oh, DAGH! Dropped the carton.

*[Jesse cracks up.]*

Can't believe it!

00:48:26 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Should have balanced it better.

00:48:27 John Host Augh!

00:48:28 Jesse Host Aw, here come the dogs!

00:48:29 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Oh no! How did these dogs get into this radio studio?!

00:48:33 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]*

So you put your oil, you put your egg, you put your lemon juice, you put a little bit of mustard. You put some garlic if you'd like.

00:48:43 John Host Yeah.

00:48:44 Jesse Host Some salt if you'd like. And when you stick that stick blender down to the bottom—you let it settle, as well.

00:48:49 John Host Yeah.

00:48:50 Jesse Host When you stick that stick blender down to the bottom, and you turn on the stick blender? It emulsifies like magic! Like MAGIC! It is incredible how easy it is. You don't have to do any drizzling, you don't have to do any whipping—

00:49:06 John Host Right. 'Cause traditionally, for an emulsification, it's a long—you know, you—you gotta drizzle the fat, the oil, into the other ingredients slowly while you whisk.

00:49:15 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:49:17 John Host So that it doesn't break.

00:49:18 Jesse Host Yeah. It's a nightmare.

00:49:19 John Host But you don't have to do it with a stick blender do you? So that—that's what you're saying.

00:49:22 Jesse Host You just put it in there, down to the bottom, and it just goes, *WHIRRRRP!* And it turns into mayonnaise. *WHIRRRRP!* Up to the top! And you got mayonnaise. And then, like me... you have Mayonnaise Day!

00:49:34 John Host Mm.

00:49:35 Jesse Host You make yourself a nice potato salad, a classic—

00:49:37 John Host Mm-hm.

00:49:38 Jesse Host A classic sweet pickle potato salad for lunch.

00:49:40 John Host Mm-hm.

00:49:41 Jesse Host And for dinner, you make past *Judge John Hodgman* guest esquites, with some fresh California summer corn.

00:49:47 John Host Joel, cancel all the other podcasts you booked in here; I'm back. I'm back on the air.

00:49:50 Joel Guest Okay.

00:49:51 John Host I'm not retiring after all.

*[Jesse cracks up.]*

00:49:52 Joel Guest Thank god.

00:49:53 John Host You are turning it into a mayonnaise podcast. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:49:57 Jesse Host "Turning it into." *[Laughs.]*

00:49:59 John Host In—in some ways, it always has been. Can I give you a tip? Here from—

00:50:03 Jesse Host Yeah!

00:50:04 John Host Coming to you straight from Maine, as they used to say about Poland Spring?

00:50:07 Jesse Host Sure!

00:50:08 John Host I make a Maine-style lobster salad, that is to say: with mayonnaise. Not a Connecticut-style lobster salad, which is to say: warm, in drawn butter. No, I need a condiment in my lobster salad, and that condiment is mayonnaise.

But lately... I've also been adding some Sichuan chili oil. And all of the sudden—

00:50:25 Jesse Host Oh, that sounds nice!

00:50:26 John Host —it's a whole new world. What do you think about that, Joel?

00:50:28 Joel Guest I'm gonna try it!

00:50:29 John Host Yeah, you should give it a try. It's definitely a condiment.

00:50:31 Jesse Host You know why those, uh, food hipsters like that, uh, chili crisp condiment?

00:50:36 John Host Yeah. I got a jar of that.

00:50:38 Jesse Host Yeah. It's super good. That's why they like it. *[Laughs.]*

00:50:39 John Host That's why they like it.

00:50:40 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* It's so good!

00:50:41 John Host Hey! You know what? A podcast just about mayonnaise has a limited audience. And I think a limited number of episodes.

00:50:46 Joel Guest Right. Yeah.

00:50:47 John Host But we could easily turn this into a condiment podcast, and all of a sudden, we're gonna be a worldwide phenom.

00:50:52 Jesse Host Yeah! Look out, Mitch and Nick!

*[John and/or Jesse stifle laughter.]*

Here comes the Condiment Boys!

00:50:57 John Host The Con—the Co—we gotta come up with a—the Cond—

00:51:00 Jesse Host Condi-Men.

00:51:01 John Host The Condi-Men. ...The Condi-Men?

*[Beat as they both, presumably, think about the fact that this sounds like "Condom Men."]*

00:51:06 Crosstalk Crosstalk *[Both mildly dismayed]*

**Jesse:** Yeahh. Mm.

00:51:07 Jesse Host **John:** Yeahh. Yeah.  
[Stifling laughter] Well, let's workshop it!  
00:51:08 John Host We'll workshop it.  
00:51:09 Jesse Host [Laughing] We'll get Lin to punch it up a little bit.  
00:51:10 John Host Yeah, punch it up, Lin. The Condi-Men are back in town. It—uh, we'll figure it out, Lin.  
00:51:14 Jesse Host Le—[laughs]—let's take a quick break. When we come back, a fun fact about New Albany, Indiana.  
00:51:21 Sound Effect Transition [Three gavel bangs.]  
00:51:23 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.

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

00:51:42 Promo Clip **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](#).

**Maddy:** Bye!

[Music finishes.]

00:52:08	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:52:10	Jesse	Promo	Judge Hodgman, while we take a break, we've got something <u>very</u> exciting that is of interest to <u>every single</u> gosh-darn person listening to this broadcast.
00:52:21	John	Promo	Yeah! Every single gosh-or-whatever— <u>darn</u> person listening to this broadcast, wherever you are... in the <u>world</u> . We are returning virtually to one of our <u>favorite</u> festivals, the London Podcast Festival, on September 9th. That's a Thursday! We'll be doing a <u>live Judge John Hodgman</u> , virtually beamed into Kings Place performance space <u>in</u> London. Virtually rejoining our old friends there at the London Podcast Festival. And you can join us too, simply by going to <a href="http://KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest">KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest</a> . Or—I'm gonna hand out a sweet Bitly link in a minute, but Jesse Thorn—
00:52:58	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Oh, god. Another one of Hodgman's Bitlys.
00:53:00	John	Promo	One of the great Bitlys of all time, I would say.
00:53:03	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> You could just Google, "Hodgman London podcast festival" and find it that way!
00:53:08	John	Promo	Well, you could, and you'd find that we have appeared live in person at the London Podcast Festival at Kings Place twice before in—in the past. And soon, I hope, in the future we will be there live again. But for now, for reasons of obvious safety, we will be <u>virtually</u> appearing at the London Podcast Festival Thursday, September 9th, 12:30 PM Pacific, 3:30 PM Eastern, 8:30 PM British Summer Time.
			And it will be on the Kings Place pay-per-view player. So if you have a ticket and cannot watch it live, <u>you</u> will have <u>exclusive</u> access to the show for a few days later, so you could catch it on your <u>own</u> summer time. Whatever the— <u>your</u> summer time is!
00:53:47	Jesse	Promo	This is gonna be a special show just for people who are watching live. This isn't some thing that you all, "Well, I'll wait to watch it later, uh, ah, they'll probably put it out later." No. This is just for people who buy a ticket to watch it live. This is gonna be extraordinary! This is the first time we've ever done this. This will be our <u>only</u> live show all year. This is going to be... <u>remarkable!</u>
00:54:10	John	Promo	London Podcast Festival, September 9th, 12:30 PM Pacific, 3:30 PM Eastern, 8:30 PM British Summer Time, and available exclusively to ticket-holders for a couple days after on the Kings Place pay-per-view. You ready to right down a Bitly, everybody? Take out your pen. Take out your scratchpad.
			<a href="http://Bit.ly/JJHodgman">Bit.ly/JJHodgman</a> . That's <a href="http://Bit.ly/J-J-H-O-U-D-G-M-A-N">Bit.ly/J-J-H-O-U-D-G-M-A-N</a> . That's how they spell Hodgman in England. <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
			All capital letters. Go plug it in and get your tickets now.
00:54:40	Jesse	Promo	<u>So</u> complicated. <i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Just use a search engine.
00:54:43	John	Promo	Yeah, go DuckDuckGo it, I <u>guess</u> .
00:54:46	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the docket.
00:54:47	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:54:49	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. Now, we've got a mailbag here at the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. A literal bag of

physical mail.

00:54:57 John Host Right.

00:54:58 Jesse Host It's a—a tremendous inconvenience to us. We who are working from home, uh, from opposite sides of this great nation.

00:55:05 John Host Yeah. I can't open the door to get into the studio because of the mailbag. And the mail's all—

00:55:10 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:55:11 John Host It's—it's spilling out onto the floor, with these mixed-up eggs that I dropped, due to bad balance of carton.

00:55:17 Jesse Host Yeah. Well, I mean, as soon as you start... spilling mail, *[stifling laughter]* you gotta worry about the dogs licking it up.

00:55:22 John Host But let me tell you something. Every now and then I get a letter, no matter how much it's been licked by a dog, nor how—how ready it is to be turned into French toast, that's how soaked in egg it is—gotta read this letter!

Because Jesse, we did get a letter this week from a listener named Justin. And you remember we were talking about Jerome at the top of the podcast. Jerome is not only famous for charging me top dollar for very lovely bolo ties that he makes himself there in New Albany, Indiana, but also for these beautiful murals featuring images from the—of space, taken from the Hubble Telescope, as interpreted by his friend Kathryn.

And Justin wrote to point out something that I didn't know, but I bet Jerome did, but was too... modest to talk about? Or just got too—but just got too deep in the weeds on his bolo ties to mention.

But Justin writes, quote:

"Edwin Hubble—" for whom the telescope was named— "Edwin Hubble himself... lived in New Albany, Indiana!"

I didn't know that!

00:56:22 John Host Justin writes:

"It seems that, given all of this episodes... Hubble-a-loo." Hmm. Hubble-a-loo...

"...it is quite a multidimensional cosmic coincidence that Jerome's TARDIS, and unsigned Hubble tapestries, hang probably only blocks away from the high school where Edwin Hubble himself once taught math, physics, and apparently Spanish. Admittedly I only learned this when, out of idle curiosity, looked up on Wikipedia whether New Albany had been named after Old Albany in New York, or some other Albany, but who cares? Because I uncovered this instead."

And it's true! Edwin Hubble, for whom the Hubble Telescope was named, taught physics and Spanish, and was also the basketball coach at New Albany High School. And you know what the name of their—uh, their athletics team is, Jesse?

00:57:11 Jesse Host What's that, John?

00:57:12 John Host Bulldogs.

00:57:13 Jesse Host Ah, dang it...

00:57:14 John Host *[Laughs quietly.]* It's never anything interesting. Come on, high school teams!

00:57:17 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:57:18 John Host Come up with something better.

00:57:19 Jesse Host Well, sometimes it's interesting, *[laughing]* but only in a bad way.

00:57:23 John Host They have teams in swimming, tennis, track, basketball, football, cross-country, soccer, golf, wrestling, dance team. Their colors are black and red. And—hang on—it has its own public-access television cable TV channel since 1980. The New Albany High School. Good job, you guys.

Jesse Thorn, I believe the docket is clear.

00:57:43 Jesse Host It is, indeed. That's it for another episode of *Judge John Hodgman*. Our producer is Jennifer Marmor. Our editor is Valerie Moffat. Our engineer in Maine is Joel Mann, the Program and Operations Manager at WERU Community Radio in Orland, Maine.

You can listen to WERU at [WERU.org](http://WERU.org), and you can follow Joel on Instagram at [@themainemann!](https://www.instagram.com/themainemann/)

Hey, listen. If you're still listening to *Judge John Hodgman* right now, make sure that you take the time to buy tickets to our live show Thursday, September 9th! We are gonna be live from/with the London Podcast Festival. We're not actually going to London but, uh, this is part of the London Podcast Festival. Tickets are on sale now. You can watch from anywhere in the world. It's at a time that you can watch in the United States. Uh, 12:30 on the West Coast, 3:30 on the East Coast. You can also watch it tape-delayed if you so choose. Or digital-tape delayed. Uh, this is gonna be our—probably our only live show this year, so if you're in a place where you haven't been able to see us live in the past, or if you have seen us live in the past and you wanna see us live again, make sure to get those tickets! Get those tickets to the London Podcast Festival, *Judge John Hodgman*. On sale now!

And, uh, remember! If you are from England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, and you have a case, please make sure to submit it at [MaximumFun.org/jjho](http://MaximumFun.org/jjho). And let us know where you are. In fact, no matter who you are! Go to [MaximumFun.org/jjho](http://MaximumFun.org/jjho), or email [hodgman@maximumfun.org](mailto:hodgman@maximumfun.org) with your cases.

00:59:27 Jesse Host You can 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), where you can see this great picture of my man Tater with the egg on his nose. Make sure to hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets #JJHo, and if you wanna chat about the show, you can do it on Reddit at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](http://MaximumFun.Reddit.com). Just don't come in, guns blazing, being a heel. Nobody wants a heel!

00:59:51 John Host No, be a face!

00:59:52 Jesse Host Come in and be friendly! Have fun! Everybody there is friendly. If you

come in and be a heel, people are gonna downvote you. Go in and be friendly!

00:59:59 John Host Mostly everyone there is super nice and friendly!

01:00:01 Jesse Host Yeah. It's great! It's a nice place, [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](http://MaximumFun.Reddit.com).

01:00:05 John Host I love it. I have a good time. I have a good time visiting.

01:00:07 Jesse Host Judge Hodgman goes there! I go there! Jen goes there!

01:00:09 John Host Yeah!

01:00:10 Jesse Host We all—we'll chat with you!

01:00:11 John Host You know what? Sometimes I go in there, and I just—I just hand out, uh, awards.

01:00:15 Jesse Host Boom, boom, boom, boom!

01:00:16 John Host I give people a little flying rocket ship award. Sometimes I give 'em a little—

01:00:20 Jesse Host Yeah.

01:00:21 John Host —a little gold coin.

01:00:22 Jesse Host [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](http://MaximumFun.Reddit.com).

01:00:23 John Host Yeah. [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](http://MaximumFun.Reddit.com).

01:00:24 Jesse Host Look, I'll give you an award somehow. I don't know how it works.

01:00:26 John Host I'm gonna give you an award in a minute.

01:00:28 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* For like five years, I had a weird title on there that I couldn't change, that made me uncomfortable. I couldn't figure out how you change your title!

01:00:34 John Host Yeah.

01:00:35 Jesse Host I finally did, after a while.

01:00:37 John Host Facebook user interface not confounding enough for you?

01:00:39 Jesse Host Yeah. Anyway—*[laughing]*—we're gonna go—we're gonna go on Reddit and play FarmVille.

*[Stifling laughter]* We'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:00:48 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:00:52 Jesse Host Judge Hodgman, you promised us a—*[stifling laughter]*—I guess a Malkovich story? What kind of story is this?

01:00:55 John Host No, it's not a Mal—not a Malkovich story. Remember Jeff from Maine?

01:00:59 Jesse Host Yeah. Sure.

01:01:00 John Host You remember Jeff from Maine. Well, it turns out there are other Jeffs in the world, 'cause I knew a Jeff a long, long time ago. And he was—

01:01:05 Jesse Host Right.

01:01:06 John Host He was the boom operator on the—uh, on the Apple ads that I worked on with Justin Long and Phil Morrison.

01:01:11 Jesse Host Right.



01:01:12 John Host And it was around that time that I was asked to audition for *Burn After Reading*. And, uh—and I was telling the story about how I went in and I didn't get the part. And the part was, like, two lines at the beginning of the—I was, like, an accountant or something. I would have been. Two lines at the beginning of the movie.

And Jeff was listening to me, as he always was—he was always listening through that boom mic, 'cause that was his job! And he would joke around with us. And Jeff would give me little hints about how to be on set, 'cause it was all new to me. Jeff's big hint to me about professionalism on-set and in the world, is:

"The only person who enjoys whistling is the person who is whistling."

Which was his way of saying, "Shut up."

*[Jesse and John laugh.]*

I don't blame him! He had boom mic on me all the time.

01:01:51 John Host I come in the next day. He's sitting up there on top of that, uh, stepladder. Hovering that boom mic over me. And he goes, "Hey, John. Hey, John." It's like, I hear him from the darkness. "Hey, John."

I'm like, "Yeah, what's up, Jeff?"

He goes, "I, um. I found out who got that part in *Burn After Reading*." 'Cause it hadn't been shot yet? Right? "Found out who got that part instead of you."

01:02:11 Jesse Host Yeah.

01:02:12 John Host I said, "Really? I mean, do I wanna know?"

He said, "I don't know, do you?" and I said, "Yeah. Well, yeah."

He said... "Loni Anderson."

*[Jesse laughs.]*

*[Laughing]* Which was a lie!

*[Jesse cracks up.]*

But I totally believed Jeff! *[Stifles laughter.]* Jeff was in my head! Like, "Loni A—? Well, can't complain about that! Loni Anderson! ...Unusual casting; there's no way I could compete with Loni Anderson."

01:02:33 Jesse Host She's a legend. They were—

01:02:36 John Host The Coen brothers have—have done it again! I'm saying this on-set!

01:02:39 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* They were looking for something different, it turned out.

01:02:42 John Host Yeah! And I was like, "That is totally a call that the Coen brothers would make." Like, "Why not Loni Anderson in this part?" And I'm so—I'm going on and on and on about this, and then finally Jeff goes, "No, I'm just messing with you."

*[Stifles laughter.]*

"It's not Lon—I don't care."

*[Jesse laughs.]*

"I don't know who it is, and I don't care."

*[Jesse laughs harder.]*

Jeff... Good Jeff is making me brisket. Bad Jeff? Is listening to my every word. These are the two Jeffs in my life. This is my new religion... that I'm gonna tell everyone about in Culpeper, Virginia. Whenever I'm shopping. Get ready to hear my truth. The Cult of the Two Jeffs.

...Goodbye!

01:03:18	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:03:19	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org.
01:03:20	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:03:22	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:03:23	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.