

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, "The Motion is Cary Granted."
			Film fanatic Rick files suit against his wife Nikki. Rick saves his Golden Age film viewing for his own time, because Nikki is usually not interested. Together the two of them tend to watch TV shows. But Rick was shocked one day to find Nikki watching the 1963 film <i>Charade</i> without him, and asked that she save that movie for him. She doesn't think she should have to stop watching it!
			Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide.
00:00:38	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:39	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:46	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:47	John Hodgman	Host	"The guy who's talking's got a heavy English accent. He <u>could</u> be a fruitcake."
			Bailiff Jesse Thorn, please swear the litigants in.
00:00:54	Jesse	Host	Rick, Nikki, please rise and raise your right hands.
00:00:56	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:00:57	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever?
00:01:02	Rick	Guest	Totally.
00:01:03	Nikki	Guest	Absolutely.
00:01:04	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that his preferred Cary Grant romantic romp is <i>To Catch a Thief</i> ?
00:01:12	Nikki	Guest	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Yeah.
00:01:13	Rick	Guest	Yes.
00:01:14	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:01:15	John	Host	Nick and Rikki, Rikki or Nick, whatever your names are—
			<i>[Nikki laughs.]</i>
			Very adorably similar names. Rick and Nikki. Right?
00:01:21	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	Nikki: Yeah.
			Rick: Yep.
00:01:22	John	Host	Okay. You may be seated.
00:01:25	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:01:26	John	Host	<i>[Sighs.]</i> I do love <i>To Catch a Thief</i> . I have not seen that one in a long time!
00:01:28	Jesse	Host	Yeah, it's a great movie. <i>[Laughs.]</i> That movie <u>really</u> rules, yeah.
00:01:31	John	Host	Cary Grant is in a catsuit! With his little gloves.

00:01:34 Jesse Host That little boatneck knit with the black and white horizontal stripes—
[John sighs.]
 Looking good.

00:01:40 John Host Cary Grant was in a lot of great movies! Including *Charade*.

00:01:42 Jesse Host Yeah. Great movie star.

00:01:43 John Host But I'll tell you something. I was not quoting the movie *Charade*, which is... to some degree the subject of this dispute. For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, can either you... Rick! Okay. I'm gonna get it. Or you, Nikki! Did I get it right? Rick and Nikki? Rick and Nikki.

00:01:59 Rick Guest Yes.

00:02:00 John Host Nik—Nikki—Rick and Nikki. Rikki-Nikki? Tavi? Okay. Can either of you guess what the cultural reference is? How about we start with you, Rick.

00:02:08 Rick Guest Uh, I'm really just gonna take a shot in the dark and go for—

00:02:10 John Host Uh, nope. That's, uh—that's not the right movie. Sorry.
[Nikki laughs.]

00:02:13 Rick Guest I was gonna say—! And do *A Shot in the Dark*, starring Peter Sellers, yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:02:17 John Host Yeah. The second *Pink Panther* movie. Before they figured out to call it *The Pink Panther*, to confuse everybody.

00:02:21 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:02:22 John Host Put that in the guess book. What was your—what other guess would you guess? If not *A Shot in the Dark*?

00:02:26 Rick Guest *[Sighs.]* It's not *A Shot in the Dark*... Uhhh, I'm going to—

00:02:28 John Host If not.

00:02:29 Rick Guest It's not.

00:02:30 John Host I'm giving you two guesses. And Nikki, I'm gonna give you two guesses, too.

00:02:32 Rick Guest Okay. I'm just gonna guess—

00:02:34 John Host One guess is for Rick, one is for Nik, one is for Nikki, and one is for Rikki.

00:02:36 Rick Guest Ah.

00:02:37 Jesse Host The key here is that we expand this portion of the show as much as possible. This is what people listen for.
[The litigants laugh.]

00:02:42 John Host This is the show. This is the show.

00:02:44 Rick Guest Yeah, keep going. Okay. So I will guess... David Lean's *Brief Encounter*?

00:02:50 John Host David Lean's *Brief Encounter*. Is that how it was billed? *[Stifles laughter.]* Like—

00:02:53 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:02:54 Rick Guest Sure! *[Laughs.]*

00:02:56 John Host Like a David Lean joint?

00:02:57 Rick Guest I don't—I—*[laughs]*.

00:02:59 John Host "David Lean's... *Brief Encounter*."

00:03:00 Jesse Host I think it said—*[stifles laughter]*—"from the producers of *The Wedding Crashers*"?

00:03:02 John Host Yeah, weird. *[Stifles laughter.]*

[Someone laughs quietly.]

Strange. It's part of that same universe! Isn't that strange?

00:03:06 Jesse Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:03:07 John Host Yeah. So like Lee Daniels' *The Butler*? David Lean's *Brief Encounter*? Okay, that's two guesses for... Nik-Rick. Rikki Nikki?

[Nikki chuckles.]

You get two.

00:03:17 Nikki Guest I have none.

[Someone bursts out laughing.]

Unless you wanna throw in—*[laughs]*—

00:03:20 John Host Whooooa!

00:03:21 Nikki Guest —*Bio-Dome*. *[Laughs.]*

[Someone claps.]

00:03:23 John Host *Bio-Dome*! Okay.

00:03:24 Jesse Host Yeah. Legendary—

00:03:25 John Host Starring—

00:03:26 Nikki Guest *[Laughing]* No—

00:03:27 Jesse Host —Tenacious D vehicle.

00:03:28 Nikki Guest *[Laughing]* Um—

00:03:30 John Host And pick another one.

00:03:31 Nikki Guest Yeah, I really don't have any guess. I'm sorry.

00:03:33 John Host *Encino Man*?

00:03:34 Nikki Guest Yes. *[Laughs.]*

00:03:36 Jesse Host *In the Army Now*.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:03:39 John Host And of course we can't—we can't settle this until we give Joel Mann, here at WERU in Orland, Maine, 89.9 on your frequency modulation dial, here in the solar-powered studios at WERU across the glass from me, Joel Mann, can you guess what movie that quote was

from?

00:03:55 Joel Mann Guest *The Terminator 3.*

00:03:56 John Host *The Terminator 3. T3?*

00:03:58 Joel Guest *T3.*

00:03:59 John Host Alright. All guesses are wrong. Why did you even—? Why that—? Everything's confusing. Joel is always throwing me curveballs through that glass. You know what I mean? Curveballs.

00:04:09 Jesse Host This guy's throwing knucklers.

00:04:10 John Host Yeah! Okay. So, anyway... This is very—like, what—where is that coming from, Joel?!

00:04:16 Joel Guest Well, I—I thought the quote was from *The Great British Baking Show*. But then you said it was a movie. So...

00:04:22 John Host Okay. "Guy on the other end—"

00:04:23 Jesse Host So *Terminator 3*, you said.

00:04:24 John Host *Terminator 3*. Is that—that's the only movie that... you could th—okay. That's the movie you know? Alright. Fine.

...Of all the *Terminat*—this really—!

You know, the problem with this guy Joel, Ricki Nikki—he's a jazz guy. You know? You dropped a weird jazz bit on me. You went in a different direction than I was expecting. Whoa, brrrr! Like Kevin Eubanks, whom!

[Someone laughs quietly.]

Alright.

00:04:45 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:04:46 John Host *Taking of Pelham 123* is the movie.

[Rick sighs.]

And why? Who is the actor who says that? "Guy on the other end—the guy who's calling in has a British accent. He may be a fruitcake." Come on, Rick.

00:04:55 Rick Guest It has to be Walter Matthau.

00:04:57 John Host Walter Matthau, of course! Is that the connection to *Charade*? Yes. 'Cause Walter Matthau's in it. But also, both movies were written by Peter Stone. Elliott Kalan and I were gonna cover *Taking of Pelham 123*, and we might do it in the future at some point or another.

But meanwhile, we're here to hear your dispute. Rick? You've already sought justice from this court once. And we heard it on the docket. Correct?

00:05:16 Rick Guest That's right.

00:05:17 John Host State the nature of your case.

00:05:20 Rick Guest Okay. Should I just walk you through the day? Of the transgression?

00:05:23 John Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Uh, no. Say a sentence.

00:05:26 Jesse Host *[More laughter.]*
What's your alibi, Rick?!

00:05:29 Rick Guest *[More laughter.]*
My—*[laughing]* my alibi—

00:05:30 Jesse Host Who were—who can corroborate your story?! *[Laughs.]*

00:05:32 John Host No, alright! Yeah. I'll allow it—

00:05:33 Nikki Guest The cats.

00:05:34 John Host Let's go back to the scene of the crime.

00:05:37 Rick Guest Okay. So—

00:05:38 John Host Open on Rick, eyes opening.

[Rick laughs.]

In bed. Looking at ceiling fan.

00:05:43 Rick Guest It was just a normal day.

00:05:44 Jesse Host "It's another hot one here in Harlem, New York City!"

[The litigants laugh.]

—plays on the clock radio. We see his hand slap the snooze button.

00:05:53 Rick Guest So I'm—I'm working overtime on a Saturday afternoon.

00:05:56 John Host Mm-hm.

00:05:57 Rick Guest And I hear her play something off of Netflix, and it sounds old! So I'm like, "That's unusual." That typically doesn't happen with her. And so I go out there, and I'm like, "Well, what are you watching?"

She's like, "Well, this is *Charade*. I thought you—" You know.

And I'm just... I pretty much just lose my mind right there, 'caaaause, uh, typically, you know, when we're watching stuff together, that's not anything that would ever, you know, come up. It's not a part of our usual repertoire of things that we watch, and so I was like, "Well, can you at least save that for me, or something like that?"

00:06:33 John Host Smash cut to record scratch.

[Jesse laughs.]

Rick looks to camera. You're probably wondering what I'm talking about.

[Rick chuckles.]

Cut to John Hodgman explaining. Rick likes to watch old movies. Right, Rick?

00:06:45 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:06:46 John Host Nikki doesn't care! She loves *Encino Man* and *Bio-Dome*. Pretty much exclusively!

[Nikki laughs.]

They are the two movies she knows. Until today, when she learned about a third one: *Terminator 3*—

00:06:55 Jesse Host *In the Army Now*.

00:06:56 John Host That one as well.

[Multiple people laugh quietly.]

Rick wakes up, having worked overtime, and hears the dulcet tones of Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn in Stanley Donen's *Charade*, often called "the best Hitchcock movie Hitchcock never made." Runs into the room, and says—

"[Gasp.] You hath betrayed me, Rikki Nikki! My... life partner, uh, and co-habitator."

That is the nature of your relationship? Are you married?

00:07:22 Nikki Guest Yes.

00:07:23 John Host Oh, fantastic. And where do you live, in fact?

00:07:25 Nikki Guest Uh, we live near Indianapolis, Indiana.

00:07:28 John Host Circle City!

00:07:29 Nikki Guest Yes.

00:07:30 Jesse Host Naptown!

[Nikki chuckles.]

00:07:32 Rick Guest It's a small offshoot town called Fortville, but we pretty much just tell people we're in Indianapolis, 'cause people... have heard of that one.

00:07:38 John Host The ville.

00:07:39 Jesse Host Where do you live relative to the fort?

00:07:41 Rick Guest Uh... I would say about a half hour east of Indy, basically?

00:07:47 Jesse Host Where's the fort, Rick? Where's the FORT?

00:07:49 Rick Guest Oh, the fort—

[Nikki laughs.]

00:07:50 Jesse Host I don't care where you live relative to Indianapolis! I—

00:07:53 Rick Guest *[Laughing]* Okay—!

[Nikki cracks up.]

00:07:54 Jesse Host I wanna know where you live relative to the fort there in Fortville!

00:07:57 Rick Guest You know, I—I haven't actually seen the actual fort. Um—

00:08:01 Nikki Guest We're north of Indianapolis. Northeast.

00:08:03 Jesse Host You've never seen the fo—you live in Fortville, and you've never visited the fort?!

[One or both litigants laugh quietly.]

00:08:07 John Host What is the fort? Why don't I know what the fort is?
00:08:10 Jesse Host It's the fort that gave... its name to Fortville!
00:08:15 John Host Nikki, what is the fort?
00:08:16 Jesse Host It's not named after Frank Fort! If that's what you think.
00:08:17 Rick Guest *[Laughs.]* Zachariah T Fort.
00:08:19 Nikki Guest *[Offering]* We have a giant pink elephant in front of a liquor store. And he's got a martini and hipster glasses.
00:08:26 Jesse Host *[Pouting]* I wanna talk about forts.
00:08:27 John Host Why won't someone tell me what the fort is?!

[One or both litigants laugh.]

00:08:30 Jesse Host It's like a military base! An old-time militar—with a fence. But then there's also other stuff that goes on inside! Like if you were a trapper, that's where you would go to... sell your hides.
00:08:41 John Host *[Stifles laughter.]* Why are you all doing this to me?!

[Nikki cracks up.]

00:08:44 Jesse Host Just talking forts!
00:08:48 John Host Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I was going by its original name: Walpole.

[Jesse laughs, John stifles laughter.]

Apparently it was laid out and platted in 1849 as Walpole. Named for the... wall that had a pole in it. Then renamed for Cephas Fort.

00:08:58 Nikki Guest We had no idea! We—

[Nikki and John laugh.]

We've been here, like, seven or—seven years or so.

00:09:03 Rick Guest Yeah.
00:09:05 Nikki Guest And... I don't—I don't know what brought us here, other than... price.
00:09:08 Rick Guest Cheap housing.
00:09:09 Nikki Guest Cheap housing. Yeah.
00:09:10 John Host Now you're—
00:09:11 Nikki Guest And now the prices are going up, so...
00:09:12 John Host Yeah! You gotta make a run out of Fortville.
00:09:14 Nikki Guest I would love to.
00:09:15 Jesse Host The walls of the fort protect you from raiders.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:09:18 John Host *Half an Hour East of Indy* is the name of your movie that you're in.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:09:22 Rick Guest *[Laughing] Half an Hour East of Indy!*

00:09:24 John Host So the complaint is... watching old movies is your thing, Rick.

00:09:28 Rick Guest Basically.

00:09:30 John Host You self-described as a film fanatic when you wrote in. We heard your case on the docket. Do you remember what my ruling was then?

00:09:38 Rick Guest Uh, provisionally in favor of me.

00:09:41 John Host Good. Thank you for remembering, 'cause I didn't.

00:09:43 Rick Guest *[Laughing]* Oh, good.

00:09:44 John Host And why—and can you remember why I invited you to be—*[stifles laughter]*—to be on the podcast live?

00:09:49 Rick Guest I can only imagine because it was not enough justice in my favor at the time, and I needed more.

[Someone snorts.]

00:09:54 John Host No, I was actually hoping you could help me remember.

00:09:56 Rick Guest Oh.

[Someone laughs.]

00:09:58 John Host I think it was because I didn't understand how you—you, being a film fanatic, had not already seen *Charade* a million times.

00:10:04 Rick Guest Okay, well—!

00:10:05 John Host So why should it matter to you that Nikki is watching *Charade*? Wouldn't you be happy, as a film fanatic? That Nikki is now starting to take interest in Old-Timey Turner Classic Movie-ville that you wanna live in?

00:10:16 Rick Guest I—I love that! I just wish I could be a part of it?

00:10:20 John Host Had you seen *Charade* when you caught Nikki watching it without you?

00:10:23 Rick Guest I had not.

00:10:24 John Host Whoa.

00:10:25 Jesse Host Wow.

00:10:26 John Host Whoa.

00:10:27 Jesse Host Sorry, I thought you said you were a film fanatic.

00:10:28 John Host Uh, me too! I thought you were—

[Nikki laughs.]

00:10:29 Rick Guest I have gaps!

[Stifling laughter] I can't see everything!

00:10:33 John Host What are your other big gaps? What are some of the ones that would make us go, "Whoa"? *Terminator 3*, you see that one?

00:10:37 Rick Guest Uh—okay, this is—this is a pre—uh, I've never seen *Raging Bull*.

00:10:41 John Host Whoa.

00:10:43 Rick Guest I have never seen... uh, *Gone with the Wind*

00:10:46 John Host Good.

00:10:48 Rick Guest I—

00:10:49 Jesse Host *Battleship Potemkin*? Have you seen *Battleship Potemkin*?

00:10:50 Rick Guest I've seen *Battleship Potemkin*, yes.

00:10:51 Jesse Host He's seen—he's fine.

[Someone laughs.]

He's seen *Battleship Potemkin*.

00:10:53 Rick Guest There! That—that's my card right there.

00:10:55 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:10:56 Rick Guest I've seen *Battleship Potemkin*.

00:10:57 Jesse Host Have you seen *Das Boof*?

00:10:58 Rick Guest Yes.

00:11:00 John Host Hm.

00:11:01 Jesse Host So he's great! He's—he's solid gold.

[Stifling laughter] Have you seen *Master and Commander: The Other Side of the World*?

00:11:04 Rick Guest I have not! Um—

00:11:06 Jesse Host Okay, then you're out! You're no longer a film fanatic.

00:11:07 Rick Guest Augh!

[The litigants laugh.]

I—I should say the early to mid 2000s is a blurry moment for me, 'cause... um, I was poor and in college and didn't get to see a lot.

00:11:18 John Host What did you study in college if not film?

00:11:20 Rick Guest Uh, that's—that is what I studied.

00:11:23 John Host [Stifling laughter] So you must have seen quite a few at the time!

00:11:26 Rick Guest Yeah! You know, there's a handful over there that I've only seen because I saw it in class.

00:11:29 John Host Right.

00:11:30 Jesse Host Yeah. It is kind of insulting that you can get a film degree without having seen *Master and Commander: The Other Side of the World*, but that's not what this case is about.

00:11:38 John Host No.

00:11:39 Jesse Host Just gonna leave it aside.

00:11:40 John Host So, okay. Look, we all have our—our blind spots, and so forth. I have—I have not seen *Battleship Potemkin*. Look! I know the baby carriage goes down the stairs. Who cares? I get it.

[Rick chuckles.]

00:11:50 Rick Guest Done. Donezville. But—
In *Untouchables*, too.

00:11:51 John Host Oogh. You stole that right outta my mouth, Rick.

[Rick laughs.]

00:12:01 Rick Guest You got me. And how else does your film fanaticism... express itself? It says here you host movie nights with friends?

00:12:22 John Host Yeah! Yeah. Uh, every so often we all get together and, um, usually I'll do some sort of a double feature. And usually—usually the theme of the double feature is the two movies make absolutely no sense together. So for example, one night would be... We'll watch *Close Encounters*, and then after that we'll watch, uh, *No Country for Old Men*.

00:12:23 Rick Guest Mm-hm!

00:12:26 Jesse Host Absolutely no connective tissue between the two. Just good movies, and...

00:12:26 Jesse Host Yeah. Or, like, you would watch *Master and Commander*... and then you would watch a movie that doesn't totally rule.

[Rick laughs.]

00:12:33 John Host A non-ruling movie.

00:12:34 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:12:35 John Host Yeah. Yeah. *Close Encounters* and... *No Country for Old Men*?

00:12:37 Rick Guest Yes.

00:12:39 John Host Mm. Doesn't Javier Bardem make a big mashed potato sculpture in *No Country for Old Men*?

00:12:45 Rick Guest Uh, maybe in the deleted scene, but not to my knowledge.

00:12:47 John Host Alright. And you show—do you have PowerPoints?

00:12:50 Rick Guest *[Stifling laughter]* I do.

00:12:51 John Host Mm-hm.

00:12:52 Rick Guest If it's a movie I'm particularly passionate about, I'll—I'll do a little... I'll do a little half-hour lecture and PowerPoint.

00:12:59 Jesse Host I'm sorry, half an hour?

[Rick cracks up.]

Forgive me. I thought I heard you say "a half-hour presentation."

[One or both litigants are laughing.]

00:13:09 Rick Guest E—estimating, yeah. Yeah.

00:13:11 Jesse Host Not even at Elliott Kalan's birthday party have I had to endure a half-hour pre-film presentation.

[Jesse and one or both litigants laugh.]

00:13:21 John Host What would be your top deck that you presented to your friends? Your favorite PowerPoint? Like, what are you trying to—are you

trying to show how these movies don't have any connection?

00:13:30 Rick Guest No! *[Stifles laughter.]*

I'll be specific to the movie, and I'll just pick a—something out of the movie that I really kinda like. Like, uh...

00:13:37 John Host Alright!

00:13:38 Rick Guest If it's a John Williams score, I'll talk about John Williams. Or if it's a— a director I really like, like David Fincher or Andrei Tarkovsky, I'll talk about, like, them specifically. You know, it—kinda whatever I feel like I know the most about off-hand.

00:13:51 Nikki Guest He gives really cute nicknames, too. Like, he calls Spielberg "Spiely."

[John snorts.]

00:13:56 Jesse Host I mean... that's—that's a pretty first-draft nickname.

[John laughs.]

00:14:01 Rick Guest What was it—uh, Christopher Noles is "Chrissy Noles," and...

00:14:05 Jesse Host These are basically like when baseball players have that Players Weekend where they get to put their nickname on the back of their jersey, and everyone whose name is Smith, they just have "Smithy" on there.

[The litigants laugh.]

Uh, you really—I—go A-to-C with these nicknames, please. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:14:20 John Host Steven Spielberg is "Spiely." Christopher Nolan is "Chrissy."

00:14:24 Rick Guest Mm-hm.

00:14:25 John Host Mm-hm.

00:14:26 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:14:27 John Host Lee Childs is "Lee-y."

00:14:28 Jesse Host Chrissy Teigen is "Chris."

00:14:29 Rick Guest You know how, like, when a celebrity will go on a talkshow, and they'll give an interview and—and you know, they'll talk about other celebrities, but they'll always have those really chummy nicknames? Like, "Oh, my—me and my friend Bobby De Niro," and so I just—I—I always try to—

00:14:41 John Host Right. Robert De Niro is "Roberty De Niro."

00:14:44 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:14:45 John Host Yeah. I gotcha.

00:14:46 Rick Guest I just try to come up with my own, and...

00:14:47 John Host I love it. Nikki, did he give you your nickname?

00:14:49 Nikki Guest *[Laughs.]* He calls me his little knick-knack.

00:14:52 John Host Ohhh!

00:14:53 Jesse Host Awww. That's very sweet.

00:14:54 Rick Guest On my phone that way.

00:14:56 John Host That's the top nickname I've heard so far.

00:14:57 Jesse Host Nikki, do you have to attend these parties and their—uh, and their attendant lectures?

00:15:01 Nikki Guest Um, no. I typically go to my living room, drink, and watch murder mysteries. All about the murder.

[Jesse laughs.]

It's all about the murder!

00:15:09 John Host That's fantastic. Murder mystery television shows like a *Foyle's War*, or murder mystery movies like a *The Mirror Crack'd*?

00:15:15 Nikki Guest Like a *Dateline*. Keith Morrison.

00:15:17 John Host Ohhh, true crime.

00:15:18 Nikki Guest Ugh. Love Keith Morrison.

00:15:20 John Host Okay. I got you. Non-fiction television.

00:15:22 Nikki Guest Yeah.

00:15:23 John Host Guided non-fiction, shall we say. Alright. And you said "my living room." Do you guys each have your own living room? 'Cause that—I'm moving to Fortville, if that's the case.

00:15:28 Nikki Guest *[Cracks up.]* No.

00:15:32 John Host Okay.

00:15:33 Rick Guest Fortville houses are not that big, despite its reputation.

00:15:35 John Host Where does the PowerPoint presentation go down that you escape from by going to the living room, Nikki?

00:15:39 Nikki Guest Sometimes it's in our garage. Other times it's outside, because he has his own projector and projector screen, and...

00:15:45 John Host Oh, nice!

00:15:46 Nikki Guest So when it's really nice outside, he'll take it outside.

00:15:49 Jesse Host Does he have his own podium?

00:15:51 Nikki Guest He should. *[Laughs.]*

00:15:52 Rick Guest Now that—I want one now.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:15:55 Jesse Host Let's take a quick recess. We'll be back in just a moment on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:15:59 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:16:02 Promo Promo *These dynamic promos have not been transcribed, as they change weekly.*

00:18:40 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:18:43 John Host So Nikki, what moved you that day to—to watch *Charade* all of the sudden? You seem comfortable in your tastes. Would you say that your tastes are not... Rick's

00:18:52 Nikki Guest Um, there's, like, a lot of things that we both like collectively together,

but I have kind of a stressful job, and I really like to laugh, and to kind of—that's how I like to unwind.

00:19:03 John Host Right.

00:19:04 Nikki Guest So usually it's... eighties and nineties comedies. *[Chuckles.]*

00:19:07 John Host Mm-hm.

00:19:08 Nikki Guest Is usually my go-to.

00:19:09 John Host Right.

00:19:10 Nikki Guest Um—and, you know. Early 2000s, like *Bedazzled*. Like, I love that movie so much. *[Laughs.]*

00:19:15 John Host That's a blind spot for me right there!

00:19:17 Nikki Guest Oh, it's so good; you have to watch it! Brendan Fraser! You have to.

00:19:21 John Host Oh, right! That's with, um—uh, what's her name? Elizabeth Hurley.

00:19:23 Nikki Guest Yeah.

00:19:25 John Host Oh! Never saw it. Never saw it. Also in *Encino Man*, right? Brendan Fraser?

00:19:28 Nikki Guest Mm-hm!

00:19:29 John Host Right! You're Brendan Fraser, and, uh, Rick is, uh, Audrey Hepburn! That's a get-together.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:19:37 Nikki Guest So what drove me to watch it was, um—you know, we were—*[sighs]*. I was—I felt like I was running out of stuff to watch! And, you know, with COVID and everything, and—I had watched something, and I wish I could remember what it was, but... it definitely had—

00:19:48 Jesse Host It was *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*, starring Brendan Fraser.

00:19:52 Nikki Guest *[Laughs.]* Yeah.

Um, I was—I had watched something about... that time in movies, and I just ended up having this general interest. So I went ahead and I thought, "Well, Rick doesn't like Audrey Hepburn!"

[John gasps.]

"So I will watch—*[stifles laughter]*—I will watch *Charade*—"

00:20:12 John Host What?!

00:20:14 Nikki Guest "And I'll get bonus points because I watched an older movie!"

00:20:17 John Host You don't like Little Heppy, Rick?

00:20:18 Rick Guest That is a gross lie. I don't recall ever saying this.

00:20:22 John Host I'll—alright. Hang on. I'll let—I'll let Nikki explain.

[The litigants laugh.]

You seem pretty convinced that Rick doesn't like Little Heppy. How come?

00:20:30 Nikki Guest Well—*[stifles laughter]*—'cause he told me! He told me, like, when we were in college!

00:20:35 John Host Remember, you're under—you're under fake oath.
00:20:36 Nikki Guest Or it was shortly after we got married.
00:20:38 John Host Yeah.
00:20:39 Nikki Guest I mean, and he didn't like Julia Roberts, either, and he changed his mind. He said, "Oh, I like her now."
00:20:43 Rick Guest Yeah!
00:20:44 Nikki Guest But I never heard anything like, "Oh, I like Audrey Hepburn now." So I just thought I'd get bonus points by watching an older movie, and he wouldn't mind! *[Laughs.]*
00:20:52 John Host Alright. Let's flash back. Where'd you guys go to college?
00:20:55 Nikki Guest We went to Ball State University. In Muncie.
00:20:57 John Host Ball State. Okay. Flash back. Ball State University. Muncie. The past.

[Someone stifles laughter.]

Nikki and Rick meet-cute on the quad. Go back in time, Nikki. And give us the dialogue where Rick said, "I don't like Audrey Hepburn." What was it he said exactly? If you can remember. As best you can remember.

00:21:17 Nikki Guest I don't remember, except, "I don't like Audrey Hepburn that much."
00:21:20 John Host Was this the first thing he ever said to you? *[Stifling laughter]* Was this how you met?

[The litigants laugh, John stifles laughter.]

Was there a context to the conversation? *[Laughs.]*

00:21:26 Nikki Guest I don't remember! *[Laughs.]* I don't remember; it was so long ago! But... you know, I—I wish I could remember it a little easier than the Julia Roberts thing, 'cause I remember wanting to watch *Pretty Woman*, and he was like, "Eh, I don't really like Julia Roberts."
00:21:40 Rick Guest I can corroborate the Julia Roberts thing, but the Audrey Hepburn thing, I have no recollection.
00:21:45 Nikki Guest But you haven't seen *Charade*. *[Laughs.]*
00:21:47 John Host What's your memory of that pivotal date in the past? You ever see a movie called *Rashomon*?
00:21:51 Rick Guest Uh, yeah.
00:21:52 John Host Right.

[Rick chuckles.]

I haven't.

00:21:53 Rick Guest That's what's happening here.
00:21:54 John Host But that didn't stop me from making a million *Rashomon* jokes.

[A litigant laughs.]

Over the course of my career as a [mid-tier comedy legend](#).

00:22:01 Jesse Host John, you know what, uh, happened when they had that conversation back at Ball State?

00:22:04 John Host No, what happened?

00:22:05 Jesse Host Rick said, uh, "What about *Breakfast at Tiffany's*?"

And she said, "Well, I think I remember the film, and as I recall, I think we both kind of liked it."

00:22:14 John Host Mm-hm.

00:22:15 Jesse Host And Rick said, "Well, that's the one thing we've got."

[Nikki laughs.]

00:22:19 John Host Right! But Rick also said, "Ex—"

[Stifles laughter.]

"There's on—there's one thing that ruins *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. One performance in particular that—"

00:22:28 Jesse Host Mm-hm. *[Laughs.]*

00:22:29 John Host "—that makes it offensive and dated."

00:22:31 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:22:34 John Host "And—and awful. And that performance is Audrey Hepburn."

[Someone laughs.]

00:22:37 Jesse Host Yeah. Because she—

00:22:38 John Host As Audrey Hepburn.

00:22:39 Jesse Host 'Cause she looks cool when she's smoking.

00:22:41 John Host 'Cause she looks cool when she's smoking.

Rick, Audrey Hepburn had a pet deer! Did you know that? A pet fawn!

00:22:49 Rick Guest I did not know that!

00:22:50 John Host And she'd ride around on it! 'Cause she's so tiny, because she was starved as a child! Due to, uh—uh, malnutrition during wartime!

00:22:58 Rick Guest Oh, wow.

00:22:59 John Host Yeah!

00:23:00 Rick Guest I didn't even—I didn't even know you could ride a deer.

00:23:02 John Host She didn't ride it around. But she did have one!

00:23:04 Rick Guest Oh, okay.

[Someone stifles laughter.]

00:23:05 John Host I was just making a point that Audrey Hepburn is very wee. You know what I mean?

00:23:08 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:23:09 John Host She was very, very wee.

00:23:10 Jesse Host Nothing rides like a deer, Rick.

[Multiple people laugh quietly.]

- 00:23:13 John Host What do you not like about Audrey Hepburn? And is that why you never saw *Charade*?
- 00:23:16 Rick Guest Uh, I—like I said, I don't recall not liking Audrey Hepburn. But I mean, I don't disbelieve that I said that, necessarily? But, um—
- 00:23:27 Jesse Host It definitely seems like something a guy majoring in film in college would say.
- 00:23:32 Rick Guest That's why I—
- 00:23:33 Jesse Host As motivated by the fact that, uh, *[laughing]* girls like Audrey Hepburn.
- 00:23:37 Rick Guest Yeah. And I think that's kinda the only rationale I can see that she had by doing that. Because when—when she gave up on *Charade*, and I went back to, uh, my overtime, she put on another movie, and again it sounded old. So I'm like, "Okay, what—what is this now? This also sounds old," and she's like, "This is *Roman Holiday*." With—again with Audrey Hepburn.
- So I'm just like, "I—I have not seen this, either! Why—why are you—what are you doing to me?!" *[Stifles laughter.]*
- 00:24:04 John Host Why can't Nikki just watch her Audrey Hepburn movies?
- [Long pause.]*
- 00:24:09 Rick Guest Because I'm not there!
- [The litigants laugh.]*
- 00:24:12 John Host How does it make you feel? When Nikki gets in on a little—a little old-timey movie-watching?
- 00:24:21 Rick Guest I just wish it would—I mean, if she did it with—I just—I feel like there's something going on! Like—like she's doing this on purpose to just charge me up, and... obviously it's working.
- [Rick or Nikki laughs.]*
- 00:24:31 Jesse Host I think she's trying to get back at you for all the times when the two of you were 19 and you said she had to see *Fight Club*.
- [The litigants laugh.]*
- 00:24:41 Rick Guest I mean, looking back on it, I definitely... showed her some movies that were not her favorites, and...
- 00:24:48 Nikki Guest Ooh, yeah. Like the one that, um—*The Experiment*, but it was like, the German version?
- 00:24:54 Rick Guest Yeah. Yeah, that one.
- 00:24:55 Nikki Guest And it gave me nightmares, and I won't listen to The Beach Boys anymore. *[Laughs quietly.]*
- 00:24:59 John Host *The Experiment*, but the German version.
- 00:25:01 Rick Guest It's—it's kinda loosely based on that Stanford Experiment where people were prisoners and guards, and...
- 00:25:04 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Wow.

00:25:06 Rick Guest It's a heavy movie.

00:25:07 Nikki Guest I mean, it was good! But... it made me cry! *[Laughs.]*

00:25:10 Rick Guest It's heavy.

00:25:14 Jesse Host You're like, "Date night, honey! Let's watch *Audition!*"

[John laughs.]

00:25:15 Rick Guest "I got the popcorn!"

[Nikki laughs.]

00:25:19 John Host How would you describe Rick's taste in movies, Nikki?

00:25:24 Nikki Guest Um, he likes almost everything. And he's not too snobby about it. So...

00:25:29 Rick Guest I was back then, not now I'm not.

00:25:30 Nikki Guest Yeah, you were back then, a little bit.

00:25:32 Rick Guest But not so much now.

00:25:33 Nikki Guest Um, you know, he doesn't talk about, like... CGI. He doesn't get super picky about that. I've actually gotten a little more picky about that, which is why I haven't really been watching a whole lot of stuff in the past five to ten years. Um—

00:25:46 Rick Guest Like, Blockbuster-y stuff.

00:25:47 Nikki Guest Yeah. Um, but he gets really crazy about, like, the comic book movies.

00:25:53 John Host What do you mean?

00:25:54 Nikki Guest *[Laughs.]* He's a little outraged, because—

00:25:56 Rick Guest I'm not into 'em.

00:25:57 Nikki Guest *[Laughs.]* Because he's like, "That's all there is." It's just—

00:25:59 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Yeah, Rick's a real Martin Scorsese.

[John, Jesse, and the litigants laugh.]

00:26:06 Rick Guest More *Hugo*. *[Laughs.]*

00:26:08 John Host What—more—yeah, more *Hugo*, less Loki, right?

00:26:10 Rick Guest Exactly.

00:26:12 John Host *[Exhales sharply.]* I don't know. I could watch Tom Hiddleston every day of the week.

[Nikki chuckles.]

00:26:15 Rick Guest Fair.

00:26:16 Nikki Guest And I mean, he likes so many movies. The place that we used to work at together, we would have like a trivia day every so often. And when there was, like, a film question, my boss would automatically tell Rick to just sit down and shut up, because he would be the one to get it right every time. *[Laughs.]* She wanted to give other people a chance.

00:26:32 John Host What's it like watching a movie with Rick.

00:26:34 Nikki Guest It's alright!

[Beat.]

00:26:36 Rick Guest I'm quiet—I like to think I'm very quiet during—like, during the movie itself.

00:26:39 Nikki Guest He's—he's quiet. I move around a lot, and I think it drives him crazy.

00:26:43 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:26:45 Nikki Guest I have a hard time just sitting.

00:26:46 John Host But does he offer any sort of running commentary? Does he force you to watch a PowerPoint? Is there anything like that going on?

00:26:52 Nikki Guest No, if he put a PowerPoint on, I think I'd just bolt. I'd go shopping.

00:26:56 John Host I want you to be very honest with me here, Nikki.

00:26:58 Nikki Guest Sure.

00:26:59 John Host Were you putting on *Charade* to... cause a reaction in Rick?

00:27:04 Nikki Guest Absolutely not.

00:27:06 John Host Hm.

00:27:08 Nikki Guest I wanted to watch it, tell him I watched it, and then I thought he'd be like, "Aw, babe. That's awesome. What's next?" But—

00:27:16 John Host You weren't doing this to tweak his brand as the movie guy?

00:27:20 Nikki Guest [Laughing] No!

00:27:21 John Host You weren't doing this to—to take away some pleasure from him? To make him feel like his whole sense of self was being shattered, 'cause he's the only one who's allowed to like old movies?

00:27:30 Nikki Guest No, I thought he would be happy. I thought he'd be impressed. And, um... you know, I thought that would encourage us to watch something else when he was done working.

00:27:40 John Host Rick, why weren't you just happy and impressed?

00:27:44 Rick Guest Because if—I feel like if I threw on *Charade* and it was my idea, she'd be like, "Nah, let's not watch that."

00:27:52 John Host Okay. But what—what's the problem with that? This—this time she did—she initiated herself. Why—why can't she just initiate her own *Charade*?

00:28:02 Rick Guest ...Because I'm not there!

[The litigants laugh.]

00:28:04 John Host W—okay! This is what I'm trying to get to the emotional core of. Why do you have to gatekeep the watching of old movies? What is threatening to you about it? I mean, you could say, "It makes me sad. I—if she wants to enjoy old movies, I would love to enjoy old movies with her, and I feel left out."

00:28:22 Rick Guest Yeah!

00:28:23 John Host That would be selfish, but—but emotionally understandable.

00:28:26 Rick Guest Yeah. And that—I'd say that's pretty much it.

00:28:28 John Host Mm-hm.

00:28:29 Nikki Guest But in air quotes, he "allowed" me to watch *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

[Laughs.]

00:28:34 Rick Guest Well—
00:28:35 John Host When you say "air quotes," is that because you are quoting him?
00:28:37 Nikki Guest Um... He told me it was "okay." And I don't do well with... getting permission; I just do what I want.
00:28:44 John Host Yeah. I don't know—
00:28:45 Jesse Host Yeah!
00:28:47 John Host I—I think this is why we had to hear this—
00:28:48 Jesse Host You're a bad girl!

[Sing-hums part of "Bad to the Bone" by George Thorogood & the Destroyers.]

[Nikki laughs.]

00:28:51 John Host You're gonna get your red wine, and you're gonna watch your true crime. It's crime-wine time! With Nikki.
00:28:56 Nikki Guest That's right! [Laughs.]
00:28:59 John Host That's your brand. And it's strong! That brand is strong! Rick. Your brand is... know-it-all about movies! That brand is diluted, my friend.

[John stifles laughter.]

00:29:08 Rick Guest [Laughing] Oh no.
00:29:09 John Host I went down that road for a while. I worked at a movie—video store. Tried to be a know-it-all. It's just—it's—there are too many of—guys like us, with glasses, who are doing that game.
00:29:19 Rick Guest I—I get it! That's understandable. Which is why—
00:29:22 John Host What, uh—what happened with *The Irishman*?
00:29:24 Rick Guest [Sighs.] Okay. This was also—so, this is the same day, by the way. *Charade*, then *Roman Holiday*, and then later at night, uh, I don't remember what I was doing. But she was putting on something, and it sounded interesting, and she's like—and I'm like, "What is this?"

And she goes, "It's *The Irishman*," and I'm like, "You're killing me here!"

[Both litigants laugh.]

Like, after everything today, I kinda feel like there should be... a list of, like, directors that if she's about to watch something with one of them in it, she should see if I wanna join in!

00:29:55 John Host Alright. Wait a minute. You're telling me *Roman Holiday* and *Charade* were the same day, Nikki?
00:30:00 Rick Guest Yes.
00:30:02 Nikki Guest [Laughing] Yeah.
00:30:03 John Host Did you finish *Charade*, or no?
00:30:05 Nikki Guest I only got to the beginning credits. That's as far as I got. I didn't even get to see anyone's face. Nothing.

00:30:11 John Host And that's when Rick came bursting out of the bedroom in slow-mo, going, "NOOOOO!"

[One or both litigants laugh quietly.]

00:30:19 Nikki Guest Yes.

00:30:20 John Host That's—you were stopped from watching it.

00:30:21 Jesse Host *[Shouting in slow-mo]* "Not this charming caperrr!"

[The litigants laugh.]

00:30:25 John Host Did you—did he throw himself in front of the screen, so you couldn't see it, in slow motion? Sideways?

[More laughter.]

00:30:31 Nikki Guest Yeah. Yes.

00:30:32 John Host So then—then he goes—

00:30:33 Jesse Host "Maaathauuu is a baaad guyyyyy!"

[More laughter.]

00:30:39 John Host And then, somehow—somehow he got distracted again, and wandered off to another part of the house. And then you put in *Roman Holiday*?

00:30:45 Nikki Guest Yes.

00:30:47 John Host You're telling me there was no intentionality behind that? You're gonna rock another Audrey Hepburn—

00:30:50 Nikki Guest No! Like, Audrey Hep—*[laughs]*—

00:30:52 John Host What—

00:30:54 Nikki Guest Audrey Hepburn was in it, and he was like, "I don't like Audrey Hepburn" back when we were dating! So I was like, "This is fine, because it has Audrey Hepburn." Maybe—maybe, um, *Charade* was a fluke, that he was like, "Well, I—I do wanna watch that, even though Audrey Hepburn's in it—"

00:31:07 John Host No, no, no, I understand—I understand all this, Nikki! Let me—I have to interrupt you, though. This is the same day.

00:31:12 Nikki Guest Yeah.

00:31:14 John Host Where did you go, Rick? After you shut—you shut down *Charade*?

00:31:16 Rick Guest Uh, probably back to overtime.

00:31:19 John Host And what's over—overtime is your job.

00:31:21 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:31:23 John Host And what is your job?

00:31:24 Rick Guest Uh, I am a mortgage underwriter—

00:31:25 Jesse Host Taking care of business.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:31:26 John Host So you're working from home.

00:31:27 Rick Guest Yes.

00:31:28 John Host Okay.

00:31:29 Rick Guest We both are, actually.

00:31:31 John Host I understand. So you—

00:31:32 Nikki Guest Yeah. He's the underwriter, and I'm the closer.

00:31:34 Rick Guest Yep.

[Nikki laughs quietly.]

00:31:35 John Host Oh, wow—these two, Mr. and Mrs. Smith over here!

[The litigants laugh.]

That's a movie, right, Jesse? *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:31:40 Jesse Host Yeah, it is.

00:31:41 John Host Okay.

00:31:42 Rick Guest It's two!

00:31:43 John Host Okay, Rick! Easy!

00:31:44 Rick Guest *[Laughing]* I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

00:31:46 John Host Wow. What was the plot of *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, Rick? 'Cause I don't remember. It's like a—they're spies?

00:31:51 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:31:52 John Host Husband and wife spies?

00:31:53 Rick Guest Yeah. Pretty much.

00:31:54 John Host Okay.

00:31:55 Rick Guest Yeah! And they—that's it.

00:31:56 John Host Right, okay.

00:31:57 Jesse Host Rick, what's the, uh, plot of *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*?

00:32:00 John Host Good question.

00:32:02 Rick Guest I know Russell Crowe is on a boat. And he does stuff on—

00:32:03 Jesse Host A ship.

[Rick laughs.]

Can it. Can it, Rick. It's a ship.

00:32:05 Rick Guest *[Cracking up]* Okay!

00:32:06 Jesse Host Go ahead, John.

00:32:07 John Host So, I didn't understand you shut down *Charade*. You told Nikki... "You can't watch this."

00:32:14 Rick Guest I—I wouldn't say I said she couldn't watch it, but I—

00:32:16 Nikki Guest He did.

00:32:17 Rick Guest Okay. *[Laughs.]*

00:32:18 Nikki Guest He did! I'm sorry. I hate to jump in. I'm sorry, Your Honor.

00:32:21 John Host No, of course! I mean, Rick is already a proven liar.

[Someone laughs.]

He has denied your memory and lived experience of him seeking you out on the Ball State campus to tell you how much he hates Audrey Hepburn.

[Nikki laughs.]

How did he—what did he say? "You can't watch this"? What did he say? Did he say, "You can't watch this?" or "Could you save this for later so we could watch together?"

00:32:40 Nikki Guest He was like, "Why are you watching this without me? I wanna watch this, too. I haven't seen it before. Please change it."

00:32:50 John Host And you said, "Okay"?

00:32:51 Nikki Guest [Sighs.] And so, out of love, I said, "Okay."

00:32:53 John Host And then he went away. And you were like, "Time for a little *Roman Holiday*."

00:32:57 Nikki Guest Yep.

00:32:58 John Host "Gas up the Vespa. We're going to Rome."

00:32:59 Nikki Guest [Laughing] Yes.

00:33:00 John Host With Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. Or did you watch the remake, with Greg Kinnear?

00:33:06 Nikki Guest I could've! I do like Greg Kinnear, but...

00:33:08 John Host Yeah. He's great.

00:33:10 Nikki Guest I didn't know there was another one.

00:33:11 John Host Yeah. I don't know that Brendan Fraser's in that one, though. Sorry.

00:33:14 Nikki Guest [Laughs.] Darn. He'll be back, though.

00:33:17 John Host Yeah.

00:33:18 Nikki Guest He's gonna be with Bobby Nir—De Niro in another movie soon.

00:33:19 John Host So then he comes out and shuts down *Roman Holiday*.

00:33:21 Nikki Guest Yes.

00:33:23 John Host He comes out and he's—he kicks down the door this time. He bursts through—

00:33:27 Nikki Guest [Laughs.] Yeah!

00:33:28 John Host He bursts through the wall. "Nooooo!"

00:33:30 Nikki Guest He came in like Jack Nicholson in *The Shining* with the axe—

[Someone snorts.]

—just like, "Ugh, how dare you?!" [Laughs.]

00:33:36 Jesse Host He burst forth from the underwriting nook into the Karen Kilgariff, uh, Memorial Living Room.

[Multiple people laugh, Jesse stifles laughter.]

And Wine Cellar.

00:33:46 John Host That's a pretty aggressive way to describe your beloved husband.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:33:49 Rick Guest Yes, it is!

00:33:50 John Host As Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*—

00:33:51 Nikki Guest Yeah. *[Laughs.]*

00:33:52 John Host —knocking a door down with an axe! With murderous intent! Was his attitude mean? Angry?

[Nikki laughs.]

Uh, scary?

00:34:03 Nikki Guest I'm not scared of him, but—

[Someone snorts.]

—you know. *[Laughs.]*

00:34:06 John Host Did you run into a hedge maze?

[Jesse again sing-hums part of "Bad to the Bone."]

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:34:11 Nikki Guest I was—he was—he was definitely very frustrated! Yeah, he was—he was pretty upset. And he was like, "Why are you watching all this stuff without me? This is crazy." And—

00:34:20 Rick Guest I was outraged, but in a peaceful manner.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:34:24 Jesse Host Rick, in the past, have you suggested... classic films that are fun and light in tone, and had them rejected?

00:34:34 Rick Guest Yes, but that's usually because they were musicals, and she doesn't do musicals.

00:34:39 John Host Like, what was a musical you suggested that Nikki said no to?

00:34:42 Rick Guest *Singin' in the Rain.*

00:34:44 Nikki Guest Pass.

00:34:45 Rick Guest I've been trying to get her for years to watch that one.

00:34:47 Nikki Guest Never. I'll never do it.

00:34:48 John Host How come you don't—how come you won't watch *Singin' in the Rain*?

[Jesse chuckles.]

I mean, Nikki, I like your—

00:34:52 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* 'Cause everyone on Earth likes it too much?

00:34:55 John Host Is it too normie for you?

[Rick laughs.]

00:34:57 Nikki Guest I just can't! I just—I—I don't like... I don't like musical numbers. I don't—I don't know, like...

00:35:05 Rick Guest See—

00:35:06 Nikki Guest I never have a reason to dance to anything, [stifling laughter] so I don't wanna watch other people dancing either, and singing. I don't know, I'm just not into it. [Laughs.]

00:35:12 Rick Guest [Stifling laughter] Wow.

00:35:13 Nikki Guest I mean, I'm okay with *Mary Poppins*. That's about it, but—um... Yeah. That's about it, is *Mary Poppins*.

00:35:20 John Host Okay.

00:35:21 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Wow. Take that, *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*.

Nikki: And that's like... once every five years.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:35:24 Nikki Guest Dick Van Dyke was super cute in it!

00:35:26 John Host This is like Joel Mann here at Maine saying *Terminator 3*. I don't know what's going on in his head, and I don't know what's going on in your head.

[Nikki and someone else laugh.]

I don't know how you like *Mary Poppins* okay, but it's a big ix-nay on *Singin' in the Rain*. Co-directed by Stanley Donen, by the way! With Gene Kelly. Stanley Donen, the director of *Charade*. But okay.

00:35:46 Nikki Guest Maybe it's Dick Van Dyke. Maybe it's Dick Van Dyke! I think he's super handsome in that movie.

00:35:50 Rick Guest So there's no Dick Van Dyke in *Singin' in the Rain*? That's the...?

00:35:52 Nikki Guest Sure.

00:35:53 John Host Let me—

00:35:54 Rick Guest That's all that—okay. [Laughs.]

00:35:55 Nikki Guest If that's the argument you want me to put in, I'll—I'll just say yeah, it's 'cause he's not in it. [Laughs.]

00:35:56 John Host I mean—right. My—right. My—Dick Van Dyke being the most lauded performer in *Mary Poppins*.

[Multiple people laugh.]

He is very handsome. And very charming! Even though his accent is...

00:36:04 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:36:05 John Host ...not so—not great.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:36:08 Jesse Host Wonderful dancer as well!

00:36:09 John Host All—look. Magical! You know who else is magical? A—a magical

hooper? That's a—that's a dance term, meaning a dancer. Gene Kelly! Gene Kelly!

00:36:19 Rick Guest Yes! Uh, Donald O'Connor!

00:36:21 Nikki Guest *[Laughs quietly.]* I don't know who that is.

00:36:23 Rick Guest *[Stifling laughter]* He's in *Singin' in the Rain*.

00:36:25 John Host Yeah—

00:36:27 Nikki Guest Has he done anything else?

00:36:27 Rick Guest N—no, but if you watch *Singin' in the Rain*—

00:36:29 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* "Has he done anything else"?! Well, I mean—

00:36:30 Rick Guest —you would know.

00:36:32 John Host If you watch *Singin' in the Rain*, you'll realize he doesn't have to do anything else. He was in that movie.

00:36:34 Jesse Host Yeah.

[Jesse and Nikki laugh.]

Before *Singin' in the Rain*, he was an insurance adjuster.

[Rick laughs.]

And after *Singin' in the Rain*, he was a closer.

00:36:41 John Host That's right.

[Nikki laughs.]

One of the most gifted physical comedians of all time, uh, Donald O'Connor. And, uh, Carrie Fisher's mom!

00:36:48 Rick Guest Oh! Debbie Reynolds, yes!

00:36:50 John Host Debbie Reynolds! Look, it's one of the classic three-handers of cinema! Three great stars at their prime!

00:36:57 Jesse Host Look! Everyone agrees that *Singin' in the Rain* is great, and it's a terrible mistake not to watch it. But my concern here is that Rick has had a lifetime of trying to get Nikki to watch Tartovsky movies—

00:37:11 Nikki Guest *[Whispering]* Who is that?

00:37:12 Jesse Host —when she wants to watch... fun movies that are fun! Of which there are many classic fun movies that are fun that don't have singing and dancing in them. It's not a req—pre-requisite, for a fun movie to be fun, that there's singing and dancing in it! There's other fun movies!

So is that what's going on here, Rick?

00:37:32 John Host I just wanna point out for the record, Jesse, that we're on a teleconference here. And when you said "Tartovsky," Nikki made a facial expression that said, "I don't know who that is," and Rick—*[stifles laughter]*—leaned over and I think said to her, "I'll tell you later."

[Jesse laughs.]

"I've got a PowerPoint for you."

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:37:46 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* "I've got a PowerPoint for ya!"

00:37:50 John Host But Bailiff Jesse, you make a fine point. So bring it home for us.

00:37:53 Jesse Host Is that what's going on here, Rick? Do you have a, you know, 15, 20-year relationship with a woman to whom you have only suggested... Czech New Wave films? And you can't bring yourself to, uh, suggest a classic film that might actually fit her sensibilities?

00:38:14 Rick Guest I have had some success in, like, you know, introducing her to a Charlie Chaplin movie, and she's really liked that. And so I—I've been able to find things. But there has to be, like, this right... atmosphere in the air for me to kinda just drop it on her and—and it work out.

00:38:33 Nikki Guest I'll admit it, I'm fickle.

[Someone laughs.]

00:38:35 John Host Yeah!

00:38:36 Nikki Guest And let's—let's make this, like, clear, too. I'll watch *Mary Poppins*, like, once every five or ten years.

00:38:41 John Host Right.

00:38:42 Nikki Guest Like, I've gotta be in the right mood to—to watch it.

00:38:45 John Host Right. Okay. And—*[sighs]*. Just so that I understand this. Same day, after *Roman Holiday* gets shut down—*[stifles laughter]*—by your—by your axe-wielding husband Rick—and then you turn on *The Irishman*, and you didn't... see what was gonna happen, at that point?

[Someone laughs.]

00:39:02 Nikki Guest I just saw the trailer on Netflix! We have the same—like, we use the same account.

00:39:06 John Host Mm-hm.

00:39:08 Nikki Guest And, like, we don't separate it, 'cause we—we do share it with a couple other people. Um—

00:39:14 Rick Guest We don't do that.

[Nikki laughs.]

If Netflix is listening, we do not do that; that's a lie.

[Nikki laughs.]

But we do. No—

00:39:18 Nikki Guest Well, we've got, you know, separate profiles and stuff, so... But we just share our own, and I—I saw it, and I saw the trailer, and I was like, "This sounds like this could be fun, and it's not an older movie. Let's go!" And then he got really upset then, too.

00:39:34 Jesse Host I put a streaming service onto my streaming box that only shows those public domain Max Fleischer *Superman* cartoons.

00:39:41 John Host Ooh! Those are very beautiful to watch. You hate those, too, Rick? 'Cause of superheroes?

00:39:46 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:39:47 John Host Boy, oh boy, oh boy. You don't like fun, huh?

00:39:49 Nikki Guest He's good with *Batman*!

00:39:50 Rick Guest I like—I like *Batman*! Yeah!

00:39:52 John Host Oh, boy. Which is your favorite *Batman*, Rick?

00:39:54 Rick Guest Eh, probably *The Dark Knight*.

00:39:55 John Host Yeah. Saw that coming.

00:39:56 Rick Guest Yeah...

00:39:57 John Host Chrissy Nolan all the way.

00:39:58 Rick Guest I mean—yeah. Yeah.

[Nikki laughs.]

I'm a fan, for sure.

00:40:00 John Host "Let's make—let's do a superhero movie as though it were... a Scorsese movie." That was the—that's how you cross those streams.

00:40:06 Rick Guest I think that's why I like *Batman* so much, because they do ground it way more than others.

00:40:11 John Host Yeah.

00:40:12 Jesse Host Yeah. It's like, you can really feel the convertible Bat Tank. You know?

[Rick laughs, Jesse stifles laughter.]

It has a certain heft to its six-foot-tall off-road wheels. And also it turns super skinny to go through—to go through alleys.

00:40:31 John Host If I were to rule in your favor—I love it when it turns super skinny to go through alleys. That's great.

00:40:34 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:40:36 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:40:37 John Host That should be in every car. It's a good feature. *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:40:39 Jesse Host Mm-hm!

00:40:40 John Host You lean forward into the engine, and all of the sudden, you're in a super skinny version of your car. So you can go through alleys.

00:40:43 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:40:44 John Host Should be standard! Don't know why it isn't. If I were to rule in your favor, Nikki, what would you have me rule?

00:40:49 Nikki Guest Um, that any movies older than ten years, I should just be able to watch them if I want to. Like, anything, like, within the ten-year mark, if he wants to watch them together, then I'm good with that! I can wait. But *Charade*'s been around for a long time. Just saying.

00:41:07 John Host *Charade* is not getting any younger. It's true, Rick.

[Rick laughs.]

What would you have me rule if I were to rule in your favor?

00:41:11 Rick Guest Um... That if anything is, let's say, pre-1970, maybe see if I wanna watch it first! 'Cause—

00:41:20 John Host Wait.

00:41:21 Rick Guest —I'm probably gonna be interested.

00:41:22 John Host You—wait, wait. If it's anything pre-1970...

00:41:25 Rick Guest Mm-hm.

00:41:27 John Host You—you get to watch it first. Before Nikki can watch it.

[Pause.]

[Stifling laughter] Wait a minute; that's a different thing than what you just said before!

00:41:35 Rick Guest *[Stifling laughter]* Was it?

[Nikki laughs.]

00:41:37 John Host Yeah. Little bit.

00:41:40 Rick Guest *[Laughing]* Okay.

00:41:41 John Host You want—you called dibs on all movies pre-1970.

00:41:44 Rick Guest I did.

00:41:46 John Host Nikki can't watch a pre-1970 movie until you've got—until you've... logged it in your eyeballs.

[More laughter.]

00:41:52 Rick Guest Not until I've—I mean, not until I've seen it, but just, you know, have me there to watch with! 'Cause I'm—I would—

00:41:58 Nikki Guest I even disagree with that, because a couple weeks ago, I tried to watch *Romeo and Juliet*, and he threw a fit.

00:42:03 John Host The Zeffirelli?

00:42:04 Nikki Guest And was like—

00:42:07 John Host Or the, um, Baz Luhrmann?

00:42:08 Nikki Guest Um—

00:42:09 Rick Guest No, no, this would be the Leonardo DiCaprio, Claire Danes—

00:42:10 John Host Yeah, the Baz Luhrmann.

00:42:11 Rick Guest Right. The Baz Luhrmann one.

00:42:12 Jesse Host *Romeo ± Juliet.*

00:42:13 John Host *Romeo ± Juliet.*

00:42:14 Rick Guest Yes.

00:42:15 John Host And what happened?

00:42:16 Nikki Guest I had to shut it off!

00:42:17 John Host What do you mean you "had to shut it off"? You have agency as a

human being! He came in and asked you to shut it off, and you did it?

00:42:23	Nikki	Guest	Yeah.
00:42:24	John	Host	Ugh.
00:42:25	Nikki	Guest	And I was just like, "You know, I was just feeling it!" 'Cause I love—I—it's been a long time since I've seen it, and I love the band Garbage, and I was like, "I'll probably hear some Garbage music playing," and...
00:42:34	John	Host	Right.
00:42:36	Nikki	Guest	You know.
00:42:37	Jesse	Host	You'll get a taste of that particular horniness of the late 1990s? <i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
00:42:39	Nikki	Guest	Yes! I absolutely love it.
00:42:42	John	Host	<i>That Particular Horniness of the Late 1990s</i> is the new Bo Burnham movie, I think. <i>[Jesse and a litigant laugh.]</i> I'm really excited that that joke landed, 'cause I was really out on a limb.
00:42:50	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
00:42:51	John	Host	<u>Really</u> out on a limb. <i>[More laughter.]</i> Okay, I think I've heard enough in order to make my verdict. I'm going to, uh—I'm going to get into my <u>very</u> very skinny car, go through some alleys. I'll be right back. There are no alleys here in Maine! I'll just be skinny—I'll just be skinny on Route 1. Gonna get skinny on Route 1, and I'll be back in a moment with my verdict.
00:43:05	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]</i>
00:43:06	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.
00:43:12	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:43:13	Jesse	Host	Nikki. Do you think that if Rick wasn't working overtime when you started watching this movie, you would have invited him to watch it with you?
00:43:23	Nikki	Guest	Yeah!
00:43:24	Jesse	Host	Do you think you would've been happy to watch it with him, had he wandered in and been <u>leaving</u> work?
00:43:30	Nikki	Guest	I really didn't think he'd be interested. Because— <i>[laughs]</i> —he told me he didn't like Audrey Hepburn, so... But I would have invited him. I would have asked him, for sure.
00:43:38	Jesse	Host	What do you think about your chances in this case?
00:43:40	Nikki	Guest	I don't think they're very good.
00:43:41	Jesse	Host	Mm.
00:43:42	Nikki	Guest	But—

00:43:43 Jesse Host Why's that?

00:43:44 Nikki Guest I don't know! I just have a feeling it won't go well. *[Laughs.]*

00:43:48 Jesse Host *[Sadly sing-hums part of "Bad to the Bone".]*

[The litigants laugh.]

00:43:55 Rick Guest Rick, how are you feeling about your chances?
Uh, less great compared to before.

[Nikki laughs quietly.]

00:43:59 Jesse Host But... I'm still conf—
Rick, what's your—what's your favorite overall Walter Matthau movie?

00:44:03 Rick Guest Oh, Walter Matthau... Boy, that's—hoo, that's a tough one!

00:44:06 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:44:07 Rick Guest I do really like *Taking of Pelham 123*.

00:44:08 Jesse Host Yeah, movie owns.

00:44:11 Rick Guest Especially if you're gonna talk about a movie that really showcases Walter Matthau.

00:44:14 Jesse Host I mean, *Charade*, of course, is probably the greatest showcase for it, but go ahead.

00:44:18 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** Yeah—I know you haven't seen that one.

Rick: *[Laughs.]* I wouldn't know.

00:44:20 Rick Guest Um, but yeah! Yeah, I'll just go with *Taking of Pelham 123*, just because...

00:44:23 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:44:24 Rick Guest I—I know I'm forgetting something that I probably sh—would rather answer, but...

00:44:28 Jesse Host Seen *The Odd Couple*?

00:44:29 Rick Guest Yes! Yes.

00:44:30 Jesse Host He was great in that one.

00:44:31 Rick Guest Mm-hm!

00:44:32 Jesse Host Uh, *A New Leaf*? Have you seen the Elaine May movie *A New Leaf*?

00:44:34 Rick Guest I have not! I've heard of it.

00:44:36 Jesse Host Kind of a screwball comedy. That's a—that's a really good one. Uh, *Charley Varrick*? Have you seen that one?

00:44:41 Rick Guest No, I have not.

00:44:42 Jesse Host Hoo, that's a really good one. Uh, *Hopscotch*! Have you seen that one? That's the one where he's a CIA agent who's trying to leave the agency, and he's just flying around on his own airplane?

00:44:50 Rick Guest I had not even heard of it—

[Jesse exhales thoughtfully.]

—until it came up on the docket episode.

00:44:55 Jesse Host Boy. Well, looks like you've got your work cut out for you, no matter how this case goes.

00:45:01 Rick Guest Yeah!

00:45:02 Jesse Host Uh, how do you feel about your chances?

00:45:03 Rick Guest Uh... Less great than I hoped, but, um, I'm—I'm confident that justice will prevail.

[Someone snorts.]

00:45:11 Jesse Host Yeah. I mean—*[exhales sharply]*. I just—I would love to get you into a 1980 *Hopscotch*.

00:45:17 Rick Guest Yeah.

00:45:18 Jesse Host Uh, if I can.

00:45:19 Rick Guest I'll seek it out!

00:45:20 Jesse Host I know I'm not the closer here, but...

[Someone laughs quietly.]

00:45:21 Rick Guest Regardless of what happens, I'll seek out *Hopscotch*.

00:45:23 Jesse Host We'll see what Judge Hodgman has to say about all this when we come back in just a minute.

00:45:27 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:45:29 Promo Promo *These dynamic promos have not been transcribed, as they change weekly.*

00:46:06 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:46:08 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]*

00:46:09 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.

00:46:15 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Door shuts.]*

00:46:17 John Host I rarely do this, but I do have to ask a question. That I should have asked earlier. Which is: Why haven't you seen any of these Walter Matthau movies? I thought you were a film fanatic.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:46:28 Rick Guest I've seen Walter Matthau movies! Just—it was just none of the ones that he mentioned.

00:46:32 John Host Well—

00:46:33 Nikki Guest It's probably another one he was like, "Yeah, I don't like it."

00:46:34 John Host Well, look, you know—

[Nikki laughs.]

00:46:35 Jesse Host Yeah, I guess I was just listing the best Walter Matthau movies, so it makes sense.

[One or more people laugh.]

00:46:39 Rick Guest I mean, I've seen—I've seen *The Fortune Cookie*, I've seen—

00:46:42 John Host Oh—Rick, don't defend yourself. This is where I talk.

[Rick sighs/laughs.]

00:46:46 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:46:47 John Host But you can answer this question for me. Like, do you find it hard—given the amount of overtime that you're working—

00:46:52 Rick Guest Mm-hm.

00:46:53 John Host Do you find it hard to watch as many movies as you would like? Is that why you're so low on your Mattheu batting average?

00:46:59 Rick Guest Yeah! Yeah. There's a mix of that, and I also like to re-watch movies a lot. Like, I kinda—there's that little kid sensibility of watching the same movie a lot that never quite went away with me.

00:47:10 John Host Mm-hm. And do you find that you would like to watch more movies, but part of the reason is that you're working, and also part of the reason is that... Nikki doesn't wanna watch certain movies with you?

00:47:20 Rick Guest Yeah! Yeah. That's accurate.

00:47:21 John Host And so—and that—that, uh, lowers the amount of time you can devote to... moviedom.

00:47:26 Rick Guest Mm-hm.

00:47:27 John Host Movie—film fanaticism, as it were.

00:47:28 Rick Guest Yes.

00:47:29 John Host A combo of professional obligation, a partner that doesn't share your taste, and the fact that what movie time you do have, you're wasting watching *The Dark Knight* over and over and over again instead of watching something new.

00:47:41 Rick Guest Yes.

00:47:42 John Host Rick, it is hard for me to understand how I could have found in your favor on the docket.

[Rick laughs.]

I like you. We're having fun together. I love the Fortville vibe that I'm getting from both of you.

[Nikki laughs quietly.]

I enjoyed the cameo appearance of your cat. What is your cat's name?

00:47:59 Nikki Guest *[Laughs.]* Oh, this one's Calzone.

00:48:03 John Host Calzone? Right.

00:48:04 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Nikki:** Yeah.

Rick: Mm-hm.

00:48:05 Jesse Host Good cat name.

00:48:06 John Host That's a good cat name.

[Nikki laughs.]

How many cats do you have?

00:48:08 Nikki Guest

Three.

00:48:09 John Host

What are their—what are all their names?

00:48:10 Nikki Guest

Um, there's Calzone.

00:48:11 John Host

Mm-hm.

00:48:12 Nikki Guest

Lillian. And Michael Keaton.

[John snorts. Someone bursts out laughing.]

00:48:14 John Host

This—this is—see, but Nikki, this is what I don't—I don't—it's like Joel Mann all over again. I don't know where this is coming from.

[More laughter.]

There's a—what—Calzone? Lilli—like, I love it! Calzone? A lot of cats are shaped like a Calzone; I get it. Naming a cat for food—

[Someone cracks up.]

I love a—I love a—any animal that has a—a actual human name? Lillian? And then you go to Michael Keaton. You're all over the map, Nikki; you're hard to read.

[More laughter.]

Like, here's the thing! This is what I'm saying about Rick. Rick, you're a gatekeeper, and it's terrible. It's a bad, bad thing.

[More laughter; Nikki cracks up.]

As I was saying earlier, you know, being the pale guy with glasses who likes movies? That is, um, what we call in the movie trade a "cliché" at this point.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:49:04 Rick Guest

Ah.

00:49:05 John Host

And it is not a terrific look. It's—people like what they like. That is settled law. And you are absolutely entitled to like all the movies that you like. You are absolutely entitled to re-watch *The Dark Knight* all the time. To know as much about the movies that you love. To wanna talk about them. To share them with your friends, and give them PowerPoint presentations. And it's—I guess you have friends who come back after seeing these PowerPoint presentations, for more! And that's great.

Equally, it is absolutely Nikki's right to like what she likes. And to develop the taste that she wants to develop, in the way that she wants to! You don't have dibs over seventies movies. What we watch does not make us who we are. The culture that we take in is not who we are. That is not a brand of identity.

And I would say if you were really a film fanatic—and I know that it's hard to do it—but, you know, get out there and watch as many movies as you can, as often as you can. Different ones, new ones. Take in more culture. You don't have a lot of ti—do you have—I know you have three cats, but do you have kids by any chance?

00:50:13 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Nikki: No.

Rick: No.

00:50:14 John Host

No. All you should be doing, Rick, is watching movies right now.

00:50:17 Rick Guest

I agree!

00:50:18 John Host

Yeah. Get rid of these blind spots. And don't try to police what Nikki is watching or not watching!

Settled law on *Judge John Hodgman*: We don't force other people to watch movies, because they're "good," quote-unquote-unquote. You can offer. And if they say no, that's it! That's all you can do. People like what they like. Or if they give it a shot and they don't like it, that's fine! That's the way it goes. And if they wanna watch *Charade*... just let 'em watch *Charade*! You can't not let someone—person you care about—not watch a movie!

I don't understand how it got to this point, Nikki! That he could say, "Don't watch that," and you—*[stifles laughter]*—at no point in this conversation do the two of you say, "Maybe let's save it for later!"

[Nikki laughs.]

"When I'm done my work, can we watch this together?"

Nikki, though, I gotta say something. You're unpredictable. You're fickle.

00:51:04 Nikki Guest

[Laughs.] I am.

00:51:05 John Host

Yeah!

00:51:07 Nikki Guest

I am those things.

00:51:08 John Host

You're fickle. You—this is—these are your words!

00:51:10 Nikki Guest

[Laughs.] One minute I wanna watch it, the next minute the moment's gone!

00:51:13 John Host

Yeah. It's hard—you're hard to grab! Hard to grab. I have to say, the other thing I don't like about Rick: Unreliable narrator.

[Nikki laughs.]

Claims to have never said that he doesn't like Audrey Hepburn; you claim to remember it. So one of you's lying.

But also... speaking of unreliable narrators, I don't buy it, Nikki. I'm sorry. Doesn't pass the smell test. *Charade* to *Roman Holiday* to *The Irishman*? With him coming out each time? *[Stifling laughter]* Getting angrier and angrier and angrier?

[Nikki laughs.]

Beca—[stifles laughter]—because you're doing the thing that he always asked you to do, which is watch old movies? And he can't do it with you? And you're like, "Fine! Here comes *Roman Holiday*."

[Nikki laughs.]

"Mm-hm? Mm. Fine." You made one mistake. One mistake, because you are not a film fanatic like Rick.

[She laughs.]

If you were gonna pull what you were pulling... you would do *Charade* to *Roman Holiday*, then Cary Grant it again with *Gaslight*. 'Cause that's what you were doing. Gaslighter meets gatekeeper.

00:52:09 Nikki Guest

[Laughing] No!

00:52:11 John Host

You cannot tell me that you were not doing that intentionally to bother Rick. He deserved it!

[Nikki is laughing.]

He deserved it. You are under fake oath, and you will probably deny that you were doing it on purpose. I think that there had to have been part of you that was doing it on purpose. To get your—

00:52:30 Nikki Guest

I swear—[laughs]—

00:52:31 John Host

To get—to get your husband to run out of the room, and watch him slowly mentally degrade, like Jack Torrance in *The Shining*.

[Nikki cracks up.]

00:52:39 Jesse Host

Judge Hodgman, they say the key to lying is to embed a kernel of truth. And it seems possible that when she put on that first film, Nikki though, "Well, my husband'll be proud of me if I watch this old movie."

But by the time he came in to stop her the second time, she wants us to believe—?

[Nikki laughs.]

She wants us to believe...?! When she put on *The Irishman*?!

00:53:03 Nikki Guest

In my defense, I have no idea who directed *The Irishman*.

00:53:05 John Host

Wow.

00:53:06 Nikki Guest

I have no i—I just watched a trailer, and I thought, "Oh!"

00:53:08 John Host

Wow! Wow! I'm watching Rick's brain explode.

[Nikki laughs.]

All of—

00:53:16 Jesse Host

I don't understand how anyone—ANYONE—doesn't know that *The Irishman* was directed by Brendan Fraser.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Can't you guys just find some common ground, *[stifling laughter]* watch *Gods and Monsters*?

00:53:31 Rick Guest

Hey, I think we could make that happen!

00:53:33 Nikki Guest

Never heard of it.

[Someone snorts.]

00:53:34 Rick Guest

Brendan Fraser and Ian McKellen.

[Nikki laughs.]

He plays, uh, the director of the *Frankenstein* movies, James Whale. Ian McKellen does, not Brendan Fraser.

00:53:41 John Host

Yeah, see, this is not—you're not doing—Rick. Rick. Rick.

[Someone laughs quietly.]

00:53:45 Rick Guest

[Laughing] I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

00:53:47 John Host

I want you two to be happy.

[Nikki laughs.]

And what's missing here is a generosity of communication between the two of you. A presumption of good intention. When Nikki puts on *Charade*, do not automatically leap to the presumption that she is gaslighting you. She is purposefully annoying you. She claims that's not true! Even though I suspect it, I believe her if she says that it's not true.

Presume good intention. Say, "I would like to watch this with you! Can you wait until later?" I will never, ever, ever let you put dibs on movies to watch before her.

And I would also say, Rick, that you should not... start doing a PowerPoint presentation the moment you are trying to get Nikki to watch a movie. *[Stifles laughter.]* You don't have to be talking about how it's a biopic about James Whale the director of *Frankenstein*! That is not gonna—that's not a logline that's gonna work for Nikki.

00:54:42 Jesse Host

There's a reason Nikki's the closer.

00:54:44 John Host

Yeah.

[The litigants laugh.]

That's a good point, Jesse! Bailiff Jesse Thorn... gets to the crux before I do! Nikki knows how to close a deal! Nikki knows how to make it happen!

[Nikki chuckles.]

You gotta take a lesson fr—Nikki, how would you—how would you get Rick to watch a movie with you?

00:54:58 Nikki Guest

I would show him a trailer to pique his interest. And that's what I

would like in return, is if he's interested in something, and I'm just kinda like, "Eh, I don't think I'm feeling it." Watch a trailer! And if I'm interested in the trailer, we can watch it. So... yeah.

00:55:13 John Host

Wow. Nikki just closed the deal, Rick. Just play the trailer!

[Rick sighs.]

Play the trailer. It's designed to get people to wanna watch the movie.

00:55:19 Rick Guest

Okay.

00:55:20 John Host

You know what I mean? Like, there's a reason that when, uh, a movie comes out, the trailer is not... a guy who looks like you or me with glasses, saying, "Okay, here's why this is important. Here's why—"

[Multiple people laugh.]

You know what I mean? Like, they have professional people trying to trick you into watching this movie.

00:55:37 Jesse Host

Yeah! They show you what would make someone want to watch the movie. They show you that Russell Crowe is on a ship. They SHOW you that there's different knots, and rope things!

00:55:46 John Host

Right.

00:55:47 Jesse Host

You know, they show you that there's a dangerous storm! And he's friends with a doctor on the ship!

00:55:52 John Host

Paul Bettany. Yeah.

00:55:53 Jesse Host

Paul Bettany.

00:55:54 John Host

I highly recommend that you watch *Master and Commander*—what's the full title again, Jesse?

00:55:59 Jesse Host

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World. It's a really terrific movie. I hope you enjoy it!

00:56:05 Crosstalk Crosstalk

Rick: I will do that.

John: See? That's all you have to say.

00:56:06 John Host

Then watch the trailer, and then you—

00:56:08 Nikki Guest

Do you have a PowerPoint for him?

00:56:09 John Host

No. I don't have a PowerPoint for him.

00:56:11 Jesse Host

Yeah. Janelle Bouie has one, though, that he'd like to show you.

[Multiple people laugh, Jesse stifles laughter.]

00:56:15 John Host

So wait a minute! How am I gonna rule on this one? I mean, I—I've given you both a lot of guff. And I hope you appreciate that it's from a—a place of affection. I like you guys, I like Calzone, I like Lillian, I like, uh—*[stifles laughter]*—Michael Keaton, which is a pretty cool cat name.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:56:30 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:56:32 John Host And I hope that you both understand that the important thing here is to respect each other's separate tastes. Which I don't think is a problem for you, Nikki. You respect Rick's taste, right?

00:56:43 Nikki Guest Absolutely.

00:56:44 John Host Yeah. Respect each other's respective tastes. And hope that you can share your taste with them, rather than get upset if Nikki's doing something off-brand in your marriage, like watching a fun movie. Without you. Like, a fun old movie. You want her to watch fun old movies!

So. Since you asked for the ruling, Rick—*[stifles laughter]*—that I give you dibs on first watch of all movies that are made before 1970, I cannot rule that—rule in your favor on that one.

[Nikki chuckles, John stifles laughter.]

But since—since Nikki, I think, is playing head games, I'm going to stress: Seriously, Nikki, no more head games with Rick.

[One or both litigants laugh.]

I know that you can—I know... I know how tempting it is. I can feel it.

[Nikki laughs.]

But Rick is gonna be more inclusive. Less gatekeep-y. Less professorial. Less talk-y in his suggestions. And... you're both gonna listen to what the other person says, and, uh, and try to find a compromise, rather than play weird—mm, weird games of, like...

[Nikki laughs quietly.]

...winding Rick up by playing more and more old movies that he would like to see. And one new movie that... made old guys look young, that I did not see. That's *The Irishman*.

00:57:57 John Host So I find in favor of Nikki. She can watch what she wants to watch. Just like, Rick, you can watch what you wanna watch. But if Nikki is watching something that intrigues you? Then... make a date! To watch it together.

So Nikki, if Rick is doing—working overtime, and you decide to put on Turner Classic Movies or whatever, and he runs out, it is a good idea for you to wait for him. To watch a movie, if he expressed interest in it. That would be a nice thing to do, the two of you to—sit together and watch a movie. That's a—a nice thing for a couple to do.

And Rick, if you want Nikki to watch a movie, just show her the trailer.

I find in Nikki's favor; this is the sound of a gavel.

00:58:35 Music Music Brief guitar from "Bad to the Bone."

00:58:36 John Host Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.

00:58:38 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]*

00:58:39 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:58:45 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Door shuts.]*

00:58:46 Jesse Host Nikki, how do you feel?

00:58:47 Nikki Guest Shocked. Excited. Vindicated.

[Jesse sing-hums "Bad to the Bone" again. The litigants laugh.]

00:58:55 Jesse Host Rick, how are you feeling?

00:58:56 Rick Guest *[Stifling laughter]* Outraged, incensed, and I will appeal.

00:58:59 Jesse Host There's no appeals process.

[Nikki laughs.]

00:59:01 Rick Guest There ca—can there be one?

00:59:03 John Host You already got two hearings! You each took one home.

[The litigants laugh.]

00:59:07 Jesse Host If I were you—if I were you, Rick—this is your time to start writing lists of fun movies you haven't seen, and finding the trailers!

00:59:17 Rick Guest I will get on that.

00:59:18 Jesse Host Well, Rick, Nikki, thanks for joining us on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:59:22 Rick Guest Thank you so much!

00:59:23 Nikki Guest Thank you!

00:59:24 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:59:26 Jesse Host Another *Judge John Hodgman* case in the books! In a moment, we'll dispense some Swift Justice. First, our thanks to David Hoffman for naming this week's episode, "The Motion is Cary Granted." If you'd like to name a future episode, like *Judge John Hodgman* [on Facebook](#). We put out calls for submissions there.

Our producer is Jennifer Marmor, our editor 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, and you can follow Joel on Instagram. His handle there is [@themainemann](https://www.instagram.com/themainemann).

You can follow us on Twitter at [@JesseThorn](https://twitter.com/JesseThorn) and [@hodgman](https://twitter.com/hodgman). Hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](https://twitter.com/hashtag/JJHo), and check out the Maximum Fun subreddit to [discuss this episode](https://www.reddit.com/r/discuss_this_episode). We're on Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). Make sure to follow us there for evidence and other fun stuff.

If you have made it this far through the show, make sure to get your tickets to our live streaming show from the London Podcast Festival, Kings Place in London, England. That is right around the corner. Tickets are on sale. You don't have to live in England to watch that program. Uh, you don't even have to watch it live. If you can't make it live, you can watch it for several days afterwards on their player.

01:00:40 Jesse Host Uh, it is only—ONLY—going to be live and streaming from Kings Place and the London Podcast Festival, so get. your. tickets. now.

Now, Swift Justice! Where we answer small disputes with quick judgment. Roger says:

"On a game show, when they ask where you're from, you should say your current town and state. My wife says it's your birth town and state."

01:01:04 John Host Normally, I will say that if someone asks you, "Where are you from?" they are wanting to know where you grew up. But I believe there is a game show exception. If a game show asks, "Where are you from?" they wanna know where you are living and residing now, so that you might give a brief anecdote about what is happening in your life now.

01:01:24 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:01:26 John Host Of course, the best thing to say, if you're a contestant on a game show, is to tell the host that you want to be a race car driver... but you can't.

[Jesse laughs quietly.]

That's a reference to our friends Kasper Hauser. *[Stifles laughter.]* "[Phone Call to the 14th Century](#)." Check it out! On [MaximumFun.org](#).

01:01:42 Jesse Host You know, on these, uh, more recent *Jeopardys*, because of the pandemic—I learned this on *Stop Podcasting Yourself*. Because of the pandemic, they were only casting *Jeopardy* locally.

01:01:54 John Host Mm.

01:01:55 Jesse Host 'Cause they didn't wanna make people travel.

01:01:56 John Host Sure.

01:01:57 Jesse Host And so they were asking everyone, "Where are you from originally?" In order to disguise the fact that everyone competing was basically from Culver City.

[Both laugh.]

01:02:08 John Host Oh, wow! Well, that's the—that—that's the exception to the exception to the rule.

01:02:12 Jesse Host There you go.

That's it for this week's *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. Submit your cases at [MaximumFun.org/jjho](#), or email hodgman@maximumfun.org. No case is too small! Make sure to let us know, uh, what your recording situation is, and if you happen to be in the United Kingdom or Europe!

[MaximumFun.org/jjho](#). We'll see you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:02:37 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

01:02:40 Music Transition A cheerful ukulele chord.

01:02:41 Speaker 1 Guest [MaximumFun.org](#).

01:02:42 Speaker 2 Guest Comedy and culture.

01:02:43 Speaker 3 Guest Artist owned—
01:02:44 Speaker 4 Guest —audience supported.