

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: "Fright Court."
			Jessie files suit against her husband Carter. Carter says he grew up in a haunted house, but Jessie doesn't believe him.
			Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide.
00:00:20	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:21	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:26	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:27	John Hodgman	Host	<i>[Slightly deepening and quavering his voice, putting on a somewhat wandering European accent, and sometimes rolling his Rs, which will be indicated with "rrr"]</i>
			"Aaare there ghosts? Or... <u>aren't</u> there ghosts? Wouldn't you really like to know?
			I saw a ghost once. Or, I <u>think</u> I did. And it frrrightened me so much, as it approached my bedside, that when I scrreamed, no sssound came out of my mouth!
			Mysteries have <u>always</u> intrigued me. To the point where I am determined to solve them. So... like Don Quixote, I set out on a quest in New England to see if I could unrrravel the mystery of the hauntings. Accompanying me on most of these sojourns was Brian, the monk. A lay Frrranciscan, who did a <u>remarkable</u> job of capturing some of these illusive spirits on film.
			But our odyssey wasn't as much frrrightening as it was <u>fascinating</u> . We did, however, have a few <u>crrreeepy</u> experiences, as well as a few <u>laughs</u> . And we listened to many <u>podcasts</u> !
			Bailiff Jesse Thorn, swear them in."
			<i>[Beat.]</i>
00:02:08	Jesse	Host	Please rise and raise your right hands.
00:02:09	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:02:10	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God <u>or</u> whatever?
00:02:17	Jessie	Guest	I do.
00:02:18	Carter	Guest	Whatever.
00:02:19	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that the show is now over?
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			He spent the entire time doing that obscure cultural reference.

*[John continues laughing, delightedly, in the voice he used for the reference.]*

00:02:29 Jessie Guest

Yes.

00:02:30 John Host

*[In the voice]* I could go on. I could go on!

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:02:33 Jesse Host

Judge Hodgman, you may proceed in your normal voice, please.

*[Jesse and John laugh quietly.]*

00:02:37 John Host

*[In his normal voice, though still slightly deeper and raspier than usual]*

Carter and Jessie, uh, you may be seated.

00:02:39 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[Chairs scrape.]*

00:02:40 John Host

For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, can either of you name the piece of... uh, culture that I was direct quoting from until the very end, when I made a reference to podcasts, which is non-contemporaneous with this piece of culture?

Uh, Jessie—not Jesse Thorn, Jessie... Litigant. Jessie with an I. You can hear me pronounce it differently, right? *[He is not.]* Jesse vs. Jessie. Obviously I'm talking to you, Jessie.

00:03:04 Jessie Guest

Yep.

00:03:05 John Host

Why don't you guess first?

00:03:06 Jessie Guest

Um, I'm going to guess The Haunted Mansion at Disneyland.

00:03:10 John Host

The Haunted Mansion at Disneyland.

00:03:13 Jessie Guest

Where you're—where you're waiting in the line. That part.

00:03:15 John Host

Oh, of course! Yeah!

*[Going into the voice]*

There's always my way out! *[Cackles.]*

*[Back to normal.]*

The Stretching Room, they call it. I like that guess. It's a good guess. I'm putting it in the book.

*[Pencil scratching on paper.]*

It's a dusty old cobwebby book, 'cause of the—Halloween is approaching. Alright, Carter, what's your guess?

00:03:32 Carter Guest

Based on the region that we're talking about in this podcast—

00:03:35 John Host

Mm-hm.

00:03:36 Carter Guest

—and some of the spooky nature of that area. Providence in general. Um, I'm—

00:03:40 John Host

Mm-hm. Right, we're talking about New—we're talking about New England.

00:03:43	Carter	Guest	New England. Yes.
00:03:44	John	Host	Rhode Island, specifically, by the way, Carter, which is where you're from.
00:03:47	Carter	Guest	From—
00:03:48	John	Host	Thank you for representing little Rhodey. Finally we've got—
00:03:50	Carter	Guest	Small state, big heart.
00:03:51	John	Host	What'd you say?
00:03:52	Carter	Guest	Small state, big heart.
00:03:53	John	Host	Small state, big heart! Wow. Is that a—a motto that I don't know? Excellent.
00:03:57	Carter	Guest	It's not really—
00:03:58	John	Host	Alright.
00:03:59	Jesse	Host	Carter's here pitching Rhode Island mottos.
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
00:04:01	Carter	Guest	Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. Of course. I—I don't know if you guys have heard about some of their marketing tactics, but, uh, I—I think they could use a—
00:04:07	John	Host	Uh, you remember this little tune?
			<i>[Singing]</i>
			"The biggest little state in the Union! Rhode Island, Rhode Island, come and seee!"
00:04:15	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<i>[Carter laughs.]</i>
			<b>Carter:</b> It's a classic!
			<b>John:</b> That was on television a <u>lot</u> when I was growing up.
00:04:17	Carter	Guest	Yeah, that's classic!
00:04:18	John	Host	I was like, "No, I'm not going down there!"
			<i>[John, Carter, and maybe Jesse laugh.]</i>
			So you can't get me to go down there!
00:04:23	Carter	Guest	You're missing out, I think.
00:04:24	John	Host	Exactly.
00:04:25	Carter	Guest	No, uh— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —I'm gonna say maybe Edgar Allan Poe? But I mean—or—
			<i>[John says something inaudible.]</i>
			'Cause he—he spent some time in Providence. <u>Or</u> there's the—
00:04:34	John	Host	Yeah. I don't think Edgar Allan Poe drove around with a lay Franciscan monk, taking photos—
00:04:37	Carter	Guest	Oh, was there driving in that? Aw, darn it!

00:04:40 Jesse Host Guys, let's talk this through more!

*[John and the litigants laugh.]*

00:04:44 Carter Guest Alright. Uh, I'm gonna say, uh, H. G. Lovecraft, the horror writer who wrote out of Providence.

00:04:48 John Host It's definitely not H. G. Lovecraft. Uh, you might be thinking of Howard Phillips Lovecraft, H. P. Lovecraft, the—

00:04:54 Carter Guest Yes.

00:04:55 John Host The famous Providencian horror writer and—and—and—and racist.

No, this was, um, a book—and I'm gonna show it to you here on our teleconference—called *Haunted Happenings*, by Robert Ellis Cahill. One of a—a whole series of slender little, uh, books that are sold up there in Maine at, uh, Perry's Nut House. Including *Witches and Wizards*, *Ghostly Haunts*, *Marvelous Monsters*, *Mad Mysterious Men*, *Strange Sea Sagas*, *Finding New England Shipwrecks*, uh, *Visitors from Outer Space*, uhhh, and *Naughty Navy*. Uh, that one I think probably... is not for kids.

Uh, it's just a piece—a junky old book that I've got. Robert Ellis Cahill. With—and it features new photos of old coasts.

The person I was impersonating, of course, is the great New York City storyteller famous on The Moth and a downtown fixture of New York theatre and storytelling, Edgar Oliver. Check him out. Go check out Edgar Oliver on your YouTube, and you will see that, uh, he is a—he is a different kind of person.

But here we are now to hear this case. Who seeks justice in this court? Is it—is it you, Jessie with an I?

00:06:02 Jessie Guest Yes. It is me.

00:06:03 John Host What is the nature of your dispute?

00:06:05 Jessie Guest Carter has, uh, long contended that he grew up in a haunted house.

00:06:09 John Host Yeah.

00:06:10 Jessie Guest And I have two problems. One, the evidence is... sketchy at best.

00:06:15 John Host Right.

00:06:16 Jessie Guest And two, he doesn't believe in an afterlife. So... how can you believe in hauntings?

00:06:23 John Host Right, okay!

00:06:24 Jessie Guest It just doesn't jive.

00:06:25 John Host This is very exciting so far. Carter, uh, Jessie feels that there isn't strong evidence that your—that the house you grew up in is haunted, unlike all those other—*[laughs]*—case-closed, obviously haunted houses with—

*[John and Jesse laugh.]*

—absolutely no subjective interpretation possible. They're definitely haunted; the proof is there.

			You grew up in Rhode Island.
00:06:48	Carter	Guest	Yes.
00:06:49	John	Host	Tell me about your haunted house.
00:06:50	Carter	Guest	So, uh, I grew up on Halsey Street—
00:06:53	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:06:54	Carter	Guest	—which is right off of Benefit Street, on the east side of Providence.
00:06:56	John	Host	Okay.
00:06:57	Carter	Guest	And, uh, it was actually two homes that shared a wall. And the front was at 25—
00:07:03	John	Host	So like a—like a—two homes—
00:07:05	Carter	Guest	Not like a duplex. Like, it was a—it—
00:07:07	John	Host	Yeah. I know what you're talking about, though. Like, not—not exactly a row home, 'cause it was—
00:07:11	Jesse	Host	The houses are butt to butt?
00:07:12	Carter	Guest	Kind of!
00:07:13	John	Host	The famous butt-to-butt hou—homes of Providence.
00:07:15	Carter	Guest	Hip to butt, I would say. Would be—
00:07:17	John	Host	Uh-huh.
00:07:18	Carter	Guest	And I lived on the hip side. Um, but 'cause the—'cause it was on a corner. So you have—
00:07:24	John	Host	Oh, wow.
00:07:25	Carter	Guest	—the front of the house, which is 25 Benefit Street. And then you have—just up on the corner there, you have Hal—7 Halsey Street, where I lived. And you know, I would say there was definitely some very, uh, haunting aspects of the home. Um, if you guys have ever—folks have ever been into a situation where you kind of <u>feel</u> something, that hair on the back of your neck can rise up? There were—there were multiple places—
00:07:49	John	Host	How did you know I had only one hair on the back of my neck?
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:07:52	Carter	Guest	Well, I can give you a few if you wanna borrow a couple.
00:07:55	Jessie	Guest	He can.
00:07:56	Carter	Guest	<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i> Um, yeah! But so—so <u>that</u> feeling <u>permeated</u> the house in a lot of ways. Um, especially in the basement. But—uh, and especially at certain times of year. You would kind of feel this spookiness, that hauntingness, especially when you were on your own. If there weren't other people around.
00:08:14	John	Host	Right.
00:08:16	Carter	Guest	And so, you know, related to that—so this was—the reason I talked about the front of the house was because it was, at one point, uh, you know, owned by the Unitarian Church, and was a house of worship but also education for some of the underserved of the community.
00:08:29	John	Host	Okay.

00:08:30	Carter	Guest	Um, before they renovated it into two different homes.
00:08:33	John	Host	Right.
00:08:34	Carter	Guest	As it is today.
00:08:35	John	Host	And they—and they stop—the church decided it didn't wanna own it after the grisly murders?
00:08:39	Carter	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yeah.
00:08:40	Jesse	Host	Yeah. What—what could—this is the <u>most</u> unusual part of the argument. The hair on the back of the neck, that is a classic haunting symptom.
00:08:49	John	Host	Right.
00:08:50	Carter	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:08:51	Jesse	Host	I would not argue that the Unitarians are the spookiest of—
			<i>[Jesse and the litigants laugh.]</i>
00:08:57	John	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Denominations?
00:08:58	Jesse	Host	— <i>[laughing]</i> people who could have previously owned the house.
00:09:00	Carter	Guest	Well—!
00:09:01	Jesse	Host	Like, if you said it was an abattoir before or something— <i>[laughs]</i> —you're like, <i>[laughing]</i> "No, people were meeting together! And embracing the good news about all faiths!"
			<i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:09:13	John	Host	Hey, Jesse, you know—do you know, uh—uh, you know about a Unitarian exorcism? Do you know how that goes?
00:09:18	Jesse	Host	How does it go, John?
00:09:19	John	Host	If there's a—a young person possessed by the devil, you just go into the room and you read the <i>New York Times</i> .
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
			Read the Op Eds section of the <i>New York Times</i> . Quietly to yourself.
			<i>[Someone laughs.]</i>
			I'm looking at your home. Using— <u>not</u> using my mental psychic powers. I am actually looking at your— <i>[laughs]</i> —uh, I'll tell you <u>this</u> story later. Maybe I'll—well, maybe I won't.
			Bailiff Jesse Thorn without an I, remind me about my psychic powers later, okay?
00:09:50	Jesse	Host	I'll try.
00:09:51	John	Host	Okay. Just send me a—send—you know, but don't <u>say</u> anything about it. Just send me a message, psychically. Thank you.
			This is a—this is a spooky-looking home! Did it have a purple door when you were growing up?
00:10:02	Carter	Guest	It did, actually! My mom—my mother picked that, uh—that color.

00:10:06	John	Host	Really!
00:10:07	Carter	Guest	And that's maintained. So—I mean, we left there, you know, in the mid-nineties. So...
00:10:10	John	Host	Fantastic. And now it is going to become a shrine and point of pilgrimage for <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> fans all around the region. Uh, no. Seriously, this is a—a private home, now owned by someone else.
00:10:22	Carter	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:10:23	Jesse	Host	Yeah. Go focus on that one Wendy's that John likes.
00:10:25	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> You just—you know, make a day of it!
			<i>[Carter chuckles.]</i>
00:10:29	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:10:30	John	Host	You can go to the—you could probably go—hang on. Let me see how far this is away. You—you opened this door!
00:10:34	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> This purple door.
00:10:36	John	Host	You opened this purple door!
			<i>[Typing.]</i>
			To the Wendy's in starred—it's only a 53-minute drive! You could do this whole thing in an afternoon.
00:10:45	Jesse	Host	Yeah. All the important points of New England.
00:10:48	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> From Wendy's on Turnpike Road in Southborough, Massachusetts, 7 Halsey Street, Providence, Rhode Island! I'll see you there!
			Okay. It is a classic New England home that, like many, looks like it could be... haunted. You describe a weird feeling. Were you the only one in your family who felt this way about it, or were there others?
00:11:06	Carter	Guest	No. No, no, no. My—so I lived there with my mother and brother.
00:11:10	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:11:11	Carter	Guest	Uh, and they can also corroborate the—the spooky nature of the home.
00:11:16	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:11:17	Carter	Guest	My mother talks about, uh, how "the ghost" as she called it, uh, arrived generally around Christmastime. Um—
00:11:23	John	Host	I'm sorry, what did she—what did she call the ghost?
00:11:26	Carter	Guest	She calls it a <u>friendly</u> ghost, actually.
00:11:27	John	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> Oh, okay!
00:11:29	Carter	Guest	You know—
00:11:30	John	Host	I was kinda loving your mom for just calling it <u>the</u> ghost. But now—
00:11:32	Carter	Guest	No, no, no—
00:11:33	John	Host	Friendly? So—okay. It's not—that's good! It's better than <u>vengeful</u> ghost.

00:11:37	Carter	Guest	She has a name for the friendly ghost; his name is Clarence.
00:11:39	John	Host	Uh-huh.
00:11:40	Carter	Guest	Uh, which is an homage to <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> .
00:11:41	John	Host	Right!
00:11:42	Carter	Guest	Because he arrives around Christmastime, and... I mean—
00:11:45	John	Host	Clarence, the guardian angel in <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> .
00:11:48	Carter	Guest	Yep. And I think she did that 'cause we were—I mean, we were very small. We moved in when we were, like, four, and probably out when we were—you know. I think I was, like, 12 or 13.
00:11:55	John	Host	Right.
00:11:56	Carter	Guest	And she was like, "Oh, you know. Don't worry, it's Clarence!" You know.
00:11:59	John	Host	"It's Clarence, the friendly ghost!"
00:12:00	Carter	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:12:02	John	Host	"And that Japanese girl who lives in the attic."
00:12:04	Carter	Guest	<i>[Stifling laughter]</i> Yeah.
00:12:05	John	Host	"Whose neck is broken, <i>[stifles laughter]</i> and comes down the stairs like a... spider."
			<i>[Carter laughs.]</i>
			"That's, uh, Zuzu, with her little petals in her pocket!"
00:12:13	Carter	Guest	Exactly. Exactly.
00:12:14	John	Host	Yeah.
00:12:15	Carter	Guest	So... The way that I remember the ghost is it <u>would</u> arrive around Christmastime with, you know, like, appliances turning on and off.
00:12:23	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:12:24	Carter	Guest	We had—you know, we had Christmas lights that would turn on and off. And I—I know that's fairly typical with Christmas lights and old electrical outages and stuff.
00:12:30	John	Host	Right.
00:12:31	Carter	Guest	But we also had a T—
00:12:32	John	Host	Old houses, yeah. Yeah.
00:12:33	Carter	Guest	Old houses. But we also had a TV that would come on and off. Uh, and we also even had a radio that would—
00:12:39	John	Host	Yeah.
00:12:40	Carter	Guest	In the basement, which was the epicenter of the—the hauntedness, obviously, for us—uh, that would come on and off. And you know, that radio had—had no batteries in it. Right?
00:12:50	John	Host	Mm!
00:12:51	Carter	Guest	And I swear it was also not plugged in. Uh, when it—when it was happening.
00:12:55	John	Host	<i>[Laughing]</i> What—



00:12:56	Carter	Guest	That's my recollections. Which is <u>extremely</u> spooky. Right?
00:12:59	John	Host	Yeah! No, I'm—I'm feeling that for sure. And first of all... Tell me about the basement. Is there a rec room down there? Finished basement, or—?
00:13:06	Carter	Guest	So we—yeah. We had this little—yeah, like, basically rec playroom down there, for like, skateboarding and roller-blading and stuff like that.
00:13:14	John	Host	Yeah.
00:13:15	Carter	Guest	And we would—me and my brother would go down there a lot. And that's where you would—if you were down there, even <u>with</u> somebody else, you would feel like there was somebody—something—you were being watched, or something.
00:13:25	John	Host	Right. The ghost was watching you do all your sweet skateboard tricks.
00:13:28	Carter	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> Yes, exactly!
00:13:29	John	Host	Jesse, you don't know this, but in a—in... Not a <u>lot</u> of New England homes, especially the older ones, <u>have</u> basements, but when they do, they're mostly halfpipes.
			<i>[Carter laughs quietly.]</i>
00:13:39	Jesse	Host	Got it.
00:13:40	John	Host	Yeah.
00:13:41	Jesse	Host	Yeah, I'm—I'm surprised.
00:13:42	John	Host	<i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>
			So the radio would— <i>[laughs or coughs]</i> —come on—on and off.
00:13:45	Carter	Guest	The radio would come on and off. The TV would come on and off on the first floor. The Christmas lights would come off. Some of the lights would—
00:13:51	John	Host	Why am I saying, "Come on and off"? Is that a Rhode Island thing that I'm picking up off of you? Turn—turn—
00:13:55	Carter	Guest	I don't think so; that's probably just me.
00:13:57	John	Host	<u>Turn</u> off and on. Turn off and on.
00:13:58	Carter	Guest	Turn—yeah. They would turn off and on.
00:14:00	John	Host	Yeah. Look. I grew up in Brookline, okay? I got <u>brains</u> , like Andy Kaufman. I'm from Brookline. "Turn off and on."
			"Come on and off," though, I like that. Maybe that's a regionalism. I like it.
00:14:11	Carter	Guest	I don't know if it is. I'm—but yeah. It could be! Um, the—the other side of that, the haunting-ness was, uh, on a couple of occasions where my brother and I are roughhousing or fighting and my mother is trying to, like, rein us in.
00:14:26	John	Host	Right.
00:14:27	Carter	Guest	And when she would do that, she would be like—you know, like, "Come on!" You know, "Break it up," or yelling at us to—to lay off. And then, uh, the house was also <u>full</u> of pictures of our family.

00:14:37	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:14:39	Carter	Guest	My mom comes from a <u>big</u> family. They're—you know. Then they've been in Rhode Island for ages.
00:14:43	John	Host	Sure.
00:14:44	Carter	Guest	And the—the second floor of the house had a hallway with a bunch of pictures. Um, and pictures would fall off the wall. But <u>only</u> pictures of me and my brother.
00:14:55	John	Host	Whoa.
00:14:56	Carter	Guest	And so we'd be roughhousing downstairs. Mom would be yelling, trying to gain some control. And then <u>our</u> pictures would fall off the wall.
00:15:03	John	Host	Yeah, but—but Carter, you were roughhousing!
00:15:05	Carter	Guest	Yeah, but I mean—
00:15:06	John	Host	It's right there in the name! You were being rough on the house!
00:15:08	Carter	Guest	Rough— <i>[cracks up]</i> .
00:15:09	John	Host	<i>[Laughs quietly.]</i>
			You were shaking the house from the foundations, you two Rhode Island... kids going at each other, roughhousing!
00:15:18	Carter	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:15:19	John	Host	But it would be—but the fact that it's <u>only</u> your photos falling off the wall...
00:15:21	Carter	Guest	Yeah. Why were—why were the other photos not falling?
00:15:24	John	Host	Mm. Mm-hm.
00:15:25	Jessie	Guest	I have to say something.
00:15:26	John	Host	Jessie with an I, you have been admirably restrained, and I appreciate that. Thank you.
			<i>[Jessie chuckles.]</i>
			But it <u>is</u> time to turn to you for your take on all of this. What—what do you have to say?
00:15:35	Jessie	Guest	Well, one point I would make about the pictures falling off is that his mom tends to just have a <u>lot</u> of pictures of her sons.
00:15:44	John	Host	Mm.
00:15:45	Jessie	Guest	Everywhere.
00:15:46	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:15:47	Jessie	Guest	Um—like, almost exclusively her sons.
			<i>[John cracks up.]</i>
			We went— <i>[laughs]</i> —
00:15:51	John	Host	Okay.
00:15:52	Jessie	Guest	She calls them her perfect sons.
00:15:53	John	Host	Yeah.

00:15:54	Jessie	Guest	Which they are; they're wonderful. But, like, we went to a small little beach cottage. And she brought framed pictures <u>from</u> her house to the beach—
00:16:03	John	Host	Wooow.
00:16:04	Jessie	Guest	—like, vacation cottage. So I—to say that <u>only</u> their pictures fell off would <u>just</u> be to say that pictures fell off.
00:16:10	John	Host	Right. It's only their pictures.
00:16:12	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Jessie:</b> Yes.  <b>Jesse:</b> Yeah.
00:16:13	Carter	Guest	There were other pictures on that wall!
00:16:14	Jesse	Host	Let's take a quick recess, and hear about this week's <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> sponsor! We'll be back in just a moment on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:16:22	Sound Effect	Transition	[Three gavel bangs.]
00:16:25	Jesse	Promo	It's the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, and as always, we are supported... by the folks who are members of Maximum Fun! So thank you to everybody who's <a href="#">become a member</a> of Maximum Fun.  We're also, this week, sponsored by BetterHelp online therapy.
00:16:40	John	Promo	Hey. If you are a car owner, leaser, or renter, you get your car tuned up. Right? You're a responsible car owner, leaser, or renter. You do it to prevent bigger issues down the road. You don't just let it go. You don't just leave it out on the street for the—the interior hoses to be eaten by rats, and forget to ever get an oil change until the car stops, like I did with the Subaru Loyale that I got from my mom after she passed away.  We also get annual check-ups and go to the gym, to maintain <u>physical</u> wellness, and prevent injury and disease.  Well, guess what? There's another thing that you gotta do some preventative maintenance on! That's your brain! Going to therapy is like all of the above. It's routine maintenance for your emotional and mental wellbeing, to prevent bigger issues down the road! Don't let rats on West 104th Street gnaw away at your mental hoses un—until your brain stops!  [Jesse laughs, John stifles laughter.]  Go get some therapy! Therapy doesn't mean something is <u>wrong</u> with you; it means that you're investing in yourself to keep your mind healthy!
00:17:42	Jesse	Promo	I think I've been very open about how much therapy has helped <u>me</u> on this show. There are a lot of ways to get therapy. Uh, in person, online, through your community health center. There are a lot of ways to access therapy. BetterHelp is one of the simplest. It's customized online therapy that offers video, phone, and even live chat sessions with your therapist, so... you don't have to see anyone on camera if you don't want to.

			It can be more <u>affordable</u> than in-person therapy, and you can start communication with your therapist in under 48 hours. So no excuses to, uh, get those hoses replaced, folks. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:18:18	John	Promo	Yeah. So this podcast is <u>sponsored</u> by BetterHelp, and <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> listeners get 10% off their first month at <a href="https://www.betterhelp.com/jjho">BetterHelp.com/jjho</a> .
00:18:29	Jesse	Promo	That's <a href="https://www.betterhelp.com/jjho">B-E-T-T-E-R-H-E-L-P.com/J-J-H-O</a> .  We're also supported this week... by Magic Spoon! Makers... of breakfast cereals, John.
00:18:44	John	Promo	Magic Spoon is just like the sugar cereal that I wanted to eat when I was a kid, but my mom and dad wouldn't let me do it. But it's sooo much better, 'cause it's got <u>zero</u> grams of sugar, 13 to 14 grams of protein, 140 calories, and only <u>four</u> net grams of carb in each serving. And then they come in these cool-looking boxes!
00:19:01	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughs.]</i> They are great boxes.  Peanut butter is my favorite flavor. And I like that it is so protein-filled... because it helps it stick to your ribs! That's why, John. It sticks to your ribs!
00:19:13	John	Promo	Yeah!
00:19:14	Jesse	Promo	If I eat a grain cereal for breakfast, I'm hungry an hour later.
00:19:16	John	Promo	Right!
00:19:17	Jesse	Promo	Um, and I feel like I didn't really get anywhere. But with all the protein in Magic Spoon, I really appreciate that it's a—it's a meal that actually satisfies me, which is something that you can't say about a lot of breakfast cereals!
00:19:29	John	Promo	And it's not just peanut butter. Uh—look. You can build your own box. Available flavors to build your own—very own custom bundle. So, cocoa, fruity, frosted. Blueberry, cinnamon, cookies and cream, <u>and</u> maple waffle.
00:19:42	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>  Go to <a href="https://www.magicspoon.com/jjho">MagicSpoon.com/jjho</a> to grab a custom bundle of cereal and try it today. And be sure to use our promo code "JJHO" at checkout to save \$5 off your order.
00:19:55	John	Promo	<u>And</u> Magic Spoon is so confident in their product, it's backed with a 100% happiness guarantee. So if you don't like it for any reason, they'll refund your money, no questions asked.
00:20:07	Jesse	Promo	Remember, that's <a href="https://www.magicspoon.com/jjho">MagicSpoon.com/jjho</a> , and use the code "JJHO" to save \$5 off.
00:20:16	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:20:18	John	Host	Jessie— <i>[sighs]</i> . Have you ever been in this house?
00:20:22	Jessie	Guest	No.
00:20:23	John	Host	No.
00:20:24	Jessie	Guest	I've only been driven by this house. But I—you know, I wasn't—I wasn't around when Carter was ten.
00:20:28	John	Host	Do you <u>believe</u> in haunted houses?

00:20:30 Jessie Guest No. I believe in the fun of a staged haunted house, which is part of why I'm here. But, uh, no, I don't believe in real hauntings.

00:20:41 John Host Okay. You don't believe in g-g-g-ghosts.

00:20:43 Jessie Guest No, I don't.

00:20:45 John Host Alright. Carter, did you ever consider—or, uh, Jessie, did you ever consider—that Clarence the friendly ghost might be something your mom made up to entertain you?

00:20:53 Jessie Guest Yes.

00:20:54 John Host Thank you, Jessie.

*[Someone laughs.]*

00:20:58 Carter Guest Carter, did you ever entertain that thought?

Yes, I did. On my side of that is that it was incredibly spooky in that house!

*[One or more people laugh, Carter stifles laughter.]*

So you—you know, that wouldn't be a good form of entertainment! It would be a—

00:21:08 Jessie Guest Confirming your worst fears.

00:21:10 Carter Guest Yeah, it spooked the heck out of me! Uh, for a—for a really long time. And so you would feel that. And that doesn't seem like—that's not the way my mom operates, or I think she—the way she would want the friendly ghost to operate.

00:21:21 Jesse Host Carter, did you have any reason to ascribe this spookiness that you felt to any particular thing?

*[Laughing]* Other than the past presence of Unitarians?

00:21:31 Carter Guest Well, so, I wanna be clear. Like, I'm—I'm try—I was trying to set a picture of the history of the home. Right? It was built, you know, 150 years—1835 or something. You know, like, obviously it's an old New England home. And, you know, there's just a lot of life that's happened in homes like that!

00:21:47 John Host Right.

00:21:48 Carter Guest And I'm not—I'm not blaming the Unitarians whatsoever, 'cause I think they're lovely. Uh—but, uh, I—you know. Like, I was saying that more as like—I mean, it's an old church! Right? Like... there's gotta be some spooky factor in that, right? You—we're just gonna leave that on the floor, or—or should we consider it?

00:22:03 Jesse Host So you're thinking maybe the ghost of Jesus?

*[One or both litigants laugh.]*

00:22:06 John Host Please excuse the blasphemy of my bailiff.

*[Stifles laughter.]*

Because! Jessie comes in here—Jessie with an I comes in here saying... you don't believe in an afterlife. Is that correct, Carter?

00:22:20	Carter	Guest	I—I have a hard time, um—yeah, proving that there's an afterlife to myself. Yes.
00:22:28	John	Host	Right. Hey. Guess what? Joinnn the club.
			<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
			Would you describe yourself... uh, as an agnostic?
00:22:39	Carter	Guest	I try not to sit on too many fences. So no, I would <u>not</u> consider myself an agnostic.
00:22:45	John	Host	Alright. Would you consider yourself an atheist?
00:22:48	Carter	Guest	I guess. I mean, I—I'm <u>more</u> closely aligned with atheism, probably, than any of those other, you know, uh—
00:22:54	John	Host	Isms.
00:22:55	Carter	Guest	Isms. Yeah. Or sets of beliefs.
00:22:58	Jesse	Host	His primary belief is not to sit on fences.
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:23:02	Jessie	Guest	Which is also just not accurate.
00:23:04	John	Host	Oh! Go on?
00:23:05	Jessie	Guest	This is part of what I contend. So, um, Carter went to a small liberal arts college in, uh, Patrick Dempsey's hometown. You may have heard of it. Lewiston, Maine.
00:23:13	Carter	Guest	Go Bobcats.
00:23:14	John	Host	Oh, yes! Right.
00:23:15	Jessie	Guest	Bates College.
00:23:16	John	Host	Bates College.
00:23:17	Jessie	Guest	Yeah. And Carter's a—a rhetoric and philosophy major. And so, like, he lives his life on fences! Like, he <u>lives</u> to argue every point in the world. That's his <u>fun</u> . That's his pastime. It's part of why I think he likes telling this story, which is, like, "Hey, I don't—I don't believe in ghosts, but... also, I grew up in a haunted house. Let's debate." <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:23:36	John	Host	So... let's debate, Carter! Let—you know, I don't mean to pin you down exactly on what ism you are.
00:23:42	Carter	Guest	Okay.
00:23:43	John	Host	One—just one more I have to ask. Satanism? You're—
00:23:44	Carter	Guest	Yeah.
00:23:45	John	Host	You're into Satan, right?
00:23:46	Carter	Guest	<i>[Laughs quietly.]</i> Big time. Big time.
00:23:47	John	Host	Okay. Hail Satan.
00:23:49	Carter	Guest	Hail Satan.
00:23:50	John	Host	But! You don't believe in ghosts, and yet you claim to grow up in a haunted house. <u>You</u> present your argument for how that could be.
00:23:56	Carter	Guest	Yeah, so, I—I don't necessarily think the belief in an afterlife is, uh—has to be tied to the belief in a haunted house, right? You know.

There are... a million different scenarios or situations where there could be an unexplainable event—

00:24:13 John Host Right.

00:24:14 Carter Guest —or thing, or experience, within this space, this home that I lived in.

00:24:17 John Host Right.

00:24:18 Carter Guest That are not—is not necessarily tied to, you know, what happens to my consciousness or whatever after I, you know, bite the dust.

00:24:24 John Host Right.

00:24:25 Carter Guest It could be anything! And—and "haunting" does not necessarily mean "afterlife." And it doesn't necessarily mean, you know, uh, that I have to believe in, uh, any sort of ism. It just means that I was in this place. There was this really spooky factor. There were these events that occurred.

00:24:42 John Host Mm-hm.

00:24:43 Carter Guest And there was this feeling that I think—I think most people understand. It—it aligns as closely as anything as I can with a haunting.

00:24:51 John Host Sure! Uh, if I may interrupt you just for a moment to quote from *Haunted Happenings* by Robert Ellis Cahill.

*[Back into his Edgar Oliver impression.]*

"Possibly, what are thought to be hauntings are merely the residue of intense emotions. Place—in a spot or specific place many years before. Even Einstein convinced other scientists that energy cannot die. And you and I... Carter... are energy."

*[Impression stops.]*

Does that sum up, basically, the argument?

00:25:26 Carter Guest Uh, yeah! I mean, it—it's not too far away from it! Yeah, right?

00:25:29 John Host Well, no, I—I mean, it just goes to show. This was pub—this was published in the—

*[Pages flipping.]*

1992. 1992.

00:25:33 Carter Guest Alright!

00:25:34 Jesse Host Carter, you're saying that the house was haunted, but not by ghosts??? Ghosts—I'm looking at the dictionary. Ghosts are divine—defined as "spooky spirits who used to be alive but now they're dead."

*[Carter laughs.]*

00:25:48 John Host Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines ghosts as spooky spirits who used to be alive, that are also sandwiches!

*[Multiple people laugh.]*

00:25:57 Jesse Host What is haunting if it's not ghosts?! That's what ghosts do, and that's

what haunting is!

00:26:03 Carter Guest Uh—I mean, well—well, as Judge John Hodgman was just talking about, it's energy!

00:26:07 John Host Yeah.

00:26:08 Carter Guest Right? It could be energy of a different reality touching our reality. It could be... a...

00:26:12 John Host A dimensional traveler.

00:26:13 Carter Guest Yeah! Exactly! Maybe we're talking about, you know, some sort of—you know, like *Interstellar*.

00:26:17 Jesse Host Mister Mxyzptlk? (*Mitz-oh-pit-uhl-ik*).

00:26:20 John Host Well, well pronounced, Jesse Thorn. That was incredible.

00:26:22 Jesse Host Thank you, John.

00:26:23 John Host I've—it's taken me 50 years to get that down, and I still only get it 50% of the time.

00:26:28 Jesse Host He's a trickster bad guy from *Superman* that lives in another dimension.

00:26:32 John Host Yeah. He comes around, and he causes all kinds of shenanigans, and Superman has to get him to say his name backwards to go back to his other dimension. It could be a Mxyzptlk (*Mix-uhl-pit-oh-lik*).

00:26:42 Jesse Host Yeah. He's probably a Unitarian.

[One or both litigants laugh.]

00:26:43 John Host Jessie, these—these all seem like very compelling arguments for why Carter might have gotten spooked out in his basement halfpipe when the radio came on.

00:26:53 Jessie Guest I feel like we weren't listening to the same step. Like, it just doesn't seem that compelling to me! [*Laughs.*] Like—

00:26:58 John Host Well, just to say that—just—I think that his argument that what we term as "hauntings"—

00:27:05 Jessie Guest Mm.

00:27:06 John Host —might be some phenomenon that is... beyond our understanding or perception, but is not necessarily dead people.

00:27:11 Jessie Guest Sure.

00:27:12 John Host My theory of ghosts, of course, are... time travelers from the distant future who are coming back to observe us, but they get the wardrobe wrong, because they feel like... everyone dresses like gangsters. Or whatever. Or, like, cowboys.

00:27:26 Jessie Guest Yeah!

00:27:27 Carter Guest I like that one.

00:27:28 John Host Yeah! It's pretty good, right?

00:27:29 Jessie Guest Um—yeah. I mean, I would say this is the first time that I've heard this argument.

So this all started when we first started dating, and he told me this story. And I said, "Oh. Do you believe in God?" and he said "No," and



I said, "Do you believe in an afterlife?" and he said, "No."

And I said, "So these are ghosts," and he said, "Yes."

And I said, "Well, how do you believe in an afterlife and not—or not believe in an afterlife, and believe in ghosts?"

And so this is—this is new. He has evolved his belief in what this could be.

00:27:57	John	Host	This was when you first started dating?
00:27:59	Jessie	Guest	Yeah.
00:28:01	John	Host	Did he break out the haunted house on the <u>first</u> date?
00:28:03	Jessie	Guest	I don't think it was the first date.
00:28:05	Carter	Guest	Jessie likes scary stuff—
00:28:06	Jessie	Guest	I do!
00:28:07	Carter	Guest	—and I don't like scary stuff, so I had to break it out pretty early to avoid the haunted houses going to, or the scary movies.
00:28:13	John	Host	I gotcha. Now the second question I have is: This was the first date—or early dating. Now you're married.
00:28:19	Jessie	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:28:20	John	Host	How long have you been together since that first dating?
00:28:24	Jessie	Guest	Nine years.
00:28:25	Carter	Guest	Yeah.
00:28:26	John	Host	Nine years. And this is the first time you've heard the inter-dimensional traveler thesis?
00:28:30	Jessie	Guest	Yes.
00:28:31	John	Host	Carter, you gotta do better!
00:28:32	Carter	Guest	That's not true.
00:28:34	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Jessie... you like scary stuff! You said so yourself.
00:28:39	Jessie	Guest	I do.
00:28:40	John	Host	What's your favorite scary movie?
00:28:41	Jessie	Guest	Um, I— <i>[stifles laughter]</i> —I really like <i>Scream</i> .
00:28:44	John	Host	Yeah, that's a great one!
00:28:45	Jessie	Guest	'Cause it's, like, great camp, and—
00:28:46	John	Host	Yeah!
00:28:47	Jessie	Guest	Yeah. It's super fun. I love all the <i>Scream</i> movies, in fact. I think that's probably my favorite.
00:28:50	John	Host	Do you like ghost movies?
00:28:52	Jessie	Guest	I like <u>anything</u> scary.
00:28:53	John	Host	Oh, okay.
00:28:54	Jessie	Guest	Which is part of the problem—

00:28:55	John	Host	Right.
00:28:56	Jessie	Guest	—is that, like, Carter <u>won't</u> watch scary movies. It's almost Halloween, and we have all of these, like, <u>really</u> great haunted houses and outdoor haunted trails, and we can't go to them because he's scared.
00:29:05	John	Host	Why, because of the trauma of growing up on Halsey Road?
00:29:08	Jessie	Guest	Apparently!
00:29:09	Carter	Guest	I—I do use that as one of my—one of my many reasons. I do <u>not</u> like ghost movies whatsoever. And, like—and haunted houses. That amount of adrenaline or whatever it is—the feeling from that just drives <u>high</u> anxiety. Not—not good times for me!
00:29:25	Jessie	Guest	But he'll watch <i>Interstellar</i> ! He's not, like, scared of inter-dimensional travel.
00:29:29	John	Host	I never saw <i>Interstellar</i> .
00:29:31	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>John:</b> That's okay.
			<b>Jessie:</b> Oh, sorry. Spoiler alert, I guess.
			<b>John:</b> Yeah, it's fine. I don't—I don't care.
			<b>Jessie:</b> I didn't really watch the end. I fell asleep. He told me about it.
			<b>John:</b> <i>[Stifling laughter]</i> I did—I fe—I've—but from what I've heard—
			<b>Carter:</b> It's close to what you were—
00:29:38	John	Host	From what I've heard about that movie, it's not a real adrenaline pumper.
00:29:42	Carter	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> No. No, I would not say so.
00:29:43	Jessie	Guest	No. But like, so—so he's not scared of <u>that</u> . But he <u>is</u> scared of ghosts.
00:29:47	John	Host	You are demanding a certain emotional consistency from your partner.
00:29:52	Jessie	Guest	Yes. Yes.
00:29:53	John	Host	That I think by having been with him for nine years, you should know is never going to happen.
			<i>[Jessie laughs.]</i>
00:30:00	Jesse	Host	Jessie, do you think that Carter tells this story to impress people? To pretend to be someone perhaps braver than he is?
00:30:10	Jessie	Guest	I have a couple of theories. One is, um, that—oh, I'm gonna get in trouble. People of New England, 30% of their personality is—is talking about the weather. Or complaining about the weather. And so when they move out to San Diego where it's beautiful and sunny all the time, they have to <u>fill</u> that 30%. And so a lot of them just fall back to, like, um, talking about the funny nuances of New England? Not that anybody on this Zoom call would do that. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:30:34	John	Host	Why would you ever—what—?! I've never heard... <u>such</u> a th—is that a thing that hap—? Jesse Thorn, back me up! That's never

			happened. On this podcast, at least.
00:30:46	Jesse	Host	Sorry, I—I wasn't paying attention; I was thinking about burritos.
00:30:48	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i>
			Oh, I like this theory, though, Jessie! He's trying to bring a little New England into San Diego. Jessie, where did you grow up?
00:30:57	Jessie	Guest	I grew up here, in San Diego.
00:30:59	John	Host	In San Diego! Interesting.
00:31:01	Jessie	Guest	Yeah. Nothing's older than, like, the 70s.
00:31:03	John	Host	Right!
00:31:05	Carter	Guest	Which is why the ghost story is interesting! Because you have, you know, like, the fact that there are actually <u>homes</u> built in the 1800s. That are not, you know, missions.
00:31:14	John	Host	Well, wait a minute. You're talking about ghost <u>stories</u> are interesting intrinsically? Or <u>your</u> specific ghost story?
00:31:18	Carter	Guest	Oh, I think ghost stories in <u>general</u> are—are interesting.
00:31:21	John	Host	In—yeah. 'Cause yours—yours is pretty boring. Sorry. Sorry, Carter.
00:31:24	Carter	Guest	Yeah. No, no. It's not the most exciting.
00:31:26	John	Host	A scary feeling in the basement.
00:31:27	Carter	Guest	<i>[Laughs quietly.]</i> The pictures!
00:31:28	John	Host	Being from New England, I know what you're talking about. It is—it's an intense feeling to be in a basement, and... be scared. For sure, it happens.
			So Jessie, what are your damages here? That you're claiming. What—why does this bother you? What does it <u>mean</u> to you that he keeps bringing this up, that you would bring him to court? Or fake court.
00:31:48	Jessie	Guest	Okay—
00:31:49	John	Host	Or ghost court.
00:31:50	Jessie	Guest	Well, one, it, uh—yeah, ghost court.
			<i>[Stifles laughter.]</i>
			Um, it doesn't make any sense to me, so that's... um... annoying? And I can't go to haunted houses with somebody that I really like hanging out with. I can't <u>enjoy</u> one of my favorite seasonal pastimes because... he's scared. For a reason that I think is... silly. And not true.
00:32:11	John	Host	Yeah, but even Carter admits that the—that his haunted house family stories... is just a <u>part</u> of the—of the problem of him just getting a-scared from things. Right, Carter?
00:32:24	Carter	Guest	Yeah!
00:32:25	John	Host	You're not out here claiming that Clarence the friendly ghost is the one who put you off of watching... <i>Saw</i> , or whatever.
00:32:31	Carter	Guest	No. No. And—and I will say, like, I'm willing to watch <u>most</u> of the

scary movies. It's—I focus on the spooky—like *The Exorcism*. Those scary movies are much more my, you know, like, off-limits area.

00:32:43	John	Host	What about <i>The Shining</i> ? Do you like <i>The Shining</i> ?
00:32:45	Carter	Guest	Ehhh... I—no. No. Not at all. Not at all. Yeah. That's a very scary one.
00:32:47	John	Host	No. Alright. Yeah.
00:32:48	Carter	Guest	Yeah. I—that's—I actually never have watched it all the way through.
00:32:51	John	Host	And you watched all of <i>Interstellar</i> ? Wow!
			<i>[Carter laughs quietly.]</i>
00:32:54	Jesse	Host	Carter, when you were a kid, were you comforted by the stories of Clarence the friendly ghost?
00:33:00	Carter	Guest	Uh, I think my mom did a great job of say—of, like, making sure we knew that the ghost was not there to harm us. See, I think I said "ghost" again.
00:33:08	John	Host	That's okay! "Ghost" is a... common word that we can use. We understand that you're talking about an inter-dimensional traveler, or—
00:33:12	Jesse	Host	Yeah. You're talking about a spooky spirit.
00:33:14	John	Host	Right.
00:33:15	Jesse	Host	That used to be alive, and now it's dead.
00:33:18	John	Host	So if I were to order in your favor, Jessie, what would you have me order?
00:33:20	Jessie	Guest	I would request that Carter either firmly acknowledge the existence of an afterlife—because again, this is—this whole, like, multi-dimensional aspect of it is <u>new</u> , and it's not how he traditionally presents it to people when he tells this story.
00:33:36	John	Host	Uh, let me give you a little history lesson. The multi-verse has been around for a <u>long</u> time.
00:33:40	Jessie	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> In—in the context of <u>this</u> very specific story—
00:33:45	John	Host	I understand. I understand.
00:33:47	Jessie	Guest	—uh, it's new. And so Carter should either have to... acknowledge that he does believe in some sort of afterlife or carrying on of energy, and just get clear on that. <u>Or</u> he has to stop telling this story, 'cause it's not true.
00:34:06	John	Host	I didn't ask if <u>you</u> believe in an afterlife, Jessie.
00:34:09	Jessie	Guest	I do not.
00:34:11	John	Host	Yeah. And you are—you're not—there is no adorable Rhode Island hemming or hawing in that one. It's like, "No."
00:34:17	Jessie	Guest	No.
00:34:18	John	Host	You appreciate <u>precision</u> in your life.
00:34:19	Jessie	Guest	I do. Yes.
00:34:20	John	Host	Right.
00:34:21	Jessie	Guest	That might be my fault.

00:34:22	John	Host	Right. I don't know what your careers are, but, uh, Jessie, I think you're a scientist who also is a surfer.
			<i>[Jessie laughs; John stifles laughter.]</i>
			And Carter, you're a creepy gravedigger who does some errands for local Providence mafiosi from time to time.
			<i>[Someone laughs quietly.]</i>
00:34:37	Jessie	Guest	Remarkably close on both fronts.
00:34:39	Carter	Guest	Yeah.
00:34:40	John	Host	How—how close did I get? If you—if you don't mind my asking.
00:34:43	Jessie	Guest	I'm in sales and marketing in the cannabis industry.
			<i>[One or both litigants laughs.]</i>
00:34:49	Crosstalk	Crosstalk	<b>Carter:</b> Flip 'em.
			<b>John:</b> Wow.
			<i>[A litigant laughs.]</i>
00:34:50	Carter	Guest	And, uh, I work in software. I'm the general manager of a software development agency.
00:34:55	John	Host	You know what's gonna happen is, you know, Jessie, you're part of the biggest economic sector in the United States right now. You're the new, new, new money. You're gonna go to Newport, Rhode Island, and buy a <u>mansion</u> .
00:35:06	Jessie	Guest	I'm a big fan of Little Compton, Rhode Island.
00:35:08	John	Host	Hey, I was there!
00:35:10	Jessie	Guest	Hey, we were just there, too!
00:35:11	John	Host	Well, I mean I was there as a child.
00:35:13	Jessie	Guest	Oh.
00:35:14	John	Host	Yeah, I was there as a child with Timmy McGonagall and his, uh—and his mom. And then—and then, uh, I was—guess it must have been when I was like nine or ten, and I drowned.
			<i>[Bailiff Jesse cracks up.]</i>
00:35:23	Jessie	Guest	Are you a ghost?
00:35:24	John	Host	I'm a—yeah! You didn't know that?
00:35:25	Jessie	Guest	<i>[Laughing]</i> Oh, shoot!
00:35:27	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:35:28	Jessie	Guest	Well, there goes <u>my</u> argument.
00:35:29	John	Host	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!
00:35:30	Jesse	Host	He used to be alive, now he's dead!
00:35:31	John	Host	Yeah! A dictionary definition of a ghost!
			<i>[Someone laughs.]</i>

00:35:34	Jessie	Guest	Carter's gonna leave now.
00:35:37	John	Host	No! See, I'm a <u>friendly</u> ghost, Carter.
00:35:39	Carter	Guest	Friendly ghost! Yeah, yeah, yeah! Do you know a guy named Clarence?
00:35:41	John	Host	That jerk?
			<i>[The litigants laugh, John stifles laughter.]</i>
00:35:44	Jesse	Host	<u>Constantly</u> talking about being friends with Bruce Springsteen.
			<i>[John and one or both litigants laugh.]</i>
00:35:49	John	Host	Carter, what would you have me order if I were to rule in <u>your</u> favor?
00:35:52	Carter	Guest	So, I would like Jessie to have to admit that these things can exist in—even in contradiction to one another. Uh, and that I'm allowed to hold on to all <u>my</u> beliefs.
			Here's one other thing that I've been trying to figure out. But I—I want Jessie to <u>endeavor</u> to explore the otherness, or the unexplained, in some sort of way. So she could potentially, uh, take some of this contradiction that I have, and—and apply it to her life as well.
00:36:24	John	Host	Would you say that you reject the paranormal, Jessie.
00:36:27	Jessie	Guest	Uh, yeah.
00:36:29	John	Host	Yeah. You're a realist; what you see is what you get?
00:36:31	Jessie	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:36:32	John	Host	Okay.
00:36:33	Jessie	Guest	Yeah.
00:36:34	John	Host	You're like an <i>Oh No, Ross and Carrie!</i> listener.
00:36:36	Jessie	Guest	Oh, that's a great show. I love that show. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:36:38	John	Host	It is. It's a terrific show.
00:36:39	Jessie	Guest	<i>[Chuckling]</i> Yeah.
00:36:40	John	Host	Carter, when you want Jessie to embrace... the other side, you—obviously, you want her to join you in the Church of Satan.
00:36:47	Carter	Guest	Hail Satan.
00:36:48	John	Host	Which is an atheist organization, does not believe in the devil, by the way.
			<i>[Carter laughs quietly.]</i>
			But what are you talking about? You wanna go on, like, uh, Bigfoot hunts together? You wanna go to, uh, Area 51 and look for UFOs?
00:37:00	Carter	Guest	Yeah! Um, you know, I would say... Like, either of those would work? But, you know, there's—uh, you know, I—the difficult thing with that is it's like—I don't think, like, a haunted house tour would do it. Um—you know, like—
00:37:15	John	Host	Why not?! I mean, she <u>wants</u> to go to a haunted house!
00:37:19	Jessie	Guest	Well, okay, so to—I think Carter wants to argue. That's like his—it's

his favorite thing! He's like a rhetoric maj—it's like he, like, loves the debate.

00:37:26 John Host

Your premise is he loves to argue, 'cause he went to a—he's a rhetoric major from Bates College. He loves to argue 'cause he's from Rhode Islaaand!

00:37:33 Carter Guest

Thank you.

00:37:34 Jessie Guest

*[Laughing]* It's a New England affectation! I understand. Okay.

*[Chuckles.]*

But I think that's part of it! Like, I—he just—he loves a debate. And I just refuse to debate this.

00:37:42 John Host

Okay.

00:37:43 Jessie Guest

And I think it really bugs him.

00:37:45 Carter Guest

But I—but I also would love to get you over to my side. So—and you can't—obviously you can't go experience what I experienced at this house. You know, years and years ago. But you could try to experience something, you know, similar or different that could help you, you know, kind of grasp the unexplainable!

00:38:02 Jessie Guest

I do have a relatively recent story that leads me to believe that what Carter's asking would not actually happen. Uh, we were in Little Compton.

00:38:09 John Host

Right.

00:38:10 Jessie Guest

And that house is, like, 120 years old or something. It's—it's old.

00:38:14 John Host

The house that you were staying in in Little Compton, Rhode Island.

00:38:15 Jessie Guest

Yes.

00:38:16 John Host

Yeah.

00:38:17 Jessie Guest

It was, like, a chicken coop that they just kept adding to.

00:38:19 John Host

Right.

00:38:20 Jessie Guest

It—it's like something crazy. And, um, I was upstairs. We had just put our kids down to sleep. And there was a door that was, like, opening and closing and opening and closing. And Carter was downstairs, and I text him. And I was like, "I think there's ghosts up here."

And I was like, "Hey, can you come help me figure out which of these doors—like, what's happening?"

And he's like, "No!" He literally texts me back, "No." 'Cause I—

00:38:41 John Host

'Cause he was too scared.

00:38:42 Jessie Guest

*[Stifling laughter]* Yeah, 'cause he was scared.

*[Someone laughs quietly.]*

00:38:43 Carter Guest

So, I—

00:38:44 Jessie Guest

I had to walk around and, like, figure out there was a window open.

00:38:46 Carter Guest

But so I'm not gonna be—I—I've already gone through my haunting. *[Laughs.]* Like, this—I'm—I'm not saying we do this together.

00:38:52	Jesse	Host	You just wanna <u>send your wife</u> ... into a haunted situation full of spooky ghosts? To teach her a lesson about how creepy real ghosts are?
			<i>[Beat.]</i>
00:39:05	Carter	Guest	Um, I—I don't necessar—firstly, they could be friendly ghosts. Uh, second of all, I'm not saying it necessarily has to be a haunting, either.
00:39:11	John	Host	Carter, your mommy was lying to you. Clarence is not friendly.
			<i>[Carter laughs.]</i>
00:39:17	Jesse	Host	He's friendly with Bruce Springsteen.
00:39:18	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Yeah, that's true. But everyone loves the Boss!
00:39:22	Jesse	Host	Yeah.
00:39:23	Carter	Guest	Mm-hm. Yeah.
00:39:24	John	Host	Alright. I think I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decision. I am going to go into the mysterious red room underneath the basement stairs that weren't on the original blueprints of this house. I'll give it some thought. I'll be back in a moment with my verdict.
00:39:37	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]</i>
00:39:38	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.
00:39:42	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:39:43	Jesse	Host	Jessie, how do you feel about your chances in the case?
00:39:46	Jessie	Guest	I feel <u>okay</u> . Agh, there's like, the New England thing I have to contend with. I think that—that put me at a disadvantage from the beginning.
00:39:52	Jesse	Host	You think Hodgman's in the bag for the New England, uh, litigant here?
00:39:56	Jessie	Guest	I mean, isn't he?
00:39:57	Jesse	Host	I mean, Carter didn't bring up any special New England secret code words. As far as we know.
			Carter, how do you feel about your chances?
00:40:05	Carter	Guest	I think my ask for Jessie to have to endeavor to experience that, like, otherness, is, uh—is a pretty tall order. Uh, and I—I don't think that will be given to me. So, um, yeah. From that perspective, I don't think it's very good.
00:40:21	Jesse	Host	Well, we'll see what Judge John Hodgman's verdict is when we return in just a moment.
00:40:26	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:40:28	Promo	Clip	<b>Music:</b> Bright, cheerful music.

**Ellen Weatherford:** Hey, there! I'm Ellen Weatherford.

**Christian Weatherford:** And I'm Christian Weatherford.



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**Christian:** Listen and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

*[Music ends, punctuated by a deep growl from an animal.]*

00:41:20 Sound Effect Transition

*[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:41:23 Jesse Promo

It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast, and it's MaxFun Block Party time this week! The second week of the Block Party. We've been doing all kinds of fun stuff.

One of the big parts of the Block Party is that we are trying to make shows that are recommendable, and, uh, recommend some shows that we love within the Maximum Fun family. I thought I would take this opportunity to do that, John, if you don't mind.

00:41:45 John Promo

I do not mind at all. In fact, I relish the opportunity to hear your recommendations.

00:41:50 Jesse Promo

I'm gonna recommend two MaxFun shows. If people are into arts and culture, I am going to recommend *FANTI*, F-A-N-T-I, which is a MaxFun show hosted by two great journalists, uh, who look at the popular culture of our day that is worth being both... celebrated and interrogated. The things that we love to hate, or hate to love.

Jarrett and Tre'vell look at them with a very unique perspective. They're very smart. Very funny. Very serious about what they do, but it's also a real hoot and a half of a show.

Uh, so people should go check out *FANTI*. It was one of Apple's Best New Podcasts of the Year last year. It's a really great show.

00:42:37 Jesse Promo

I also wanna recommend our friends here at Maximum Fun, Lisa Hanawalt and Emily Heller, who are both great comedy geniuses. Lisa is the co-creator, or the art director—I don't know exactly what her credit was—on *BoJack Horseman*. She's also the creator of the wonderful show *Tuca & Bertie* and a gifted comics artist.

Emily is a brilliant comedy writer who writes on *Barry*, among other things, and is a brilliant stand-up comic as well.

Uh, they—*[stifles laughter]*—they do this show where they, uh, learn about something weird, and also they talk a lot about butts.

*[John cracks up.]*

Um, they talk about butts. Listeners send them pictures of their butts. Um, *[stifling laughter]* and then they talk a lot about this one pony that Martha Stewart owns, named Banchunch.

*[Laughs.]*

But it is—they are so brilliant, and so funny, and so kind of, like, gross in a sweet way. Um, and, uh—and goofy and horny. Uh, and I just admire them so much, and they're so funny, and their show is called *Baby Geniuses*.

00:43:40	John	Promo	<i>Baby Geniuses</i> ! That was one of the ones that I was gonna recommend! Jesse Thorn, you beat me to it. But—
00:43:44	Jesse	Promo	Awww. Well, you got anything else?
00:43:46	John	Promo	There are plenty of other Maximum Fun podcasts that I can definitely recommend. I'll suggest <i>Dr. Gameshow</i> !
00:43:53	Jesse	Promo	Oh, love <i>Dr. Gameshow</i> .
00:43:54	John	Promo	With the great Jo Firestone and Manolo Moreno. Each week they take a listener-suggested, uh, idea for a gameshow, and play it! And it's—
00:44:03	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughs.]</i> To varying levels of success. With a call-in audience that is openly contemptuous of their attempts to actually play the game.

*[John laughs.]*

And they are so brilliant, and delightful, and hilarious. It's a family-friendly show, which is really great. I—I know a lot of kids who love chaos love the show.

00:44:25	John	Promo	Yeah.
00:44:26	Jesse	Promo	It is the greatest combination of... brilliant professional talent and, uh, community television insanity.

*[Both laugh.]*

That you could ever get from a gameshow podcast.

00:44:38	John	Promo	And, you know, look! Uh, I love the podcast, and I've loved it for years. Uh, I will <u>mention</u> that, uh, Jo and Manolo may or may not be involved in a secret project that David Rees and I are working on. And they are so great in this secret project that they may or may not be in. And I only got to know them through this incredible podcast called <i>Dr. Gameshow</i> .
00:45:02	Jesse	Promo	Jo Firestone also has an amazing new special on Peacock that we just did an interview for on my NPR show <i>Bullseye</i> about. Where she was teaching online comedy classes at a retirement center near her house, and she decided to put together a comedy special of the comedy by the retirees in the retirement center who she had been coaching in stand-up comedy. And it is a <u>joy</u> , and a delight. As is

almost everything that—that Jo works on. Jo is also a producer and star of, uh, *Joe Pera Talks With You*, one of my favorite TV shows. A special talent.

But this week, check out *Dr. Gameshow*. That's the Jo Firestone content that matters during the MaxFun Block Party!

00:45:42	John	Promo	Yeah! Oh, and also go to <a href="https://MaximumFun.org/podcasts">MaximumFun.org/podcasts</a> to see <u>all</u> the podcasts. Because truthfully, the Maximum Fun community of podcasters are some of the most funny, insightful, creative, decent, uh, amazing, inspiring people that I've ever encountered. And I've gotten to know quite a few of them, uh, very closely, uh, and others I just admire from afar.
			It's an incredible group of creative people, and, uh, if you're only listening to one or two, maybe you should, uh, give another couple a sample this week! This is the time to do it, Block Party. Everyone's recording episodes that are accessible for first-time listeners. Including <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> . So if you have a friend who might be listening to a different Maximum Fun podcast, or no podcast at all, uh, why don't you recommend <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> as a—a thing that they can check out?
00:46:33	Jesse	Promo	It's also, you know, the spooky season, John?
00:46:36	John	Promo	Yeah, it's Scary Time, USA.
00:46:38	Jesse	Promo	So this week check out the <i>Bullseye</i> Halloween special, with Jamie Lee Curtis. Amazing conversation with Jamie Lee Curtis.
00:46:43	John	Promo	Oooh.
00:46:44	Jesse	Promo	Amazing story from the great Elivra, Mistress of the Dark. <u>And</u> a conversation with Harvey Guillén of <i>What We Do in Shadows</i> . So. Go check out <i>Bullseye</i> . Listen to that. We'll be back in just a second.
00:46:57	Sound Effect	Transition	[Three gavel bangs.]
00:46:59	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]
00:47:00	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.
00:47:05	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	[Door shuts.]
00:47:07	John	Host	First of all, Jesse Thorn, thank you for that psychic message reminding me to tell my story about psychic powers. I think I've told this story on the podcast before, so forgive me if you've heard it, but Jesse—and Jessie and Carter, you listen to the podcast, so maybe you have.
			But my, uh, book editor, Brian Tart—I have two book editors, Brian Tart and Sean McDonald. Brian—both great friends, both great editors. Brian bought an old, old home in upstate New York. And he was concerned about it being haunted.
			And I said, "Wow. Really?" Because I'm not afraid of no ghosts. And I'm not happy about it! I would love to believe in—in g-g-g-g-ghosts, as the original Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition defines them. As dead people who are floating around with unfinished business on this world.

Because if—if I could believe in ghosts, then I would be forced to consistently believe in an afterlife of some kind. And what is one of the great sadnesses of my growing old is my growing certainty... that probably there is nothing after we die.

Uh, I guess I'll find out, one way or the other! *[Stifles laughter.]* That's called agnosticism!

00:48:33 John Host

And I was sorta—I was like, "Okay, Brian. That's funny. I didn't know that you believed in ghosts!"

He said, "Yeah!"

And I'm like, "Well, what are you gonna do about it?"

He said, "Well, it's okay. One of my authors is a very prominent psychic. And I called her, and I said, um—"

I don't remember the name of the person, but we'll just say it's Barbara.

"Barbara, I bought this very old house, and I'm concerned that there might be ghosts in it. Would you evaluate it, and take a reading?"

And she said, 'Sure, I will! What's the address?'"

00:49:03 John Host

And he gave it to her. And she finished writing down the address, and there was this pause on the line. She goes, "No, it's fine. There are no ghosts there."

*[John and Jesse crack up, one or both litigants laugh.]*

And Brian said—*[stifles laughter]*—"Aren't you going to come—go to the house?!"

She's like, "Why? I'm... I'm psychic! That's how it works!"

*[Multiple people crack up.]*

But even though I am a non-ghost-believer, in the traditional sense of ghosts... I get why Brian could be scared. Because houses in the Northeast are older, and they're scarier! Than houses in San Diego. I find it really interesting that Southern Californians—uh, my friends who really get into Halloween in Los Angeles and elsewhere—have this fascination with the sort of idea of a New England autumnal Halloween. In leafy suburbs with those kinds of old houses in them, and kids going door to door, and everything else. 'Cause you don't have it. But I've had it.

*[Stifling laughter]* And it's genuinely... scary! It's really scary!

*[Jesse laughs.]*

00:50:16 Carter Guest

Yes! Yeah.

00:50:18 John Host

And the other thing that I have to say is—about ghosts is even though I—I feel pretty confident in my belief that ghosts are not dead

people who are floating around with unfinished business, part of being an agnostic to me, and part of being someone who believes in science, is that you have to accept that there may be things beyond the limits of your perception that you don't know about yet.

I mean, that's what germ theory was, and—and is. Right? We couldn't see the germs. Until, uh, Paul Rudd learned how to shrink down real small. And then he could see the germs.

00:50:54	Jesse	Host	Right.
00:50:55	Jessie	Guest	Mm-hm.
00:50:56	John	Host	That's how they proved it.
00:50:57	Carter	Guest	Yep.
00:50:58	John	Host	Right.
00:50:59	Jessie	Guest	Yep.
00:51:00	John	Host	So I think <u>probably</u> there is nothing really going on in—at 7 Halsey. Road or Street?
00:51:05	Carter	Guest	Street.
00:51:06	John	Host	7 Halsey Street in Rhode Island. I feel like there are a <u>lot</u> of explanations that are not paranormal <u>at all</u> ! Alright? Which are just, like, two young boys roughhousing in body and mind, getting themselves worked up over stuff, and getting confirmation bias any time there was a power surge in the house!

*[Carter chuckles.]*

Like, "Oh my gosh! I knocked this photo of myself off the wall! Am I doomed for death? Or am I just clumsy, because I was carrying a big tray of, uh, stuffies from the kitchen?"

*[The litigants laugh.]*

It's a Rhode Island thing. Stuffed clams.

00:51:43	Carter	Guest	Sounds delicious.
00:51:44	Jessie	Guest	Yeah. It's a favorite.
00:51:45	John	Host	Yeah, boy oh boy. Yeah.

One of the things about *Judge John Hodgman* that is settled law, of course, is that people like what they like. And unfortunately you are both making a request that violates that law. You're both asking for someone to like something that they don't like, or unlike something that they do like.

And—and not just about movies and ghost stories, but also about very core belief systems about what—you know, what is real and what is not real. It's not fair, Jessie, for you to ask Carter to "admit" to an afterlife that he doesn't believe in. It's not fair, Carter, for you to throw Jessie some tennis balls tied to a rope and try to drag her to the other side of paranormal belief.

*[Carter laughs quietly.]*

But we can't just leave it at a stalemate. You both have to be punished.

*[Pause.]*

So... What am I gonna do? We have unfinished business. This is why ghosts hang around on this Earth. They have unfinished business. And we have to cleanse the house of your marriage. And there is an obvious way to do it. You have to go to the house.

00:52:50 John Host

This is what you do in every horror movie!

*[A litigant laughs quietly.]*

You have to go to the house! And cleanse the spirit! By which I mean, *[stifles laughter]* knock on the door or call ahead. And say, "I used to live in this house. I would like to... go in it again."

Now, if the current owners say, "I'm so sick of you and people from *Judge John Hodgman* knocking on my door—"

*[Jesse and one or both litigants laugh.]*

"No." *[Laughs.]* Then back away.

But. Jessie, you wanna go to a haunted house! This is the one you're gonna go to!

00:53:21 Jessie Guest

Great.

00:53:23 John Host

This is the one that Carter needs to go to. You're gonna go into that basement, and you're both going to see if you feel anything there.

And then... drive 53 minutes north to the good Wendy's in Southborough. Enjoy civilized Massachusetts. And if your feelings have not changed, then you bury this thing. And if one of you does change your mind about whether or not this house is haunted, then... you're in alignment!

And then of course, if you're both killed down there by the ghost, uh, I have no liability. This is the sound of a gavel—

00:53:51 Clip Clip

*[Wood creaks, and a reverberating voice groans/cackles.]*

00:53:57 John Host

Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.

00:53:58 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]*

00:53:59 Jesse Host

Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:54:02 Sound Effect Sound Effect

*[Door shuts.]*

00:54:03 Jesse Host

Jessie, you sound like you're prepared to visit this haunted house!

00:54:06 Jessie Guest

Yes! I'm—I would love to. I mean, I—like I said. I love New England. I think it's great. I am fascinated by Carter's upbringing. I just think it's, like, the cutest that he grew up in, like, downtown Providence! And I just imagine this little kid there. I love going back there.

00:54:20 Jesse Host

I mean, I can understand your perspective on this, Jessie, especially

since, uh, there's no Elvira show at Knott's Berry Farm anymore. You gotta find something to do in October.

00:54:29 Jessie Guest That's exactly right.

00:54:30 Jesse Host Carter, how are you feeling?

00:54:32 Carter Guest I feel good. I'm also very excited to go back to this house, and knock on the door. I think that's a really good idea. Uh, and I'm a little—I mean, I—I'll even say it. Like, a—you know. You know. Walking down into that basement, there's gonna be—you know. That's—there's still a little spook to that, for sure.

00:54:48 Jesse Host Jessie, Carter, thanks for joining us on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:54:52 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:54:53 Jesse Host Another *Judge John Hodgman* case in the books. In just a moment, we'll have Swift Justice.

John, did you know that they do—you're from New England. I'm from Southern California.

00:55:03 John Host Yeah.

00:55:04 Jesse Host They do have ghosts in San Diego.

00:55:06 John Host Oh, really?

00:55:08 Jesse Host Yeah. They're called California ghosts.

*[Stifling laughter]* It's just a regular ghost with french fries in it.

*[Jesse laughs, John stifles laughter.]*

Okay! Eugh—eugh—

00:55:18 John Host I don't even know—what is that? I don't even know what that refers to!

00:55:20 Jesse Host 'Cause a California burrito is just a burrito with french fries in it. They put french fries in there. It's a San Diego food.

00:55:27 John Host Yeah.

00:55:28 Jesse Host It's like the stuffies of San Diego.

00:55:30 John Host The stuffies of San Diegooo.

00:55:32 Jesse Host We wanna thank Steve Ciabattone for naming this week's episode, "Fright Court." If you want to name a future episode, follow us on Twitter for naming opportunities at [@JesseThorn](#) and [@hodgman](#).

While you're there, you can also hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* related Tweets #JJHO!

00:55:51 John Host And Jesse, may I say? You can hashtag all of your Tweets #JJHO. It doesn't have to be related to *Judge John Hodgman*. All your hot takes! Hashtag 'em. Let's get JJHO trending!

00:56:03 Jesse Host Just just hot takes.

00:56:04 John Host Exactly.

00:56:05 Jesse Host You can also join the conversation over at the Maximum Fun subreddit at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](#). Or, you know what? Talk

about marbles. [Marbles.Reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com/r/marbles/). I joined that, uh, Reddit recently. Having a lot of fun hearing different marbles words.

Evidence from today's episode posted on our Instagram account at [Instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). Make sure to follow us there.

Our producer, Jennifer Marmor.

Now, Swift Justice! Where we answer your small disputes with quick judgment! Dyson says:

"How long can I keep spaghetti leftovers in the fridge? My partner wants to toss anything older than five days. I feel I have closer to a fortnight, if not more!"

00:56:52 John Host Wow. Well, the use of "fortnight" suggests that Dyson may be in the UK. And I'm not sure what spaghetti is there.

*[Jesse laughs.]*

I will say this: A fortnight, uh, is too long to keep any food in your refrigerator. Uh, I think it gets a little rank after a while. Five days is a pretty good cutoff, I would say, for spaghetti and most—most prepared entrees.

But... you know the—when you cook pasta—or "pasta" as you might call it in the UK—it freezes pretty good. Freezes pretty good.

00:57:27 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** But just eat your spaghetti.

**Jesse:** It's saucy.

00:57:28 John Host Yeah. Just eat your spaghetti. Just eat your spaghetti already! Don't wait for two weeks. "Fortnight"...

00:57:33 Jesse Host That's it for this week's episode. Submit your cases at [MaximumFun.org/jjho](https://MaximumFun.org/jjho), or email them to us at [hodgman@maximumfun.org](mailto:hodgman@maximumfun.org)!

We'll see you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:57:47 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:57:49 Music Transition A cheerful ukulele chord.

00:57:50 Speaker 1 Guest [MaximumFun.org](https://MaximumFun.org).

00:57:52 Speaker 2 Guest Comedy and culture.

00:57:53 Speaker 3 Guest Artist owned—

00:57:54 Speaker 4 Guest —audience supported.