

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: "Hubble Jeopardy"!
			Kathryn files suit against her friend Jerome. Jerome commissioned Kathryn to paint large-scale panels inspired by the Hubble Telescope photos. She did, and he's thrilled! Except for one thing: She didn't sign her work. She says that's not her thing, but even still, Jerome thinks she should sign the panels.
			Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide.
00:00:33	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]</i>
00:00:34	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and presents an obscure cultural reference.
00:00:39	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:00:41	John Hodgman	Host	"A straight line can be readily drawn among each of the two series of points corresponding to the maxima and minima, thus showing that there is a simple relation between the brightness of the Cepheid variables and their periods."
00:00:53	Jesse	Host	Kathryn and Jerome, please rise and raise your right hands. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God or whatever?
00:01:02	Jerome	Guest	Whatever.
00:01:03	Kathryn	Guest	We do!
00:01:04	Jesse	Host	Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that... he's a rocket man, and I think it's gonna be a long, long time?
00:01:11	Kathryn	Guest	Yes we do.
00:01:12	Jerome	Guest	Yes.
00:01:13	Jesse	Host	Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.
00:01:15	John	Host	Kathryn and Jerome, you may be seated.
00:01:16	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Chairs scrape.]</i>
00:01:17	John	Host	For an immediate summary judgment in one of yours' favors, could one of you <u>please</u> —or both of you!—perhaps name the piece of obscure culture that I referenced as I entered the courtroom. Uh, Kathryn, why don't you guess first.
00:01:31	Kathryn	Guest	Um, I'm gonna guess, uh, <i>Star Trek: The Original Series</i> , the "Mirror, Mirror" episode, and Evil Spock says it.
00:01:40	John	Host	Hoo! That is a solid guess!
00:01:42	Kathryn	Guest	Thank you.
00:01:43	John	Host	"A straight line can be readily drawn among each of the two series of points corresponding to the maxima and minima..."
			The "Mirror, Mirror" episode from the original series— <i>TOS</i> —of <i>Star Trek</i> ; I'm putting it into the guess book. Jerome...
00:01:54	Jesse	Host	John—sorry, I don't mean to interrupt here, but, um... I think it's a

bad guess. Uh, because—

[The litigants and John laugh.]

00:02:02 John Host How dare you?
00:02:03 Jesse Host Because, John? John?
00:02:04 John Host Yeah.
00:02:05 Jesse Host Spock—Spock is a good guy.
00:02:06 Kathryn Guest Oh—oh, I'm sorry, Jesse, but when he has a goatee, he's—he's all evil. All the time.
00:02:11 John Host Right.
00:02:12 Jesse Host He has pointy ears. You're thinking of a different character.

[Kathryn laughs.]

Go ahead, John.

00:02:15 John Host You don't—uh, I'm sorry, Kathryn. You don't, uh—you may not know this, but... I think it's been—how long, Jesse, that you've had a beard and a mustache? Six years? Seven years?
00:02:25 Jesse Host Oh, uhh, I—yeah, seven years, let's say.
00:02:28 John Host That's when Evil Jesse came in. We're—we're dealing with Mirror Universe Jesse.

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

I don't know what—I don't know what you did with my—with my lovely... uh, bald-faced, bald-headed, pure baby-face man child friend that I used to know. But guess what? In 2014 or 15 or so, I grew a beard, too, so it's—we're both Mirror Universe.

00:02:53 Jesse Jesse Yeah. We're evil. Watch out, punk rock guys on buses!
00:02:56 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* That's right.
00:02:57 Jesse Host We're gonna give you the death grip.

[Kathryn chuckles.]

00:02:59 John Host That's right. And we know that Jennifer Marmor is Mirror Universe Jennifer Marmor, because she's wearing a golden sash, and she's carrying a cutlass.

But Joel Mann here at WERU in Maine... Well, you have always rocked that goatee, right?

00:03:10 Joel Mann Guest That's right.
00:03:11 John Host Okay.
00:03:12 Jesse Host Joel Mann is chaotic neutral.

[Kathryn chuckles.]

00:03:13 John Host That's right. Joel Mann is Uatu the Watcher; he is not paying attention to—he's not a moral arbiter of this universe, he just sits behind the glass.

00:03:24 Jerome Guest Anyway, Jerome, what was your guess?
My guess is, uh, Euclid, *The Elements*.

00:03:27 John Host Euclid, *The Elements*! Jesse, is that a rapper?

00:03:32 Jesse Host No, that's the, uh—*[laughing]* that's the third baseman from *Moneyball*.

00:03:36 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Got it.

00:03:38 Jesse Host Kevin Euclid.

[Kathryn laughs quietly.]

00:03:39 John Host All guesses are wrong. I am... sorry to say. Uh, I was hoping that one of you could say, "Well, I guess you're probably, uh, quoting Edwin Hubble! For whom the Hubble Telescope is named."

And then I could say, "No, you're wrong again!"

[Kathryn laughs quietly.]

Double wrong on you! Because the person I was actually quoting... was Henrietta Swan Leavitt. Now, Henrietta Swan Leavitt was an astronomer. She lived from 1868 to 1921. She died young at the age of 53. She was a graduate of Radcliffe. She eventually became a person without hearing. She was a non-hearing astronomer for much of her career, which was spent at the Harvard College Observatory, where she worked as a, quote, "computer." Which was the—*[stifles laughter]* the name that men scientists gave to women scientists before they would admit they were scientists. They were "computers of data," specifically tasked with examining photographic plates and measuring and cataloguing the brightness of stars.

She prepared a study in 1912 that I quoted from. That study was called "The Periods of 25 Variable Stars in the Small Magellanic Cloud." Which everyone now knows as the Po25 Mixtape. In which she outlined the period-luminosity relationship of... Cepheid (*see-feed*) stars. I don't know if I'm pronouncing that correctly; don't send me letters. C-E-P-H-E-I-D, maybe sef-aid?

The point is, these stars pulse in temperature and light. And the constant relationship between their period and their luminosity would become known as Leavitt's Law, and would allow astronomers to—for once and finally—be able to calculate not only galactic distances, but intergalactic distances, which they couldn't do before then because they only had tape measures.

00:05:32 John Host Leavitt's Law allowed astronomers to establish that the universe is much larger than we thought. Also established *[briefly furtive]* we're not at the center of it. And also, would be used by Edwin Hubble to demonstrate that the universe is expanding; it's getting bigger! That was Edwin Hubble's big discovery that got his name on a telescope, even though his discovery was based on a piece of research done by Henrietta Swan Leavitt, who died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, our fair city, at the age of 53, and she only got an asteroid out of it. Uh, Asteroid 5383 Leavitt. And a hole in the moon called Crater Leavitt, on the dark side of the moon.

She also got a telescope somewhere else.

So there you go. History lesson for you astronomy buffs.

00:06:20 Kathryn Guest

Wow! Good for them! Very good.

00:06:23 John Host

Yeah. Good for them.

00:06:25 Jesse Host

Don't put down the dark side of the moon, John. That's the cool side of the moon!

[Someone snorts.]

Literally and figuratively! *[Stifles laughter.]*

00:06:29 Kathryn Guest

Mm-hm!

00:06:32 John Host

[Stifles laughter.] Ughhh. I don't have a Pink Floyd joke for you. Do you have one for me?

[Kathryn laughs quietly.]

00:06:36 Jesse Host

Okay. I don't know, I'm—*[laughing]* I'm kinda comfortably numb over here.

[Kaythryn laughs.]

00:06:41 Joel Guest

We're all just bricks in the wall.

00:06:43 John Host

Oh, boy, Joel.

00:06:44 Jesse Host

Yeah.

[Kathryn and someone else laugh.]

00:06:47 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:06:48 John Host

Uatu, you're just supposed to be watching. You can't affect this reality.

[Kathryn chuckles.]

Anyway, let's hear this case. Kathryn—

00:06:55 Kathryn Guest

Hi.

00:06:56 John Host

You come to this court seeking justice. What is the justice that you seek?

00:07:00 Kathryn Guest

Oh, um, Jerome wants me to sign—uh, sign these humongous drops that I've painted. And—and I just don't wanna do it. I'm not gonna do it. Not—I don't wanna do it.

00:07:12 John Host

You've created art for—for Jerome's home?

00:07:15 Kathryn Guest

I did! Jerome has this amazing—

00:07:18 John Host

What I like to call the Jer-home?

[Kathryn and Jesse laugh.]

00:07:22 Kathryn Guest

Yeah! Um, it's—it's actually an outbuilding. It's, like, separate from the home. It's its own... special realm. Um—

00:07:32 John Host

It's a poop shack. It's a poop shack.

[Someone laughs.]

00:07:35 Kathryn Guest Sure!

00:07:37 John Host You drew—you drew a starscape for Jerome's poop shack out back?

00:07:39 Kathryn Guest I did!

00:07:40 John Host Composting toilet?

00:07:41 Kathryn Guest Mm-hm.

00:07:43 Jesse Host Please do not insult the Jer-home, John. The Jer-home is known the world over for its Jer-majesty!

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:07:50 John Host And you don't wanna sign your art, because you would prefer to go down in relative anonymity much like Henrietta Swan Leavitt?

00:07:56 Kathryn Guest Well—yes! Truly. Honestly, yes. Um, because I have a theatre background, and I've learned sort of—I've learned to do work in service of—of greater good. Usually in theatre it's in service of the show.

00:08:12 John Host Yes.

00:08:13 Kathryn Guest And I feel like this was exactly in the service of Jerome's vision. It wasn't really my personal artwork. Also, they're huge! They're, like, theatre drops.

00:08:22 John Host Right.

00:08:23 Kathryn Guest Nine-foot by twelve-foot canvases.

00:08:27 John Host Right.

00:08:28 Kathryn Guest That, um—like, you wouldn't make a drop for a theatre show and put your name on it. Like, you would just do it, and walk away. You would, like—

00:08:35 John Host I completely understand where you're coming from.

00:08:37 Kathryn Guest Yeah.

00:08:38 John Host Yeah.

00:08:39 Kathryn Guest You would just moonwalk outta there, knowing that you did a great job.

00:08:42 John Host I completely understand where you're coming from, Kathryn. Jesse Thorn, you know, I—I have not spent a lot of time treading the boards of live theatre. But I certainly have done my fair share of my imitation acting on screen, and I have spent some time in the entertainment world, and I can confirm with Kathryn: It is a completely egoless pursuit.

[One of the litigants laughs.]

The one thing that matters the least when putting on any kind of show... is no one gets credit.

[Kathryn laughs, John stifles laughter.]

00:09:10 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:09:11 John Host No one—no one gets credit at all, whatsoever. That's—no one cares!

As long as the show goes on, no one cares where they appear in the credits.

00:09:20 Jesse Host We're all just a face in the crowd, John.

00:09:22 John Host Another brick in the wall!

00:09:23 Jesse Host That's why one goes into the entertainment industry.

[Kathryn chuckles.]

00:09:26 John Host That's right. Become faceless. Kathryn, do you have a—you have a background in theatre, and you refer to these things as "drops." And just for those of our listeners who are not down with the theatre lingo, a drop would be what?

00:09:37 Kathryn Guest Um, I call 'em a "drop" because they're made from drop cloths. Like, painters' drop cloths.

00:09:42 John Host Mm-hm.

00:09:43 Kathryn Guest And they're—so they're soft. They're not stretched on a canvas. And Jerome has sort of hung them in his place. Some of them kind of drape, or—

00:09:52 Jerome Guest Mounted! They're all mounted.

00:09:56 Kathryn Guest They're all mounted.

00:09:57 Jerome Guest Let's be respectful!

00:09:58 Kathryn Guest Okay!

00:09:59 Jerome Guest Of your art!

00:10:00 Kathryn Guest *[Laughs.]* Okay.

00:10:01 John Host Jerome, may I—may I congratulate you, in this astronomy-adjacent conversation, for taking that beautiful, Carl Sagan cadence?

[Multiple people laugh.]

And, uh, bringing some of that Sagan energy to the—yeah! You—let the record show that I can see Jerome visibly on the teleconference, *[stifles laughter]* using his hands to literally bring down the energy. They're mounted!

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:10:26 Jesse Host Yeah. I mean, if listeners at home could see Jerome's enormous necktie right now, they would know how Carl Sagan-y he is.

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:10:34 John Host Well, it's a—it's a virtual necktie. Jerome—

00:10:37 Jerome Guest Well, I would call it a cravat, myself.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:10:43 John Host Wow.

00:10:44 Jesse Host Who has the theatre background now?! *[Laughs.]*

00:10:47 John Host You have out-mensweared the menswear-y!

00:10:50 Kathryn Guest The—and should we talk about the footprints? So, Jerome also

has—

00:10:54 John Host I don't—I don't know, I seem to recall that, uh—that I'm the judge. And I lead the conversation.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:11:00 Kathryn Guest Oh!

00:11:01 John Host But I'll allow it. Let's talk about "the footprint," whatever that may be. I can see I'm going to have no control over this situation.

00:11:09 Kathryn Guest *[Laughs.]* The—uh, Jerome, do you wanna talk about it?

00:11:13 John Host Yeah, we haven't heard from you, Jerome.

00:11:15 Jerome Guest Well, there are three footprints in one of the panels. I call them "panels" rather than "drops". To me it's more respectful. And, um—uh, on one of the panels, there are three footprints. Two—uh, when I say "footprints", they're shoe prints. And two are in black, and one is in white. They're kind of toward the center of the piece. And, uh, one of the things—along with asking Kathryn sign each of the panels—I wanted her to correct that one panel to remove the—the shoe prints. The three shoe prints.

00:12:07 John Host These are shoe prints—wait a minute. I thought that these were images of galactic majesty, inspired by photographs of the vast universe, as captured by the Hubble Telescope. Kathryn, are you saying you caught footprints in these photographs?

[Someone laughs quietly.]

Have you proved the existence of interstellar travelers?

00:12:26 Kathryn Guest They are space footprints. Um... yeah! Truly, I—I work on them on the ground. Um, I paint with a paintbrush on a stick.

00:12:36 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Oh, okay.

00:12:37 Kathryn Guest Or—and spray paint. I lay them all out. And, um, walk all over the canvas! And—

00:12:43 John Host Oh, I see!

00:12:46 Kathryn Guest So my—a few of my special little size-eight—*[laughs]*—shoe prints made it onto the, uh, nebula. So I, um, happened to just leave them there, because I'm used to a very forgiving medium. Uh, in theatre, things are seen from very far away, and a shoe print is... It just disappears. And I thought there were gonna be—

00:13:10 John Host These are actual—actual shoe prints.

00:13:15 Kathryn Guest I stepped in the paint, and then I stepped on a nebula.

00:13:17 John Host Got it. Yep.

[Jesse bursts out laughing.]

00:13:18 Kathryn Guest And... I just missed it! You know—

00:13:21 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* The classic problem!

00:13:25 Kathryn Guest I missed it. I didn't, uh, fix it when I did it.

00:13:28 John Host Okay! So Jerome is not merely—is not merely seeking that you sign your work, but is also seeking damages for stepping all over your

own work.

00:13:36 Kathryn Guest My argument is that the shoe prints are my signature. And that's where I would like to leave it.

00:13:43 John Host Wellll, I wish you would have left for me to come to that, uh, in my verdict, 'cause that is exactly what I was going to order.

[Quiet laughter from multiple people.]

00:13:56 Jesse Host But I think we have more to hear from Jerome, because my—my position may change!

00:14:01 Sound Effect Transition Let's take a quick recess. We'll be back in just a moment on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:14:03 Jesse Promo *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:14:29 John Promo It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast, and as always, our show is brought to you by you, the members of MaximumFun.org. Our thanks to the thousands of people who have gone to MaximumFun.org/join to support this show and other Maximum Fun shows to which they listen. We are always grateful to you.

00:14:31 Jesse Promo We're also grateful this week to have some support from Blueland!

00:14:32 John Promo Jesse, here's a s—here's a statistic.

00:14:39 Jesse Promo Yeah.

00:14:40 John Promo First of all, the number of times I've been able to say the word "statistic" correctly? Is about .001%.

00:14:41 Jesse Promo Yeah.

00:14:42 John Promo It's a weird, weird statistic.

00:15:06 Jesse Promo Right.

00:15:22 John Promo Here's another one: Five billion. Is the number of plastic hand soap and cleaning bottles that are thrown away each year. Five billion. That's a—one for every person on the planet every year. Why would you throw away more plastic? You know better than this! Look around you! You see what's happening! Why would you throw away more plastic when you could get Blueland's revolutionary refill cleaning system instead?

00:15:40 Jesse Promo Blueland, founded on the belief, "A cleaner planet starts at home." You buy the bottle once, you can refill it forever. You don't have to buy a new single-use plastic bottle every single time you need more of that cleaning product.

00:15:44 John Promo Yeah, just fill one of their beautiful bottles with warm water. Pop in one of the hand soap or spray cleaner tablets. And within minutes—that's a fraction of an hour—you have powerful and effective cleaning products in the most incredible scents. Like... Rose Bergamot and Lily Mint. I—you know what? They're credible. I believe in them.

00:15:44 John Promo It's like Blueland always says: "Plop, plop! Clean, clean!"

00:15:44 John Promo Is that—

00:15:44 John Promo Wow!

00:15:45 Jesse Promo Is that anything?

00:15:46 John Promo That is in—that's a—that is incredible.

00:15:48 Jesse Promo Yeah.

00:15:49 John Promo They also have convenient laundry and dishwasher tabs that come in chic and compact refillable metal containers, instead of big, bulky, disposable plastic tubs. It's just like Blueland always says:

[Singing]

"Meow, meow, meow, meow! Meow, meow, meow, meow!"

[Jesse laughs.]

"Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, clean, clean!"

[Singing stops.]

00:16:05 Jesse Promo *[Laughs.]* Right now, you can get 15% off your first order when you go to [Blueland.com/hodgman](https://blueland.com/hodgman).

00:16:15 John Promo That's 15% off your first order of any product that Blueland offers, at [Blueland.com/hodgman](https://blueland.com/hodgman).

00:16:21 Jesse Promo That's [Blueland.com/hodgman](https://blueland.com/hodgman).

We're also supported this week by the good folks at Made In. John, you don't have to be a restaurateur just to get restaurant-quality cookware and tableware at an affordable price.

00:16:40 John Promo No. You know—look. I love going to the restaurant supply store as much as any person. And when I'm in there, I'm thinking to myself, "Should I be a restaurateur?" Look. It takes a special breed of person.

00:16:51 Jesse Promo Yeah.

00:16:52 John Promo *[Stifles laughter.]* You gotta be willing to work long, long hours in an industry that is basically defined by failure. Why would you go through all that? When you could get professional-quality cookware and knives through Made In! Their cookware distributes heat evenly. I know this! I got—just like you—one of those carbon steel pans?

00:17:10 Jesse Promo Love it.

00:17:11 John Promo Hoo! Evenly heated right off the top.

00:17:12 Jesse Promo You don't have to worry about dumb old Teflon poisoning your children or whatever! It's carbon steel!

00:17:18 John Promo Yeah!

00:17:19 Jesse Promo It's great!

00:17:20 John Promo And that's—and you know what you can't do with a Teflon pan? You can't go from, uh, the stovetop to the oven!

00:17:25 Jesse Promo Nope!

00:17:26 John Promo You can't put a Teflon pan in the oven!

00:17:27 Jesse Promo Nope! And...! And if you've got a carbon steel pan... you can use it as a softball bat, if you need a softball bat. 'Cause it's strong, and lightweight, and resilient.

00:17:36 John Promo Yeah! Or pickleball! All the rage.

00:17:39 Jesse Promo Yeah, why not play pickleball with it?

00:17:41 John Promo Plus they have stainless steel pans, they've got all kinds of different cookware, casseroles, and their knives? Pah! Fully forged, perfectly balanced, stay sharp.

They have 28,000 five-star reviews, and their products are used by some of the world's best chefs at *[brief French accent]* Michelin-starred restaurants around the world.

00:18:02 Jesse Promo Right now, Made In is offering our listeners 15% off your first order, with promo code "JJHO". The best discount available anywhere online for Made In products.

00:18:13 John Promo That's MadeInCookware.com/jiho, and use promo code "JJHO" for 15% off your first order!

00:18:22 Jesse Promo That's MadeInCookware.com/jiho. Use promo code "JJHO." Let's get back to the case.

00:18:30 Sound Effect Transition *[Three gavel bangs.]*

00:18:33 John Host Jerome, you commissioned these, uh—these panels, these drops, these paintings of the heavens.

00:18:37 Jerome Guest Right.

00:18:38 John Host Which we're gonna take a look at. I believe we have evidence, and folks can go over to the *Judge John Hodgman* page at MaximumFun.org, and to our Instagram, [@judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman) to see [the evidence](#). But before we look at the images, let's talk about what your desire was for them, and, uh—and the meaning behind the commission.

00:18:56 Jerome Guest Well, um, I have this metal building. It's 18 feet wide, 30 feet long. And the—the—

00:19:05 John Host Wow! You need all of that just to take an outdoors poop?

00:19:07 Jerome Guest Hey, let's not get personal.

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:19:11 Jesse Host Joel, what's that? About 540 square feet?

00:19:14 Joel Guest Exactly.

00:19:15 Jerome Guest 540 is my number for it. And, uh, the peak of the roof is 12 foot high. So it's kinda one—

00:19:23 Jesse Host Thank you.

00:19:25 Jerome Guest —cathedral-ceiling, um, building that I insulated myself, and have it set up as my TARDIS. Not a physical TARDIS, but a TARDIS of the mind.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:19:42 John Host Okay.

00:19:44 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Let's pause.

Jerome: And that's—

Jesse: *[Laughing]* The metaphors flying—flying thick and fast right now.

00:19:47 Jerome Guest That's my idea with—with these panels. The Hubble Telescope picture—inspired galaxies, nebula, um—and it's—when I walk in, and when I have guests in, it's to take you to—to new dimensions in mental space and, um—

00:20:15 John Host Mm-hm.

00:20:16 Jerome Guest —multi-dimensions.

00:20:19 John Host Got it. I'm gonna—let's just hold on "TARDIS of the mind" for a second. Because... I'm getting a very different mental picture.

[John stifles laughter, Kathryn giggles.]

When—when Kathryn described this as an outbuilding, obviously I—my—my mind immediately went to the toilet, specifically the outdoor composting toilet.

[Kathryn laughs.]

This is a major structure that you have. It is not a shed; it is a—it is a Meow Wolf—style experience, it sounds like.

00:20:45 Jerome Guest Yes. And—

00:20:46 Jesse Host John, just—just to be clear, your head is still in the toilet. My head is way back, like, five minutes ago in the mall food court with, uh, "paintbrush on a stick."

[John and Kathryn crack up.]

00:21:01 John Host Well, let's take a look at the evidence in this TARDIS of the mind. Uh, once again, all the evidence will be available on our *Judge John Hodgman* [Instagram account](#), and our show page at [MaximumFun.org](#).

Exhibit A. Jerome's Exhibit A. "This is my entry door to my TARDIS." So what—what I'm seeing here is a—a door that is painted black. Thank you, by the way. I was tired of that red one.

[Jesse or Jerome laughs.]

And it is surrounded by—*[laughs]*—it is surrounded by a corona of painted light.

00:21:31 Jerome Guest Well, it—it is a—you know, the opening of *Doctor Who*. Each episode is this spiraling... space.

00:21:41 John Host Yes.

00:21:42 Jerome Guest That draws you in. That's—that's what I was capturing.

00:21:46 John Host Oh, I see! Okay.

00:21:47 Jerome Guest With that entrance.

00:21:48 John Host Okay. So then you open this door, and you enter—

00:21:50 Jesse Host Wait, hold on, John! You're leaving out—you're leaving out a key piece about this door, *[stifles laughter]* which is: It appears to have been textured with, uh—with that kind of expanding foam insulation

that comes out of a spray can.

00:22:03 John Host Wha—okay, good point!

00:22:05 Jerome Guest Yes. It is. And then that foam is then covered with an exterior caulk, and then painted on top of that.

00:22:17 Jesse Host Yeah. So he also caulked it up.

[One or both litigants laughs, John stifles laughter.]

00:22:19 John Host And is this your work, or Kathryn's work?

00:22:22 Jerome Guest *[Stifling laughter]* This is my work. My caulk.

00:22:25 John Host What planet are you on? Are you on Earth with us?

00:22:28 Jerome Guest I come and go.

[Jesse bursts out laughing.]

00:22:31 John Host *[Laughing]* Okay! What region—

00:22:32 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Fair enough!

00:22:33 John Host What region of Earth do you—*[stifles laughter]*—do you live on currently? And where—and—and what—if this is indeed in our dimension, what region of Earth is this, uh, TARDIS of the mind dimensionally situated?

00:22:48 Jerome Guest New Albany, Indiana.

00:22:50 John Host New Albany, Indiana. Okay.

00:22:54 Jerome Guest One of the great remaining gems of small-town America.

00:23:00 John Host What do you mean?

00:23:01 Jerome Guest Well, population 36,000. And it's gorgeous. It's beautiful.

00:23:08 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Oh—I'm—I'm sorry. I—I heard—

Jerome: It's, you know, executed so wonderfully.

00:23:11 John Host I heard "gym" as in G-Y-M; I didn't hear "gem."

[John stifles laughter, others laugh.]

I apologize. I was like—I thought there was some special YMCA there. I apologize.

00:23:20 Jerome Guest *[Chuckling]* Well, they do have a great YMCA, but not what I meant.

00:23:23 John Host Oh, okay! Well, then, let's leave it in! Shout-out—shout-out to the New Albany Y.

[Jerome laughs, John stifles laughter.]

Alright.

00:23:30 Jesse Host This is—this is, John, one of those small towns in America that I learned about from *American Pickers*, where everyone just has unlimited outbuildings.

00:23:39 John Host I guess so!

00:23:40 Jesse Host Just so many outbuildings. Yeah.

00:23:42 John Host And Jerome and Kathryn, just to be clear, you are friends, correct?

00:23:47 Kathryn Guest Yes. We—we met at a meditation group.

00:23:51 John Host Oh, okay! Um—and, uh, what kind of meditation did you do? David Lynch-style? Transcendental with cigarettes?

[Someone laughs.]

00:23:59 Kathryn Guest It's a Zen—Zen meditation group.

00:24:03 John Host Wonderful.

00:24:06 Kathryn Guest We sit for an hour, and then we chant, and then we read a kōan.

00:24:11 John Host Lovely! And do you—are you also a resident of New Albany, uh, Indiana, the gem of Indiana?

00:24:17 Kathryn Guest Jerome and I live about 15 minutes apart, but we live in different states. I'm right across the river—

00:24:23 John Host Yeah.

00:24:24 Kathryn Guest—in Louisville, Kentucky.

00:24:25 John Host Got it. Why—why make it simple? You obviously inhabit multiple planes of existence. I get it.

00:24:31 Kathryn Guest Mm-hm!

00:24:32 John Host Sometimes you're in Kentucky, sometimes you're in Indiana, it's impossible to tell!

[Kathryn laughs.]

Exhibit B. I quote, "In the back yard leading to the TARDIS is a—" We're not even in the TARDIS yet, Jerome?!

00:24:45 Jerome Guest No, we're still getting there! We're getting there.

00:24:48 John Host How many—how many exhibits are—?! C, Exhibit C, D... E, *[laughs]* F—

[Jerome chuckles.]

—G, H, I?!

[Jerome laughs.]

00:24:58 Kathryn Guest We brought a lot of evidence.

00:24:59 John Host J?! K?! L?! M?!

[Jerome laughs harder.]

And M—M—Exhibit M alone has five photos in it! This is an audio podcast!

[The litigants laugh.]

00:25:11 Jesse Host *[Singing]* One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve...

[Singing stops.]

00:25:17 John Host Alright. I'm gonna ask every—*[stifles laughter]*—everyone to pause

the podcast for a moment. And, um, do whatever you need to do to open your third eye. So that as I can describe these things to you, you can travel with me into the world of... the—of Jerome, and the many universes that are contained within his outbuilding. I'm gonna do my best to get through as much of this as I can.

Alright. Did you all pause? Are you ready now? Is your third eye opened? Joel Mann? Third eye open?

00:25:47 Joel Guest Open.

00:25:48 John Host Good. Joel, you are gonna represent the listener to me, 'cause I know you can't see what I'm seeing.

00:25:53 Joel Guest Got it.

00:25:54 John Host "In the back yard leading to the TARDIS is a driftwood sculpture with a colony of Frolics. The Frolics share a common ancestor with Daleks."

They're villains from *Doctor Who*, Joel.

00:26:04 Joel Guest Who?

00:26:05 John Host Right. The Frolics, however, are "generous, fun-loving, free-spirited." Not like the Daleks at all. And these are—and did you make these? Are these all your work? These little driftwood—?

00:26:16 Jerome Guest These are all my work, yes.

00:26:17 John Host And the Frolics are your own invention, right?

00:26:20 Jerome Guest Oh! Well... I—I would say I discovered them.

00:26:25 John Host Right.

00:26:26 Jesse Host *[Bursts out laughing.]* Yeah.

00:26:27 John Host I look forward to hearing you mount that defense when the BBC sues you out of existence. Jerome, Exhibit C—

[Someone laughs.]

"This is the man cave on your right as you step in. The front divider panel is the first thing you see as you walk into the TARDIS." Here is a room full of... beautiful galactic imagery on the walls. As well as quite a few fairy lights, and, uh, also a wood stove! Uh, and a—and a nice, uh, flat-panel TV and some armchairs.

Is this your work, Kathryn? These, um—these starry nights?

00:26:58 Kathryn Guest Yes, yes. Yes it is. Indeed.

00:26:59 John Host Beautiful.

00:27:00 Kathryn Guest Thank you!

00:27:01 Jesse Host Yeah, they're really lovely.

00:27:02 Kathryn Guest Oh, thank you!

00:27:03 John Host I honestly did not imagine we would get to something relevant to our case as soon as Exhibit C.

[The litigants laugh.]

I am grateful for that. Uh, this is the one you may wanna look at, Joel, when you're going to *Judge John Hodgman* on [Instagram](#). Exhibit C.

00:27:19 Joel Guest

Okay.

00:27:20 John Host

These are the paintings of the stars that Kathryn made. Kathryn, did you—

[Jesse laughs.]

—freehand these, or free-foot these? Or did you—are these based on actual Hubble photographs?

00:27:29 Kathryn Guest

I did—uh, Jerome let me borrow a book of Hubble images, and so each one kind of has a source image. But, um, mostly I, uh—almost, like, tie-dyed. Like, dipped the fabric first, and sort of used the shape that emerged. It was, um, pretty, uh, give-and-take, emotionally, with, uh, seeing what presented—

00:27:56 John Host

So "inspired by." "Inspired by."

00:27:59 Kathryn Guest

It was—yes. Mm-hm. Inspired by images.

00:28:01 John Host

As opposed to a—as opposed to a one-to-one imitation.

00:28:05 Kathryn Guest

Sure.

00:28:06 John Host

Yeah! That's what art is! Good for you.

00:28:08 Kathryn Guest

Mm-hm!

00:28:09 John Host

It's beautiful!

00:28:10 Kathryn Guest

Thank you!

00:28:11 John Host

Jerome let you borrow this book of Hubble Telescope photographs?

00:28:14 Kathryn Guest

Yes, I got it—I got paint all over it.

[Laughing] I'm sorry.

00:28:17 John Host

Oh, really? Interesting.

00:28:18 Jerome Guest

Yeah, I don't mind those shoe prints.

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:28:22 John Host

Bec—oh, because you—because—oh, this is a book that you own, Jerome. Is that right?

00:28:27 Jerome Guest

Yes.

00:28:28 John Host

I see. So you believe in ownership of material things.

00:28:31 Jerome Guest

Oh, yeah.

00:28:32 John Host

Huh! Funny. Interesting. Not very Zen. Whatever. Eh, Exhibit D—

[Someone laughs quietly.]

Uhhh, "You step into the TARDIS. To your left is the art corner, um, with the following elements."

[Jesse is cracking up.]

00:28:45 Jerome Guest

W—on that point, I just would invite you to go to any Zen center, and

at the end of the sitting, try and walk out with one of the cushions. See how non-possessive they are.

00:29:00 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* I just—

00:29:01 John Host You mean I can get a free cushion if I want outta this place?!

00:29:04 Jerome Guest If you can run fast enough, yes.

00:29:06 John Host *[Laughing]* Oh—

00:29:08 Jesse Host I just—John, before we get into what's depicted here in Exhibit D, I just wanna clarify for the at-home listener. Uh, who's not looking at the notes here. That with the exception of "art corner," all the proper nouns you're about to hear have their first letters capitalized. These are all official titles. They're not just descriptions.

00:29:31 John Host No, they're areas of the TARDIS!

00:29:33 Jesse Host Yeah. They're official titles. They could be commemorated with a plaque, for all we know.

00:29:37 John Host "As you step into the TARDIS, the first installation you see is," capital C, "Confronting Art Challenge."

00:29:46 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* The Confronting Art Challenge! Next on *Survivor*.

00:29:53 John Host Let me just set the stage here, for everyone who's listening. "To the left is the Tunnel of Lights." Capital T, capital L. "Together with various bolo ties." I think we're gonna get to those later.

00:30:04 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah!

00:30:05 John Host To the right is the, quote, capital L, "Literal Sacrifice sculpture, and the Sculpture of Pots, along with various bolo ties."

[Jesse bursts out laughing.]

And then, "Launching off from the art corner is the Vacuum of Space Bot." There's a lot to take in here, Jerome. And by the way—

00:30:21 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* What does the—what does the Space Bot have against bolo ties?! That's what I wanna know!

00:30:26 Jerome Guest Well, the Vacuum of Space Bot started out as three defunct vacuum cleaners.

00:30:34 John Host Ah!

00:30:35 Jerome Guest And got transformed into a bot.

00:30:37 Kathryn Guest Isn't it a rocket ship?

00:30:39 Jerome Guest Well, it's launching itself into space.

00:30:42 John Host Now, let me give credit where credit is due here, Jerome. Because this is an amazing physical space that you have created. This is all your work, correct, Jerome?

00:30:52 Jerome Guest Correct.

00:30:53 John Host Yeah. And it is a—it is a multimedia found object collage... full of light, and color, and bolo ties... that is very, very difficult to explain with words. It is not, shall I say, grokkable, simply using linear language. Especially since you described four photos here, and you provided only three.

[Kathryn cracks up.]

That, I believe, is called the—the Challenge of Confronting Art.

00:31:26 Jesse Host

Mm-hm.

00:31:27 Jerome Guest

Well, I think if you scroll down a little, you'll see the bot.

00:31:30 John Host

Ohhh, believe me, I'm scrolling, Jerome. I am scrolling.

[Jerome laughs.]

00:31:36 Jesse Host

I—I wanna say here that while these installations have ridiculous names, and a homemade quality to them, they really are pretty remarkable. Like, they're really something to see.

00:31:47 John Host

Obviously, we're in challenging times when it comes to being together in shared spaces and breathing on each other. But in better times in past, and we hope future, is this a place that you would share with members of the New Albany community? Or is this just a place for yourself to... unwind, uh, reconnect, and—and visit the stars?

00:32:06 Jerome Guest

Well, it's also for, you know, people in my immediate circles. So, like, people from my online book club, and people from, uh, my Zen meditation group, and people from my men's group have joined me in this. But I'm not thinking in terms of opening it to the general public, no. Well, I think—I assume that after my death, it will be one of those, "Uh, we don't know what we found..."

[John and Kathryn crack up.]

"...but you gotta come see this" kind of things.

00:32:44 John Host

Which is an incredible—you know, honestly, as someone who ponders death quite a bit myself, that's not—I never thought about a legacy as inspiring as that! As just a truly confounding thing you leave behind. For—for future generations to ponder and worry about.

I think it's a beautiful space, Jerome. I think it's fantastic.

00:33:06 Jesse Host

Jerome, have you ever seen the Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly? At, uh, the Smithsonian in Washington, DC?

00:33:16 Jerome Guest

No, I've only seen it when it's in recess. In my own mind.

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

00:33:24 John Host

I think you just got got, Jesse.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:33:25 Jerome Guest

I think in terms of... of the legacy, I'm thinking of this kind of as a Stonehenge of the mind.

00:33:36 John Host

Right.

00:33:37 Jerome Guest

Is my art corner.

00:33:38 Jesse Host

I mention the Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly because it is this amazing... installation. I mean, it is a throne, made of silver and gold tinfoil. That this man James Hampton built in—I think it's a two-car garage in Washington, DC,

secretly, over the course of... like, 15 years in the fifties and sixties, that was only found upon his death. And was then moved to the Smithsonian. It's just one of the most breathtaking things I've ever seen in my life, and your space—you know. It's a little bit of that, *[laughing]* and maybe a little bit *Pee-wee's Playhouse*.

00:34:19 Jerome Guest But yes, you're right. It's that kind of outsider assembly art that inspires me. Yes.

00:34:27 John Host Yeah! I—I sense a little Gary Panter in there as well, Jesse Thorn. See, I know some things about art.

00:34:34 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

00:34:35 John Host Who are your—who are your inspirations, Jerome?

00:34:39 Jerome Guest Well, I don't know particular names. Just looking through books of outsider art.

00:34:44 John Host Mm. And your own mind.

00:34:47 Jerome Guest Oh—well, let's never leave that.

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

00:34:50 John Host No, I agree. Let's never leave Jerome's mind.

[Kathryn laughs harder.]

I am ready to live in Jerome's mind forever and ever.

00:35:00 Jesse Host I think Jerome pretty much only leaves Jerome's mind to maybe cop a few new bolos.

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

00:35:07 John Host Yeah. Let's talk about Exhibit H, Jerome. I'm skipping ahead a bit. "Starting in the"—and this—and I quote, "Starting in the art corner and spilling out into the workspace area... are my 280 bolo ties. My plan is for these to eventually be transmogrified into wall bolos," parentheses—*[stifles laughter]*—"a brand new category I will be pioneering)," end parentheses. Okay.

[Stifles laughter.]

00:35:33 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* Yeah.

00:35:34 John Host Uh, before we move into wall bolos, congratulations. Two hundred and eighty bolo ties is a lot. I think that's... slightly more bolo ties than I had in my wardrobe in 1988, and I had quite a few.

00:35:46 Jesse Host Yeah. That's what they call a Lyle Lovett of bolo ties.

[John and Kathryn laugh.]

00:35:51 John Host And, uh—and you have these beautiful bolo ties, some of which also seem to be... constructed by you, perhaps? Jerome?

00:36:00 Jerome Guest Oh, they're all constructed by me.

00:36:02 John Host Ohhh, wow! Okay! They're gorgeous!

00:36:05 Jerome Guest I—I brought them to some art fairs, having in my mind to sell these. But everyone who came and liked them also said, "Well, if you caught me in the seventies..."

[Kathryn laughs, John snorts.]

"...I—I might buy it." But no one—I don't wear bolo ties anymore, no one I know.

00:36:28 John Host

Yeah.

00:36:29 Jerome Guest

My parents don't. And so that's my idea for wall bolos, to turn these into something that someone who liked the look could mount on a wall, rather than wearing.

00:36:42 John Host

Sure. Well, look. They're absolutely lovely, Jerome. And I'll tell you what. If this were 1988—

[Kathryn laughs.]

—I definitely would buy a wall full of bolo ties.

00:36:53 Jesse Host

Yeah.

00:36:54 John Host

But they're too special to buy! I think they look good arranged here, in your TARDIS. They're very special, though!

00:37:01 Jesse Host

Yeah, we're gonna have to wait 'til you die, and transfer 'em to the Smithsonian.

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:37:04 Jerome Guest

Yeah, I think that might be the case, yes.

00:37:07 John Host

I mean, what are—what are some of the materials you're using? I'm looking at this array here in Exhibit H. 'Cause Exhibit I—*[stifles laughter]*—is, uh—is spill-over bolo ties, that work—that go into the workspace. So I don't think we need an ex—separate exhibit moment for that.

00:37:22 Jerome Guest

Well, the materials are, um... stones, uh, usually as the base. Some kind of flat stone. And then a more colorful, rounded stone. Um, a stone made out of beads. And then wire work. And the weights at the end of the cords, I made out of copper or aluminum pipe that I, you know, shaped and decorated.

00:38:01 John Host

Gorgeous.

00:38:02 Jesse Host

Yeah. If the—if our listener is imagining a more traditional bolo tie, like, think of them as being a kind of—the aesthetic is closer to, like, a late eighties, 1990, uh, post-modern jewelry kind of thing. Although I'm—I'm sure—*[laughs]*—I—I say that only for the convenience of our listeners to imagine them, not—not to describe, uh, what is in our litigant's mind. *[Laughing]* I think that's indescribable.

[Kathryn chuckles.]

00:38:32 John Host

I mean, you know... Did you really want to sell these Or—or no?

00:38:38 Jerome Guest

I—I did want to sell them. But that was just on my side. Um, the world was not ready or willing to buy them.

00:38:49 John Host

Mm-hm. Kay. You're still open to some offers.

00:38:53 Jerome Guest

I am! Sure.

00:38:55 John Host

Alright. Gotcha.

00:38:56 Jesse Host If Lyle Lovett rolled through right now, what would it take to take these bolo ties home? One, and all. I want two prices. One price for just one, and a price for all of them. Lyle Lovett's here. He's got all that Lovett money. What are we talking about?

00:39:10 Jerome Guest He—he could have 'em all for \$5,000.

[John laughs.]

00:39:13 Jesse Host Five thousand. That's a very fair price. That strikes me as very fair.

00:39:17 John Host Whew. And there are 280 of 'em?

00:39:20 Jerome Guest Two hundred and eighty.

00:39:22 John Host Can you do that math, *[stifling laughter]* anybody?

[Jerome chuckles.]

00:39:24 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** What's that per bolo?

Jesse: I mean, you know, fifteen, twenty dollars.

00:39:26 John Host Fifteen, twenty dollars?

00:39:27 Jesse Host And that's a bargain for Lovett!

00:39:29 John Host What about this one with the blue, in the lower righthand corner? This blue... semi-precious gemstone or whatever it is? What kind of stone is that? This polished, bright blue stone?

00:39:39 Jerome Guest It is polished, yeah. It's polished and... I—I think that might be, um, a lapis lazuli, polished.

00:39:49 John Host Yeah. Yeah.

00:39:50 Jerome Guest And you know, if they're going individually, I'd say more like, um... uh, that would be, like, \$80.

[Beat.]

00:40:02 John Host What?

[Beat.]

Okay. Alright!

00:40:05 Jesse Host Yeah!

00:40:07 John Host Joel M—Joel Mann—Joel Mann, I just sent a picture of this one to you. I was thinking about getting it for you as a gift. But now that's 80 bucks... That's money that I could be donating to WERU.org.

00:40:17 Joel Guest Wow, that's nice!

00:40:18 John Host Yeah. Alright.

00:40:19 Joel Guest Beautiful.

00:40:20 Jerome Guest Well, you know, if you get the whole package, it's more like \$20 apiece!

00:40:25 John Host You're right. *[Stifling laughter]* The bargain, really, here, is buying \$5,000 worth of bolo ties.

[Kathryn laughs.]

Ah—hey. Look. Jerome? I'm—I'm not an American Picker. I'm not one of these guys who's gonna roll into town and try to take you for a ride on all the stuff you have in your outbuilding. Get it for cheap, 'cause I'm gonna resell it at my antique store or whatever. I'll—

- 00:40:47 Jesse Host *[Laughing]* So dudes can hang it in their man cave. Next to their oil and gas collectible!
- 00:40:55 John Host Put a circle around that lapis lazuli one. I'm thinking about it as a gift for Joel Mann here in Maine. Would you do... Would you do \$75?
- 00:41:04 Jerome Guest I—I'm gonna stick with 80. It's 80.
- [Jesse cracks up.]*
- 00:41:07 John Host *[Stifling laughter]* Whoa.
- [Someone claps.]*
- 00:41:10 Jesse Host Alright. You know what, I'll think it over and—
You know John doesn't have Lovett money!
- [Kathryn laughs.]*
- 00:41:14 John Host Alright—
- 00:41:15 Jerome Guest Yeah, but he's only going for one!
- 00:41:17 John Host Okay. Uh, I think—I think I've got a lot to think about. I think I'm almost ready to go into my TARDIS and make my verdict. But let's try to—try to land this, uh, Time And, uh, And Relative Dimensions In Space vehicle back on Earth for a moment, and get back to the case.
- Jerome, Kathryn has said she does not feel like she wants to sign her work. She feels that her footprints on the stars is essentially her mark upon the universe that is contained within your outbuilding. You do not accept this. Why is it important to you that she sign her beautiful work?
- 00:41:51 Jerome Guest Well... she only came up with the idea that the shoe print would be her signature after I asked her to correct the shoe prints. And also asked her to sign each panel. This is only one panel, and this—the shoe prints are kinda in the middle, not on a corner.
- 00:42:13 John Host And you don't like the shoe prints. You want her to fix them, right?
- 00:42:17 Jerome Guest Well, I would like it fixed.
- 00:42:19 John Host Mm-hm.
- 00:42:20 Jerome Guest And also, you know, if she had, from the outset, said, "The way I'm going to sign these panels is with a shoe print in each corner," you know, on one corner of each of the panels, I would've gone with that! But that's not how it went. This was something she thought of only after I said, "Correct the shoe prints."
- 00:42:46 John Host Mm-hm.
- 00:42:47 Jerome Guest And as far as that being an okay signature, you know, when I go to—I go to the bank. I'm gonna deposit a check in my account. And they say, "Well, you need to sign the back," and I say, "Hold on," take off one of my shoes, ink it up, and stamp the back... They're not gonna

accept that!

00:43:09 John Host I don't know; that feels like a pretty Jerome thing to do, honestly.
00:43:12 Jerome Guest Yeah, but the bank wouldn't go for it, it what I'm saying.

[Jesse laughs.]

And you know, it's one thing, she doesn't sign her theatre art. I understand that. But this is a private commission I made to her, for my private space.

00:43:29 John Host Couple of quick questions. Did you pay her?
00:43:31 Jerome Guest Yes.
00:43:32 John Host Okay. Uh, you paid her... Earth money? Regular old Earth money?
00:43:37 Jerome Guest Yes. Earth—Earth money, yeah.
00:43:39 John Host Okay. Alright.
00:43:40 Jerome Guest I'll leave it to her to say how much if she wants.
00:43:42 John Host No, it's not—it's not important. I hope you didn't pay her in bolo ties.

[Multiple people laugh or stifle laughter.]

00:43:47 Jerome Guest I—she wouldn't go for that!
00:43:48 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** *[Stifling laughter]* I know.

Jerome: *[Inaudible.]* I tried, and she wouldn't—

Jesse: Those are worth 80 bucks apiece! That's as good as cash!

John: I—I know—I know. I know.

00:43:54 Jerome Guest She wouldn't go for it.
00:43:55 Jesse Host Take those to the bank; they'll cash 'em right away!
00:43:57 John Host Hottest new cryptocurrency around. Jerome's bolo ties.
00:44:02 Jesse Host *[Stifling laughter]* Bring your bolos down to the bureau de change!
00:44:06 Kathryn Guest Can I ask a question?
00:44:08 John Host Yeah, sure!
00:44:09 Kathryn Guest To Jerome? Do you sign your work?

[Pause.]

00:44:12 Jerome Guest Um, my bigger work, yes. My—the Frolics are signed, yes.
00:44:18 Kathryn Guest Is the Vacuum of Space Bot signed?

[Someone snorts.]

00:44:21 Jerome Guest Um, no. But if someone wanted to buy it from me, I would sign it.
00:44:27 John Host How much are you charging for the Vacuum of Space Bot?
00:44:29 Jerome Guest Oh, that is, um, 350.
00:44:33 Jesse Host That's nothing—that's nothing to Lyle Lovett. This guy passes out three—he's got that old country money!

[Kathryn cracks up.]

00:44:41 John Host Alright. Do you want her to sign it because she's your friend, and you want her to acknowledge her participation in this huge art project you have going on? Or do you want her to sign it because you think it might be valuable someday, and you might—some American Picker might come through and be like, "Sorry, I don't know the provenance of this, uh, Hubble—Hubble painting. I'm—I can only give you \$7 for it." But if it were signed, "Kathryn," he would be like, "Oh, okay. Yeah. I'll take this for \$5,000." What's going on here?

00:45:10 Jerome Guest Well, I want 'em signed because she is my friend. She's a wonderful artist. And these are wonderful pieces of art. They're not a theatre set.

00:45:24 John Host Mm-hm.

00:45:25 Jerome Guest They are pieces of art I commissioned, she executed.

00:45:29 John Host Got it. Okay. I think I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decision. I'm gonna go into my personal favorite TARDIS control room, the wood-paneled one that Tom Baker, the Fourth Doctor, traveled around in for a while. Uh, and I will mull on this for a moment, and then I will come back to your reality and render my decision.

00:45:45 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape on the floor, footsteps.]*

00:45:46 Jesse Host Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

00:45:51 Sound Effect Sound Effect *[Door shuts.]*

00:45:52 Jesse Host Jerome, how are you feeling about your chances in this case?

00:45:54 Jerome Guest Oh, I'm loving it, I'm loving it!

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

00:45:58 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** *[Laughing]* Yeah, well, now you got that Lovett dough, you're not sweating it anymore!

[Kathryn laughs.]

Jerome: Yeah, it's—it's cl—it—it's clear in my mind! How it's gonna go.

00:46:05 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* Jerome, let's say Lovett walks up to you right now; he wants to buy those panels. What are you charging him for 'em?

00:46:12 Jerome Guest Oh, they're not going. That's—that's not a sell item.

00:46:14 Jesse Host Yeah. Yeah. Those—*[chuckling]* awww.

00:46:18 Jerome Guest He can talk to my estate once I'm gone.

00:46:21 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* Kathryn made the, "Oh, my—oh, my dear heart" gesture. As he said that.

[Kathryn laughs.]

Kathryn, how are you feeling about your chances?

00:46:30 Kathryn Guest Uh, I think, um... that I'm definitely gonna win this case! I mean, of course. That—nobody can make me do anything I don't wanna do.

[Laughs.] I'm the artist.

[She and Jesse laugh.]

I don't even—honestly, I don't even sign—I'm not even that great about signing my personal work. Like—*[sighs]*. I just don't—I don't know. But I guess if—if it's ordered that I—I have to, then I certainly will. But, um... You know. It's, uh—it's... I don't—I don't know that there're gonna be any collectors out there that are gonna be searching for my... super valuable work. It's not my aspiration to be that guy, anyway.

00:47:16 Jesse Host Well, this—we'll see what happens when Jerome dies and they find that garage, you know?

00:47:20 Kathryn Guest Oh, yeah.

00:47:21 Jesse Host Once it's headed to the Smithsonian, anything goes.

00:47:24 Kathryn Guest Sure. I'm honestly just proud to be a collaborator in this—in this amazing... work of art that Jerome did, really.

00:47:32 Jesse Host Kathryn, if it weren't such a wonderful opportunity for... sophistry, and an opportunity for you to claim that it's your signature, would you repair the footprints?

00:47:46 Kathryn Guest I would. Um, if forced. But I would—*[laughs]*—ah, you've seen the space. Do you really think anybody's gonna be looking at a shoe print in there? Honestly! Oh—*[laughs]*—Jerome is pointing to himself.

[Jesse laughs.]

It's—it's, uh—it's bothering Jerome. If he really wants me to fix it, I will, but, um... only if the judge orders it.

00:48:08 Jesse Host Jerome, what are you watching on this television in here, anyway?
[Laughs.] You just hanging out watching *This Is Us* or whatever?

[Kathryn and Jesse laugh.]

00:48:12 Jerome Guest Well, you know, I have a—a set of Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. I have, you know—

00:48:21 Jesse Host Yeah.

00:48:22 Jerome Guest —the, um, *Wooster and Jeeves* BBC series. You know.

00:48:27 Jesse Host Yeah. Those are really good. Do you find that the quality of the guest actors on that really varies wildly? Like, sometimes you'll be like, "This person's fantastic." And sometimes you're like, "That's supposed to be an American accent?"

00:48:40 Jerome Guest No, I don't notice that!

00:48:41 Jesse Host Oh, okay. That's kinda how I felt. Obviously—

00:48:43 Jerome Guest I'm—I'm just always focused on *Wooster and Jeeves*, that's it.

00:48:47 Crosstalk Crosstalk **Jesse:** They're—they're perfect. No complaints there.

Jerome: That's my—that's my world.

00:48:49 Jesse Host They're perfect. As good as it gets. Well, we'll see what *Judge John Hodgman* has to say about all this when we come back in just a

moment on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:48:58 Sound Effect Transition

[*Three gavel bangs.*]

00:49:00 Promo Clip

Music: Upbeat, brassy music.

Annabelle Gurwitch: Hi! I'm Annabelle Gurwitch

Laura House: And I'm Laura House.

Annabelle: And we're the hosts of *Tiny Victories*.

Caller 1: My tiny victory is that I sewed that button back on the day after it broke.

Annabelle: We talk about that little thing that you did that's a big deal to you but nobody else cares. Did you get that Guggenheim Genius Award?

Laura: We don't wanna hear from you!

Annabelle: We want little, bitty, tiny victories!

Caller 2: My tiny victory is a tattoo that I added onto this past weekend.

Laura: Let's talk about it!

Caller 3: My victory is that I'm one year cancer free. But my tiny victory is that I took all of the cushions off the couch, pounded them out, put them back, and it looks so great.

Laura: So, if you're like us and you wanna celebrate the tiny achievements of ordinary people, listen to *Tiny Victories*.

Annabelle: It's on every Monday on Maximum Fun.

[*Music fades out.*]

00:49:49 Sound Effect Transition

[*Three gavel bangs.*]

00:49:49 Jesse Promo

Judge Hodgman, we're taking a quick break from "Hubble Jeopardy," and we've got something very big of interest to *Judge John Hodgman* listeners. Something ENORMOUS! Something monumental.

00:50:03 John Promo

That's right. Jesse Thorn, the London Podcast Festival is returning both virtually and in person in London. We will be joining virtually. And we'll have a live *Judge John Hodgman* online streaming event this Thursday, September 9th.

Now, listen. This is an international affair. So you can't just give one time! This is happening at 12:30 Pacific, 3:30 PM Eastern, and 8:30 PM British Summer Time, and that's all the same time!

Tickets and more info are at KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest. And check out the London Podcast Festival in general! It—you know, we had the great pleasure of going there a couple years in a row in person. Hope to return in person sometime in the not-too-distant

future. Thrilled to be taking part virtually at this point.

But there's so much—there are so many incredibly talented, funny, interesting podcast people in the UK, who meet up at Kings Place in person and virtually, every year. And so thrilled to have been introduced to so many of them, and to be a part of this great festival. So check it out. That's KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest.

00:51:15	Jesse	Promo	Lot of Maximum Fun shows there this year! <i>FANTI</i> is gonna be there, <i>Beef And Dairy Network</i> making a return appearance.
00:51:17	John	Promo	Yes. Yes.
00:51:19	Jesse	Promo	I will say—when we saw the live <i>Beef And Dairy</i> show at the London Podcast Festival—
00:51:25	John	Promo	<i>[Raspberry exhale.]</i> Yeah.
00:51:28	Jesse	Promo	I have <u>never</u> seen a more extraordinary live podcast performance than Ben Partridge, host of <i>Beef And Dairy</i> , in a tuxedo—
00:51:36	John	Promo	Yeah.
00:51:37	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughing]</i> —with—with live music and song—
00:51:40	John	Promo	Yeah.
00:51:41	Jesse	Promo	<i>[Laughing]</i> And—and a—and a—

[Stifles laughter.]

—I'm gonna say eight-minute segment where he just went through the audience, pointing a microphone at them, and every single person—not one exception; no one tried to be cute; no one ruined the show—every single person in whose face he put a microphone said, "Rich beef sausages."

[John and Jesse laugh.]

So, yeah! Check out the London Podcast Festival. You don't have to live in London, England! It's available all over the world! Live streaming. And of course places like the London Podcast Festival have been really hurt by the past year and a half, so, uh, it makes a big impact to check in and buy a ticket, and watch something online. And, uh, there may even be in-person attendance in London!

So! Go to KingsPlace.co.uk/londonpodfest, and, uh, grab some tickets for some virtual shows, no matter where you live!

00:52:40	John	Promo	And Jesse Thorn, what's going on with you?
00:52:42	Jesse	Promo	Well, I continue to host two other great podcasts. Well, podcasts that I think are great. Uh, <i>Bullseye</i> —
00:52:47	John	Promo	Hey. Hey, hey! Hey, buddy. Wait a minute. I <u>know</u> they're great. And I know the <u>world</u> knows they're great, except for the few people who haven't checked 'em out yet. So this message is going out to you. <i>Bullseye</i> and <i>Jordan, Jesse, Go!</i> Tell me about 'em!
00:53:03	Jesse	Promo	Okay. On <i>Bullseye</i> this week, Kamasi Washington, the, uh... <u>amazing</u> jazz saxophonist, and the coolest guy ever, uh... yeah. Just one of the great—one of the great dudes who's ever been on <i>Bullseye</i> .

And of course, the legendary chef, uh, and food... evangelist, Alice Waters! Um—

00:53:26	John	Promo	Wow.
00:53:27	Jesse	Promo	Two episodes of <i>Bullseye</i> this week. So, uh, go subscribe to <i>Bullseye</i> in your favorite podcast app. And then, um, over on <i>Jordan, Jesse, Go!</i> , my comedy show, there's, uh—a lot of swearing, mostly about Wario! That's the <u>evil</u> Mario.
00:53:42	John	Promo	Sure.
00:53:43	Jesse	Promo	Uh, from <i>Super Mario Brothers</i> . Wario.
00:53:45	John	Promo	Just like you and I are the evil Judge John Hodgman and evil Jesse Thorn, who took over this podcast when we grew our beards.
00:53:51	Jesse	Promo	Yeah. Yeah. Talking about <u>evil</u> — <u>evil</u> Mario.
00:53:54	John	Promo	Evil Wario.
00:53:55	Jesse	Promo	Wario.
00:53:56	John	Promo	Turn the M upside-down. What do you get? <u>Wario</u>I'll check it out.
00:54:00	Jesse	Promo	Yeah. Wario.
00:54:01	John	Promo	I love Wario. I love saxophonists. I'll check out both <i>Bullseye</i> and <i>Jordan, Jesse, Go!</i> this week. And I challenge each and every one of you to do the same!
00:54:08	Jesse	Promo	Let's get back to the case.
00:54:09	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
00:54:11	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]</i>
00:54:12	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman re-enters the courtroom and presents his verdict.
00:54:20	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Door shuts.]</i>
00:54:21	John	Host	Look, I've been a Whovian for a long time. I love <i>Doctor Who</i> . Anybody references the TARDIS is gonna be a friend of mine. It is very, very rare that I have encountered... a Time Lord. Don't think I've met many of them. And by "Time Lord," I mean, I'm talking about a Gallifreyan. A time-traveling agent of chaos that... slips—slips between dimensions, and disrupts everybody's sense of what is real and what is not real. Much like all of the various Doctors Who.

But I'm gonna—I'm feeling—like, I know that you are a—you are a— a human of Earth, Jerome. I know that you're not a space-traveling, time-traveling alien. I know this building is—is an outbuilding in New Albany, Indiana. And it is not a portal through time and space, despite the beautiful—uh, the beautiful and evocative portraits of space that Kathryn has provided for you. But there is something very destabilizing about talking to you.

[Someone laughs very quietly.]

Because just listening to you say—*[stifles laughter]*—I just thought to myself when Jesse—when I heard Jesse ask you, "What—what do you watch on TV?" and you're like, "Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. Oh, and *Wooster and Jeeves*," I'm just like...

[Kathryn laughs.]

Everything that Jerome says is a complete 180-degree surprise... that automatically just becomes the most unsurprising thing about him.

[Kathryn and Jesse and/or Jerome laugh, John stifles laughter.]

00:55:47 John

Host

Like, it's just—like, "Oh, right, of cour—!" Like, "What?! Oh, yeah, of course. Of course." This guy makes driftwood—driftwood alternate universe Daleks that are fun... and signs them, even though they're not his IP. And also—

[Jesse and Kathryn laugh.]

—is rocking musicals. He's a—he is a—he is a—a Zen, uh, meditator, uh, who—*[stifling laughter]*—who nonetheless puts a tremendous amount of material value on these bolo ties.

[Kathryn and Jesse laugh.]

And—*[stifles laughter]*—and unlike my very, very, very—you know. I won't even say ninth grade. Like, seventh-and-a-half grade understanding of both, uh, large and small vehicles and Buddhism, there's a lot of rigidity! *[Stifles laughter.]* In—in Jerome's point of view regarding these... tapestries, these drops, these paintings! That Kathryn made. They are interpretations of the cosmos! That now bear not the fingerprints but the footprints of their creator.

This is what religions are based on! Total inconsequential mistakes in the landscape that we ascribe special meaning to. The special authorship of some unknown creator. Those footprints... are the best signature you could ever have! And I remain angry at you, Kathryn, for stealing that from me.

[Kathryn laughs, John stifles laughter.]

00:57:17 John

Host

Stealing that idea from me, even though you obviously had it before I did. Long before I could ever reach this verdict. That is—*[stifles laughter]*—the idea that this is something that Kathryn needs to repair in the painting that she made for you—I mean, hh—you live in a TARDIS, dude! Can you go with the flow a little bit?

[Kathryn cracks up.]

Just, like, bend like a reed in the wind for a second here? You are creating an installation of wild, beautiful chaos! And you're, like, looking at the footprints of your friend, going, "She needs to come in here and fix it. And by the way, why don't you sign your darn artwork? Case I need to sell it someday!"

Kathryn is right. I can't make her do that! She's the artist! Tough. You don't buy a signature when you buy—when you commission artwork; you buy the artwork. And she has signed it in her own way. And let the record of this podcast show any future American Pickers... that this is a certificate of authenticity. I have photos that I am looking at

right now. Of Kathryn not only painting these drop cloths, but stepping all over them!

[Stifles laughter.]

I'm sure a forensic photography expert could probably match these footprints to the ones that are on Jerome's wall. And while I am not an expert in the field of cosmic drop cloths, we here at the roadshow say these are absolutely authentic. And don't let anyone take them off you, Jerome, for anything less than their appraised value of \$5,000. Roughly the value of 280 bolo ties.

[Kathryn laughs.]

00:58:58 John Host Now. Before I go... what if we do the lapis lazuli bolo tie, and there's one to its left that kinda looks like a tiger's eye bolo tie? What if we do the pair of 'em for 150 bucks. Would you do that for me?

00:59:14 Jerome Guest A hundred and sixty.

[Kathryn laughs quietly.]

00:59:15 John Host No, you're not giving me anything here. You have to understand, I'm looking at my profit margin.

00:59:20 Jesse Host That's not how negotiating works. Yeah.

[Kathryn laughs harder.]

00:59:22 John Host You wanted 80 for—80 for one. Five thousand for—*[stifles laughter]*—for 280. \$80 for one. You wouldn't take—you wouldn't take 75 for one. I'm offering you—I'm offering you 155 for the both. That's five dollars off for me.

00:59:39 Jerome Guest Okay! Alright.

00:59:40 John Host Okay, we—? We have a deal with that?

00:59:41 Jerome Guest Okay.

00:59:42 John Host Fantastic.

00:59:43 Jerome Guest Yeah!

00:59:44 John Host Guess what, Joel?

[Beat.]

00:59:45 Joel Guest I'm getting a bolo tie.

00:59:46 John Host You're getting a bolo tie!

[Kathryn laughs.]

And guess what, Lyle Lovett?

[Jesse laughs.]

Lyle Lovett, if you're listening, you're getting a bolo tie!

[Joel or Jerome chuckles.]

You came to my event in Austin—

00:59:57 Jesse Host "If you're listening"?

00:59:58 John Host Yeah, he came to my—

00:59:59 Jesse Host Given that you're listening!

[Kathryn chuckles.]

01:00:01 John Host One of the sweet—have you—have you interviewed Lyle Lovett on *Bullseye*, Jesse Thorn?

01:00:06 Jesse Host No, I'd love to interview Lyle Lovett. And we wouldn't just talk about bolo—a lot of people think that if Lyle Lovett came on my NPR show *Bullseye*, we'd just talk bolos, but we'd probably talk about music and stuff, too!

01:00:16 John Host Lyle Lovett, as—as you may know from my book, uh, *Medallion Status: True Stories from Secret Rooms*, is the human locus of one of the most intense cosmic coincidences I've ever experienced, and I am sending him that bolo tie. I'm sending you a bolo tie—[stifles laughter]—you get a bolo tie, you get a bolo tie, no one else gets a bolo tie.

[Someone laughs quietly.]

This is the sound of a gavel.

01:00:35 Clip Clip **Dalek (*Doctor Who*):** EX-TER-MIN-ATE!

01:00:38 John Host Judge John Hodgman rules; that is all.

01:00:40 Sound Effect Sound Effect [As Jesse speaks below: Door opens, chairs scrape, footsteps.]

01:00:41 Jesse Host [Stifles laughter.] Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom.

01:00:49 Sound Effect Sound Effect [Door shuts.]

01:00:50 Jesse Host Jerome, you leave this case... uh, a poorer but richer man. How are you feeling?

01:00:56 Jerome Guest [Laughs.] Uh, yeah, kinda poorly!

[Kathryn and Jesse laugh.]

01:01:03 Jesse Host Wow, somebody really stole some cushions from your Zen center, huh?

[Kathryn laughs.]

01:01:06 Jerome Guest They did, man! They came in, and they left footprints, and—and just got off with the goods!

[Kathryn laughs.]

01:01:14 Jesse Host Kathryn, how are you feeling?

01:01:15 Kathryn Guest Uh, I'm ecstatic.

01:01:18 Jesse Host Mm-hm.

01:01:19 Kathryn Guest [Laughs.] I love Jerome so much. Um, I'm—I'm happy to be right, though. In this case. [Laughs.]

01:01:28 Jesse Host You know what it's—you know what it says in the, uh, Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly? It's this

huge, spectacular tableau. An altar surrounded by—um, surrounded by kind of tables and things like that. And in—in big letters, it says, "Fear not."

And I think you guys have created a space that is similar in its awesomeness. And by that I mean its ability to create awe. So congratulations to both of you. It's a—it's an amazing thing that you—the two of you have created as artistic collaborators.

01:02:07	John	Host	May I echo that as well, and then just very quickly, a—a quick question for Jerome before we go. Joe Byrd & The Field Hippies or Ultimate Spinach?
01:02:16	Jerome	Guest	Only in E minor.
01:02:20	Jesse	Host	Thanks, Jerome.
01:02:21	John	Host	I gotta go take a walk. I don't know what's happening.

[Jesse and multiple others laugh.]

I gotta go. Just finish the rest without me, Jesse.

[Kathryn laughs.]

Do Swift Justice without me—

01:02:21	Jesse	Host	Kathryn—
01:02:32	John	Host	—I'm walking around the radio station for a while.

[Kathryn laughs.]

01:02:35	Jesse	Host	Kathryn, uh, Jerome, uh, <i>[laughing]</i> have fun on your journey through the many dimensions.
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[Stifles laughter.]

And thanks for joining us on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:02:45	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
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01:02:48	Jesse	Host	Another <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> case in the books. In just a second we'll dispense some Swift Justice. First, our thanks to Elyse O'Neill for naming this week's episode, "Hubble Jeopardy." You can name a future episode! Like <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> on Facebook . We put out calls for submissions there.
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You can follow us on Twitter at [@JesseThorn](#) and [@hodgman](#). Hashtag your *Judge John Hodgman* Tweets [#JJHo](#), and check out the Maximum Fun subreddit to [discuss this episode](#). We're on Instagram at [@judgejohnhodgman](#). Make sure to follow us there for evidence and other fun stuff.

Our engineer in Maine is Joel Mann, Program and Operations Manager at WERU Community Radio in Orland, Maine. You can listen to WERU at [WERU.org](#). Joel is also on Instagram. His handle is [@themainemann](#), M-A-I-N-E-M-A-N-N.

This week's episode also recorded by Kathryn's husband Joel. This episode edited by Valerie Moffat, and our producer is Jennifer

			Marmor.
01:03:56	Jesse	Host	Now, let's get to Swift Justice! Where we answer your small disputes with a quick judgment. Benjamin asks:
			"My partner calls the remote control 'the machine.' I contend it's <u>not</u> a machine. What say you, Judge Hodgman?"
01:04:12	John	Host	<i>[Sighs deeply.]</i> Only in E minor.
01:04:15	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:04:17	Jesse	Host	<i>[Cracks up.]</i>
			That's it for this week's episode. Submit your cases at MaximumFun.org/jjho , or email hodgman@maximumfun.org .
			That's serious business, folks! We need your cases! MaximumFun.org/jjho , or email hodgman@maximumfun.org . Put your phone number in there so, uh, Jen can give you a call if we—if we wanna talk to you about your case. Uh, tell us if you've got home recording equipment of any kind, a mic on your computer, that kind of thing.
			Uh, no case is too small—
01:04:54	John	Host	Clearly. Clearly. <u>Obviously</u> no case is too sm— <u>obviously</u> .
01:04:58	Jesse	Host	Yeah. We'll see you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
01:05:01	Sound Effect	Transition	<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
01:05:03	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:05:04	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org.
01:05:06	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:05:07	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:05:08	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.