

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:00:02	John Hodgman	Guest	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. This episode was recorded live at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon. It was another stop on our frontier justice tour of the west. And it featured the great Corin Tucker of Sleater-Kinney. So, let's go to the stage at Revolution Hall!
00:00:20	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:00:22	Jesse Thorn	Host	<p><i>[Cheers and applause.]</i></p> <p>Portland, Oregon, you've come to us desperate for justice, and we're here at Revolution Hall to deliver it! Let's bring out our first set of litigants. Please welcome Alan and Christy!</p> <p><i>[Cheers and applause.]</i></p> <p>Tonight's case: "BROCCO-LEADING THE WITNESS". Alan brings the case against his wife, Christy. Alan wants to introduce broccoli into the diet of their 14-month-old daughter. Christy has a phobia of broccoli and doesn't want any in the house unless she's out of town.</p> <p><i>[Laughter.]</i></p> <p>Alan wants to serve it to their daughter more frequently! Who's right? Who's wrong? Only one can decide. Please rise as Judge John Hodgman enters the courtroom and delivers an obscure cultural reference.</p>
00:01:11	John	Host	<p>Well, you know, in <i>The Dark Phoenix</i> saga, Jean Grey destroyed a whole planet in the guise of Dark Phoenix, in order to power herself. Leading to her execution by the Shi'ar Empire. And the people who lived on that planet, they were never named but are commonly known among comic book fans as the broccoli people. But I'm not sure that anyone else is gonna get that one.</p> <p><i>[Laughter.]</i></p>
00:01:35	Jesse	Host	<p>Bailiff Jesse Thorn, please swear them in.</p> <p>Alan and Christy, 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?</p> <p><i>[They agree.]</i></p> <p>Do you swear to abide by Judge John Hodgman's ruling, despite the fact that earlier on, he not only made a "there's a lot of food trucks in Portland" joke, but he also immediately undercut it?</p> <p><i>[They agree.]</i></p>
00:02:04	John	Host	<p>Judge Hodgman, you may proceed.</p> <p>Alan and Christy, you may be seated for an immediate summary judgement in one of yours favors. Can either of you name the piece of culture that I referenced while I entered the courtroom? Alan? Why don't you go first?</p>

00:02:14 Alan Guest *[Uncertainly.]* It sounds like—
00:02:15 John Host Alan, have you seen—have you seen the *Star Wars* show *Andor*?
00:02:19 Alan Guest I have not seen the *Star Wars* show *Andor*.
00:02:21 John Host No, really? Christy, have you seen it?
00:02:22 Christy Guest I have not.
00:02:23 John Host Okay. Then never mind. Anyway.

[Laughter.]

00:02:29 Alan Guest Do you have a guess?
It sounds like a Patton Oswalt monologue from a show I have not seen.
00:02:34 John Host It sounds like a Patton Oswalt monologue from a show Alan has never seen. I'm writing that down now. Christy? What is your guess, if I may ask?
00:02:47 Christy Guest I, uh, have no idea. But I'm gonna go with what I know right now, with a 14-month-old. So, I'm gonna say Tag from *Go, Dog. Go!* season three.
00:02:56 John Host Oooh. Oh! *[Chuckles.]*
00:03:01 Jesse Host Sounds more like first season before they really dialed in the character, but...
00:03:06 John Host All guesses are wrong! I was quoting from my friend and fellow Maximum Fun podcaster, Elliott Kalan, from a telephone call I had with him today.

[Laughter.]

As I walked back from the laundromat here in Portland, Oregon, saying, "I need a cultural reference for broccoli. If I quote Albert Cubby Broccoli, the producer of the James Bond movies, am I going to be canceled?"

And Elliott said, "I don't know about that, but—" And then, he said that long sentence. Do you know what comic book the *Dark Phoenix* saga was in?

00:03:42 Alan Guest I do not.
00:03:43 John Host Wow! Christy?
00:03:46 Christy Guest I do not.
00:03:47 John Host Alright.

[Laughter.]

I'm frankly a little alarmed by the lack of gasping, but that's fine. You can look it up when you get home. Let's get to the case in the meantime. *[Chuckles.]* Needless to say that when we broadcast this podcast, there are gonna be men screaming at their phones. And luckily, they shall never be heard!

00:04:17 Alan Guest Anyway! Who seeks justice in this court before me?
00:04:17 John Host I do.
Alan. What is the nature of the justice you seek? You wanna feed this broccoli to your child.
00:04:21 Alan Guest I do. Um, so we try to introduce a couple new vegetables a week into her diet in different preparations. Most she doesn't like, so we—
00:04:31 John Host Souffle, omelet.

00:04:32 Alan Guest Yeah, sautéed, roast. You know. Whatever works. And one week, I brought home some broccoli. And we never have it, because I know that Christy does not like broccoli. But—

00:04:45 John Host Does not like broccoli? Or has a stronger adverse relationship with broccoli?

00:04:51 Alan Guest Well, this is what—

00:04:52 John Host I am asking Christy!

[Laughter.]

00:04:55 Christy Guest Much stronger than distaste.

00:04:57 John Host Much stronger than distaste. Tell me.

00:04:59 Christy Guest Phobia level.

00:05:00 John Host Phobia level. And describe how you feel when broccoli is around you?

00:05:06 Christy Guest *[Sighs unhappily.]* This feels a little embarrassing!

00:05:08 John Host I mean, I don't mean—maybe that's too—no! Okay, I thought I was triggering you. I apologize.

00:05:13 Christy Guest *[Chuckling.]* No. Aaah, so there's definitely some physical anxiety symptoms. Like my heart races a little bit, tightens up in my chest. So, that's part of it. But mainly, it's like strong disgust. Like I need to get away from it.

[They chuckle.]

00:05:29 John Host Has that always been the case for you?

00:05:31 Christy Guest As long as I can remember, yeah.

00:05:33 John Host Really? And did your parents try to make you eat broccoli?

00:05:38 Christy Guest You know, they never—they probably asked me to try it. They never forced anything. But I remember it being in our house a lot. My dad really liked broccoli. It was always steamed. And so, the like smell was so strong.

00:05:52 John Host It's gross.

00:05:53 Christy Guest It's disgusting. Yeah.

00:05:54 John Host It's gross. You never believe a vegetable could fart, but now you realize. You weren't expecting it from broccoli, of course. May I ask what do you do for a living?

00:06:06 Christy Guest I am a clinical psychologist.

[Laughter.]

And I specialize in, uh, cognitive behavioral therapy for—*[laughs]* for people with anxiety and traumatic stress disorders.

[Hollering and applause.]

00:06:27 John Host So, it would be fair to say that you know whereof you speak—that you don't toss around “phobic level” lightly.

[Christy confirms.]

Do you—can you describe what it is about broccoli? I mean, the smell we've established is farty. Can you describe what it is about broccoli that just gets you the wrong way? 'Cause I have a phobia, and I didn't know about it 'til they closed the 2000 Leagues Under the Sea ride at Walt Disneyworld, which I had been in once as a kid, and I remember leaving with a very disquieted feeling, because robots should not be underwater.

[Laughter.]

That's not where they belong. And when they closed it, everyone started posting videos of their ride on that fake submarine, through that lagoon of *Westworld* androids. And I felt my heart racing, and I felt every hair on my arms and neck stand up. And I had to turn—like, I closed the thing. Because—and to this day, I still feel I might fall into that lagoon full of robots at any moment. If I take a wrong step on the stage, I just would know that they're down there reaching for me. That's how I describe my phobia. How would you describe your phobia of broccoli?

[Christy sighs thoughtfully.]

00:07:50 Christy Guest And let the record show, Alan's still here too. I think—so, the odor is a big part of it, but the visual is as much of the disgust and like anxiety response for me. Like, there's just something about those tiny, green, little flecks.

[John affirms.]

00:08:08 John Host And they're bunched up, and they get everywhere!
00:08:11 Christy Guest They're like little polyps, even. Little growths. Yeah. Yeah. Like, I remember as a kid, if they used the same knife to cut the broccoli and then sliced my apple and there was one of those little, green pieces on it? It was done. Like, I couldn't eat it.
00:08:23 John Host Little—yeah. Yeah. This is probably why your parents didn't allow you to read the *Dark Phoenix* saga in *X-Men*.

[Christy agrees with a laugh.]

00:08:34 Jesse Host Like, they were doing you a service. Doctor, hast thou ever considered healing thyself?

[Laughter.]

00:08:39 Christy Guest Not in this area.
00:08:40 John Host No. What would it take for you if you were counseling someone who wanted to, uh, eat broccoli or be around broccoli while their daughter was being nourished—what counsel would you offer?
00:08:54 Christy Guest I feel like I wanna disagree with the dispute a little bit, 'cause I am willing to work on this. So, what Alan submitted was that I was unwilling. And I'm open to this. I'm open to facing this fear.

[Laughs.]

00:09:06 John Host Oh, your husband spoke for you and interpreted your feelings for you?

[Laughter.]

Well, this is a very unusual case, Jesse Thorn.

[Laughter.]

00:09:25 Christy Guest I think we're charting some new legal territory!
So, I do wanna say: I am open to working on this. But my disagreement with him is how he went about this, which was monstrous.

00:09:36	John	Host	<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:09:38	Jesse	Host	You're saying that the way— He told her it was an airplane, goddamn it!
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:09:50	John	Host	She couldn't let those people die! You're saying the way that Alan introduced broccoli was monstrous.
			<i>[Christy confirms.]</i>
00:10:12	Sound Effect	Transition	Alan? How did you introduce—? Here's my guess. You dressed up as broccoli and hid in a closet 'til she came home, feeling you would shock her out of her phobia! Three gavel bangs.
00:10:14	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:10:16	John	Host	How did you actually introduce broccoli, Alan? You're not a monster, are you?
00:10:20	Alan	Guest	I purchased a head of broccoli at the Fred Meyer—
00:10:22	John	Host	<i>[Interrupting.]</i> <u>A WHOLE HEAD, sir?!</u>
00:10:25	Alan	Guest	And I put it in the refrigerator.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:10:29	John	Host	I believe you have some evidence that you shared with us? Some photographic evidence?
00:10:33	Alan	Guest	An artist's depiction.
			<i>[Boisterous laughter.]</i>
00:10:39	Jesse	Host	How did you get my friend, Dan from college's, phone number?!
00:10:44	Alan	Guest	I contend that this representation is inaccurate, and that I only purchased one head of broccoli.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:10:52	Christy	Guest	I remember more heads of broccoli. <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
00:10:55	John	Host	Let the record show that this manipulated image—
00:11:01	Jesse	Host	Photo illustration.
00:11:02	John	Host	—shows a crisper drawer in a refrigerator entirely full of broccoli. I will also, for those of you listening at home, you can see this photo on MaximumFun.org , on our Instagram page @JudgeJohnHodgman , where you will get to see the exact brand of refrigerator I have!
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			This is uncanny! So, this is an artist's representation. You had one head of broccoli in your refrigerator.
			<i>[Alan confirms.]</i>
00:11:37	Alan	Guest	And then you said to Christy, "Go open the refrigerator. I got you a surprise." At the time, I did not know this was a phobia level situation.

00:11:41	John	Host	How long have you been married? How long have you been married?
00:11:43	Alan	Guest	11 and a half years.
00:11:45	John	Host	Oh, I see. Had the subject ever come up before in your life?
00:11:49	Alan	Guest	I knew she didn't like it, so I never brought it home.
00:11:51	John	Host	That's very kind of you. Until you had a daughter, and then you were like, "[<i>Censored</i>] it, I'm bringing back broccoli."
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			"Been more than a decade. I'm finally gonna bring that broccoli back into the house and put it in the refrigerator. I'm tired of being controlled."
00:12:10	Alan	Guest	After the fifth sweet potato preparation, I was ready to stretch.
00:12:14	John	Host	You have another piece of evidence that you submitted. Let me see that, please. Awww.
			<i>[The audience "aw"s too.]</i>
00:12:21	Alan	Guest	This is Ada.
00:12:22	John	Host	Does the city of Portland give your children these hats?
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:12:35	Alan	Guest	No, but it's a great idea.
00:12:39	John	Host	It's a perfect black watch cap in the Oregon style. You should give her a fake beard! That would be fun.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			Alright. Take the cuteness away. I tire of it.
00:12:51	Jesse	Host	She says, <i>[in a high pitched baby voice]</i> "Can I have some charcuterie?"
00:12:59	Alan	Guest	She does love cheese.
00:13:04	John	Host	So, tell me how you felt when you saw the broccoli in the refrigerator, Christy.
00:13:10	Christy	Guest	It was not good. Uh. <i>[Chuckles.]</i> So, Alan didn't give me any warning, any notice. I remember more than one head of broccoli. It filled the crisper like all the way. So, I got home. It was the end of the day. It was a long day. And I go into the kitchen, and I open the fridge, and there it is. Like, <u>staring</u> at me.
00:13:33	John	Host	Sure. With its many, many, tiny green eyes.
00:13:36	Christy	Guest	It was terrible! It was terrible. And it felt, I think, especially intrusive in my home. 'Cause it's true, we've been like a broccoli-free family for fifteen years. There's never been broccoli in my house. And so, it was—totally caught me off-guard to see it, for one. I was like shocked.
			<i>[John affirms.]</i>
			Totally disgusted.
00:13:58	John	Host	Did you feel betrayed?
00:13:59	Christy	Guest	A little bit.
00:14:00	John	Host	I mean, I don't wanna put words in your mouth, but would you say that?
00:14:02	Christy	Guest	A little bit. You know, Alan is usually a very thoughtful guy. And I was shocked that he would do this without telling me.

00:14:10	John	Host	Do you—what do you think about Alan’s argument that he didn’t realize exactly how repulsed you were by broccoli? Do you think that that’s possible? That he didn’t know?
00:14:21	Christy	Guest	I think it is unlikely! I don’t think this is something that I hide.
00:14:25	John	Host	Was it in your vows?
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:14:28	Christy	Guest	It was not a part of our vows.
00:14:29	John	Host	Because if you felt really strongly about it, you might have—I mean, I don’t wanna critique—look, you seem happily married.
			<i>[Jesse says John’s name.]</i>
			But if you could do it all over again, I would advise—yes! Jesse, what were you saying?
00:14:39	Jesse	Host	No one reads the licensing agreement.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:14:48	John	Host	Alan, how do you feel hearing Christy describe her reaction this way. Proud of yourself?
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:14:59	Alan	Guest	I obviously never would’ve done it this way if I had known that this was such a strong—
00:15:03	Jesse	Host	And yet, here you sit.
00:15:06	John	Host	What way, then, do you propose you do do it, going forward from here?
00:15:13	Alan	Guest	By whatever terms you and her would like to establish.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:15:23	John	Host	This isn’t...
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			This isn’t apology hour with your therapist. Although, I accept your apology.
00:15:35	Alan	Guest	Well, I know there is a way to approach phobias, but I’m not the expert in doing so.
00:15:42	John	Host	I was waiting for you to say that. <i>[Chuckles.]</i> What do you do for a living, if I may ask.
00:15:46	Alan	Guest	I’m a software developer.
00:15:48	John	Host	I see. So, <i>[sighs]</i> ... Christy, I would presume you would like there to be no broccoli.
00:15:57	Christy	Guest	<i>[Beat.]</i> That would be the easiest option.
00:15:58	John	Host	That would be the ideal.
			<i>[She agrees.]</i>
			How are you with the other vegetables in the brassica family? How do you feel about cauliflower?
00:16:05	Christy	Guest	Not great, but not as disgusting as broccoli.
00:16:08	John	Host	It looks like a pale brain.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			It’s gross. What about brussels sprouts? They smell bad.

00:16:15 Christy Guest They do. I can have them on my plate. I can eat maybe one or two, and that's it.

00:16:21 Jesse Host As long as you don't have to eat an apple that was sliced with the same knife.

00:16:26 John Host *[Laughter.]* What about broccolini? That's the—as—

00:16:29 Christy Guest It's too close.

00:16:30 John Host Too close. It's anything with those green florets.

00:16:37 Christy Guest *[She confirms.]* Is it—do you eat vegetables otherwise?

00:16:38 John Host I do.

00:16:43 Christy Guest What's your favorite other vegetable? Don't wait for the translation. Answer the question.

I like asparagus.

00:16:44 John Host *[Applause.]* Asparagus! That's one of the stinkiest! Depending on if you have the gene.

00:16:52 Jesse Host Sorry, John, I am totally hung up on the fact that, in Portland, asparagus is an applause line.

00:17:06 John Host *[Laughter followed by more applause.]* These are all wonderful vegetables, some of which Christy is more tolerant of than others. None of them are broccoli. Why not just not do broccoli? I mean, it's a superfood. We all get it. But so's kale. You okay with kale?

00:17:21 Christy Guest Uh, yes, but I prefer it raw. Not cooked or steamed. *[Chuckles.]*

00:17:26 John Host Well, okay, but for your—but for your child?

00:17:29 Christy Guest Kale is okay in the house.

00:17:30 John Host That would be okay? If you opened your refrigerator and you saw some kale in there, you would not be—?

00:17:33 Christy Guest No problem.

00:17:34 John Host Okay. So, what is it about the broccoli? Why don't you just say no broccoli?

00:17:40 Alan Guest I guess we could, but I feel like—I really wanna make the rounds with vegetables to see what she likes. And if she really likes it, then it'd be one more vegetable in the arsenal.

00:17:53 John Host Alright! You know what? That's a reasonable answer, to my surprise.

00:18:09 Christy Guest *[Laughter.]* No, no, you're fine. Christy, you said that you are willing to work on this. In what way are you willing to work on this?

I am willing to work on this with me being the one who gets to decide how I go about this. *[Laughs.]* So, I get to choose like the exposure practices. I get to choose the timeline.

00:18:22 John Host And how—and if you had a patient whom you were advising, what would you advise? What would—what would the practice be?

00:18:33 Christy Guest I mean, I think I would first work on sort of the why. Why is it important for you to do this? So, we can have that in front of us the whole time. 'Cause it's hard and uncomfortable. And then, we would

00:18:51 John Host come together and sort out what the ultimate goal is and come up with lots of little steps to create a fear hierarchy, basically. Let me follow up—let me follow up with a question. Why? Why is it important for you to do this?

00:18:58 Christy Guest *[Laughter.]*
00:18:59 John Host To work on this?
Yeah, why is it important for you to work on this. Thank you. Great phrasing. I should have thought of that.

00:19:04 Christy Guest *[Laughter.]*
I mean, I think there's a little bit of embarrassment for this, for me. And so, I would like to like do this so I don't have to feel that way. And also, I feel bad like blocking Ada from food that she might like. You know. And Alan is wanting to do this, and I wanna support him in that. He's been like great with getting all of Ada's food together. He's a cook in our house, and I don't wanna like block him from doing that either. So, that's part of my willingness to work on it.

00:19:35 John Host And what are the steps that you foresee taking to get to where you want to be?

00:19:42 Christy Guest I mean, I probably have to—
00:19:43 John Host Does it make you uncomfortable to even think about it?
00:19:45 Christy Guest A little bit. I would—
00:19:46 John Host Yeah. But let's go there anyway. Together. This is the work. This is the work.

00:19:49 Christy Guest Like imagining a first step on this fear ladder—
00:19:52 John Host This is the perfect environment for a therapeutic encounter.

00:19:55 Christy Guest *[Laughter.]*
I agree! I feel very safe here.
00:19:56 John Host I mean, I would imagine than this is something like your own office.
00:19:59 Christy Guest Pretty much, yeah. Yeah.

[John agrees.]

00:20:09 John Host You know, it may be going to the grocery store and just looking at the broccoli, honestly. That might be my first step. That would be the first step. And if I were to rule in your favor, what would you have me rule? Start with looking at broccoli in the grocery store and then—?

00:20:19 Christy Guest Buying it. *[Chuckles.]* Looking at it at my house, in my refrigerator.

[John affirms.]

Practice cutting it, but not having to do anything else with it. 'Cause the—like, the steam part is way worse. So, I think starting with raw would be easier for me.

[John agrees.]

00:20:48 John Host I don't know! I think my ultimate goal is feeling comfortable enough buying, chopping it, and giving it to Ada. But I don't think I wanna work towards ever eating it. And what do you think is the timeframe? Like, roughly—how old is Ada again?
00:20:54 Christy Guest 14 months.

00:20:55	John	Host	So, um, that's a little bit more than a year. So, like, 21 years? <i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:21:02	Christy	Guest	Is that fair? I could probably achieve it in that timeline. Maybe... three to six months.
00:21:09	John	Host	Three to six months, that's a—I think that's fairly fast.
00:21:11	Christy	Guest	It might be.
00:21:12	John	Host	You can hear people are excited. <i>[Laughter. Scattered applause.]</i>
00:21:17	John	Host	Alan, this all sounds perfectly reasonable. <i>[Alan agrees.]</i> O-kay then! <i>[Laughter.]</i> Then what are we doing here?! I think I've heard everything I need to in order to make my decision. <i>[Chuckles.]</i> Given that there has been legal surrender onstage. Do you have anything that you would like to say before I go into my chambers—which, by the way, contains broccoli? It's part of our rider. <i>[Laughter.]</i> We ask for—we ask for cut up vegetables with some hummus and some—I mean, it's—you know, green room garbage. But the point is, I want you to know that I will be with broccoli for a period of time, for a little while. But I'm not going to touch it or anything. And I'm not gonna like bring it out here and go, "Whooo!" You know what I mean?
00:22:09	Christy	Guest	<i>[Laughs.]</i> I appreciate that.
00:22:10	John	Host	Yeah, no, I appreciate you.
00:22:11	Jesse	Host	Hey, uh—hey, Christy. Want some apple slices? <i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:22:16	John	Host	Is there anything you would like to say to me or to Christy before I go into the—my broccoli-laden chambers to make my decision?
00:22:25	Alan	Guest	Um, I think I appreciate her openness here.
00:22:30	John	Host	Oooh! That's so sweet. <i>[“Aw”s from the audience.]</i> Alright. I'll be back in a moment to destroy you. <i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:22:38	Jesse	Host	Please rise as Judge John Hodgman exits the courtroom. <i>[Applause.]</i>
00:22:50	Christy	Guest	Christy, how are you feeling about your chances here? I'm feeling pretty good.

00:22:53 Jesse Host *[Laughter.]*
Are you really ready for this?
00:22:55 Christy Guest I think I am.
00:22:57 Jesse Host Even with all those nasty little florets?
00:22:59 Christy Guest *[Laughs.]* I think I am.
00:23:00 Jesse Host Even all those stinky steams?

[Christy laughs.]

Sorry, I don't mean to, uh... I did mean to.

[Laughter.]

Alan, have *[chuckles]*—have you ever heard the expression, “If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything?”

[Laughter.]

Sorry! I mean, how do you feel about your chances here?

00:23:27 Alan Guest *[Laughter.]*
She's been telling me she's gonna crush me all day.

[Laughter; Jesse loses it.]

00:23:37 Jesse Host And I'm fairly certain it's happened.
You were like, “Ha-ha! Not if I crush-a myself!”

[Laughter.]

Well, we'll see what Judge Hodgman has to say when he returns. Please rise as Judge John Hodgman reenters the courtroom and delivers his verdict.

00:23:56 John Host *[Applause and cheering.]*
First of all, I just wanna say thank you, Christy, for being here and to talk so openly about something that scares you so much. It's very brave, and you did a great job. And I also wanna say, Alan, you're not a monster. I mean, you clearly are someone who—like, there could've been a partner—a spouse, I daresay a husband—come on here and say, “But broccoli is really good, and I really want it to be a part of the—I think it should be on my terms and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.” But you obviously have listened to your partner and respect her and her boundaries and, in a very kind way—to the point that I feel like there's been some witness tampering.

[Laughter.]

I feel... I feel like someone got to you. Bailiff Jesse, I think we need to increase our security measures with our litigants, because I mean, you were—you were—you were in our basement all day, I feel like. Separated. That's our—that's our procedure. But I guess maybe you talked to each other. 'Cause obviously, you've come to some agreement without my help. But I will say this. I think that three to six months is a very ambitious timeframe. As you know, I am a clinical psychologist.

[Laughter.]

Dealing with behavioral issues, cognitive behavioral therapy and so forth. All I'm—I'm not trying to tell you your business, but I'm certainly saying give yourself as much time as you need. In this regard, I am obviously finding in your favor. And when I bang this gavel, I will say so. In the meantime, I wanna commend you, Alan, for being a good partner and listening and understanding. Do you have any phobias?

[A beat. Laughter.]

00:25:59	Alan	Guest	Oh, wait a minute!
00:26:02	John	Host	<i>[Stammering.]</i> Just the usual existential things. <i>[Chuckling.]</i> Sure!

[Applause and cheering.]

It's not a phobia. You are gonna die.

[Laughter.]

It's gonna happen. But in the mean—*[chuckles]* in the meantime, I hope you enjoy your lives together with broccoli in moderation, and I just—you know. I do have to say, Christy, the one place I disagree with you is when you said, "I don't want to deny my daughter broccoli." There are gonna be many things that your child speaks to with their clinical psychologist later on about everything you did wrong.

[Laughter.]

And ultimately, if you decide you can't have broccoli in the house—you tried, and it didn't work, and you enforce my ban on broccoli in the house, which you have pre-clearance for should you not get to where you wanna be. I hope that you do, but should you not, don't worry. You won't be damaging your daughter. You'll be doing her a favor. This is the sound of a gavel.

[Laughter.]

[Three gavel bangs.]

Judge John Hodgman rules. That is all.

00:27:13	Jesse	Host	<i>[Applause and cheering.]</i> Alan, Christy, thanks for joining us on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:27:20	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:27:22	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:27:25	Jesse	Host	Please welcome Caleb and Kate!

[Applause and cheering.]

Caleb brings the case against his friend, Kate. Kate hates NASA and space exploration! And she isn't shy about saying so. Caleb says space exploration is good and worthwhile! And he's tired of Kate's constant NASA bashing.

00:27:50 Caleb Guest That's pretty on point, actually.
 00:27:53 Kate Guest I mean, yeah, fair. *[Chuckles.]*
 00:27:55 John Host Well! Which of you seeks justice in this courtroom? Who brings the case?

00:27:59 Kate Guest Actually, that's my husband who's in the third row, who has somehow gotten—
 00:28:02 John Host He manipulated both of you up here.
 00:28:04 Kate Guest Absolutely. 100,000%.
 00:28:05 John Host To talk about this.

[Kate confirms.]

And is it Kate that I am speaking to now?

[Kate confirms.]

Kate, why do you dislike NASA? Oh! I take it back. Why do you hate NASA?

00:28:14 Kate Guest A couple reasons.
 00:28:15 John Host Please.
 00:28:16 Kate Guest You got time? *[Laughs.]*
 00:28:17 Jesse Host No! That's the whole point, here.
 00:28:20 John Host No, take all the time you need.
 00:28:22 Kate Guest Okay. So, primarily, um—*[sighs]* every time I see a headline like "NASA Awards a 57 Million Dollar Contract to Build Roads on the Moon", I wonder things like, "Aren't there people who haven't eaten today?" And, "Don't most Americans read at a sixth-grade level or lower?" So, that's a big part of it.

[John affirms.]

00:28:44 Jesse Host How do you think we're gonna get the moon cheese to market?!

[Laughter.]

00:28:48 Kate Guest That's a supply chain issue. *[Chuckles.]*
 00:28:51 Jesse Host Sorry, I don't know a lot about this. I read a sixth-grade level.

[Laughter.]

00:28:58 Kate Guest Well, and then the second part is—
 00:29:00 John Host Second part is—?
 00:29:01 Kate Guest You know, we have these beautiful telescope images, and we learn from a really young age to reach for the stars. Right?

[John agrees.]

00:29:10 John Host Like, literally. And you know—
 We're really lucky that we just had those telescopes floating around up there.

[Laughter.]

Look, everyone. Kate's right. You know, like I understand what she—I'm not disagreeing with her. The telescopes get up there somehow, though.

[Kate agrees.]

Are you saying that "reach for the stars" is the wrong message?

[Kate agrees.]

00:29:41	Kate	Guest	Okay, fair enough. Yeah. Like, if we were like, "Why don't we explore the rest of the world that we have?" maybe we'd have figured out how to like—you know, get garbage bags out of the Mariana Trench or something.
00:29:49	John	Host	Yeah. Right. Reach for the trenches.

[Kate confirms with a laugh.]

00:29:53	Kate	Guest	That's fair. That makes a lot of sense. Or the mountains! Right.
00:29:56	John	Host	Uh, Caleb. You are in favor of space exploration. Is that right?
00:30:00	Caleb	Guest	I'm in favor of space—
00:30:01	John	Host	<i>[Interrupting accusatorially.]</i> Because you love Elon Musk! Isn't that true, sir?!

[Laughter.]

00:30:09	Jesse	Host	<i>[Shouting.]</i> Don't wait for the translatiooon! You love Musk and you hate the TRENCH!
00:30:12	Caleb	Guest	Who doesn't hate a trench, though? What business do they have?
00:30:16	John	Host	I mean, what is your argument for pro-space exploration?
00:30:22	Caleb	Guest	Kate makes a looot of great points, you know, about all the things that we need to fix here on Earth. There's tons of them. But NASA has developed so many technologies that have helped us—light emitting diodes are a huge one that have helped save electricity in our environment. And things like artificial limbs for amputees, smoke detectors, fireproof clothing, all this—
00:30:42	John	Host	The phrase "failure is not an option".

[Laughter.]

That haunts me every time I fail.

[Laughter.]

00:30:53	Caleb	Guest	So, yeah, there's just—there's so many different inventions that—
00:30:55	John	Host	I mean, arguably, we only have Ed Harris <u>because</u> of NASA.
00:31:01	Caleb	Guest	Yeah. And Tom Hanks as well.
00:31:03	John	Host	I hadn't even thought of that!

[Laughter.]

00:31:08	Caleb	Guest	So, yeah, all of her points are really great, but I think it's just maybe a little misguided, considering the budget that we spend for other things in our government, such as our military and things like that, to hate on NASA so much when it's so small.
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00:31:22 John Host *[Scattered cheers.]*
00:31:23 Jesse Host Sure. Kate—
Yeah, and what about—what about the pay that goes to those clowns in congress, am I right?

00:31:28 Caleb Guest *[Laughter and cheers.]*
00:31:29 John Host I didn't say it.
Oh, they're always lining their pockets, those clowns in congress.
Uh—

00:31:35 Jesse Host Buying more seltzer bottles.
00:31:36 John Host Kate, NASA is being—does not have the funding or public support that it used to have. I mean, truthfully, aren't you kind of kicking a government agency while it's down?

00:31:49 Kate Guest I really do think that they should be protecting us from missiles or like—not missiles, but like asteroids.

00:31:54 John Host Asteroids? Yeah.
00:31:55 Kate Guest Thank you. Yeah. And so—
00:31:58 John Host Sometimes, two come at once. You might have an *Armageddon* and a *Deep Impact*.

00:32:01 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
Yes. Exactly! And so, that makes a lot of sense to me, you know? But just like—you know, they're trying to like, I don't know, make all sorts of equipment for people who are at the prime of their health. And then, you know, we find ancillary benefits that get pushed out to the public, but if they had spent at least a fraction of the budget—you know—solving problems that we all have here? You know, it would be—

00:32:26 John Host Should there be no space exploration at all?
00:32:30 Kate Guest *[Beat.]* Not that taxpayers pay for.
00:32:32 John Host Oooh! You love Elon Musk!

00:32:36 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
00:32:40 John Host *[Laughing.]* No, I don't!
00:32:43 Corin Guest Corin Tucker, what do you think of this case?
00:32:50 John Host I think that we have to take into account the amount of movies—the great movies that are made about space exploration. *[Chuckles.]*
Gooood point! Hey, have you seen that *Star Wars* show, *Andor*?

00:33:00 Corin Guest *[Laughter.]*
00:33:01 John Host About space?
[Laughing.] I have not.
It's part of the *Space Wars*. You haven't seen it? Okay. Well, I'll find—

00:33:03 Corin Guest No. But I have seen *Apollo 13* and I've seen, you know—
00:33:07 John Host We need—so, we need space exploration for the sheer drama.
00:33:10 Corin Guest I think so.
00:33:11 John Host Alright. I understand.
00:33:13 Kate Guest Actually, can I take that answer back and supplement it?
00:33:16 John Host Sure, that happens in law all the time!

00:33:19 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
00:33:21 Jesse Host Um, *[laughs]* so—
It was in the *Magna Carta*! Backsies!

00:33:24 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
Maybe! Maybe. Yes, it's called an amendment.

[Laughter.]

00:33:29 Jesse Host But you know, it—
Ma'am, don't sass the bailiff. Shut your piehole.

00:33:34 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
Fair. There are—there are so many like space germs out there, too. You know? What if we—what if we bring something back? Who knows?

00:33:42 John Host Wait, what did you just say?!

00:33:44 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
Space germs!

00:33:47 Jesse Host She's completely ignoring the pressing issue of Trench germs.

00:33:53 John Host *[Laughter.]*
Well, we genuinely do have a problem with Trench germs. As the permafrost melts, we're gonna be exposed to a whole bunch of sleeping, dormant, hibernating germs. But there is also space germs.

00:34:05 Caleb Guest *[Laughter.]*
I have a new phobia now.

00:34:08 John Host *[Laughter.]*
Caleb, I have a prompt here on this piece of paper that I was given, to ask this question: in your opinion, sir, is this actually about NASA? Or is it about Kate hassling you?

00:34:23 Caleb Guest *[Laughter.]*
[Cackles.] Um, well, it's been a longstanding tradition in our friendship to hassle each other. So, I'm okay with that, yeah.

00:34:28 John Host I see. So, but—is she hassling you because you looove NASA so much?

00:34:34 Caleb Guest I think there's some give and take. I definitely hassle her for her hate of NASA. And it's all in good fun. You know.

00:34:41 John Host Kate, what would you have me rule if I were to rule in your favor?

00:34:43 Kate Guest Okay. I've thought about this.

00:34:45 John Host Great!

00:34:46 Kate Guest So, I would like—*[laughs]* I would like you to rule that Caleb and my husband, Chris—who submitted this debate, who is sitting in the third row back there—

00:34:55 John Host Chris in the third row.

00:35:00 Kate Guest *[Laughs.]* That they wear—

00:35:01 John Host Let the record show there are multiple people in the audience pointing at other people.

00:35:09 Kate Guest *[Laughter.]*
He knows who he is.

[Laughter.]

But if you could rule that they would wear t-shirts that they either buy or, you know, design that say, “There is no Planet B,” out in public. At least, you know, once a month for a year. I think that would be—that would be justice.

00:35:28 John Host Sure! Uh, alright. I’ll enter that into my consideration. Jesse, do you think your friend from college could maybe throw a t-shirt together?
00:35:36 Jesse Host I mean, he’d have to get a little time off his job at PayPal, but yeah.
00:35:40 John Host Okay. Corin, would you—what do you think about the “there is no Planet B” solution?
00:35:47 Corin Guest I think that’s a good point. Yeah.
00:35:48 John Host That’s a good point. That’s a fair—what would you have me rule, Caleb, then?
00:35:52 Caleb Guest Well, I like this clothing idea, but I want Kate’s loungewear—her Sunday pajamas—to be NASA pajamas.

[Laughter and applause.]

00:36:11 John Host Just for when she’s relaxing, she can think about it. That sounds like torture.

[Caleb agrees with a laugh.]

That seems unfair.

[Laughter.]

00:36:17 Jesse Host I don’t know, John. A lot of those pajamas glow in the dark, and that’s pretty cool.
00:36:23 John Host What other technologies do we have? Do we have Velcro because of NASA?
00:36:27 Jesse Host Everyone out here, the whole time he was just going, *[through grit teeth]* “Say Tang. Say Tang. Say Tang. Say Tang.”
00:36:32 John Host I know! I was gonna say Tang, but I haven’t seen Tang anywhere. Do they still make it?
00:36:36 Jesse Host So, here’s the thing. They didn’t develop Tang for the space program, and that’s why they wanted him to say it! So, they could correct him! That’s what they get off on!

[Laughter.]

00:36:44 John Host Corin Tucker, did you ever have Tang growing up?
00:36:46 Corin Guest Oh, yes. I loved it!
00:36:48 John Host I know! Me too. You know what I liked? Just eating the powder.

[Laughter.]

00:36:52 Corin Guest We all did it.
00:36:53 John Host Right? I don’t even think they make it anymore. Oh, you’re still here! Hello!

[Laughter.]

Kate and Caleb. Have either of you seen the—the *Star Wars* TV show called *Andor*?

[Caleb confirms.]

Because it’s called *Andor*, but I have this idea for a tagline or a motto for the show that is also my ruling. “Why not both?”

[Laughter and cheers.]

00:37:32 Caleb Guest NASA pajamas and “there is no Planet B”.
00:37:33 John Host I love it. Yeah.
We, as a planet, should be able to do both: take care of the trenches and explore the stars. We may need them. So, that’s my ruling. Uh, I split the baby in half. Tang.

[Three gavel bangs.]

00:37:44 Jesse Host *[They thank him.]*
Caleb and Kate!

[Applause.]

Please welcome Greg and Whitney! Greg brings the case against his wife, Whitney. Their family has a shared Google calendar. When Whitney adds events to the calendar, she often sets an early start time to accommodate travel. Sometimes, she does! And sometimes she doesn’t!

[“Oooh”s from John and the audience.]

00:38:14 John Host Whitney says this practice keeps the family punctual. Greg says it’s confusing.
00:38:18 Greg Guest Greg, Whitney, welcome to the program. Which one of you seeks
00:38:19 John Host justice? Greg, it’s you?
It is I.
Uuh, Whitney sometimes puts things in the calendar with travel time included?

[Greg confirms.]

00:38:26 Greg Guest Is it marked as travel time?
00:38:27 John Host No.
Aha!

[Laughter.]

00:38:31 Greg Guest What sort of things?
For instance, if we’re gonna go to a movie, maybe that movie starts at 7:15. It would just be in the calendar as, maybe, 6:30.

[Murmuring from the audience.]

Now, she will tell you that she will also put the starting time in the notes.

[Whitney confirms.]

00:38:54 John Host So, you can look and see, okay, 6:30. That’s when we’re gonna
00:38:56 Greg Guest leave. Movie starts at 7:15. Fine. But she’s not consistent.
Not consistent, you say!
Sometimes you just don’t know.

00:38:58	John	Host	Whitney, how come you... schedule things early for travel time sometimes and sometimes you don't?
00:39:07	Whitney	Guest	I would say that it depends on the type of activity that we're going to.
00:39:11	John	Host	I am interested in hearing your theories about this.
00:39:16	Whitney	Guest	So, a movie—right?
00:39:18	John	Host	Sure, I've heard of them.
00:39:19	Whitney	Guest	Starts at a specific time.
00:39:21	John	Host	He was just talking about them! What movie did you see? <i>[Beat.]</i> Oh! Interesting! Tongue-tied, are you?!
00:39:28	Greg	Guest	It's been a while.
00:39:29	John	Host	You've never seen a movie in your life, sir! Don't wait for the translation! Answer the question!
00:39:33	Greg	Guest	It's been quite a while since we've seen a movie. I think it was <i>Star Wars</i> .
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:39:39	Whitney	Guest	Wasn't that an episode of—? No.
00:39:43	John	Host	Sir, that movie came out in 1977.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:39:47	Greg	Guest	We've been married a long time.
00:39:48	John	Host	They didn't—they didn't—
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			They didn't have Google then.
			<i>[Greg confirms.]</i>
			They had public funding for school lunches <u>and</u> NASA.
			<i>[Applause and cheers.]</i>
			What time did you set the calendar for this event? The <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> live justice at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon. That started—doors at 7PM. Showtime, 8PM.
00:40:16	Whitney	Guest	5 o'clock.
00:40:17	John	Host	5PM!
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			Where do you live, the moon?!
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:40:25	Whitney	Guest	We live 30 minutes away.
00:40:28	Jesse	Host	To be fair, John, the roads on the moon are really bad.
			<i>[John agrees.]</i>
			We need to do something about that.
00:40:33	John	Host	I know! We need to requisition some money for those roads.
00:40:37	Whitney	Guest	And I would say that, because I knew that we would be on the show, there needed to be like—we were here early, and—you know.
00:40:45	John	Host	Extra—a little extra time. I like that!

00:40:46 Whitney Guest Extra time. Buffer time. Because apparently, my family thinks that they can teleport to places in which, if the movie starts at seven, they don't need to leave the house until 6:59. And I'm like we need to get popcorn.

00:41:01 John Host You're saying your family's dumb. Yeah.

00:41:03 Whitney Guest *[Laughter.]*
We gotta get—

00:41:05 John Host Wait, they have popcorn here?!

00:41:06 Whitney Guest No, at the movies! Yeah.

00:41:07 John Host Oh, the movies. Right. Okay. I got excited for a second. Corin, do you—what goes on in your family? Do you share a calendar? Does this happen?

00:41:18 Corin Guest *[Chuckles.]* We have not successfully—we've been married a very long time, and we have not successfully shared a Google calendar. *[Laughs.]* I put things in—

00:41:25 John Host Why not?

00:41:26 Corin Guest I put things in it all the time, and my partner is unable to read it. And we text back and forth, and I'm like, "I put it in there!"

00:41:36 John Host He's like, "Nope. Nope."

00:41:40 Corin Guest You mean he's unable to read it or he's unable to subscribe to it? I think he's very distrustful of Google. Right?

[John "oh!"s.]

He even told me he bought a special phone just for Google, and that that's where he was gonna read the calendar.

00:41:52 John Host *[Laughter.]*
Hm. I know you and your husband love each other very much. *[Beat.]* I don't think this is a red flag that your husband's buying a second phone.

[Laughter.]

00:42:24 Corin Guest And saying he needs it to read the Google calendar. *[Laughs.]* "Well, I mean, you leave me no choice. I need a burner a week!" That's not who your husband is! I know that!

00:42:42 Greg Guest We hope not. But I'm impressed that you're able—that you follow the Google calendar and that you—that's how—that's a good way to communicate! I think maybe there's just a—like a ten-minute ahead of time kind of general rule.

00:42:45 John Host *[Deadpan.]* I'd be happy with any kind of rule.

00:42:51 Whitney Guest *[Laughter.]*
I mean, it is an issue—there is this issue of—do you deny that you are inconsistent in how you apply—?

00:42:52 John Host No. Nope.

00:42:53 Crosstalk Host So, why—

00:42:56 John Host **Whitney:** Agreed. I am inconsistent.

Greg: I submitted evidence.

00:42:56 John Host Oh! Okay, let's take a look at the evidence. Thank you. Hang on. I'll do this *Family Feud* style. Show me evidence!

00:43:02 Greg Guest *[Laughter.]*
 Oh, that's—that should be the last one, unless—
 00:43:04 John Host Excuse me, we'll go back in time.
 00:43:05 Whitney Guest That's the last straw—
 00:43:08 Greg Guest We can just—we can just go with that one if you like.
 00:43:09 John Host I think this is the one that we have.
 00:43:10 Greg Guest This is the one. This is the last straw. So, the other evidence showed—
 00:43:14 John Host First of all, thanks for sharing all of these email addresses publicly.

00:43:17 Greg Guest *[Laughter.]*
 Yeah. Well, you know, it's says *[censored]* at GM. Who knows what that is!

[Laughter.]

00:43:28 Jesse Host It could be anything!
 Thanks, by the way, for sharing it with the at home audience, now!

00:43:35 John Host *[Laughter.]*
 We'll bleep it out and redact it when we post it online.
 00:43:37 Whitney Guest Let the record show, my submittals were blacked out.
 00:43:43 John Host Well, I hope that we'll take a look at those in a moment. What are you trying—? What are you trying to prove here with this?
 00:43:48 Greg Guest There are some entries that show a starting time and nothing. There are some entries that show a starting time on the entry, and the starting time of the event. This one was a brunch we were invited to, which said 11:30, and that's all it said. When we got to their porch at 11:30 and knocked on the door, I realized—I found out that the brunch was at noon.

[John gasps.]

And they were not ready for us. They were not dressed.

[Laughter.]

00:44:15 Jesse Host The—the—
 What had they been up to, to prepare for this brunch?!

[John agrees.]

00:44:22 Greg Guest What were they serving, sir?!
 One of them is a midwife.
 00:44:23 John Host Was this one of those sex brunches?

[Laughter.]

00:44:30 Greg Guest One of them was a midwife, did you say?
 One of them is a midwife, and her husband was helping. And so, they'd been up all night and were just recovering from that.
 00:44:34 Whitney Guest Unbeknownst to us.
 00:44:35 Greg Guest And trying to get ready for our brunch, 'cause they weren't dressed, and they were racing around getting ready. And here we are on their front porch, knocking a half-hour early for a social

engagement, which was very embarrassing for me. And I had no idea, because of this ambiguous calendar entry.

00:44:51 John Host How do you—how do you respond to this evidence, Whitney?
00:44:54 Whitney Guest Uh, it happened.

[Laughter.]

00:44:58 John Host Yep. I would also say—
But when you're walking up to the porch, at that point you can take Greg aside and say, "I have to tell you something. We're technically half an hour early."

00:45:09 Whitney Guest It was—it was unclear because of the chat. There was a lot of like, "Should we start at 11:45? 12? 12:15? 12:30?" Right? There was back and forth.

00:45:15 John Host This is the chat with you and the midwife? You were calling the midwife? PBS.

00:45:17 Whitney Guest And the other attendees of the brunch, yes.
00:45:22 John Host You ever see the show *All Creatures Great and Small*.

[She confirms.]

I don't have a joke for that one. I just like it.

[Laughter.]

I just really like the remake. So, alright. *Nightmare Before Christmas* Movie with Callans? What's that?

00:45:36 Greg Guest That was later the same day.

[John affirms.]

00:45:38 Whitney Guest Those are the kids going. So, it's a—I have—
00:45:40 John Host I don't understand how this calendar—oh, I see, it's overlapping.
00:45:41 Greg Guest It's a family calendar, yeah.
00:45:42 Whitney Guest Yeah, it's on top of. I have—
00:45:43 John Host Right. And who directed that movie?

[Laughter.]

00:45:47 Greg Guest That was Tim Burton. *[Beat.]* No, it wasn't Tim Burton. He worked on the movie, but he was not the director. Alright.

00:45:51 John Host I think I know. I find in Whitney's favor.

[Greg groans and everyone laughs.]

[Four gavel bangs.]

Whitney, I'm gonna say this right now. You've gotta make it consistent. This is the whole point of this thing is to be clear. You gotta make it consistent so that there's a rule that can be followed. Now, Greg, before I completely dismiss you—I neglected to ask this question. Greg, tell me about your, quote, "illogical temporal optimism".

[Greg "ah"s.]

End quotes. ITO, as it's put here.

00:46:22 Greg Guest ITO. Uh, ITO is a—it's a term that I invented after talking to my—

00:46:28 John Host *[Interrupting.]* No.
[Greg confirms uncertainly.]
You invented it?!

[He confirms.]

00:46:31 Greg Guest Oh, I see.
After talking to my brother when he first had a child, and they were trying to get several things done during the day. And he would say, “We’re gonna get up, and we’re gonna go to the park for a little while. Then, we’re gonna go out and get some brunch. And then, we’re gonna go out to the library for reading time. And then, we’re gonna go out and do a little hike up a nearby mountain. And then, we’re gonna go to the—” And you just can’t do that many things in one day, especially with a small child.

00:46:50 John Host Don’t tell me what I can’t do, Greg!

00:46:52 Greg Guest It was a figurative—figurative. A person. It’s—so, you can sometimes be too optimistic about what you can get done.

00:46:57 John Host I walked to the laundromat, today!

[Laughter.]

00:47:07 Greg Guest A mile and one half a mile. Did my laundry—
Portland’s very walkable.

00:47:08 John Host And then, came back. And then, I had lunch with Tony. And then, I came here and sound checked and did a show. *[Pounding his fist on the table.]* It’s possible!

00:47:17 Greg Guest Then, you are not suffering from ITO, but some people do.

00:47:20 John Host I see. It’s thinking you can do too much during a day, then. More than you can.

00:47:24 Greg Guest Yes. Illogical. Yes.

00:47:25 Whitney Guest Or in a short period of time.

00:47:26 John Host And Whitney, do you—are you accusing Whitney of having this disorder?

00:47:30 Greg Guest Yeah, if we’re gonna talk—uh, no, no, no. She—

00:47:32 Whitney Guest What?!

[Laughter.]

00:47:33 Greg Guest She uses it against me. No. No. I invented the term, but it’s—she—it’s used against me. I said—

00:47:39 John Host You don’t leave enough time to get to places.

00:47:40 Greg Guest “We can leave at this time. It’ll be fine.”

And she says, *[grumpily]* “Oh, you’ve got ITO.”

[She agrees.]

00:47:45 Whitney Guest That’s what she sounds like, yeah.
He doesn’t have the realistic expectation of all the things that you have to do to get to the place in which—right.

00:47:52 Greg Guest To get to the place very early. So that we can relax.

00:47:56 Whitney Guest Early is on time. On time is late. And late is unacceptable.

[Cheers and applause.]

00:48:01	John	Host	Oof. Oof.
00:48:03	Whitney	Guest	So, that is my mantra.
00:48:05	John	Host	Look, I absolutely agree with you, Whitney, but you shouldn't be knocking on the door half an hour before the brunch starts. You knew what you were doing, and you need to be consistent. Every part of me wants to rule against you, and I do order you—I do order you to be consistent going forward. Because the whole point of this is clarity of communication. But I can't rule against you, because you didn't do what Greg did, which was say that Tim Burton directed <i>The Nightmare Before Christmas</i> . It was directed by Henry Selick! The direct of <i>Coraline</i> .
			<i>[Cheers and applause.]</i>
			<i>[Three gavel bangs.]</i>
			I find in favor of Whitney, and everyone reprogram your brains to know that.
00:48:41	Jesse	Host	Let's now welcome Ariel and Adrianna! Ariel brings the case against her wife, Adrianna. When the two of them decompress after the workday, Ariel likes to putter. Adrianna likes to lounge. When Ariel asks her wife to get up to do something or help out, Adrianna will often reply she can't! Because there's a pet on her! Ariel wants to know: is "I have a pet on me" an acceptable excuse?
00:49:12	John	Host	Who comes seeking justice before me in this court?
00:49:14	Ariel	Guest	I do.
00:49:15	John	Host	And you are Ariel.
			<i>[She confirms.]</i>
00:49:21	Ariel	Guest	And what is the justice that you seek? I would like to set parameters around the concept of whether "I have a pet on me" is an appropriate excuse for not helping around the house.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			Because the state of our life is such that we have three very human focused pets. And the moment anyone sits down, there will be a pet on them.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			And so, if we were to accept that as an excuse for everything, nothing would get done.
00:49:55	John	Host	<i>[Laughing.]</i> How do you respond, Adrianna?
00:49:59	Adrianna	Guest	So, there's an element of risk here for me, because one of our pets is very violent. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			We have a—we have a cat that like—she doesn't like lay on you. She'll sit with her face on your face. And she's bitten me in the face when I moved before. So, like I need to know—like, I totally understand. When—
00:50:20	John	Host	Can we help you find a safe space?

00:50:23	Adrianna	Guest	<i>[Laughter.]</i> Oh no, she's—you know. She's violent, but she's otherwise perfect. She's a cat. That's what they do.
00:50:29	John	Host	That's what they tell you.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:50:30	Adrianna	Guest	Cats. <i>[Laughing.]</i> That's what they tell you at the shelter, like, "Take this one."
00:50:33	John	Host	No, that's what the cats tell you. "I'm violent, but I'm perfect." So—
00:50:37	Adrianna	Guest	"I'm perfect. What's a mortgage? Serve me." And that's the cat.
			<i>[John laughs.]</i>
			So, like I need to have a parameter where it's like—I'll be laying down more. That's what I do. I'm a lounge. She's a putterer. So, like at what point is it worth me risking my face to get up and like help around the house when like sometimes you're just puttering to putter. And so—
			<i>[John "woah"s.]</i>
00:51:00	John	Host	Like you're doing your thing—
00:51:02	Adrianna	Guest	That's a big—a big accusation! It is a big accusation, but it's true! Like, sometimes you're just like doing your thing, and I might not necessarily need to like risk my life to get up.
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
			To be hyperbolic. Hyper-bo-lic? And then, other times like you need help—like, you need someone to open a door for you. I get it. There's—I just need—I need framework.
			<i>[John affirms.]</i>
00:51:24	Jesse	Host	Does this only happen with the cat that's a face biter?
			<i>[Laughter.]</i>
00:51:30	Ariel	Guest	No.
00:51:31	John	Host	Well, I need to know more. Like, you have a—you have a cat named Face Bitey. And then, what other animals do you have?
00:51:37	Adrianna	Guest	So, the face biting cat is named Opal. She's a tortie, for cat owners out there. That might frame it up.
00:51:42	John	Host	Sure, I appreciate it now a little better.
00:51:43	Adrianna	Guest	Then, we have a little tiger striped cat. His name is Hugo. He's too smart for his own good, and he's also very clingy. And then, we have like a 50 pound hound, named Helen, who will also just pile on there. So.
00:51:55	John	Host	Ariel, did you know that these were the names of your pets?
00:51:57	Ariel	Guest	Oh, I named them all.
00:51:58	John	Host	Oh, you did!? Okay.
00:51:59	Ariel	Guest	Well, everyone but Opal. Opal came with her name.
00:52:00	John	Host	Oh, okay. So—but you like these pets. You engage with them.
00:52:03	Ariel	Guest	I adore them.

00:52:04 John Host This is not an issue of jealousy. They will get—they will cuddle with you as well.

00:52:09 Ariel Guest There is a little jealousy, because—

[John “ooooh”s for a cartoonishly long time.]

00:52:27 John Host Like—in the evening, because Adrianna has been sitting for longer, the pets will gravitate to her, and then I sit down 20 minutes later all three of them are already clinging to her and I get no pet cuddles. Right! Okay. Does Adrianna have a second phone for the pets?

00:52:32 Ariel Guest *[Laughter.]* Do you?

00:52:34 Adrianna Guest No, you’re the only one with two phones. Yeah.

[Ariel agrees.]

00:52:37 John Host Work phone. Oh, okay. Ariel, do you—tell me about the puttering. What does puttering involve?

00:52:42 Ariel Guest Yeah, so I’m a tidying shark. So, at the end of the workday, I’ve had—

00:52:48 John Host Yeeees. I like this!

00:52:51 Ariel Guest *[Laughter.]* So, at the end of the workday, I’m often like sitting down, locked in virtual meetings most of the workday. I work from home about 60% of the time. So, if I’m in a virtual meeting for 80% of the workday, for an hour or so after the workday, I want to grab little things from this room, start the—what’s cooking for dinner, tidy up a little bit. To release that energy from being contained all day.

00:53:16 John Host What are the things you wanna—what are the things you wanna grab from the room and move around? It’s just like—I just love hearing people talk about tidying. I love it so much.

[Laughter.]

00:53:27 Jesse Host I love it so much. Like, maybe there’s a magazine on a coffee table. This is a family podcast, John.

00:53:30 John Host There’s a magazine on a coffee table that’s a little askew. You just wanna—

00:53:32 Jesse Host Family podcast, again.

00:53:34 John Host —square it off—square it off.

00:53:36 Jesse Host All ages.

00:53:38 Ariel Guest Well, there’ll be a series of cups throughout the house, because Adrianna leaves cups everywhere. The mail will make it into the house on the dining table but will not be opened. So, it needs to be opened and sorted and recycled most often. Or there’ll be a series of coats on the dining room table where they don’t belong.

[John clears his throat pointedly.]

00:54:03 John Host And so, all those things need to go away. *[Laughs.]* Did you say coats on the dining room—

00:54:05 Ariel Guest Coats on the dining room table.

00:54:06 John Host Corin, I need you to take over.

[Laughter.]

00:54:10 Corin Guest Ask whatever questions you want.
That's—that's serious! I think it's a little bit serious. Is there—is there something routinely that, Adrianna, you like to do that can help out with the routine at night? Do you like to cook at all or—?

00:54:22 Adrianna Guest Yeah! We split the cooking like 50/50 typically. I'm a huge yard putterer, so I spend a lot of my time that I'm not prone outside fixing up our yard, cleaning things up, cleaning up like all the dog poop that gets left out, like doing all of that exterior maintenance. And I'll clean the floors. Like, I do chores. I am messy and well-hydrated. I have a lot of cups I leave around.

[Laughter.]

00:55:08 John Host But like I'd like to think I pull my weight. It's just it's like more like I do it all, and I will like go and go and go and go, and like forget to eat and like do my work and just like plough through. And then, when I stop, I stop. Like, I am an object at rest, and I am on the couch. And if I'm covered in cats—

00:55:09 Adrianna Guest And then you become a cat bed.
Yeah, and then I become just a warming element for whatever lives in the house.

00:55:13 John Host Yes, but... coats on the dining room table!

[Laughter.]

00:55:22 Adrianna Guest Do you deny it?!
I don't! We often eat on the couch, though. It's like not often a used space!

00:55:26 John Host That's not helping for me!

00:55:29 Adrianna Guest It's a flat space!

00:55:30 John Host No, I eat on the couch all the time. Absolutely.

00:55:32 Jesse Host When you say "we", you mean you and the cats?

[Laughter.]

00:55:36 Adrianna Guest Me. There's a dog, usually, right here watching me eat like, "What are you doing?" Like, sometimes like trying to get in there. You know.

00:55:42 John Host Yeah, it sounds a little dangerous.

00:55:43 Adrianna Guest Yeah, it's—you know, they're—every creature in the house, including the humans, are on the couch.

00:55:47 John Host I believe that you sent in some evidence of the animals on top of you.

[Adrianna confirms.]

So, in the style of *Family Feud*, show me the pets!

[Laughter and "aw"s.]

00:56:06 Ariel Guest So, Ariel, there is you with a cat on top of your lap.
Yes. That is Opal. And so—

00:56:07 John Host That is Opal.

00:56:08 Ariel Guest So, the principle is if there is a person sitting, there will be a pet there with them. So, it's just a matter of who is sitting first.

00:56:18 John Host *[Chuckling.]* What I love about this photo—obviously, they'll all be available. What I love about this photo—so, there's also a photo of you, Adrianna, with—this is which—?

00:56:29 Adrianna Guest That is Helen, our dog.

00:56:30 John Host Helen. Yeah. Helen is snuggling with you, expressing not only love but—in her eyes—a deep sense of comfort that she is there with you. Whereas what's this cat's name again?

00:56:42 Adrianna Guest That's Opal.

00:56:43 Ariel Guest This is Opal. She's mad.

00:56:44 John Host Opal. Opal's just sitting there going like, "What am I even doing here? Why did I—?"

[Laughter.]

00:56:48 Jesse Host "I can't even get—"
"Oooh, I wish I was biting a face right now!"

[Laughter.]

00:56:53 John Host "I got this paw dangling off the leg. I can't even get a good—I just feel like just compelled to do this. Ugh!" And yet, Opal will not move.

00:57:02 Ariel Guest Opal will not move.

00:57:03 John Host And you're trying to eat your food right there. Or are you trying to eat the cat? It's not clear to me.

[Laughter.]

00:57:09 Jesse Host Is this an *Alf* situation?! Answer the question!

00:57:13 Ariel Guest Not an *Alf* situation.

00:57:14 John Host Is there more evidence, Richard Robey? Okay, let's see the next slide, please.

["Aw"s.]

00:57:24 Adrianna Guest Ooh. Oh, now! Look at that! *[Chuckles.]*

00:57:27 John Host So, that's the face-biting position, right? Like, that's that perilous! So, let the record show that Ariel has two cats on her lap now, and Helen is over there feeling neglected and left out. On the left, we have Adrianna with Opal in face-biting position and Helen saying, "What are you doing here?"

[Laughter.]

Um, yeah. This is tough! How could you ever get up? Also, there's that Polar seltzer can just left behind.

[Laughter.]

I wonder how long that's been there. Is there another slide? *[Beat.]* Oh, this gets better and better! Aww, so this is the other cat, Adrianna.

00:58:07 Adrianna Guest Yeah, that's Hugo.

00:58:09 John Host That's Hugo. And here's Helen sort of—it looks like getting a piece of both of you, there. Or no?

[Adrianna confirms.]

Right. Fantastic. These are all very cute pets. Any more? Keep 'em coming!

[Laughter.]

I could do this all night. Is there another one? Oh, that's it. Okay. Round of applause for those cute animals.

[Applause.]

Adrianna, what would you have me rule if I were to rule in your favor?

00:58:37	Adrianna	Guest	I would just like to have like a grace period where, if I have a pet or series of pets—like it could be stratified by number of pets or like time they've been on me—where like if Ariel asks for something that's not like critical—right?—like move your cup.
00:58:53	John	Host	What kind of thing? Like what kind of thing does she ask for?
00:58:54	Adrianna	Guest	Like can you pick up your cups? I'll pick up my cups—
00:58:56	Ariel	Guest	Can you taste the sauce.
00:58:57	Adrianna	Guest	Yeah, can I taste the sauce. Like, I trust you. You're a very good cook. The cups will get picked up; I swear. Like, hand to god, I will do it. But right now, I'm laying down with a pet on me, potentially pet might bite me if I get up. Like, what are the parameters? Like, is it I've been laying there for an hour?
00:59:13	John	Host	Well, you tell me the parameters! This your—this is your ideal ruling.
00:59:16	Adrianna	Guest	I mean, my ideal ruling would be like if it is not a critical ask and like I'm gonna get to it by the end of the evening, let sleeping person with covered in pets lie.
00:59:29	John	Host	Mm-hm. Very well-phrased.
00:59:31	Adrianna	Guest	If it's critical, like, "Hey, babe, I—like, I cannot physically get through this door," I'm up. I'm there. Like, that's fine. I'll concede to that, because that's just the proper thing to do. But I would like my rest.
00:59:42	John	Host	Right. Ariel, why can't you get through doors?

[Laughter.]

Too many coats? They're filled with coats?

00:59:48	Ariel	Guest	<i>[Laughing.]</i> No, no! We have a series of baby gates, because of the pets.
00:59:53	John	Host	Oh no.
00:59:55	Ariel	Guest	And so, if your hands are full, you can't get through the baby gate or the regular door. And so, I need help sometimes.
01:00:01	John	Host	To bring the sauce to the couch for your evening meal, for example? To feed your wife?
01:00:07	Ariel	Guest	Yeah, or I have my arms full of recycling or Amazon boxes and I need the baby gate opened because I don't have two hands to do it.
01:00:16	John	Host	Alright. Now you know the terms of the argument, Corin. What do you think? What should I rule? What's your opinion?
01:00:22	Corin	Guest	I think that definitely Adrianna should help. Maybe there should be a—like a code red. Code red, baby gate. You know, like some kind of tip off that this is critical mass. Baby gate needs to go up.

[John affirms.]

But I agree—you know—that there is a time where you just need to chill out in the evening. And you know, the cat's right there. You don't wanna get bitten in the face.

[John agrees.]

01:00:49 John Host
01:00:52 Corin Guest
01:00:56 John Host

So, if there's a resting time—
Seems like you're leaning Adrianna.
Right, I am a little bit. Yeah. With an exception of code red.
The code red being baby gates, for example.

[Corin confirms.]

Okay, that's interesting. Well, here's what I think.

[Scattered laughter.]

I have to walk over here to think. I'm inclined to agree with Corin Tucker on this one. I think that if you are covered in animals—certainly in our house, we have a stupid cat.

[Laughter.]

I mean, a really dumb cat. I don't talk about my private life very often, but I will tell you this: our cat is dumb. I've seen the cat sitting underneath the coffee table and then stand up and hit its head.

[Laughter.]

I have looked into the cat's eyes, and I have seen galaxies very far away. And there is a rule in the house that when this cat—this cat has some very particular places that she likes to be. If you are sitting on the couch with your legs on the couch and she gets up in between your knees and settles in there, then that is a thing called "having legs". And if you have legs, you can't do anything. You can't get up. If the dumb cat has legs and they're your legs? That's it.

[Laughter.]

You're down 'til she moves. And sometimes she forgets to move for days. So, Ariel, I really—I really feel for you, because I am by nature a putterer and a tidier. And it does sound like your place is a mess thanks to your wife.

[Laughter.]

And these lazy animals that use her as a bed! They're all conspiring against you to avoid doing the work in this house! They won't even—they won't even just stay in a room. You need to have gates! And yet, I have a pet on me is a pretty good rule. *[Chuckles.]* It's one that I tend to believe in, as I've noted. I use it in my own house. Ultimately, though, I think I have to agree with Corin Tucker. Which is: Adrianna, you get to claim "I've got a pet on me" unless Ariel really needs you. And Ariel can decide when that is, and she will have a code word. And that will be code baby gate.

[Laughter.]

So, whether it involves a baby gate or not, if she really needs you to get up and help her, she'll just go, "Code baby gate." And then, you just take—you take the bite. You take the bite for your wife. This is the sound of a gavel.

01:03:33 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

01:03:34 John Host

[Cheers and applause.]

01:03:39 Sound Effect Transition

We'll put it in post. We'll fix it in post!
Three gavel bangs.

01:03:41 John Host

That's it for this week's episode! Thank you to all the litigants who joined us onstage at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon! Maine, we're coming for you one of these days! Evidence and photos from the show are posted on our Instagram account, at [Instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman](https://www.instagram.com/judgejohnhodgman). Make sure to go over there, follow us, save the post, send the post, get into the comments. It's fun. It gets us into the algorithm. It's good. Also, join the conversation about this episode on the Maximum Fun subreddit! Which is over at [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com/r/MaximumFun).

Judge John Hodgman was created by Jesse Thorn and me, John Hodgman! This episode was recorded by Matthew Barnhart and produced by Valerie Moffatt, Richard Robey, and Jennifer Marmor. We'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

01:04:29 Sound Effect Transition

Three gavel bangs.

01:04:32 Sound Effect Transition

Cheerful ukulele chord.

01:04:33 Speaker 1 Guest

[MaximumFun.org](https://www.MaximumFun.org).

01:04:35 Speaker 2 Guest

Comedy and culture.

01:04:36 Speaker 3 Guest

Artist owned—

01:04:37 Speaker 4 Guest

—audience supported.