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| 00:00:00 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:00:02 | Jesse Thorn | Host | Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week, clearing the docket. With me, as always, is the king of all justice: Judge John Hodgman. |
| 00:00:14 | John Hodgman | Host | Jesse, did you go down to the big easy, New Orleans? Yes or no. |
| 00:00:18 | Jesse | Host | I went to the great city of New Orleans, yesss. |
| 00:00:20 | John | Host | Did you laissez les bons temps rouler, or what? |
| 00:00:23 | Jesse | Host | Vous coucher avec moi, ce soir? |
| 00:00:26 | John | Host | Ce soir? |
| | | | <i>[They chuckle.]</i> |
| | | | Me oui. |
| | | | Did you have a good time there? I haven't been there in a long time? |
| 00:00:33 | Jesse | Host | I had a fantastic time. It was my best friend, Pete Fields's, wedding—from Slow Motion Cowboys. And they had I think a total of six bands, plus a second line. So, I think it was two bands the night before, two bands the day of, two bands that night, plus a second line that day. |
| 00:00:57 | John | Host | Ooooh! All that, plus all you can drink? Migraine sufferer's paradise. Let's good! |
| 00:01:06 | Jesse | Host | <i>[Laughs.]</i> Here is a case from Neil in Milwaukee. "My wife, Liz, and I have a dispute about the saying that starts, 'You get what you get and you—' Blank." |
| 00:01:18 | John | Host | Uh-huh. I know this one. I'm a parent. |
| 00:01:21 | Jesse | Host | "I say the next part is, 'You don't get upset.' Because it rhymes. My wife say the saying is, 'You get what you get, and you don't throw a fit.' She just claims that's how the saying goes. That makes no sense to me. Please explain to her she is wrong." |
| 00:01:41 | John | Host | Jesse, you ever say these words? "You get what you get, and you—" Either don't get upset or don't throw a fit? |
| 00:01:47 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, it's about radical acceptance. Right? |
| 00:01:49 | John | Host | Oh, I don't know. I think it was just something you say to kids. |
| 00:01:52 | Jesse | Host | Okay. <i>[Laughs.]</i> Either way. That's what they call in AA the serenity prayer, right? |
| 00:01:58 | John | Host | Mm-hm. God or whatever, grant me the courage to change what can be changed, the serenity? The grace? To accept what can't be changed, and the wisdom to not throw a fit. It's hard not to throw a fit. I almost threw a fit. I almost threw a fit when I was on an airplane. While you were in New Orleans, I was on an airplane with my family. And our son was seated behind us. And there were two teenage girls sitting next to him, and a third teenage girl said, "Can I sit where you're sitting, so I can sit with my friends?" |
| | | | And our son, being a nice person, said yes. I was in the middle of standing up to scream at them. But he already had left and went to go sit three rows behind in a middle seat. Ooh, those teenage girls, they tricked him. But you get what you get. You don't throw a fit. But what do you say when you say this phrase, Jesse? |
| 00:02:53 | Jesse | Host | You don't get upset. |
| 00:02:55 | John | Host | You don't get upset. That's what I always said. |
| 00:02:57 | Jesse | Host | It rhymes! |

00:02:58 John Host It rhymes. You get what you get, and you don't get upset.
00:03:02 Jesse Host Liz is here like, "You know the children hate rhymes."
00:03:07 John Host That's right. When does a child learn anything through rhyming?
Never. I was so upset, and I almost threw a fit. But there's a
difference. There's a difference there, isn't there? Because being
upset is different than throwing a fit. I was upset, but I did not throw
a fit. Instead, I stared at the back of the neck of the dad of this
teenage girl for two and a half hours, angrily. My anger was directed
directly by my pineal gland to the back of his neck, just above his
performance shirt.

[Jesse laughs.]

In first class, where he was sitting. He had sent his—all of his
children back into economy plus, where we were, to go and play
mix and match with chairs while he sat in first class. That's no class.
That's a no class dad. You know, you can ask people to switch
seats. You can ask people to switch seats. But it's gotta be—I'm
sorry, Neil. We'll get back to you in Milwaukee in a second. It's gotta
be an even trade. You can't trade a window seat for a middle seat.
But on the other hand, our son is too nice of a person! And he didn't
wanna sit with those teenage girls being mad at him for the whole
time. It was a mess! Only one person got what they wanted, and it
wasn't me. And I got upset, but I did not throw a fit. So, there is a
distinction there. There is a distinction there.

00:04:31 Jesse Host Now, I consulted two experts on the internet about this. ChatGPT,
00:04:33 John Host where I'm going to all the time for all my content.
The famous brain computer.
That's right, the famous brain computer. And of course, Reddit.
Where I did find a discussion about this phrase from two years ago,
and I was surprised that there was a discussion, because I had
never, ever, ever in my life heard "You get what you get, and you
don't throw a fit." But sure enough, there it was being discussed on
this Reddit thread in the subreddit Unpopular Opinion. Some people
were saying, "Oh, I've always heard don't throw a fit." And some
people were saying, "Don't throw a fit is better. It does not attempt
to quash your child's feelings. You're allowed to be upset; you just
can't throw a fit." Which I think is a reasonable distinction that had
not occurred to me before I checked Reddit—which is very strange
to actually find something reasonable on Reddit.

00:05:35 Jesse Host Now, the redditors then went on to suggest that all children should
00:05:36 John Host divorce their parents immediately. Strange advice. So, I thought that
00:05:39 Jesse Host that was actually a reasonable distinction. But at the same time, it
00:05:43 John Host does not rhyme. Or does it, Jesse?
Oh, wow.
Because one redditor pointed out—
I'm getting ready for a take that might really upset me.
Two years ago, some person named Butterscotch Magic really
opened my eyes and my ears by pointing out, quote, "I'm from the
south. So, here, 'get what you get' does rhyme with 'don't throw a
fit'." In other words, if you're from a place in which you say, in your
natural speaking voice, git instead of get, then fit does rhyme.
Bananas! But true, I think! Now, I don't know, Neil, whether Liz is
from the south or another place where you might say git instead of

get. But I would bit that's true. I'd bit some money that it's true. But if I lose the bit and she's from Milwaukee or some other place where get rhymes with upset, then she's wrong.

If she grew up saying it, and it does rhyme, then I guess it's a wash. And I'm gonna have to deal with that. I'm gonna have to not get upset, and I'm gonna have to not throw a fit.

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| 00:06:33 | Jesse | Host | I have to tell you; I never used this phrase with my children. It wasn't ever used with me when I was a kid, and I'm certainly aware of it. I never used it with my children, because I was always uncomfortable with the idea that I would dictate to them how they felt about things. |
| 00:06:51 | John | Host | Sure! Fair. |
| 00:06:53 | Jesse | Host | And "don't throw a fit"? I'm more comfortable with it! I'm more comfortable with it. But! It does not rhyme! |
| 00:06:59 | John | Host | <i>[Laughs.]</i> If this is a real regionalism that is justified by the way that Liz speaks, then it's absolutely acceptable as far as I'm concerned. I love regionalisms! |
| 00:07:08 | Jesse | Host | You get what you get, said that guy Boba Fett. |
| 00:07:12 | John | Host | <i>[Snorts.]</i> There we go. Well, he's a good dad, too! No, not Boba—Boba Fett ended up—Boba Fett never had a child. Boba Fett was an abandoned child. |
| 00:07:22 | Jesse | Host | You get what you get, choose an outfit for the Met... Gala. <i>[Beat.]</i> You get what you get; if you fish, use a net. |
| 00:07:35 | John | Host | I wish Boba Fett was Din Djarin in <i>The Mandalorian</i> , 'cause he is a pretty good parental figure to that little Grogu. |
| 00:07:42 | Jesse | Host | You get what you get. Hey! I love that corvette! |
| 00:07:44 | John | Host | Yeah, that's it. |
| 00:07:45 | Jesse | Host | <i>[Chuckling.]</i> That's a good one, right? That's where you just—that's redirection one. |
| 00:07:49 | John | Host | Yeah, it's a mood change. It's like, oh! |

When the kid goes, "Oh, I'm so excited, where?!"

And you go, "Oh, just pass through the window." And they run to the window and now you're into a whole different season of this day with my child.

But anyway, yeah. I think that even though it doesn't rhyme, I think "you don't throw a fit"—I've learned something today.

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| 00:08:08 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:08:10 | John | Host | I wish I had known it on that airplane. |
| 00:08:12 | Jesse | Host | No rhyme can protect you from teens. Here's a case from Kate in the Azores. "I hate raincoats. They make me claustrophobic. I also hate walking with things in my hands, like umbrellas. So, if I'm in the rain, I just deal with it. But my husband, Sean, says it, quote, 'Makes him look terrible.' Unquote." |
| 00:08:37 | John | Host | Hang on, I just realized this. Kate gets what she gets, and Kate just gets all wet. |

[They chuckle.]

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| 00:08:47 | Jesse | Host | Continue to read. "But my husband, Sean, says it, quote, 'Makes him look terrible.' End quote. For him to use an umbrella when I won't. He always |
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| | | | carries two umbrellas and insists I should use one. Please rule that I can do what I want in the rain.” |
| 00:09:08 | John | Host | Mm! The Azores, Jesse. Are you familiar with the Azores? |
| 00:09:13 | Jesse | Host | It’s a group of Islands. |
| 00:09:14 | John | Host | It’s an archipelago, I believe, of nine volcanic islands in the near middle of the Atlantic. Real remote. It is self-administered, though traditionally—and I think technically still a territory of Portugal. It does have—it is an autonomous government, now. And I happen to know Kate a little bit, because Kate is a <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> listener, and she and her two dogs have appeared on <i>Get Your Pets</i> . Oh, you go get your pets and no one is upset! That’s another thing that happens. |
| 00:09:48 | Jesse | Host | You go get your pets and we go to the vet’s. |
| 00:09:52 | John | Host | Precisely. She’s on <i>Get Your Pets</i> from time to time, broadcasting from the Azores with the God-or-Whatever damn mint, double-gig internet they got out there on those islands. ‘Cause I think they probably sit in the middle of a giant fiberoptic, underwater trunk cable connecting one continent to the other. And she helps me out when I build cities in <i>Sim City 2013</i> on my <i>Joy of Zoning</i> occasional Twitch stream. It’s been fun getting to know Kate and getting to learn a little bit about the Azores. She and her husband moved there for his job a little while ago. |
| | | | Now, Jesse, Kate lives on Terceira Island—one of the nine islands of the Azores. It’s one of the larger islands of the archipelago. |
| 00:10:36 | Jesse | Host | Wait. Hold on. You get what you get, baseball head? Mr. Met. |
| 00:10:42 | John | Host | There you go. How did we not already get to Mr. Met at this point? |
| 00:10:46 | Jesse | Host | We had to get through Mrs. Met, if you know what I mean! |
| 00:10:49 | John | Host | But Terceira Island is 153 square miles. And Portugal, the country, is almost 36,000 square miles. Now, Jesse, if you had to guess: what percentage of Portugal’s—of all of Portugal’s dairy products are sourced from Terceira Island in the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic? |
| 00:11:12 | Jesse | Host | I would guess maybe 3%? |
| 00:11:15 | John | Host | 40%. |
| 00:11:17 | Jesse | Host | <u>Wow!</u> |
| 00:11:18 | John | Host | This is a lot of milk being carted off that island. And it’s beautiful there. And it’s raining. And it’s rainy. They call it the Hawaii of the Atlantic. And it’s beautiful and temperatures above 86 degrees Fahrenheit are unknown. It is normally between 65 and 76 degrees all the livelong day, all the year ‘round. |
| 00:11:43 | Jesse | Host | Why don’t they call it the San Francisco of the Atlantic? |
| 00:11:45 | John | Host | They should rebrand it the San Francisco of the Atlantic. And you know, maybe when we go there on tour, we can get that settled. But in the meantime, it is a rainy place. So, it rains on Kate quite a bit. And the question is, should she be forced to carry an umbrella because her husband, Sean, feels self-conscious. It makes him look terrible to walk with an umbrella when his wife is getting all drenched. What do you think? |
| 00:12:09 | Jesse | Host | Umbrellas are pretty culturally specific. |
| 00:12:12 | John | Host | How do you mean? |
| 00:12:13 | Jesse | Host | Well, in Seattle, no one will use an umbrella, ‘cause it rains so much. They just wear shorts and—I don’t know, a cowboy hat or something. |
| 00:12:23 | John | Host | Shorts and a cowboy hat. Mm-hm. That’s correct. |

00:12:25 Jesse Host In London, everybody uses an umbrella. It's different depending on where you are. I don't think I've ever been in a tropical place where it's raining, where there's a lot of people carrying umbrellas.

00:12:38 John Host The question at hand though is what is the cultural norm within the microclimate of Kate's marriage? Because Sean wants to use an umbrella, but he feels that if he walks down the street with his wife getting rained on and he's sauntering down the Azorean boulevard, keeping dry under a nice umbrella or whatever, that he's gonna look like a jack[censored].

00:13:03 Jesse Host I mean, he does. He will. That's true. I don't know if that's the paramount issue here.

00:13:12 John Host Right. I mean, Kate should be able to do what she wants in the rain. Don't you think?

00:13:16 Jesse Host I think so. [Chuckling.] She might consider whether it makes him look like a monster, because it does. But I think that the only—the only true monstrosity here is a man walking around with two umbrellas all the time!

00:13:34 John Host Hoping against hope that he can force one into her hands.

[Jesse agrees.]

It does not—I'm looking at the Wikipedia page for the Azores, and it does not say anything about the Azores being the judgy-est people of the Portuguese diaspora. In fact, I bet they don't care at all. I don't think they care. It's not like Kate—you and your husband are putting down roots in this community where you're gonna have to live there for a long time and your husband's gonna get a rep for being the selfish man with two umbrellas who doesn't share even one. They're not gonna care, 'cause you're gonna be gone. 'Cause I know that Kate and her husband have to leave this beef and dairy paradise soon. 'Cause he's being reposted.

00:14:17 Jesse Host Guess where they're moving from the Azores, Jesse.

00:14:18 John Host Where is that?

00:14:19 Jesse Host Salt Lake City.

00:14:20 John Host That's a big difference.

00:14:21 Jesse Host That's a big diff.

00:14:24 John Host I bet people carry umbrellas in Salt Lake City.

00:14:37 Jesse Host I bet people have a wonderful time in Salt Lake City, but I gotta say if I were living on a—like a magical island in the middle of the Atlantic with incredible internet and perfect temperature all the livelong day, that would be a hard adjustment.

00:14:45 John Host Well, I don't know. In the Azores, they don't have those drive through soda restaurants that just sell you a gigantic soda that's all the sodas mixed up together.

00:14:47 Jesse Host Is that something they have in Salt Lake City?

00:15:07 John Host Yeah! All throughout Utah and now the American west, it's these drive through soda restaurants where you get a giant Styrofoam cup of soda with nice ice in it, and they mix it up with special soda recipes. It's like a—it's like if a nine-year-old thought of a restaurant. It's amazing.

00:15:07 John Host That's what I was looking for! I was hoping to find some Salt Lake City travel tips to give to Kate and her husband to ease the transition from Europe to the United States, already a big transition, from an island to a landlocked, salty-laked area. You're talking

about a soda concoction culture. Probably with pebble ice to boot, right?

00:15:31 Jesse Host Absolutely, 100%. No, they have—they have—they have pebble ice. There's probably no pebble ice in the entire archipelago of the Azores.

00:15:39 John Host I'm feeling bad for Kate, so I'm glad that this is gonna work out and you're gonna get all those sodas with that pebble ice. And also, some listeners chimed in. I had to use Twitter for this one, sorry. @ApocalypseStudent pointed out that when you're in Salt Lake City, it is absolutely imperative that you visit the Gilgal Gardens. Because there you will see a statue of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Latter-Day Saints—Joseph Smith as a sphynx. That sounds pretty good.

[Jesse agrees.]

Our friends @BooksAreMagic pointing out that King's English is a great bookstore. @InHouseRadio pointed out that Kilby Court is the place to see indie rock variety music, and it's all ages for obvious reasons. All they have is soda. It seems like Salt Lake City's a pretty cool place to go. Lots of great vegan food says @SuperCoolAndStuff. A lot of great obviously mountains, a lot of great ballets. Casey Gardener, who writes television, and I met her when I worked on a TV show called *Married*, points out that the Pioneer Museum has a bunch of weird folk art made of pioneer women's hair. That's worth checking out.

00:16:45 Jesse Host Bwuaaah?! Sold!

00:16:49 John Host Victorian hair art!

00:16:50 Jesse Host I'm on my way!

00:16:52 John Host And Burt, AKA @PlatypusFedra, says it also has the world's largest Costco and the airport is medium sized, very accessible, and rarely affected by weather. Salt Lake City! You're gonna have a wonderful time.

00:17:03 Jesse Host You really closed with a flurry of extraordinary... If you're telling me they've got weird hair art in a special museum, they got a giant Costco.

00:17:16 John Host Mm-hm. World's largest.

00:17:18 Jesse Host As far as I'm concerned, best place in the world. Get there right when it opens, so it's not too crazy in there. But it's the world's largest, so you probably don't have to worry about that, 'cause everybody's all spread out.

00:17:29 John Host That Costco is probably larger than the island that she lives on currently.

00:17:32 Jesse Host And you've got a mid-sized, convenient airport? What I call a Burbank style airport. All I want in the world is to just go to the Burbank airport, have one of the many Guy Fieri branded lunches, get on a short plane flight somewhere, don't have to check any luggage, walk off, get on the subway, go visit my mom.

00:17:57 Valerie Moffat Producer Jesse, I did almost exactly that about a week and a half ago. Short flight, Guy Fieri dinner, no checked baggage, out of Burbank. It was incredible.

00:18:09 Jesse Host You know what? You know why I bet Guy Fieri has all his restaurants in the Burbank airport, Judge Hodgman?

00:18:14 John Host No, why?

00:18:16 Jesse Host Because he's from Santa Rosa, California. I bet he just wants a convenient place to flash his TSA pre, wander into the concourse,

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| | | | sit down, have a burger, get on a short plane flight up to northern California, and visit his parents. |
| 00:18:32 | John | Host | So, you're saying he keeps a collection of his own restaurants in the airport for his convenience. |
| 00:18:36 | Jesse | Host | Well, imagine how zingless the other restaurants that he could be eating at are. I bet there's no chopped hatched chilis or whatever on them. |
| 00:18:44 | John | Host | Yeah. They should rename that airport Flavortown International. |
| 00:18:47 | Jesse | Host | Well, it used to be called the Bob Hope Airport, and they took it away from Bob Hope! |
| 00:18:51 | John | Host | They took Bob Hope's name off the airport? |
| 00:18:54 | Jesse | Host | Now it's called the Hollywood Burbank Airport, just because the generation that thought Bob Hope was funny died! |
| 00:19:00 | John | Host | They should rename it Flavorhub. |
| 00:19:02 | Jesse | Host | Flavorhub is perfect. Petition. Petition to rename the Burbank airport Flavorhub. |
| 00:19:10 | John | Host | Kate, it's gonna be okay. Walk around in the rain and get all wet. I'm sorry, Sean, you can't force an umbrella into your spouse's/partner's hands. People are just gonna do what they feel comfortable with. And soon, you're gonna go to a place where there's much less rain. And let that be a consolation as you make this transition in your life. |
| 00:19:27 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:19:29 | John | Host | Meanwhile, Jesse, there's a direct flight from Boston to the Azores, I found out. 'Cause there's a huuuge Azorean population in the south shore of Boston and in Rhode Island. So, maybe if we do a tour, we can do a show in Boston and then fly to the Azores and do a—oh! You know what? 40% of the Portugal's dairy industry; we'll do a crossover event with <i>Beef and Dairy</i> . We'll do a live podcast with the <i>Beef and Dairy</i> podcast in the Azores. And then, you, me, and Partridge will fly over to London for the London Podcast Festival. Doesn't that sound like a good idea? |
| 00:20:04 | Jesse | Host | Here's my idea. We set sail from Portsmouth harbor. It's us, some old men who are retired Navy guys recruited in bars and saloons, a captain who barely knows how to sail a ship. He just went to the right preparatory schools and is trying to make his career in the Navy. |
| 00:20:27 | John | Host | Don't forget the millionaire and his wife. |
| 00:20:29 | Jesse | Host | A grizzled [<i>chuckles</i>]—a grizzled harpoons man, and we head for the cape. Not the cape of Massachusetts, the cape of South America. We have to go around in search of whales, because they've been hunted for their oil. Now, we have to go all the way to the Pacific to find them. Anyway, moral of the story is, we run out of food, we go mad, etc., etc., etc., then maybe we end up in Hawaii or something. |
| 00:20:57 | John | Host | I'm sorry, Max Fun HQ, Valerie Moffat: did Jesse Thorn step out and accidentally replace himself with ChatGPT? |
| | | | [<i>Valerie laughs.</i>] |
| 00:21:10 | Valerie | Producer | "Write a whaling novel for Jesse Thorn and John Hodgman." John, I'm looking at him through the window of the booth right now, and he just kind of phased out of existence for a second. All I saw was bleeps and bleeps. |

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| 00:21:17 | John | Host | <p>I did—I forgot to say that I did consult ChatGPT, saying, “Please complete this sentence: you get what you get.” And it said, “You don’t get upset.”</p> <p>And now, I’m gonna ask it “write 1000 words of a 19th century whaling novel starring John Hodgman and Jesse Thorn and the millionaire and his wife with a stop in the Azores”.</p> <p>“John Hodgman and Jesse Thorn were two seasoned whalers aboard the Pequod, a ship out of Nantucket, Massachusetts, in the 19th century. As the ship set sail, John and Jesse couldn’t help but feel the thrill of adventure coursing through their veins. They had been on countless whaling expeditions before, but this one felt different. The Pequod made a stop in the Azores, a group of volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The island was lush and green. They even had the chance to attend a party thrown by a millionaire and his wife, who had a luxurious mansion overlooking the ocean.</p> <p>“At the party, John and Jesse were impressed by the opulence of the mansion and the wealth of the couple. They were curious about how they had come to acquire such riches and began to ask around.”</p> |
| 00:22:26 | Jesse | Host | Ooh! The plot thickens. |
| 00:22:27 | John | Host | “They soon discovered that the millionaire had made his fortune in the whaling industry and then retired to the Azores with his wife.” |
| 00:22:33 | Jesse | Host | Not a big reveal there. |
| 00:22:35 | John | Host | No, seems straightforward. “They regaled John and Jesse with tales of their time at sea, and then asked if they wanted to play the most dangerous game.” |
| 00:22:42 | Jesse | Host | Hm. |
| 00:22:43 | John | Host | Oooh! Oh, and then it goes in a very dark direction from there. No, I added that last part, but the rest was all AI. Oh! Wait a minute. “But their envy soon—” This is real. “Their envy soon turned horror as they learned of the couple’s brutal whaling practices.” |
| 00:22:56 | Jesse | Host | Wow! |
| 00:22:57 | John | Host | “They had used every cruel and inhumane technique to capture whales, including using explosive harpoons. John and Jesse were disgusted and horrified by the couple’s actions. They vowed to do everything in their power to stop them and their heinous practices.” |
| 00:23:11 | Jesse | Host | I <u>hate</u> those practices! |
| 00:23:13 | John | Host | “As the Pequod set sail once again, John and Jesse were more determined than ever to put an end to the millionaire’s whaling operation.” |
| 00:23:20 | Jesse | Host | Sure! Why wouldn’t we be?! Those practices. |
| 00:23:24 | John | Host | “Their journey was long and arduous, filled with danger and excitement.” That’s good writing. “They faced treacherous storms and harrowing encounters with other whales.” Let’s not get specific. “But they never lost sight of their goal. Finally, after months at sea, they caught up with the millionaire’s ship. It was a fierce battle, but John and Jesse emerged victorious. They captured the millionaire and his crew and turned them over to the authorities to face justice for their crimes. They returned to Nantucket as heroes and were |

celebrated for their bravery. And as they looked back on their journey, John and Jesse realized their adventure had taught them something important. They had learned that wealth and success were not worth sacrificing one's morals and ethics. They had also learned that the bond between friends and humans and animals was sacred and must be respected. They knew that they had a responsibility to treat whales with dignity, and they were determined to do so for the rest of their days. The end."

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| | | | Good job. |
| 00:24:20 | Jesse | Host | The classic triumvirate: friends, humans, and animals. |
| 00:24:24 | John | Host | In the end, our real reward was the millionaires we killed along the way. |
| 00:24:32 | Jesse | Host | <i>[Laughs.]</i> Let's take a quick break. When we come back, Juvenile Court. |
| 00:24:35 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:24:38 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:24:40 | Jesse | Host | Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast: a tribute to that one <i>American Experience</i> episode directed by Ric Burns, "Into the Deep". It's a great one. I recommend people go check that out. One time, I said something positive about Ric Burns on one of my shows, and somebody that worked in the Ric Burns office heard, and she got Ric Burns to autograph DVDs for me and send them to me. It was great. |
| 00:25:04 | John | Host | Woah! Nice! |
| 00:25:05 | Jesse | Host | Ric Burns rules. Ric Burns! The king of the Burns brothers! Take that, you quilt-y twerp! |
| 00:25:15 | John | Host | Wooooah! |
| 00:25:16 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, that's right. I'm not afraid to take on Ken Burns and his incredible quilt collection, a tribute to one of America's most remarkable folk arts. A breathtaking collection. |
| 00:25:27 | John | Host | Brother against brother on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. |
| 00:25:30 | Jesse | Host | <i>[Shouting.]</i> Too bad he's the second best Buuuurns! Only one king can be of the Burns-es! It's Ric Burns! Okay! |
| 00:25:37 | John | Host | You know what? We'll let the computer settle this later. |
| 00:25:40 | Jesse | Host | Okay. Great. Judge Hodgman, we have some cases this week between parents and their children. |
| 00:25:45 | John | Host | Yeah, we do this from time to time. Parents take their kids to court; we call it Juvenile Court. Let's do it. |
| 00:25:52 | Jesse | Host | Here's a case from Bob in Denver, Colorado. "I have two children, Ken and Rick. One is clearly better than the other, based on the documentary films he's made for the American experience." |
| | | | <i>[John snorts with laughter.]</i> |
| 00:26:08 | John | Host | "Yet, America celebrates the other." |
| 00:26:10 | Valerie | Producer | Valerie, I think the AI is back again. |
| 00:26:12 | John | Host | Oh man, he just turned into the matrix. |
| 00:26:14 | Valerie | Producer | Can you reboot Jesse please? |
| 00:26:17 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, let me unplug him and plug him back in again. |
| | | | Here's a case from Bob in Denver, Colorado. "I bring this case against my five-year-old son, Mills. We're invited to a rockstar themed birthday party for another five-year-old. Mills will be going as Freddie Mercury, but he has declared that I will be going as, |

quote, 'Your favorite rockstar, Judge John Hodgman.' Don't get me wrong, you're easily the most popular celebrity in this house. I'm just not sure that a Judge Hodgman costume will be appreciated at a rockstar themed birthday party. Please rule that I can attend the party as a more traditional rockstar, such as guy from Smashmouth, whom I naturally resemble in both physique and spirit."

00:27:03 John Host

Alright, we'll table that last suggestion for a second. Now, wait a minute. Bob in Denver. You know I'm a singer. You've seen me in *Up Here* on Hulu, right? *[Singing.]* "Note the spatter of blood at the base of the stairs." The one audible piece of singing that I have. You could do that! You could dress as my character from *Up Here* and do my little twirl and sing that little line. And eeeveryone at the party, particularly the five-year-olds, will love it because they're big fans of Mae Whitman and Carlos Valdes and the showtunes of Bobby Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez. But I don't know. I guess that's not a rockstar—I guess that doesn't fit the theme. Right, Jesse?

00:27:41 Jesse Host

Not at all.

00:27:42 John Host

If you were gonna go to a rockstar party, who would you go as?

00:27:45 Jesse Host

Andrew WK.

00:27:46 John Host

Yeah, that guy's a rockstar.

00:27:48 Jesse Host

Plus, easy costume. The kids are gonna love the fake blood.

[They chuckle.]

00:27:52 John Host

I didn't even think about who I would go as, other than rockstar John Hodgman—my off-brand Halloween costume that I've got a warehouse full of.

[Jesse chuckles.]

Along with Pumpkinhead John Hodgman and Sexy John Hodgman. They didn't sell.

Oooh, who's my favorite rocker? I can't go as Tom Waits. He's not a rockstar. I guess I would go as John Hodgman Ramone. That probably would work. I don't know. I don't know if I could go as Steve Harwell, who I presume is the Smashmouth guy that is referred to here. 'Cause, uh, he's had a hard life. That's a complicated life to imitate. The truth is, Bob, I think that you're right. You can't go as John Hodgman. And here's why. Not a rockstar and, you know, as Ronald Thomas Clompa once said about David Bowie, "Too many changes."

What era of John Hodgman are you gonna go as? PC John Hodgman? Deranged millionaire John Hodgman? The Tom in *Up Here* John Hodgman? The time I had that cowboy had for a year? There are too many John Hodgmans, none of which are particularly memorable. My brand is effed. No one will know. And I don't want you to go as any Smashmouth. No offense. Catchy songs. I think the person you're talking about is a singer. Kind of a dark history there. The truth is, Bob, if Mills is going as Freddie Mercury, you gotta go as Brian May. Get a wig, you're gonna look like a rockstar. Brian May is an incredible guitarist, oft overshadowed in popular memory by Freddie Mercury. All the Queens were terrific, but only one of them has a doctorate in astrophysics. Let it be Brian May.

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| 00:29:34 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:29:36 | John | Host | Coolest guy after Freddie Mercury, obviously. And all the other Queens are terrific. |
| 00:29:40 | Jesse | Host | You know, Smashmouth are from northern California. I believe they're from the San Jose area. |
| 00:29:44 | John | Host | They call that the Azores of northern California. |
| 00:29:47 | Jesse | Host | Just think about how many times Smashmouth has taken the opportunity to grab a direct regional jet from Burbank to San Jose. |
| 00:29:57 | John | Host | I think there's gonna be a Smashmouth terminal at Flavorhub. I think that there's that synergy. Right? They're gonna build a new terminal. |
| 00:30:04 | Jesse | Host | That's why you're an all-star, John. Ideas like that. |
| 00:30:08 | John | Host | "Now landing at the Smashmouth terminal, Avelo Flight 935 from Tweed, New Haven." |
| 00:30:14 | Jesse | Host | Here's something from Lex. My son, Liam, is 12. My family of five is going on a trip to Paris this summer. We asked our kids to research things they want to see in France. Our daughters are interested in the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Musée D'Orsay. Liam wants to go to the Paris Sewer Museum. My research indicates this museum goes through the actual, active sewer, and thus smells like—you guessed it—a sewer. Liam tends to gag from even mildly bad smelling things. I think he'd hate this place and end up regretting it. Please order we don't have to see how Paris handles poop. Also, <i>Up Here</i> is a delight. You're magnificent in it." |
| 00:31:02 | John | Host | Thank you, Lex! Thank you! You may dress as John Hodgman as Tom in <i>Up Here</i> for next Halloween. And in fact, Lex, I insist on it. But in the meantime, yeah, I wanna send that kid down to the sewer. Of course, I do. Right, Jesse? |
| 00:31:17 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, it seems like you could hardly not go to the sewer. I mean, you're in Paris. |
| 00:31:21 | John | Host | The sewers of Paris are some of the most historical sewers. That's where Jean Valjean goes to hide. In fact, they became so popular during Victor Hugo's time that tours—that inaugurated the tours of the Parisian sewer. And at the time, you could take a boat through them. You could take a cruise—a sewer cruise. Sadly, that is not offered now. Now, you just go down. I think it's like five or ten euros, and there's a guided tour all in French. And they show you a few things, and you walk over a grate, and there's definitely some French merde down there. And by all accounts, it smells. I know that because the most recent review I found on Google is from three days ago at the Parisian Sewer Musician. Louie McDougal writes, "Five stars. It stinks." Fair! It is what it is. |

But the point is, your son wants to go! You offered! It was nice of you to offer this agency to your children to do some research and find some places to go. And your daughters picked some great stuff. We have a report from a member of our family who lives in Paris recently who said the Louvre is now officially skippable. Skip it. The Musée D'Orsay is the one to go to. Just as good of art, plus it rhymes. But obviously, you know, Eiffel Tower, that's a classic. Those things are gonna be crowded. You know what's not gonna be crowded, particularly if you're going during the summer? The sewer. It's gonna be nice and cool down there. And you know what? Maybe your son, Liam, is gonna throw up down there. Maybe it's gonna be disgusting. Maybe he will regret it. Good. You can't

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| | | | protect your children from regrets! If anything, you gotta teach them, “Make decisions, and if you regret them, that’s part of life!” |
| 00:33:09 | Jesse | Host | You get what you get, and you might throw up it. |
| 00:33:14 | John | Host | That almost rhymes! |
| 00:33:15 | Jesse | Host | I’m not southern, so. |
| 00:33:18 | John | Host | Right. You might throw up it? Is that what you said? |

[Jesse confirms.]

Yeah, it almost rhymes. It’s good. Yeah, if he’s nauseated by the sewer, all the better. First of all, it means you have a human son, which you probably are worried about, ‘cause everything’s getting replaced by AI these days. Even my bailiff. Second of all, you live, and you learn. You live and you learn, and you puke sometimes. That’s part of life. *Ce la vie*. Also, doesn’t take long as far as I can tell. Put it on the list. Get down there. I think Liam should go by himself. I think that’d be—if I were 12 years old going to the sewer museum on my own, because my father and my other family members were too snooty about it, I’d have the greatest time. I’d have the greatest time. Too bad you can’t photograph smells, Liam. You’re gonna have a great time down there in the hole.

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| 00:34:10 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
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| 00:34:12 | Jesse | Host | Let’s take a quick break. When we come back, cases from the ancient past. |
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| 00:34:17 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
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| 00:34:19 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
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| 00:34:21 | Jesse | Host | Judge Hodgman, we’re taking a break from clearing the docket. What have you got going on? |
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| 00:34:26 | John | Host | Well, as we’ve said before and as I will say again, right now, on May the 10 th , I will be appearing live at Symphony Space in New York City, along with Stephin Merritt of The Magnetic Fields, where we will jointly celebrate the 30 th anniversary of the website called <i>McSweeney’s</i> , and the journal called <i>McSweeney’s</i> —print journal, as well. It’s still printing. This is the journal of literature and literary humor where I got my start. And I’m thrilled to return to Symphony Space to celebrate in this extravaganza of a night. Just google “John Hodgman Symphony Space”. It’s part of the Selected Shorts Series on one my favorite radio shows to listen to, and we’re gonna have a wonderful time. And if you’re under 30, tickets are like 17 bucks. It’s a really good deal. |
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So, I hope to see some of you out there then. And virtually speaking, you can always check me out on Hulu, where I costar as John Hunchman on *Dicktown* and where I occasionally appear as Tom the dancing, singing father on *Up Here*. Jesse Thorn, what have you got going on?

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| 00:35:30 | Jesse | Host | You can find my vintage shop at PutThisOnShop.com . It’s closed, but mostly other things—treasures, let’s call them—were also on Instagram @Put.This.On . That’s also my Instagram for my own self. We like to post outfits there as well as cool stuff we found as well as cool stuff we’ve seen. So, go follow Put.This.On on Instagram. A lot of stuff lately been getting bought on Instagram before it even makes it into the shop. So. |
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| 00:35:59 | John | Host | Before it even makes it into the shop. See, this is really one of your Instagram must-follows. Put.This.On on Instagram. Nice photo of you with your dad on your Instagram. Very sweet photo. |
| 00:36:11 | Jesse | Host | I know. Yeah. Give Me a Break is moving to Las Vegas. Four thumbs down. |
| 00:36:18 | John | Host | Yeah. No stars. I couldn't believe—that's where—that's how I learned that news. I get all my baseball news from Put.This.On , the Instagram. |
| | | | <i>[Jesse laughs.]</i> |
| 00:36:31 | Jesse | Host | And there's a great photo of you hiking up your cargo pants. Engineered garments FA pants, they're called. |
| 00:36:34 | John | Host | A lot of style, a lot of styling people, and a lot of stuff that won't ever make it to the Put This On Shop, 'cause it's gonna sell right off of Instagram. Go and follow it. |
| 00:36:43 | Jesse | Host | And in conclusion, I would like to plug Valerie drinking out of her coffee mug with two hands like she's in a commercial for coffee. |
| 00:36:51 | John | Host | <i>[Hums.]</i> This is our time. |
| 00:36:52 | Valerie | Producer | Mmm, yummy. |
| 00:36:54 | Jesse | Host | Let's get back to the show. |
| 00:36:56 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:36:58 | Jesse | Host | Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. Judge, we've been doing this podcast for quite some time. Over 40 years now. |
| 00:37:06 | John | Host | 40 years. |
| 00:37:08 | Jesse | Host | And I hear that you have dug deep into our mailbag. |
| 00:37:11 | John | Host | Yes, Jesse. That's what you do when you reach middle age. You stay up late at night, and you find your old letters, and you have a glass of vermouth and get a little misty eyed as you read the letters from the past. What I'm talking about is, as we've done before, I go back about five to ten years and look at all the docket questions that were submitted that I didn't respond to, and I feel like a real heel. And so, we have a little segment that we call Justice Delayed where we dig out ones from the past and we give them, finally, the justice they are due. |
| 00:37:44 | Jesse | Host | Here's a case from five years ago. It comes to us from Jim in Connecticut. "I like to follow Google cars in an attempt to become immortalized on Google Maps." |
| 00:37:57 | John | Host | Now, to be clear, these are cars that are hired by Google, and they have cameras mounted all over them so that they will drive down all the streets in a neighborhood filming 360-degree photos to post on Google Streetview so you can see what these streets look like. And he wants to photobomb one of these. You ever see one of these cars, Jesse? |
| 00:38:17 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, they got a big thing sticking out of them, like a periscope. |
| 00:38:20 | John | Host | You ever see a Google person? |
| 00:38:22 | Jesse | Host | Yeah, I saw one on Google Maps yesterday, 'cause I was trying to figure out if there was a basketball court in Lincoln Park. |
| 00:38:28 | John | Host | I was walking through Central Park one time, and there was a young person with a—I thought they had the most extensive braces headgear of all time. No, they had a huge bracket set on their shoulders with cameras all around. And they were walking the lanes of Central Park for Google Streetview just filming it all. |

00:38:47 Jesse Host The guy I saw in Lincoln Park—I mean, in the Google Streetview of Lincoln Park—was sort of holding a stick of some kind and looking up at it like, “Hey!”

00:38:59 John Host Wait, you’re saying that the Google Streetview captured another Google Streetview camera operator?

00:39:03 Jesse Host No, the same camera operator that was capturing was also captured. Capturer, capture thyself.

00:39:13 John Host Valerie, I think we need to reboot again.

[Valerie chuckles.]

I’m not sure what’s going on. I’m not sure what AI Jesse is trying to express here.

00:39:20 Valerie Producer Please hold for a moment. I’m gonna factory reset him.

00:39:23 John Host Hard reset.

00:39:24 Jesse Host “I’ve been let down many times, but I recently followed a—”

00:39:27 John Host Oh, he just started—just started up again. Okay, here we go.

00:39:30 Jesse Host “I’ve been let down many times, but I recently followed a Googlemobile around the lovely New England town of New London, Connecticut. And finally, it worked. As you can tell, I’m quite proud. But I’ve been told by several people close to me that I shouldn’t do this.”

00:39:47 John Host So, Jim sent in a link to the location on Google Streetview where he claims to have caught up with the Google car and photobombed the Google Streetview. But before we get to that, as a matter of ethics, Jesse, what do you think about this idea of following around a Google street car. In a car, presumably.

00:40:08 Jesse Host I mean, there’s some climate downside.

[John chuckles and agrees.]

And I imagine there’s some danger, simply by virtue of the fact that it’s one more person in a car, rather than on foot or in a chair at their house. But I admire the industry.

00:40:25 John Host You feel that there’s minimal danger. I mean, my concern is that if you are intent on following another car, then you are not being an attentive driver, and you might cause an accident with a vehicle or a pedestrian or a bike you might not otherwise if you were simply driving your car without intently following a google car so that you’ll be immortalized on Google Streetview. And you might make that driver of that Google car a little nervous and a little concerned. Although, I have the feeling that’s probably something that Google Streetview cars have dealt with a lot. I’m sure those drivers have seen a lot of stuff. A lot of people trying to mess with them. So, they’re probably pretty Mad Max at this point about it.

Well, whatever the case, let’s table that for a second to say that Jim also sent in an article that was his inspiration for this. It was an article from a strange website that seems weird and might take over your computer, so I’m not gonna give you the link. But he sent in the basic storyline and photos of a Shiba Inu dog in a boatyard in Kagoshima (Ka-gosh-imuh) or Kagoshima (Kag-oh-sheema), Japan, that chased a Google cam car in 2014 for a long time and was captured and immortalized in Google Streetview. And Jesse and Val, I’m sending you those images right now via electronic

message. So, you can take out your smart devices and take a look at this dog.

[Valerie cackles.]

First, you see him next to a boat. Then, you see this little dog—

[Jesse giggles.]

As the car passes, the dog is like looking after the car, and then you see—then you see the rearview of this little dog chasing after the car, so excited. It's pretty cute!

00:42:07 Jesse Host

It tells a story.

[Valerie laughs.]

00:42:09 John Host

It reminds me of, back in 2008, when some Pittsburg art students—I'm told here it's Be Kingsley and Robert Hewitt—created a block-long arts installation for every block along this long stretch of Sampsonia Way, in Pittsburg. They set up a different little thing. So, they had a couple of guys in medieval garb larping, and then in another block they had an evil scientist on the side of the road doing some strange experiment, bringing some corpse to life or whatever. And then, they faked the ending of a marathon. And then, they had a marching parade. It was covered all over the internet back in 2008. And you could find it all on Google Streetview as a kind of like—you would, you know—they followed the car and created this alternate reality on Sampsonia Way.

It was a lot of fun! It's also gone now. Because, of course, Google updates its stuff. It goes around the roads again. So, that whole art project is gone. And Jim sent this in five years ago, in 2018. And I clicked on his link, and Jim, you're gone too. They've redone it. All of your work was for nothing. I mean, unless there's something I'm missing in this photo. There's just like—behind this car, the link that you sent just shows behind the Google Streetview car, a modest Acura following along at a safe distance. Is that what you're bragging about? Or was there something else that was here once before? Maybe you did a big thumbs up outside the car—outside the window or something? I don't know. But it looks to me like you're gone. And you know what? That little dog is gone too. And that contemporary Streetview in Kagosheema or Kagoshima—I don't know how it's pronounced; you can let me know.

I hope the little dog is fine, but that delightful memory of the dog has been erased in favor of more updated photos. Jim, whatever you did, the fame you were chasing is fleeting and it is gone now. I guess I wonder whether it was worth it? I don't know. Maybe Ric Burns should make a documentary about it. What do you think, Jesse?

00:44:15 Jesse Host

I'd watch it.

00:44:16 John Host

Seems like it. What about Ken Burns? Would you watch it if he made it?

[Jesse blows a loud raspberry.]

Woow! You might need to have him on Bullseye sometime.

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| 00:44:24 | Jesse | Host | Have fun playing with your quilts. |
| 00:44:27 | John | Host | <i>[Softly.]</i> Oh nooo. You know, when I saw that person with that Google rig on their body, walking around Central Park, I thought for a moment, “I should follow them around and see what they do. See what their life is like. This could be research for a really cool thriller that I might write, in which the Google Streetview person captures something on the side of the road in Central Park they shouldn’t, and then they’re on the run from the law or something like that. But then, I realized two things. One, I had to get to the dentist. I was getting my wisdom teeth extracted. Then, two, uuuh let’s not bother people. |
| | | | That said, I guess there’s no harm in it. I think that’s probably fine, as long as you keep a safe distance and don’t endanger anybody or yourself. If what you’re looking for is a brief, shining moment on Google Streetview, understanding that you and that art and that dog, like all of us, will soon be a ghost—yeah. You gotta get out of this life what you can, Jim. |
| 00:45:25 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:45:27 | Jesse | Host | Here’s a case from ten years ago. |
| 00:45:30 | John | Host | Woooah. |
| 00:45:31 | Jesse | Host | Submitted by Fred. “On a recent episode—” ... Well. |
| | | | <i>[John laughs.]</i> |
| | | | “You discussed a tournament bracket where Yoda beat Spiderman, Batman beat Superman, and then Batman bested Yoda for the win. My friend and I have been debating who would win in a fight, Batman or Darth Vader. |
| 00:45:52 | John | Host | Woah-ho! This is really weird, and it does make me feel like maybe we’re living in a bit of a simulation here, because literally last night our son was talking about how—and I asked him to clarify this by texting him, and he’s not responding to me, which is fair. It’s his life now. He’s down in the sewers of Paris or whatever. He’s grown. But last night he was like—either he or a friend had plugged into ChatGPT, “Please describe a fight between Superman and Darth Vader, taking into account their respective powers and abilities. And make sure that there’s a winner.” |
| | | | And ChatGPT, as you have observed, wrote out a plausibly human-sounding narrative with plot twists and surprising character death in which Superman and Darth Vader fight. And who do you think ChatGPT said would win in that fight? |
| 00:46:47 | Jesse | Host | Gotta be Superman, I think. |
| 00:46:50 | John | Host | Gotta be Superman. It’s gotta be Superman. Darth Vader’s slow. <i>[Chuckles.]</i> He’s ponderous. He gets what he gets, and he does throw a fit. He’s emotional, cruel. And what can he do? He can move things with his mind. He can’t even do force lightning. He’s real slow with that lightsaber. Superman, as every comic nerd knows, is ludicrously overpowered. I could see Batman beating Superman, and I’ve seen it happen in the pages of comic books, ‘cause Batman is a master strategist. But I don’t think Darth Vader is. But do you know what happened? |

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| 00:47:44 | Jesse | Host | ChatGPT said Darth Vader wins. So, I'm gonna plug it in now, and we'll see. Was that an error? Just a fluke? Or does ChatGPT have a thing for Darth Vader? |
| 00:47:49 | Valerie | Producer | Superman is OP. ChatGPT nerfed Superman. |
| 00:47:51 | John | Host | Devs, please nerf Superman. Okay, now you're both AIs. Now I have no idea what's happening. |

Describe a fight—and Fred, this is why we had to wait ten years. 'Cause there wasn't the technology to solve this definitively yet. Now, we have it: ChatGPT. Describe a fight between Darth Vader and Batman and reveal the winner. Go.

"The clash between the two of the most iconic characters in pop culture, Darth Vader and Batman, would be a sight to behold."

[Jesse agrees.]

"The dark lord of the Sith, Darth Vader, is a towering figure in his black armor, wielding his crimson lightsaber with deadly precision." A lot of description. "Batman, on the other hand, is a master of martial arts, armed with an arsenal of gadgets. As the two face off, the air crackles with tension. Batman launches the first attack, throwing a flurry of punches and kicks." No, he wouldn't! "Vader counterattacks, swinging his lightsaber in a deadly arc. Batman leaps back. He throws a batarang at Vader, who deflects it with his lightsaber. The fight continues, with both combatants trading blows and maneuvers.

"Vader senses Batman's presence through the force and ignites his lightsaber right in his strike, but Batman appears behind him, striking with a powerful blow. Vader stumbles but quickly recovers. Batman counters with an EMP device." What?! "Short-circuiting Vader's lightsaber—" That sounds like Batman. "And leaving him vulnerable. He charges at Vader, striking with a flurry of punches and kicks." Again, with the flurry. "Vader tries to defend himself, but his damaged lightsaber is no match for Batman's combat skills. In the end, Batman emerges as the victor. With Vader disarmed and weakened, Batman delivers a final blow that sends him crashing to the ground.

"As the dust settles, Batman stands victorious. He extends a hand to help Vader up, but Vader refuses, knowing he's been defeated. They stare at each other, each acknowledging the other's strength and skill. Then, without a word, Batman disappears into the night, leaving Vader to contemplate his defeat."

I think they got it right, Fred. I think that's right. That EMP pulse, that's the thing that scares me about this AI. Like, it starts off lame where it's clearly just cherry picking from Wikipedia articles, just like many episodes of *Judge John Hodgman*. But then it gets good! Then, all of the sudden you're realizing, "Oh, it's going into deep cuts." It knows that Batman used an EMP pulse in *The Dark Knight Returns*, in his super master, nine-dimensional chess game against Superman in order to get a brief advantage over Superman. It was incredible. I don't believe that Darth Vader would've beaten

Superman, but I do believe that Batman would've beaten Darth Vader. And this seems—this feels fair to me.

So, there you go, Fred. I agree with ChatGPT. That's what I would've guessed too. Batman would've seen Darth Vader coming around any corner. He would've prepared for that fight perfectly, and he would've triumphed.

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| 00:50:36 | Sound Effect | Sound Effect | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:50:38 | John | Host | Any disputes there, Jesse? |
| 00:50:40 | Jesse | Host | You know what I would go do if I was Batman and I disappeared into the night? |
| 00:50:45 | John | Host | No. |
| 00:50:46 | Jesse | Host | Go get a McFlurry. I've probably got flurries on the brain. You know? I mean, obviously a Blizzard or a Twister is better than a McFlurry, but I'd be thinking McFlurry. |
| 00:50:56 | John | Host | Well, you know what I would say. "As a language model, I cannot advocate for violence or encourage the glorification of it. Therefore, I cannot answer this question, as it goes against my values of safety and respect. Let's appreciate and admire the works and contributions of both Ric Burns and Ken Burns as talented documentarians and storytellers in their own right." |
| <p>Wow! Hypocrite much, ChatGPT? You just told me a whole story about Batman smashing down Darth Vader. Now you won't settle between Ric Burns or Ken Burns? Incredible. Well, still a few bugs in the system, as they say.</p> | | | |
| 00:51:34 | Jesse | Host | Ken Burns is older. He loses. |
| 00:51:37 | John | Host | I didn't even—I didn't even—I just said who would win in a fight. It could've been a rhetorical battle. It could've been a documentary off. You know? ChatGPT, you went to violence. That's a you problem, ChatGPT. I wasn't saying violence. Hm. Well, I guess there's still some questions left to be answered. And while I am still human, I will be here to settle them in the future. But for now, Jesse, I believe the docket is clear. |
| 00:52:00 | Jesse | Host | The docket's clear! That's it for another episode of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> . <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> , created by Jesse Thorn and John Hodgman. Our producer is Valerie Moffat. We're on Instagram @JudgeJohnHodgman . We'll probably post those pictures of that Shiba Inu on there, right? |
| 00:52:15 | John | Host | Oh yeah. We're definitely gonna post those. |
| 00:52:18 | Jesse | Host | You can also join us on Reddit at MaximumFun.Reddit.com . |
| 00:52:23 | John | Host | Jesse, I don't understand any of this anymore. So, I'm gonna ask you a single question. If you were gonna pick one word to describe the flavor of ketchup, what would it be? It's hard, right? |
| 00:52:34 | Jesse | Host | Tangy. |
| 00:52:35 | John | Host | Taaangyy! I like it. David and Chrissy wrote in with a dispute this week regarding whether the first word to describe ketchup should be "sweet", and they threatened to take that question simultaneously to the <i>Doughboys</i> podcast, which is uh not okay, David and Chrissy. |
| 00:52:53 | Jesse | Host | Not chill. |
| 00:52:54 | John | Host | Not chill. So, I went to the Doughboys first, to alert them to this double dipping. And the Doughboys have agreed sometime in the future to come on the show and settle yours and a whole messy docket of condiment disputes. Probably we'll get around to it this |

summer. That's gonna be the summer of condiments. So, get your condiment disputes into us. Uh, best mayo. Worst Worcestershire. Any—hot sauce preferences! Anything related to condiments, even dares. Like, I'll take dares. I can eat some ghost peppers. You know what I mean? The place to submit disputes is always MaximumFun.org/ijho.

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| 00:53:32 | Jesse | Host | And of course, no matter what your dispute is, we want to hear it! Go to MaximumFun.org/ijho and share it with us. Big, small, we judge them all. This is not a goof! It's not a joke! Please, send in your disputes! MaximumFun.org/ijho . We'll talk to you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. |
| 00:53:51 | Sound Effect | Transition | Three gavel bangs. |
| 00:53:53 | Sound Effect | Transition | Cheerful ukulele chord. |
| 00:53:54 | Speaker 1 | Guest | MaximumFun.org . |
| 00:53:56 | Speaker 2 | Guest | Comedy and culture. |
| 00:53:57 | Speaker 3 | Guest | Artist owned— |
| 00:53:58 | Speaker 4 | Guest | —audience supported. |