

Judge Naught (Month End/Next Month Promo)

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Teleplay

FADE IN

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT SET INTERVIEW STATION - DAY

We fade in on the End-of-Month promo. Current host/interviewer AARON GALLEGOS stands in front of the JUDGE NAUGHT logo on the wall, microphone in hand and professional smile on face. Aaron knows how to do this in his sleep at this point.

GALLEGOS

And so we came to the end of another exciting day's docket here on Judge Naught. Remember! Next week's the start of a whole new month and that means a whole new slate of venues and cases! Let's take a look at what's coming up!

TRANSITION TO:

INT. THOMAS L. BANTING PARAHUMAN CONTAINMENT UNIT AND PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

Stock footage of the Naught in his full raiment of Caustimorph Cloth, a corona of fire around his dark nebulous nothingness, walking between two Sepulcher guards.

ANNOUNCER

He was one of the most dangerous threats Justice Wing ever contended against. The principle of nihilism and entropy incarnate into one event horizon of obliteration -- in a world of many, he was Naught.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. BANTING CONTAINMENT CELL - DAY

NAUGHT in his cell, an orange prison jumpsuit barely containing his netherness, studying legal textbooks (on screen, not physically. They don't let people in the Sepulcher have actual paper. That way lies madness.)

ANNOUNCER

But unlike so many who fall afoul of the law, Naught took the opportunity to better himself and his education, ultimately completing law school and passing the bar.

INT. PENTAGON BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

A press briefing in the Pentagon. Various officers are there, as is NAUGHT, in his villainous uniform.

ANNOUNCER

When a job came up that only Naught could do, he stepped up to the plate, earning a commuted sentence and an opportunity to turn his life around, first as a defense lawyer, then as a prosecutor, and finally as a district court judge. And now, he's here on this station five days a week, dispensing justice as only the embodiment of the veritable void itself could

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT OPENING - DAY

JUDGE NAUGHT in his judicial robes, the corona of fire around his nether-darkness head burning like white hot death over the abyss itself, managing to both be nothing and look stern at the same time. A JUDGE NAUGHT: LEST YE BE JUDGED logo slams onto the screen with a clank and f/x shaking.

ANNOUNCER

Judge Naught -- *lest ye be judged!*

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT PRIMARY TRIAL SET - DAY

JUDGE NAUGHT is in the front of the court, bailiffs to the side, with a plaintiff and defendant in front of him. The defendant is LICKETY-SPLIT, a female superhero speedster with a runner's build with a bit of a pear shape, in a dark blue uniform including goggles, with warm medium-brown skin.

The plaintiff is GEORGIA ROGERS, a woman in her early thirties, frosted blond tips on dark hair, dressed in business-appropriate wear including silk blouse, ascot, and dark skirt, with a lighter brown skin tone with an orangey undertone.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Week one Judge Naught hears some
decidedly *un-civil* civil cases.

INTERCUT between JUDGE NAUGHT, ROGERS, and LICKETY-SPLIT

JUDGE NAUGHT
(Judge Naught's voice is like
a whisper from every grave
ever known)
You are called... Lickety-Split?

LICKETY-SPLIT
That is correct, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
Because of your... speed.

LICKETY-SPLIT
That is correct, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
(He rumbles like the
inevitability that is death)
How fast are you... if I may ask?

LICKETY-SPLIT
I can do an initial burst sprint
at about four hundred and ninety
miles an hour, with a sustained
running speed just over two
hundred.

JUDGE NAUGHT
...impressive. And you use these
abilities to fight crime in your
neighborhood?

LICKETY-SPLIT
That is correct, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
According to this DETAILS public
record, you are considered fourth
tier?

LICKETY-SPLIT
That is correct, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

So you do not rise to the level of requiring Justice Wing oversight, but you seem to have a decent relationship with both local law enforcement and with Firestalker, the nearest third tier hero. Is that correct?

LICKETY-SPLIT

To my knowledge, that is correct, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

I see.

(Turns to regard ROGERS, the infinite tranquility of emptiness a desolate shell for one's discarded hopes and dreams)

And you are Georgia Rogers, and you live in this neighborhood that Lickety-Split patrols?

ROGERS

I do, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

And you seek an injunction... requiring Lickety-Split to change her callsign and codename.

ROGERS

That is correct.

JUDGE NAUGHT

Along with damages of approximately seven hundred and fifty dollars for emotional distress.

ROGERS

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

Why, precisely, do you seek this injunction?

ROGERS

That name is *perverse*, your honor. I have children, and I don't want them to hear that horrible name every time some hoodlum's taken down!

Cut to JUDGE NAUGHT, who stares for a long moment.

JUDGE NAUGHT
You... find 'Lickety-Split...'
offensive?

ROGERS
Yes, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT turns to Bailiff Thunderlash Toni.

JUDGE NAUGHT
She... finds Lickety-Split to be...
offensive, T.L.

BAILIFF THUNDERLASH TONI
She does, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
I'm simply verifying I am hearing
words with meanings that we all
agree upon.
(Turns to Lickety-Split)
Did you register your name with
DETAILS?

LICKETY-SPLIT
I did, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
Was it your first choice?

LICKETY-SPLIT
No, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
What was your first choice?

LICKETY-SPLIT
The Comet. But there's trademark
issues because of the cleanser. So
I tried adding colors.

JUDGE NAUGHT
A common tactic.

LICKETY-SPLIT
It turns out a lot of people like
the name 'comet.' There was a Blue
Comet, a Red Comet, an Orange
Comet, a Green Comet...

JUDGE NAUGHT
(Turns back to ROGERS)
Do you find banana splits
offensive?

ROGERS
Excuse me, your honor?

JUDGE NAUGHT
Banana splits. Oft-available from
ice cream vendors, or so I am
told. Do you find that name
offensive?

ROGERS
No, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
When a cheerleader does a move
where they slide to the ground,
with their legs at a preferably
ninety degree angle, what is that
move called?

ROGERS
(frustrated)
The splits, your honor

JUDGE NAUGHT
And this does not offend you
either?

ROGERS
No, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT
So it's specifically... 'Lickety.'

ROGERS
Yes, your honor. The imagery that
word conjures up--

JUDGE NAUGHT
That is a term that has been in
common use for quite some time. I
have a printout here that suggests
it was in use all the way back to
the 1860s.

ROGERS
Your honor -- there is a certain
standard of decency--

JUDGE NAUGHT

There is a community standard of decency, but you simply not liking an established phrase does not constitute a failure of that standard.

ROGERS

You try being a parent to impressionable children and tell them that it's fine--

JUDGE NAUGHT

Have they ever, in their lives, had a lollipop? Or a popsicle?

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT PRIMARY TRIAL SET - DAY

JUDGE NAUGHT is in the front of the court, bailiff THUNDERLASH TONI to the side, with two super heroes in matching uniforms in front of him. To the left is DELTA-BLUE, a female presenting superhero with shoulder length brown hair and a white and blue uniform that covers her whole face and body beyond said hair, with triangle patterns throughout. She has a typically idealized hero's body. To the right is DELTA-RED, a male presenting superhero with short black hair and a white and red uniform that covers his whole face and body beyond said hair, with triangle patterns throughout. He also has a typically idealized hero's body.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Week two Judge Naught heads back into Domestic Court to help *domesticate* a few offenders!

INTERCUT between JUDGE NAUGHT, DELTA-BLUE, and DELTA-RED

JUDGE NAUGHT

So, you found this Power Crystal Pyramid together?

DELTA-BLUE

That's right, your honor. We found the Delta Pyramid together, while we were free-diving into--

DELTA-RED

It's called the Delta *Crystal* Pyramid or the Delta *Power* Pyramid. It's not called the *Delta Pyramid!* You see, your honor?

(MORE)

DELTA-RED (CONT'D)

Why would she get it when she
doesn't even know what it's
called!

JUDGE NAUGHT

(rumbles ominously)

Silence your prattling whilst I
determine the facts of this case!
You both agree that you found it
together.

DELTA-BLUE

Yes, your honor.

DELTA-RED

Yeah. Yeah, that's right, your
honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

And were you both transformed into
your heroic forms at the same
time, or did one of you go first.

DELTA-BLUE

It was at the same time,
right when it burst with
light. I -- I'm *answering*
him if you'd just *shut up*
for five minutes!

DELTA-RED

Yeah, there was this huge
surge of power and -- hey,
I'm trying to answer the
man's question, you want to
give me even a *little* chance
to speak before you--

JUDGE NAUGHT

(There is a thunderous burst
of horrifying emptiness that
ripples through the room
like an ancient mistake
spoken aloud)

Silence! I will bid you speak and
until then you remain *silent!* Now.
You two divorced three years ago?
I'm asking you, Delta-Blue.

DELTA-BLUE

Yes, your honor. Three years ago
March.

DELTA-RED

Best weekend of *my* freakin' life.

JUDGE NAUGHT

And you've been able to continue
as independent heroes since then?
Delta-Red, you answer.

DELTA-RED

Thank you, your honor. Yeah -- yes. See. We need to renew our connection to the *Delta Crystal Pyramid* at least once a week or we lose our powers. It takes like three minutes.

JUDGE NAUGHT

Who has had custody during that time?

DELTA-BLUE

I have, your honor.

DELTA-RED

You got the *house*. You had a place to keep it. That didn't mean you had *custody*.

JUDGE NAUGHT

Silence! Now. You have both had regular access during that time?

DELTA-BLUE

Yes, your honor.

DELTA-RED

Yeah, your honor. I got no complaints about that. My key gets me in and I try to be discreet.

DELTA-BLUE

Key word there being *try* -- no no! Not arguin'. You do fine -- he does fine, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

So what has changed the situation so precipitously?

DELTA-RED

I got a job offer in Evergreen City. A good job. Good for me, good for making sure support gets paid--

DELTA-BLUE

Oh here we go.

DELTA-RED

I have a *responsibility* to the kids, and a different judge told me I have one to you too, *financially!* I gotta go where they'll pay me!

DELTA-BLUE

I don't need your money and newsflash? Neither do the kids. We're doing just *fine*.

JUDGE NAUGHT

This is immaterial to the case at hand! You have a job opportunity in Evergreen, Delta-Red.

DELTA-RED

Yes, your honor. But I can't take that job if I have to leave the *Delta Crystal Pyramid* behind or I'll lose all my powers!

DELTA-BLUE

Well I'm sorry, but I got no reason to leave Chalfonte and your new job's no reason why I should give up *my* powers!

JUDGE NAUGHT

You are both considered third tier, yes? With issued wingcomms as affiliates of Justice Wing?

DELTA-RED

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

So, you could keep the Delta Crystal Pyramid in Volary-2 or Volary-3 and both waveport there as needed to refresh your abilities?

DELTA-RED

See, I think that's a *perfect* answer.

DELTA-BLUE

Of course you do. There's a waveport station in *Evergreen*.

(MORE)

DELTA-BLUE (CONT'D)

Why should I have to shlep over to Independence City or someplace like that every week because you want to change up your life? You can waveport to Independence City and come to Chalfonte to renew your powers!

DELTA-RED

Keeping it in the Volary's a fair solution!

DELTA-BLUE

It's the exact same amount of time spent, only you're the one who has to travel to the Delta Pyramid instead'a me! You're the one moving, so I don't see why I'd--

DELTA-RED

Delta Crystal Pyramid! I swear to God--

JUDGE NAUGHT

(Thunderous in his rage)
You two shall be *still!*

DELTA-RED and DELTA-BLUE freeze in terror. JUDGE NAUGHT turns to Bailiff Thunderlash Toni. INTERCUT between them all.

JUDGE NAUGHT

This is a custody battle over a three foot chunk of crystal, T.L.

BAILIFF THUNDERLASH TONI

It most certainly is, your honor.

JUDGE NAUGHT

That is where my destiny has led me, T.L. I am literally hearing a custody battle over a crystal pyramid.

BAILIFF THUNDERLASH TONI

Your life is full of wonder and new experiences, sir.

JUDGE NAUGHT

Technically I suppose you're correct. All right.

(MORE)

JUDGE NAUGHT (CONT'D)
 Looking here, I see both of you
 are considered to be in good
 standing with law enforcement,
 DETAILS, and Justice Wing..

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT REMOTE LOCATION TRIAL SET - DAY

JUDGE NAUGHT is in the front of a different courtroom set, as this 'court' is actually offshore and outside of any given nation's authority. He has a British Judge's wig on and his robes are red this week -- the corona of white unknowableness plays over the fibers of the judicial wig like St. Elmo's fire. Bailiff CYCLONE CARL is to the side. The Plaintiff is STEAMHAMMER AYOADE, a huge steel robot with the lower jaw of an ochre skinned man the only part that's still visibly organic. His arms are giant steam-pistons. The Defendant is REG ATKINSON, a swarthy fellow with brown hair and a beard and mustache, wearing workman's clothes.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Week three Judge Naught returns to
International Waters, because even
 super villains need someone ready
 to dispense a little *justice!*

INTERCUT between JUDGE NAUGHT, STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

JUDGE NAUGHT
 (Pondering STEAMHAMMER
 AYOADE)
 So you're a third tier
 supervillain, if my understanding
 is correct.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE
 Yes, m'lord. Though I have
 submitted paperwork for
 consideration to join the second
 tier, which I think would better
 reflect both my abilities and, as
 I'm sure any will agree, the
 overwhelming threat I pose to the
 unsuspecting and vulnerable
 populace.

JUDGE NAUGHT
 That is as may be. I've nothing to
 do with those decisions.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

I am aware, but it seemed an opportune time to make mention, m'lord.

JUDGE NAUGHT

And this Mister Atkinson is your next door neighbor?

REG ATKINSON

That's right, m'lord.

JUDGE NAUGHT

I see... Mister Ayoade -- what are your abilities, again?

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

As you can see, m'lord, I have been augmented into the ultimate brawling battler, with my every blow reinforced with a steam powered punch--

(he lifts one of his hammer-arms up)

--of pure Sheffield Steel goodness.

(Reconsiders)

I mean badness. Pure Sheffield Steel badness. No, wait--

JUDGE NAUGHT

And you are suing Mister Atkinson here for damages in the amount of one hundred and twenty pounds to replace a lawn mower.

REG ATKINSON rolls his eyes.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

That is correct, m'lord. I loaned him the mower--

REG ATKINSON

Loaned it? Pfew, tell us another, eh?

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

Yes, I loaned you the mower--

REG ATKINSON

M'lord, he spent months yellin' at me over mowing and cleaning up my back garden. Not the front -- not where anyone can see, mind?

(MORE)

REG ATKINSON (CONT'D)

I'd understand that. But this is a walled rear garden that's none'a his business.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

We live on a block of flats. I have a flat with a second floor. I can see your back garden from my rear window. Mrs. Watkins who lives on the other side of your place? She has a second floor. She can see your back garden from her rear window. We are civilized people and that bears responsibilities.

REG ATKINSON

Yeah, yeah -- anyway, he finally tells me he's left his mower out back of my place -- trespassin', I'd add.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

I'm a villain. Your laws do not impede my movements.

REG ATKINSON

He's left his mower out back of my place and if I didn't mow my lawn he'd smash my cat flat.

JUDGE NAUGHT

You... threatened his cat?

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

...to be fair, I was being somewhat hyperbolic in my statement. That said, the feline in question is perhaps not the quietest in the evenings so--

REG ATKINSON

What -- you of all people are going to complain about noise?

JUDGE NAUGHT

Let us return to the facts of the case. Under duress, you were made to mow the grass in your back garden.

REG ATKINSON

Yes, M'lord.

(MORE)

REG ATKINSON (CONT'D)
Took maybe twenty minutes. And honestly, it's not like it looked any better. I brought pictures. That mower could barely cut coupons, much less a lawn.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE
It had been in perfect working order when loaned to you. It was then returned but not in a working condition.

REG ATKINSON
There was no difference between how that thing ran before I mowed my lawn and after!

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE
I have pictures of the lawnmower blade, m'lord, which shows the clear abuse--

REG ATKINSON
I *challenge* you to look at my before-an'-afters and you tell me where you see a single damn rock that would ding up that thing!

JUDGE NAUGHT
Enough... Steamhammer Ayoade... it sounds as though you are claiming it is just the blade that was damaged. Surely replacing a mower blade would only cost ten or twenty pounds. Why are you seeking one hundred and twenty pounds?

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE
Given the nature of the damages, I do not trust the physical condition of the rest of the mower. Besides--

REG ATKINSON
Ff. Right. That.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE
Quiet, or I'll give you a Sheffield Steel Supper, Mister!

JUDGE NAUGHT rises up, thunder and lightning flaring in the infinite depths of his absence.

JUDGE NAUGHT

None shall threaten any within the sanctity of my courtroom! Is there any fool enough to try?

There is a long pause.

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

Apologies, m'lord.

(after a pause)

To answer your question, m'lord, I was not certain as to the operational condition of the mower, and what is more, with one hundred and twenty pounds I could replace it with an electric model. Given that some have made some complaints in the past regarding my lawn care--

REG ATKINSON

Some complaints -- m'lord. He mows his lawn at *three in the morning!*

STEAMHAMMER AYOADE

As I have explained many times in the past, my cybernetic visual enhancement system makes it easier for me to find and deal with errant blades of grass at night, meaning the job is done more quickly and completely. But--

JUDGE NAUGHT

(Turns to Bailiff)

I came all this way, Carl. All this way and we're talking about using nightvision enhancement for gardening.

CYCLONE CARL

Yes, m'lord. We are at that.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT PRIMARY TRIAL SET - DAY

JUDGE NAUGHT is in the front of the court, bailiff THUNDERLASH TONI to the side, with two identical men in front of him. They are both somewhat pallid and clammy, peach-toned but not accustomed to the sun. Their hazel eyes are wide, as are their mouths, their expressions are overly made, and their hair is each a mass of curls.

NORTH MACDONALD

I cast him out, you mean! Drove him from my *home and native land* and then returned to Labrador!

SOUTH MACDONALD

Technically, we're from Newfoundland.

NORTH MACDONALD

Technically, *silence yourself, you cur!*

JUDGE NAUGHT

...and you *both* claim to have written this novel... Saskatchewan 6-9000?

SOUTH MACDONALD

(giggles)
I love that title.

NORTH MACDONALD

Thank you. It's some of my best work.

SOUTH MACDONALD

You mean *my best work, you cur!*

JUDGE NAUGHT

And you both have publishers, and both submitted the exact same book to them, word for word.

NORTH MACDONALD

Yes, your honor! Day after day, week after week, month after month in the deep rocky woods of my home I toiled over every word, refining it to perfection, only to have this *cur* telepathically steal every phrase and pass it off as his own!

SOUTH MACDONALD

That's how it happened... in this *cur's* bald faced *lie*, your honor! I holed up among the red rocks and sand of my new home, writing of my lonely exile, finding some new, hidden meaning in this strange and inhospitable world where no one knows how to make tea and I have yet to find a single Crunchie bar!

(MORE)

SOUTH MACDONALD (CONT'D)
 Only then I discover this *cur* has
 telepathically leached off my pain
 and aesthetic might in an effort
 of purest *chicanery*!

JUDGE NAUGHT stares at them both, then turns to Bailiff
 Thunderlash Toni.

JUDGE NAUGHT
 I could have just stayed on that
 island, L.T. I didn't have to come
 back. They had adult beverages and
 decent cable television, and yet I
 returned of my own accord.

THUNDERLASH TONI
 You're an inspiration to us all,
 your honor.

TRANSITION TO:

MONTAGE OF SCENES

A rapid montage of scenes from upcoming episodes (and a few
 classics from earlier episodes) play while the final pitch is
 made.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 All next month, Justice is
 Domestic, Justice is Civil,
 Justice is International, and
 Justice is *Intellectual*. Consult
 your local time and listings for
Judge Naught -- lest ye be judged!

TRANSITION TO:

INT. JUDGE NAUGHT SET INTERVIEW STATION - DAY

We cut back to AARON GALLEGOS in front of the the JUDGE NAUGHT
 logo on the wall, microphone in hand as he does the wrapup.

GALLEGOS
 That's coming up all next month
 right here on Judge Naught! So
 until then, I'm Aaron Gallegos
 reminding you that when you gaze
 long enough into an abyss, the
 abyss will gaze back into you... and
 pronounce *judgement*! So long,
 everybody!