

Encapsulated Season 2 - Episode 6 of 9

FADE IN:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Slow zoom over the crowded courtroom as bright gold letters spell out: JUDGE JULIE. Cue theme music.

ANNOUNCER (voice only)

Welcome to another episode of **JUDGE JULIE!**

She's tough!

She's fair!

She's ALWAYS right!

JUDGE JULIE SAVOY (54) approaches the bench dramatically. The plaintiff and defendant, a man and woman with intense expressions, are standing at their respective tables.

The crowd in the courtroom cheers wildly as Judge Julie proudly takes her seat. There's a scrolling disclaimer on the bottom of the screen. It's all standard legalese, and goes by much too quickly for anybody to be able to actually read or understand it.

The music ends. Judge Julie smiles, cracks her knuckles, then addresses both parties.

JUDGE JULIE

Good morning!

PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT

Good morning, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

So! What. Is. On. The. Docket. To. Day?

(she puts on her glasses. The bailiff hands her a document, she reads it to herself for a few seconds)

Interesting... alright, so it says here that you're disputing the rightful ownership of a Mind-Scape data file. Correct?

(the defendant/plaintiff nod. Judge Julie crumples the paper and tosses it aside)

Mr. Robertson, care to start?

Cut to the plaintiff: ISAAC ROBERTSON (25). His name and age appear at the bottom of the screen.

ISAAC

Sure thing, your honor. So, about a year ago, the defendant and I ended our romantic relationship. While we were dating, I had given her a copy of my Mind-Scape. And now I want to have it back, but she won't give it to me.

I also want to point out that, under the new federal law that was passed last month, I have FULL authority over that file - none of the medical exceptions or any other exceptions apply. I assume you're familiar with the new law?

JUDGE JULIE

Am I familiar with the law? What do you think my job is, young man? Of course I'm familiar with the law! Geez...

The audience laughs as she mocks Isaac. He's embarrassed, but takes it in good fun.

ISAAC

My apologies, your honor. So as you're aware, under the law, I am entitled to that file, and also any copies that Ms. Byrne may have made that I don't know about. ANY copy of the file belongs to me, and yeah, it's mine, and she needs to just give it to me because it's only fair.

JUDGE JULIE

And what's your take, Ms. Byrne?

Cut to the defendant, KELLI BYRNE (23). Similar to Isaac, her name/age appears on-screen.

KELLI

Thank you, judge. I'd first like to point out that Mr. Robertson and I haven't spoken hardly at all since we broke up. Like he said, it's been almost a year, and now suddenly he's dragging me into court to get back his Mind-Scape, which HE gave to me!

ISAAC

Well a year ago, I didn't have a law that said 'you own your Mind-Scape', so I legit couldn't just take it back. But I DID ask for it after we broke up.

KELLI

Barely. You asked ONE time, then you ghosted me, and it wasn't even just the Mind-Scape, you said 'give me EVERYTHING bitch'. And I DID give a lot of it back!

ISAAC

Except the Mind-Scape!

KELLI

Please! I also kept all the photos we took, that stupid mixtape you gave me - you didn't ask for any of THAT back!

ISAAC

Well, maybe I would if I could!

KELLI

Your honor, THIS is what I have to deal with. Guess what? He didn't even DM me!! You could have at least TRIED to ask me nicely once the law was finally passed, say "hey, can you please give it back now that it's the law?" But NO, you had to go straight from "Oh hey, I own my Mind-Scape" to "here's a court summons!"

ISAAC

You would have ignored me and you know it! I had no other choice, that's the only way you would have listened!

KELLI

But it was A WHOLE YEAR and you didn't call me, you didn't DM me, you unfollowed me. You didn't even TRY to stay in touch!

ISAAC

The law doesn't say 'you have to keep in touch' to claim what's yours, genius!

Judge Julie bangs her gavel emphatically.

JUDGE JULIE

Order in the court!

(they settle down)

Let's get some facts straight. First, is it true, Mr. Robertson, that you barely spoke to Ms. Byrne between the break-up and now?

ISAAC

I don't see why it matters, but yeah.

JUDGE JULIE

Excuse me? If I say it matters, then it matters. Watch your tone.

ISAAC

I'm sorry, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

So you haven't maintained any semblance of a relationship until you realized that you LEGALLY have a right to the Mind-Scape, at which point you demanded it back. Correct?

ISAAC

Correct.

JUDGE JULIE

Now, Ms. Byrne. You said that you DID give the plaintiff some of his possessions.

KELLI

Yes, your honor.

(Judge Julie stares at her, waiting for her to enumerate them)

Sorry. Clothes, toiletries, charging cable... random stuff he left at my place.

JUDGE JULIE

And what did you keep, besides the Mind-Scape?

KELLI

Photos, gifts he'd given me - like a mixtape from one of our dates - that's about it.

JUDGE JULIE

Okay. And after the break-up, you said he asked for everything back, but he didn't specifically ask for the Mind-Scape?

ISAAC

Read between the lines! When I said EVERYTHING-

Judge Julie bangs her gavel.

JUDGE JULIE

Excuse me, SIR, did I look like I was addressing you just now?

(Isaac sighs dramatically)

What the hell was that?

KELLI

See? This is the sort of passive aggressive SHIT that I had to deal with.

JUDGE JULIE

Oy vey... So he did not ask for the Mind-Scape file explicitly, correct?

KELLI

Correct.

JUDGE JULIE

Okay. And after - what did you say, a week? - you talked for a week after the break-up?

KELLI

Yes.

JUDGE JULIE

So after that week, no contact, he didn't ask for anything or talk to you, until you got the notice that you'd be going to court?

KELLI

Right. Radio silence.

JUDGE JULIE

Alright. I think I get the gist so far. Now, to a point you made earlier, Ms. Byrne.

KELLI

Yes, your honor?

JUDGE JULIE

You said that he GAVE YOU his Mind-Scape?

KELLI

Yes.

(Judge Julie motions for her to elaborate)

Are you familiar with psyching?

JUDGE JULIE

Psyching? No, enlighten me.

KELLI

So basically, well, when you're dating online - some people like to send out their Mind-Scape before they meet up.

JUDGE JULIE

You're kidding me.

KELLI

No, it's been going on for a while now.

JUDGE JULIE

(singing casually)

We're on the hiiiiigh-way to hell.

(the audience laughs)

And let me guess - Mr. Robertson PSYCHED you? Wait, who does the psyching? Is psyching when you see HIS Mind-Scape, or when he sends it?

KELLI

Psyching is when you explore the Mind-Scape, so if a guy sends me one and I see what's in it, then I'm the one psyching.

JUDGE JULIE

So who was psyching in this CASE?

(winks at the camera)

See what I did there?

(the audience chuckles at the pun)

I assume YOU psyched HIM. I feel like I'm castrating the English language, ugh.

Isaac and Kelli aren't sure how to respond as Judge Julie contorts her face disdainfully. Finally, Isaac jumps in.

ISAAC

I gave her the Mind-Scape, so she psyched me, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

That word... Ack! Is it so hard to say, "you sent her your Mind-Scape"?

ISAAC

Apparently for anybody under 30.

(the audience laughs)

And just to clarify - I sent her my Mind-Scape, but she didn't HAVE to psych it, it's just like - well, it's like -

JUDGE JULIE

You're peacocking. That's a term MY generation would understand. And just out of sheer morbid curiosity, Ms. Byrne, DID you psych him?

KELLI

Actually, I did not. I think it's stupid. And I don't give out mine ever.

JUDGE JULIE

So you didn't actually PSYCH Mr. Robertson - still hate that word. And you never gave him the chance to PSYCH you?

KELLI

Correct.

JUDGE JULIE

And I thought it was bad when you all used to send nudes...

(to Isaac)

Why in God's name would you give random strangers a copy of your mind?

ISAAC

It's just how the world works, I guess, but I don't have anything to hide... so why not?

JUDGE JULIE

It's idiotic! Honestly! I've been married for almost thirty years, I would NEVER let my husband see my Mind-Scape. EVER! And he's my best friend, but it's your MIND.

(looks at both of them condescendingly)

I would be laughing, except I don't believe for a second that either of you understand just what the implications of this are. It's ABSURD.

KELLI

I understand, your honor. That's why I never give mine out. It's too personal!

ISAAC

Ass-kisser.

KELLI

Exhibitionist.

ISAAC

At least I'm not a prude.

KELLI

At least I'm not desperate.

JUDGE JULIE

(bangs her gavel)

Order in the court!

(they settle down)

Mr. Robertson, answer me this... if you let all these girls PSYCH you, they all have copies of your Mind-Scape too. So... why sue Ms. Byrne?

KELLI

Thank you, I want to know too. Why ARE you singling me out?

ISAAC

You know why! Because unlike most people, I actually gave you a hard copy.

JUDGE JULIE

I'm confused now. I thought you gave a copy to anyone you were interested in?

ISAAC

That was on the dating app, your honor. But those were just temporary files, you can't copy them or download them. So once I deleted my account, then all the girls who had psyched me didn't have access to the file anymore.

(glaring at Kelli)

But I gave HER an actual copy, on a USB drive, because I THOUGHT we were in love, and I thought it would be romantic for her to have her own copy to keep forever.

JUDGE JULIE

Puke. And Ms. Byrne, would I be correct to assume that you were not keen on this either?

KELLI

That's right, your honor. It was creepy when he sent it on the app, and it was creepy when he gave me my own. But that's the thing, he gave it to me TO KEEP. Like he said: to keep FOREVER.

ISAAC

Forever as in 'while we're still together', but not after we broke up!

KELLI

Then you shouldn't have given it to me in the first place! It's unbelievable that you just open yourself up to EVERYBODY, it's so pathetic!

ISAAC

Um, I'm sorry, why are we in court? Oh right, because I REGRET it, and I've matured, and I don't let people psych me anymore, and I'm entitled to have it back!

JUDGE JULIE

I'LL be the judge of that.

The camera zooms in. She stares with exaggerated intensity. Freeze frame. The Judge Julie logo appears on screen.

ANNOUNCER

We'll be right back after these messages.

Cut to chrome text on a vibrant backdrop with popping EDM music playing. **From the producers of American Idol!**

Cut to CONTESTANT 1 wearing a VR headset in front of a live studio audience. The live feed from inside his headset is streaming as well. He's watching memories in a Mind-Scape. At the bottom of the screen it reads: 'Leonardo DiCaprio.'

CONTESTANT 1

Okay okay, and here we have - wait, okay, so they're filming... Titanic! They're on the set of the movie, and - oh, oh! Leonardo DiCaprio!!

Green lights flash around the stage! He takes off his headset and grins at the cheering crowd!

Text: The ULTIMATE guessing game!

Another player is shown in a Mind-Scape. She's looking at the avatars in the bedroom. At the bottom: 'Zendaya'.

CONTESTANT 2

Tom Holland, Zac Efron... whoo baby, I mean, that could be anybody!

The audience laughs hysterically.

Text: The freshest, most exciting game show of the last decade, hands down! - Rolling Stone.

Cut to a montage of more contestants.

CONTESTANT 3 - trying to guess Keith Richards, holding a guitar in the Mind-Scape.

CONTESTANT 3

Okay, so we got a Fender I think? Crap, it's... what is his name...?

CONTESTANT 4 - trying to guess Michelle Obama, looking at memories of the White House.

CONTESTANT 4

Shoot, who would have been president back then?? But maybe somebody in their family?

CONTESTANT 5 - trying to guess 'A Cat'. The Mind-Scape is practically empty, he's super confused.

CONTESTANT 5

I don't understand... the heck? Kim Kardashian?

The audience roars with laughter. Cut to the final text:
American Mind-Scape Premiering this Saturday.

Fade out, pause a few seconds before the next commercial.

Cut to a montage of a depressed, listless WOMAN (48) doing everyday activities: riding a bike, reading a book, sitting in the park, driving to work, walking her dog.

Everything is in grayscale and slow motion. Overlaid with the vacuous footage is dreary piano music and the woman's voice narrating.

WOMAN

I felt like I was falling apart. I was angry, irrational, moody, bitter, stressed out, even suicidal... and I didn't even know why. I had tried counselling, medication - nothing helped. Even my Mind-Scape was overwhelming. My husband and children had to walk on eggshells around me. Everything seemed hopeless.

Suddenly, the music is upbeat, the color returns, and now she's happily doing the activities with her family.

WOMAN

But then I tried Unravelling! For the first time, all the pieces fell into place! I finally learned WHY I felt the way I did! Suddenly, the healing process was manageable!

GENERIC VOICE

New from Mind-Scape, the Unraveller! An AI-based algorithm that successfully identifies cognitive pain points, prejudices, stressors, and more!

WOMAN

Unravelling gave me my family back. My life makes so much sense now!

Purple text appears in the center of the screen as the woman bikes into the distance with her family.

'The Unraveller: a Mind-Scape Add-On'

GENERIC VOICE

Don't wait - it only takes minutes to install at the low low price of \$59.95! Take control today!

Black screen for a few seconds, then back to Judge Julie. The camera pans over the courtroom, the audience cheers.

ANNOUNCER

Welcome back to JUDGE JULIE!

Focus on Judge Julie, who bangs her gavel loudly.

JUDGE JULIE

Order in the court!

(the audience settles down)

Now, Mr. Robertson. You said you gave Ms. Byrne her own copy for ROMANTIC reasons. She raised the point earlier that you gave her OTHER gifts, if I remember, a mixtape among them?

(Isaac nods)

And is she correct that you did NOT ask for those gifts back?

ISAAC

Correct, your honor. But that's different, those aren't legally protected, and I think you'll agree that comparing a mixtape to a Mind-Scape...

JUDGE JULIE

I do agree, but the INTENT behind them was a romantic gesture, right? Even if the value or legal status of the gifts may differ, they were given nonetheless?

ISAAC

Well, technically... yes.

JUDGE JULIE

In other words, you willingly gave the Mind-Scape to Ms. Byrne without being coerced? Without her threatening you?

ISAAC

Correct, your honor. It was my decision. But in retrospect, it was a dumb one.

JUDGE JULIE

Preaching to the choir, my friend.

(the audience laughs)

Now, Ms. Byrne. Did you ever PSYCH his Mind-Scape after he gave it to you?

KELLI

Well... as in, did I explore it by myself?

JUDGE JULIE

What the... yes, did you psych it? Why am I the one explaining what that word means??

The audience laughs. Kelli is embarrassed, but amused.

KELLI

Sorry for the confusion, your honor. Technically, I never explored it by MYSELF, so I didn't psych, per se. But we DID explore it together.

JUDGE JULIE

And what is THAT called? Dual-psyching? Group-Scaping? NEURO-SPELUNKING?

KELLI

(chuckles)

No, that's called JOINTING.

(the audience laughs, even Judge Julie can't help but chuckle)

We did quite a lot of jointing.

JUDGE JULIE

Do tell...

KELLI

Well, this may surprise you, but he LOVES showing off what's in his mind, like it's a new car or a fancy watch. Must be a guy thing.

ISAAC

Strike that, sexist!

JUDGE JULIE

Overruled.

(laughter, Isaac groans)

And did you two go jointing often?

KELLI

We did. Wasn't what I wanted to do, but-

ISAAC

Then you should have said something!

KELLI

I did! I couldn't argue with you, every other day you were like "you gotta check this out, come see what I just learned, WOAHH this memory is awesome! Come on babe, five more minutes!"

ISAAC

I thought you enjoyed it! Sorry for not picking up on your subtle hints. Did you ever actually say "I don't want to go jointing today?"

KELLI

Wanna know the best part? The reason we broke up?

ISAAC

Don't you dare.

KELLI

We had sex. In his Mind-Scape.

The audience gasps. Judge Julie recoils, but is intrigued. Isaac buries his face in his hands.

JUDGE JULIE

IN his Mind-Scape? Really...

KELLI

Mm-hmm. He thought it was a BRILLIANT idea. Weirdly enough, he didn't recommend it sooner, but I guess he wanted to take things slow?

ISAAC

Ha ha, yeah, laugh it up - not my best moment, I'll admit. Can we move on?

JUDGE JULIE

Yes, let's.

(to Kelli)

So you didn't like psyching, you didn't like JOINTING, you didn't like his Mind-Scape.

(to Isaac)

And you thought you could persuade her.

(to both of them)

So you eventually realized this might not work, and called it off. Sound about right?

(they both nod)

I'm sorry. So that means you were copulating while you were wearing VR headsets?

KELLI

Yep.

ISAAC

I said it was a bad idea. What else do you want?

JUDGE JULIE

Is there a word for THAT? I have to believe you're not the first.

ISAAC

I think this is off track, your honor.

KELLI

It's called a mind-fuck. Unless you're down on your knees, then it's mind-blowing.

The audience immediately starts howling with laughter. Judge Julie takes off her glasses and turns around to hide her own laughter. Isaac is beet red, but everyone else is thoroughly entertained, Kelli included.

After a bit, they settle down. Judge Julie regains her composure, turns around, and puts on her glasses.

JUDGE JULIE

Alright then.

(stifles a laugh)

Ms.-

(stifles another one)

Ms. Byrne. Point blank question, if I may.

KELLI

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

After your-

(she giggles - there's still some residual laughter in the audience, it dies down after a few seconds)

After your ENCOUNTER, after the break-up, have you actually been in his Mind-Scape since then?

KELLI

No.

JUDGE JULIE

Do you have any intention of using it?

KELLI

No.

JUDGE JULIE

Fair to say, he's not worth it?

Kelli and the audience members chuckle.

KELLI

No, he is not.

ISAAC

Wow.

JUDGE JULIE

Lighten up, Mr. Robertson. Ms. Byrne, are you planning to sell it? Copy it? Show it to your friends to embarrass him?

KELLI

No.

JUDGE JULIE

Do you even remember where it is?

KELLI

I don't, your honor, it's probably buried somewhere in my closet.

JUDGE JULIE

Okay. So you have no actual interest in it, and you likely misplaced it?

KELLI

Correct, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

And Mr. Robertson... is it safe to say, you've learned a thing or two about communication, being in a relationship, taking shortcuts instead of letting people get to know you the normal way?

ISAAC

I have, your honor.

JUDGE JULIE

I hope so. I've made my ruling. Ms. Byrne, you will not be required to return his Mind-Scape. And Mr. Robertson - I doubt her copy will see the light of day, so I wouldn't be too anxious.

(slams the gavel)

We are adjourned!

She stands and leaves confidently as the camera zooms out. The theme music plays, the audience cheers, Isaac and Kelli exit the courtroom, and the end credits roll.

FADE OUT.