

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

KEY:

PH- Priya Hall

LN- Leila Navabi

RM- Robin Morgan

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

RM: Welcome to Here to Judge where we scour the internet to dissect dilemmas and decide who's to blame. Here to Judge today is me, Robin Morgan.

PH: Me, Priya Hall.

LN: And me, Leila Navabi.

PH: 'Mysterious jewellery box appears by kitchen sink, contains teeth of multiple species. Advice? Content warning- photos of teeth. As the title says my girlfriend, 35, female of approximately four months moved in a while back. A lot has changed since she moved in with things being organised and redecorated and it's all been great. However, about a week ago a small ceramic heart shaped box appeared by the kitchen sink.' [laughs]. So sinister.

RM: I mean the house is haunted. She's a ghost. She's a ghost yeah?

All: [Laughter]

PH: 'It was sitting next to a ceramic sponge holder and I just assumed that it was some sort of kitchen trinket thingy whose purpose was unknown to me.'

LN: What's a ceramic sponge holder?

PH: [Laughs] I can't afford a sponge so I don't know what a ceramic sponge holder is.

LN: [Laughs]

PH: 'This afternoon I decided to help clean up the kitchen while she was taking a nap.' He's helping guys. 'And while she was taking a nap I opened the mysterious box. What I discovered inside was a collection of teeth. Human teeth? Dog teeth? Unknown teeth? Now, when I finally worked up the courage to ask about the serial killer collection, she claimed it was her dog's baby teeth. When confronted with the fact the box also contained human teeth (one is a molar with a crown)...

LN: [Laughs]

PH: ...she appeared surprised. She opened the box and stated she didn't know how those got in there. Now I'm not really one to judge, but having a box of random body parts, some of which are supposedly of an unknown origin is a bit concerning. What do you think? Everything otherwise has been great and I truly planned on marrying her some

day.' And then there's a photo of the teeth. I don't know how to describe it, it's like...

LN: Oh my God, hang on.

PH: ...a grey ceramic box, and it is literally filled with teeth, there's nothing else to-- some of them have blood on them.

LN: I really um [chuckles] I really hate this one. When you said 'Content warning teeth' like I thought that was silly but now I've seen the teeth I should have taken heed of that warning [laughs] because that's going to be in my head for the rest of my life.

RM: You know some of these, like they can never, like they're not good at telling stories. And it's like they waffle, they waffle. This guy is good.

PH: Yeah I mean.

RM: He hits all the beats doesn't he? And there are fucking teeth in there [laughs].

PH: And not a small number of teeth. A considerable number of human teeth in that box.

LN: Look I have seen people in some areas of Cardiff with less teeth than are in that box.

PH: [Laughs]

RM: [Laughs]

LN: So I wouldn't call it a small amount.

PH: Before we go any further I just want to say, I have a friend who does collect bones.

LN: What? What! From where?

PH: She's cool, don't worry about it, she's cool. She likes to collect animal bones and like taxidermy and stuff and she thinks it's cool. It is terrifying but I know that she's a nice person so I sort of make my peace with it.

RM: Do you think this started with animal teeth and then she kind of got addicted to it so sort of upped the game to human? Is that how this started?

PH: [Chuckles] God, I have no idea. One of them still has a crown on it. So for her to be like 'I don't know where that came from' it's an awfully specific tooth.

LN: Oh God this is the debate now, is it tooth [tuth] or tooth?

PH: Tooth [tuth].

LN: Because I've been saying tooth because I've been in London too long.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

RM: I mean there's more debates in this story than tooth [tuth] or tooth.

All: [Laughter]

RM: There's a lot more to unpick here [laughs].

LN: Am I the only asshole for saying tooth?

All: [Laughter]

LN: Subscribed to the Anglo-centric agenda.

PH: [Laughs] It's weird that she keeps them in the kitchen by the sink as well. Why there? What's she doing with them?

RM: Yeah that's very, very true, I've missed.

LN: She probably cleans them every night.

RM: Yeah maybe or you know when you've got like sort of scrambled eggs stuck to the bottom of a pan and you need like a scourer, there's a metal, there's a silver tooth in there you could just kind of like [vibration noises].

LN: Do you know what would be really good? Is like every time she has an enemy over, she can put one of the teeth in her meal or whatever like.

RM: That's nice.

PH: Would you prefer to have a dog's tooth or a human's tooth in your meal?

LN: Oh a dog's tooth, all the way.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: All the way, please. I don't want a crown of that. That one is particularly horrifying.

PH: Yeah that's pretty bleak.

LN: I mean I just actually, look, I hate it but I'm also quite obsessed with this in like the weird. I think this is iconic. I think this is pop culture. I think is it the cover of an album?

PH: I was just about to say what good photos they are.

RM: [Laughs]

LN: It looks like they're selling it on Depop.

RM: Completely yeah [laughs].

LN: Yeah literally what I was going to say. I bet we you could find, do you reckon if we went on eBay we could find stuff like this?

PH: Oh yeah.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

LN: Because people sell weird things. Should I literally? Is that, is it illegal for me to Google on eBay 'teeth for sale' and see what comes up? Because I'm really interested now.

RM: I'd really like to see the latest eBay advert where they have like sort of very colourful people just sort of like 'Yeah I'm going to buy a car, I'm going to buy a t-shirt' and then someone just carrying a big bag of bones.

LN: [Laughs] What do I need to type in? So you see I'm scared now.

PH: Human teeth.

RM: [Laughs]

LN: Real, real life human teeth with possible dental work.

RM: Brackets, no bullshit [laughs]

LN: No yeah [laughs].

RM: No fakes [laughs].

LN: Yeah 'Real life teeth'. Oh my Christ! Oh my Christ!

PH: [Laughs] Did you find some teeth?

LN: From France.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: £50 with £10 postage or you can start a bid at £30. And the listing of this is 'Human teeth- Human teeth old'. Oh my God!

PH: I'm kind of glad it's expensive. If it was cheap that would be concerning.

LN: I'm genuinely sending this to you right now.

PH: Mm.

RM: I thought you were going to say, I'm genuinely putting a bid on [laughs].

PH: [Laughs]

LN: No, no, no. We should do that. We should buy it and then someone should Tweet us and then we gift them the teeth if they win.

PH: Oh my God, they're lined up.

LN: [Laughs] We have to gift them one of our own teeth, that's the prize. Have you seen it Robin?

RM: Oh, oh God there's so many of them, but they're all in a line. Why have they...

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

PH: And they've all been pulled out, none of those are like broken, they're intact.

LN: This is a dentist selling them isn't it?

PH: [Hurling sound]

RM: I'm going on the seller, he's got 100% positive feedback.

PH: [Chuckles] I'm sure he does.

RM: Oh he just sells knives.

PH: [Laughs]

RM: He sells cutlery, plastic horses.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: No!

RM: Teeth. Little, little top hats.

LN: [Laughs] Little top hats for the teeth or?

RM: A bayonet.

PH: Oh my God.

RM: An old medical suitcase.

LN: Are we allowed to? Are we allowed to name him? Like what's his @ on eBay?

PH: Yeah it's free advertisement.

RM: Cristo4o, friend of the pod, Christo4o. Oh there's also a drill.

PH: Oh!

RM: A drill, an old Ixion.

LN: A drill?

RM: Oh my goodness.

LN: What do you mean a drill?

RM: It's like fucking Lemony Snicket's got an eBay account.

PH: [Laughs] But in there there's Lego Batman, have you seen?

RM: Yeah I mean he's still got a fun side [chuckles].

LN: What's he sold in his time?

RM: His soul.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

LN: Isn't it the weirdest assortment of things I've ever seen [laughs]. Oh my God.

PH: Oh God.

RM: I like that we've gone from judging the original person and it's like no this guy is the asshole here.

All: [Laughs]

PH: Well I see it as us desperately trying to purchase teeth, so maybe we can finally understand where she's coming from.

RM: Wasn't this whole podcast created so one of us could purchase teeth essentially?

All: [Laughs]

PH: Look we need a front.

RM: Yeah if we go back to the original post...

LN: Alright Robin.

RM: The first...

LN: Alright.

RM: The first flag for me, sorry, I just don't like you looking at my eBay account.

LN: [Laughs]

PH: I mean my advice would be, how concerned are you about the teeth? I think I would be, look I think this says more about me than it does this guy. But I think I'd learn to be OK with it. I wouldn't like that it was in my kitchen sure. But eventually I think I'd be alright.

RM: Do we know what the girlfriend's teeth are like? Like does she have loads of missing teeth?

LN: [Laughs]

PH: She only had dog teeth.

LN: She is a dog. No I'm saying she looks like a dog as in like...

RM: [Laughs] We've been dating for four months but it's longer in their time.

All: [Laughter]

[Here to Judge Music]

LN: I think it's time for another AITA which is what I'm going to call them now. Iata [sings] 'I, I, I'. Do you remember that song Ilesha or was that just me? No never mind. OK. 'Am I the asshole for telling my wife that I'm not giving up my therapy sport and she should stop shopping or

get a job. I admit it, my wife and I screwed up. When I was first hired by my advertising firm, I assumed that I would make more each year than I ended up making. I'm currently an executive but bonuses are not what they used to be nor are salaries. My wife said that we needed to keep up the lifestyle to make it in a corporate world, so she would spend a lot of money buying me the best suits and the best clothes. We live near Madison Avenue and she's there almost every single day. When bonuses fell even more and they started cutting salaries, we started taking money from my then seven year old son's college fund. Our son is now 14 almost 15. And what seemed like little expenses here and there have added up. We were in denial. Now the state of his college fund is such that he would be tens of thousands short for state schools who would give him good scholarships. And he can't attend the higher ranked schools that he wants to attend at all. My wife and I are mad at each other over how this depletion happened.' This is so sad, this is giving me big like 2008 credit crunch vibes.

PH: Mm-hmm.

RM: I think it is very sad, but I'm just hoping it ends, yeah I hope it ends with them selling their teeth and everything works out fine [laughs].

PH: [Laughs]

LN: 'This started a fight, I asked her why she had so many bags. I opened one of the bags and saw what looked like the same type of t-shirt in about six colours. I also saw two pants that looked and felt exactly the same and I suspect she circled back to the habit of buying two pairs of the same thing again'. Oh this guy.

PH: Jesus Christ [laughs]

LN: No, she's buying two pairs so she can try one on and take one back depending on what size it is. That's ridiculous OK. 'She then started asking how much my polo horses and equipment upkeep cost was. I happen to have played polo since I was 12'. OK, you deserve everything that's coming your way, all sympathy I had for anyone is gone.

PH: Oh 100%.

LN: 'It was my outlet and my therapy for not getting along with my parents or friends. It is still my therapy activity'. No look, I'm not, I'll finish this...

PH: [Laughs]

LN: But I will tell you now, equine people are just the sort of people I can't get on with. You know people that are just really into horses to like a disturbing degree. Anyway, equine people is a no.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: 'You cannot get a suitable horse for less than \$20,000'.

PH: Jesus Christ [laughs].

LN: 'But these horses are an investment. And for the \$5000 plus per month during the season where I'm actually playing, my wife spends more than that cumulatively over the year. My wife told me to sell my thoroughbreds and just ponies for occasional recreational play'.

RM: Was that plural? Thoroughbreds?

PH: Thoroughbreds.

LN: Yeah.

RM: Sure.

LN: You're not poor if you've got thoroughbreds plural.

PH: That's what he calls his teeth.

LN: [Laughs] 'I told her that I was not going to do that and that if she wanted to refill the college fund she should stop going shopping and we could just sell her clothes. And that she could get a job along the way. Am I the asshole? One of us is just spending money for the heck of it, while I actually spend the money to invest in my mental wellbeing.' Shut up you equine weirdo.

PH: I hate them all.

LN: No.

PH: Especially the child now.

RM: [Laughs]

LN: Yeah [laughs].

PH: He referred to it as therapy and it's like, you need real therapy is what's happening here.

RM: Yeah [laughs].

PH: Get rid of the horses...

LN: Yeah.

PH: ...pay a human being.

RM: Get rid of all the horses but one and put a lovely gown on one of them and they can be your therapist [laughs].

LN: Yeah your thoroughpist.

RM: Thoroughpist.

PH: Very, very good.

LN: Thoroughbredapist. Um yeah excellent.

- RM: Do you think that the wife is in any way in the wrong here? Not that I'm trying to sort of like brother is going back up brothers. But um speaking as the one...
- LN: The token, the token.
- RM: The token straight white man [laughs].
- PH: Sure.
- LN: You can say it. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- RM: Just throwing it out there.
- PH: Do you have a lot of thoroughbreds?
- RM: I mean I share them with my other male friends. We all are in a WhatsApp group. Because they sound like an awful couple. It sounds like an awful marriage.
- PH: I think seven years of them using their son's college fund to pay for horses and clothes means that she has to be partially responsible at least.
- LN: But I'm also like people can, if I'm playing devil's advocate here. And just like and maybe this is my opinion, I don't know. I am thinking like maybe they should have disposable income to do things that they find fun. Not necessarily horses but like you know, it comes down to that flippant well we could all just live on jacket potatoes every day of our lives but...
- PH: Yeah.
- LN: ...it's like that's not sustainable and you've got to have like activities and entertainment things to do in your life and la, la, la. You know my opinion is that horses are not therapy. And so [laughs].
- PH: [Laughs]
- LN: But they're probably cheaper than therapy actually.
- RM: [Chuckles]
- PH: Not the way this guy's doing it.
- LN: Yeah not, yeah not this way.
- RM: But if you have multiple therapists at the same time then it would probably work out. Like if you had six thoroughbred therapists.
- PH: But only for like three months every year.
- RM: Yea exactly and then you'd sort of melt up and down. But the fact that it's like an investment, because you're thinking the glue money at the end of it, is that what's? [laughs]

LN: What would you rather? Would you rather have a really good horse therapist or a really bad human therapist?

PH: [Laughs]

RM: I mean horse.

PH: Horse therapist.

RM: I'd rather have a bad horse therapist than a good human therapist.

PH: 100%

RM: Because I'd be like, I'm not doing well but then again my therapist is a fucking horse so.

LN: Yeah that probably wouldn't work in your favour would it?

PH: I'm not responsible for this [laughs]

RM: [Chuckles]

PH: I think the horses need therapy.

LN: [Laughs]

PH: I think what we can take away from this is that the horses aren't having a good time.

LN: No.

PH: And the son.

RM: The horses need thousands and thousands of pounds spent on clothes for the horses.

PH: That's why she got two pairs of trousers.

RM: Shit, there it is.

PH: One for the front, one for the back.

RM: There it is.

LN: Oh my God! Is that how a horse would wear trousers though? Have you seen those things that are like, how would a horse wear trousers?

RM: Yeah [laughs]

LN: Would they wear it like on just their back legs.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: And then their front legs. But surely not because that would just mean their front legs are arms.

RM: Yeah they've got four legs it's two sets of trousers.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

PH: Yeah.

RM: And I think the wife is spending all this money just, she doesn't really want to get rid of the horses. I think the horses and her are having affairs. I think both husband and wife are assholes.

LN: [Laughs]

RM: I think capitalist New York is the asshole here.

LN: Yeah I agree. I think the American education system is the asshole. What about you Priya what do you reckon?

PH: I agree, I think it's capitalism is the problem. I think the son should emancipate himself and run off with the horses.

[Here to Judge Music]

PH: 'Am I the asshole for not wanting to participate in DH family's death teeth ritual?'

LN: Is that darling husband, is that what that means?

PH: Oh I, honest to God hope not, that's worse than the teeth [chuckles]

RM: [Laughs]

LN: What? [laughs]

PH: 'My husband's family' [laughs] I hate it, I hate it so much. 'My husband's family has an extremely bizarre set of rituals surrounding death and funerals. They're from Wales' of course 'but I don't think it's a cultural thing as I haven't been able to find a basis for it or even anything remotely similar from a cultural religious background. I think they might just be a bunch of weirdos, so here goes. In my husband's family before a corpse of a recently deceased family member is buried, they will have all of the teeth of the deceased knocked out and will give one tooth each to-- they will give one tooth to each of their living relatives to keep with them in a fabric pouch which they're meant to keep with them'.

LN: Oh no.

RM: [Laughs]

PH: 'They even have a system for how they decide which family member gets which tooth based on their proximity to the deceased. Any teeth that the deceased has collected themselves over their life is added into an ornate chest which is literally filled with thousands of human teeth.'

LN: No.

RM: [Laughs]

PH: 'Apparently this goes back many generations'.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

RM: I love this.

PH: No.

RM: I love it so much.

LN: Aww.

PH: Oh my God. 'I found out about this tradition about a year after I got married to my husband at his grandmother's funeral when my mother in law gave me a pouch with one of her molars'. Oh my God. 'My husband got very upset when I told him I didn't want to participate in this ritual. At the time I was only talking about not wanting to carry around his family members teeth. But evidentially it's expected that after I die they'll knock out my teeth...

LN: [Laughs]

PH: ...to be distributed to the family members. He asked me whether I would really deny my children the ability to have something to remind them of me after I pass away or to feel left out from their cousins'. Sure that's the issue here. 'I'm trying to be understanding and polite. Other than this his family is lovely but to me this whole practice seems completely fucking insane. I don't want my teeth knocked out and distributed to a bunch of random relatives.' Fair. 'And there's no way in hell that my side of the family will understand or accept this. Am I the asshole for not accepting this? Based on how our last conversation went I think he's considering divorce. Edit- for people asking if it's real, I was thinking of taking a picture and posting it as proof however that feels like a definite asshole move, especially since it's ghoulish enough that I could see it spreading around'.

LN: Oh my God.

PH: I really resent the fact that she's mentioned that he's Welsh in this.

RM: Because it's such a classic Welsh thing.

LN: [Laughs]

PH: No one else is meant to know about it!

RM: It's quintessential Welsh.

LN: Is this your wife, Robin?

RM: Yeah.

PH: [Laugh]

RM: Of course it is. Although I am considering divorce.

All: [Laughter]

RM: A few things stood out for me. The first one is when she said that they knock the teeth out. Like they don't sort of, pulling out is how you sort of remove, knocking is like fucking like.

LN: [Laughs] A mallet.

RM: She might as well have said 'And they fuck it out with a hammer'.

All: [Laughter]

PH: I really hate that it's based on how close you are to the deceased on what tooth you get. Like who determines that? And also how annoyed would you be if you thought you were closer to someone than you were and you end up getting up a molar when you're like, I should be getting a front tooth.

RM: Oh I thought it was proximity.

PH: Oh as in like when they die?

RM: Yeah [laughs] Well I killed them so I get the front.

All: [Laughter]

LN: That's very funny.

RM: My second favourite thing was that she had to type the phrase 'I don't want my teeth knocked out when I die' [chuckles]. Which is something you should have put in your fucking vows woman [laughs] when you married the man.

LN: Look I'm a bit distracted by how, the big chest of teeth.

PH: They could make a killing on eBay.

LN: Yeah. And I do think that...

RM: [Laughs/ claps]

LN: ...if you ran your hand through it, it would feel quite satisfying [laughs].

All: [Laughter]

LN: You know how you put your hand through sand in a beach.

PH: What would you guys do if you found this out about someone you were married? Like they've been married a year and she found this out by getting a pouch with a tooth in it. You need to get it explained to you before you get handed a tooth.

RM: [Laughs] And how it was given to her, it sounded like the mother in law was doing it with a little wink, just like 'She actually really liked you, you've actually got [chuckles] you've got rear incisor so'.

PH: [Laughs] Enjoy.

RM: [Laughs]

LN: I'm really, I'm disturbed still about I think it was Robin's insinuation that disregarded teeth are used to scrub saucepans. Which is what I think you said earlier.

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

RM: I did yeah and I stand by it.

PH: [Laughs]

LN: Is that what you'd do? What would you do with a chest of teeth?

PH: [Sung to What Would you do with a Drunken Sailor] 'What would you do with a chest of teeth? What would you do with a chest of teeth? What would you do?'

LN: [Laughs]

RM: A whole, a whole chest? How big are we talking?

LN: I don't know how big is this chest? It says it goes back generations. I think we're talking like, like a toy box.

RM: I think I'd transfer the goods to the glove box of a car.

LN: Random.

RM: And then anyone, yeah, yeah, yeah just any car that I...

LN: [Laughs]

RM: [Laughs]

LN: Imagine opening up that drawer and it was teeth coming out [laughs]

RM: Wow they really loved me [laughs].

All: [Laughter]

LN: I tell you what I would do, this is what I would do if I had like a chest of drawer, a chest with teeth in it, is I would like remove that and I would, you know in your bathroom, you've got bathroom drawers right, and you've got like the various. When people come over, and I always do this at other people's houses because I'm nosy. If I go to their house or I use their toilet you look in the drawers don't you? And so what I would do to stop people looking through my drawers to see my Tampax is fill one of the drawers, or both of them like half full, with teeth. Like stuffing Styrofoam.

PH: You're going to use all of the storage in your house to store teeth on the off-chance someone might look in your drawers? To teach them a lesson? [Laughs]

RM: You could save a lot of time and instead of the handles, just replace the actual handles of the drawer with the big teeth. Like you know like light switches that have little things, you could put the teeth on there.

PH: [Laughs] Or liked a beaded curtain made of teeth going into the bathroom.

RM: That's cute, yeah, yeah, nice.

PH: It's like walking through your ancestors.

- RM: Yeah I like that, yeah it's cool isn't it? So different.
- LN: The thing is, sorry I've just had a moment. If all the teeth, so it's to remember a relative. If all the teeth are like in a miscellaneous chest, how would you know whose tooth is whose?
- RM: That's a really good point.
- PH: So the miscellaneous one is just teeth that have fallen out naturally over time.
- LN: [Laughs]
- PH: Everyone gets their individual dead teeth, they keep those. They're their personal teeth, they have a community tooth chest.
- LN: [Laughs]
- PH: I don't know who keeps their community tooth chest but those are living teeth.
- RM: I think it's like school pet, like you each get it for a week and stuff and you have to look after it.
- PH: [Laughs]
- LN: Is this? Right this miscellaneous chest though is that, so say OK right, you've collected all of your dead relatives teeth, you've got the pouch and the you die, what happens to your pouch?
- RM: eBay.
- LN: eBay [laughs] That's all that is, isn't it really?
- RM: This is a phrase that I never thought I'd say...
- LN: [Laughs] Yeah go on.
- RM: Have these-- have these mother fuckers never heard of a tooth fairy? Like you can, like there's a system in place and they've ruined it. They've made a tooth falling out, that's like a big thing in a kid's life and it's supposed to be fun and now they've turned it into like the funeral thing. They have to buy bags. Like who was the first person in the family to start that? Oh well they're dead, get the hammer.
- PH: I mean, there's no way she's the asshole for wanting to, for not wanting her children to carry around sacks of her teeth. I think that's reasonable.
- LN: I think she is the normal one. Robin, do you want to disagree?
- RM: I do actually disagree [laughs]. I think she should embrace families. When you marry into a family, it's nice to take some of their customs onboard whether that's them eating chicken at Christmas instead of turkey or knocking teeth out of nana.
- LN: Knocking teeth out of nana [laughs].

[Here to Judge- Teeth]

PH: [Laughs]

LN: Right there we are then, I think we're content.

RM: I think that's the episode title [laughs]

PH: [Laughs]

LN: What, I think we're content? Or knocking teeth of nana?

PH: Knocking teeth out of nana [laughs].

RM: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge Closing Music]

MW: This has been a Little Wander production. Music from Rhodri Viney, Local artwork from Sam Roberts, voice from Melanie Walters. With special thanks to Beth Forrest, Steve Pickup, Sam Roberts, Henry Widdicombe and Gill Williams. Other podcasts from Little Wander include: I Wish I Was An Only Child, and Welcome to Spooktown. Subscribe now on iTunes, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

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