

Cast:

Priya Hall  
Leila Navabi  
Robin Morgan

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

Priya: 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 Priya Hall.

Leila: Me, Leila Navabi.

Robin: And me, Robin Morgan. So, I'm already going to throw a little curveball here. It's not am I the asshole? It's, am I the BF, which means buttface which is already feeling like this is a mega Christian version of what we're about to discuss. 'Am I the buttface for getting mad at my 'friend' for not paying for dinner. My ex and I are in the dating phase/friends because we're not in a relationship, trying to rekindle our relationship, he says he wants me back. We had plans to go to a specific restaurant today that we have been talking about for weeks and he hyped it up all this week with comments like 'I'm going to get so excited to go to blank' 'What are you going to get?' 'Let's look at the menu'. We took the time to carefully plan out our evening and time we were meeting up and he continued to text me about how excited he was to go. He kept telling me he would pay for it all and insisted that it would be a date. So of course I got my hopes up. He was planning to also spend nearly \$200 on buying two used tyres on top of the meal. I recommended a tyre shop that I take my car to where they give you tyres for \$40 apiece and don't charge mechanics fees. I saved him \$100 on those tires so we had extra spending money. Last night he invited me to a bakery, every time I invite him somewhere I always pay for both of us or offer to pay at the very least. And usually any time he invites me somewhere, he pays. It's an unspoken agreement between us that has literally never varied the entire time I've known him, so I have no reason to believe this would change.

Well, when we get to the register the lady asked if we were together or separate and he told her separate. I was confused because not only was I not expecting to pay but I didn't have the money to pay for my half. I ended up overdrawing my account the last few bucks and taking money from my savings at another bank that only has money in it for rent and transferring it to cover the overdraft. I figured it was a one-time thing, no big deal, whatever. But then today...I'm running DoorDash trying to make some extra cash because I'm broke right now, as in \$7 to my name. I get a text saying 'Hey, can you pay for yourself?' And I'm like '??? what??? What happened to you paying? I thought you set money aside for this'. He tells me he doesn't have enough to cover both our meals so I told him straight up 'No I can't cover this' and I tell him that had I known I'd be paying for myself, I wouldn't have gone to the bakery with him, which I also assumed he was paying for until we got to the register. I told him I would just buy my own food and eat elsewhere or grab fast food. He was trying to

convince me to go to another place but honestly I'm just mad and not sure I can sit in a full meal with him right now. He doesn't seem to think this is a big deal but it's frustrating me. But being so nonchalant about it is making me thinking I'm overreacting. Am I the buttface? Am I overreacting?'

Priya: There's way too much detail in this and it makes me instantly suspicious.

Robin: 100% this feels like this isn't an issue, this is really overblown and it feels like more drama is being created.

Leila: I kind of have this thing where I don't go somewhere unless I know that I can pay for myself. And I don't know...

Robin: You mean being an adult human being?

Leila: Yeah [Laughs] But I'm also confused because they're exes or they're not so maybe the fact that their relationship is over now means that this person doesn't want to pay.

Robin: Yeah does he want to get back with her or is he just slowly trying to bankrupt her one Danish at a time?

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: How much money did she spend in the bakery? How many Danishes was it?

Robin: Exactly.

Leila: Let's be honest it's probably a Gail's or something which means its four billion pounds.

Robin: It's just a lot, it's a lot of information.

Priya: It's so much information it makes me think it's an alibi.

Robin: Is the boyfriend dead?

Priya: Yes.

Robin: And this is all like a really big thing. Like the car is sort of B plot, the tyres. You know like a child tells you a story and you're like, 'Come on, skip to the end now, come on, this isn't the part of the story that matters here'.

Leila: Payment etiquette is a weird thing in general isn't it? I mean obviously it's derived from misogyny as is everything.

Robin: Guilty [Laughs]

Leila: Like I'm obviously in a gay relationship and in that relationship I've always just offered to pay and I always did. Like when we first started going out because I just thought, that's what we had to do. But it would end up that there'd be like a stalemate where we'd both, because you

don't know what to in that situation, so I honestly think the problem is heterosexuality.

Priya: As it always is.

Leila: Yeah of course it is. So I'm curious, I don't know, you're both in relationships right?

Priya: Yeah. I'm the same as you though, I would never go somewhere without sufficient cash to pay for myself.

Leila: Yeah [Laughs].

Priya: I wouldn't have to move some money around to pay for anything at a bakery I imagine.

Leila: Yeah I wouldn't go otherwise. Or I've been so broke before and have just ordered tap water. Don't order outside of your means, it doesn't mean that you don't have to have a fun time. How about you Robin in your relationship, are you a payer? Are you like a chivalrous knight in shining armour vibe?

Robin: Like we've got a joint account now, so I could be as chivalrous as I wanted, and it's still very much 50/50. I think when we started dating, I don't know I feel like it was never like a thing, it was like 'Don't worry I'll pay for these cinema tickets on 2 for 1'. You know like it was never like a big thing. Actually I think on the first date that my wife paid, well I paid and she bought the Orange Wednesdays.

Leila: Aww.

Robin: So that's the same isn't it?

Priya: That's sweet.

Robin: Yeah man, she had the code. To my heart.

Leila: You've been together a long time then, Orange Wednesdays.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Yeah 11 years, yeah totally. It was back in the days of you know we went to a talkie.

Leila: Yeah what were you seeing Charlie Chaplin?

Robin: Yeah exactly. It's so hard during those silent movies when you're getting off at the back of the cinema, everyone can hear you.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Just the piano guy getting really annoyed at you [laughs].

Leila: I love that. Wow a great joke about how I'm young and you're old. We have the same thing now, like once you've been a relationship so long you just sort of have each other's money, don't you? It's just one big pot of expense. Maybe that's what's been happening, maybe they

used to have that and now they don't and that's why they're exes. I don't know.

Priya: The mystery of not knowing who was going to pay. That was the start keeping the relationship alive.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: He doesn't seem great in terms of the fact that he's sort of planning all this stuff. Also that he's happy for her to get overdrawn and transfer rent money over rather than him paying. Could he just not afford it or what?

Priya: I guess not if he's having to get cheap tyres that are probably going to explode on his car.

Robin: But he was going to get expensive tyres, he was going to get like Billy Big Bollocks tyres.

Leila: Yeah that's odd isn't it? I feel like maybe they've both broken up because they've lost their job. When did this happen? Recently? So like it's a very dire financial situation isn't it at the moment for a lot of people?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: So I don't know. I can't help but feel a bit sad. No one wants to be in that situation and it sounds like they're both having a very difficult time.

Robin: I think I just don't like either of them. Neither of these people seem particularly likeable. And does that say a lot of me? The fact that they're struggling with money and I'm like, no boring, not for me.

Leila: It was the 'am I the buttface?' really that did it.

Robin: Are they afraid of bile they'll get by going on the actual Am I The Asshole forum?

Leila: I don't know. I think this is typical, again like you said, Christian behaviour like really. Because I tell you what you know the song by The Script, this is what it reminds me of, the song by The Script Break Even, does everyone know it? Break Even by the Script it goes [Sings] 'Just pray to a God that I don't believe in', right?

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: That bit. And there's Christian twins on YouTube who cover songs. And I'm quite obsessed with this bit where they cover that song and they go 'I just pray to a God that I believe in'. And it sort of takes away the grit. Doesn't it?

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: That's amazing.

Leila: Yeah that's exactly this vibe.

Robin: That really reminds me of X Factor when they had to change the songs. If it was a guy singing it, they had to change it to like girl, because otherwise ITV would just complain about fucking diversity. Even if it wasn't them on it.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: Heaven forbid.

Robin: Jesus Christ.

Leila: I remember now these load of traumatised little gays from the X Factor who weren't allowed to come out, do you remember Lloyd Daniels anyone?

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: I saw him on Twitter the other day. He was a little guy, he had a blond fringe and made to be like this hot young thing that all the girls would fancy. And he was gay and he wasn't allowed to come out, he put it on Twitter the other day. Do you remember Eoghan Quigg?

Robin: I'm a big fan of Eoghan Quigg.

Priya: I feel like I'm missing out on loads of references but they're old references. What's happening?

Leila: Yeah oh these are. These were before Orange Wednesdays so.

Robin: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge Music]

Leila: So this one is more of a call out for help, I feel. They want some advice so we should clearly answer it because that's what they want. 'How can I stop my upstairs neighbours from having loud sex during my Zoom classes?'

Priya: I say don't try, mute your microphone and stop being a little dweeb is what I say.

Robin: Are they joining the Zoom classes and having sex whilst having their camera on?

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Because that's different, that's much less.

Priya: That is different in fairness.

Leila: I think that's quite showing off actually in a pandemic to be having sex. I'm assuming this is like daytime. It's like all of our relationships are dry, I beg, I beg at this point.

Priya: [Laughs]

- Leila: I mean I don't even have the answer to this question, they just need to get a grip.
- Robin: They've already got a grip. They don't need to do anything other than that [laughs].
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: Let's be real, like they have to do it or they die. They have to stop them.
- Priya: A threatening note.
- Leila: Yeah.
- Robin: Can we just go back to the logic of that first?
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: I mean we should do it so we have something to talk about really, so let's decide. If we were to write a note. If we were to write a note to the people upstairs. Have you ever done that, like a neighbour note?
- Priya: No. I'm so used to living in like rented housing where you live on top of each other that eventually you've just got to shut up and deal with whatever everyone else is doing. Surely do not address them banging while you're trying to have Zoom classes, you've got to live with those people.
- Leila: Yeah.
- Robin: So is it people that she lives with or is it just like the flat above her?
- Leila: I think it's the flat above her. I think these are completely different people. Maybe she's Amish.
- Robin: She's on Zoom!
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: Yeah that's true. Yeah the new normal.
- Robin: So firstly her Zoom classes, I imagine that's her being a student and kind of like is she doing the classes? Surely you can just mute yourself and it's fine. But I do like the idea that you know when it's on kind of that mode where it's the speaker is the one who is spotlighted. So it's just a sort of person getting more and more freaked out as you just hear this bed creaking from above her.
- Leila: I genuinely don't think there's anything she can do or they can do in this situation frankly. This is like a grin and bear it, get the fuck over yourself.
- Priya: You could if you were a coward, which I am, you could call in a noise complaint and let the council deal with it.
- Robin: To the loud sex unit of the council.

- Priya: Yeah. But imagine how much of a baller you'd feel if you were on the other side from that and you got a call from the council telling you that you were banging too loud.
- Leila: Also maybe she's not having sex, maybe she's doing something else that involves creaking.
- Robin: I love that me and Priya's faces are exactly the same.
- Leila: Yeah well you'd have to sort of pretend, you'd be like 'I hear your film in the background'.
- Robin: Yeah I hear you're watching porn during the day that's really great.
- Priya: Really enlightened of you actually.
- Robin: What sound bar do you have? That's very good.
- Leila: I wonder how many people are just living their life like that now.
- Robin: If anybody said a year ago, so you've got six months off and you're not allowed to leave the house. You'd be like 'Yeah we're banging constantly' but it's just like no I just feel sad a lot of the time, that's really all that's happened.
- Leila: Do you spend your lunchtimes napping or is that literally just me? I'll book my lunch hour and I will go to bed for that 40 minutes and then wake up. I feel like I'm having a Spanish Revolution to myself. What do they call it? Do they call it siestas?
- Priya: A siesta yeah.
- Leila: I just go to bed and then I come back and every time without fail people on Zoom go 'Hey you look really, you look refreshed'. And I'm like 'Yeah, nice lunch'.
- Priya: I'm so hungry.
- Leila: I actually am like that's a problem. But I do recommend it.
- Priya: I've been having middle of the day baths as it gets colder. So my partner will come home from work and it's the middle of the day and I'm like 'Look I've got no one to impress and nothing to do. I'm going to have a bath'.
- Leila: I love that, why would you do anything else?
- Robin: I think if it's really bothering her she should go into the upstairs corridor and just bang in the corridor.
- Leila: Like sexually or bang on the wall?
- Priya: That's a power move.
- Robin: First try the first bit and then bang against the door.
- Leila: Yeah, yeah OK, just take a mallet to the wall really.

- Priya: There we go, there we go. We've tipped over the edge into property damage. Why live apart when I can blow a hole through out flats and live together?
- Leila: [Laughs] Good, I hope that advice was helpful to this person.  
[Here to Judge Music]
- Robin: 'Is there a non-weird way to incorporate a used condom in our anniversary gifts?'
- Priya: Oh no.
- Robin: Correct. 'Me female 26 and the hubby, male 30', well correct yes, the hubby thing currently, even though we've heard the phrase 'used condom', 'hubby' is the worst thing about this so far. 'Me and the hubby have been together for five years, married for two and our anniversary is coming up next weekend. Recently I found the first condom we used when we hooked up, it was clean so don't worry, no idea why I saved it, I guess I was 21 and dumb. Anyways I was thinking of trying to make a cute DIY gift like maybe the condom and then a photo of us and our baby with the caption 'From there to now'. I don't know, I just think it could be cute but also it might be a little bit too far. I just want to be able to show him but I don't know how. Need your help Reddit for ideas.'
- Leila: No this is unacceptable.
- Priya: In every way.
- Leila: I do not like the fact she's blamed being 21 on this at all.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: 21, dumb, saving my boyfriend's cum is not a thing and it never should be.
- Robin: And not full of cum because we have the condom.
- Leila: Oh!
- Priya: And just to clarify it was cleaned. Why?
- Leila: So she ran it under a tap and like?
- Robin: Well we don't know they could have been like, I've never cleaned a condom, I've never done that.
- Leila: Me neither Robin.
- Priya: There's no reason to.
- Robin: I mean times are tough. Like it could be a case of you know, you back in the war they put nappies in the washing machine, you know, let's not sort of fiscally judge people. It could be down to that. We just you know, maybe.

- Priya: I mean is it not clear she did it for sentimentality reasons? I guess it was [laughs] a cute DIY gift. It was a sentimental thing, she wanted to remember that night. Imagine if they'd split up.
- Robin: Yeah I mean how many condoms does she have from the guys that she's split up with?
- Leila: Yeah God.
- Robin: Just in the drawer.
- Leila: Yeah are we like the sort of people that have relationship boxes that when a relationship ends we like put all the relationship stuff in a box? That's the thing with people, my girlfriend has a box with like photos and stuff and tickets and things. She's probably a hoarder, this is weird. There's no condoms in there. My point is, that is strange and regardless do we have any ideas of stuff she could make?
- Robin: I find it fascinating that it's going to be a used condom, a picture of their baby, which is like they're opposite things like.
- Priya: But in her mind they're equal Robin. She has equal affection for the both of them.
- Robin: But it's such like a basic bitch like "From there to Now". Like it's a real "live, laugh, love" gift isn't it? Do you reckon she's Googled 'used condom' into Etsy or Pinterest, is her mood board just full of hoping for ideas?
- Leila: She's going to make a tote bag out of it, that's what's going to happen isn't it? I can already see her walking down from the High Street with her condom tote.
- Priya: She's going to make a tiny one for the baby.
- Robin: It's reusable, it's ethical.
- Leila: Oh God.
- Priya: And she has specified it's clean.
- Robin: Yeah it's very true, I mean like that is still baffling me. Is it running it under a tap like a water balloon or is it the dishwasher?
- Leila: Ah dishwasher.
- Robin: We just don't know, we don't know these things.
- Leila: That's really odd, this is really. I can't, I'm having a minute where I'm like OK yeah we're doing all of this in jest, this is like a joke. Is this person real? Is this a legitimate thing that someone has done? Because I'm just realising this is fucking nuts.
- Priya: This is one of the rare ones where I'm like I wish I had more information.

- Robin: I'm just obsessed with this. Because she obviously knows why she saved it. She's obviously like "recently I found it". Why? Where would you have put it?
- Leila: Do you know what, I think also, we're taking her word for it all. I kind of have a feeling that this was like found under a bed that had not been hoovered properly.
- Robin: Oh no!
- Priya: For five years [laughs].
- Leila: And now she's like, 'Well I can't get rid' because like that for me seems more plausible than someone picking a soggy condom off the floor after a first bang and being like, this is the one.
- Robin: No but like, five years, surely there'd be more than one condom. So you'd have to sort of go through it and work out which was the first one of it. I think it's more like she's just quite, it's like Manic Pixie Dream Girl but dialled up to like six million. And she's gone 'This will be like a fun kooky thing to bring back in future'.
- Priya: Your scenario Leila means that she would have had to clean out five year old spunk out of a used condom. And I cannot even imagine what that looks like.
- Leila: Yeah.
- Priya: I can't believe that a human being did that.
- Leila: God it's all just fucking, I mean straight people! People have a problem with gay people and then you lot are out there doing this shit.
- Priya: I just want to clarify, no one is doing this shit.
- Robin: That was very 'not all straight people' [laughs].
- Leila: Not all straight.
- Priya: I'm happy to speak for us all in this scenario.
- Leila: Yeah I mean it's just strange behaviour. This is not right. I'm really upset by this one.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: This one has really got me.
- Robin: I just find condoms so, like after the deed is done, you just think, let's just get this away.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: Because this is an example of shame right here.
- Priya: It's like a gross dream catcher. You don't want those bad dreams hanging around, you don't want that.

Leila: Oh my God. That's what she should make out of it, a dream catcher.

Priya: [Hurling noise]

Leila: [Laughs] You can't make, oh God. I'm trying to think of something. I'm trying to think of anything at this moment in time. Like a sock.

Robin: Yeah I think it just has to be a Blue Peter type thing where you...

Leila: A verruca sock.

Robin: Yeah pop it on and go, will he go swimming? Yeah why not. I just think you put a picture of the baby on a card and then you stick the condom there not needing any glue. And just put it on there, put some glitter on it.

Leila: How old is the baby did she say?

Robin: It's an excellent question, younger than the condom.

Leila: That's what I wanted to know. I was curious as to if it didn't work because then it was like then listen right, I mean I'm not excusing this behaviour at any moment in time. But say this condom split and then that's why the baby was born, then you could add some weird girl logic on it.

Robin: Yeah sure.

Leila: Like all things happen for a reason. Or like...

Priya: Imagine that baby growing up and seeing that?

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Like the sort of newborn photography things that people have on the wall, just like a big used condom there.

Priya: She's going to have her child taken off her, and quite rightly.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: She'll always have the condom.

Leila: Oh my God.

Priya: She can make another.

Leila: I'm not going to say she's like an asshole but she needs psychiatric help so.

Robin: Oh yeah definitely.

Priya: Oh yeah. Morally she's, this isn't her fault. Something has gone seriously wrong. She can't be held accountable for this.

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

[Here to Judge- Episode 2]

Melanie: 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 Jo 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.

Leila: I really enjoyed that, I really love doing these recordings. I feel like it's a nice way to end the day.

[End of Podcast]