

[Here to Judge- Episode 4 ]

Cast:

Priya Hall

Leila Navabi

Robin Morgan

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

Leila: 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, Leila Navabi.

Robin: Me, Robin Morgan.

Priya: And me, Priya Hall.

Robin: 'I have a ghost boyfriend?'

Leila: [Laughs] This is 13 year old me pretending she's straight in school.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: I have a boyfriend who's just a ghost, um.

Priya: Don't worry about it, I can see him.

Leila: Yeah you don't know him, he goes to another ghost school.

Robin: 'I have a ghost boyfriend? I have always been interested in the paranormal. I wanted to experience more, now I have a ghost boyfriend. In April of this year I met someone who had a lot of death surrounding him, let's call him Alex. It was odd but I felt an extreme pull to help him and an extreme pull to use a Ouija board with him. In the past I've never messed with a board and honestly have always been a bit frightened. Still I knew I had to try it out with this particular individual. Barely an acquaintance, I invited Alex back to my apartment so that we could try using a Ouija board. During the session the

name Chad came through. Stunned, Alex explained that a friend of his died a few years back and his name was Chad. I knew essentially nothing about Alex's deceased friend and watched as Alex and Chad talked to each other through the board. Alex had never been into the paranormal and was sitting next to be shocked, exclaiming that this was his friend. Alex and I began being able to feel Chad's presence in my home. Alex explained being able to feel Chad's hands on his shoulders and comfort. I felt similar sensations and a clear presence.

Following the sensation my extreme pull towards Alex started to dissipate. In the days after I noticed that I was still sensing Chad's presence. I could still feel him and knew when he was around. Days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months. To this day Chad is with me.'

Leila: How many 'a's' are in the word Chad?

Robin: Chad is just one for country but I'm trying to describe this entire thing given the seriousness that it deserves. 'I talk to him through the board semi regularly and have found that I can sense his feelings and thoughts as well as feel his touch. We've become very close and have a physical relationship as well. Chad likes feet and enjoys touching mine while I'm occupied doing other things (he thinks it's funny). He also tells me I'm beautiful and that he loves me often.

Sometimes I even get visions where I can see where he is and see what he is doing. Over time I have loved the nuances of his personality. How he likes to communicate, spelling habits he has on the board, and what makes him happy. We've had everything from light- hearted joking conversation to serious talks about life and what's important. Chad is even protective if I mention using the board somewhere else (which he every time clearly tells me not to).

Some of my friends believe me, but at the same time it can be hard not to question my own beliefs. Yet I have noticed my own ties to him strengthening over time as I can sense him more easily...I have a relationship with a ghost that I feel I can talk to. Does anyone here have a relationship like this? Do you believe me?'

Priya: She's got severe anxiety is what I think is happening here.

Leila: Has anyone ever been compelled to a man called Chad?

Robin: Yeah it's not surprising that this man died.

Priya: Because his name was Chad?

Robin: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: Right OK fair enough that's a reasonable assumption to make [laughs].

Robin: I think so. Honestly you go through graveyards and its Chad, Chad, Chad.

Leila: What do you think Priya, what's your initial assessment of the matter?

Priya: Look, I think she's been in lockdown for too long. She's bored. She's having conversations, doing the Ouija board with herself and...

Leila: So who is Alex? Alex is her real boyfriend?

Robin: Alex is just a bloke who she brought back and then he was like 'My friend Chad died' and she was like 'Tell me more' [laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: 'Tell me more about this Chad'.

Leila: [Sings] 'Tell me more, tell me more, did he tickle my feet?'

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: It's like a really gothic Grease directed by Tim Burton.

Priya: Oh my God, she has a real living boyfriend.

Leila: Really? Where did she say?

Robin: Oh what the fuck?

Leila: What does it say?

Priya: So it says 'How do you think he/it would react if you got a real living boyfriend? Do you get any sense about that? Also how long do you plan to continue this? If no end in sight you may be giving yourself a lonely life if he doesn't want male competition for your attention'. And then she goes, 'I actually am in a long-term relationship of over three years, I live with my boyfriend'.

Leila: [Draws breath shocked]

Priya: 'Chad doesn't have any feelings or issues with my relationship. He's very supportive and more so functions in the thought that everyone is on the same team'. She's in a throuple. 'My boyfriend knows about Chad but isn't very open to the paranormal.' Sure 'Every so often they talk to each other through me in passing. As far as how long I plan to continue this, I don't have a positive answer. Chad has said that he's a guardian angel to me and even if I choose to stop having a relationship with him, he will always be watching over me'.

Leila: That's terrifying.

Priya: Uh oh Spaghetti-o.

Leila: If a man said that to you, regardless of is he was a ghost or not, you'd fucking run for the hills.

Robin: That's a really important caveat [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs] I'm at a loss for words really with this one.

- Robin: There's just a lot isn't there? Like the fact that Chad doesn't like her using the board anywhere. He sounds very controlling.
- Priya: A controlling ghost.
- Leila: He sounds like the sort of person that's like 'Oh no, I'm not controlling you can do whatever you want, you can do whatever you want. But if you ever tell anyone that I'm existing then you will be sent to hell'. Do you know what I mean like?
- Robin: Totally. It's that sort of like slightly gripped like, I'm a nice ghost, I'm a nice ghost, I'm a nice ghost, honestly. I've got loads of sisters, I've got three sisters.
- Priya: I love that you've got a boyfriend, don't worry about it, I'll be here. I'll be here.
- Robin: Tickling your feet.
- Leila: Yeah that really freaked me out. It's a slippery slope I feel.
- Priya: I mean she's far down the slope at this point.
- Leila: Yeah [laughs]
- Priya: I would say, there's no time for slipping, it's gone [laughs].
- Robin: We've kind of gone past the fact that she has a long-term boyfriend who she lives with and she invited some fucking dude back without...
- Priya: Yeah. Well...
- Robin: And then they cracked open the Ouija board.
- Priya: They might be open or non monogamous, she hasn't specified.
- Robin: True.

- Priya: And also if she has two boyfriends one of them is a ghost, sure.
- Robin: Yeah fair, there's no kink shaming here.
- Leila: When she said that sometimes Chad and her boyfriend have conversations through her, does he know that it's Chad that's talking to him?
- Priya: Uh.
- Leila: Do you know what I mean? Or is she like...
- Robin: Yeah.
- Leila: ...'This is Chad'.
- Robin: Yeah [laughs]
- Leila: Like 'Hi'.
- Robin: She turns her baseball cap backwards [laughs] 'This is Chad'.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Robin: Who dresses like Fred Durst to have these conversations.
- Leila: Imagine your partner is like 'Can you put the wash on?' 'Chad said she doesn't have to do it'. [Laughs] I think either she's really like not OK or she's really smart.
- Priya: Yeah [laughs].
- Leila: And then she's decided that if she wants to shut her boyfriend up she can be like 'Excuse me, Chad here...'
- Robin: 'Chad here' [laughs] Yeah she's smashing it.
- Priya: And the world she's created is so elaborate that it's now being talked about on a podcast [laughs].
- Leila: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: That's how deep she's gone. What would you do if you were that boyfriend?

Robin: I would invent my own ghost girlfriend.

Priya: OK sure. Sure.

Robin: I'd just double-down.

Priya: And then the ghosts would run off together.

Robin: Oh man!

Priya: Heartbreaking.

Leila: I don't know, if you were in lockdown in a bubble and there was only two of you and you want an extra person to come in for the chat, I suppose?

Robin: Yeah that's a good point, we should ask our MPs what the rules are with ghosts into bubbles. Like do they count as members of your bubble? [laughs]

Leila: Yeah exactly.

Priya: Does Covid carry on ectoplasm?

Robin: Yeah, that's all that hand gel is isn't it? It's just a...

Leila: [Laughs] The fucking comments on this are really terrifying. There's one...

Robin: I mean they're not agreeing with it are they?

Leila: Well someone said 'This isn't cute or cool. YOU are preventing that spirit from peacefully going where they need to go and separating yourself from the living to do so'.

Robin: [Laughs] What?!

Leila: 'No spirit should have that much control over your body or sensation. Let alone decide where can use divination tools'.

- Priya: What sub-Reddit is this on? Because I can't imagine people just immediately getting onboard.
- Robin: It's relationships.text on Twitter. Which usually is kind of just like 'My boyfriend is a piece of shit, he plays videogames all day'. But this is 'My boyfriend doesn't appreciate my dead kind of boyfriend, who is ghost called Chad'.
- Priya: Well the actual living boyfriend was very much an afterthought. Which is rude of this woman.
- Robin: Yeah that's very true. But people seem to really dig the paranormal stuff. You know like that's another sort of quite sort of culty thing I think.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: Yeah.
- Robin: You guys delaying your response makes me feel like you're in the cult and now I'm going to get...
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: I just think my ghost boyfriend is not going to be very happy to hear that Robin.
- Leila: 'Hi Robin, this is Chad, I just wanted to say'.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: No I don't believe in ghost boyfriends.
- Robin: So none of you are paranormal fans. Do you think that this woman is, there was no question, I think it was like, has anyone had any relationship like this? And do you believe her? My answer is no and no.
- Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.
- Robin: Firm nos.

Priya: I think she wants to have a ghost boyfriend and there we go, she's got one in...

Leila: I believe her that she believes she's got a ghost boyfriend.

Robin: Sure.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: But I think she needs psychiatric assistance and a cup of tea.

Robin: Spend time with her actual boyfriend. Chad.

[Here to Judge Interim Music]

Priya: 'Am I the buttface for asking my girlfriend to wear a mask during sex?' Here you go.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: 'I'm trying keep this as safe as possible. I'm a 32 year old female dating a 34 year old female. Once the mask mandates came she didn't get a generic one but rather a stylised set she ordered online. It looks great and puts focus on her eyes which I find very sexy. Last week when I was lounging around she did kind of an impromptu strip (she does this a lot) and I joined in for some sex'. Very clinical 'And I joined in for some sex'.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: 'I was thinking about how great she looked naked but I'd love to see her naked except for one of her masks on too. So a couple of days ago when we were lounging in the bedroom almost naked, I asked her if she'd put it on and she was confused. I told her I'd like to have sex with her wearing her mask unless she was using her tongue.

She got kind of upset at me and told me how they're not fetish items and there's no point wearing them here at home and how she's not some fantasy fulfiller but an

equal partner. I got kind of hurt. Things have been a bit cold since. I'm still wondering if there's a good way to ask her without hurt and I'm thinking about it. Am I the asshole for this request? It might be strange but not harmful or anything?'

Robin: That is a lot sort of tamer and sweeter than I thought it was when the headline came out.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: I don't think there's much wrong with that.

Priya: I feel like if you're asking someone to cover their face during sex out of the blue, you should have some run up towards it.

Robin: Sure.

Priya: But I don't think it's a bad request after some of the things we've viewed on this.

Robin: Yeah that's true. I guess the way she describes it in this is actually you know like it brings out her eyes type thing and she looks great naked and stuff. That's really sweet, that's nice in a relationship. I like that her girlfriend was like 'It's not a sexy item' like she really takes masks seriously, you know [laughs].

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: We are in the middle of a pandemic!

Robin: Yeah [laughs] Have some respect!

Leila: Wait, so has she asked already once at this point?

Robin: Yeah but she still wants to do it again [laughs].

Leila: But like no, sorry, that's a hard no.

Priya: I feel like, explain yourself. Say what you said on Reddit to your girlfriend.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: See what her response is.

Leila: I read this article when lockdown first started about how you know when we ran out of PPE, all the fetish shops...

Priya: Yeah I saw that.

Leila: ...were selling PPE. So I don't know, has this been a thing before? Are masks sexy? Is the question I guess I'm posing here.

Priya: I think as part of a costume maybe before but now people are seeing people with masks a lot more. So it probably will be.

Robin: What about the people who wear like the sexy ball things. Is it kind of like swingers parties?

Priya: Oh like a masquerade thing.

Robin: Yeah kind of like the masquerade ball type thing.

Leila: Oh yeah.

Robin: So you don't know who you're having sex with.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: I don't get it.

Robin: The mask thing. I mean wearing a mask during sex would sort of inhibit...

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: ...the act.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: In a way?

Priya: She has specified though, 'unless you're using your tongue' in which case, fine to remove the mask.

Leila: Also she's probably been wearing a bloody mask all day, she clearly takes it seriously and has been living her life and wearing a mask.

Robin: Yeah [laughs]

Leila: And then she's like, oh time for bed now. 'Uh, can you put the mask back on?'

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: It's like asking someone to put their bra back on for sex.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: I'd be like 'No! I'm relaxed'.

Priya: That's rude.

Leila: Yeah it is rude.

Robin: Yeah that's really funny.

Leila: It's a discomfort isn't it? I mean look, I don't know anyone that really loves wearing a mask. I'm not saying, don't wear a mask, everyone wear their fucking mask please. I just think if you're in your own house. I think I'd be upset if my girlfriend was like 'Can you wear this mask? Because I find it really sexy when I only have to look at one bit of your face'.

Priya: Yeah. That's what I was like.

Leila: That's where my mind would go. What about you Robin?

Robin: Um yeah? Yeah it's not ideal when...

Leila: Imagine your wife suddenly goes 'Can you put this on?'

Priya: 'Can you just put a cheeky bag over your head? Don't worry about it'.

Robin: The bag hurt, when she asked me that, that hurt.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: But I think the mask, I don't know like I think it would be quite funny. I'm all for bringing humour into the bedroom. Yeah I think so.

Leila: Funny! I love that.

Robin: Yeah I just think it would be really funny.

Leila: Do you have some new material on masks that you do on stage?

Robin: If she asks me to put it on I will.

Priya: Just waiting.

Robin: I just think it would be quite lols like if I wore my glasses they would steam up, and it would just be like, oh it's very sexy in here. It's great, loads of fun.

Leila: Getting steamy in...

Robin: Yeah that scene in Titanic when they were in the car, you know it would be great.

Leila: [Laughs].

Priya: Just a tiny handprint on the inside of your glasses.

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah. I think it's fine.

Leila: I think it's fine.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: But don't ask again, I think if you've asked once, probably stop.

Robin: Yeah don't ask Reddit of how to kind of like get around it.

Priya: I feel like she could ask again.

Leila: Do you reckon?

- Priya: I think if you ask out of the blue when you're like about to get into it, then probably it's like out of nowhere. But I feel like if she explained herself it would be fine.
- Robin: Sure.
- Leila: Yeah if she was like 'Look, it's because of these few points'. I said this because I would go in not thinking that I was going to ask but I'd say 'I just wanted to explain myself because you obviously got very hurt the other day and basically these are my thoughts. That's why I wanted to do it'. And then gauge the response.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: And if it's still a hard no...
- Priya: Leave it.
- Leila: ...don't do it. Just be like 'OK I respect your boundaries. And I also like the rest of your face'.
- Robin: 'Here's a blindfold'.
- Leila: Yeah I think that's the smartest thing to do regardless of even if she was going to ask, just be like re-explain yourself.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: Because that would eat me up. That would eat me up so bad.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: What's the worst mask you've seen in life?
- Robin: As in like a pandemic one?
- Leila: Yeah.
- Robin: Um?

- Leila: I tell you what I don't like, is those ones that have like smiles.
- Robin: Oh yeah they're creepy.
- Priya: Oh yeah that's creepy.
- Leila: I saw there was an old man one with a beard on the other day and that really freaked me out.
- Priya: Flesh toned ones freak me out as well.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: I'll show you one my mum got me.
- Robin: I'm very excited by this.
- Leila: Is Priya going to put a mask on and then we're going to be like 'Oh my God she's so hot'.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: Is that how that is going to happen? And it's suddenly proved that masks are sexy. Aww.
- Robin: Is that a Santa Claus one?
- Priya: Can you see it?
- Leila: Right.
- Priya: My mum bought this off Wish.
- Robin: It's a very Wish purchase isn't it?
- Priya: Yeah and it came off Wish so I imagine it does nothing to keep Covid away from my face.
- Robin: Sure. It's got like a funnel that goes from the outside.
- Priya: [Laughs] Yeah. Santa's nostrils are actually just holes in the mask.
- Robin: Do you reckon they've got one for each sort of holiday?

- Leila: Yeah that's what I mean. We're going to get Pasg Hapus everyone.
- Robin: Yeah [laughs] Trooping the Colour.
- Leila: Yeah Trooping the Colour [laughs]. Uh it should be over by then, I really hope.
- Robin: We'd hope so, I think that's what everyone is secretly thinking, this better be over by Trooping the Colour, that's what everyone is saying.
- Leila: [Laughs]  
[Here to Judge Interim Music]
- Robin: 'My gamer wife won't pay attention to me. Me and my wife'...
- Leila: Gay wife?
- Robin: Sorry, gamer.
- Leila: Oh.
- Robin: Gamer.
- Priya: I thought you'd said the same thing and I was like OK [laughs]
- Robin: [Laughs] 'My gamer wife' who is straight probably 'won't pay attention to me. Me and my wife were recently married and I know this is a tough time for everyone and it's hard to stay busy so people resort to videogames and stuff. But recently my wife has been playing a lot of the old Guitar Hero game and she won't pay attention to anything I say when she's playing. The only thing she talks about is how she is stuck on 50% of some level (it's Crazy Train)' [Laughs]
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: That's my favourite parenthesis in any of these we've done.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Just like, it's Crazy Train so fair enough.

Priya: Like it always is.

Robin: Yeah it's always Crazy Train. [Laughs] This wouldn't be a problem except she hasn't stopped playing for a while now. Am I just panicking or is Guitar Hero really ruining my marriage? Edit' [Laughs] 'Edit, please stop giving Guitar Hero advice' [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: 'Edit 2- lesbian marriage'. So it is my gay gamer wife.

Leila: Oh fine, OK.

Robin: 'Edit 3- this is a separate issue but I keep bringing up my hot British neighbour to make her jealous, is this a bad move? Edit 4' - and this is fair - 'Stop talking about Crazy Train' [laughs].

Leila: Oh my God.

Robin: 'Edit 5- it's on easy mode'. And 'Edit 6- what a way to end, she beat it. She beat it everybody'.

Priya: I really love like it sounds like she's really getting into it by Edit 6, she's like, 'Ah go on! We're in it together now'.

Robin: Yeah [laughs] exactly. I love my wife.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Do people still play Guitar Hero?

Priya: I didn't know they did.

Leila: I felt that was a very 2012 thing.

Priya: I've not seen it in anyone's homes for a very long time.

Robin: The OP has been getting quite a lot of, as you'd imagine from how many edits they had to put in, quite a lot of

bullshit including 'Leave gamers alone. Quite being jealous of videogames. You can't talk to her in the middle of a song'. But I mean if you're going to find videogame people they will be on Reddit because they are all incels.

Priya: That's true. That's true. I'm not a videogame person but I would 100% agree with them.

Robin: Leave her alone.

Leila: Yeah I'm not a videogame person. I kind of wish I was though. There was a spell where it was really cool to be into videogames.

Robin: Did you ever have Singstar on the PlayStation?

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: The old karaoke thing.

Leila: Oh yeah, God I remember people pulling it out at teenage house parties.

Priya: Mm-hmm.

Leila: And everyone use to sing um...

Robin: Crazy Train.

Leila: The A Team by Ed Sheeran.

Robin: Oh really? Man you're so young.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: I am so young, that was the song. It was that, it was Someone Like You by Adele.

Robin: Wow that's a fucking buzzkill at a party [laughs].

Priya: Oh God [laughs]

Leila: It was also Moves Like Jagger as the...

Robin: Oh sure.

Leila: Do you remember that song?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah Maroon 5 baby.

Leila: 'Take me by the tongue and I'll show you'.

Robin: Oh.

Priya: Is that?

Leila: That's the lyric.

Priya: That's the line! [laughs]

Robin: Wow.

Leila: [Sings Moves Like Jagger]

Priya: That's mad, I've never thought that.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: That's disgusting.

Leila: [Laughs] The way you said that with such venom in your voice.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: That's foul.

Robin: It's revolting.

Leila: Yeah it is actually quite. Who was that guy?

Priya: Maroon 5.

Leila: Really? That seems really...

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: ...you know.

Priya: It was really out of character for them at the time I feel like.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Yeah it was.

Priya: Because they'd just done sort of...

Leila: [Sings- This Love]

Robin: Yeah sort of gentle indie and then it was just like sex, sex, sex, sex. So Guitar Hero gave my wife Crazy Train.

Priya: She beat it.

Robin: She doesn't speak to her-- yeah she beat it. Everything ends well. Everything's fine by Trooping the Colour.

Leila: That's uplifting isn't it?

Robin: I think so. It's a tale as old as time, it's adversary, it's got everything.

Leila: I'm content with that. I think that's a nice note to end on.

Robin: But I think the fact that everyone is just like 'Leave your wife alone, she's enjoying herself. You're just jealous of her. Just get onboard the crazy train and let her be'.  
[laughs]

Leila: Yeah I mean if you can't beat them join them.

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

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.

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