

Cast:

Robin Morgan  
Priya Hall  
Mali Ann Rees

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

Robin: 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.

Priya: Me, Priya Hall.

Mali: And me, Mali Ann Rees.

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for storming out of a dinner with my wife and her best friend? I went out to eat with my wife and her best friend. I don't like her friend because I think she's a very selfish, self-centred, loud, and irritating person to be around. And her friend knows that I hold that opinion about her. There's a lot more to it than that, but this post would be much too long if I was to go over the more in depth reasons we don't get along.

Anyway, because of my feelings towards her friend, they've been having issues within their own friendship. We all decided to go out to eat in order to make things better between us, and while self admittedly her friend did kind of annoy me throughout, I thought the dinner had gone well. That all changed when the bill finally came. We had already decided to go half on the tip, and while I put \$15 down, she thought it'd be funny to pull out her purse and make a heart out of pennies for a tip.

I saw that and asked if she was serious, to which she said, 'Well I just don't really believe in tipping'. That upset me so I pulled out my wallet and put an extra \$10 down and started getting up to leave. Her friend said, 'What did I

do?' and I told her, 'I just don't feel like conversing with a piece of shit anymore'. And I went to my car'.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: 'When my wife came to the car she began to yell at me. I told her I understood why she was angry, but that some people just don't get along and that I felt it was best that her friend and I stop trying to get along. I don't control my wife and she's allowed to hang out with anyone she pleases. So while I do see why her friend and I getting along would be ideal, I don't see why it's mandatory that we get along for their own friendship to work. Am I the asshole for storming out like I did?'

Firstly, that is the best phrase anyone has ever said. The best way to leave a room.

Mali: I think he's the asshole.

Priya: Do you?

Mali: I'm going to go straight in.

Robin: OK.

Mali: Yeah. I think that is very rude. I think obviously she doesn't believe in tipping which is controversial but I think his reaction was pent up anger from the past obviously, rather than just that situation. So I think it's a bad move on his behalf to react in that way.

Robin: I have the opposite opinion [laughs].

Priya: Yeah same.

Mali: Oh no.

Robin: Well I don't know. I think saying that is a bit much. But the making a heart out of pennies thing, really bothered me. From somebody who has worked in hospitality, if I had to like get that and be like, what the fuck is this? A heart? Do you think this is cute? Do you think pennies are

cute? And then I see some bloke get up and call her a piece of shit, I'd be like 'Yeah guy, thank you! You're fighting for the workers rights'.

Priya: Yeah I completely agree and also I genuinely believe that what he said to her before storming out is one of the funniest things that anyone has ever said so [laughs]. I'm like, it's just grieving on top of grieving, this guy is an absolute gem. [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah he's a socialist, he's witty. So what was the actual phrase? 'I don't feel like conversing with a piece of shit'?

Priya: Yeah, 'I just don't feeling like conversing with a piece of shit anymore and I went to my car'. Is there not even giving her an opportunity to say anything, that is so rude, I love it.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah sure. Conversing is a lovely phrase, it's like quite a proper word before then saying 'piece of shit' it words as a sentence you know? Works as like a comedy sentence. And he doesn't sound too kind of up his own ass about it. Like I get why my wife's annoyed. I understand, I was rude. But maybe, I'm just trying to sort of go, I'm trying to meet you halfway here Mali, it is rude.

Priya: He's definitely petty. Like the bit where he's like 'If I typed out all of the things that pissed me off about this person the post would be too long'. That's petty, sure, I'll give him that.

Mali: That is really petty. I think another reason I'm defending the best friend is because I think I may be a self-centred, loud and irritating person to be around [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs]

Mali: So I feel a bit personally attacked.

- Priya: Like that sentence was aimed at you, you feel?
- Mali: I'm not really that self-centred but I'm definitely loud and irritating.
- Robin: I would love to know the follow-up for this. Like what happened? I mean if your partner was abusing your friend like that in public, that is quite spicy innit?
- Mali: Yeah what would you do? Like would you have to plan different occasions for them to like be together?
- Robin: I guess so. Like if this was the reconciliation dinner as well. Like if this was like we're going to talk about it and we're going to fix it, and then he ends it with this mic drop of a 'You're a piece of shit OK? Bye'. Engine's running, honk, honk.
- Priya: [Laughs] I like that it had gone well up until that point as well.
- Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Priya: To be like, do you know what? We could get on but I don't think we will [laughs].
- Robin: [Laughs] Yeah that's so true.
- Mali: Has it gone well because he's sort of agreed with everything but inside he was seething...
- Robin: Totally.
- Mali: ...so this was sort of like the final vomit, he's gone yes, yes.
- Robin: I think you're right, it's that pent up thing as you said isn't it?
- Mali: Yeah.
- Robin: It's just like I've done so well, we've paid the bill, we're going to do the tip, as soon as the tip we're going to go home. She's not tipping, you're a piece of shit, buh-bye.

Priya: [Laughs] I did my best. I did my best but I'm out.

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah. I'm only human, I'm only human.

Mali: It would probably take a while to make the heart as well.

Priya: Yeah.

Mali: So you'd just be watching it going, what the fuck?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. What's she doing? What's she doing?  
No! No!

Mali: A heart!

Robin: Yeah not for me. I think she's the asshole.

Priya: Yeah I agree.

Mali: I'm going to go for he's-- do we have to agree?

Robin: No!

Priya: No. But we do have to fight to the death if we get it, if we don't agree so it's a great shame.

[Here to Judge Interim Music]

Mali: 'Am I the asshole for refusing the change my daughter's bedroom for my pregnant sister-in-law? My sister-in-law was visiting for Christmas and was sleeping in my daughter's bedroom. From the first day she was arrived, all she did was complain about how my daughter's bedroom is decorated. Her walls are black and she has a bunch of rock posters on her walls.

My sister-in-law is very Christian and she says that it's evil and that she can have no part in it. She kept asking me to make my daughter change it/take the posters down. I spoke to my daughter about it and she said that if her aunt doesn't like it then she doesn't have to sleep in there. I honestly agreed and didn't feel like fighting with an teenage girl over a poster. Anyways, right before bed last night I could hear my daughter kind of yelling and

crying. When I went to see what had happened I saw that her aunt had taken all her stuff off of the walls and had accidentally ripped one of them which was signed by the artist! My daughter was freaking out and my sister-in-law explained that the evil posters gave her anxiety and that when she got anxious the baby wouldn't stop kicking and she couldn't sleep.

I told my daughter to tape the ripped poster back together and that she could put all of it back up in the morning. I told my sister-in-law that if she didn't like it she could sleep on the couch or find a hotel. My wife doesn't like the way my daughter's room is decorated and of course she sided with her sister. She told my daughter that if she put them back on the walls then she would rip them all up. She also told me that she couldn't believe that I would suggest that her sister should leave. Am I the asshole?'

Priya: I really enjoyed the dramatic flair in that.

Mali: Thank you, thank you.

Priya: Instead of us just stumbling through them [laughs].

Robin: It's just nice to have some professionalism for once, honestly it's really nice.

Priya: It is, it is.

Mali: [Laughs] I wanted to make a good impression.

Robin: And you have. And you have.

Priya: [Laughs] I've been the teenage daughter in this circumstance. My room when I was a teenager was covered in posters from Kerrang! and I think that they should let the teenage daughter deal with it in the same way I did. I went to uni and then everyone who was on my wall got arrested for sex crimes and every time I went home I just had to take a bunch of them down.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: It was like, not you. Not you. And then eventually, no posters.

Robin: That's amazing.

Priya: Bleak, bleak times.

Robin: Yeah but you know like this is what happens when you're such a musical fan of Gary Glitter aren't you? I mean it's just.

Priya: [Laughs] Sure.

Robin: You say Kerrang! but it was definitely more like Smash Hits from the '80s wasn't it? [laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Mali: Oh.

Robin: I also was this teenage girl in this story as well. For me it was my aunty, also quite Christian and wouldn't have approved of Kerrang! posters, but also I was about 14 or 15 and I was trying to be like one of my friends in school. So I had bought FHM and stuck up some ladies on the wall. And then for when she stayed around, I just put them in a drawer and then just never put them back up again because I think you know it was pretty gross wasn't it? I was like, yeah they're probably better in the drawer aren't they? In the shame drawer, that's better.

Priya: It's so much more sinister to open a door and just find loads of cuttings from magazines of women and be like (mine's?) there.

Robin: Oh yeah [laughs] Lucy Pinder, are you in there?

Mali: [Laughs] Oh dear. I wasn't actually allowed posters on my wall.

Priya: Really?

- Mali: I know because they rip the paint off with the Blu-Tack so I can't really relate to this problem unfortunately. All my walls are pink.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Mali: And I've moved back now and I'm 26 and they're still like a baby pink.
- Priya: But the paint's immaculate.
- Mali: Yeah the paint is wonderful I've got to say. But yeah. So I don't really know. I do think she should be allowed to though, it's important for expression isn't it?
- Priya: I agree, I agree.
- Robin: Absolutely. I really enjoyed one of the first things the sister-in-law said was that she didn't want to take part in this, and it's like you're not in the band.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: We're not making you join Lostprophets.
- Priya: That was the wrong choice of band [laughs]. They were the first ones that came down.
- Robin: Yeah well exactly, absolutely. Who else had to come down?
- Priya: Oh um? Pretty much all of them except for My Chemical Romance who have an unblemished past.
- Robin: Yeah and they've held up.
- Priya: I'm pretty sure if I went into my childhood bedroom they would still be on the walls.
- Mali: I don't really know about any of these bands I'm not going to lie to you. Sorry.
- Priya: That's because you were cool and we were Blu-Tack walled nightmares.

Mali: [Laughs]

Robin: But we found out about music via posters which you weren't allowed.

Mali: Yes, yeah.

Priya: We didn't listen to the bands, just had the posters.

Robin: Yeah [laughs]

Mali: I was into dubstep.

Priya: Oh nice, yeah.

Robin: Nice.

Mali: Mm, yeah

Priya: That is cooler.

Mali: Was it? Was it?

Robin: Who were like the big dubstep artists of your youth?

Mali: What was that one? The mouse one.

Robin: Deadmau5.

Mali: That's the one.

Priya: I'm not sure you were a fan.

Mali: I was. I was.

Robin: [Laughs]

Mali: I just haven't listened to dubstep since I was you know 17, so it's been a long time. But you know I still like, like Magnetic Man. Yeah I can't remember any of the others. Please believe me that I'm not lying, I swear.

Priya: [Laughs] I'm fairly sure if this camera panned to the other wall in your bedroom it will be all posters from Kerrang! and you're just lying to us.

Mali: Yeah.

Robin: [Laughs] I really enjoyed, slightly going back to the story.

Priya: Rude.

Robin: Soz. Where she's saying that the baby kicks when she looks at the posters, which suggests like they're rockin' the bands, you know they're really enjoying the music.

Mali: Exactly.

Priya: Or that the baby is the asshole.

Mali: Oh.

Robin: Oh what a...

Priya: She should take it up with her baby not her niece.

Mali: It's also just not her house though, do you know what I mean?

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: Yeah. Like that's not her bedroom.

Mali: No it isn't. I think it's very, very rude. Am I allowed to just go straight in and say if I think she's an asshole or not?

Robin: Oh yeah.

Mali: Yeah I think she...

Priya: They love it, we never do it.

Robin: [Laughs]

Mali: Oh right, well I'm very decisive and I've already decided this woman's an asshole.

Robin: Good.

Mali: Because she shouldn't be, for somebody who wasn't allowed posters, I think that everybody should be

allowed them to express themselves otherwise they'll end up liking dubstep so.

Robin: [Laughs] In a pink room loving dubstep.

Mali: Mm.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, nice.

Priya: I think the baby's the asshole.

Robin: Yeah you've said Priya.

Priya: I've made up my mind.

Robin: You've already mentioned that, back, back, back off yeah.

Priya: [Laughs] Are you the baby?

Robin: Yeah I said that I was very much like the daughter in this relationship, but really I'm very much like the unborn child. I think we've all been there.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Yeah I think you're right Mali, I think that the sister-in-law is the asshole. I think I found the sister siding with her slightly odd but maybe if they both have this, maybe the mum was just waiting for an excuse to get these awful anti-religious posters down. You know? The dad seems like a fucking baller.

Priya: True.

Robin: Which is rare on these things, because like I think this might be the one where the man is not the absolute piece of shit in this. Which for me, for my brethren this is lovely, this is great. Usually it's just like, 'I am a straight white man' asshole, asshole, asshole. [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge Interim Music]

Mali: 'Am I the asshole for causing my friend's breakup with a prank? My close friend, we'll call him Jake, was dating a girl, we'll call her Sally, for just over a year. We were on a group outing with eight of us at a local theme park. There were a few couples, including Jake and Sally, and a few solo friends. The day was going great and everyone was enjoying themselves. It was hot, so we all decided to go on the Lazy River.

As we were drifting down the stream, I ended up floating next to Jake, and decided to play a prank on him. I said 'Psst! Jake, Sally told me your secret!' This was just a joke and I wasn't referring to anything in particular. Well, Jake flipped out. He spun around and yelled at Sally 'Why did you tell him my secret? You fucking bitch.'

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: Jesus Christ [laughs]

Mali: Mm. 'I immediately yelled that it was a joke but it was too late. Sally was crying, Jake was angry, and the day was ruined! We all went home and they broke up soon after. I didn't think I did anything wrong since it was just a joke and Jake was the one who flipped out. But some of my friends are pissed because they liked hanging out with Sally and feel like I ruined it. So, am I the asshole?'

Robin: Um, when you said prank I was really worried that it was going to be just some like awful YouTube piece of shit. But that is a legit funny prank.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: And to do it on the Lazy River is a beautiful touch [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs] Just floating nearby and be like, I'm going to ruin a life today.

Mali: [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs] But it's just so vague. 'I know your secret!' and then just paddling off. But it sounds like Jake, Jake flipped.

Priya: Jake's a piece of work.

Robin: Mm.

Priya: I don't like what...

Mali: Can you imagine him flipping in the Lazy River? Like was he in like an inflatable doughnut...

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mali: ...just like getting really angry.

Priya: [Laughs]

Mali: Lazily floating, like it's hilarious.

Priya: Sally trying to like float away from him as he rages.

Robin: Yeah he's peddling one of those like duck pedalos around the park.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Yeah Jake's the asshole in this I think. Like I always feel like when people start arguing, especially when couples argue and you immediately go for misogynistic language then you have that anger inside you, like you're a piece of work, 'You fucking bitch', you know that's like, that's inside you.

Priya: Yeah that shouldn't be on the tip of your tongue.

Robin: Yeah well exactly. 'How dare you? That's my secret you bitch!'.

Mali: I really enjoyed saying it, I'm not going to lie.

Robin: Yeah!

Mali: I don't say 'fucking bitch' very often.

- Robin: Hey this could be your thing for the new year. I'm fascinated by what the secret is.
- Mali: Mm.
- Robin: Because it's got to be big isn't it? It's got to be big.
- Priya: The fact that there's no more mention of the secret in the post shows that OP is remarkably in control of himself. Because my immediate response would be to try and find out that secret. I'd be on the phone to Sally immediately.
- Robin: Yeah definitely. But like it's got to be something genuinely huge like 'I buried a body underneath this river. Shhh! Don't tell anyone'.
- Mali: Oh no! I don't think that would be the reaction.
- Robin: Do you think it's something, it's like he can't get it up isn't it?
- Mali: Yeah, yeah, it's uh, yeah humiliating.
- Robin: That kind of blind sort of like male rage. It's that.
- Mali: Yes.
- Robin: That's what it is. Do you have any secrets that would genuinely illicit that reaction? Or like what's your biggest secret? You don't have to tell me what it is but what would your reaction be if someone told you, if you found out someone had told it to somebody?
- Priya: I feel like if I was on a Lazy River I would never react negatively, well not that negatively surely. The Lazy River thing means that if they were out of the Lazy River he probably would have done a murder. He's been calmed down a lot by being on the Lazy River. It's going to be something big.
- Mali: But sometimes they have rapids on them don't they?
- Priya: That's true. He was all tense after a rapid.

- Mali: So maybe they were just about to go, yeah, yeah, yeah. Or it was coming you know? Like the tension was coming, they're all about to go down, and he was like, right I've got to get out what I need to say because we don't know whether we'll make it through these rapids.
- Priya: I'll see you down there Sally.
- Robin: My final words have got to be a doozy.
- Mali: Do you know what? I think the friend has been a little bit dodgy as well. Because I think by saying, 'Sally told me your secret'...
- Priya: Yes.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Mali: ...I think you're asking for trouble.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Mali: Because the initial reaction is always going to be like the darkest thing you could think that you've told Sally. So I think it's playing with fire a little bit. I don't think...
- Priya: Yeah. This is textbook shit stirring isn't it? I like in this post that he's not asking if he's the asshole because he broke them up, he's asking if he's the asshole because 'some of my friends are pissed because they liked hanging out with Sally and feel I ruined it'.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: No regret at breaking up a couple. Could have been the love of his life.
- Mali: Aww.
- Robin: Yeah that's so true. Yeah exactly. Hey the prank stands the test of time but it's had some negative circumstances. I feel like I should have asked this at the start, what's a Lazy River?

- Priya: You know when you're in like a water park and they give you like rubber rings and it's just a gentle stream.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: You just sort of bump around on your rings and it's very calming.
- Robin: Oh that does sound nice and calming. Until someone reveals your secret [laughs]. I maintain that he's not the asshole. I think it's a very funny prank and I think the situation, now I know what a Lazy River is, the fact that he is just sort of drifting, 'Hey Jake, Sally told me your secret' [laughs]. It's just really funny. It's really funny. Because it's not toxic, it's not just like wahay, you know it's not like something like that, it's actually quite manipulative and I like it [laughs].
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Mali: And also obviously Sally would have explained afterwards that she hadn't told anyone the secret.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Mali: So not to blame for the breakup and therefore not to blame for Sally not being there to hang out.
- Robin: Yeah absolutely.
- Priya: Agreed.
- Robin: Because that conversation afterwards would have been just like 'Why did you tell my friends my secret?' 'What secret? Oh that one, I didn't'. 'I don't believe you'. And then it's an issue of trust and it's an issue of his anger. And those things once those are gone the relationship is dead. Dead!
- Mali: Yeah.
- Priya: And all on a Lazy River.

[Here to Judge- Episode 5]

Robin: Yeah. And it's ruined the Lazy River for a lot of people. That's the worst thing about it.

[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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