

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.

Leila: 'Am I being unreasonable that my housemate ate my birthday cake?' It's that sentence [laughs].

Priya: Yeah [Laughs].

Leila: I really like the start of this one. 'Fuming! I was sent a small birthday cake and had about an 1/8th of it. Seeing a friend for a walk tomorrow so was going to share some with them. I offered some to my housemate and went up to bed. They have had half and all the Happy Birthday writing is missing.' Oh [laughs] there is no punctuation in this, I'm sort of just guessing where it goes.

'They've had half, and the Happy Birthday writing is missing. It's not massive but surely you just take a nibble and leave the rest for the birthday girl/boy. For context it was a small tray bake so not a ridiculously sized portion for them, but really insensitive. So, so pissed off! It's a bit shit being single and having a birthday in a pandemic anyway. I am so annoyed about this. Should I say something/make a joke?' [Laughs] This person is a comedian. Uh good.

Robin: What an end.

Priya: [Laughs]

- Robin: I'm sorry am I being unreasonable or should I just make light about it? How shall I react in every situation in my life?'
- Priya: I don't understand.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Leila: It's like the two devils. Like there's an angel and devil on my shoulders and it's always like, should you complain? Or tell a joke!
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: And most of the time it happens to be a joke. This is insane.
- Robin: My favourite thing about this is that she says that they took a bite and also the Happy Birthday letters are missing.
- Priya: I love that.
- Robin: Not that they ate, but like they've hoarded the letters [laughs].
- Priya: [Laughs] Like she's annoyed that she's going to take that to her friend and friend are going to be like 'Well this cake has been given to you for no reason'.
- Robin: Yeah [laughs].
- Priya: And you have to explain that it's her birthday. Maybe this was how she was going to tell her friend, that her friend had forgotten her birthday.
- Robin: Oh yeah [chuckles] Yeah otherwise it's presented with miscellaneous cake.
- Priya: [Laughs] Also in a pandemic, maybe don't share uh.
- Robin: Yeah that's so true [laughs]. I was really thinking that.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: I'm going to meet up and go for a walk with a friend, I thought OK so it's pre-Covid times then. But now it's just like no, I'm going to share this that my housemates has also licked.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I've seen people sharing banana bread. This is very much first lockdown behaviour. But if someone had handed me something they had cooked in their house with their germs, I don't know what I? Would you eat it? Is the question.

Priya: Well in my office people kept bringing in home bakes and someone had to come around and be like 'Stop fucking coughing and like spitting all over the food and then bringing it into work'. [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah why would you do that?

Priya: They banned it so we started bringing in secret bakes. And then they had to have a real crackdown on it.

Robin: Underground bakes [laughs].

Priya: Yeah it would be like 'There's a cake but you have to like go to the fridge on the fourth floor where no one is anymore and get it from there'.

Robin: Yeah [laughs] oh my God. Uh yeah I don't think she's being unreasonable. I think if somebody ate a lot of my cake, miscellaneous or otherwise, I think I'd be a little bit annoyed.

Leila: But a bite isn't a valid measurement is it? Because that could be anything from using your two front teeth to like fully going wisdom tooth on something.

Priya: Yeah. Well they did say they've eaten half. And I think even if someone was that vague, I wouldn't think, half of this cake is now mine.

Robin: Yeah [laughs] sharesies.

Priya: [Laughs] Yeah. Maybe it's the housemate's birthday as well.

Robin: And that was the way of telling them...

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: ...passively aggressively that they haven't known for the last five years. I'm going to take the Happy Birthday letters and she must surely realise now.

Priya: Have I told you guys about the petty way my friend told me that I'd forgotten his birthday once?

Leila: No, please.

Robin: No.

Priya: He sent me a screenshot of the birthday message he'd sent me the year before.

Leila: [Draws breath shocked]

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Oh my God, that's so shit.

Priya: I was like, very good.

Leila: Yeah like.

Robin: It's just like, it's not my birthday, thanks.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: There's something about being so attached to the lettering on a cake or whatever. I mean I'm trying to

segue way here to, do you remember at Asda when they used to do those photo cakes? I don't know if they still do them.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: You know like you take a photo in...

Robin: Love a photo cake.

Leila: ...and then they scan it and put it onto your. So I had that for my birthday cake one year, I think it was maybe my ninth birthday, which is embarrassing because that's probably too old to be like.

Priya: You're so young.

Leila: But to be-- what?! I'm not nine anymore Priya! [Laughs] Nine! Bloody hell.

Robin: We were never nine, we're so old we skipped nine and ten. That's why we're so old.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs] I just meant, Asda did not have that technology when I was nine.

Robin: Sure, sure. We had to stand still for our face cakes for hours.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: [Laughs] You just have to sit on top of your cake if you wanted someone to know that it was yours.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: And it had a picture of my face on it and it said 'Happy Birthday Leila' and that was fun, we all at the cake. But my mum [chuckles] felt really sad that the idea of [laughs] of someone eating a bit of icing that has my face on. So, she cut it out with some scissors and put it in cling film [laughs] and kept it in the cupboard with like all our

baby teeth. You know like there's always a cupboard that mums have, a sentimental cupboard. And it wasn't until like it morphed or whatever, it was like three years later. And I didn't know my mother had done this, and I was like, 'What is this?' And she was like 'Oh well I just felt sad at the thought of someone eating your face'.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: And that was my tale. So I guess some people are really attached to the sentimentality and emotional messaging that comes with a birthday cake.

Robin: Yeah, for sure. My nan had a 90th birthday face cake and it was in the pub where we always used to go for every sort of Sunday dinner and stuff. And she was presented with it, and she was speechless, like nearly breathless with the technology. And then said 'What will they think of next?'

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: When someone put a knife through it, she pretended she was in pain and jumped.

Leila: [Laughs] A voodoo cake.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's great. It's great.

Priya: I love your nan [laughs].

Robin: Do you think unreasonable then for being like upset about it/should she tell a joke? [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I mean we've given this person so many jokes that they can now use.

Robin: That's very true.

Leila: I say, tell a joke.

Priya: They're welcome to them.

[Here to Judge- ]

Leila: Yeah. That's how I feel about it.

Priya: I don't think they're being unreasonable.

Robin: I think next year just get a face cake of their own face and just cut out their face.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: And just in the sort of opposite of like...

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[Here To Judge- Interim Music]

Robin: 'Am I the asshole for using a term, not knowing what a term meant? Recently at work we had eight employees standing around and only one trailer that needed unloading so I said 'Let's gangbang this thing!' and I, 20 male of course didn't understand the connotation of what I said, like I meant gang up and knock out the trailer.

As soon as my co-worker, 19 male, who's from the Compton area heard me say 'gangbang' he got all mad and was like, 'Dude, you can't say that at work. What's your problem?' I said 'I don't have one, I'm confused'. And then he threatened to report me to the senior manager next time I say something like that at work. I said 'OK' and we went about our day. The next day I tell my dad so he can walk me through it because I didn't get what happened. He then said that 'gangbang' is not an appropriate term and that I could have easily gotten my ass terminated if the senior manager was present when I said it. Am I the asshole?'

Priya: I love that his first instinct is to go to his dad and ask what he said [laughs].

Robin: Sweet isn't it?

- Priya: Aww. He's playing a risky game though. He's definitely going to say something filthy to his dad.
- Robin: Yeah. Because it's just like he means it so he things there's gang, so like there's a gang of us and we're going to bang this one out, type thing isn't it?
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: That's what he thinks. But even in his description like when he says 'Like I meant gang up and knock out the trailer' even that sounds like slightly.
- Priya: Like that's not a phrase that people use in that context at all.
- Robin: Yeah exactly.
- Priya: Does it make him the asshole using a phrase he doesn't know though? Because I don't think it makes you an asshole, it just makes you a little bit dumb, but that's fine.
- Leila: No I don't think so.
- Priya: We're all a little bit dumb sometimes.
- Robin: Exactly, especially when you're fucking 20. By like some 19-year-old Compton prick.
- Priya: 20 male.
- Robin: Yeah sorry 20 male, yeah [laughs]. Yeah when you've got some 19-year-old guy going 'You can't say that at work'.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: I don't like to label people snowflakes but this fucking guy [laughs].
- Priya: [Laughs] The response should have been 'Snitches get stitches' and then everyone should have gone home.
- Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah for sure. I'm sure that's what the dad said as well [laughs].

- Leila: I think there's a risk about just saying words you don't know the meaning of anyway.
- Robin: I kind of sympathise with the dude. When I was a teenager I think I used to try to use more flowery language than I understood, to seem more intellectual. And basically I just learnt, well I just, it's a very long story. I didn't know what the word erotic meant.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Robin: But I watched a film that was described as an erotic thriller and it was scary so I thought it just meant a really scary film.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Robin: And I was just like that I'm just going to assume it means that, I'm quite a clever guy, it's fine. And then a few months later my mum was asking me what kind of film I wanted to watch at the cinema with her...
- Leila: Oh no.
- Robin: ...and I said 'An erotic thriller' and she goes 'What do you think that means?'
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: And I was 'What does it mean?'
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Robin: And she's like 'Sexy'. And I was like 'Well that's what I want to see with you mum, yeah'.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: I've made my peace with it mum.
- Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah it's fine, we're close, it's fine.
- Leila: Some people would consider erotic thrillers very terrifying and erotic films in general.

- Priya: I don't like the idea of an erotic thriller.
- Robin: Especially when you're watching it with mama.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: That is a horrible, horrible idea. The ad for that made me cry [laughs]. I thought he was joking you see, when he's like tying her up and I was like, this is so sad. Um I'm not kink shaming, if you're into that then that's fine, but I just personally find that quite upsetting.
- Robin: There's an edit where somebody asked the OP, 'You could just Google the term' like and then the guy said 'I did after my dad told me to' [laughs].
- Leila: Oh no.
- Priya: Aww.
- Robin: Which is like it's sweet but then also like your dad telling you to Google 'gangbang' [laughs] which isn't.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: And the things that will come up [laughs].
- Priya: I kind of love this sweet baby. This sweet 20-year-old male.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: Just checking in with his dad every five minutes.
- Robin: He's unloading trailers and he's really into team playing [laughs]. This is like quite a sweetheart.
- Leila: Yeah 'Let's gangbang'.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: I feel like he must be American. I don't know why I always think they're American.
- Robin: Oh yeah for sure.

[Here to Judge- ]

Priya: And the guy from Compton would be quite a long way from home if he wasn't in America.

Leila: Oh that is.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah, fair point, fair point.

Robin: I don't think he's the asshole though. I think as Priya said he's a dumb sweetheart.

Priya: A sweet baby.

Leila: [Laughs] Dumb sweetheart.

Robin: You dumb pretty bitch [laughs].

Leila: Dumb Sweetheart is the name of an erotic thriller for sure.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Dumb Sweetheart, yeah, yeah, yeah sure exactly.

Priya: Should we make it?

Leila: [Laughs] Yeah.

Robin: It's 90 minutes of gangbangs, that's all it is [laughs].

Leila: Yeah.

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Robin: 'Would I be the asshole for asking my mother-in-law to stop saying 'cha cha cha' during Happy Birthday?' I really like this already. 'Since I have known her, seven years at least, my mother-in-law has had a habit/tradition of saying 'cha cha cha' between line of Happy Birthday during any family members birthday song. She is the only one that does it and I believe she looks at it as if it's her special thing that she does during birthdays. The thing is that I really don't like it. Not only is it annoying, but it

takes the attention away from the birthday person and onto her every time she says 'cha cha cha'. I put up with it because I am only one of many at these celebrations, and it's a fleeting moment that goes by relatively quickly. So, my daughter is almost three months old and is nine months away from celebrating her first birthday.' [Laughs] This guy is amazing. 'I am currently overcome to an obsessive degree with anxiety over the impending 'cha cha cha', I know that I and my family are going to be subjected to...

Priya: Oh my God.

Robin: ...'on my daughters first birthday...and all following ones. My mother-in-law is a sensitive person who may not always respond to critique or comment in a rational way. So I'm afraid if I told her to stop the 'cha cha cha' specifically for my daughter's birthday, she would take it as an affront to her. That being said, I don't think I can stand the 'cha cha cha' during my daughter's special day, which is about her, not my mother-in-law or her 'cha cha cha'. I feel compelled to say something. Would I be the asshole if I did?'

Priya: [Laughs] I love that they hate saying 'cha cha cha' so many times but they've typed it out more times than anyone has ever typed out the words cha cha cha.

Robin: In quotation marks as well.

Priya: I love it. I love it.

Leila: I don't like-- yeah but also I totally get it. Do you know some people just really annoy you for no reason? And like mundane fucking, like shut-up.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: It's not your moment!

Robin: [Laughs]

- Priya: But do you dread your first child's birthday over those little annoyances? [laughs]
- Leila: Yeah I would actually. If someone was like 'cha cha cha'.
- Robin: [Laughs] He's worried about the 75% of his daughter's life is being spent worrying about the potential of something that goes by within two seconds.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: She's nine months away from her birthday. That's so long to like stress out about it.
- Leila: That is true.
- Robin: Cha cha cha. Where would the cha cha cha come in Happy Birthday? I'm just trying to sort of place it.
- Priya: I think it's [sings] Happy Birthday to you, cha cha cha. Happy Birthday to you, cha cha cha.
- Robin: Oh really so, oh that's more than once. That's annoying. I thought it would be [sings] Happy Birthday to you, cha cha cha.
- Priya: OK yeah that would make more sense.
- Robin: And the end as a kind of like, and back to me for a second.
- Priya: I don't think that would be annoying though, I think that would add a little bit of flair.
- Robin: Yeah. He clearly hates his mother-in-law.
- Priya: [Laughs] Oh yeah.
- Robin: And this is this the reason that he's zeroing in on. But the fact that like, 'I've never said anything before because there are lots of people. If it was just me and her I would have fucking let her rip by now'.
- Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Speaking as a mother, when your kid is 12 weeks old, you've got way more important things to worry about. They've barely just got out of like the floppy head stage like. It's just sort to the point where like I'm worried now for nine months in the future when my mother-in-law says 'cha cha cha'.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: I love it, it could not be more inconsequential. But he's really got an issue with it and I really like that level of fixation [laughs].

Priya: He self describes it as obsessive.

Robin: Mm. I don't think I've ever said 'cha cha cha' before this, before today.

Priya: You've never said 'cha cha cha'? Even like the dancing cha cha cha.

Robin: Cha cha cha. I mean, I probably would have call it the Cha Cha. The Cha Cha Slide.

Priya: That's a good shout, it is the Cha Cha, not the Cha Cha Cha, OK.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: If you'd been calling the Cha Cha, the Cha Cha Cha, then I would be on Reddit complaining about it.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I get it. I get really annoyed by stuff like that. It embarrasses me. Do you know what I mean? I think actually she's quite embarrassing, like it makes you cringe doesn't it?

Robin: Yeah totally.

Leila: Is it not embarrassing when someone's like?

Priya: I'm so not with you guys on this [laughs].

Leila: Oh my God, no. Do you know what? It would be OK but I think I'm imagining her doing it in like a way that she's not sure of herself. Do you know you could do weird and embarrassing shit if you're really comfortable with yourself.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: If you're not aware that you're doing it and just keep doing it and everyone else is noticing, that's embarrassing.

Robin: I think she's really into it.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: I think she does hands. I think 'cha cha cha'.

Priya: It's her thing.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think she's the person who has got everybody's birthday written on her calendar in the hallway.

Priya: Cha cha calendar.

Robin: [Laughs] Very good. Very nice.

Priya: Thank you.

Robin: Yeah she can't stay onto cha cha calendar days. I'm so on the fence with this. Because I agree with Leila there, you know some people just do certain things and you're like that is the thing that will make me kill you [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah exactly it's that isn't it?

Robin: But equally, it's really funny. And I love how much it annoys this bloke. But I love how open he is about it as well.

Priya: Well he's not said anything yet, but I fear he will.

Robin: Yeah that's very true. But I quite...

Priya: What if it causes a rift in the family?

Robin: I quite respect these hypothetical 'Would I be the asshole?' because usually these things are 'So I shat on someone's chest, am I the asshole?'

Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.

Robin: Like I can't believe it. I did something without thinking about it. At least this is kind of like a discussion isn't it? It's like...

Leila: Mm.

Priya: Pre-emptive.

Robin: Yeah exactly, family politics. Unless there's an update where like he shot her in the chest or something I don't know.

Priya: [Laughs] We've not heard from the spouse at all. We don't know how they feel about the 'cha cha cha'.

Robin: That's very true. The fact that he hasn't brought it up with her suggests that he's afraid of bringing it up, and maybe it's a family tradition. But the fact that she's the only one who says it, I really like it [laughs]. Just that everybody is stopping and they go 'cha cha cha' [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: I love it. Actually I think the guy is the asshole just because I really love the mother-in-law.

Priya: [Laughs] Same. I think he'd be the asshole because can you imagine her crushed little face?

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Yeah.

[Here to Judge- ]

Priya: She just got a new baby granddaughter and now she can't even 'cha cha cha' for that granddaughter.

Robin: She's probably really excited, this is the first time she's going to say 'cha cha cha' to her first grandchild and some piece of shit [laughs]...

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: ...had to ruin the day. Yeah I think he would be the asshole. Yet I still hope he does it.

Priya: Oh yeah, naturally.

Robin: 'Cha cha cha'.

[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.

[End of Podcast]