

[Here to Judge- Episode 10 ]

Cast:

Priya Hall

Leila Navabi

Robin Morgan

[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.

Leila: And me, Leila Navabi.

'Am I the asshole for very rarely/almost never wanting to go to restaurants because my girlfriend makes food that's just as good if not better than the restaurant food?'

Robin: Did his girlfriend write this?

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah it does sound like that.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: 'I've been with my wonderful girlfriend for a few years now, and we usually get along great, aside from this current issue. She's a self-proclaimed foodie, which I honestly think is just selling herself short, she's a food genius. She can taste and smell a dish and then turn around and recreate it, or even make it better than the original.' So the girlfriend is Ratatouille.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: That's fine.

Robin: [Laughs]. Oh and subplot, she's a rat, my girlfriend is a rat.

Priya: But don't worry about that, we'll carry on. [Laughs]

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Leila: 'If you taste something and wonder, what's that super subtle flavour? She'll tell you 'It's anchovy paste, sumac, lavender and some other obscure spice that you would never think of.' When someone is cooking something and they go, 'It's missing something' she can tell you exactly what it is. It doesn't stop there. She knew I had touched a diesel truck at work one morning as soon as I walked into the house that night because she could somehow smell it on me. It's either really cool or really creepy, depending on the day. That's not it either. She heard about a lost family recipe and the next week, bam! I'm eating my grandmother's homemade sausage again for the first time in 15 years.'

Robin: She killed grandma.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah grandma is in the sausage.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: 'It's gotten to the point where I don't see any point in going out to eat pretty much ever, except maybe her birthday. Even the most exotic ingredients aren't out of her reach either. And even though it's not about cost, I've saved up more being with her than I ever had in any other relationship. The only other places we go are ramen, she can't figure out how to make the noodles, but she still tries so it's just a matter of time. And sushi.

Our anniversary was recently and I had noticed that our local fish counter was selling sushi grade fish, along with the rolling mats and nori. So I suggested that we have homemade sushi for our anniversary dinner before going out and she got upset and said, 'I'm not learning how to make sushi because then I'll never get a real date ever again!' We ended up going out instead. It kind of took me by surprise that she got so mad, though. She lightly mentioned wanting to go out occasionally to

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

places like Olive Garden because she likes the red sauce. Or other places because she likes the food, and now that I'm thinking about it, she's gotten kind of gloomy because I've asked her to cook on date nights instead of going out more often. She's also brought up that food she cooks tastes better to me because she's tasting and smelling it while she cooks so her senses are dulled by the time it's served. But she has the most acute sense of smell/taste I've ever seen so I think it's an excuse. I just don't think it's worth it to go out and pay restaurant food prices when we can stay home for home food prices and have food that's just as excellent. So Reddit, am I the asshole for not wanting to pay a restaurant to cook my meals because I practically have a private chef of my very own?'

Robin: Oh it really descended in the last like two paragraphs didn't it?

Priya: Yeah, that last sentence really sums this guy up.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: 'Private chef of my own'.

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah. I've got a private chef in my house.

Leila: Oh man.

Priya: Like I'm your girlfriend, I keep telling you!

Robin: [Laughs] 'I'm saving so much more money than previous relationships'. Wow!

Leila: Do you know in my head, and I think it's probably because of my personal situation, I was like this is a lesbian relationship. And I was like yeah this is fine, like it's quite sweet and probably fine. But suddenly when like the thought of it being a man suddenly makes this a lot worse for me.

Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Robin: Oh yeah, it's definitely a dude.

Leila: Aww!

Priya: For sure.

Robin: 100%, it's some lazy piece of shit who is so tight and doesn't want to get out of his sweatpants.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: And he's just there going 'You're so talented...

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: ...You know when I've been sucking diesel. It's great that you know this'.

Priya: There's also that thing where he's like, he thinks she's magic but actually she cooks a lot because you clearly aren't doing it mate. She's not magic, she's just gotten good at it.

Robin: Yeah, yeah for sure.

Leila: But again you'd be so terrified of her wouldn't you, if you knew her? Do you know what I mean like? I'd be so scared I stank.

Priya: Oh right because of the smell thing.

Robin: Oh sure yeah.

Priya: I thought you meant because of the cooking thing.

Leila: Oh no.

Robin: I thought you meant because of killing grandma.

Priya: Oh yeah.

Leila: Yeah that's very...

Robin: She went to grandma and she tortured her for her secret recipe.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Leila: She said, 'Give me your sausage recipe!'

Robin: Give me grandma's sausage!

Leila: 'Marjorie, let me in'.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: If you can guess old grandma's secret recipe, I'm going to wage a bet that her recipe is shit.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Like proper basic bitch shit.

Priya: Getting off like a mention as well of a lost recipe.

Robin: Oh yeah totally yeah, is it? It's Richmond, it's Richmond freezer sausages.

Priya: [Laughs] Is it the first thing that comes up when you Google it?

Robin: It's Walls Balls on Good Food.

Leila: The thing is, if this person, woman, gets Covid she's so fucked.

Priya: Oh! Yeah.

Leila: They're both fucked. So he needs to learn to cook, I mean this is me deciding that she's going to have her senses ripped away from her. Um but actually she'd probably be relieved by it frankly so.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: That's so true though. I hadn't actually realised how many sort of chefs would have got absolutely fucked over by the loss of smell and taste in Covid. It's going to make the next series of MasterChef an absolute banger.

Leila: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Priya: You'll have one person where everything tastes like fish, like that's a thing that people have right?

Robin: Yeah exactly.

Priya: And they'll be like 'This is horrendous'.

Leila: Oh that's a thing, yeah! There's people that are like can't taste.

Robin: Just serving sort of John Torode cardboard.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: OK well? He's an asshole then.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Oh yeah.

Leila: But he really loves it. OK, imagine he's completely earnest, how do we feel then? Like imagine you just know it, he cannot lie. Like he genuinely...

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: ...feels all these things and isn't using it as an excuse.

Priya: I think it's really sweet the way he's like in awe of her.

Robin: Mm.

Priya: But on the other hand if she's actively saying things like 'I'm not going to learn to make sushi or otherwise I'll never eat outside of this house ever again'. I'd probably pick up on the hint at that point, surely.

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah. It's quite sort of I'm a slave in the kitchen at this point isn't it?

Priya: Yeah.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Robin: You've made me learn. She doesn't know how to make the noodles but it's only a matter of time because I'm literally telling her to make the noodles.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: It's a lot isn't it? This guy is a douchebag.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: What's he contributed to this relationship please?

Priya: Um? Just some vibes.

Robin: Yeah I think a lot of praise. So it papers over the cracks of their relationship.

Leila: Mm.

Priya: Lost recipes, that's what he's providing.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah, yeah. Little mystery Gooniesesque quests for her to find mysteries of grandmas that never existed. There's an update from the dude. So he said, 'So her mum picked up the kids and I took her out to a really nice tapas restaurant. She was very excited and seemed to enjoy herself and I apologised for being stupid'. Which is nice, you know him apologising...

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: ...he realised he had made a mistake. 'We took a walk and everything seemed perfect so I asked her to marry me'.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: 'She said, no.'

Priya: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Robin: 'She did it kindly, but she still said no. She said that it wasn't a no forever, but she didn't want to commit to a one-sided relationship'. Fair. 'And also she said, she doesn't think it's fair if our relationship happens on my schedule or my terms. I'm pretty heartbroken. I thought everything was pretty OK.' It was perfect earlier.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: 'Pretty OK between us, but she thinks we should go to premarital counselling and the division of labour needs to change over a serious sit-down conversation'. Yeah!

Priya: This woman sounds like she's got her head screwed on so tight.

Leila: Yeah like she's so...

Robin: I'm really happy for her.

Leila: Like she values herself, I'm so impressed. How do you do that?

Priya: She got a job in a restaurant even though she was a rat. She's very capable.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: She's doing great.

Robin: I know. She's such a good rat mum. I feel like he is the asshole and I'm glad she hasn't married him. But I'm sad that she has kids with him.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs] I feel like she's got her act so together that she can raise those kids, and they'll be fine.

Robin: Mm.

Priya: But yes, he is the asshole.

Robin: Correct.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

[Here to Judge Interim Theme Song]

Robin: The background to this post is as long as the actual post, so here we go. It was posted by Moomin Mummiezzz.

Leila: Oh God.

Robin: 'Am I being unreasonable or cleaners? Background, we have been using a cleaning company to clean our house for the last three years. We have seven different people and all of them bar one, left the company. The last five months the owners, aged 72, 73, have started doing the job. We employ them to come to the house two hours, twice a week, four hours a week in total.' Thank goodness she specified that.

'They have also done a deep clean of the house eight hours in April. We pay £12.50 an hour, so around £200 to £225 a month. Darling husband and I have a toddler and we both work full-time. I mainly work night duties. Darling husband and I are really knackered as we have no family nearby to help us. We have someone help us clean our house for our mental wellbeing.

Since the owners have taken the role, I have noticed the following: cancelling the job at the last minute, like texting at midday so say they can't come in for twelve noon. Charging us for days they did not turn up to work, this happened twice but we did not question it for goodwill as we have used them the last three years. Last week the owner/cleaner was about a two hour clean but she left after an hour and still charged us for the full two hours. The owner/cleaners were supposed to come yesterday but they didn't turn up. We got this email from her today, 'Dear Moomin Mummiezzz' I cannot believe that's what she goes by but sure. 'I have given the cleaning of your house considerable thought and no matter how I try, I can no longer contend with the state we find your home'.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Leila: [Draws breath shocked]

Robin: 'I really do not want to offend you but when we spoke last, you asked me to be honest. Our efforts are in vain, the constant wiping of the sofa which is covered in dried on food.'

Leila: Ugh!

Robin: 'Picking up stuff from the floor. Clearing food and cereal bowls. Clearing food and various other things. Putting washing in the baskets. Picking up toys and various other things from the bath. My staff and I are not servants having to clear up behind people. You are a young couple and there is no reason why you cannot pick up things so we are able to clean. You have the capabilities of making your home a well kept and pleasant place to bring your little toddler up in. Please take all this onboard as being constructive. You are really nice people and I have enjoyed knowing you. I put your key back through the door yesterday, I hope you have found it'. Not that fucking likely.

Leila: Mm.

Robin: 'If I can be of any help, please let me know'. I'm just confused at this. It sounds like we are disgusting pigs but we are just a real tired couple with a small child. Am I being unreasonable?' What a great post.

Priya: This is so weird.

Leila: God this is really strange. If a cleaner, it's one of those things where you think like when you go to the GP and you're like, you know what, they've seen everything so no matter what I present to them it will be fine. A cleaner!

Priya: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Leila: I'd be like if they came to my flat I'd be like 'It is a bit of a mess, you need to clean'. But they've seen everything.

Robin: When we used to have a cleaner, I used to try and tidy as much up as possible before they turned up. I think there was a sort of general consensus of, you do an embarrassed clean before the cleaner comes so they don't think you're a piece of shit.

Leila: But now this cleaner has high expectations.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Because when she's visiting someone who hasn't done their cleaning she's like 'Oh my God'.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: How could anyone live like this?

Robin: But like dried on food on a sofa is pretty fucking bleak.

Leila: That's gross.

Robin: It's not like you just go, Marjorie and her husband are coming, sure they're both on zimmers but their fuckin' you know it's their job.

Leila: Food! It's the food on the sofa that's what's really got me.

Robin: Yeah that's...

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Like you don't want muesli in your sofa, do you know what I mean?

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: No it's pretty vile isn't it?

Priya: The fact that they've had five cleaners quit before as well.

Leila: Yeah.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Robin: Yeah, no, and I don't think I realised that that was an alarm bell before it had gotten to the end. But respect to that like little old lady own a business person for emailing and going 'You're fucking disgusting'.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Yeah good.

Robin: I've learned how to email, to send this to you. [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: It's great. I think the OP and her husband need to sort their fucking lives out. It's hard to clean a house with children around but you don't leave it, get to a feral point? 'We both work', we both work? So what can we do?

Priya: Also, someone is coming for two hours twice a week and they can't stay on top of it. I feel like this person has phrased it in order to minimise the pure chaos of their home but there's absolutely no way that seasoned cleaners, yeah.

Leila: If five cleaners have quit, and then someone is taking time of the day to be like 'I'm really sorry but please assess the way you live your life', concerning.

Robin: Also if you've got time to post on Reddit, you've probably got time to clean your fucking house [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs] Yeah.

Priya: [Laughs] We're just so busy!

Leila: Just remove some of the food from the sofa, I beg you.

Robin: She created the nickname Moomin Mummiezzz. Like put two less zs in there and make have a little mop, have a Flash mop, have a Mrs Hinch mop while you can. I think

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

the old cleaners, not the old cleaners, the business owners who have been forced to clean this horrible couple's house. But the old cleaners, I just think that's so baller, I think to just basically say 'You asked for constructive feedback, your house is a piece of shit.' Sort your lives out. PEACE!

Leila: Yeah.

[Here to Judge Interim Theme Song]

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for the comment I made on someone's selfie? This girl on my Facebook is a friend of a friend. We never hung out one on one and don't really keep in touch other than being connected on this one social media site. She's been cool and we have similar political views and I dunno, I like seeing old acquaintances on my feed and how they're doing. Yesterday she posted a pic of herself sticking her tongue out and making a comment about laundry.'

Leila: [Laughs hysterically] Sorry, you know this person is so appalled that they're making a comment about laundry and I'm like.

Priya: Oh Facebook.

Robin: Too close to home Leila [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Please continue, I'm really sorry.

Priya: My eye was immediately drawn to her tongue and I thought it looked scalloped, like she was biting at the edges of it in her sleep. I get scalloped tongue sometimes, I know how to soothe it and I admit I was ready to suggest some bomb toothpaste I use.'

Leila: [Laughs] Blow up your tongue.

Priya: What a phrase [laughs].

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Leila: Does she mean like good? We should do this afterwards, I'm going to shut up, please continue. I have many thoughts.

Priya: [Laughs] I think she does mean good toothpaste.

Leila: OK.

Priya: Bomb toothpaste.

Robin: Some bomb toothpaste [laughs].

Priya: So I said 'Is your tongue OK? It looks scalloped!'

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: Not thinking much of it, I went to bed. Woke up this morning and saw she replied. Expecting a 'Yes I've been biting my tongue' or 'No lol'. I was surprised when I read this: 'Ha ha ha the best. Possibly dehydrated, anxiety, terrible diet. Cool though, nice to know that you've stared at my picture long enough to investigate the grooves on my tongue. I'm must be your favourite person on Facebook. Looking forward to your constructive criticism of my selfies. It is for my health and wellbeing right? Would be spectacular if you'd said something nice though. Keep up the cynicism, you're a peach'. And then the little emoji that's like kissing and it's got like a winky face and a heart.

Robin: And a weird tongue [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs] And a scalloped tongue just like I've been biting it. And then back to the OP, 'Oooh shit! I immediately apologised and said I meant nothing by it, just that I get that condition sometimes and that's why I thought I noticed it. I then said her hair looks great and I hope she's doing OK. Most of me does feel like a grade A asshole, that I shouldn't be commenting on people's selfies unless it's something nice. But a small part of me is getting a little irritated thinking she overreacted. I didn't say her

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

tongue looks awful or 'Eww your tongue', I asked if it was OK. Yes it was for her health and wellbeing, don't friends do that? Or is that the problem, that I'm not close enough with her to really be in a good place to say that? Am I the asshole?'

Robin: I really, really like this.

Leila: My rule is just don't say something about somebody else's body, ever.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Unless you're a doctor.

Priya: An excellent shout on social media as well, especially if it's a friend of a friend.

Leila: And on social media, I wouldn't give a shit if it was my fucking mother...

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: ...on Facebook you know, being like 'Sorry but you look a bit like this, you've got this and that' whatever fuck off.

Robin: Like it's a Web MD [laughs].

Leila: Yeah like what the hell?

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Like I didn't, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Priya: Like I was just bragging, I've done my laundry actually, I don't need this in my life.

Leila: Yeah I think that's really weird.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: Do you think it's an overreaction from her though?

Robin: It's a long old reply.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Priya: Because she's like [laughs] she's quite salty.

Robin: I mean that's what makes the tongue so red I think, it's just [laughs] it's too much salt.

Priya: [Laughs] Excessive salt.

Leila: It wasn't a witty enough of a reply for me. Do you know, if it had been me I would have been like, right what can I say to deep rinse out this individual now so they understand my wrath.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: We are talking Facebook here.

Leila: Yeah it's very true. Um?

Robin: It was both incredibly passive and aggressive, which is quite impressive I think.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: But yeah I personally wouldn't dish out medical advice on someone's selfie comments. Because selfie comments are always the same aren't they? It's just kind of like, very supportive.

Priya: Looking great hun.

Robin: Look great, oh I wish I was you. That kind of thing. I imagine, I don't do these things.

Leila: Can you imagine someone fully being like 'That mole is going a bit weird, maybe you should get that seen to'. Do you know?

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Yeah, yeah.

Leila: Like no one has asked.

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

Robin: Yeah, looking fire hun, looking amazing, I want to be you, I love you. That mole is looking quite big at the moment. Looking fire hun, looking fire'. [Laughs]

Priya: I can prescribe you some bomb toothpaste for that.

Robin: Yeah [laughs].

Leila: Yeah that's really odd to me, no I find that strange. Please just don't ever comment about someone else's body ever, about anything.

Priya: I agree.

Robin: Yeah it's a strange one isn't it? I think there was an update from the OP.

Priya: The update is, 'So she didn't accept my apology. She said she has to take a bunch of pics before she feels confident to post one, and I have solidified her hatred of Facebook. And in all seriousness a compliment would have been nice.' I like that it's this that solidified her hatred of Facebook and not the fact that it's inciting the alt right, but OK.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: 'My feelings on this are as mixed as your responses. The not the asshole side of me feels terrible, and I deleted my comment so no one else would see it and thus notice her tongue.'

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: 'The you're the asshole side of me unfriended her because if we're not that close, why deal with her treating me like Satan over one stupid comment on her tongue?'

Robin: I think the not the asshole side, reveals that she is actually an asshole in the sense that she deleted the

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

comment so no one else would see her disgusting tongue.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Like to sort of post that in there you know?

Leila: Yeah I'm really not into this individual, at all.

Priya: No.

Robin: No but I would like to see everything they've posted and every comment they've put on everybody's.

Leila: I want to see their fucking scalloped tongue now, frankly.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: I want to know what toothpaste they use that they would describe as bomb.

Robin: It's bomb. It's bomb. It's just some bullshit like Aquafresh.

Leila: The only way to cure scalloped tongue is to blow your own tongue off.

Robin: Yeah. Hey you can't have scalloped tongue if you don't have a tongue.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: It's very true.

Robin: Famously.

Priya: Can that be our new slogan as a podcast please?

Robin: [Laughs] Get it on a t-shirt.

Leila: Asshole. She is the asshole.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: I think she's definitely the asshole. But I do like the sheer no shit is given aspect of that. You know like when they

[Here to Judge- Episode 10]

brought out all those different ways to interact with statuses like cry laughing and love and sympathise and all that stuff. I really dreamed of putting ha ha under people's selfies.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: But never have [laughs] But I thought was. Or angry, angry face on people's selfies. But I never have.

Priya: I would respect it if you did, and I expect it from now on.

Robin: Oh well I'll be going on your Facebook immediately.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Oi scalloped tongue!

[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]