

[Here to Judge}

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.

Leila: 'Am I being unreasonable to tell my friend I don't want her birthday gift? Three weeks ago my friend asked me to look after her two hamsters whilst her house was being decorated. I have never had hamsters and I don't really like them but she was desperate for someone to look after them so I said yes. When she asked how they are, I had been positive 'Oh they are fine, don't worry. We're getting on great' etcetera. Today is my birthday, she rings me 'As my gift to you, I'm letting you keep the hamsters'.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: So I said 'Oh no, don't be silly, I enjoyed having them but they belong to you'. And she replied 'No, no, no I insist'. I don't want them. Am I being unreasonable to say no? I think she can't be asked with them anymore to be honest [laughs].

Priya: The audacity.

Robin: Yeah that is a baller move.

Leila: I haven't got any time for hamsters. Have you?

- Priya: [Laughs] Go on, we've heard about your thoughts on lizards so this doesn't surprise me in any way, shape or form.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: Hamsters are pathetic. They don't do, like what is the? First, are they genetically engineered to be pets? Like why?
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: First of all it's not like a cat or a dog that can like walk around your house and be a pal. Like you have to keep it in a cage. And then like when you want it to like be around you just take it out of the cage [laughs] and then like put it back.
- Robin: Yeah and then you lose it.
- Leila: Yeah and then they get lost under the floorboards.
- Robin: They've very good um starter pets because they die quickly.
- Priya: Yeah two years tops innit?
- Robin: Yeah I think if a pet is what it is, which is a lesson about death, then hamsters are quite good for that. But they are shit.
- Leila: They're shit, they bite, they don't love you.
- Priya: I loved my hamster when I was a kid.
- Leila: But it didn't love you too though Priya, and that's the sad truth isn't it?
- Priya: That is true. That is true.
- Leila: Do they not gross you out a bit? They're a little big grim aren't they?
- Priya: No.

Leila: With they're little teeth.

Priya: They're cute, they're fluffy.

Leila: Not cute! They hurt you.

Priya: They've got stupid little fingers.

Leila: They're like rats. They're like fluffy rats.

Priya: I don't mind rats.

Leila: Oh really?

Robin: You don't mind rats?

Leila: What's wrong with you?

Priya: No I think they're quite nice pets aren't they? They're quite clean, rats.

Leila: Who hurt you?

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I love that she's done that, she's iconic, that's exactly what I would do.

Robin: I bet her house wasn't even getting decorated [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs] She just needed a break from them.

Leila: I might just let them run free in the wild if I had hamsters. Can hamsters survive in the wild?

Priya: Not here, they're like desert animals.

Robin: Are they?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Oh I'd be taking mine to like Barry Island and like being like 'Run free' [laughs].

Robin: Barry Island [laughs].

- Leila: It's the closest that we've got to the desert really isn't it?  
Um.
- Priya: It's by the sea [laughs].
- Leila: Where did they come from? What is the like biological so like?
- Robin: When a mummy hamster and a daddy hamster love each other very much.
- Leila: What is the genus of these? Like hang on, I want to know because...
- Priya: They're rodents so they are close to rats.
- Leila: That's horrid!
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: Right, I once held a ferret and I was sick.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: Because it really feels so grim.
- Priya: Oh yeah ferrets are gross. They're like snakes but furry and [hurling sound].
- Leila: I'm sorry, right, a ferret is to a hamster what a sausage dog is to a normal dog.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: [Laughs] Like a hamster is just a condensed ferret. It's like if you scorched...
- Priya: This is like mad SATs.
- Leila: If you squished a ferret between your hands, hamster.
- Robin: I've realised something as I've been hearing you speak and I really want you to be the new host of Animal Hospital.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: A petition to make Leila the host, 'Oh God it's disgusting!'

Priya: Just making calls on whether they live or die.

Robin: Yeah [laughs].

Leila: I also feel sick at stingrays, you know stingrays. Because they look like if you've got you know like a cookie cutter and then you cut a chunk out of a shark, that's what I think a stingray looks like. And I think that's foul. I don't like animals that look like they've come from bits of other animals. Do you know what I mean?

Robin: No! [Laughs]

Priya: What the fuck? [laughs]

Leila: [Laughs] I feel like if you chopped a hamster in half, no, not a hamster in half. If you chopped a ferret in half you'd get a hamster. And that grosses me the fuck out. Same with lizards.

Priya: You could say that about any furry animal because all a hamster is a furry ball. So any part of a furry animal could be a hamster.

Leila: No because hamsters have literally no features, you can't see their legs. They're literally just like a ball of fluff with ugly fucking beady eyes and horrible teeth that bite you, like ferrets. But like I'm very curious to know what the skeletal structure of a hamster is. Do you know what I mean?

Priya: You can feel their little bones...

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Yeah!

Priya: ...when you hold them, that did weird me out a lot, like...

Leila: And that's disgusting.

Priya: ...eww.

Leila: Yeah [laughs] yeah exactly! That's what I mean it's disgusting, it's so gross, it's so gross. I get like such an angry energy from hamsters. They've had a fucking gutful of being here and yet we keep continuing them.

Priya: They are angry.

Leila: I really hope that no one gets hamsters anymore. I hope that we just go back. I'm going to buy all the hamsters and I'm going to order a FedEx shipment to Egypt.

Robin: To Barry Island [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: To Barry Island.

Priya: Which as we all know is the natural habitat of all hamsters.

Leila: Yes.

Robin: Very much the Egypt of the South Wales area.

Priya: All of them on the log flume.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: Hamsters are the worst but guinea pigs are also fucking disgusting.

Robin: Is there much difference?

Leila: Yeah there is. Hamsters look more like a rat and a guinea pig looks more like if um...

Robin: Yeah what's the theory? What's cookie cutter out of today?

Leila: I need to look it up. I need to look at a guinea pig. So a hamster looks like if a ferret was cut in half. And a guinea

pig, hang on, because I need to look at it, I can't remember exactly. Yeah so uh, they're horrible!

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs] Just objectively cute.

Leila: Right every guinea pig is a librarian.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Look at it. Look at the link and tell me. Look, I'm going to send you a link to a photo, the first photo that comes up is a guinea pig right. Look at these two and tell me they are not librarians. Right, I'm going to put it in the meets and we can sweep this out as well.

Robin: I'm very excited about this.

Leila: Look at them and tell me they're not librarians, because you can't.

Robin: Have they got red eyes? They've all got fucking red eyes.

Leila: They've been reading too much in the fucking library.

Robin: [Laugh] Been up doing an all nighter on Pro Plus.

Leila: I don't like them, I have so many thoughts about these in particular. In fact when you said hamster, I might have been thinking about guinea pigs because these really are grotesque. They have a face you want to fucking slap, do you know what I mean?

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: I really hate them! I hate them so much. Where are guinea pigs originally from?

Priya: I don't know.

Robin: I love that like, your hatred has to be like, where are they from? It's foreign innit? I know it's from somewhere [laughs].

Leila: No but they shouldn't be here for their own wellbeing.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: They're not essential like.

Priya: Oh my God.

Robin: Ah! Gonna give them a slap [laughs].

Leila: No they're really disgusting and their hair is coarse as well. Have you ever touched one?

Priya: No it's so silky.

Robin: Yeah they're fluffy right?

Priya: It's so silky.

Leila: Oh well the one I touch before wasn't.

Priya: Well we don't know if you were touch a guinea pig, a hamster or a rat at this point.

Leila: No.

Priya: Because you don't seem to know the difference.

Leila: Actually that's very true. I don't like any of them! I don't like them. I want them to go away. They're all horrible and nasty. And I think that they're too smart for their own good and I think they're going to hurt us.

Priya: So if a friend left you with two of them and said 'Happy birthday' how would you react?

Leila: I would take them. I would let them free. I would let them free. I really hate it, I hate it. No one should have them. They're fucking little cages stink and they're horrible. They all really go through me, they're disgusting,

I hate them. That's my thought. And I really have nothing else to say here apart from she should never have bought them in the first place but good on her for getting rid of them.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: They're horrible.

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Robin: I think we should do animal ones every week [laughs].

Priya: I think all we're going to find out is that Leila hates all animals. You don't like lizards. You don't like rodents.

Leila: No I don't, I love, no, no, no. I love animals. Listen, I love dogs, love cats. Horses, too big.

Priya: Yeah I agree. I agree.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: This is my thoughts on horses right. If like a human being is 40 units, right? And then a cat is 4 units, like you can love anything between those things, right? But anything above or below. So hamsters, guinea pigs, all that, are below 4 units. So like 0.6 units, that's too small to love. A horse at 650 units, too big to love.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Could kill you. Do you know what I mean? [laughs] So there's only certain levels, that's why dogs, cats, and humans are all friends and everyone else can fuck off.

Priya: What about the fact that most human babies are smaller than cats? So below 4 units.

Leila: No, no. I think, no, I think? What? I don't think that.

- Priya: Yeah well my cat is like 5 kilograms, how big are babies Robin?
- Leila: It's not as big, like a baby is a human so a baby is still 40 units because it will one day.
- Priya: Right, you're going with average sizes [laughs].
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: This doesn't apply to like, you know like I'm quite short but we're all 40 units regardless.
- Robin: But what is? What is this measurement?
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: Units of what?!
- Leila: [Laughs] I don't know.
- Priya: Units of size Robin.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Robin: It feels like you're genuinely trying to teach us something but it's like a PhD of madness.
- Leila: [Laughs] I really, I can't even tell you how much I think this sounds normal. And I've just realised how, I am, someone is going to come up to my door and be like 'Hello, come with us'.
- Robin: 'We are RSPCA, please stay away'.
- Leila: [Laughs] I really don't like fish, same with fish.
- Robin: Too small.
- Leila: Can't love a fish.
- Priya: What about a fish that is equivalent to 40 units?
- Robin: Yeah.
- Leila: There isn't one. Where?

Robin: Dolphins.

Leila: Yeah dolphins see, dolphins are fine, you can love a dolphin. I absolutely believe that.

Robin: Shark.

Priya: But you can't love a shark?

Leila: Yeah you could. I think sharks are endearing in their own way. This is the thing, whale, humongous. Stingray, is a sheet of paper, it's a bit of a...

Priya: She's um panicking at the lack of logic now.

Leila: No and that also applies to like width. Do you see what I mean?

Priya: Sure.

Robin: Oh yeah, no I assumed.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: [Laughs] I'm trying to think what the smallest animal you are allowed to love is, and yeah it's a cat. Rabbits are too small as well, that's weird.

Priya: You can get big rabbits though that are the size of cats.

Robin: You can get massive ones can't you?

Leila: But they're just not, I can't explain it but they're just not the right level of unit. They're just a bit below. I think in rabbits, I don't think it's all about size.

Robin: But what about those massive snails? Those huge snails.

Priya: Oh yeah.

Leila: Yeah but that's too big Robin!

Robin: They're not bigger than a human.

Priya: But they're smaller than a cat [laughs].

- Leila: No but like, no but they, look I can't express what I mean by this but...
- Robin: A big snail is not bigger than 40 units Leila.
- Leila: A unit, right. A unit. Yes it is, it absolutely is.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: Like land snails is fucking snails no, because they're not meant to be that big. Do you know what I mean?
- Priya: So they're comparative units.
- Leila: Yes. [Laughs] Whatever like the organic um size of a certain specimen is, that's what we base this on. So the average human is what size? Whatever it will all come together, 40 units. The average size of a cat, you get some that are probably 2, and some are 8. The average size of a cat is 4 units, you can love them. Right? Snail, the average size is probably 2 units. No you can't love them. Same with like...
- Robin: Can we put this podcast in like a time capsule? Because I feel like these are the kinds of beliefs and rantings that are not appreciated in our time but future generations will appreciate them. Like oh she was ahead of the game.
- Priya: Yeah when this is the standard unit of measurement for all living beings, they're going to want to know where it originated.
- Robin: Yeah the Navabi scale.
- Leila: Yeah it's a real thing. Listen, I bet, I really genuinely believe, I've worded this really badly, I've not done well for the cause.
- Robin: [Laughs]

- Leila: But I think there's probably some scientist out there who is like 'Absolutely'.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: Finally someone is speaking the truth.
- Leila: [Laughs] No! No, no, no, there's someone who has probably put their time and energy explaining this in a more eloquent way. And I genuinely, if anyone hears this and wants to say anything, please tell us because it's really what I believe. And I'm not, like it's really what I value in my life by and anything. Sometimes it grosses you out.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: Sometimes something can be so small on there, so like, like an ant and the creepy crawlies are terrifying because they're like so small of a unit, do you know what I mean?  
[laughs]
- Robin: But they're so inconsequential like a butterfly. Is a butterfly bad?
- Leila: Yeah.
- Robin: Why is a butterfly bad?
- Leila: It's, Robin, it's a small unit.
- Robin: Sorry I'm such an idiot yeah, the unit thing of course, sorry.
- Priya: I can understand the big ones because a horse could kill you with one kick...
- Leila: Yeah.
- Priya: ...and that is scary. The small ones I don't get.
- Leila: They could like climb up your bum hole and kill you from the inside.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: Do you know what I mean? [Laughs] I've got it, no I've actually got it, I've actually got it now.

Robin: Like an army of ants who can work together to climb someone's bum hole.

Priya: But at that point they're at 40 units because there's so many of them.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: Right shut up, I've got it right. This is it, this is it, this is it, I've actually got it.

Priya: OK.

Leila: What units are. What the whole thing comes down to is you don't want anything that could kill on you by trampling on you or anything like that or kicking you. Or anything that would fit inside of you, that's too small of a unit. Apart from cats.

Priya: Where would you be fitting a guinea pig?

Leila: Well they're...

Priya: Or a rabbit?

Robin: Isn't there that story of Richard Gere who like shoved gerbils up his ass?

Leila: Yeah!

Robin: Gerbils are the same aren't they?

Priya: A gerbil is tiny.

Leila: A gerbil is very small but it's definitely not within the loveable unit.

Robin: I'm sure you could put an rabbit up your ass.

Priya: Oh I'm telling you now, I don't think you could put a rabbit up your ass.

Robin: Well, challenge accepted Priya Hall [laughs].

Priya: [Laughs] I'm glad the camera's off.

Robin: Yeah [laughs].

Leila: Those are my thoughts.  
[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Robin: That was like a manifesto, that was beautiful.

Leila: I really believe in it.

Priya: I'm sort of coming around to it.

Leila: No but you are!

Robin: Weird though, there is a strange logic to it.

Leila: Really think about it, really, really think about it. Please.

Robin: As soon as you defined it as, you don't want someone to trample on you and you don't want something up your ass, I was like, sold.

Priya: Yeah in fairness, I don't want either of those things.

Robin: Sold.

Leila: Yeah I know. I'm not joking.

Priya: For me it was when you shouted 'Babies are 40 units too' [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs] Yeah they are.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: That was when it clicked for me.

- Leila: Listen, how many times am I going to have to say this? It's about average size and lovability. Lovability is what the unit is measuring.
- Priya: But I thought lovability was based on size?
- Leila: A little bit but it's also based on like intelligence and ability to like kill.
- Robin: I get the intelligence thing.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: Like that's why people like cats and dogs because...
- Leila: But they're also like an OK size, do you know what I mean? You couldn't put any of those up your bum.
- Robin: Oh sure. Well of course it goes back to size.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: I don't know, I have lots of thoughts.
- Priya: I think you could only give up an animal in the way that this woman has given up her hamsters, if they were so unintelligent that they were below four units. So I'm with you.
- Leila: Yes, hello [laughs] thank you!
- Priya: I'm with ya [laughs]
- Leila: I'm actually so, so happy like that this is being heard. Like I actually feel like I've got something off my chest.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Leila: I really, I'm not trying to be funny or like or whatever, I'm really being serious. Because I actually think about this quite regularly.

- Robin: I'd love it if you panned your camera out, and on your walls was just written like units and like measurements and diagrams [laughs].
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: There's like red string connecting everything.
- Robin: A diagram of someone passing their ass and snail going up it.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: The photo of the librarian guinea pigs.
- Robin: [Laughs] Oh that was so long ago.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: I'd really like you to draw and animate a chart of all the animals with their representative units of intelligence.
- Leila: I will really try but I have various strong beliefs about all of this. I will but it's going to be my life's work is the problem.
- Robin: That's fine.
- Priya: You're the Darwin of our time.
- Leila: Yeah I am! It's not an easy thing to hypothesize. Listen, at the start you all acted like I was mad, now you're onboard.
- Robin: I think that's cabin pressure [laughs].
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: I feel like we've been here for so long.
- Robin: Should we wrap up? [laughs]
- Leila: Yeah so this one was about the hamsters.

- Priya: Do you know what a hamster at this point? Because for this whole thing you've been thinking guinea pigs.
- Leila: Yes I do, I looked it up, I've got a picture of one in front of me now and I feel...sick. No if I were her, I would have just let them run free but good on her for like having some sort of morality I guess.
- Robin: But she hasn't turned them down, she's stuck with the present isn't she?
- Leila: Yeah she absolutely say 'You fuck off with your terrible decisions'.
- Robin: Because I'm not an asshole.
- Leila: I also want to make it completely clear that two hamsters doesn't make up for the lack of units. It doesn't work like that.
- Priya: Also hamsters are like really aggressive of other hamsters aren't they? And they...
- Leila: Yeah if anything...
- Priya: ...can like kill each other.
- Leila: ...it diminishes the number of units.
- Priya: Maybe that's what this woman is trying to do. Anything to get rid of them.
- Robin: Do you think because they're angry about their units?
- Leila: Do you know? Like two hamsters isn't like, so if one hamster is one unit, getting four hamsters wouldn't make it loveable, in fact it would make it minus four units.
- Priya: So the more hamsters, the fewer the units.
- Leila: Yes.
- Robin: Pfft.

- Leila: Because they cancel each other out with their shitness [laughs].
- Priya: How do we put a cap on this one?
- Leila: I really don't know.
- Robin: Yeah do we need to do a too long to listen for our own commentary?
- Priya: And is there any way to do it without saying the word units.
- Robin: Um? I think this woman is not unreasonable and I look forward to hearing more of Leila's theories next week.
- Priya: I also think this woman is not unreasonable and I'm still quite concerned that Leila doesn't know what a hamster is and is basing all of this on guinea pigs. Maybe you could love a hamster.
- Leila: No I really couldn't. Don't you dare get me one! Because I will kill it in front of you like a la Fleabag. I will hold it, actually that was my favourite part of Fleabag in the play, when she holds the hamster and then crushes it.
- Priya: That is a guinea pig.
- Leila: Oh yeah [laughs hysterically].
- Robin: [Laughs hysterically]
- [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.

[Here to Judge- 22 Feb- The Navabi Scale]

[End of Podcast]