

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: 'Am I the asshole for naming our kids after past cats and not telling my husband? Growing up I had about 35 cats throughout the 18 years I lived with my mum, she did rescue and foster work. Three of those cats were named Samson, Sabrina, and Sonny. I have two sons and a daughter. Their middle names are Samson, Sabrina, and Sonny.

When I was pregnant with them my husband didn't really care about names. He gave his input but didn't feel strongly about any names, especially middle ones. I suggested these and he agreed they sounded nice. The bad part, I didn't tell him they were the names of my previous cats. I don't know why. The first two, I did just think the names sounded good with their first names regardless of my cats being named that. But when kid three came I immediately went to my cats names for inspiration and settled on Sonny. My husband liked it but again, I didn't mention the cats.

Then the other day I mentioned my cat Samson being FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) and we are looking to adopt a senior FIV kitty. He said 'Samson? Please don't tell me you named our kid after the cat'. He said it in a joking way but I felt the need to come clean and told him

all of our kids are named after some of my past cats. I told him 'I wouldn't have named the kids that if I didn't genuinely like the names but yeah they are from my past cats'. He wasn't really mad but he seemed super annoyed and thought it was weird. Am I the asshole?'

Leila: This is weird isn't it?

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: I don't think it's that weird. They're not like proper cat names.

Leila: Do you really not think it's not strange?

Priya: Well I mean they're his kids. Like surely he's fine with the names up until this point.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: The fact that he wasn't that bothered about what names she gave them is weird. Just being like, 'Nah that's kind of your domain' is bizarre.

Robin: I didn't think it was weird until she then said, 'By kid three, I immediately went to cat names. My muse, the cats'.

Priya: There were so many other inspirations you could have gone for [laughs].

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: Like pick any film.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Just go on IMDB what's the first film that comes up? What's the first three characters?

Robin: Roman Polanski, oh God!

Leila: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: A great shame.

Leila: Bustopher Jones?!

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Wait hang on though, because she had 35 cats for 18...

Priya: I think it says her mum was a fosterer of cats. Maybe not 35 at once, like a revolving door of cats, that's why she had so many names to choose from.

Leila: Imagine. Actually in my head there's only, like how many names can you name? Do you know what I mean? Like I feel like...

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: A great quiz show [laughs].

Leila: I only know 35 names, we should go around in a circle and just say names and we'll run out.

Robin: I'm quite happy to do that.

Priya: Can we say our own names?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: Yeah OK.

Priya: Yeah let's do it [laughs].

Robin: We can get some sort of like quiz show music underneath this and we can sell the format OK?

Leila: Put that in now.

[Quiz Show Sounding Music]

Leila: Yeah, yeah, good let's do it. Names? OK, Leila.

[Ding]

Priya: Priya.

[Ding]

Robin: Robin.

[Ding]

Leila: Sam.

[Ding]

Priya: Richard.

[Ding]

Robin: Louis.

[Ding]

Leila: Robert.

[Ding]

Priya: Olivia.

[Ding]

Robin: Jenny.

[Ding]

Leila: Mohammed.

[Ding]

Priya: Idra.

[Ding]

Robin: John.

[Ding]

Leila: Jericho?

[Ding]

Leila: Is that a name?

Priya: Jeremy.

[Ding]

Robin: Oh.

Priya: Yeah I feel like, is Jericho a name?

Leila: I think it is.

Robin: Somebody is probably called Jericho. Steve.

[Ding]

Leila: Ainslie.

[Ding]

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: [Laughs] Jeff.

Robin: Are you counting? I hope so. Because otherwise this is a weird game [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Um uh? Chris.

[Ding]

Leila: Haven't we had Chris? Oh.

Robin: You're out! You're out of the game! [laughs].

Leila: [Laughs] I mean it gets hard. Do you know what I mean?

Robin: We managed 18, oh we were halfway there, that was a piece of piss mate.

Priya: And then we got bored.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: We were just doing too well.

Robin: I guess that is a format point, I suppose that we needed to have like a quick time limit and then when Leila said 'Didn't we already have Chris?' we should have like shocked her electric wise or something.

Priya: Oh OK.

Leila: Yeah electric wise as opposed to pretending to be a ghost [laughs].

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Priya: OK we're going for actual physical punishments, good [laughs].

Robin: I think so. You know? Like a sort of, or like a gunge? Do they do gunge anymore?

Priya: Yes gunge!

Leila: And also out of those names, how many of those names would I give my children? Probably not all of them. My mum had a book, like those little books that have baby names in them.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Which I'm sure are redundant now because of the internet but.

Robin: Mm-hmm.

Priya: Mm.

Leila: I'm curious as to like how people go about choosing? Like it's normally like grandparents or whatever right? Or I just like the sound of it.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Is there like a protocol?

Priya: In Punjabi families, Punjabi Sikh families, what they're do is they'll go through their Guru Granth Sahib, they'll open

it up at a random page and the first word on that page, whatever letter that begins with has to be the letter that the child's name begins with.

Leila: Ah!

Robin: That's cool.

Leila: God that's like a really convenient and easy way of doing things.

Priya: I mean there are lots of names within that. Like 'A' Jesus Christ there are so many names but it helps narrow it down.

Leila: It does narrow it down.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: It's a big responsibility, I don't know how I'd go about naming my child. I literally don't know how. I can't even compute. I think maybe I'll adopt just so it comes with a name.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Do you know what I mean?

Priya: I mean sure, there are kids needing adoption, that's a good enough reason as any to adopt a kid.

Leila: Yeah really.

Robin: Yeah [laughs]. I just can't think of a name.

Leila: God, if I ever try to adopt now this is the episode that would get pulled up and they'll be like 'You are not a suitable person to become a parent'.

Priya: [Laughs] Like there are so many worse reasons you could give for adopting a child.

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's very true [laughs].

- Robin: I don't think this lady is an asshole. I just think she's lacking in imagination.
- Priya: Yeah. She's too into her cats.
- Robin: I think so. If you had 35 cats, all with human names, it's quite hard.
- Leila: Are they all human names? Is that what she's clarified?
- Priya: No, she didn't clarify that. Robin has added that little bit of information. I feel like Samson, Sabrina and Sonny, although I know a horse called Sonny but...
- Leila: You know a horse [laughs].
- Priya: I know a horse called Sonny.
- Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah sorry.
- Leila: I am acquainted with a horse called Sonny [laughs].
- Robin: Let's not move past this too quickly. How well do you know the horse Pri?
- Priya: Very well, um, he's my cousin's horse and he's really old so she's had him for...
- Leila: [Laughs] I thought you were going to say, 'He's my cousin'.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Priya: I'm going to say it now. I don't think any of them are the asshole. I think that they're both weird. Why isn't he interested in what his kids names are? But why does she have so many cats? This raises more questions than it does answers.
- Robin: And also that he's not like, he's just a little bit annoyed about like, it's not like 'My life is a lie!' but it's sort of like, it's a just a bit like communicate with your partner.

Leila: No but he took no interest so it's his fault in my opinion. Like if he'd had an interest then fine.

Priya: How involved with naming your kids were you Robin?

Robin: I was incredibly involved I'd say, 50%.

Leila: Were you? Really? Oh wow.

Priya: Very progressive of you.

Robin: Thank you very much, I'm a modern man.

Leila: How did you choose your children's names? Did you just like the names?

Robin: Uh my son's name is the Welsh of my middle name, my dad's middle name and my dad's dad.

Priya: OK.

Leila: Oh.

Robin: And my daughter's name we always liked, and I think I found out later on that it was this character of a book that my wife really loved as a kid.

Leila: Aww. See nice reasons, no cats involved.

Robin: No, no, no. And both were middle names of Priya's cousin's horse so.

Priya: Yes.

Leila: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Robin: That will make sense to us.

Priya: What if they edit out all of the stuff about the horse except for that line?

Robin: [Laughs]

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for using the wrong bags for my daughter's birthday party? My daughter just turned six, we had a birthday party for her on Saturday. That morning was pretty hectic, I was outside setting up and suddenly my wife comes outside yelling about how the grocery store screwed up the birthday cake and I didn't notice.

All that happened was that they spelled our daughter's name as Sarah and it's Sara. I said, 'Who cares, just scrape off the H' but she insisted on returning it. As she's leaving she says since I screwed up already I should make up for it by finishing the decorations. And I go into the kitchen and I ask my daughter, 'What's the most important thing?' She says 'The gift bags.' I found all the candy and toys and what I thought were the bags they were supposed to go into. So I make up the bags, my daughter helps, and she thinks they look great and she's happy with them.

My wife comes home and takes over, satisfied by the new cake and the attempt I made at helping. So a little while after that, the guests arrive. The day went pretty well until the end. My daughter reminds us that they need to hand out gift bags. My wife panics thinking she forgot about them, but she says 'Don't worry, dad made them' and she looked so relieved until I got the box. She looked inside and was horrified. 'What the fuck is this?' she whispers. And she thrusts the box back at me and rushes to the bedroom. I follow her and find her sitting on the bed crying, and she's so embarrassed. Why? She won't say.

I'm not sure what to do because people are trying to leave and they're confused as to what's going on. Then I just take over goodbye duties and hand out the bags to kids at the door and say bye with my daughter. We're halfway through doing that and my wife comes back and took the box from me and brought it to the bedroom and

threw it on the ground. What the fuck? She finally tells me 'Those are dog poop bags' and basically I'm stupid and I've ruined all the hard work she put into the party.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: Well Reddit, they don't look like dog poop bags. They're just small pink bags with hearts on them. Who really cares? I tell her 'It's not like they're dirty, they're small bags like any other bags' and damn it she freaked. She says she's so mortified she doesn't even want to show her face at the school anymore. So yeah I've been bringing my daughter to school every day this week (which has been making me late for work). My wife will barely even speak to me even though my daughter thinks everything was fine. She laughed when I told her they were really dog poop bags.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: My wife got even more mad at me for telling her. I told my wife she needs to chill and she basically said I was a huge asshole and she's mad and I don't think it's a big deal. And I still don't. Actually, I think I'm the one that should be mad at her for keeping this going for almost a week.' Too long, didn't read. This man gift bags for his six year old daughter's birthday party, dog poop bags, and his wife is annoyed. What do you guys think?

Robin: I like him. And I like him and his daughter and I think they're the best people in the story.

Priya: I like his style of writing, it's very dramatic.

Robin: What the fuck? I get the sort mum politics side of stuff, because that would be embarrassing I'm sure. But it sounds like she hates him. She hates her partner.

Priya: I'm going to come at this from a different point of view. What if this woman has put loads of work into giving her daughter the perfect birthday party? This guy has not

helped at all. And then all of the sudden the one thing he's tried to do and actually put any effort into, he's given out dog poop bags.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: I personally wouldn't be annoyed but if I did have the right bags, and that's the one thing. Also the one bit where he says 'My daughter says it's fine', she's six mate. She's six.

Robin: Sure [laughs].

Priya: She couldn't give a fuck [laughs].

Leila: The question is, how many of these parents have dogs and will know what these bags are?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Because I wouldn't have a bloody, I don't have a dog, I wouldn't have a clue if it was a dog's bag.

Robin: Yeah you'd imagine maybe a couple.

Priya: Also they're pink with heart on them.

Robin: Yeah I think he does seem like a bit of a sort of Homer Simpson type.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: You know? And I tried my best and I went back to the store and I decorated and she was really happy that I did something. You know and then...

Priya: Well his wife went back to the store. He didn't even go back to the store.

Robin: Oh!

Priya: Because he was like 'Just scrape off the H, it's fine whatever' and she was the one that was annoyed that it was spelt wrong.

- Leila: I think that's stupid, I think scraping off the H is a fine idea.
- Robin: I think so as well.
- Leila: I think that's actually quite inventive.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: Or turn the H into something else like a window of a house.
- Robin: [Sniggers]
- Priya: But if it was your partner and they hadn't noticed that someone had spelled your child's name incorrectly on their cake, would you be annoyed?
- Leila: Uh? I don't know. I think, I wouldn't be annoyed, I'd just be like, oh lol you're so dopey, and then I would scrape it, and then I would do something.
- Robin: To be fair this guy might not have even named his kid and it could be named after a cat, so I think that we could just sort of [laughs].
- Priya: Well in fairness the cat's name is Sarah so.
- Robin: Yeah exactly, I thought it was the cat's party.
- Leila: My sister's name is Sara, fun fact of the day. It's Sara S-A-R-A. As kids we used to, you know you get those customisable things like pencil's with names on or whatever the fuck. Obviously Leila and Sara, we never had any, like none of that ever worked for us.
- Priya: Whenever I would go to Leicester because there's such a high like number of Indian people there, there would always be Priya things because it's a really common name in India.
- Leila: Ah.
- Priya: So I would clean up, I'd be like yes! Notebooks, pens...

Leila: [Laughs] Yes please.

Robin: In a dog poo bag, in a dog poo bag!

Priya: I've still got a mug with my name on it that my mum bought me when I was like four from Leicester.

Leila: That's amazing, can I just say? Good on your mum. My mum used to let us have names that were close to ours instead.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: That was our decision but she used to encourage it. So I used to always have Lola.

Priya: Right.

Leila: Or I had Leanne, I had Lily, I had everything that wasn't Leila that started with an L. Sara always had Sarah, there was always a Sarah one and she was fine with that. And then we had another sister and her name was Emma, so I guess by that time she'd learnt her lesson.

Priya: [Laughs] Make it hard for the older ones.

Leila: It's always the fucking way isn't it? [laughs]

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I don't know what I think about this generally. I think it's fine like I think she needs to get over it now. They didn't know, because it's not like the bag said 'puppy poo pouch'.

Robin: Yeah 'dog shit in here please'.

Leila: [Laughs] Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's not even like, like it had hearts on it, why? Why have dog poo bags got little hearts all over them?

Priya: Yeah. That is weird.

- Leila: That must be demoralising if you have to pick up the shit with a bag that's got like hearts all over it and carry it around.
- Priya: Carried with love.
- Leila: Aww, no.
- Priya: I think I disagree, I think OP is the asshole. He sounds like he genuinely has been an active hindrance to this party and I think this woman has just blown up. That was like the straw that broke the camel's back. Like the bit where he asks his six-year-old what needs to be done for the party, are you mad?
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Priya: Are you mad?
- Leila: That is a bit nuts yeah [laughs].
- Priya: [Laughs] Like 'I don't know'.
- Robin: Do you know how the oven works? [laughs]
- Priya: [Laughs] Sarah, is it?
- Leila: [Laughs] Sarah, yeah, yeah.
- Robin: Do you know where the dogs go? I have no idea [laughs]. Yeah, no you're right he does seem a little bit dopey but I do think a week long argument.
- Priya: Yeah, it's a bit much.
- Robin: I'm not somebody who can like, I need to fix something straightaway [snaps]. Like it needs to be like within an hour it needs to be sorted. Like a week would kill me.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: It would kill me.

Leila: I've been trying for the last four minutes to think of like a pun about doghouse and how he's in the doghouse now but I can't.

Robin: Sure.

Leila: So um, I just wanted to let you know that. I did try.

Priya: We appreciate the effort.

[Here to Judge- Interim Song]

Robin: We're off to Mumsnet. 'Am I being incredibly ungrateful? I'd arranged a special Valentine's meal which was delivered yesterday from a local restaurant for us to celebrate Valentine's Day. When we were in the kitchen prepping darling husband stated he'd completely forgot about Valentine's Day, fair enough, not worth getting upset by. However today, he presented me with a gift wrapped using the love heart serviettes from the restaurant and the gift tag from the box, and it's a bloody Easter egg.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: [Laughs] He tried claiming it as a Valentine's egg and not an Easter egg. I said, it was clear he bought it for Easter, as by his own admission yesterday he'd forgotten it was Valentine's Day. There was no card, which to me adds to my suspicions. I'm more pissed off by him lying to me and trying to backtrack from the gift. Am I being ungrateful to be disappointed by any of it?

Leila: Stay right there. Stay right there, I'm just going to show you something. Right, here we are. This is a bag of gifts I got my girlfriend for Valentine's Day from the petrol station. Are you ready?

Priya: It's a dog poop bag.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

- Leila: Box of six Creme Eggs. This is a Lindt Bunny, Valentine's bunny.
- Robin: Nice, it's a Valentine's bunny
- Leila: Galaxy Enchanted Eggs. And then finally I got her hand sanitiser [laughs].
- Robin: A Valentine's sanitiser.
- Leila: Well it's a Love Hearts sanitiser because I felt bad that everything else was Easter themed. So I really have not got a leg to stand on in criticising this guy because that is, although I did not buy these for Easter, I did go out and buy these for Valentine's Day. Which means I think she needs to stop because maybe that's what he did.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Robin: I think the issue is capitalism here, and why should there be Easter eggs on the shelf? I'm a firm believer in once a big holiday finishes then you can put the next holiday out. But never double-cross a holiday.
- Priya: Agreed. Agreed.
- Leila: Really?
- Robin: And this is a hill that I will die on.
- Leila: But like would you be insulted if your wife got you an Easter egg for Valentine's day? Surely that's better than getting like...
- Robin: I'd love an Easter egg.
- Priya: A teddy or something.
- Leila: You know, like Easter eggs are just like the best. Easter products are always the best.
- Robin: Yeah so what are Valentine's chocolates? Like a Milk Tray or something?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: There are loads of little hearts with tiny like chocolates in that were more expensive than the Easter eggs, and I thought the Easter eggs were better anyway, I'd rather get her multiple Easter eggs than a Valentine's.

Robin: Yeah I guess you could be like sort of just always get presents from the previous holiday. So for Valentine's, get her loads of Christmas stuff. For Easter get her loads of Valentine's stuff. And when it gets you know like...

Priya: Like you're in arrears.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Yeah, yeah exactly yeah [laughs]. I was in a supermarket earlier and they had loads of like single stemmed roses that were just like half price and stuff and just like slowly wilting. Like who's getting it? Who's going for that?

Priya: Yeah. I really like the audacity of the guy in this story. Of admitting he's forgotten and then deciding, nah you can turn this around and haphazardly wrapping something that was already in the house. There was no need, she was already fine with you forgetting. I love it. I love the balls on the kid.

Robin: But sort of prepping of food, his eye just sort of catching the Love Hearts serviette and going, hang on [laughs]. And then cracking on with it.

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah [laughs].

Priya: I imagine the napkins had like a little bit of food on them as he's wiped it his mouth.

Robin: Yeah he'd already wiped his mouth from it [laughs]. It's like Béarnaise sauce all over it.

Leila: [Laughs] I believe him! I believe that he went out and bought that off his own accord.

- Priya: Oh I don't believe. I don't believe that.
- Leila: That's what I did, so therefore that's...
- Priya: He's already admitted to not doing that. That's what I love about this guy.
- Leila: Well that's his own fault then.
- Robin: But I guess he might not know that his partner was OK with it.
- Priya: Yeah. Maybe.
- Robin: He might just be panicking and feeling kind of like. But it's the lying about it 'No it's a Valentine's egg'.
- Priya: [Laughs] A Valentine's egg.
- Robin: Sure it's got a picture of Jesus on it but [laughs].
- Priya: And yeah the audacity of using the serviettes that came with the takeaway she ordered.
- Leila: That! That's bad.
- Robin: And some of the wrapping as well, wasn't it?
- Priya: [Laughs] It's so funny.
- Robin: And the gift tag from the box as well, like, from like Gusto on it [laughs].
- Priya: I love him! [Laughs]
- Leila: No stop, that's horrible [laughs].
- Priya: His vibes are way off, I really enjoy it.
- Robin: That's funny that like the previous guy who ruined the party, you were like 'asshole' and this guy you're like 'legend'.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: I don't know what the difference is.

Priya: I have no idea.

Leila: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: I think it was the involvement of the six-year-old in the last one, I was like don't you bring her into this.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, sure. I love the phrase Valentine's egg.

Priya: They should exist.

Robin: It's a Valentine's Santa.

Leila: It's an egg of love.

Priya: It symbolises fertility, now let's get to it.

Robin: [Laughs] What do we think then? Is he an asshole? Is she being unreasonable?

Priya: I don't think she's being unreasonable but on the other hand I do also love her partner.

Robin: [Laughs] You really do, don't you?

Priya: [Laughs] I just think it's so funny.

Leila: No I think that she's being unreasonable, I do. I think that he's fine, I think he's off the hook.

Priya: You're only saying that because you've got a bag full of Valentine's eggs at your feet.

Leila: [Laughs]

[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

[Here to Judge- Valentine's Egg ]

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[End of Podcast]