

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Cast:

Priya Hall

Leila Navabi

Robin Morgan

Josh Widdicombe (special guest)

[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 about removing shoes indoors? I'm interested to know how many people actually have the rule of no shoes indoors? We had this rule when I was young and have carried it on when I moved out. I think it makes sense not to walk all over the house with shoes that you've been wearing outdoors. Who knows what you've stood on, and then bringing all that into your home. I have shoe covers that I provide to workers. Especially with young children, I think it's even more important not to wear outdoor shoes indoors. Carpets/rugs will harbour all that dirt no matter how much you Hoover up'. This sound like an advert for like Dettol.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Do you know what I mean? You never hear somebody describe something as 'harbouring dirt' in real life do you? 'My actual am I being unreasonable is, if someone came to my house as a guest, would it be u' I think that means unreasonable 'for me to ask them to remove their shoes? Obviously in a polite manner. I feel slightly embarrassed having to ask when these people already know. I've noted certain extended family members get

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

annoyed at my request, but the way I see it, it's my house. If I don't walk with shoes, why should you when you've chosen to come to my house?

Priya: I don't think they're being unreasonable. I think the bottom of your shoes are going to be gross. I think it's a bit weird to having shoe coverings specifically for...

Leila: Yeah it is [laughs].

Priya: ...work people coming to your house. But also I think family members not wanting to take their shoes off, they can just get out of your house. Why are you on Mumsnet complaining?

Leila: Yeah have you guys, I want to know this, have you worn shoe covers before?

Robin: I have when I was viewing houses about a year and a half ago, one estate agent in two houses gave us shoe coverings, like these little sort of blue stretchy things.

Leila: Oh.

Robin: But it felt like I was in CSI and there had been like loads of dead people in the house. Like it wasn't the vibe that you wanted, like 'This could be our forever home' but forever starts with this little weird fucking shoe condom.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: Why was that? Was that because of Covid or just because they didn't like the look of you and didn't want you ruining their house?

Robin: Yeah this is pre Covid, this is Robin Morgan has shit on his shoes vibes.

Priya: Yeah they made a judgement call and they were right weren't they? You did have shit on your shoe.

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Robin: Oh yeah big time yeah. They didn't even ask my wife to do it, it was just me.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: That bit is the only bit I find unreasonable for workmen. Because I think we're a shoes off house, but I think most are?

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Wouldn't you say? What are the stats on this?

Leila: In the year of our lord Covid-19 2021, absolutely.

Priya: Surely.

Robin: Yeah mask on, shoes off.

Leila: Yeah absolutely. Hands. Face. Space. Shoes. Feet.

Priya: We've got to take the feet as well?

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: Would you ever get those shoes that are like have got little bits for your toes?

Priya: No [laughs] Or like the socks with the individual toe holes.

Robin: Oh this is weird, no.

Leila: Yeah. I went out with a boy who wore those once, I went on a date with a boy from Tinder and he was wearing those type of shoes.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: You know those shoes, it's like a glove but for your feet almost.

Priya: That's a red flag but for your feet.

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

- Leila: And I was like 'What are those for?' and he said 'It's for climbing you later'.
- Priya: Ewwww!
- Robin: Noooo!
- Leila: And I was like aww, maybe I am a lesbian, so that was weird. That is weird isn't it to have those shoes?
- Priya: Yeah just in your normal day to day.
- Robin: On a date those as well, that's a bold choice isn't it like?
- Priya: Incredibly suspect. I bet he's like, this is a conversation starter, but the conversation has never gone well.
- Leila: Buying shoes is like quite an arduous process isn't it? Like what makes you think, you know what, fuck all of these normal shoes, I'm going to go on a toe shoe website.
- Priya: I imagine the sizing has to be so specific as well. Because what if you've got like long toes. Or like stumpy toes, there's too much space in your toe holes.
- Leila: Yeah you don't want a baggy toe shoe.
- Robin: They'd almost have to be like bespoke right? Like I used to work in a shoe shop and like imagine helping someone try on that and then them go 'Oh no'.
- Priya: Measuring their toes [laughs].
- Robin: Yeah exactly the little Clarks thing but like for each individual toe.
- Priya: Good lord six centimetres!
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: I don't care what my date's wearing. I only care if my date likes my shoes and makes a point of being like 'You've got cool shoes' I am such a shoe narcissist, don't give a shit

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

what shoes other people are wearing. In fact, I'd get annoyed if someone had cooler shoes than me.

Robin: Yeah, original Jordans.

Leila: I say that like I go around with fucking light up platform boots do you know what I mean? [Laughs]

Robin: A Heely.

Leila: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: I like that that's your definition of a cool shoe, a light up shoe. I agree but I just wasn't expecting it.

Leila: Those ones with the little dolly in the bottom [laughs]. Do you remember those from Clarks, did you ever have one of those?

Priya: Like a doll?

Leila: Yeah. Did you ever have that?

Priya: No.

Leila: They're like in the bottom of the shoe and you take them out and play with them. I don't know, still I never even liked dolls.

Robin: Your shoe is haunted.

Priya: That was soul, not a dolly.

Robin: It was the first ever owner of those shoes who shrunk in a curse.

Priya: And we have a human soul.

Leila: I need to show you these shoes from Clarks.

Priya: Where do the dolls go? Oh in the shoe.

Robin: They look like little coffins for dolls.

Priya: [Laughs] This seems like a cover for smuggling drugs.

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Leila: I used to think about what I could put in there instead of a doll, and I'm not talking drugs, I'm talking like Babybel and then I was like that's disgusting.

Priya: [Laughs] Imagine it melting from your like foot sweat.

Leila: Oh [laughs].

Robin: That's like proper survival mode isn't it? I forgot my lunchbox but check it out. I've got my heeled shoes!

Priya: A single cracker.

Leila: They're like 'Where's your school bag? Where's your homework?' And I'd like lift my shoe, my foot up...

Robin: Yeah [laughs].

Leila: I'd undo my little pouch and I'd get it out. Unscrumple it. I'd fold it in like 12 [laughs]. I wonder if they do them anymore? I reckon it's health and safety now innit? For the doll if anything. Anyway, unreasonable or not unreasonable?

Priya: Not unreasonable.

Robin: Yeah I don't think she is being unreasonable.

Leila: I think if you've got a box of shoe covers and someone comes in your house and they don't really want to take off their shoes, even if they're not a worker, it's like Jane from down the road, you'd just be like 'Oh or you could do this if you want, it's just because we've got new carpets' it doesn't matter if you don't does it? Just say it.

Robin: I think that's psychopathic behaviour.

Leila: What is?

Robin: Giving shoe covers to people. Especially friends.

Leila: What if they're not workers?

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Robin: Yeah I think if you kind of go 'Could you just pop your shoes off?' Like when I enter a house I say 'Do you want me to take my shoes off?'

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Because I'm a nice courteous man.

Leila: And you go 'Oh yeah, do you mind?' is what you say to that, innit?

Robin: Or I like make a big thing about taking my own shoes off. Like if I'm coming in with somebody, I'll like make a big thing of it, 'Oh there we go, in the hallway!'

Leila: Oh it's nice to let them breathe isn't it?

Robin: Yeah each individual toe [laughs].

Leila: Yeah [laughs].

Priya: And then he takes his shoes off and he's got those socks that have the individual toe.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, he's got shoe covers underneath his feet.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Came prepared.

[Here to Judge Interim Music]

[Promotion for I Wish I Was An Only Child- New Episodes Every Wednesday!]

[Here to Judge Interim Music]

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for being a bad host and not covering up my altar when my in-laws come to visit?'

Robin: [Sniggers]

Priya: 'I have two altars, one of them is ancestral'...

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Robin: Nice!

Priya: Fancy. 'One of them is ancestral and it's in a spare room. You wouldn't know it's an altar at all unless you 'know' about this stuff, because it looks just like a shelf with pictures of family, little stones or cigarellos' which I believe is small cigars right? 'The other one'...

Robin: Is that a religious thing?

Priya: I don't think so [laughs].

Robin: Did Jesus smoke cigarellos?

Priya: 'The other one is most obviously an altar used for spiritual practices. There are statuettes, candles, bowls, flowers, stones, jars, cigarellos' again 'figures etcetera'.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: 'I have an old wasps nest and (cleaned) bones as well.'

Leila: Ugh.

Priya: My in-laws have a hard time of it and my mother-in-law always makes a comment when she comes over. I try to avoid having candles going but there are times when I need them to burn through. She insists that I throw a blanket over it whenever they come over'.

Robin: Over candles?

Priya: I mean that's a risky game in and of itself [laughs].

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: 'The last visit was about two weeks ago when she and some of the nephews/nieces were around. The nine-year-old asked me to tell her about the altar so I did, explaining in kid terms what things did. She was fascinated by it but her mum, my sister-in-law got angry

and told me I was being inappropriate. Mother-in-law threw a fit after they left and told me that I scared her, that it was inappropriate etcetera. She kept telling me that it's the most important thing to be a good host for family and that I'm not being a good host because I won't take simple requests.

She said that the least I could do was switch the altar so that no one has to deal with seeing my creepy stuff. Sister-in-law got pretty pushy about it as well because she doesn't like her kids being around it. My husband told them 'No' and that if it bothers them they can host others instead. This turned into a big fight when there's unasked for opinions flying all over the place. I forgot to add, they aren't Christians or any religion. Am I the asshole?'

Leila: What's an altar? It's like in a wedding that you stand in front of it. I always thought it was the thing you read your notes off, do you know what I mean?

Priya: So an altar is anything that you sort of put offerings on. Right? So you have one in a church and that's where you put like holy books and stuff.

Leila: So like at a party, a table with food on it, is that an altar?

Priya: Let's say so.

Robin: Kind of yeah, or it could be like a fireplace type vibe. Anything that is a shelf.

Leila: OK.

Priya: Any shelf that you worship at.

Robin: Any sort of floating shelf from IKEA.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Did you say she had bones on it, please?

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

- Priya: Clean bones. And also some candles have to be burned through. Like I don't understand what religion it is. Also an old wasps nest, for why?
- Robin: Bees. Bees please Priya, you're going to get cancelled.
- Priya: Wasps.
- Robin: Oh I'm going to get cancelled.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: It specifically said 'old wasps nest'.
- Robin: Shit! I mean I say this a lot but is this some pagan bullshit? [laughs]
- Priya: [Laughs] This may be some pagan bullshit. Let's take the weirdness out of it that she's got mini cigars on her pagan altar.
- Robin: Yeah quite obsessed that on both altars.
- Priya: Yeah. Is it unreasonable for a mother-in-law to ask her to cover it up for the sake of other family members? I think the mother-in-law is being unreasonable. I don't know why.
- Robin: Do you?
- Priya: I think if you're creeped out by someone just having an altar, you need to get a grip. But on the other hand I wouldn't be surprised if those are clean human bones at this point, so yeah fair enough cover them up maybe.
- Leila: I don't know. I feel I'd cover that. You just do it as like a common decency don't you?
- Priya: But like it's a religious thing isn't it? So if you walked into someone's house and they had like a Christ on the cross on the wall, I think that can be quite grotesque when they're like really, really vivid. You don't ask people to

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

cover them up, you just sort of deal don't you? They're not asking you to look at it.

Robin: I don't think it's unreasonable to not want to cover the stuff up. If you're that, it's clearly a massive deal for her and it's a big part of her life. Like yeah you tidy up before people come over but I don't think there's anything I own that I'd be like I'm going to cover that. And also if you go over to someone's house and there's a sheet over two thirds of the room you're like what the fuck is happening here? [Laughs]

Priya: And that sheet is on fire.

Robin: Yeah totally!

Leila: Yeah, I just probably wouldn't be friends with her. Be as religious as you like but I feel like it's a bit oppressive to be like. But also that's someone's house and they can have what they want in the house.

Priya: In my nana's house, she's a Catholic, she's got a Christ on a cross in a number of the rooms and in my bedroom there when I was a kid, she had it was like a figurine that hung on the wall and it was Baby Jesus and Mary and if you were lying underneath it, they were looking down at you.

Leila: Oh no, I'm all right.

Priya: So I used to go to sleep staring into the Virgin Mary's eyes, just like this is fine, this is cool.

Robin: How many cigarettos were they smoking?

Priya: Well the Baby Jesus had one in each hand.

Robin: Oh cute! They grow up so fast.

Priya: [Laughs]

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

- Leila: I'd be really into having like a little crucifix thing if the Jesus did have a cigarette, I think that'd be quite funny.
- Robin: Yeah. Although if he's on a cross he's not really got any hands free. He'd just have to have it in his mouth just like burning out.
- Priya: A Cruella Deville long cigarette.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: How big is like her fucking house if she's got two altars?
- Priya: I know.
- Leila: That's my question.
- Priya: Like I don't know anyone with one altar.
- Robin: Does she go to church?
- Leila: If you're going to have an altar which from what I've heard from you guys today is a place for offerings, put some Jaffa Cakes on it. Do you know what I mean?
- Robin: Well in fairness, there's a wasp nest and some clean bones on there. And cigarettos for afterwards.
- Priya: [Laughs] Crispy and crunchy, yum, yum, yum.
- Leila: Oh god!
- Robin: Mm.
- Priya: [Laughs] In what religion is an old wasps nest a required offering?
- Robin: Uh yeah, good question. Is she a wasp?
- Leila: I don't know. What do you do with an old wasps nest?
- Priya: Put it on an altar?

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Robin: Yeah buy an altar on eBay, maybe she just got it off eBay, she doesn't actually give a shit but it's part of her vibe now. It feels quite witchy.

Priya: It does, doesn't it?

Robin: Do you think?

Priya: And the fact that she's got candles that need to burn through. Do they need to burn through because they're part of a spell?

Priya: Yeah what is that about? That's not Jo Malone is it?

Leila: Is this an asshole or an unreasonable one?

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for being a bad host?'

Leila: I don't think that's a bad host, I just think it's a bit, I think it's a weird host. I think you're weird person for having an altar.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Unless the altar.

Robin: ssss.

Leila: Altars, has sandwiches on it.

Robin: Yeah that's fine but imagine like bones, bees, cigarellos and a ham sandwich and that's fine for Leila.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: It's wasps mate, it's always been wasps. She's got no interest in bees.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: Bees can go fuck themselves.

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

[Promotion for Welcome to Spooktown- New Episodes Every Monday!]

Robin: What's this? I'm just looking in the Here to Judge postbag, let's see what we've got this week. Oh we've got a guest read from the wonderful Josh Widdicombe.

Josh: 'AITA for likely cursing out a baby? I know the title sounds bad, but hear me out. Me a 23-year-old male and my fiancée, 26-year-old female, were at home. I was with our 5-month-old and she was catching up on shows. She came back past the doorway and the baby saw her and starting to yell and cry for her. I, in a friendly tone by the way, said 'Fuck you, you stupid baby'.

Leila: [Laughs hysterically]

Robin: [Laughs]

Josh: 'However, I said it in the nicest way possible and babies can't understand people so it should have been fine. However, she overheard me and blew up, saying I shouldn't use that vocabulary while with a baby, and if the baby is stupid maybe I shouldn't be taking care of it. I just brushed it off but it's the next day, she hasn't even acknowledged my existence. So I think I might be an asshole'.

Leila: Oh my god.

Robin: Love that, thanks Josh [laughs].

Priya: Oh god. This guy sucks! Josh doesn't suck, the guy does.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Priya: 23-year-old male.

Robin: Who's this guy coming on our podcast?

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: [Laughs] OK I think this is fine.

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

- Priya: You think it's fine to swear at a baby?
- Leila: Yeah. Yeah I do. No listen I would never scream at a baby or like shout aggressively at a baby but like a little whisper, like a little you know [whispers- fuck you] I think it could like do quite well.
- Priya: [Laughs] While it's like going to sleep in its cot and you're just like 'Fuck you, good night'.
- Robin: [Laughs]
- Leila: If it's annoying the fuck out of you, just 'Fuck you'. That's what you do, do you know what I mean? Like and sometimes that's like a gentler way to deal with things. It depends on how old the baby is.
- Robin: I think it's really funny. I think it's really, really, funny. And I've definitely not, I don't think I've said anything this extreme to my children but I've definitely like in passing gone, 'They were acting like a dickhead'. Like to my wife. I don't think I've said...
- Priya: Yeah it's so personal and cutting.
- Robin: For me, the worst bit is stupid baby. The fuck off is fine to me.
- Leila: [Laughs hysterically]
- Robin: [Laughs] Because I think that's it 'Fuck off' like my daughter has woken up in the middle of the night for like the tenth time, I've been like, 'Oh for fuck sake, fuck off'. Like out loud. But I haven't gone 'You're a stupid baby, you're a stupid baby'. That for me is the worst bit.
- Priya: Yeah and the fact that he says he said it nicely makes it all the more sinister to me. Like the idea that he's like 'Fuck you stupid baby'. And the baby's like 'We're friends, everything's cool'. I don't like that he's betraying the baby.

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Robin: Yeah, yeah.

Priya: That baby can't stand up for itself.

Robin: Sure. And they can't stand up [laughs].

Priya: Poor stupid baby.

Leila: Babies can't do anything, do you know what I mean? Like have fun with it while it doesn't know anything you're saying or understand you.

Robin: I'm on your side.

Priya: Would you prefer it if they could do things? Because I think that would be really creepy if like a baby-baby could talk.

Leila: If you can have a baby right, and it can do one thing, like a normal adult thing but like you know what I mean, the sooner that it comes out it's capable of doing this one thing, what would you choose?

Robin: Juggle

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: No I think I need a juggler in the family and I want it to be an hour old baby who can't hold his up but he can like do tricks [laughs].

Leila: Imagine. Do you have to have like tiny little balls?

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: What would you choose Priya?

Priya: Probably chores around the house. So like washing the dishes would be great. Getting a baby to wash the dishes would be amazing.

Robin: Like a Robot Vac.

Leila: [Laughs hysterically]

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

- Robin: A baby can't walk but you just put a little cloth on it. Like I'm sure there are things.
- Leila: [Laughs] A little cloth.
- Robin: But I think there are babygrows where you can have basically like a mop thing on its bum and then when it scoots around the floor it cleans the floor like that.
- Priya: That means, yeah that they're useful during that period where they can't do anything. They should be contributing to the household.
- Leila: I would choose whistling but I'd only want it to whistle, you know Take That's 'Shine', and everybody's like 'Where's that whistling coming from?' and then they look into the cot, and it would be like [whistles]. Imagine how terrifying?
- Robin: Yeah totally but like if you wanted a tiny baby to sing the back catalogue of Take That, just get Mark Owen.
- Leila: Yeah [laughs] Oh no! Don't be rude with Mark Owen, he never did anything wrong.
- Robin: Is that Mark Owen cleaning Priya's flat?
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: That would be really cool, imagine. Maybe I'd want it to sing. I don't know? No I think whistling is kind of more fun instead of...
- Robin: Singing would be so weird [laughs].
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: Describing it as 'lightly cursing' when you're saying 'Fuck you stupid baby' as well is a bold claim.
- Robin: I'd rather I think have like a babygrow with Stupid Fucking Baby on it, than something like Daddy's Little

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Wingman. We should sell merch with Stupid Fucking Baby on it [laughs].

Priya: With Josh Widdicombe's face and a little speech bubble.

Robin: Yeah [laughs] Yeah the speech bubble it is quite important in that bit of merch, otherwise it looks like we're calling Josh Widdicombe a stupid fucking baby.

Priya: I'm worried that just because babies can't express themselves and stand up for themselves we assume they can't understand but that baby is like 'I'm going to fucking remember that dad and I'm going to kill you while you sleep'.

Robin: We stopped swearing when my son was picking up certain words more like for ages I swear in front of him. Not at him but just generally. And then it got to the point where he was sort of like copying words we were saying, we were like OK.

Leila: Like what? Go on, tell us what he said.

Robin: At one point, oh what was it? He was saying something in the car. My wife took a video of me almost crashing the car because I was laughing so much. I think it was definitely fuck, it was fuck.

Leila: That's funny.

Robin: He was just saying 'fuck' over and over again in the back of the car and I was like, 'Yeah fair enough mate. Traffic eh?'

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: London driving eh?

Leila: I think it's funny, I'm sorry I do. They're just words. There's so much more offensive things in the world than swear words aren't there?

Here to Judge- Stupid Baby

Priya: I still don't think he should call his baby a stupid baby.

Robin: Stupid fucking baby.

Priya: Stupid fucking baby.

Robin: No what was it? 'Fuck off, you stupid baby'.

Priya: Fuck you, you stupid baby.

Robin: I think 'fuck you' is more fine than 'fuck off'.

Priya: I think it's more personal.

Robin: I think that's good parenting. That's all I'm saying. Speaking as a father, that's good parenting.

Priya: [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 Waltars. 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]