

Here to Judge-Episode 48- We Are Aquaphonics

Cast:

Priya Hall

Leila Navabi

Robin Morgan

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

Priya: Welcome to Here to Judge where we scour the internet to dissect dilemmas and decide who's to blame. Here to Judge today is me, Priya Hall.

Robin: Me, Robin Morgan.

Leila: And me, Leila Navabi.

Priya why didn't you get the memo of grey jumpers, what are you doing?

Priya: I'm so sorry. If you suspend your disbelief for a minute this could be a grey jumper. Just everyone be cool OK? Who's first, Leila?

Robin: Or be colour blind.

Leila: Is it me?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Why did you say that with disappointment? Like you're sick of the sound of my voice or something.

Robin: [Laughs]

Priya: No I'm just announcing it.

Leila: Who's first? Leila. Fuck sake. OK.

Priya: I said, Leila!

Leila: Thank you that's the enthusiasm I want to hear my name screamed at. OK 'Am I the asshole for bringing my garden with me when I moved? I F25 have been renting a house since I was 18, seven years. When I moved in the backyard was a large piece of dirt, no lawn or anything,

just a decently big backyard with a fence all around'. Fucking hell no need to brag. 'It was cheap but not a great house. When I signed I wanted the backyard space, that's why I did it'. I've just adlibbed what that says because I. 'Over the last few years I erected a small garden shed and pizza oven (transportables). Planted lots of veggie gardens and a big transportable garden bed and put some nice pavers down. And an aquaponics setup and generally made the backyard a really green and beautiful space to be. It became the green oasis all my friends gathered at'. [laughs]

Priya: Who is this person?

Leila: My green oasis brings all my friends to my yard and they're like this is so green.

Robin: [Laughs]

Leila: 'A few months ago my lanyard' [laughs] my lanyard.

Robin: Someone's been on a rush hour train.

Priya: Have they poisoned you via your tattoo?

Leila: Someone's been on a rush hour train. Yeah I don't know what they put inside the ink, probably narcotics. 'A few months ago my lanyard, my land' [laughs] I can't say it. 'A few months ago my landlords let me know they were ready to sell'...

Robin: The prospect of landlords Leila [laughs]

Leila: I know I can't even say it.

Robin: It's morally reprehensible.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: 'They let me know they were planning to sell and my final move out day was a week ago. When I left I brought my garden with me to my new place. Nothing was directly

planted into the ground and nothing permanent. I dismantled the sheds and the greenhouse, loaded up all the pots and garden beds onto a truck and cleared the yard in three days with lots of help. My former landlords were furious over this and demand I return the garden to its former state. Apparently they'd listed the house for sale with pictures of the garden and potentially buyers were walking away from the house when they saw the barren backyard. They're accusing me of stealing their plants and wrecking their yard. Legally I'm fine, my contract said I could garden and I have photos from before I moved in that showed the backyard was in the same state as I first found it although with more fertile soil now probably. The same estate agent signed off my final inspection and I got my deposit back. I received mixed responses though because I saw the landlords taking pictures of my backyard before I left but didn't make a connection because in my humble opinion when pictures of a house have furniture in, you don't expect to get free furniture'. Zing. 'Some of co-workers suggested that I am the asshole because the house valuation clearly has fallen dramatically because I didn't tell them I was taking my garden with me so they couldn't plan to landscape before the lockdown hit.' Too long, didn't read 'Am I the asshole for moving my garden that I built in my former rental house into my new house, upsetting my former landlords who didn't expect me to take it with me?'

Robin: No.

Priya: No. Fuck landlords.

Robin: 100% no fuck landlords.

Priya: Yeah I mean I do think this person is strange. They describe their garden in way too much detail and it makes me uncomfortable. But no.

Leila: Aquaponics.

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Robin: The green oasis.

Priya: The green oasis.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: The delicious green oasis. What are you doing? I don't trust anyone like you.

Leila: Doesn't aquaponics sound like an improv group at the Ed Fringe at 2am?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: Hello! We're Aquaponics. It's very like.

Robin: We are fucking white guys from the Oxford Brooks!

Priya: Come to our green oasis!

Leila: Lovely volunteer, what's your name? We know your name Jeremy, you're always here.

Robin: This sketch takes place under water.

Leila: Like all of our sketches. Think of any word, fish, how convenient.

Robin: Nemo!

Leila: [Laughs] I can't, I can't cope. I think this is ridiculous though. Who builds? Like again agree fuck landlords. But that's a lot of stuff right?

Robin: Three trucks in three days.

Leila: Imagining valuing your person wellbeing enough to put that much effort in? [laughs]

Priya: Imagine all the time. From 18 to 25 to have the time to build a garden like that. Build a house. Don't bother with the garden.

Leila: No, no.

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Priya: You've got the wherewithal to build your own house mate.

Leila: I think the rule is when you're renting, I suppose, I mean I definitely will always be for the rest of my life. I think the rule when you're renting is you have to live in squalor.

Priya: Sure.

Leila: Because you have to just hate yourself. You're not allowed to drill into the walls, she says having drilled into all of her walls.

Priya: My flat is so cold at the moment because in the summer I was opening the curtains and Hulked out and pulled them out of the fragile, fragile plaster and now I'm not allowed to have curtains.

Leila: Can't you just redo it though?

Priya: I can't redo it. I wouldn't even know how.

Leila: I'll do it.

Priya: You'll do it?

Leila: Yeah hello have we not spoken about when I pulled the chunk carpet out of the floor?

Priya: [Laughs] That's true.

Leila: I like to do home. I actually will, I will fix it for you.

Priya: Come and fix my curtains.

Robin: Can I be there not to help but to watch?

Priya: Yes.

Leila: It sounds like you don't believe I know what I'm doing Robin.

Priya: I'm 100% sure.

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- Robin: I'm very keen to say that this is not a sexist thing. This is very much a you've ruined your last flat [laughs].
- Leila: [Laughs] I'll have you know I got my deposit back in full.
- Priya: Also just to add an element in, it's a bay window. It's not normal curtains otherwise I could put 'em up.
- Leila: All right love I've got a bay window.
- Priya: [Laughs] 'All right love'?
- Leila: Thank you [laughs] All right love, hang on. I've got a bay window, I know how to. I've literally put curtains up in a bay window before. And I'm short and I've stood on stuff and done it. I've got tools.
- Priya: OK well the plaster barely exists but you're more than welcome to try and drill into it.
- Leila: Just replaster it, it's not that hard.
- Priya: What replaster it?
- Robin: Replaster [laughs]
- Priya: Are you out of your mind?!
- Leila: [Laughs] Yes.
- Robin: Get an NVQ Priya, get an NVQ.
- Priya: [Laughs] Replaster it. As if. As if.
- Leila: I would love to do that as a job, like...
- Robin: We've got bay windows there and upstairs and I found in the local hardware shop a little card for a handyman who is called Andy, he's handy Andy and he comes around and does all the things that I would ask my dad to do but my dad doesn't know how to do either. So if you want handy Andy, you're more than welcome to have handy.

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- Priya: I would love Handy Andy. Well my landlord should be doing it. But I'm embarrassed to tell him because I'm the one that Hulked out and pulled the curtains down.
- Robin: If they can come down that easily though.
- Priya: Yeah. I did pull them pretty hard [laughs].
- Robin: [Laughs] Why? Why?
- Priya: I don't know [laughs].
- Robin: Were you sort of doing it angrily at your neighbours?
- Leila: You can you can put it back up.
- Priya: I once closed the door in my car and pulled the handle off.
- Robin: Oh my god.
- Priya: I have Hulk strength sometimes.
- Robin: Do you have hysterical strength like when a baby is underneath a car and the mum like rips the car.
- Priya: It comes from the womb yeah.
- Leila: You can't be living like this Pri, I'm genuinely quite concerned.
- Priya: Nah I'm OK. I've moved to the radiator to record these.
- Robin: Yeah every time you do one of these by the radiator it looks like you're chained to the radiator.
- Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.
- Leila: [Laughs]
- Priya: In many ways I am because I live squalor and it's the only place in my flat where I'm warm enough to do these recordings.

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Leila: I hate that you're sat with a hot water bottle, really it's quite upsetting.

Priya: [Shakes bottle]

Robin: Oh god that's so gross.

Leila: [Laughs] That was horrible.

Robin: I really didn't expect that. I saw what you were doing and I knew what it would sound like but.

Leila: What did Priya just do? Do-do-do-do.

Robin: That's a nice new mini game isn't it?

Leila: And then we'll just have like a guess game.

Priya: What did Priya just do? [laughs] And it's just the sound of my Hulking out in the background, pulling handles off doors.

Robin: That was lifting up a Volkswagen Tiguan.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: Can I hear that noise again?

Priya: [Shakes the hot water bottle]

Robin: We are Aquaphonics!

Leila: Aquaphonics, welcome.

Priya: I think not the asshole. Fuck landlords.

Leila: [Sings] Landlords are the assholes.

Robin: Yeah the fact that the colleagues are sort of saying to this person like oh actually no you're reducing the value of the property it's like.

Leila: Those colleagues are landlords.

Robin: That's insane.

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Leila: Vile.

Robin: 100%.

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Robin: 'Am I the asshole for not accommodating my brother's vegan fiancée. Full disclosure, I do eat meat, eggs and dairy. That being said I'm lazy and prepping and cooking meat takes more work than I'm willing to do a lot of the time. So I've built up a pretty OK repertoire of vegetarian and vegan meals. That's why I volunteered to cook last night for a small family dinner even though I never normally would. Love my mum to bits but if the first step isn't browning a pack of beef mince she's a little lost on what to make. My brother has recently gotten engaged to a vegan woman. None of us have really spent a lot time with her due to the pandemic and genuinely having our own lives. The time I have spent with her has been perfectly nice. I thought this meal would also be perfectly nice. So I did my best, I put together a Dijon vinaigrette salad, pasta topped with roasted asparagus and cherry tomatoes. And because carb on carb is epic, some bread I fucking vetted to make sure it didn't have milk or eggs in it. She could eat every single thing served, at least I thought so. We sit down, plates are dished up, she has questions. Whatever fair enough. I can imagine she's been in situations before where things seemed safe to eat but surprise there's honey in the salad dressing or something. Reassurances are made, I did my homework but she has other complaints. You roasted the veggies in olive oil? There's olive oil in the salad dressing? The pasta isn't whole-wheat. This is white bread. Yes, vegan, all of it. But not stripped down to as few calories as possible. And now she won't eat, just sat there and tore up one of the rolls into tiny pieces until the table was cleared. My brother texted me that night about how fucked up it was that she had to go home hungry and this where I may be the asshole. I replied something to the effect of 'I thought

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I had to cook something to accommodate veganism not an eating disorder'. Eww.

Leila: [Draws breath shocked]

Robin: 'He told me to go fuck myself which again, fair. Now I imagine a cold war is brewing and my mum is inevitably going to get sucked in. I also could have tried to make something healthier thought I don't think what was served was that bad. Am I the asshole?'

Leila: You're an asshole for saying the eating disorder thing.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Mm.

Leila: Like that's just [sighs].

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Needless.

Leila: It's just no, you would have been in the right if you hadn't done that.

Priya: Mm.

Leila: Why, why, why, why, why, why, why?

Priya: It was so close.

Robin: I know! We got like all the way to the finish line and then he just sort of like revealed his asshole. Like it has this proper like chef alpha mentality.

Priya: Mm.

Robin: Of like 'I did this. I did this. Yeah I eat meat but I'm also a really good cook. And my mum's shit at it.' And what was it? 'I fucking vetted the bread'. It's proper like.

Priya: Yeah like I went all this effort.

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- Robin: Most chefs are alpha aren't they? It's quite a toxic thing. I think it's quite a toxic industry being a chef. Quite macho.
- Leila: The chef industry. Yeah who's fault do you reckon it's Gordon Ramsey? Because I feel like there was a point where like chef industry was like Julia Child like 'We'll put the butter in the bowl'.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Leila: That's my impression of Julia Child. And now it's like fuckin' horrible men sweating into meat while shouting at other sweaty men.
- Robin: Yeah.
- Priya: But like restaurant chefs can be like that. They're just mimicking restaurant chefs right?
- Robin: Yeah and I think that's where they found a lot of these famous people from chefs and I think arrogance was part of the whole deal like.
- Priya: And cocaine.
- Robin: Oh you've got to go to this place. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah arrogance and coke, a potent mix.
- Priya: [Laughs]
- Robin: But yeah I think it is that kind of like you know women cook but men chef, that kind of bullshit.
- Priya: Yeah.
- Leila: When I worked at John Lewis, Marco Pierre, no John, no Michael Rioux Junior came in. It was fine.
- Priya: Oh good [laughs].
- Leila: I thought it would just be a fun anecdote to say. I wish he was horrible so I could tell a funny story but unfortunately he was fine.

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Robin: I'd like to think that if I was vegan and if someone who wasn't vegan had made me a meal and was very careful about the ingredients, I would be happy about that and I would eat it.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: It's weird having guests around with very specific eating habits. I told you guys about the time I had my mum's boyfriend at the time around and he didn't want to eat vegetarian meal so he brought his own microwave chicken jalfrezi.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Priya: It's weird but you don't comment on it because they might actually...

Leila: No you just go OK.

Priya: They might actually be disordered eating so you're like well I won't mention it, it's not my business what people eat.

Robin: Yeah totally. Did they bring like a bottle of wine and a Birds Eye chicken curry?

Priya: They brought absolutely nothing to share. Just a chicken curry for one, chicken jalfrezi for one.

Robin: You have a lovely home, where is your microwave?

Priya: [Laughs] But you don't mention it, you just let people eat what they want to eat.

Leila: And also if he'd been like 'I'm not eating your food make me something else now' that would have been worse right?

Priya: Yeah. Yeah.

Robin: Is that what the brother is insinuating should have happened though like? The fact that he was complaining

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about his girlfriend going 'I'm hungry' like he should have rustled up some avo toast. A little olive oil and what brown bread?

Priya: Yeah that is a dick move to afterwards be like she went home hungry and that's your fault.

Leila: Yeah that is a dick move, yeah.

Priya: Yeah actually yeah.

Robin: And also like as somebody who definitely has an issue with eating and calories at times like isn't the joy of food when you're with friends and family to be going like, I will eat this meal as a group?

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Yes I think it can help like I guess from personal experience, you know you watch what you're eating and I haven't got a disorder, I will say that now. But I do think that it's a nice thing to not have to think about when you're with other people, but if you've got an eating disorder maybe. I don't know. I have no authority to say anything about this but. I would have probably just eaten it out of politeness.

Robin: Totally yeah.

Priya: But also I don't think there's anything wrong with her not eating though. If she had chosen not to eat it that would have been. It's the going home and then the brother complaining about it. So maybe the brother is the asshole because she's not the one that's actually saying you should have made me a whole other meal.

Leila: Yes, yeah.

Robin: Do you think that's come from the brother direct?

Leila: Unless she said to the brother fuckin' tell, yeah that's.

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Robin: Exactly. I wonder?

Leila: I reckon yeah it might have come from the brother.

Robin: But I think this guy was so close to being like a little bit weird, I don't think I've ever said the phrase fucking and bread in the same sentence.

Priya: Isn't bread almost always vegan anyway?

Leila: You were fine until you were mean and then you lost.

Priya: Agreed.

Robin: Same.

[Here to Judge- Interim Music]

Priya: 'Am I the asshole for telling my neighbour that her husband isn't the catch she thinks he is? So I, 28 female, recently attended a neighbourhood BBQ when this mummy influencer asking me about my love life in front of the other neighbours. Now this woman is 35 and she is a decade younger than her husband. When I told her that I wasn't interested in getting married or into a committed relationship, she made comments saying that she was worried I would end up a bitter old cat lady. She insinuated that being 'easy' is what's keeping me from finding a life partner. And that if I saw a therapist and sorted out my issues, I would also end up with a catch like her husband. I got really angry and pretty much humiliated her and her husband in front of the other neighbours by saying that her husband isn't much of a catch since he pretty much cheated on his first wife and abandoned his kids from his first marriage and that their picture perfect Instagram family isn't going to fool me into idealising them. I said that ending up with a guy like her husband is my worst nightmare and that her choice in men is unfortunate. She left the BBQ crying and now wants me to apologise to her. Am I the asshole?'

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Leila: Mm?

Robin: Sort of yes but I mean you both are. Everyone in this is.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: You're all horrible. You're all vile.

Priya: Except for the first wife.

Robin: Yeah and those kids.

Leila: I like hate, like never recommend your husband to someone else.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Oh god yeah that's so true.

Leila: Like what the fuck? I think anybody that brags about their husband like that hates their husband and is trying to convince themselves that they don't hate their husband.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Thank you.

Priya: For sure. Being like, wouldn't you want to be with him? Would you? Would you?

Robin: What reasons wouldn't you want to be with him? Are those the same reasons at the back of my mind?

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah, fuck. Um? I don't know. You're married Robin, what are your thoughts on this scenario.

Robin: Thank you for delegating this to me. I do agree, I just think it's weird to sort of suggest that you have this perfect life when everybody else has got a different path to you. And just the whole thing of like, well if you stop being so easy maybe you could have what I have. It's so fucking arrogant.

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Priya: I don't know if I trust the phrasing of that. When she said she basically suggested I was easy. That's quite vague.

Leila: There's nothing wrong with being easy, I don't think.

Priya: Well yeah.

Leila: I think it's good.

Robin: Yeah what do you think it is? If you stopped having fun and stopped seeing lots of...

Priya: Yeah I mean either way.

Robin: Trying man tapas, that kind of thing.

Leila: Has she said she wanted that? Isn't she happy with the man tapas life?

Priya: Yeah. So the neighbour is definitely a dickhead but I think OP might also be a dickhead.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Why is this even a discussion?

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: I think it was quite strong with the response. I mean neighbourhood BBQ sounds pretty fucking intense. There would need to be some pretty special aquaponics for me to attend such an event.

Leila: You come to my neighbourhood BBQ, we'll have one.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: Come Dine With Me [laughs].

Robin: Leila's been salting the guests.

Leila: Fuck my life. What's the best thing you've ever had in a BBQ?

Priya: Oh my god? Um?

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- Leila: What's your favourite thing to have on a BBQ?
- Priya: Halloumi on a BBQ is great.
- Leila: Oh yeah that's good.
- Robin: Mm-hmm.
- Leila: I'm not lucky enough to have experienced this in a BBQ but a Richmond vegan sausage I feel like would be.
- Robin: Apparently they're really good, I haven't had them yet.
- Leila: I've had one but not on a BBQ.
- Priya: Same.
- Leila: Shall we have a Here to Judge BBQ?
- Priya: I'd love one.
- Robin: Oh that would be nice. Let's do a summer meet-up.
- Leila: We're going to poison everyone. I'm going to poison everyone.
- Priya: To Robin's garden for a BBQ.
- Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Priya: And as they walk in Maisie will greet them by going 'Oh-la-la'.
- Robin: Oh-la-la.
- Priya: Oh-la-la.
- Leila: I love BBQs, not neighbourhood ones though. The last BBQ I attended was a Brownie/Guides one.
- Priya: Yeah I think I would hate a neighbourhood BBQ. I don't trust those people to cook.
- Robin: Mm.

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Leila: Yeah I feel like the only neighbourhood BBQ I would go to is if they were like cremating someone I hated on my street on the BBQ and like feeding it to us on a kebab stick.

Priya: You would go to that?

Leila: I'm just trying to be zany and it's just not working. I just have nothing to say about this apart from...

Robin: [Laughs] Zany. In my defence judge I was being zany. The murder was zany.

Leila: [Laughs] Nothing to say.

Robin: What are we saying then?

Priya: I think OP is not the asshole but probably an asshole.

Robin: Yes.

Priya: For being so mean.

Leila: I agree.

Robin: I think that's fair.

[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]

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