Cast: Priya Hall Leila Navabi

Robin Morgan

[Here to Judge Theme Song With a Christmas Twist]

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.

'Am I the asshole for taking back my parents' Christmas presents? Growing up everything was pre-owned or handed down. We didn't mind since a lot of people in my family had spending problems and would get rid of things when they got bored. It was how we got games and consoles and expensive toys, and how I got my PS4 for my 18th birthday, I'm 24 now. The only thing I had that was expensive and bought brand new was my TV, which broke. I said I wanted a new TV, and would have to wait until my tax return. My parents offered to buy me one on Boxing Day in the sale. I said they didn't have to, but they insisted and we even picked out the TV I wanted. It was going on sale for Boxing Day, and they said they'd buy it, and I could come get it on New Year's. Then we talked about having Christmas on New Year's Day instead on the 25th(we've done this a few times before). I was excited for Christmas and for my new TV. Well New Year's came and I went to my parents and there was no TV. I was confused. They told me I wasn't getting a TV because they gave it to my sister. I asked why and they got mad and said they bought it and they could do what they want with it. Well guess what? So can I. I was pissed off so I left and took their Christmas presents with me. I'd gotten a bonus at work and bought them over £400 worth of stuff which all came home with me. My brother messaged me

asking what I did to piss off our parents, and I haven't responded. I'm so pissed off and hurt. I bought what they wanted, and was so excited to see their faces when they opened them. We sat there for an hours choosing the TV, and stuff for my siblings and nieces and nephews. We put a ton of thought into their gifts, and I thought my gift had the same thought, but it didn't. I thought since they gave my gift away like it was nothing, I would do the same. I know it's petty. Am I the asshole?

Priya: No.

Robin: No.

Priya: No.

Robin: Does feel fucking weird though doesn't it?

Priya: I would throw their presents into the sea.

Leila: I hate like fucking Christmas politics.

Priya: Mm.

Robin: There was no like explanation of why the parents gave

away the TV right?

Priya: No, to his sister.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: It was just we bought it so we can do what we want with

it.

Leila: Oh there's an edit. Just like that. Right. 'My sister would

never take something from our parents knowing it's mine. The main reason she was given the TV was because my parents have such a bad relationship with her. They've always thought that throwing money at a problem will make it all disappear. We've both decided to

cut them off'.

Priya: [Draws breath shocked]

Leila: 'I gave my sister some of the gifts, the rest of the stuff we

returned, and I'm getting the TV.'

Priya: Oh there's so much more to this. There's so much more

to this than we're seeing here.

Robin: Imagine giving your child a TV and then them cutting you

off?

Leila: Oh that's it.

Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.

Leila: Am I'm getting the TV? So what does that mean?

Priya: So the sister is giving OP the TV and they're both cutting

off the parents.

Leila: Right.

Priya: And he's given some of the parents gifts to his sister.

Robin: I think the OP feels like that's like a full ending to the

story, and I got the TV, job done!

Priya: But I lost all of my family.

Robin: And we never had to worry about anything ever again.

Leila: Who needs a family when you have TV? [Laughs]

Robin: This is an advert for TV.

Priya: They're worried about Netflix taking over so they're like,

do you know what?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: Are TVs expensive anymore?

Robin: Um? No. You can get them for like probably like £150, is

like the cheapest one.

Leila: Can you? Do you remember when TVs were so

expensive?

Priya: Mm. Because they were like the biggest thing in your

house right?

Robin: Yeah totally. And I guess like Smart ones can be.

Priya: Mm.

Leila: But like you can just get an Amazon Stick or whatever

they're called now can't you? So it's pointless.

Robin: Totally well that's it. Yeah exactly if you just got anything

with a USB thing.

Leila: You just need a monitor isn't it?

Robin: Yeah exactly.

Priya: Someone should tell this guy there's no need for him to

throw his whole family in the bin.

Leila: Yeah like it was fine it's just a telly like go on Facebook

Marketplace and get one.

Robin: Um I don't think this guy is an asshole. I think it's hilarious

that he's cut his parents presents off. I feel like that's such a lovely role reversal and I don't think anyone would

do it. That's what's the word I'm looking for?

Priya: You wouldn't do it for no reason.

Robin: Correct.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: I don't think. Unless you're a piece of shit which he might

be.

Priya: But what are the odds him and his sister are pieces of

shit?

Robin: His parents sound like pieces of shit.

Leila: Mm, yes.

Priya: I mean the parents do sound like bell ends. I'm kind of

glad they got cut off. They're being little weirdoes.

Robin: Imagine if both your children cut you off? That is quite a

lot isn't it?

Priya: It's not over a TV though is it?

Robin: No.

Leila: No it can't be, there is more to it. Surely. What would you

do if this was your children Robin and they were grown

up?

Robin: I'd give them both seven TVs.

Leila: How often do you think about the fact your children are

going to grow up one day?

Robin: Uh all the time.

Leila: Is it haunting?

Robin: Mm hmm.

Priya: Are you worried that they will become best friends and

then cut you out?

Robin: I'm worried they will become comedians [laughs].No I do

worry about them. Johan said today 'When I'm 100 how

old will you be?'

Priya: Aww.

Robin: And I said '127 but dead. 100% dead and so will you be my

boy'.

Leila: Is that what you said to him, 'dead'?

Robin: No but like we haven't really talked about death yet.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Don't.

Priya: No.

Robin: But I said 'Not many people are around at like 100 and

my grandmother is still alive who is 91' and he said 'No I don't think she is, I think she's' and remembered how old I am which is 32 and then he said '33?' and I was like

'That's sweet'.

Priya: Oh.

Robin: That's really nice she'll love that.

Leila: That is so, yeah the fact that kids have no concept of age

at all is so fun.

Robin: Yeah idiot. Total silly boy, yeah.

Leila: I would love if Johan guesses how old each of us are.

Priya: Yeah that would be great. Get him in.

Robin: Um?

Leila: Wake him up from his slumber and ask him how old we

are.

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah. Remind me, text me tomorrow about it

and I'll do a voice note and we can pop it in the edit.

Leila: Yeah show him a picture of us and say 'How old do you

think these people are?'

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: If he says older than 33 it means he thinks I'm older than

a 91-year-old.

Robin: Yeah.

Priya: And I will kick off.

Robin: Priya you saw the Green Man and Leila you met Maisey

very briefly the other night. She still talks about you.

Leila: I love her she's so cute.

Robin: She still talks about you 'Leila!'.

Leila: What?

Robin: Leila!

Leila: What no you're lying to me! You're lying to me.

Robin: No, no, no.

Priya: Aww that's so cute.

Leila: I didn't say much to her. Well what I said to her, I said to

Robin 'Where did you get fairy?' and I think she just

stared at me like that.

Priya: I am a human child.

Leila: [Laughs]

Robin: I'm going to use that.

Leila: So cute.

Priya: That is so cute.

Leila: She was so cute.

[Here to Judge-Interim Music]

Robin: Hi. Johan could you say hello?

Johan: Hi.

Robin: Hello. Could you look at this picture for me and tell me

how old you think these people are? How old do you

think my friend Priya is?

Johan: Um I'm not sure.

Robin: If you had a guess.

Johan: I think about 15?

Robin: 15, 1, 5?

Johan: Yeah.

Robin: What do you reckon to my friend Leila?

Johan: I think about 10.

Robin: 10. And what do you think about that man there?

Johan: Uh, I think 32.

Robin: 32? Who's that man there?

Johan: [Laughs] You.

Robin: Is it me?

Johan: Yeah.

Robin: And how old are you? You're what 35?

Johan: Uh no I'm four and half.

Robin: You're four and a half, I always forget that. OK thank you

Johan could you say goodbye?

Johan: Bye!

[Here to Judge-Interim Music]

Leila: I think technology shouldn't be a Christmas present. I

think it's a weird Christmas present.

Robin: What about a Nintendo DS?

Leila: No. Never anymore. I mean look, it was bad. I spent so

much of like the winter just on my DS. I was thinking

about buying a Nintendo Wii the other day.

Priya: Like an old timey Nintendo Wii?

Leila: Well they've discontinued them.

Priya: Have they?

Leila: Mm.

Priya: Oh. So you can do like the Wii Fit stuff that does nothing?

Leila: What do you mean that does nothing? I was so fit from

doing Wii Fit.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I'm serious. Did you never do Wii Fit?

Priya: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: Were you like 12-years-old and it tells you you're an

obese old woman?

Priya: Yeah, yeah.

Leila: [Laughs]

Priya: That's humbling, that was humbling as a child.

Leila: And then the way you'd remedy that was by stepping on

and off the board. So bum, bum, bum, bum, dah, dah,

dah. Do you remember that game?

Priya: Um? No.

Leila: Oh just me.

Priya: Is it like Dance Mat?

Leila: No you were just stepping onto the Wii board and then

off the Wii board. That was the game.

Priya: Oh [laughs].

Robin: I don't think I had the Wii board. I remember being good

at the tennis and the bowling was quite good.

Leila: Oh I loved that.

Priya: Mm.

Robin: My sister-in-law when she was like when I first met her

when she was like 10 or 11, they used to have the Xbox one where you had this like shit webcam on the top of

the TV.

Priya: Connect right?

Robin: Yeah Connect yeah. And there was some sort of game

where you had to sort of do that and the first day, I babysat her so I picked her up from school, walked her home and we played that until Jen came back and playing that game I was so competitive that I smashed the light

fitting in her mum's living room.

Priya: In a rage.

Robin: Like I just didn't realise and just smashed the thing and

I'm been dating Jen for like two months at that point and

so it was like soz.

Priya: Was her sister then terrified of you? Why did the man

come over and punch a light bulb?

Robin: [Laughs] Yeah, yeah, why did this new man come

over and break the fittings. Because he's in love actually

Becky. Because he loves your sister.

Priya: [Laughs] Also he wants to win at tennis OK?

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah he needs this. 'Am I the asshole for

a mother of four children, two older sons and two younger daughters. All of them are adults and have moved out a long time ago. I have always been close with my daughter S, let's call her Stinkbug, while P, let's call her Potato, has always liked to have her own space.

uninviting my daughter to our Christmas gathering? I am

Which I don't mind, they're both beautiful talented young women that I couldn't be more proud of. Or so I thought.

We're having early Christmas this year. First week of December I was inviting everyone around for Christmas

dinner, gift giving and the lot. When I phoned Potato

yesterday to clarify a few things she mentioned that she and her husband would not be coming. When I asked why, she said that they had separated for now as he had cheated. I said that it was surely better to spend some time with family if this was the case and maybe she should come home for a while. She hummed and hawed but then eventually she told me that her husband had an'...[Draws breath shocked] 'She eventually told me that her husband had an affair with Stinkbug and they had been seeing each other for the past two years. I felt sick. For the past six months in our talks, Stinkbug had alluded that she had been seeing someone and was typically a girl in love. I uninvited Stinkbug to the Christmas gathering and blocked her. I don't know if I'm able to deal with her before Christmas, this is family time and family can't hurt each other like that. I'm at a loss in all honesty. Potato is now coming which is good because at this time she needs stability of people who love her in my opinion. Naturally Stinkbug thinks I'm in the wrong, it's none of my business and as her mother I can't block her and remove her from the family. My own sister thinks I'm in the wrong saying I shouldn't get involved in their personal lives (which I think is bullshit). My husband is liaising with Stinkbug at the moment, but he is in solidarity with me. So are we in the wrong for uninviting a daughter for Christmas?'

Priya: Drama.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: Mm.

Priya: This level of family drama, it's too much.

Robin: There's a lot. That's a lot.

Leila: [Laughs] Yeah it is.

Priya: It will be too powerful on Christmas day that's why

they've got to do it early December because they're like

ugh it's too potent.

Leila: So what she's sleeping with her sister's husband?

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Her brother-in-law.

Priya: And now she's like 'But I should be invited to Christmas

dinner because I'm your daughter so it's rude to uninvite

me'.

Leila: That's weird. There's so many people on the planet, why

are you sleeping with your fucking brother-in-law?

Priya: It's so weird.

Robin: Drama mate.

Leila: I'm literally sure I've said this before on the podcast but

you don't want to be igloo sisters with your actual sister.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Oh no we have talked about this because I asked what

that was. That's when you have the same sexual partner.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: And why igloo because igloo is a metaphor for vagina?

Leila: Yes. There's another one it's Eskimo brothers isn't it?

Priya: Mm. Feels problematic.

Leila: Yeah, yeah, yeah it definitely is.

Robin: Yeah.

Leila: But somebody sleeping with your sister's partner.

Priya: Yeah, yeah, that's messed, it's so messed up. Why would

you even want to come to Christmas dinner and then have to sit opposite the sister that you have, you've been sleeping with her husband for two years! That's going to

be awkward.

Robin: Do you think it is that? Do you think that she wants to be

invited to the same meal or do you think that she's taking more umbrage with the fact that she's been uninvited

and blocked by her mama?

Priya: Mm.

Leila: I don't know you know.

Priya: I would not expect my mum to side with me on this.

Leila: No I wouldn't either.

Robin: No but would you expect her to block you?

Leila: [Hurling noise] I can't imagine sleeping with any of my

sister's partners.

Priya: It's because both of your sisters are straight [laughs].

Leila: That is not the only reason.

Robin: If you did something wrong, would you expect your mum

to cut you off? Or would you expect her to give you a

dressing down and go 'You fucked up now make up'.

Leila: I think it depends. If I was wronging my sisters then no I

would not expect my mum to...

Robin: I guess it's super close then isn't it like?

Priya: Also if keeping you in the family meant that that sister

would have to like then deal with ugh, her husband's

mistress being...

Leila: Your sister. That's really odd.

Priya: ...at every family event.

Leila: I can't imagine anything worse. I just would never.

Priya: What would I do, did you say?

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: Well in what scenario?

Leila: Like this scenario.

Priya: If I was the sister or the mum or?

Leila: [Laughs] Any scenario.

Robin: If you were trapped on a desert island.

Leila: Let's go through a door.

Priya: OK let's go through a door. If I was the mum I think yeah

she wouldn't be able to come to Christmas dinner, oh my

God. No.

Robin: But I think for me it's the blocking thing. That's the one

thing that feels ever so slightly out of. It feels quite

petulant.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: When you are the head of a family type thing.

Priya: Mm. The dad's still talking to her though.

Leila: I think in that there's a fine line between love and hate, I

think there's a fine line between petulance and

festiveness.

Priya: Sure yeah.

Leila: Like I think petulance and festiveness...

Priya: Have a very petulant Christmas.

Leila: Yeah it's like a thin like if you're petulant.

Robin: That's a really specific line.

Priya: [Laughs] Yeah.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: It doesn't get crossed very often because a lot of people

don't know it's there.

Leila: But it does.

Robin: [Laughs] Sure.

Priya: But when it does, oh it's pretty fun.

Robin: Oh my goodness, what a petulant Christmas we just had.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: I understand though, people make such a big deal out of

it, you know?

Leila: Yeah. Yeah.

Robin: Cheating. No, no, no, Christmas, Christmas.

Leila: Christmas [Sings] Christmas.

Priya: It makes it sound as well like it's a very recent thing. So

it's only the Christmas dinner that has made it all come

out.

Robin: Yeah sure so they would have found out quite recently.

Leila: Christmas dinner makes a lot of things come out. Poo.

Priya: Pardon? [laughs]

Leila: I'm trying so hard to say anything. Um?

Robin: I really hope that somebody listens to this on Christmas

day whilst having their Christmas dinner.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Do you think anyone will?

Priya: And we keep talking about my cat's poo.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: No but Christmas dinner makes you poo.

Priya: OK. I don't disagree yeah.

Leila: It does.

Robin: All food makes you poo.

Priya: Yeah eventually.

Leila: Mm debateable.

Robin: [Laughs] No?

Leila: Have you ever had like something that's...

Priya: Domino's pizza.

Leila: Domino's pizza.

Priya: That either makes you poo a lot or never poo again.

Robin: Well that's what it is, it's you know it's a game that's why

they call it Domino's. It's a fun game.

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: I agree.

Robin: I don't think that the mum is in the wrong for taking, let

me get her name right, Stinkbug's side. No sorry Potato.

Priya: No Potato's side.

Robin: I'm so sorry.

Priya: I really thought Potato was going to be the one that was

the wrong one in this.

Leila: Yeah.

Priya: Just based on the fact that...

Leila: But like potatoes are like largely benign and boring.

Priya: And stinkbugs are famously cheaters.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: [Laughs] No mention of the two older sons?

Priya: There's an edit.

Robin: Oh there's an edit? Oh hello. Um 'My sister said that if

Stinkbug isn't invited then she won't be coming either, which is fine by me, she wasn't invited in the first place. Otherwise I've been working and doing some crochet so

it's been quiet.' The fuck?

Priya: So the woman who cheated, her aunt has taken her side

and said that she won't come to Christmas dinner.

Robin: Oh so that makes more sense yeah.

Priya: And she wasn't even invited.

Leila: That's weird.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: This mum seems quite chaotic.

Priya: Oh yeah. This family seems pretty chaotic.

Robin: And also to go on Reddit.

Priya: Again no mention of the two sons, I assume they're

missing.

Robin: I assume they're both her sister's husband. I reckon it's a

messed up family.

Leila: Yeah. Yeah. I agree.

Robin: Not a fan. That weirdly has made me more annoyed

about the mum.

Leila: Yeah and me.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: Doesn't sound like a nice person.

Leila: It's only about crochet isn't it?

Priya: It's the little smiley face next to it, it's been quiet.

Leila: Crochet is the most useless of those ones isn't it?

Priya: It takes ages.

Leila: Yeah and it doesn't even look that good does it?

Priya: It's got loads of holes in it.

Robin: What is crochet?

Priya: It's when you've got like a hook, like a crochet hook.

Leila: Knitting for thickoes.

Priya: Yeah and there's loads of holes in it, it's a very loose knit.

Leila: That's exactly what it is.

Priya: It is knitting for thickoes.

Robin: What would you make?

Priya: Like a doily or a cardigan but it would take ages.

Robin: Oh yeah I know that shit yeah.

Leila: And it would look shit.

Priya: A blanket. But it would take ages.

Leila: A shit blanket.

Priya: And it would have loads of holes in it.

Leila: Just learn to knit.

Robin: Sure.

Leila: Just learn to knit. It's when people play draughts instead

of chess.

Priya: Yeah.

Leila: You're thick.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Merry Christmas.

Leila: Merry Christmas you're thick.

Priya: Merry Christmas to our biggest patrons, draughts players.

Leila: Yeah.

Robin: We get so much of our funding from Big Draughts and

now we're not going to get that anymore.

Leila: Do you like draughts?

Priya: No.

Robin: I prefer chess.

Leila: I don't know how to play either of them but if I was going

to learn I'd learn how to play chess.

Priya: You don't know how to play chess?

Leila: No I don't Priya, I'm sorry.

Priya: You do seem like the type of person who plays chess a

lot.

Leila: Why do I seem like the type of person that plays chess a

lot?

Priya: Leila was bragging about being able to do a Rubik's Cube

earlier.

Robin: I would have assumed you're like a chess prodigy.

Priya: Yeah.

Robin: If you'd have told me that you did like chess

competitions, it's like...

Leila: That really, really hurts me. You might as well have just

told me that you think I'm a prick. You might as well have

gone 'I think you're a prick'.

Priya: [Laughs]

Robin: Well I'm glad you brought it up because I've been

meaning to [laughs].

Leila: You might as well have said to me 'I think you're awful

and I think you're horrible'.

Robin: Really?

Leila: Yeah. I'm not going to play chess. Is that really the vibe I

exude into this world?

Priya: You did say that draughts was chess for thickoes.

Leila: Yeah well it is but I don't play either of them.

Robin: I'm not saying that you play chess. I'm saying that you

strike me as someone as so gifted.

Priya: There we go.

Robin: And prodigious that I think it wouldn't surprise me if you

were a child prodigy at chess and then gave up because...

Priya: Yeah but you like grew out of it by like age nine because

you were like 'I'm above this now'.

Robin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Leila: Oh I like that.

Priya: Yeah?

Leila: Yeah thank you.

Priya: We won a round Robin, don't worry about. Who wants to

provide Christmas dinner?

Robin: I'll talk to you later Pri.

Leila: Why has that made my day?

Priya: [Laughs]

Leila: Yeah really good. It's good, I mean it's not true I've never

played chess but.

Robin: So you're undefeated.

Leila: Yeah, so yeah I basically am.

Robin: There you go that's it. That's the way you frame it.

Leila: If you never try you'll never lose is my motto in life.

Priya: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Words to live by.

Robin: Merry Christmas everyone.

Leila: That's why you'll never find a video of me at the Student

Chortle awards.

Priya: Or in [speaks Welsh]

Leila: Or [speaks Welsh] Because I was never a student.

Robin: And never allowed to go to [speaks Welsh]

Leila: [Laughs] Never allowed. I'm banned from [speaks Welsh]

I want to go to [speaks Welsh]

Priya: We'll go this year.

Leila: No but it's far away.

Priya: That's fine, we'll go.

Robin: Where is it?

Leila: Carmarthenshire.

Robin: That's fine.

Leila: OK.

Robin: I think this lady is an asshole which is a decision I didn't

think I'd make until the edit.

Priya: Really?

Robin: But I think she's quite a chaotic woman.

Leila: No I don't like her either.

Priya: I don't think she's an asshole.

Leila: You shouldn't be the arbitrator of your family's chaos.

Priya: Do you think she's like responsible for the chaos?

Leila: Nah, you stay out of it.

Priya: Stay out of it?

Leila: Yeah I think just fucking let them all be incestuous and

weird and you just provide the dinner and be happy to

see your family.

Priya: I don't know why but this feel misogynistic. You just

provide the dinner.

Leila: I am misogynistic.

Priya: Don't have any opinions.

Leila: I notoriously hate women.

Priya: Famously.

Robin: Mm-hmm. Great at chess.

Leila: Like the little SIM man that I am

Priya: Great at chess [laughs].

Robin: [Laughs] Famously. Yeah you're an old man in the SIMS

playing chess.

Leila: Playing chess that's me, yeah. Um I've had enough now

[laughs].

Priya: There's a brie and cranberry sandwich that's been here

and refrigerated and I'm so ready for it.

Leila: Yeah I am as well, I can't stop salivating at the sauce.

[Here to Judge Theme Song]

Melanie: This has been a Little Wander production. Music from

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[End of Podcast]