



Off Menu – Ep 198 – Graham Coxon

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. Chopping up the lemons of conversation, putting them in the water of the internet, adding the sugar of humour, mashing it all together, you've got yourself fresh podcast lemonade.

James Acaster

When life gives you lemons, listen to Off Menu.

Ed Gamble

Oh.

James Acaster

That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster. We own a dream restaurant and every single week we invite in a guest and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, desert, side dish and drink, not in that order and this week our guest is Graham Coxon.

Ed Gamble

Graham Coxon of course James.

James Acaster

Man. Blur. This is big. This is big stuff. This is exciting stuff. I'm going to try and keep it together and play it cool.

Ed Gamble

Whenever you say that before a guest comes in, you never do.

James Acaster

Yes, it's hard to play it cool when your job is to ask them questions.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because you don't want them to come and then you're like, 'Alright.'

James Acaster

Yes, yes, you've got to be nice and welcoming and then you've also got to ask them questions in the interviews and you just end up asking questions that show how much you know about their stuff and how much you like their stuff.

Ed Gamble

Yes, because you playing it cool, unfortunately, is going to be, 'Still or sparkling water, oh Blur.'



James Acaster

Yes, that's what it's going to be. I mean, this is a big band for me man. This is like from when I was an iddy biddy baby up until now.

Ed Gamble

They're your Spine Shank.

James Acaster

They're my Spine Shank. Yes. I mean, if I may make such a lofty comparison.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And also, Blur have a new album at the minute. The Ballad of Darren.

Ed Gamble

The Ballad of Darren is out now and you can go and watch the video for St Charles Square as well.

James Acaster

Yes, so get the new album, watch the new music videos, and actually, you know, mate we've got some young listeners to this podcast maybe they've not gone back and done the whole Blur back catalogue and I highly recommend they do.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and listen to the Spine Shank cover of Whilst My Guitar Gently Weeps.

James Acaster

What the fuck? Okay, yes, do that. Listen to Spine Shank cover of the Beatles. Holy fuck. I didn't know that had happened.

Ed Gamble

No, no, I love Blur. Very excited to talk to Graham. Hoping though he doesn't pick a secret ingredient though, James.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because, look, whilst there may be a new Blur album out, we don't want Graham to be out of the dream restaurant.



James Acaster

No, we do not. Every week we have a secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable and we will kick the guest out if they say it and this week, the secret ingredient is Beaujolais.

Ed Gamble

You picked this one James.

James Acaster

I picked this one. Sometimes we pick secret ingredients that are relevant to the guest and Beaujolais is a secret ingredient because in Charmless Man by Blur, the charmless man knows his Claret from Beaujolais.

Ed Gamble

So, you've gone with Beaujolais rather than Claret.

James Acaster

Yes, just because it's more fun to say.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely. There might be a chance that he picks it.

James Acaster

Yes, and you know, then we get to see what it's like when we kick someone out that we don't know very well, at all actually. We don't know him.

Ed Gamble

It'll be interesting.

James Acaster

Yes, we kicked out Jade Adams but we knew that would be a laugh. We don't know what it would be like to kick out Graham. I imagine he will shrug his shoulders and go, 'Alright.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think he'll be happy to knock off a bit early.

James Acaster

Yes, 'See you later guys.'

Ed Gamble

So, this is the Off Menu menu. The menu-hu of Graham Coxon.

Ed Gamble

Welcome Graham to the dream restaurant.



Graham Coxon

Thank you very much. Nice to be here.

James Acaster

Welcome Graham Coxon to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Graham Coxon

Have you? Yes, why?

James Acaster

Oh, for so many reasons.

Graham Coxon

Because I'm always in dream places.

James Acaster

You are, what are your favourite dream places to be in?

Graham Coxon

They're not my favourite dream places to be in but they're dream places that I find myself in most nights if I sleep with my arm a bit funny and that's in run down, sort of, Dickensian towns that are menacing trying to find my way home or trying to find somebody I'm looking for.

Ed Gamble

So, that's one of your main dreams that you have?

Graham Coxon

That's how I have it most nights.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Who are the people that you're looking for?

Graham Coxon

Maybe my partner, things like that. Sort of anxiety driven dreams and quite often there's menacing characters about and stuff like that and no food is involved but there seems to always be a bit of a way to get home and things getting in your way. So, what does that mean?

James Acaster

Well, I guess, you're worried about finding your way home. Maybe you feel like you've drifted from your authentic self, who you once were.



Graham Coxon

Oh, do you think?

James Acaster

That you've, you know, you're trying to find your way back to the real you.

Graham Coxon

I'd love to do that.

Ed Gamble

But why is it Dickensian though? That's the tricky thing.

Graham Coxon

Yes, it's sort of menacing and run down. That's what it is and it's almost like how, when you were waiting for a night bus in the early 90's, it had that sort of feeling about it because that was pretty Dickensian now looking back.

James Acaster

Worried if it's going to show up or not.

Graham Coxon

Yes, and what the clientele are going to be like. Clientele?

James Acaster

I'd say clientele.

Ed Gamble

I'd say clientele.

James Acaster

But if someone said clientele I wouldn't-,

Graham Coxon

Is one of them an American way to say it?

James Acaster

Yes, I bet maybe clientele is.

Graham Coxon

Yes, you know, you don't know whether you're going to get hassled and stuff like that.

James Acaster

Yes, in Dickensian times.



Graham Coxon

Bill Sikes and stuff.

James Acaster

Oh, he'd be the worst.

Ed Gamble

What to be on a night bus?

James Acaster

I'd hate it.

Ed Gamble

If Bill Sikes was on my night bus, I think I'd get an Uber.

James Acaster

Yes. I'd be straight off. Would you stay on the night bus if Bill Sykes was on there?

Graham Coxon

No.

Ed Gamble

Especially if he had Bullseye with him.

James Acaster

Imagine if he's got Bullseye with him. Bullseye is horrible.

Graham Coxon

No, but he's alright Bullseye in the end. He turns on him, doesn't he? He gives him away.

James Acaster

Yes, that's true. I guess now, actually, if you're on a night bus and Bill Sikes got on and Bullseye, they probably wouldn't be together.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

It'd be quite awkward that they've bumped into each other again and he'd be like, 'Fucking Bullseye is on.'

Ed Gamble

Whereas, if Fagin was on my night bus I think that would be a laugh.



Graham Coxon

Fagin is almost like the most, sort of, worst isn't he?

James Acaster

You wouldn't trust him.

Ed Gamble

Do you think? I like Fagin.

Graham Coxon

He's a stealth, nasty piece of work. Whereas, you know, you know where you are with Bill Sikes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I suppose so. He's less subtle, isn't he?

James Acaster

Fagin's tricky.

Graham Coxon

You know, and these people don't just look like Oliver Reed, you know, the real ones, they were far worse, I reckon.

James Acaster

The real Fagin.

Graham Coxon

Whoever these characters were based on.

Ed Gamble

Well, I was in a production of Oliver when I was at school and my teachers all played the adult roles. That's weird, isn't it?

James Acaster

Oh, that is weird.

Graham Coxon

Yes, I was in an am-dram type affair that was a bit like that too.

Ed Gamble

Of Oliver?

Graham Coxon

Yes.



James Acaster

Who did you play, Graham?

Graham Coxon

I was a policeman. Not a very big part.

James Acaster

Did you arrest Oliver?

Graham Coxon

No, I sort of had to, I don't know, just react and point and hold my hat and run off stage, sort of thing. That's what they did a lot.

Ed Gamble

Bill Sikes in the production of Oliver I was in was played by Mr Hassan the rowing coach.

Graham Coxon

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes. He was also a geography teacher.

Graham Coxon

Did he have a cosh?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he had a cosh. He was very bad at acting, I would say. Yes, I don't know why they didn't let the kids play the adult roles.

James Acaster

Yes, weird for the adults to decide to do it.

Ed Gamble

Headmaster was Fagin.

Graham Coxon

They always want to get in on it, don't they?

James Acaster

Headmaster was Fagin. Do you think that your experience playing the police officer, is there any of that performance retained on the new Blur album, The Ballad of Darren?

Graham Coxon

Being a policeman?



Ed Gamble

That's one of the worst links you've ever done.

James Acaster

What? That's good. That's a good link.

Graham Coxon

I do police the sonics a little bit. I suppose, I wander up and down and you know, and just swing my truncheon like a propeller a little bit up and down the studio and make sure everything's okay. 'Could that snare drum sound be better, sir?' Things like that but not really apart from that.

James Acaster

No other comparisons to you playing a policeman in Oliver.

Graham Coxon

No, no, I did more. I mean, that wasn't my best, I did more stuff. You know, we were in a lot of school productions with Damon as well. We were both in, you know, Guys and Dolls, Orpheus and the Underworld, The Bartered Bride, A Lovely War, and so on and so on.

Ed Gamble

Snap.

James Acaster

Were you and Damon ever, like, a double act in those plays?

Graham Coxon

No, no, not at all. He was less shy. He was a bit more extroverted. He was really, you know, he was really into it and I go into it in my book. The first time I saw a school assembly that he was doing Gee, Officer Krupke, and I was like, 'Oh my god, the gall of this bloke.' I mean, unbelievable.

James Acaster

Yes.

Graham Coxon

You know, he was sort of not very old and just doing this thing like a professional. Especially compared to everybody else on stage in that school assembly who was, sort of, looking really awkward and half asleep. He was like, pizazz. So, he would always get proper parts. Like, he would be playing Zeus or you know, this, that or the other, and I would have multiple parts or just a sort of lower thing part and I was sort of lower prestige.

James Acaster

Do you think you still, like, making this new album and playing together now, if there still that thing where you can surprise each other like that or are you pretty much, you know what each other is going to do now? Do you still have that thing sometimes going, 'Woah, they just pulled that out-,'



Graham Coxon

No, we don't really know what each other are going to do and we do get surprised but we don't let it show if we're surprised or impressed. We never let that show because that would mean we'd sort of stopped trying to push, I suppose but we always know that there's going to be hilarity and a lot of daftness but when it comes to the music side of it, we're pretty serious about doing that. You've got to have some stupid laughs, otherwise it becomes too intense.

Ed Gamble

Why are you looking-, were you just leaving it be intense?

James Acaster

I thought it would be really funny to just leave it and not say anything funny off the back of that and just be like leave it be as intense as possible. Also, as well as hilarious podcast, this is a food podcast. We should ask Graham if he's a foodie. Are you a food fan? You're enjoying some flapjacks this morning.

Graham Coxon

Yes, I don't know whether that makes me a food fan. I'm a sort of gobble something up and then I'll be powering along for the next two or three hours until something else, I have a sugar crash or something like that. I do like food but I'm not one of these mega foodies and I don't, I get sickened when people photograph food. I'm like shove it, I'm not interested.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do that. I'm a mega mega foodie.

Graham Coxon

Are you? Mega, mega?

James Acaster

He's a mega foodie and he takes a lot of photos of his food.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I won't do much with them. So, I'll just scroll through my phone and just-,

Graham Coxon

Do you like, 'Look what I just rustled up?' Or is it something else?

Ed Gamble

It's very rarely things I've rustled up but yes, sometimes.

James Acaster

You take photos of stuff you've rustled up.



Ed Gamble

I take photos but it's very rarely aesthetically pleasing the stuff I've rustled up. So, I would never show them to anyone else or put them online.

Graham Coxon

Well, I have taken pictures of things I've cooked and I do like cooking and I do like nice food but it's not, like, the most important thing to me. What happens between the food times, the feeding times are, sort of, more important to me, really.

Ed Gamble

That's probably the healthiest way of being. Whereas, I spend my time in between the meals thinking about the next feeding time.

Graham Coxon

You're eating your breakfast thinking about lunch?

Ed Gamble

Absolutely.

Graham Coxon

And your eating your lunch thinking about dinner and then you're eating your dinner thinking about, 'What can I have later that's going to be really naughty while I watch Gogglebox?'

Ed Gamble

And then I realise that I've achieved nothing during the day.

Graham Coxon

I'm a little bit like that. I do like dinner time but I like it because of the social occasion. It's not really social because it's at the house but it feels like a social occasion, we get round the table, we don't eat in front of the telly. Usually the news is burbling away.

Ed Gamble

I think that that is important.

Graham Coxon

But I like to be at a table for that and I find that an enjoyable time. Thank God that day is over and now I'm just going to collapse in front of the telly in a couple of hours and that'll be great.

Ed Gamble

But that's not necessarily about what's on the table. It's almost not important what's on the table as long as you get that social occasion?



Graham Coxon

Yes. Do you know when you're in restaurants and the conversation, I know you're meant to sit around the table but everyone talks about food, the food in restaurants when they're eating it. They're not talking about anything else hardly. They're talking about the food they're eating. It's just like, 'God, come on.'

Ed Gamble

Well, Graham, if you don't enjoy that aspect of eating, you've come on the wrong podcast.

James Acaster

Well, actually, this is great because, you know, you're going to be talking about food that you're not currently eating. So, we've really thought of all the angles there.

Graham Coxon

I'm hankering after every item.

James Acaster

Yes, you're going to be hankering big time.

Graham Coxon

Yes, but I'm actually lucky, my partner is actually a really great cook and loves cooking and I don't really get a look in that often. So, that's pretty nice. I'm lucky in that way. I mean, I do everything else in the house.

James Acaster

What things do you do?

Graham Coxon

That's not true.

Ed Gamble

You weren't expecting us to question you on that.

Graham Coxon

I do everything I can just to make life happier for everybody who comes into contact with me and it's exhausting.

Ed Gamble

Does your partner have a special dish, a speciality that you really look forward to? Unless it's on your menu, don't reveal it in advance.

Graham Coxon

She might kill me. No, it's not there. There's some really good halloumi business.



Ed Gamble

Halloumi business?

Graham Coxon

Yes, there's some good halloumi business. There's a good kofta every now and then as well.

Ed Gamble

Oh nice, So, sort of a lot of middle eastern Turkish cooking?

Graham Coxon

What else? I'm a bit nervous because I'm not sure she'll really appreciate me talking about it?

James Acaster

Will she listen to this and then be annoyed you've given away her secret recipes.

Graham Coxon

Maybe.

Ed Gamble

You don't have to talk about it if you don't want.

James Acaster

Do you think us putting you in this position now is going to lead to more anxiety dreams? Are you going to go to sleep-,

Graham Coxon

On my arm.

James Acaster

And Bill Sikes being like, 'Tell me the recipes. Tell me-,'

Ed Gamble

'What's the halloumi business?'

James Acaster

'What does your partner cook? Get in Bullseye. We're going to find out what's in the Kofta.'

Graham Coxon

Lamb. That would be lamb, or maybe it's not kofta. It's just more of a sort of, they're a sort of a meatball squashed out over a stick but anyway I can't talk about food that I like that's not on my menu, can I?

James Acaster

Oh, you can. Of course you can.



Graham Coxon

I do like pasta and things like that. I try to eat very healthily and recently I was in Denmark and that was the best things I'd eaten for a good while. White asparagus and little prawns swimming in some sort of mayonnaise type stuff and some marinated herring on some rye bread or rug bread and a bit of onion and things like that. Yes, I like that sort of thing.

Ed Gamble

So, more the Scandi way of cooking quite clean, it feels healthy but it's also delicious and flavoursome.

Graham Coxon

Yes, it's good. You know, it has a bit of that dill, has a bit of that going on because the only other part of me, apart from Midlands England is a bit of Norwegian. So, it probably might not have anything to do with why I like that food but might have a little bit to do with it.

James Acaster

I'm midlands but I don't know if I'm Norwegian.

Graham Coxon

Where in the midlands are you from?

James Acaster

Kettering in Northamptonshire.

Graham Coxon

Northamptonshire. Check the shoes out.

James Acaster

Yes. Cobblers.

Ed Gamble

Vans is based in Kettering, no?

James Acaster

Yes. The original vans.

Graham Coxon

You've got American, I think these are French my shoes. That's flash.

Ed Gamble

I've got New Balance on.

Graham Coxon

New Balance.



Ed Gamble

Because even though I don't have kids, I've turned into a dad in the last year.

Graham Coxon

Have you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, just dad vibes.

Graham Coxon

The dad, sort of, fear hat?

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely. Got the hat, stripy trousers, New Balances.

Graham Coxon

And it's an extremely distracting t-shirt you're wearing.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, I saw you looking at that.

Graham Coxon

And you've got writing on your hat that's difficult to make out and I'm finding myself having to stare at it.

James Acaster

Every now and again I've noticed you glance at Ed and you don't look happy each time.

Ed Gamble

I'm glad to hear it's about the t-shirt though.

James Acaster

Yes, that's good.

Ed Gamble

Rather than my general vibe. This is a wrestling t-shirt. I'll explain everything I'm wearing.

Graham Coxon

Ah right. Fear Rip-

Ed Gamble

Rhea Ripley.

Graham Coxon

Rhea Ripley, sorry.



Ed Gamble

Rhea Ripley, she's a fantastic wrestler and it says, 'She's my mammy,' on there because that's what Dominic Mysterio calls her and then the hat is a band called Heriot.

Graham Coxon

Heriot.

Ed Gamble

Heriot, yes. They're a new British metal band.

Graham Coxon

Are they? Called Heriot?

Ed Gamble

Heriot, yes.

Graham Coxon

Okay, I'm not going to say anything about that.

Ed Gamble

No?

Graham Coxon

Well, there's obvious things you could say but you know, I am an old All Creatures Great and Small fan you see from way back, the original TV series.

James Acaster

The Christian vet. He was a Christian vet, wasn't he?

Graham Coxon

He was a Christian vet?

James Acaster

Yes, and he loved God and Jesus.

Graham Coxon

I suppose he did.

James Acaster

He did.

Graham Coxon

Is this a satanic vet? Heriot?



Ed Gamble

As far as I know, the band Heriot are not named after James Herriot and-

Graham Coxon

We're missing an R if they were.

Ed Gamble

When you see them live you don't get Christian vibes. I'll say that.

Graham Coxon

Excellent. What sort of vibes do you get?

Ed Gamble

Sort of just very extreme metal vibes.

Graham Coxon

I would like to hear that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're very very good.

James Acaster

Do you like metal?

Graham Coxon

I sort of appreciate, yonks and yonks ago I got into to, sort of, things like The Helicopters and Entombed and bands like this that were maybe sort of Swedish, it was like heavy, quite heavy rock really or quite trad like greasy rock and roll sort of stuff. I quite like listening to that stuff for a bit and I went to see Entombed a couple of times and they were great chaps.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're brilliant.

Graham Coxon

They were just out having a great laugh and they sounded heavy as hell at that point but then I don't go and see bands like that a lot.

Ed Gamble

Do you go to many gigs?

Graham Coxon

Not really.



James Acaster

I like your cadence, the way of talking-, we don't know where the sentence is going to end and it'll just end out of nowhere.

Ed Gamble

I like it, you're keeping us on our toes, Graham.

Graham Coxon

Is that off-putting?

Ed Gamble

No, not at all. We love it.

James Acaster

It's good stuff.

Graham Coxon

I like to see gigs but I'm a bit, you know, my hearing has been knocked about a little bit more recently and so, I'm not sure whether it's that great for me to see too many gigs. I mean, I'm involved, I'm in a noisy situation more often than not though which is the problem but I do have hearing aids and things like that, which I'm not wearing today because I thought this would be alright.

James Acaster

Yeah, we're ok.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you don't need to know what we're saying.

Graham Coxon

Unless we get the Heriot on, we should be fine.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water?

Graham Coxon

Still.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Straight away.



Graham Coxon

Absolutely.

Ed Gamble

Not a sparkling fan?

Graham Coxon

Sparkling I've always thought was for caners. I think, it is, isn't it? Let's face it.

James Acaster

Caners?

Ed Gamble

Why is it for caners?

Graham Coxon

Well, they need something to cut through all the night before. You know, they need some fizz to bring them back to life. I've always thought that was, everybody I know, I mean, not everybody I'm being unfair but whenever people order sparkling water when they go to a restaurant, I look at them and go, 'Oh yes,' and I think-,

James Acaster

They're out caning it.

Graham Coxon

They've been caning it. So, I like to have it as close to sauce as possible, I'd be out there sucking on a hillside if I could.

Ed Gamble

Well, I mean, it's the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

If you want to suck on a hillside at the start of this meal, we can do that for you because I'm a genie I've got powers. So, if you want to be sucking on the Scandinavian hillside maybe?

Graham Coxon

Or maybe even, in Ashbourne somewhere. That would be alright. Is that near Kettering?

James Acaster

No, I don't think so.

Graham Coxon

I think that's further north than Kettering.



James Acaster

Where are you from in the midlands?

Graham Coxon

I'm from Spondon, Derby originally.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. My sister lived in Derby for a bit so I'd go there quite a bit and visit. I've already spoken about everything about that on the podcast before. The man called Boston who would sit on the wall.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Graham Coxon

You mean Humpty Dumpty?

James Acaster

Sort of, yes.

Ed Gamble

You got mixed up again, you're always doing that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. So, you'd like to suck on a hillside.

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

How steep would you like the hillside?

Graham Coxon

In the dark peeks.

James Acaster

You just see him in the dark peeks sucking on a hillside. Do you want a straw to suck on the hillside or do you want a just lips to the hillside?

Graham Coxon

I'd just like the lips straight on. It's a bit constricting with the straw. I'd like to get the full pressure, the full water pressure full in the fizzog.



Ed Gamble

I think if anything made me suspect that someone was a caner, it would be someone sucking off a hillside.

James Acaster

Yes, not sucking off, come on he's not sucking it off.

Ed Gamble

But sucking the water off the hillside.

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Graham Coxon

Well, yes, I guess so.

James Acaster

He's not sucking off the hillside. Come no, man. He's sucking the hillside.

Ed Gamble

Sucking on the hillside.

Graham Coxon

Letting one's lips yield to the pressure of water as it springs forth.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Graham Coxon

I think that's alright.

James Acaster

Would you want anyone with you at this meal?

Graham Coxon

I didn't know that that was part of the deal, I could choose people.

James Acaster

Would that be your dream? Would you dream be to dine alone though because if it is then do that.

Graham Coxon

Whenever I've died-, dined alone-,



James Acaster

Oh no, a glimpse into those anxiety dreams again.

Graham Coxon

It's been slightly, it's kind of embarrassing and you feel like a bit of saddo and I tend to eat very quickly and get out of there. So, I'm probably sitting there eating fast and asking for whatever I need and hardly finishing and then asking, 'Can I pay? Can I get out of here?' And then leaving really quick. So, they probably feel like they've dealt with some extremely neurotic person or other times I feel remarkably suave when I'm on my own but it depends on the general feeling and how the neuroses is doing.

James Acaster

Depends on the restaurant a bit as well maybe.

Ed Gamble

I totally get that.

Graham Coxon

I don't like all posh, you know, tasting menus and things like that, that's all a bit odd. I don't like being mollycoddled or treated like a toddler or a baby in a restaurant, when people point with their little finger at bits of what's on a plate and tell you what it is.

Ed Gamble

I've never thought of that as being treated like a baby but it makes absolute sense when you put it like that.

Graham Coxon

It's like, just put it, you know, just let me eat it.

James Acaster

Although, you know, I've never thought about the pointing with the little finger as well and actually, I think if they came along and they pointed with their normal pointing finger at my food, I think I'd be like, 'Get the hell out of here.' I think that would offend me more. Pointing with the little finger does feel cleaner and less rude.

Ed Gamble

Less aggressive.

James Acaster

Whereas, if they were pointing with their actual finger I'd be like-,

Graham Coxon

Yes.



James Acaster

So, it's accusational, isn't it?

Graham Coxon

It's the pretence of it. I don't mean pretentious, pretensive-, what's the word?

Ed Gamble

Depends which one your looking for.

James Acaster

I'm not sure because we haven't heard the full sentence.

Graham Coxon

The pretence, the fakery. It's the fakery of it.

Ed Gamble

Pretence, yes.

Graham Coxon

You know, this bloke is doing this and he's describing what that's called and this is a little bit of foam to go with it and that's the sort of drink that you should have with it and it's a bit like, I just don't, I can't take it seriously. It's really absurd and I think people should just be how they are.

Ed Gamble

But what if that is how they are, the waiters and stuff and the people at the restaurant?

Graham Coxon

Well, that's fine.

James Acaster

But you can tell, you can see through it.

Graham Coxon

You can see through it, can't you?

James Acaster

Would you ever say that to them?

Graham Coxon

I haven't been to many of those things thank fully.

James Acaster

Would you ever be brave enough to say to a waiter, like, half way through, 'I see through all this.'



Graham Coxon

No, I wouldn't be. That's the sort of thing that people I'm close to and possibly people in the band I play in would at certain times not have any qualms about. Are we allowed to swear on here?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Tell the people to fuck off.

Graham Coxon

It's like, 'Just put it fucking down and fuck off.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Graham Coxon

And that sort of thing.

James Acaster

Sometimes when Alex is talking about his cheeses, do you go, 'I see right through you?'

Graham Coxon

I see right through you, Alex and I see a load of cheese in there.

Ed Gamble

It's good cheese.

James Acaster

Yes, you like his cheese, don't you?

Graham Coxon

I've eaten it, I've eaten it at Christmas. We usually get a, I think Alex was complaining recently that he sends out Christmas parcels of cheese to everyone and gets nothing back every year. The thing is, you know-

Ed Gamble

He makes the cheese though right? It's not like he's getting a different gift every time, right?

Graham Coxon

He gets to be in Blur for an extra year.



James Acaster

He should never take that for granted.

Ed Gamble

That's your present, Alex.

Graham Coxon

But his cheese is nice and he expands. I'm waiting for the cheddar but the old Blue Monday, that's quite a nice one.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's great.

James Acaster

Yes. So, you think he should carry on with the cheeses?

Graham Coxon

Oh definitely, yes. I never get through my quotient of cheese, my Christmas quotient, ever. It's just too much. I mean, I probably have the amount for Christmas and New Years that he might have in one night and it's still too much. You know, he is a maniac when it comes to the cheese. I bet he has sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Graham Coxon

Just because of the cheese caning.

Ed Gamble

He's caning on the cheese, yes.

James Acaster

Caning so much cheese. Have you seen him just like devour loads of cheese in front of you and can you not believe what you're seeing?

Graham Coxon

I have, I sort of can because I'm used to it now but if it was the first time I would be quite shocked possibly. No, not really. I mean, I mustn't, you know, Alex is a lovely man. I love Alex but I did see him once eat a massive amount that Blue Monday, well, it was a Christmas amount let's say on a bit of cracker which you're allowed to have a bit more than you're auntie or something but he went slap and then squirted a load of honey on it as well, and he went, 'You've got to try it like this,' and I went, 'Yes, go on then.'



James Acaster

Yes.

Graham Coxon

But I thought blimey, I couldn't do that again for another year. Not for another year. That was much.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, Graham Coxon? Poppadoms or bread?

Graham Coxon

Poppadoms or bread? Well, I'll have to had bread. Is this mine?

James Acaster

Yes.

Graham Coxon

Water, still?

James Acaster

Yes, that's your still water there.

Graham Coxon

There you are. Not exactly coming out of the side of the hill but-, poppadoms, what big crisps?

James Acaster

Big crisps.

Ed Gamble

You know what a poppadom is Graham.

Graham Coxon

Well, if I was at a-,

Ed Gamble

I see through you.

Graham Coxon

Poppadom, what is such? I would go for a poppadom of course if I was in a certain type of restaurant but on this occasion I'd have to go with a little bit of bread but not much because I've got to look ahead and there might not be much need for bread and bread might actually come with the starter, you never know. Yes, I would like to have bread. I'm full on butter, usually a pinch of some decent salt upon the butter as well.



Ed Gamble

Nice.

Graham Coxon

It used to be one of my favourite past times on aeroplanes was to just have as much wine as I could possibly fit onto my sort of tray that came down from the seat in front and just have loads of bread and butter and salt.

Ed Gamble

And that was it, you wouldn't have the rest of the meal?

Graham Coxon

Yes, it would be like my little, sort of, a little Abigail's party all to myself.

Ed Gamble

That's quite Dickensian in a way. Like, just wine and bread and butter.

James Acaster

Yes, that's why the dreams are happening.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Graham Coxon

Singing Oom-pah-pah, you know, until we're thrown off the flight, yes.

James Acaster

So, would you like that for your dream meal? Would you like, you're on the hillside for the water but do you want to be on a plane the bread course, with your tray down and you've got all your bread and butter and salt?

Graham Coxon

Yes, and I think that would be quite nice but not the wine now, it would have to be the remnants of the still water.

James Acaster

Maybe the planes just literally flown over the hill and you've been able to-,

Graham Coxon

A codpiece of water because I'm in medieval dress if I'm sucking on the side of a hill. So, maybe, a bit of codpiece water but it'd have to be some crusty French stuff, the bread. It's not going to be anything not nice.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, it can't be plane bread. Like, bread than you would have on a plane, right, because quite often that's pretty bad bread.

Graham Coxon

Well, it depends on the-, depends on the airline or class I guess, yes.

James Acaster

What's the best bread you've had on a plane?

Graham Coxon

Sometimes they bring around a basket and there's multiple types and you can have, you know, seedy kind of ones or a carpaccio whatever it's called, or like, just white French type stuff and I'd probably go for the white.

Ed Gamble

This is business, we're talking business upwards though, right?

Graham Coxon

Which I don't travel always with business. I have done recently but that was I was just bumped up for no reason. It's always nice.

Ed Gamble

What a feeling.

James Acaster

Were you looking around? Because I imagine a lot of the people in business class, they're not your type of people. I imagine, you'd look at them and go, 'Oh, I see right through all these pretentious mother fuckers.'

Graham Coxon

They're all mongering of some sort. There's something they're mongering to have gotten there.

Ed Gamble

Do you mean like fish mongers?

Graham Coxon

Mongers, yes, fish mongers, war mongers, fear mongers, money mongers.



Ed Gamble

So, whenever I'm getting on a plane and I'm going to economy, I look at the people going to business and I'm like, 'Every single one of those people is a fish monger.'

James Acaster

Yes, I imagine fish mongers are pretty gutted that they're lumped in with all the other mongers because, like, all the other mongers are pretty bad. They're war mongering and fear mongering and then they're like, 'We just like fish.'

Graham Coxon

There's not meat mongers, they're butchers. So, why?

James Acaster

There are ironmongers, I guess.

Graham Coxon

Ironmongers. Mongery.

James Acaster

Going back to Dickensian times.

Graham Coxon

But, I suppose, I look like-, I probably like to think I don't, but I think people go, 'Musician.' You know, in a split second.

James Acaster

Immediately.

Graham Coxon

Yes. I try not to look like one, but it's bloody obvious, I think, to people.

Ed Gamble

What sort of things do you do to try and not look like a musician?

Graham Coxon

I try not to air drum on my tray that goes into the front-, I try to wear a nice pair of shoes from Northampton. Maybe some jeans that aren't ripped and looking like they haven't been dragged through Roskilde festival, which is where we were last weekend, in Denmark. I don't know, but, some pop stars do dress rather, is it, sartorially, these days, don't they, and still look like musicians, actually. It's the hair. I haven't really got a musician's haircut.

James Acaster

Yes. I know what you mean though. Like, you, Alex, and Damon, I'd go, 'They're musicians.' Dave, not so much.



Graham Coxon

Drummer.

James Acaster

Do you know what I mean? You wouldn't look at Dave and go, 'Definitely a musician.'

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

He's a wonderful musician.

Graham Coxon

Because he's not only that. He isn't only that.

James Acaster

He's a radio host.

Graham Coxon

Because you don't go, 'Alex. Cheese.' You stop and musician. Alex and, or cheese. Well, Dave has done all sorts. He's been a lawmongerer. Lawyer. Pilot. You know, he does all sorts of what I would call grown-up stuff. He's done that for years. Since I've known him. He's the only one who reads, you know, the contracts and things like that. So, he's interested in law and grown-up stuff, you know.

Ed Gamble

Did you say he's a pilot as well?

Graham Coxon

Yes. For a while, Alex and Dave both were flying aeroplanes about.

Ed Gamble

Who do you want to be flying the plane that you're eating the bread on?

James Acaster

Thank you for asking the question I was also thinking of.

Graham Coxon

Well, Dave could fly.

James Acaster

So, not Alex. You would like Dave over Alex to be flying the plane?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Yes, definitely, these days.



James Acaster

Yes because he reads the contracts.

Graham Coxon

He signs all the contracts.

James Acaster

Based on my knowledge of him, which is only the things that you've said, I would choose Dave over Alex to be flying the plane because he's a responsible adult who reads contracts.

Graham Coxon

Yes because he'd be, like, telling you, 'Well. Look at the instruments, Graham. Here we have du-du-du-du-du-du.' Alex was just be like, 'This is great, isn't it? Wahay.'

Ed Gamble

Alex would get honey all over the control decks.

Graham Coxon

Perfectly safe, I imagine, but, you know. I've been up with a plane with Alex flying.

James Acaster

Yes?

Graham Coxon

It's great up there because you can do what you like.

James Acaster

Really?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

There's no laws?

Ed Gamble

I would say that's the opposite.

Graham Coxon

There's no laws in that aeroplane. It's a lawless, like, saloon. You can smoke whatever you want, drink whatever you like. Yes.

James Acaster

When Alex is flying the plane?



Graham Coxon

Yes. When Alex is flying. Undo your seatbelt, share your seat. You know, do whatever.

James Acaster

Did you do any of those things when you went up in the plane?

Graham Coxon

All sorts of stuff. I can't even go into it. All sorts of things.

James Acaster

Let's get into your menu proper now. Your dream starter?

Graham Coxon

I think it's a bit of a prawn cocktail. I love a prawn. You've got to love a prawn.

James Acaster

A prawn cocktail?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

Has this always been a favourite of yours?

Graham Coxon

I think it has, and I started to think, 'Well. Why can't I just start making these at home? Why do I have to go to Trattoria Luca on Parkway to get my prawn cocktail or my prawns on avocado?' And I started doing it at home, and a bit of thousand isle dressing on some prawns on a bit of avocado, or some lettuce and a bit of lemon, and you're off, aren't you?

James Acaster

Do you rate your own? Do you do a good one?

Graham Coxon

It just tastes the same as the other ones. I haven't got a remarkably advanced palette or anything, but, you know, it did the job. You know, I'm not going to sit down and photograph it, and wiggle my tongue about, and tell you where I'm tasting things. I'm not that sort of eater, but what I did in America a few times was to go hell for leather on an electrically-assisted bike from Santa Monica, through Venice, and all the way, and all the way, and all the way along, and go, like, twenty kilometres up there. Then, there's this old seafood shack, and the Americans do, well, they call it a shrimp cocktail. I call a shrimp, it's a very small prawn, but they call everything shrimp. They don't use the word prawn over there. Prawn.



Ed Gamble

Yes because I imagine that being the tiny little guys are the shrimp, right?

Graham Coxon

Yes. A little shrimpy thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes. The little shrimpy things. Yes, exactly.

Graham Coxon

Whereas a prawn is one of them big, succulent, fat, bloated beasts that Americans just call a shrimp.

Ed Gamble

Of course. Are you using those at home? Well, a shout-out again to the fishmonger, are you going to get the big boys from the fishmonger when you do it at home?

Graham Coxon

I haven't done it at home for a long time. I might push for it because, as you know, my parter, Grace, she does a lot of the cooking, but we have got prawns from the old-, They're expensive, aren't they? The big ones.

James Acaster

Pretty pricey.

Graham Coxon

The old tiger prawns.

James Acaster

Tiger prawns, yes, of course.

Graham Coxon

They're expensive.

James Acaster

Because the kitchen's not your domain, do you have to really quickly, like, sneak in there when your partner's cooking and try and make a prawn cocktail, and she goes, 'Get out of here. Stop making prawn cocktails.'

Graham Coxon

No, it's not like that. The kitchen is my domain, but it's just that I'm always tidying it up, and that takes a longer time. So, I'm in the kitchen a lot.

James Acaster

But mainly tidying?



Graham Coxon

Mainly tidying, making cups of tea, and things like that.

James Acaster

Yes. Do you put music on when you're tidying?

Graham Coxon

No, never.

James Acaster

You don't?

Graham Coxon

I don't listen to music.

James Acaster

Never?

Graham Coxon

No. It gets in the way. No, we should listen to more music. You know, I do like what Spotify and things just throws up every now and then. It goes, 'You might like this. You might like doing that.' They're quite often right.

James Acaster

That doesn't creep you out that they were right?

Graham Coxon

No, it doesn't. No, not really. I'm only one thumb movement from destroying my iPhone. Aren't we all? You know, it's like we can just eliminate everything and delete stuff, but we never do. But where were we with the real subject?

Ed Gamble

We were just talking prawn cocktails.

Graham Coxon

Prawn cocktail. Yes, I love a prawn-, because, in America, they do-,

James Acaster

Actually, there were a few things that I was thinking.

Graham Coxon

Sorry, yes.



James Acaster

Yes. Well, I want to know about this American place that you went to.

Graham Coxon

Yes. Well, you go it and it's like a shack. It must be quite famous around there. You've gone past where the airport is and where Jackie Brown was filmed and all that. You go past there, you go up further, further, further, and there it is. And you can just your things. They're all live there and you can choose lobsters and all the rest of it, and we used to go and have a lobster and have a shrimp cocktail, but it was the sauce, really, that's different all there. It's a, sort of, shrimp cocktail sauce, but, then, you put a blob of horseradish in there, and that was really, really good.

James Acaster

So, would you like that prawn cocktail for your dream meal? The shrimp cocktail from the shack?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Possibly that would be a good thing, but still with a bit of greenery, you know. On a bed of lettuce.

James Acaster

Yes. You've got to have a bed of lettuce.

Ed Gamble

You've got to have the lettuce. Refreshing.

Graham Coxon

A bit of lemon.

Ed Gamble

I love this horseradish thing. I only had it recently when I went to the States and had a shrimp cocktail because you expect that creamy dressing, right?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And, then, it's almost tomatoey with loads of horseradish in it and proper firey. It gets up your nose.

Graham Coxon

It's great. It's an intensery of flavour.

Ed Gamble

That's exactly what I said, weirdly. The first time I had it, I said it was an intensery or flavour.



James Acaster

Yes. Before we move on, what's your favourite part of cleaning the kitchen? When you're doing the clean-up of the kitchen, is there a particular thing that's really satisfying that you like to tidy up and get right?

Graham Coxon

Well, the thing is, my dealing with kitchen and things like that is I don't know I'm going to do it. You know, it, again, comes from an anxiety where I feel a little bit anxious, maybe I've been having an awkward conversation, and, before I know it, I'm sweeping the kitchen floor, or I'm in the middle of the washing up, or I'm scrubbing the sink. You know, I'm hosing down those things that keep the big bits from going down the sink that you can remove. I'm hosing that out a little bit or I'm sweeping the patio down, removing bird shit, and all the rest of it. You know, I'm doing all of this stuff because I found myself in an awkward situation where my anxiety has risen somewhat. And I'm sure old girlfriends of mine have, absolutely, when the place is a state, started to have a little argument with me, and they just point me in the right direction, and they're, 'Ah. It's all spick and span,' ten minutes later. And I'm really fast. I don't waste time, you know, emptying dishwashers, refilling dishwashers, wiping all the things down, re-oiling the wooden surfaces. You know, everything, and I'm a bit too much. It's slightly too obsessive. I'm a little bit too obsessive. But if you go from Santa Monica, through Venice, and, then, El Segundo, I think. I lost my wallet in El Segundo. And, then, the area where the airport is further down. You see, it's gone. Redondo Beach. It might be Redondo. It's a bit further than Redondo, and they have one of those Cheesecake Factories nearby that you have to avoid at all costs.

James Acaster

And why do you have to avoid them?

Graham Coxon

Because it's full of cakes. It's, like, a huge place and it's not just cheesecake.

James Acaster

No, it's not. It's not. I went to a Cheesecake Factory in San Francisco really wanting to try the cheesecake, but I made the mistake of ordering the meatloaf first to earn my desert, and the meatloaf was humongous, and I didn't really enjoy the cheesecake after that because I was too full.

Graham Coxon

But the meatloaf was alright?

James Acaster

I can't even remember it.

Graham Coxon

It's good stuff, I think.



James Acaster

Yes. It was pretty good. It was pretty good. I've had a lot of people say to me, I can't remember who it was recently, but it's an American person who said, 'The biggest mistake people make at Cheesecake Factory is getting the cheesecake because it's the worst thing on the menu.'

Ed Gamble

Did you think you have to avoid it because it's just full of cakes?

Graham Coxon

Cakes.

Ed Gamble

Is it that you're not a fan of cake, or you too much of a fan of cake, or just the idea of it being full of cakes you find nerve-wracking?

Graham Coxon

No, the idea of it being full of cakes is amazing to me. It's like, sort of, a heaven. No, I like sweet things and I can destroy-

Ed Gamble

You could rip your way through Cheesecake Factory?

Graham Coxon

Yes. I could destroy any amount of sweet things, chocolate especially.

Ed Gamble

I like the idea of you, like, you just whipping through Cheesecake Factory like Taz, just spinning around the-

James Acaster

Like Taz.

Graham Coxon

I could do. I mean, I'd be sick, but, you know, the intent's there.

James Acaster

I guess, in the kitchen, you're, kind of, the opposite of Taz because you're spinning around the kitchen, but then it's all tidy at the end.

James Acaster

Your dream main course, Graham. Now. Why, then, when you had a puff on your vape, did you cover it with your hand so I couldn't see it? You did a little-



Graham Coxon

It wasn't so you couldn't see it. I know that you think it's all about you. I hate it when people say that. I remember the first time I got that, I was crushed. 'It's not all about you, Graham.' Isn't it? No, there's a camera up there, I'm noticing.

James Acaster

You were shielding it from the camera. Who said that to you?

Graham Coxon

I can't remember.

Ed Gamble

It's pretty funny that you can't remember you said it. You were too busy remembering what you were doing.

Graham Coxon

It was probably a teacher. It might have been a teacher.

James Acaster

Dickhead teacher.

Graham Coxon

They're the sort of people that leave the most harm knocking about in one's head, aren't they? I once had a teacher, when I'd moved to Colchester, I'd written an account of my weekend, in which I'd gone up to Spondon to see my grandad again, and all of that. And I'd written that he lived in Moulton Ave. You know, I'd shortened it, and she singled my little account out as being the most absurd piece of work. I'm about seven years old. Everything hits you when you're seven. Everything happened. All the worst stuff happened to me when I was seven. Dog bites, broken teeth, beginning fainting episodes that I used to have, and this was my first one, I think. I didn't quite realise what was going on, and she changed Spondon to London, and she read it out in the most piss-taking way. I didn't know why I'd been singled out to be made to look such a fool.

Ed Gamble

She thought you'd spelt London wrong?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

So, she's stupid. She's a stupid idiot.

Graham Coxon

Yes. She was showing her own ignorance in front of everybody because she hadn't heard of Spondon, which is very famous, you know. Everybody's heard of Spondon.



James Acaster

Yes, everyone knows Spondon. Spondon Calling.

Graham Coxon

But to try and spell London with an 'Sp' at the beginning.

Ed Gamble

Yes. How stupid did she think you were?

Graham Coxon

Yes. I just thought-,

James Acaster

And she read it out in a piss-taking way, including Ave, did she?

Graham Coxon

Yes. You know, Moulton Ave. Made an example of me.

James Acaster

How old was she, do you reckon?

Graham Coxon

Don't know. She looked like Hamble. Do you remember Hamble, one of the dolls that was from Playschool years ago?

Ed Gamble

No.

Graham Coxon

Look her up. She looked a bit like that, but, sort of, a 35-year-old woman. So, let's call her that, sort of, age.

James Acaster

Dead now, you reckon?

Graham Coxon

Yes. She probably died before I was in secondary school.

James Acaster

Yes, you reckon?

Graham Coxon

Let's hope. And it wouldn't be my fault.



James Acaster

It's not your fault. No one's blaming you.

Graham Coxon

If she's going through life being that, sort of, bitter, and hideous, and cynical towards children, then she deserves everything she got.

Ed Gamble

That's probably what got her in the end.

Graham Coxon

Or gets.

James Acaster

She deserves that.

Graham Coxon

You know, she might be hanging on.

James Acaster

No, no. She's in the ground.

Graham Coxon

In the ground.

James Acaster

She's in the ground, and you won't be sucking on that part of the ground, will you?

Graham Coxon

No, no. No.

Ed Gamble

That'd be awful, trying to have a nice glass of water and you realise it's your teacher's grave.

James Acaster

Your dead teacher's in there.

Graham Coxon

Sucking up remnants.

James Acaster

Yes, you wouldn't want any of that. I hope she's buried in Spondon. That would be funny.



Graham Coxon

No, this would have been in Colchester.

James Acaster

Yes, but I hope somehow-

Graham Coxon

She's ended up in the Ashbourne Hills.

Ed Gamble

She was supposed to be buried in London and someone got mixed up and accidentally buried her in Spondon.

Graham Coxon

Excellent.

James Acaster

By mistake.

Graham Coxon

That would be excellent.

James Acaster

No, she's there, on an Ave as well. I hope she's on an Ave.

Graham Coxon

She's been there adding to the pong. There is a thing called the Spondon pong.

James Acaster

Is there?

Graham Coxon

Yes because of the Celanese factory there. So, this used to make this particularly strange, rubbery, kind of, smell in the air, and, so, you'd always know when you were in Spondon because you-, have you looked that up?

James Acaster

Benito's looked up the Spondon pong.

Graham Coxon

So, you'd get this, sort of, pong.

Ed Gamble

You'd get the Spondon pong.



James Acaster

That would be good name for a band, or a song, or an album. The Spondon Pong.

Graham Coxon

An album, yes. The Spondon Pong.

James Acaster

Kettering, where I'm from, next to Burton Latimer, which is where the Weetabix factory is. So, often, there's areas of Kettering that really smell like Weetabix.

Ed Gamble

The Kettering stench.

Graham Coxon

Yes, that must be nice.

James Acaster

The Kettering stench, as it's known, although, and I've mentioned it on the podcast before, but there was a really bad weekend when I was in my late teens, early 20s, I can't remember when, when Kettering just smelt like hot sick.

Graham Coxon

Really?

James Acaster

Yes. It just smelt like hot sick.

Graham Coxon

Hot?

James Acaster

Yes. It very specifically smelt like hot sick down near the train station.

Ed Gamble

What happened that weekend?

James Acaster

I don't know. Everyone was, like, 'Don't go down near the train station. It smells like hot sick.' It was bad stuff. We would kill the Spondon pong at that point. Your dream course is what I've realised we haven't-

Graham Coxon

Sorry?



James Acaster

We said dream main course, then we went off on this tangent, but what is your dream main course, Graham?

Graham Coxon

I'm going to say nasi goreng. This is a difficult one because there's so many things I liked and I was just going to say the one thing that, eventually, ended up as my side dish because I'm happy with that at most points during the day, or year, or whenever. But nasi goreng is something that I knew my dad loved from when he was a young man in Malaya, I think it was Malaya, and he loved nasi goreng, which is basically fried rice, I think it means. And he said that this very, very, very old, wisened, short woman used to make this for him pretty much every night when he was a young-, he may have been in a teenager at the time, in the army out there. But used to, like, whip this together and he used to just absolutely love it, and that's really gone on to me. I remember having it in Jakarta in 2012, something like that, and it's just great stuff. I think, it's, sort of, a fried rice that you can just put whatever you like in, but, mainly, when I've had it, and I've tried to make it as well. It doesn't taste quite as good as when I've had it, but the best one I ever had was in Jakarta. It had, sort of, the chicken on sticks thing.

Ed Gamble

Like the satay?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Satay, yes. So, you get rice and may have a couple of satays and a big dollop of peanut sauce, and you have a fried egg on the top of the whole lot, and it's excellent stuff. And I'm really into, sort of, ricey food. I like a good old fried rice. It used to be a huge treat when I was a kid to go the Chinese restaurant and have fried rice and things like that, and I thought it was the best stuff ever.

James Acaster

What was your go-to type of of fried rice at the Chinese restaurant when you were a kid?

Graham Coxon

Well, for ages, it was chop suey, which is no rice at all, but, when I discovered the fried rice, I don't know, just chicken fried rice and I was quite happy with that because, then, you know, it was the '70s and the '80s, and I would have had real proper English spaghetti bolognese, and I wouldn't have had Chinese food. I wouldn't have had any other shape of pasta apart from spaghetti, and it would hardly be anything approaching an Italian sauce. It would be more like an English stew on top of spaghetti. You know, carrots and everything, and it became a little bit of a joke that these big chunks of carrot, like, this is a stew. This is an English stew but on spaghetti. So, I remember, my mum tried to make Chinese food on a Monday with what was left over from Sunday. You know, sticky pork and things like this, and I'd be, like, 'I love this. I love this sort of thing.' You see, I liked exotic stuff. Anyway, and I just love that stuff. I love it.



James Acaster

When you eat the nasi goreng, do you think about your dad every time? Is it impossible for you to eat it without thinking about, 'My dad used to eat this,' and, like, you'd think about the wisened old woman every time?

Graham Coxon

Yes, I do a bit, whenever I see it on a menu, which isn't often. I've had nasi goreng with him, but, the thing is, it's all in a very nostalgic time for him. So, it's never ever going to approach what this, sort of, 200-year-old woman, you know, made for him. It's never going to be quite the same.

Ed Gamble

But the good thing is, because this is the dream restaurant, we can help out with that, right?

James Acaster

Yes, if you like.

Graham Coxon

Excellent. Is she coming in?

Ed Gamble

Would you like the 200-year-old woman to cook you this in the dream restaurant?

Graham Coxon

I would and I'd like her to be extremely rude as well. Just chuck it at you.

James Acaster

Do you like it when people are rude to you in restaurants?

Graham Coxon

I like rudeness, and anger, and insult. I think it's funny.

Ed Gamble

She's not pointing with her little finger. I'll put it that way.

Graham Coxon

No, but I bet she was great. I bet she's made that a billion times.

Ed Gamble

Easy.

Graham Coxon

And I imagine it in a mess tin, although it probably wasn't in a mess tin. You know, I get this information out of my dad every now and again, what it was like when he was out there. 'What were your shorts like? Were they really massive high waisters?' You know, and then what colour were they.



Ed Gamble

Asking all the right questions.

James Acaster

What were the shorts like? What the nasi goreng like?

Graham Coxon

'And you were wearing ammo boots? And where would you go?' 'I'd go a few tents up and this woman would just chuck nasi goreng at you.'

Ed Gamble

Is it spicey, the nasi goreng?

Graham Coxon

Yes. I can be.

Ed Gamble

Do you like a bit of spice?

Graham Coxon

Yes, absolutely.

James Acaster

You liked the horseradish in the-

Graham Coxon

I loved the horseradish when I was a kid, and I tried to force that on my own children. Say, 'Go on. Have just a little bit.'

James Acaster

And do they?

Graham Coxon

And they don't like spicey, but they always like it.

James Acaster

Right. So, yes, once they give it a go.

Graham Coxon

Yes. They're having a tiny bit.

Ed Gamble

You're just building up their tolerance?



Graham Coxon

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Bit by bit, yes.

Graham Coxon

You don't have to have this thing on its own. You put it with stuff, you know, to enhance. People get so freaked out spicy stuff. I mean, I don't go too spicy these days. You know, I'm not, like, 'Let's have a vindaloo, yes?' I'm not like that. I just don't see the point, but I like a little bit. Just enough is good, isn't it, but no. I'm not like spice mania, like it's a machismo. I'm not like that kind of masculine.

James Acaster

Did you like the Spice Girls?

Graham Coxon

Not really.

James Acaster

You weren't into them?

Graham Coxon

No.

James Acaster

I guess, it was that time where, like, I mean, you were probably all punched out from Blur versus Oasis, and, then, Spice Girls came around and you were just knackered. You were, like, 'I can't put up with this. I can't engage with this.'

Graham Coxon

I can't put up with this.

James Acaster

'I can't engage with this shit.'

Graham Coxon

Well, it's a complicated thing, that. They were fine. I really liked Sporty. I liked her song with Bryan Adams. 'Even food don't taste that good,' and all that. I thought that was a great little song.

James Acaster

We should get them both of the podcast. Sporty and Bry at the same time and ask them, 'Does food taste that good anymore?'



Graham Coxon

It was, sort of, a fun girlpowery thing when this sort of thing had been there in underground punk rock music for a bit during the early to mid '90s. So, I thought it was a bit cheap, and a bit shallow, and all the rest of it, but I was probably a bit snobby about it. It was probably okay. It was, kind of, a bit glitzy and pink and unicorny for me when I thought there was some other, you know, more heavier worthy stuff being said and being put forward by groups and women at the time. So, you know, the Spice Girls was a complicated thing at the time because, the '90s, it was very different in the '90s and I don't know whether it's got much better. It must have. God knows. I hope so.

James Acaster

I mean, look, I hate to ask you about Blur versus Oasis because I just mentioned it.

Graham Coxon

Go on then.

James Acaster

I might not ever get to interview anyone from either band ever again. So, would you say it's fair to say that you absolutely pulverised them?

Graham Coxon

What, Oasis? No.

James Acaster

Come on.

Graham Coxon

What, back then? We obviously didn't.

James Acaster

It's not a competition, Graham. You absolutely destroyed them.

Ed Gamble

Where are they now?

James Acaster

You absolutely made a fine paste of them.

Ed Gamble

They don't even talk anymore because of that.

Graham Coxon

But, at the time, I thought it was record sales. People go on about, 'Yes. They won this battle. They didn't win the war.' The war is still on. It is, isn't it?



James Acaster

The war's not over.

Graham Coxon

It seems to be.

James Acaster

Yes, but, I would say, if the war is still on, Blur are still, like, on the main battlefield and Oasis are in the first aid tent.

Ed Gamble

Two separate first aid tents.

James Acaster

Two separate first aid tents.

Graham Coxon

'Morning, chaps. Where is everybody? We've come here for a good fight and there's no one here.' No, but the thing is though, if Oasis were to get together, then, they would lay waste to us.

James Acaster

Do you think?

Graham Coxon

Probably, but that's a good thing and I think they should. I mean, it would be a laugh. You know, that's a long time ago now, all that stuff, and we were fighting for our careers. You know, it was a matter of life and death for young people to be getting a career together. Of course there was going to be competitiveness there. You know, there were a few things that were said that were, 'There's no need for that,' but what are you going to do? The people were trying to get themselves out of their situation and rock and roll was one way of doing it. So, you're going to be serious about it. You're going to, you know, defend it.

James Acaster

I chose Blur in the battle. I went and bought Country House.

Graham Coxon

Did you?

James Acaster

It's a very vivid memory. Kettering HMV, bought it, and the lady behind the counter said to me, 'Good choice,' and then she started singing it while she got it from the-, because I gave her the empty slipcase and she had to go and find the cassette in the little, like, library behind her.



Graham Coxon

Cassette. Yes.

James Acaster

And she was just singing the song as she was going to get it. I really remember it really vividly because it was like the same way I felt when I went to vote for the first time.

Graham Coxon

It is a bit like that, isn't it?

James Acaster

I felt, 'This is important. I'm making a decision, and I'm going, and I've decided I'm going to get Country House.'

Graham Coxon

It was like voting.

James Acaster

And she told me, 'Well done. You've made the right choice,' and then she sang it as she handed it to me, and I was, like, 'Thank you.'

Graham Coxon

And was this in Kettering?

James Acaster

This was Kettering HMV.

Graham Coxon

Right. Well, that's good. I'm glad we, you know, won that, I suppose, but I don't think either song was-, they were both a bit daft.

James Acaster

Yes, sure, they were daft, but that's what you want, I guess, for a battle between the songs. You want some fun. Fun songs. But, then, The Universal, that was your next single, and that was a big part of my life. I did the Kettering Gangshow. Do you know that is?

Graham Coxon

A Gangshow. Were you in the cub scouts?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Why would Graham know what the Kettering Gangshow is?



James Acaster

Well, he knew more than you.

Ed Gamble

But, specifically, the Kettering Gangshow.

James Acaster

Well, can you guess what the Kettering Gangshow would be?

Graham Coxon

Yes. I know what a Gangshow is. So, it's just one that's in Kettering, as opposed to mine, which was a Stanway Gangshow.

Ed Gamble

A Stanway Gangshow?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

You're familiar with the Stanway Gangshow. There was a Stanway Gangshow versus Kettering Gangshow, actually. We won the battle, but they won the war. It was big. I did the Kettering Gangshow, and it was, like, my first time performing on stage, and it really meant a lot to me. I really wanted to do it and my parents knew that I'd wanted to do it forever. I was probably ten years old or whatever and they knew that I really wanted to be on stage and perform. It was my first chance, actually, getting to do it, and, when I got home from my first performance of it, on my pillow, was they'd bought me The Universal by Blur on cassette.

Graham Coxon

Wow.

James Acaster

And a little note that said, 'Well done,' and all this, and it was very important to me.

Graham Coxon

That's nice.

James Acaster

So, every time I hear that song, I think about that.

Graham Coxon

What a nice story.



James Acaster

I think about my first time being on stage. You weren't expecting that, were you?

Ed Gamble

No. Normally, your stories end with you being embarrassed in some way.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. Yes. At some point, I probably embarrassed myself. I saw the tape and then I pissed my pants.

Ed Gamble

What did you do at the Gangshow?

Graham Coxon

Pissed your pants. Were you told to wear swimming trunks when you performed in your Gangshow just in case you got stage fright and pissed yourself? I was. I was.

Ed Gamble

What. What.

Graham Coxon

In the cubs. I was slightly younger than ten. Maybe eight or nine, but they said, 'Wear swimming trunks just in case you get stage fright and wee, and lose control of yourself.'

James Acaster

Do you still do that do this day?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

Wembley Arena, got your trunks on.

Graham Coxon

Got the trunks on. You might see the drawstring peeping out at some point.

Ed Gamble

That just seems like a way to guarantee a kid's going to piss themselves.

Graham Coxon

It's a bit like, 'What?' That's frightening.

Ed Gamble

'What? I didn't know that could happen.' Get your trunks on, Graham.



James Acaster

Your dream side dish?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Chip butty.

James Acaster

Chip butty.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

So, is this, like, the top of your menu, really?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

The thing you can have all the time that you love?

Graham Coxon

Yes. I mean, this is it, really, for me. This is luxury.

Ed Gamble

Proper big, thick chips in there right? So, proper chip shop chips?

Graham Coxon

Fish and chip shop chips, yes. Not a doorstep, bread-wise, and, if you are in a local fish and chip shop and you're having a sit-down, a posh meal in your fish and chip shop, you've got to ask them not to cut it diagonally. You know, I always thought that that was mega posh, when bread was cut into triangles instead of just into two oblongs, and that doesn't work at all with the chip butty.

James Acaster

You, kind of, weirdly get less chips in there, even though it's the same sized sandwich.

Graham Coxon

Well, that's a question for Brian Cox or somebody.

Ed Gamble

Well, we've had him on already. We forgot to ask him that.

James Acaster

He gets tetchy when you ask him questions, let me tell you.



Graham Coxon

About how many chips you can fit in it?

James Acaster

He's got some issues, that man.

Ed Gamble

He didn't like us.

James Acaster

He's got some anger issues.

Graham Coxon

Maybe, you just get a slice of like that, and you get your chips, and you, and everything in there. Butter, brown sauce, Houses of Parliament sauce, ketchup, vinegar, salt, loads of salt. Just get it all in and just eat it. It's the best.

Ed Gamble

That does sound good.

James Acaster

It sounds great, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

I haven't had a chip butty in ages.

Graham Coxon

It's the best.

James Acaster

Was there a particular fish and chip shop that you'd go to and get this from that was, like, the best chip butty and it was your favourite?

Graham Coxon

Well, Cannons from Crouch End. That's gone, sadly. There's Toff's in Muswell Hill, but my best friend when I was six, in Spondon, his mum and dad ran-

Ed Gamble

Sorry, do you mean London?

Graham Coxon

No, Spondon.



Ed Gamble

Spondon. Okay, sorry. I thought you said London wrong.

Graham Coxon

They ran the chippie in Spondon, my friend Cassie. So, I'd go there quite often after school, and we used to drink this fizzy drink that used to have a Tom and Jerry cartoon on it, and I can't, for the life of me, remember. And we used to eat Tudor crisps. They've both gone, I think, these things.

James Acaster

Yes, the Tom and Jerry drink.

Ed Gamble

Yes. What flavour was the Tom and Jerry drink?

Graham Coxon

I don't know, pink.

Ed Gamble

Pink flavour, yes.

Graham Coxon

Sort of, pink bubblegummy, strawberry-ish, chemically, kind of, stuff.

James Acaster

And did you drink it because you liked Tom and Jerry?

Graham Coxon

Counteract the pong. Yes, well, it was just on there.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. It just happened to be on there.

Graham Coxon

It was, sort of, encouraging you to read. You know, you read the tin.

James Acaster

Was there a little comic strip?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you think that was the thought behind it? The Department for Education were, like, put Tom and Jerry on the pink drink and then will encourage kids' literacy?



Graham Coxon

I don't know. Maybe. I've been put on the spot now.

Ed Gamble

We ask the hard questions, Graham. What can I say?

James Acaster

Tom and Jerry are so, like, just permanently in the zeitgeist that-

Ed Gamble

You're so proud of yourself for using the word zeitgeist there. You looked up and smiled.

Graham Coxon

I know. I was, like, 'What?'

James Acaster

I'm pretty pleased with myself.

Ed Gamble

You've got your trunks on?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Put your trunks on, I'm about to say zeitgeist. But you put them on anything and most people wouldn't question it. 'Oh, yes. Tom and Jerry are there,' even though it's mad that they'd put Tom and Jerry on a drink.

Graham Coxon

It's the violence that I liked.

James Acaster

You liked how violent they were?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Just hitting each other with floorboards and, you know, slamming hands in pianos. It didn't matter.

James Acaster

It didn't, did it?

Graham Coxon

It was great.

Ed Gamble

It really didn't matter.



James Acaster

Because, really, if it was more realistic, you know, dead after one episode.

Ed Gamble

Well, the mouse is dead straight away, right?

James Acaster

The mouse is dead straight away. Good luck if it ever gets the cat back. Well, it probably won't.

Graham Coxon

I know we're getting off-piste a bit here, but there was the bulldog. What was that one called? Was it a bulldog.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there was a bulldog.

James Acaster

Yes, it would sometimes get involved. Yes, I don't know what it was called, but it was a nasty piece of work, wasn't it? What dog would you rather fight? The Tom and Jerry dog or Bullseye?

Graham Coxon

Well, the Tom and Jerry dog would be the worse one because they, sort of, reconstitute themselves, cartoon characters. They can be hit my anvils or split in half by axes and stuff.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he'd be fine, wouldn't he?

Graham Coxon

And then they, sort of, make themselves whole again. So, that would be good. I actually quite like those. Are they English bull terriers? That's what that make-, type of dog is. What is it? That make.

James Acaster

Your dream drink? Now, obviously, everyone's expecting you to pick a cup of tea. Everyone I've told that we're doing this episode, everyone's, like, 'Ask him what the cup of tea was like in Starshaped that he had in the back of the car.'

Graham Coxon

That was a cup of tea, yes, with lots of sugar.

James Acaster

Everyone wants to know what that tea tasted like. Everyone I speak to about doing this interview, 'Ask him what the Starshaped cup of tea was like in the back of the car.'



Graham Coxon

Really?

James Acaster

They all want to know about it.

Graham Coxon

That was absolutely real, that.

Ed Gamble

When you say everyone, do you mean Josh Widdicombe?

James Acaster

Josh Widdicombe and Nish Kumar both told me. They both told me independently.

Graham Coxon

I'm not saying then, not if Josh wants to know. I'm keeping shtum because that's just weird.

James Acaster

Josh asked me about it. He said, 'Ask him about that,' then sent me the video to clarify. 'It's this clip. It's that cup of tea.'

Graham Coxon

It's true, you know, though. I hadn't had a bath. I was, like, 'God, we've got to get to this festival site.' We were, like, playing at 11am. It was absolutely ridiculous. So, I dragged myself out of bed. Yes, I put my old boating blazer on and I'm all ready to go. And, then, Alex swans in, like, twenty minutes later after having a bath and everything like that, and, then, suddenly, we're in a hurry again. So, I'm taking my cup of tea with me and it is. It's just bouncing around all over the place. Every time I go for it, it bounces up, but that would have had a lot of sugar in because I would have had a hangover.

Ed Gamble

How many sugars were you having back in the day?

Graham Coxon

I don't know, every available sugar. I don't know, four of five sachets.

Ed Gamble

Four of five of those.

Graham Coxon

Yes. Brown sugar, maybe.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you'll never beat Bob Mortimer. How many did Bob Mortimer have? Seventeen.



James Acaster

Something like seventeen because eighteen's too sweet, he said.

Graham Coxon

Yes, but I had to stop drinking tea because I stopped drinking tea for a good while and went on to just black coffee because I thought, 'This is insane,' because I had a tea mug that was like a pint-sized. And there's no point in having a cup of tea-, that means you've got to up the sugar amount, obviously, as a ratio to-, so, I was almost having a pound of sugar, you know, every three or four days in my tea, and I just had to say, 'No. This is getting too much.'

James Acaster

But, then, you switched to black coffee, but, then, were you not just having it in the same mug? You had a different mug and that solved everything?

Graham Coxon

Well, yes. Black coffee with no sugar, nothing. So, that didn't throw up this problem of tea to sugar ratio, and that was in America where you can't get a decent cup of tea anyway. So, I was just, like, 'I'll blow it,' and just that black coffee and just the anxiety and the pure outrage of everyday living in America, I turned into a rake.

Ed Gamble

Doing a lot of cleaning?

Graham Coxon

Yes. Yes, and and the cycling to get the old shrimps, not even that could put weight on me.

Ed Gamble

That's not your dream drink, you're not going with a cup of tea?

Graham Coxon

No, my dream drink would probably be a 1962 Amarone, but the thing is I don't drink, so it's difficult to know. I would love a nice glass of red wine. I'm not saying now, but in a dream scenario, that for me is an extremely nice thing to have with one's meal, but now it's like, crikey, I don't know. I have a 0% beer as a, sort of, cocktail hour at 6:00.

James Acaster

Is that what you'd have for this dream meal, a 0% beer?

Graham Coxon

Yes, probably. I'd have an Erdinger or something like that that has 0%, which is actually a sports drink if you read it. It's reduced calorie and it's isotonic, so it's actually a sports drink, the Erdinger 0%, and it's one of the best tasting ones.



James Acaster

Would you do some sport after drinking it, an Erdinger?

Graham Coxon

Easily.

James Acaster

Easily?

Graham Coxon

Yes, easily.

Ed Gamble

There are a lot of, like, no-alcohol beers now.

Graham Coxon

Yes, there are tonnes.

Ed Gamble

There are so many good ones. Yes, but I like that this is the sports angle as well, so you could almost cycle to get the prawns and then neck a quick Erdinger.

Graham Coxon

What I like about it is that you could be cycling along just drinking from that, and everyone thinks, 'What a reckless young man,' but you're like, 'No, it's a sports drink actually.'

James Acaster

I can tell you this now but, like, on the podcast, we always have a secret ingredient that we don't tell the guest and if they choose it on the menu, we kick them out of the restaurant and it came very close just then. You settled on the Erdinger 0% but for your episode, we've chosen, sometimes it's related to the guest, and we've chose Beaujolais, and when you just said the red wine, I was like, we're going to have to ask what type and if it's Beaujolais, with a heavy heart, we're going to have to kick-

Graham Coxon

You'd really kick us out? I said Amarone.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. You said Amarone so we would have been alright.

Graham Coxon

Beaujolais nonsense. You see, that's what the character would have drunk but not any decent human being.



James Acaster

Do you reckon you could hang out with the Charmless Man? Would you enjoy it?

Graham Coxon

Oh, I've done it many times. I'm sure we all have. He knows his clarets from his Beaujolais, doesn't he?

James Acaster

Yes, he does.

Graham Coxon

I'm sure they're talking about wine. Nasty business, things are never as they seem.

James Acaster

Is that a filthier lyric than we think it is?

Graham Coxon

Yes, absolutely, I think so. I'd like to think so. It probably isn't. It's probably about red wine.

James Acaster

Yes, what's Coffee and TV really about?

Graham Coxon

That is really that boring, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's just about coffee and TV.

Ed Gamble

It's not about bums and dicks, or something?

Graham Coxon

It might be. No, I don't know what that's about. It was lyrics collected from my then diary really, I think. Like, I don't know, I don't know about this, I can't be bothered. If you want to sing it, yes, okay, and write some lyrics, and I went home and wrote those. I was just going over some old, sort of, diaries and bits and bobs, and notes, and that's how it came about. I'd say nothing unusual. Bums and dicks. No, it's about coffee, you know. It's about, sort of, being sober and wanting to be with somebody, I suppose, and feeling a little bit alienated and rootless, and all of the rest of it, and wanting to fall in love with someone and be married, and to belong with somebody. That really is the sad, romantic truth. You know, when you stop drinking, your social life gets extremely boring very quickly, or becomes non-existent, and so, yes, you tend to watch the news and drink tea, and that's it.

James Acaster

I mean, had you, when you wrote Coffee And TV, made the shift from the big mug of tea to the black coffee? Was it that point in your life?



Ed Gamble

Otherwise if you hadn't it would have been called Big Mug Of Tea And TV.

James Acaster

Big Mug Of Tea, and most of the lyrics would be like, 'I think there's too much sugar in this tea, I'm worried about it.'

Ed Gamble

'I can't finish all this tea.'

James Acaster

'I can't finish it.'

Graham Coxon

Well, actually no, because what I did do, I did pretty much trade pints of lager to pints of latte at that point, and that is what happened. I used to go to Henry J Beans or whatever it used to be in Camden. I'd go in there and they'd make massive lattes, and I would sit there as if it was a pub and drink eight of those. That's why I'd be jangling and stuff like that, and I've written a few songs about that situation. One of them is called Latte which was a solo song of mine. You can't go on doing that. You can't go out and drink eight pints of coffee every morning, so you know, it's a funny thing to, sort of, change how you live and your habits, but you, sort of, do have to. Replacing one thing with the other isn't much fun.

James Acaster

You're not going for coffee though, you're going for the Erdinger 0%, and then doing some sport?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

You want it while you're cycling to get the shrimp cocktail?

Graham Coxon

Yes, yes, it's an excellent look.

Ed Gamble

You can have it in the little bottle holder in your bike.

Graham Coxon

Yes, absolutely. One of my other dreams, general life dreams, is to be, sort of, 70 odd, 80, I mustn't tempt fate but I, kind of, like the idea of a mobility scooter with optics attached and a big basket and, sort of, an ice bucket, and to hurl myself around some precinct, music blasting and just having a drink.

James Acaster

Do you think you'd blast Heriot?



Graham Coxon

Blast a bit of Heriot, yes, it'd be excellent. I used to watch this man in Canterbury who used to go around in circles. He used to put it on full lock and he had music going in the middle of the high street I think which was pedestrianising in Canterbury. He used to go round and round, and round, drinking a bottle of sherry, just sitting there for ages just going round and round, and round wearing his battery down.

Ed Gamble

Then presumably you'd watch him for ages, right?

Graham Coxon

Yes, I sat in Café Nero watching him, because he was just outside there, having a pint of coffee thinking, 'One day, that'll be me if I'm not careful.'

James Acaster

Yes, sure, but also it sounds like you're pretty set on it.

Graham Coxon

He looked like he was having a great time.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Graham Coxon

We've got to be careful of chip butties but I'll give you a warning about chips as well. You know about the dinner lady's mole?

Ed Gamble

No.

Graham Coxon

You've got to be careful of dinner lady mole on chips. You know when you get the eye of the potato on your chip and sometimes it has some frond-like, hair-like things coming off? Well, we used to say that that was the dinner lady's mole on there, because our dinner lady when I went to five way school in Stanway, she had, like, a teddy boy's haircut which was dyed brown and it was very, very broad Scottish, very wrinkly and had a mole with hairs coming out, and that was the dinner lady's mole.

Ed Gamble

You'd say that's the dinner lady's mole.

Graham Coxon

Yes, so you've got to be careful. You've got to choose your chips carefully, and some kids would just discard that whole chip, and if you were hungry, you had to decide, well, I'll cut that bit off or just cut the bit out. The thing is it was almost like operating on her face and it was a really weird, hideous.



Ed Gamble

You'd throw the chip away? Would you never give it back to the dinner lady?

Graham Coxon

No, you just-,

James Acaster

'Found your mole.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, 'Found your mole.'

Graham Coxon

No way. She was fearsome, fearsome.

Ed Gamble

She'd destroy you. I wouldn't want to cut it out, I think that's the worst.

Graham Coxon

She'd show you the hairy side immediately.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't cut it out. I'd just get rid of the chip.

Graham Coxon

You know what I mean by that? You know I don't mean anything rude, don't you?

Ed Gamble

Yes. No one thought that you meant that.

James Acaster

No, although you know, I didn't think claret and Beaujolais was rude but apparently it is, so who knows? You could be being the most filthy guest we've ever had and we don't even know it.

Graham Coxon

I know.

Ed Gamble

We arrive at your dream dessert. We know that you've got a sweet tooth, you said earlier.

Graham Coxon

Well, this is a school-related dessert because it's, sort of, that toffee tart and I've never found it ever since.



Ed Gamble

Right, I'm not sure we had the toffee tart.

James Acaster

I don't think we had the toffee tart.

Graham Coxon

It's weird. I suppose it must be, like, toffee flavour condensed milk or something like that poured into a pastry case or something.

James Acaster

Oh, I know what you mean.

Graham Coxon

It was just toffee-ish and I think it had some sort of skin on the top at some point.

James Acaster

Oh, I don't remember the skin.

Graham Coxon

Maybe not a skin, maybe that was just sat around for too long, but it must have just been toffee, sort of, flavoured condensed milk or something. Condensed milk is what comes-, it's the thick stuff, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, same as evaporated milk.

Graham Coxon

Evaporated milk is different, isn't it, it's thinner?

Ed Gamble

No, it's different. He's being cheeky.

Graham Coxon

Condensed milk is the stuff that Lenny Henry used to eat in sandwiches when he had his Okay character yonks ago, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Graham Coxon

Condensed milk sandwiches, which I don't know, I probably should have tried but I wouldn't have let the bread get in the way. I went straight in with the teaspoon on that stuff.



James Acaster

It's too good, isn't it?

Graham Coxon

Yes.

James Acaster

I think I know what you're talking about with this toffee tart. I think my mum made, who's an excellent cook, toffee pie and I was obsessed with it, and you just reminded me of it. I really-, my mum listens to every episode, so Mum, please make it again soon.

Graham Coxon

Recipe please.

James Acaster

I would love to eat that again. It was a big, like you say, it was just, like, soft toffee.

Graham Coxon

Yes, like, slightly set.

James Acaster

On pastry, yes. It was really good.

Graham Coxon

Yes, I think maybe it's pie rather than tart.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it sounds delicious.

James Acaster

It was great. If it's the same thing I'm thinking of, that's absolutely-, I was so stoked whenever my mum would make it.

Graham Coxon

It is excellent stuff, and I haven't had it since I was probably at junior school, so anybody?

James Acaster

Anybody want to make toffee pie?

Graham Coxon

If you know what we're talking about here.

James Acaster

You would have it with squirty cream. You did the squirty cream?



Graham Coxon

I could have it with squirty cream. What would be the best thing with that? Custard might be a bit of a weird one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Maybe just, like, pouring cream.

Graham Coxon

Yes, a bit of squirty, pouring cream.

Ed Gamble

Squirty and pouring?

Graham Coxon

Well, I like mixing the old stuff, because one of my favourite desserts was a Bakewell pudding up in Bakewell, and we had custard and ice cream. Custard and ice cream is the best.

James Acaster

Ed and I did the show, Hunted.

Graham Coxon

Yes, yes, excellent, I'll have to watch that.

James Acaster

We did that and, you know, we were on the run for about a week. We did a lot in that, so most of it obviously gets cut out the edit because you're just on the run all the time. There was one day when we went to about five different places, and in the edit, we just go to one place, but one of the places we went to was Bakewell. We were in the car, someone was giving us a lift, and I saw a sign to Bakewell, instantly thought, it made me think I want a Bakewell pudding, and I went, 'Oo.' All Ed heard was me in the back go, 'Oo,' and then he instantly went, 'Have you seen a sign to Bakewell and now you want a Bakewell pudding?' He just knew it immediately. I said, 'Yes,' and then we went.

Ed Gamble

So we went, we got the bus.

James Acaster

We got a Bakewell pudding, which is infinitely better than the Bakewell tart.

Graham Coxon

You called it a Bakewell pudding at this point, and you say tart?



James Acaster

Well, because Bakewell pudding is-,

Graham Coxon

You say tart? The tart is a falsehood.

James Acaster

Yes, I don't like the Bakewell tart as much. I think they're fine. Bakewell puddings are incredible.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and to be honest I didn't know what. You know, I wasn't aware about the tart-pudding war.

Graham Coxon

Yes, there is. It's a big thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so we went in and we said, 'Bakewell pudding please,' and the lady said, 'Good choice,' and then she just sung Bakewell pudding all the way to the shelf and then took it off. Yes.

James Acaster

He lives in a pudding, the birthday pudding, it's Bakewell.

Graham Coxon

Yes, whenever you-, oh, you're not, okay. I was thinking wow, they go and make a transaction and they get sang to, the relevant song.

James Acaster

I had to bring her the case for the case for the Bakewell pudding, the metal tray, little metal, foil tray.

Ed Gamble

We sat on a wall and we ate the Bakewell pudding and they were filming us doing it, and we just thought, 'There's no way this is making the edit.'

James Acaster

'They're not putting this in but we're really happy.'

Graham Coxon

Did they not put it in?

Ed Gamble

No, it's supposed to be a high-octane, sort of, you know, a lot of threat and in jeopardy.



Graham Coxon

There's men in, like, black ops or something, like rugby tackling you and stuff, when you run into a helicopter. I quite like that show.

James Acaster

It was fun, and I loved that Bakewell pudding, and I love that you've chosen the toffee pie.

Graham Coxon

Yes, it's great.

James Acaster

That, for me, is very exciting because yes, it's something that I'd forgotten about that I absolutely loved, and I'm a big dessert boy.

Graham Coxon

Yes, me too. I love a dessert. I have had two starters and two desserts, and just miss out the mains sometimes.

Ed Gamble

That's good.

Graham Coxon

That's a good thing to do.

Ed Gamble

See, I'm happy with that too because I'm a starter boy.

Graham Coxon

Freaks people out. Yes, yes, they think you're really weird and different, and interesting.

James Acaster

I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about. You would like still water sucked from a hillside, you want to suck it from a hillside, poppadoms and bread. You want a crusty French bread and butter, and salt on a plane with the tray down, flown by Dave. Starter, you want the shrimp cocktail from The Seafood Shack in maybe Redondo Beach. We haven't figured it out. Main, nasi goreng with chicken satay made by the 200-year-old woman who you're.

Graham Coxon

I think it comes with chicken satay as part of the disheroonie, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, it's part of the disheroonie. side dish, you would like the chip butty with HP sauce, ketchup, vinegar and salt from the chip shop that's now shut.



Graham Coxon

Yes, or any one will do.

Ed Gamble

Your friend's parent's chip shop, was it?

Graham Coxon

Up in Spondon, yes.

James Acaster

Up in Spondon, the Spondon chip shop. Drink, an Erdinger, alcohol-free Erdinger which you want on the way to The Seafood Shack while you're driving an electric bike. Dessert, you would like the toffee pie from school dinners served by the dinner lady with a mole in her face.

Graham Coxon

Yes, perfect.

James Acaster

How's that feel?

Graham Coxon

It feels excellent. It feels like I could just put my feet up now and watch Antiques Roadshow.

Ed Gamble

Is that the perfect post-meal show to watch?

Graham Coxon

I think so.

James Acaster

What's your favourite part of Antiques Roadshow? When they get loads of money for it, when they get told it's worthless.

Graham Coxon

When they get loads, I like. My least favourite is good, better, best.

James Acaster

Yes, not for you?

Graham Coxon

It's an ego trip, that one. No. Yes, that's a nice bit of telly. I like gentle TV.

James Acaster

Going back to Coffee and TV, that's what you're watching.



Graham Coxon

Gentle TV, instead of-, yes, gentle television. Well, I'm of that age. I'm 54, I like gentle television.

Ed Gamble

Graham, thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant.

Graham Coxon

Pleasure.

James Acaster

Thank you, Graham.

Graham Coxon

It was very nice.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are James. That was fun.

James Acaster

I loved it so much. I mean, I think the listener can probably hear how much I was loving it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Great menu as well.

Ed Gamble

Really good menu. I really liked Graham. He had a real silly glint in his eye.

James Acaster

Yes, he's cheeky.

Ed Gamble

He's a cheeky guy.

James Acaster

He's a cheeky little boy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and also as with a lot of cheeky boys, very comfortable with a little silence.

James Acaster

Yes, love it.



Ed Gamble

I love that. I hope it's in the edit where James mentions the cadence of Graham's voice where he will get to the end of a sentence but it sounds like he's halfway through, and then he'll really revel in the bit where we think he's going to carry on talking.

James Acaster

Yes, he'll look at us like, 'Gotcha, what are you going to do about that?'

Ed Gamble

A lot of fun, and I can always tell it's a good menu because my stomach starts going absolutely wild, and it was the chip butty that did it for me today.

James Acaster

I really want a chip butty now.

Ed Gamble

It was the chip butty with ketchup, HP sauce, and vinegar, just brilliant, and butter.

James Acaster

Yes, just everything on it, although you know, now every time I eat a chip butty, I am going to be opening it up and checking there are no moles on the chips, because that's got in my head now. I don't want to accidentally eat one without knowing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and he didn't say Beaujolais although we came perilously close.

James Acaster

Yes, and you know, we should tell more guests what the secret ingredient is once we know that they've dodged it.

Ed Gamble

Certainly if they've come close, yes.

James Acaster

It's quite fun to know if they would have gone for it or not, but by the sound of it, it was never a risk today.

Ed Gamble

Also, he didn't even mean that in the song.

James Acaster

No, he didn't even mean that in the song. He meant something disgusting and gross.



Ed Gamble

Yes. You didn't like it when I said bums and dicks. You were ashamed of me because you were talking to one of your favourites. You were really ashamed of me for saying, 'Was Coffee and TV about bums and dicks?' But Graham enjoyed it.

James Acaster

What I liked about whenever we did say something like that, that was a bit rude and puerile, is that Graham would really enjoy it but it would be on a delay, so he would hear bums and dicks, completely receive it with a straight face, and 30 seconds later would go, 'Bums and dicks,' and really laugh about it, and he did it with piss my pants as well, when I said, 'Then I pissed my pants.' There was just no response. I thought, 'Oh, I've lowered the tone.' I was told a really personal story and now I've ruined it and then he went, 'Pissed your pants,' and really loved it. The Ballad of Darren is out now by Blur and also, The Waeve, which is Graham's other band with Rose Elinor Dougall, his partner, they have a new album out which is just called The Waeve, self titled and should all check that out as well. You know, not only did Blur pulverise Oasis in the battle, but also-

Ed Gamble

I don't think Graham was-, that question felt like you were interviewing him in the '90s but he gave a very 2023 answer of, 'I don't think we did, and that's all a bit silly.'

James Acaster

Yes, he's matured now, but they pulverised them, and not only did they pulverise them. They've also pulverised them with the side projects and solo projects in my opinion, so you know, get that album by The Waeve.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and get Heriet to help them.

James Acaster

Yes, I think they've had enough plug in this episode.

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're going to be really weirded out by that.

James Acaster

Yes, and read the All Creatures Great and Small books if you like, Christian Vetsch as well, also by Partygator Purgatory by Temps, all the music listeners who are listening.

Ed Gamble

All the music listeners.

James Acaster

If we're going to promote bands and albums, I would like to promote that album.



Ed Gamble

Also, pre-order my book, *Glutton: The Multi-Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy*. I mention music in it, what more do you want? Thank you very much for listening. We will see you again next week. Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.