



Off Menu – Ep199 – Celya AB

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. Taking the pork of humour, all the other nasty bits from a pig, mashing it all up in a blender of the internet, and piping it into the sausage casing of friendship. Sausage.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Celya AB. Celya AB, a wonderful comedian, James.

James Acaster

So funny, been giggling a lot with Celya these past couple of years.

Ed Gamble

Couple of years.

James Acaster

I'd say. Always has a fantastic gig.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Brilliant gagsmith.

Ed Gamble

Brilliant gagsmith.

James Acaster

So many jokes, in such a short space of time.

Ed Gamble

James has turned into a terrible comedy critic now.

James Acaster

Also, Celya has house-sat for me.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

A little bit of trivia.

Ed Gamble

Cat sat.

James Acaster

Cat sat. Got some kittens, needed them looked after.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Celya loves these kittens now.

Ed Gamble

James got kittens, realised he didn't have the capacity to look after them.

James Acaster

No way.

Ed Gamble

And then had to get someone else to do it for him.

James Acaster

That's the way I do it, and I only trust gagsmiths to look after my kittens.

Ed Gamble

Yes, real gagsmith. Looking forward to chatting with Celya, James?

James Acaster

Very much so. However, as with every episode, if Celya says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick Celya out of the restaurant.

Ed Gamble

See you later, Celya.

James Acaster

And this week, the dream ingredient?



Ed Gamble

No, not the dream ingredient, the secret ingredient.

James Acaster

The dream ingredient in the secret restaurant is pain au chocolat.

Ed Gamble

Pain au chocolat. Now, I know a lot of people love pain au chocolat, but I had a big routine about pain au chocolat in my show.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And Celya came to see the show, and I did a French accent for a long time. And Celya is French.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And she found it offensive.

James Acaster

It's a little bit of an in joke.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's a bit of an in joke, obviously.

Ed Gamble

But now we're making it an out joke.

James Acaster

We love pain au chocolat. However, Ed is very critical of the English breakfast buffet pain au chocolats that you get in hotels in this country.

Ed Gamble

Not enough chocolat.

James Acaster

Not enough chocolat, too much pain.



Ed Gamble

It's a good bit.

James Acaster

So, I would say, it's specifically-

Ed Gamble

Those pain au chocolat.

James Acaster

Those ones with too much air in them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the airy pain au chocolat.

James Acaster

That we were going for.

Ed Gamble

And Air is a French band.

James Acaster

They are a French band, and Moon Safari, still seen as a classic.

Ed Gamble

Yes. There was originally a joke in the routine about the French band, Air, but I found it very difficult to make it work.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I mean, even my audience aren't going for that, mate.

Ed Gamble

No, no.

James Acaster

That's very difficult.

Ed Gamble

So, if Celya says pain au chocolat, see you later.

James Acaster

See you later. But, hopefully, that won't happen. We'll see.



Ed Gamble

We'll see. This is the Off Menu menu of Celya AB.

Ed Gamble

Welcome, Celya, to the Dream Restaurant.

Celya AB

Hello.

James Acaster

Welcome, Celya AB, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Celya AB

Where did you come from?

James Acaster

Where did I come from? That's a good question actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Please explain the format to me, I'm not familiar with it.

Ed Gamble

Sometimes, when people come in and they're not familiar with the format and I have to explain that James is a genie, I never feel more like an idiot.

James Acaster

Really? Imagine how I feel in that situation.

Ed Gamble

You just sit there being a weirdo.

James Acaster

But I feel silly.

Celya AB

You're just describing him being a genie.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Celya AB

And you feel like an idiot.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I feel like an idiot. Yes.

James Acaster

I'm the one sitting there going, 'I'll just pretend to be a genie in front of an adult.

Ed Gamble

And I try and say with my eyes, 'Just go along with this, he lives in a fantasy world.'

Celya AB

So much tech actually. Way more than I expected.

James Acaster

Way too much tech actually for a podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Can you describe to the listeners what you saw when I burst out of then?

Celya AB

Oh yes, so you know when you do Live at the Apollo, there's like a big smoke machine?

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

You've got the exact same one.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

I can't see you anymore, there's so much smoke around.

James Acaster

Yes, it's just that, it's just the Apollo smoke machine.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Celya AB

The Apollo smoke machine, they rent it out every week.

James Acaster

It's too much isn't it, that smoke machine?

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, God, it's far too much.

Celya AB

I can't relate. It's absolutely fine, actually, from the seats when you watch it. It feels pretty great.

Ed Gamble

Well, let me tell you, it is too much, and when you do it, all you'll think about when you should be thinking about doing Live at the Apollo, you'll be thinking about James as a genie. So bad luck, that's really going to put you off.

Celya AB

Has anyone ever like come out vaping?

James Acaster

Oh, yes, they should have done.

Ed Gamble

That's a good plan.

James Acaster

That would be funny.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Write it down, Benjamin.

James Acaster

You just got yourself booked.

Celya AB

I know.



James Acaster

You'll be getting the call from them, 'We heard you've got a pretty good gag, opening gag.'

Celya AB

Smoking a cigarette. 'We heard you've got a pretty good idea. We need to get her down at the Apollo.'

Ed Gamble

So hold on, are they smoking a cigarette when they're talking to you?

Celya AB

There's smoke everywhere, apparently. My idea of booking Live at the Apollo is the whole process, there's a man with a tiny moustache smoking in the room.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's actually not a smoke machine. That's just their meeting room back there.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

When it opens up, they're all just sat there going, 'I hope the shows going okay.'

Celya AB

'I'm going to make you a star.'

James Acaster

That's good, yes. I like when Celya does characters.

Celya AB

Oh, there's a lot to come. It's funny when I do characters because I've got an accent, so I think it adds a bit of layers actually.

James Acaster

I mean, we've all got accents.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Woah.

James Acaster

Do you like when Ed does characters in his stand up show?



Celya AB

Let's not talk about it.

Ed Gamble

That's really come up early. I was going to ease that in.

James Acaster

Yes, but then we got into doing characters on stage.

Ed Gamble

I did pre warn you before you came to see my show that I end by doing, what I consider to be, a French accent for 10 minutes.

Celya AB

Well, the story is, Ed said, 'Oh, you're French. Here's a little anecdote that relates to where you're from. In my stand up show, sometimes, I do a bit of a French accent.' And then I was like, 'Do you know what? Ed's a nice guy, that's fine. It's probably no more than 60 seconds.' And then I went to see your lovely show at the Apollo.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

So much longer.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So much longer.

Celya AB

So much longer.

Ed Gamble

I absolutely loved walking into the little bar afterwards. My friends and family were there. 'Well done on the show, Ed.' And then I looked round the room. Celya was stood there like a pissed off teacher, looking at me like, 'How dare you?'

Celya AB

Do you know what, it was so long that for a bit it changed my accent.

Ed Gamble

Look, it's good stuff, good accent though.

James Acaster

10 minutes of pretending to be a pain au chocolat.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Holding his extended fingers out where his nipples are for the whole thing.

Celya AB

I haven't been able to have a pain au chocolat since.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

That's my legacy.

Celya AB

Its because every time I walk passed one, I see your face at the Apollo holding your little fingers like this.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm actually stood behind you the whole time.

Celya AB

Oh no.

Ed Gamble

You can see me reflected in the bakery window.

Celya AB

That's why I can hear the accent, I thought it was my memory.

James Acaster

Did you think Ed's observations about pain au chocolat were valid, at least?

Celya AB

Here's the thing, I was fuming, but then I looked at my standard, and then realised that, in a way, the 10 minutes that you did is very little compared to the 20 minutes I have about Britain. So you know.

James Acaster

Yes, you destroy us.

Celya AB

I do. Celya the destroyer. I'm actually really lovely.



Ed Gamble

I'd say it wasn't about French culture, you know, it was more about British culture my bit about breakfasts in British hotels and those tiny pain au chocolat.

Celya AB

Oh, is this an essay, is it? It's the video, is it?

Ed Gamble

It's actually very intelligent and clever my bit.

James Acaster

This is more of Notes App thing when he's got in trouble.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, there he goes. He's opened a Cherry Pepsi Max.

Celya AB

There we go.

James Acaster

This is the first time a Cherry Pepsi Max has been drunk on the podcast I believe.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that is a lovely drop.

James Acaster

Have you had a Cherry Pepsi Max before, Celya?

Celya AB

Yes, I think they taste like medicine a little bit. Can I smell it?

James Acaster

The best medicine for the soul. You have a little sniff of my drink.

Celya AB

Oh, hello. Nice to meet you.

Ed Gamble

Wait, how would you describe the bouquet there to the listener?



Celya AB

Bouquet. I think it smells floral like a bouquet, but it also smells like if you had an entire one, it would kind of reupholster your entire body. It makes me feel a bit sick actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What if someone in this room, naming no names, has a litre bottle of it at home right now, and is looking forward to drinking it when they get back?

Ed Gamble

Would this person be drinking the whole litre bottle today?

James Acaster

No, no, they won't be drinking the whole litre bottle because they had two pints of it last night.

Celya AB

I've seen the inside of your fridge, James.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes, that's true actually.

Celya AB

And a lot of condiments, a lot of sweets, and just a big litre of Diet Coke or Coke in any way or Pepsi.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

This is great. We've never had like an inside James's fridge review.

James Acaster

Celya's been in my house, you know, on her own for a week.

Ed Gamble

You were living in the walls, weren't you?

Celya AB

I was living in the walls.



James Acaster

How do you know?

Celya AB

I think I hung out with the cats.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Celya AB

It was the best week of my life to be honest. It was lovely.

James Acaster

I thought you looked like you had a good time.

Celya AB

I had a lovely time. We had a group chat.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You and the cats?

Celya AB

Yes. Well, I had a group chat with James and his lovely girlfriend where I sent pictures of the kittens. But then I had a group chat with the cats where I sent pictures of James and his girlfriend.

James Acaster

In case they were missing us.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I bet they appreciated that, actually.

Celya AB

They did.

James Acaster

It's good to keep them remembering who we are, as well. That was my main concern coming back from holiday was they'll have forgotten us and they'll think Celya's their new like mum. And I was very worried about that.



Ed Gamble

The great thing is that cats absolutely couldn't care less.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Every morning, I'd wake up, I'd put an episode of Off Menu being like, 'That's daddy.'

James Acaster

But yes, so you've seen the fridge.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, sweets and Diet Coke isn't going to surprise anyone, I guess.

Ed Gamble

No. Condiments?

James Acaster

A lot of condiments.

Ed Gamble

Initially, when you got half way through that word, I thought you were going to say there were condoms in the fridge.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I like to keep my dick cool.

Ed Gamble

A dick can be too hot.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

I want to cool it down.

Celya AB

I think when they start smoking, that's a problem, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Steaming.

James Acaster

A bit of steam coming out of it.

Celya AB

Oh no.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Live at the Apollo.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, I tell you for a long time, James was backstage at Live at the Apollo putting a cold condom onto his hot dick.

James Acaster

When you take the condom off, it's like Live at the Apollo coming out.

Ed Gamble

Please welcome to the stage, Lost Voice Guy.

Celya AB

Everyone was saying that James had stopped doing stand-up, because he was tired of having his dick warm all the time. 'My dick is too warm, I can't do it.' 'No, kid, you go back there. And you show them.' Here's a question, this is my favourite question to ask, top 10, do you think in your life you've had more ketchup or more mayo?



Ed Gamble

Mayo.

James Acaster

I was going to make fun of that being your favourite question to ask, and then remembered this is how we make a living, so I fucking shut up.

Ed Gamble

I think probably mayo. Yes, I'll never be like, 'Oh, I need ketchup with chips, I need to have ketchup in there.' But mayo, I prefer mayo.

Celya AB

I'm with you.

Ed Gamble

Big time, big time.

Celya AB

I think bad ketchup is worse than bad mayo.

Ed Gamble

Correct.

James Acaster

I think I've had more ketchup.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're a ketchup boy.

James Acaster

Yes, Kettering ketchup boys.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's what they say.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

About us.



Celya AB

The Kettering ketchup boys.

Ed Gamble

The Kettering ketchup crew.

Celya AB

Do you have ketchup and listen to Las Ketchups as well?

James Acaster

Yes, we do. Yes. And what's weird about that? I think anyone who's listening from Kettering will have the same answer as me. I think they'll all be ketchup not mayo.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

I've been to Kettering.

James Acaster

Have you?

Celya AB

Yes, I did a gig in Kettering, I did another gig in Corby.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Which is the enemy of Kettering.

James Acaster

Yes. If there's anyone listening from Corby, fuck you. How did the gigs compare?

Celya AB

Kettering I can't remember it, but Corby was at the back of a Holiday Inn on like the M1 or something.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Celya AB

And the manger was at the front of the gig. It was like in a veranda, and she didn't have shoes on.



Ed Gamble

The manager didn't have shoes on?

James Acaster

Classic Corby.

Celya AB

She took off her shoes.

James Acaster

It's because what people don't know, Kettering was like, back in the day, we would make shoes. That was like the main industry in Kettering, so Corby hates Kettering so much that they refuse to wear shoes.

Celya AB

What do you wear in Kettering? Tomatoes?

James Acaster

We wear fucking shoes in Kettering because we're proud.

Celya AB

Empty bottles of ketchup.

James Acaster

The first pair of boots up Everest were made in Kettering.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Celya AB

No, it's not.

James Acaster

Yes, first pair of boots, Edmund Hillary, top of Mount Everest, was wearing boots that were made in Kettering. I wouldn't fucking lie, man.

Celya AB

I feel like my disbelief is suspended somewhere.

James Acaster

Yes.



Celya AB

Oh no.

James Acaster

Sartre.

Celya AB

Sartre boots.

Ed Gamble

I think we can all agree Sartrewas French.

James Acaster

Oh, fuck off, you.

Celya AB

I would appreciate if someone could pronounce it correctly, Ed.

Ed Gamble

Sorry. Jean-Paul Sartee.

James Acaster

But it was not in his head.

Celya AB

Is that true?

James Acaster

Yes, it's real.

Celya AB

No. Hey, it's good because you laugh and you learn.

Ed Gamble

It is good.

James Acaster

Tell us about this Corby gig.

Ed Gamble

So she had no shoes on.

Celya AB

She had no shoes on.



Ed Gamble

I think that's quite French. I'm surprised you didn't feel at home.

Celya AB

No shoes?

Ed Gamble

No shoes.

Celya AB

I forgot to take off my shoes, James. She had no shoes on, and my friend Danny and I were doing both half an hour, which I was too new to the half an hour anyway. And I tried to do crowd work with her about how she wasn't wearing shoes.

Ed Gamble

With the manager of the venue.

Celya AB

Within like six months of doing stand up. Obviously, went really well. No, she didn't like me at all. And then I had 28 minutes to go. So then, did all the material I'd ever written. And then my friend, Danny, which we used to call 'Crowd work King.'

Ed Gamble

The Crowd work King.

James Acaster

The Crowd work King.

Celya AB

Danny was in the back having a cocktail when this was happening, just like swirling his drink going, 'Oh, wait till she sees me.'

James Acaster

The Crowd work King.

Ed Gamble

The Crowd work King swirling his cocktail at the back.

Celya AB

My friend tells me that sometimes I add whimsy to memories.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, okay.



Celya AB

So he was swirling his little drink. And then went on stage. First thing first, he said, 'Why aren't you wearing shoes?'

Ed Gamble

The king.

James Acaster

Watch and learn, Celya. 'Why are you not wearing shoes?'

Ed Gamble

Long live the king.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water on the podcast. Do you have a preference?

Celya AB

Yes, I do. Are we already in the Dream Restaurant?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Okay. There's a pre-emptive thing that I want to say about the Dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Please.

Celya AB

I want to be the Dream Restaurant to be exactly a 20 minute walk from my house, so I can walk to the restaurant, have a lovely stroll, think about what I'm going to have. But, on the way back, 20 minutes is a perfect time to, kind of, start digesting, but you're, like, not home straight away, because that weirds me out when you're home straight away after a meal.

Ed Gamble

That's a really, really good point that no one's ever brought up. A nice little stroll.

Celya AB

Yes.



Ed Gamble

But also, to eat and then suddenly just be back.

Celya AB

It feel weird, doesn't it?

Ed Gamble

It feels weird, like if you ever eat in a hotel that you're staying in.

Celya AB

Oh, yes. No, that's not good.

Ed Gamble

And then you're just suddenly in your room.

Celya AB

It's like it didn't happen.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's like you've dreamt the whole meal.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Maybe this Holiday Inn in Corby, that manager did have shoes on?

Celya AB

She was from Kettering.

James Acaster

No way, there's no way she was from Kettering. We wouldn't conduct ourselves like that.

Ed Gamble

So, a nice 20 minute stroll after the meal, pre and post meal.

Celya AB

Yes. An hour before the meal, I want a packet of Walkers crisps, the plain ones. That's what I want, an hour before the meal.

James Acaster

Why?



Celya AB

Because I really like them, and I've started dipping them in soy sauce so it's extra salty.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Celya AB

And it's delicious.

Ed Gamble

But why is this an hour before the meal? Why isn't this part of the meal?

Celya AB

Because I'm going to get hungry, and I'm going to be like, 'I can't eat a full meal, because I'm going to go for a full meal.' So, I want something light that will satisfy me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

And it's always a packet of Walkers, they're delicious.

James Acaster

Dipped in soy sauce.

Ed Gamble

Dipped in soy sauce.

Celya AB

Soy sauce on birthdays.

Ed Gamble

Soy sauce on birthdays, yes.

Celya AB

On big days, soy sauce.

James Acaster

When did you start dipping in them in the soy sauce? What prompted that?

Celya AB

It was on a coach between Wales and Edinburgh, in 2018. I remember it vividly.



James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

It was really sad, because I had to leave The Fringe before to host a gig that didn't, in hindsight, pay me enough, to leave Edinburgh before. I got a meal deal and had some sushi, and then some crisps. And then there was a bit of soy sauce left, and then I thought, 'You know what? Live a little.'

Ed Gamble

'I'm on a coach back to Edinburgh.'

Celya AB

Yes, 'Give it a go.' Tried it, and then I just had to stop myself from telling the rest of the coach.

Ed Gamble

Getting on the microphone.

James Acaster

You've got to do this.

Celya AB

It was so good.

James Acaster

Were you sat next to someone?

Celya AB

No, I think if I was, they would have moved.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

The crazy woman dipping stuff.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a very coach thing to do. You always see someone doing something like that, and in fact, no shoes.

Celya AB

No shoes on a coach.

Ed Gamble

You see that.



James Acaster

Oh, livid.

Celya AB

Does that annoy you when people take off their shoes on long coaches?

James Acaster

Yes, I hate it.

Celya AB

Really?

James Acaster

When they do it on a plane, I hate it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

People, go put shoes back on.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, on a long flight.

Celya AB

Do you have slippers?

James Acaster

That's disgusting.

Ed Gamble

On a long flight, surely, you're taking your shoes off, James?

James Acaster

I'll undo my shoelaces and I'll loosen my shoes, I'm not getting-

Ed Gamble

Well, that's weirder.

James Acaster

What?

Celya AB

But you have socks. Surely you want to show them off? You love socks.



James Acaster

I do love socks. What? Hold on, what?

Celya AB

I've got it in my head that you love socks.

James Acaster

I agreed to that then.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you do love socks.

James Acaster

I don't love socks, do I?

Ed Gamble

You wear wacky socks, don't you?

James Acaster

Do I?

Celya AB

He's a bit of a whacky guy.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You wear socks to show everyone how whacky you are.

James Acaster

You've got to.

Celya AB

Whacky from head to toe.

James Acaster

Are they whacky? Those socks?

Ed Gamble

No, they're not that whacky actually.

James Acaster

It's got a little pattern on them.

Celya AB

Put your shoes on, James.



Ed Gamble

So on like a 10 hour flight, you wouldn't take your shoes off?

James Acaster

I'm loosening them, I'm not taking them off.

Celya AB

Really?

Ed Gamble

That's weirder.

James Acaster

That's not weird.

Ed Gamble

It's like its a tie and you're a businessman who's just finished work.

Celya AB

I know. Take them off.

James Acaster

Everyone loves a businessman who's just finished work.

Ed Gamble

Do you sit with your coat on as well?

Celya AB

And gloves?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Do you?

Ed Gamble

A big hat.

James Acaster

I loosen all of it.

Ed Gamble

Sat there like Kevin in Home Alone 2.



James Acaster

Right, well, well done for just naming another cool person. So far your attempts to make me look dumb, have all failed.

Ed Gamble

Trying to eat your in-flight meal wearing mittens.

James Acaster

I don't wear mittens. Look, I'll take my coat off sure. But no one wants your cheesy feet cheesing up the plane.

Celya AB

No, but my feet aren't cheesy, thank you very much.

James Acaster

I don't know. When we came back when you had been house sitting, the whole house stank of cheese. I walked into a big cheese house.

Celya AB

James being like, 'But she is French. So maybe she's just been eating loads of cheese.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Jut eating that cheese.

James Acaster

'She's been eating brie in every fucking room in this house, I know she has. I told you that would happen, and you didn't listen to me.'

Celya AB

Stuffed the pillows with goats cheese.

James Acaster

Livid.

Ed Gamble

Chèvre.

Celya AB

Chèvre.



Ed Gamble

Chèvre.

James Acaster

I don't even know what that means.

Celya AB

It sound like Deborah when you're saying it.

James Acaster

I don't know chèvre is the cheese or French for pillow.

Ed Gamble

What?

Celya AB

You don't know what Chèvre is? Chèvre.

Ed Gamble

Chèvre chase.

Celya AB

It means goat.

James Acaster

Oh.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

No, of course I don't know that. I've never had to say goat in French before.

Celya AB

Do you want to try?

James Acaster

Chèvre?

Ed Gamble

Yes, Chèvre.

Celya AB

Prefect.



Ed Gamble

Chèvre.

Celya AB

Chèvre.

James Acaster

Oh, fuck, I'm not doing that. I proper panic when I have to try and speak another language.

Celya AB

Do you?

James Acaster

Yes. When I was a kid, when I was 13 learning French in school, and then we went to France for the first time, my family, I'd never been abroad before. And stopped at a service station on the way to the holiday home, and my dad was like, 'Right, you're learning French, so you've just got to get your stuff yourself.' And so, had a tray in the service station. Had to queue up in this winding queue. Went to the front, said what they'd taught me to say in school, and then the guy came back with a whole load of stuff that they hadn't said in school. I didn't know what to do and I panicked. And everyone behind me started getting really impatient. It was the most horrible feeling. Ever since then, I don't even try.

Celya AB

You don't do it anymore?

James Acaster

No way, no way, Jose.

Celya AB

That was another language.

James Acaster

Oh shit.

Celya AB

You're rhyming in different languages, look at you.

James Acaster

I can rhyme, I'm okay rhyming in other languages.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you could go to Spain and you could muddle through with, 'No way, Jose.'



James Acaster

Yes, I could muddle through with that. I can muddle through with Frère Jacques when I go to France. That's not really a rhyme, they rhyme it with the same word.

Celya AB

No, it's a banger though. Every morning, I put it on.

James Acaster

It is a banger. Brother James.

Celya AB

What was that? In France, when I was learning English on the last year of high school, my English teacher was Irish and she was from Cork. And she had the strongest accent that I have ever heard in my life. So for a whole year, there was French kids running around with French Cork accents.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Celya AB

And she taught us that bloody was like a swear word, so she was like, 'Oh, don't say bloody, because that's a swear word.' Of course, we're 17, we just started saying bloody all the time.

Ed Gamble

Running round saying, 'Bloody,' as a 17 year old. The most pathetic act of rebellion ever.

James Acaster

Look at you being really rude.

Celya AB

Like the tough kids at school would be like, 'Bloody,' and then it was like, 'Oh, wow. That's a big guy.'

James Acaster

That's a big guy.

Celya AB

'Wait, that's a gangster, I'm scared of him.'

Ed Gamble

I was rubbish at French at school. You wouldn't believe it given my accent now. But we had to watch La Haine.

Celya AB

I love that film.



Ed Gamble

Yes, but it's fucking depressing and it really puts you off learning French.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Brilliant film.

Celya AB

Yes, I hate it actually.

Ed Gamble

Plus we all fancied the teacher so that was super distracting.

Celya AB

It's a great film.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Did you see it?

James Acaster

No, I've not heard of that film.

Celya AB

So it's called La Haine which means hate, and it's about like three kids in the suburbs of Paris, at the banlieue, and what their day to day is like going into Paris and it kind of links to like police brutality. Really fun stuff.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Its a really good film you'd love it.

James Acaster

It sounds nice.



Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I think I'd like it.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So we learnt loads of great vocab from that film, about police brutality and racism in France. Great.

James Acaster

Go around quoting that film, see how far you get.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We haven't even found out if you want still or sparkling water, have we? We asked you, like, an hour ago.

Celya AB

I'm sorry.

James Acaster

We know you want it to be 20 minutes from your house. You want the Walkers Ready Salted with the soy sauce.

Celya AB

An hour before.

James Acaster

An hour before.

Celya AB

Yes. So I want a big pint of really really sparkling water with ice. I almost want no water. Almost just bubbles.

James Acaster

Okay.



Celya AB

And I want that before the meal, and I don't want to drink the whole thing. I want maybe 4 or 5 sips and then, throughout the meal, I want tap water and, crucially, I don't want to have to ask for more tap water to be refilled, because I always feel like a dick when I do it. And they never notice it. And I just want someone to notice-, as soon as they see the bottom of this glass.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

They top it back up with tap water.

Ed Gamble

Right. Got you.

Celya AB

That's what I want.

James Acaster

Straight away. But, when it's at the bottom-, because I don't like it sometimes, if you're in a restaurant, and I'll have a sip of my water, put it down and they come out and they top it up.

Ed Gamble

Why don't you like that?

James Acaster

Because I don't like it when they're hovering all the time. Constantly popping up. I'm trying to talk to the person that I'm having dinner with-,

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

They're popping in, topping up, topping up. I'm like, 'I can't even have a sip of this without this person showing up.'

Celya AB

Do they do that with food as well? Every time you have a bite, they replace it.

Ed Gamble

Well, I told you what my dad does. I've told you this before.

James Acaster

I think you probably have.



Ed Gamble

If people are hovering and topping stuff up, he'll go, 'No, leave that there, and you don't need to come here anymore.'

James Acaster

Yes. I respect it. I'm going to be-, when I grow up, I think I'm going to turn into Ed's dad.

Celya AB

I want to see a version of this podcast with both your dads.

James Acaster

Listen, the idea's been floated.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, not with both our dads, it's not. We've talked about the idea of having your dad on. There is-, just my dad and your dad talking.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't even listen to that.

James Acaster

I think we would have to have a guest doing their dream menu.

Ed Gamble

Who's going to be the guest?

James Acaster

Our parents.

Celya AB

The dad of someone famous.

James Acaster

Benito's dad.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Benito's dad is the guest. No, Benito's dad is the producer.

James Acaster

That would be perfect because Benito's dad is so kind. Such a nice man. Our dads would fucking destroy him. He would be mincemeat.

Ed Gamble

Oh, brilliant.

James Acaster

This sparkling water, you said you wanted it to be almost no water, mainly bubbles.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

Is that not air?

Celya AB

Do you know how, like, honey has, like, holes, but then there's little bits of honey? Or like Emmenthal cheese has like-, I want that cheese.

Ed Gamble

That size bubbles.

Celya AB

Yes. I want big bubbles. And the reason for that is I really like how it feels on my teeth. I really like how the bubbles feel on my teeth. It feels like they're brand new.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes, I relate, yes.

Ed Gamble

You think that too, don't you?

James Acaster

Yes. I think it cleans your teeth in the morning.

Celya AB

Yes. It feels like a little spa day for the teeth.

James Acaster

Yes, absolutely, 100%.



Ed Gamble

Spa day for the teeth.

Celya AB

Spa day for the teeth.

James Acaster

Spa day for the teeth. For all the-, for you, when it's like so many bubbles that, like-, this sounds like it would feel like an electric toothbrush.

Celya AB

No, not like-,

James Acaster

This many bubbles, like, right through your mouth.

Celya AB

So, in between lame sparkling water, an electric toothbrush, on the spectrum that I want it to be, maybe like 20% almost to an electric toothbrush, but not painful. Like-, I want it to be very cleansing.

Ed Gamble

Do you think you can get too bubbly of water though? So does it get to a point where it doesn't feel cleansing? What if you took a sip of this water and then you open your mouth and realise that it turned your teeth back into baby teeth?

James Acaster

What if that, Celya?

Ed Gamble

What if that?

Celya AB

What if that? Well, let's think about that for a while actually because-,

Ed Gamble

What if that though?

James Acaster

Welcome to the section of the podcast called 'What if that?'

Celya AB

What if that with Ed Gamble? Where's James? James' not involved.



Ed Gamble

James is not involved, no.

James Acaster

Thanks for that.

Celya AB

No guests, just you.

Ed Gamble

Yes, just me saying, 'What if that? What if that though?'

James Acaster

Well, let me-, let me sweeten the pot here. Let me put this in. What if this?

Ed Gamble

Oh, that's a new twist.

James Acaster

That's my version. My spin off. What if this? What if this sparkling water that's really really sparkling?

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

It will feel the best you've ever-, that good feeling that you're talking about. It will feel the best it's ever felt. The best feeling that you've ever got from sparkling water.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

But it will turn your teeth back into baby teeth? What if that?

Celya AB

What if that? I'd have to say, 'No, I like my teeth.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

I'd have to say-, if it's half and half, I'll do it.



Ed Gamble

What if you had baby teeth and half your teeth now?

James Acaster

Top half or bottom half? Put your tooth-

Ed Gamble

No, I was imagining it left and right. Left and right.

James Acaster

I would happily have-

Celya AB

Alternate. Just.

James Acaster

Yes. It's up and down, all higgledy piggledy.

Ed Gamble

What if that?

James Acaster

Don't get the chance to say-, I think that might be the first use of higgledy piggledy on the podcast.

Celya AB

I've never heard that before. I like the sound of it. Can you say it again?

James Acaster

Higgledy piggledy.

Celya AB

Oh, it's lovely.

Ed Gamble

It's nice, isn't it?

James Acaster

That English teacher didn't teach you that word.

Celya AB

No.



James Acaster

Too busy teaching you all the effing and jeffing and not enough higgledy piggledy. I think I'd go for bottom.

Celya AB

Bottom baby.

James Acaster

Bottom row baby.

Ed Gamble

It's got to be bottom row baby.

Celya AB

Bottom row because when you smile-, no, these guys couldn't stay hidden their whole lives really.

James Acaster

Doesn't matter what they look like, no.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's got to be bottom row, higgledy piggledy, baby.

Celya AB

Yes. Then I'd get lip fillers for just the bottom, to make sure.

James Acaster

Oh yes, massive lips.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Huge lip to cover it, yes, yes.

Celya AB

And, in short, sparkling water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Celya AB

But I'm only going to sparkling water when I stopped smoking and my theory is that it feels like having a cigarette in your mouth.



Ed Gamble

Wow. That's a-,

Celya AB

I don't know what it did to-, it did something to my tongue and it hit the spot of like, what smoking felt like.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

I haven't looked into this.

James Acaster

Interesting. We've not heard this before.

Ed Gamble

No, we've not. Having a sparkling water is like having a cig.

James Acaster

A hot ciggy.

Celya AB

I have a sparkling water when I go out to stuff on the way. Sparkling water after banging.

James Acaster

You don't mind if I do, do you?

Ed Gamble

You have to nip outside a pub to have a sparkling water.

Celya AB

Yes, in the morning, I have a coffee and a sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I have a sparkling water after banging just to cool my dick off.

Ed Gamble

Oh no, you've got to be careful though man. If you dip your dick in sparkling water, it could turn it back into a baby dick.



Celya AB

Oh no.

James Acaster

I've got a baby dick. Please don't leave, baby. Don't leave. I swear, I didn't know it would happen.

Ed Gamble

I put my dick in sparkling water and now I've got a baby dick.

James Acaster

Please don't leave me.

Ed Gamble

What if that?

Celya AB

Can I ask you a question though? I think about that-, that's another one of my questions. Do you think it would feel nice to have a whole bath filled with sparkling water? Like, how-, because, you know.

James Acaster

I mean, if someone offered it to me, I'd definitely say yes. I'd want to know what that felt like.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I think it would feel nice.

Celya AB

I think it would feel incredible. Like a jacuzzi.

Ed Gamble

For a bit, but then would it feel a bit weird and sort of stagnant and-,

James Acaster

It would flatten out.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It would flatten out.

Celya AB

But then you could-, what's that thing that makes bubbles that you can buy?



James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Sodastream.

Celya AB

Sodastream, yes. Just have a Sodastream like-,

Ed Gamble

Like where the taps should be.

Celya AB

Yes. Like you're a hamster.

James Acaster

Thing is, Sodastreams don't work.

Celya AB

No, they don't.

Ed Gamble

They do. James couldn't work his.

James Acaster

It would probably flood your entire bathroom.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Because they tend to, like, explode a lot.

Celya AB

Yes. So that's a no for that, is it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, it's a no from me.

Ed Gamble

If you had a bath of sparkling water, I'm imagining it with a slice of lemon in it. Would you do that?

Celya AB

Well, hello.



Ed Gamble

Hello.

Celya AB

Hello.

James Acaster

I'd have a lot of slices in them, not just one.

Celya AB

Cucumbers in it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Cucumbers.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

You'd feel great.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

You'd feel like a drink. You'd feel like a little umbrella in the drink.

James Acaster

Yes, I don't think you'd feel like a little umbrella. I think it would be fun to wear one of those hats that makes your head look like an umbrella as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So I think if you had loads of slices of lemon in there.

Celya AB

Yes.



James Acaster

Great. One slice on it's own would feel dirty. That would feel like there's litter in the bath.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Loads of slices of lemon, weirdly, would feel clean, luxurious, great. One slice of lemon, someone's dropped some lemon in my bath, it feels dirty.

Celya AB

Would you let someone drink it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

If anyone wanted to drink it, they could drink it.

Ed Gamble

There's people out there who would-, who are going to be messaging Benito saying, 'I'm up for that.'

James Acaster

Oh yes, there's a few creeps who would love to drink my bath water.

Ed Gamble

Definitely. Sparkling or otherwise.

James Acaster

Yes. Real shame.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

So yes, that's a drink.

Ed Gamble

Sparkling.

Celya AB

Sparkling. And then tap throughout the meal.



Ed Gamble

Tap topped up.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Whenever it gets low.

Celya AB

Yes. And I want the person that tops it up to disappear as soon as I stop. No chatting.

James Acaster

Who do you want to top it up? Is it me or is it-, as the genie, or is it someone else? It can be anyone in the world.

Celya AB

I have opinions about waiters.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

I want the waiters to be happy. I want them to be, like, on a fair wage and happy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

But I don't want-, this sounds awful. Do you know when you go to a bar and you try and get a drink, but you can tell that 2 bartenders have, like, a flirt going on?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

That bothers me.

James Acaster

You don't like it?



Celya AB

No, because sometimes they're, like-, they're creating their lovely memories of, like, 'Ha ha, do you remember when we met at bartending?' And they're really flirting. And I feel like I'm in it. It makes me feel dirty.

Ed Gamble

I completely agree with you. And I feel bad that I completely agree with you. I don't like going into a shop and the people who work there are clearly friends.

James Acaster

You don't like if they're friends?

Ed Gamble

And they're having a laugh about something else that I'm not involved in. They are colleagues, they shouldn't be friends.

Celya AB

I'd like to say that I don't agree with what he just said.

Ed Gamble

I mean, you'd go in there, having a laugh.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

It depends how big of a laugh they're having. If they're having a laugh to the point where it's professional, they're not doing their job, sure, I'll get annoyed at that.

Ed Gamble

No, no laugh.

James Acaster

Also, I like it if the bar staff are flirting. I like a bit of will they, won't they?

Ed Gamble

You little perv.

Celya AB

Yes, you are a perv actually.



Ed Gamble

Room for a third one in this?

Celya AB

I don't mind-, so here's the thing. I don't mind them being friends. But I don't like when they've got clearly like a-, and there's a sex vibe going. And that's what I call it.

Ed Gamble

Sex vibe, yes.

Celya AB

There's a sex vibe going. And they-, it makes me feel like I'm an extra in the beginning of the romance, of what they'll remember later on, do you know what-,

Ed Gamble

You don't feel like the main character anymore?

Celya AB

I want it to be quick. I want this, thank you, bye bye. And then you can flirt. But like, no-, 'Oh my God, that's so funny, you went to Majorca, that's crazy.' Just like, I don't want any of that.

James Acaster

Oh, I don't want it holding up my drink.

Celya AB

That's what I mean.

Ed Gamble

Definitely can't hold up the drink. But you don't also-, if they get together and they're, like, together for ages.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You don't them to be sitting around one day, going, 'Do you remember that time that women came in to-, ' you don't want to be like a little tiny part of someone else's story.

Celya AB

No. And that happens to me all the time. At your show, I was sitting next to a couple.

Ed Gamble

Sorry about that.



Celya AB

That's okay.

James Acaster

Didn't have a good night, did you?

Celya AB

Sitting next to a couple and they were, like, really cuddling. And every time something made them both laugh, they'd laugh really hard, look at each other and then look at me like this. Like, that was part of it.

Ed Gamble

That makes me feel sick.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Also, I don't want people in shops to be friends and I don't want couples to share a moment together over one of my jokes.

Celya AB

No.

James Acaster

Don't worry, I don't think that happens that often. Most of your jokes are disgusting. 'Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms are dead.' I just said, 'Poppadoms are dead.'

Ed Gamble

That's the first 'Poppadoms are dead' of the-,

James Acaster

That's the first 'Poppadoms or dead?' It's taken a long time to get to 'Poppadoms or dead.' You should have done that for a Halloween special or something.

Ed Gamble

We should have done.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or dead?

Ed Gamble

Poppadoms or dead, goth menu.



James Acaster

Yes, goth menu. Oh, come on, we're doing that in the future, Benito.

Celya AB

Okay. I don't know if it's allowed, but I would like poppadoms to start with, but specifically from a Birmingham restaurant I used to go to every week. It's called Milan, next to Snow Hill station. It's an Indian restaurant.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Celya AB

And they had the best little sauces that you get with the poppadoms. And sometimes, I'd just go there for that. So, I want that before the meal, but then, throughout the meal-

Ed Gamble

Bet you're popular in there.

Celya AB

Oh. Actually, there was a bit of a scam going-

Ed Gamble

'Here comes the fucking woman who just orders the poppadoms and then leaves again.'

James Acaster

Every week.

Celya AB

Oh my God.

Ed Gamble

40p bill.

James Acaster

Celya used to live in Birmingham, for the listeners. She wasn't commuting.

Celya AB

I would commute, though, for it.

Ed Gamble

It's just next to the station.

Celya AB

Yes, just next to the station.



Ed Gamble

Celya's French.

Celya AB

I really enjoyed that restaurant because sometimes they gave you-, like, they'd have, like, a little competition where you write your name and then whoever they pick gets a free meal on it. And because they really liked me, every time I'd write my name, the waiter would be like, 'You're going to get it.'

James Acaster

That sounds like that waiter probably thought there was something going on between-, he thought, 'This is our love story.' And you were just thinking, 'They'd just like me to win the competition.'

Celya AB

Yes, everyone here's so nice and on a fair wage and lonely.

Ed Gamble

Every time she comes in, she writes her number down.

Celya AB

No, I was coming with a person I was dating, and I think he just really liked our vibes. 'I'm watching you and I like your vibe.'

James Acaster

Fired the next day for saying that.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You want these poppadoms with the dips.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But then also, you're going to-,

Celya AB

Yes. Okay, I want two types of bread. There's a lot of bread incoming. By the way, I don't know what the secret ingredient is, but I feel there's a bit of a French minefield happening, absolutely terrified.

James Acaster

What do you think, if you were to guess, if we'd done a French one.



Celya AB

I'm not falling into that hole.

Ed Gamble

No, if you say it, we're not going to kick you out.

Celya AB

It's going to be snails or something. Like, I know you have to have a giggle about-

Ed Gamble

We did just have a giggle, correct.

Celya AB

A very serious meal. I think it's going to be something obvious, like a snail that's holding a French flag. I don't know.

James Acaster

Snails aren't holding nothing.

Celya AB

So the bread I want is from a French bakery in Paris called Du Pain et Des Idees, which means some bread and some ideas. And I-

Ed Gamble

Is that the one with the domes? They put domes over all of the, like, macarons and stuff.

Celya AB

I think so. I don't remember that.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that might be Patisserie du Reve actually.

Celya AB

Bonjour.

James Acaster

What about Pain Quotidien?

Celya AB

Oh, Pain Quotidien.

James Acaster

Or Paul.



Celya AB

I do like it in a Pain Quotidien, I enjoy it. It makes me feel happy, it makes me feel at home. Anyways, so I got really into Anthony Bourdain in lockdown and I watched so much of it. And every episode, I would take notes of where he was going, and if I happened to be there, I would go to that place. And that's his favourite bakery. And I had it once and it's by far the best bread I've ever had in my life. It tastes so rich. It was so good that we bought it, took it on the plane back, and by the next day, it was still as delicious as the first day.

James Acaster

Wow.

Celya AB

It was incredible.

Ed Gamble

Oh nice.

Celya AB

It was so good.

James Acaster

Is this like just classic, you know, a white bread loaf, a brown bread loaf? What kind of bread was it?

Celya AB

I wouldn't say it was, like, a baguette or anything like that, which-, oh my God, I've almost stepped on a minefield here.

Ed Gamble

Get out. Baguette, out.

Celya AB

That would be so unfair. It's almost like just a loaf-, I think we bought a whole loaf. And it's brown, but it's got little bits of seeds in it. But it's-, I can't even describe the taste of it. Just that really rich and almost meaty. It was delicious. And I think about that bread a lot.

James Acaster

Sure it wasn't a sausage roll?

Celya AB

No, it wasn't a sausage roll.

Ed Gamble

So we've got that bread, which I want.



James Acaster

First sausage roll you've ever had. This bread's amazing.

Ed Gamble

So meaty.

Celya AB

Oh my God, when I first moved to England, I went to a Wetherspoons and then went back to France, and then was telling everyone about this amazing-

James Acaster

Were you really?

Celya AB

Yes. Like, 'You should check out this Wetherspoons, it's amazing.'

Ed Gamble

2 breads though.

Celya AB

Yes, the second bread will come in the starter.

Ed Gamble

Oh, nice.

James Acaster

Oh okay, you found that-, well, this sounds very nice. Are you having any butter with this?

Ed Gamble

Beurre.

Celya AB

Beurre.

James Acaster

What?

Celya AB

I would like a bit of buerre.

James Acaster

Little buerre.



James Acaster

Bill Burr. Fuck your butter. Fuck your bread.

Ed Gamble

I want to fuck your butter, how's it going?

Celya AB

I want Bill Burr to be trying new material at the back of the restaurant. By the way, the restaurant, I want to be sat in the booth side of the thing. I don't want a chair. That's important for me. So I want butter and I want it to be softened and I want it to be-, I want salted and unsalted so I can have a bit of fun.

James Acaster

Go back and forth.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Have a bit of fun.

Celya AB

Fun.

James Acaster

What, are you spreading them on chunks of bread or are you getting them on the same one?

Celya AB

Oh my God, yes.

Ed Gamble

That's the very basic of what I thought you were talking about.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You just decided, 'I'm going to have some fun,' and at no point thought, 'What is this fun going to be?'

Celya AB

What I want-,

James Acaster

Yes, are you going to mix them or have separate? Oh, hello. Game changer. What the fuck? Okay, let me wrap my head around this first.



Celya AB

Okay, here's my idea. I want a slice of dark bread. And I want it to be-, have a bit of unsalted, salted, in different areas, and then no butter because it's so delicious that it doesn't need butter. And I don't want to ever feel full throughout this meal so I can just have one of these and like Matt, I can still eat the rest of it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

So that's what I want.

James Acaster

Also, I have to ask you a question that we've asked a lot of guests on the podcast and I know you haven't chosen a baguette, you mentioned a baguette, you mentioned Paris. Obviously spent a lot of time in France. We've never asked-,

Ed Gamble

Bloody obsessed with the place.

James Acaster

We've never asked an actual French person this question.

Celya AB

Go on then.

James Acaster

When you go to a bakery, a boulangerie-,

Celya AB

Very good.

James Acaster

And get a fresh baguette. On the walk back to your house-,

Celya AB

Yes, I do.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Yes, I do. Yes, eat the hat of the baguette.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think that should be the only question to judge whether someone's a psychopath or not.

Celya AB

If they don't eat it.

Ed Gamble

If they don't eat the hat off the baguette-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Then they're wrong.

Celya AB

Put them to jail, I think. Jail them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, straight away.

Celya AB

And then the jail can make them forget.

Ed Gamble

No way they're getting out. 'How am I going to get out? Oh Jesus.'

Celya AB

But yes, absolutely, I eat it. And that's-, that used to be a big thing in family of, like, we used to fight about who gets to go and buy that bread that day because we wanted the head of the baguette. I guess we like to behead things a lot in France.

James Acaster

Your dream starter then, which we know is going to involve some more bread.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

Also, for the listeners, Celya showed us-, we don't know what's on there, but from a distance, Celya showed us that the notes on her phone-,



Ed Gamble

Extensive.

James Acaster

For this episode, and it is the most amount of notes anyone's ever made.

Celya AB

I'm sorry.

James Acaster

For the podcast.

Celya AB

Are there loads?

James Acaster

No, no apology needed. I just want the listener know what we're dealing with here. This is a novel.

Celya AB

So what you're dealing with is, I had an idea, I went for a meal once with Ivo and Tim Key in Edinburgh. And we had this idea-, and by we, I mean, I think Tim had this idea. And then I dreamed on it. For a restaurant that's called Sips.

James Acaster

Just to flag up before we move on, for full transparency, I've been told about Sips before.

Ed Gamble

Okay. I'm hearing about Sips for the first time.

Celya AB

So Sips-,

James Acaster

Ever heard about Sips? I've heard about Sips.

Celya AB

Sips is a restaurant where you can go there and have just a sip of something. And next door to it is another chain called Bite, and I'll let you guess-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes. Someone bites you.

Celya AB

What that is because-, someone bites you.



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

Celya AB

With baby teeth. There's a lot of, like, Sips and Bites content about to happen because I'm very indecisive and I love a lot of food.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

Celya AB

So, are we ready-

Ed Gamble

Bites is just tapas though, right?

Celya AB

No.

James Acaster

No, no, no.

Celya AB

No, no, no, no, don't you dare.

Ed Gamble

No, okay.

Celya AB

It's a bite. So, like, you have a little plate with an actual bite-, no-one chewed it for you, but I guess it's like bite-size of one thing.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay. Canapes.

Celya AB

Not canapes.

Ed Gamble

No.

Celya AB

No, that's another French word.



James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

It means sofa.

Ed Gamble

So Sips and Bites are next door to each other.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Seems unnecessary that they're 2 separate places, it should be called Sips and Bites.

Celya AB

Sometimes you just want Sips though.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Sometimes I'm walking around London, I'm like, 'Oh God. I'm dying for a sip.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

And then I have to buy a whole drink and that's too many sips.

Ed Gamble

So is this going to be-

Celya AB

Too many sips on the dance floor.

Ed Gamble

Is your starter going to be loads-

James Acaster

For Flight of the Conchords fans out there who remembers the song, 'Too Many Dicks on the Dancefloor.'



Ed Gamble

Is this starter going to be loads of bites or loads of sips?

Celya AB

Is it Ed? Yes, it is.

Ed Gamble

Loads of bites.

Celya AB

So I used to work in a pub in Birmingham called the Red Lion and they had the best Sunday roast I've ever had in my life. Now one of the starters that I would like is-, okay, when we worked in the pub, we weren't allowed to eat during our shifts but we would get really hungry. So what we would do is we-, God, I shouldn't have said the name of the pub. I'm sure they don't do it anymore. What we used to do is eat, like, the rest of people's roasts.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

So we'd pick it up and we called it 'scraps', and there'd be a WhatsApp group, we'd be like, 'There's good scraps in the kitchen.' And our manager would get really mad at us, but it was really good scraps.

Ed Gamble

Please tell the WhatsApp group was called What Scraps.

Celya AB

No, it's not that very good actually-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Might rejoin. 2016 coming back to me.

James Acaster

Come on, that is gutting that it wasn't called that.

Celya AB

I know.



James Acaster

That has got to be absolutely gutting though, wasn't called What Scraps.

Celya AB

What Scraps.

James Acaster

What Scraps, fucking hell.

Celya AB

They used to do a lamb bap which was like lamb roast dinner covered in gravy with mint sauce.

James Acaster

What Bap.

Celya AB

In a little bap.

James Acaster

What Bap.

Ed Gamble

Just ignore him.

Celya AB

What Bap. Okay. I think you won that one, Edward.

James Acaster

Some of us aren't playing to win over here.

Celya AB

So I want, like, a bite of that. Of the lamb bap.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Bite of the lamb bap.

Celya AB

I want a bite of the lamb bap.



Ed Gamble

Can I just check with the bites-, with Bites as a concept, do you get the whole thing, you take a bite and then leave it? Or do you get a bite-sized bit of that?

Celya AB

Both are excellent ideas. So it's hard to-,

James Acaster

Well, one involves a lot more waste.

Ed Gamble

One involves a lot more waste and self restraint, I would say.

Celya AB

Yes. What if you had-, it was the whole thing, but you take a bite and immediately, you have to give it to someone else?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Pass it down the line.

Celya AB

I think that's nice. I like sharing food with people like that, because it's like, you have it and then you know you can't have it ever again. It's very romantic, actually.

Ed Gamble

I like sharing food with people. I don't, actually. That's a lie.

James Acaster

Don't lie on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

But I definitely wouldn't like sharing food with people if the concept was it was a bap, I took a bite and then they took a bite.

James Acaster

Especially if you're the second person.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if you were the second person, or the last person.



Celya AB

It's like the human centipede question again, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is, yes.

James Acaster

Not quite.

Celya AB

Where would you be in line?

James Acaster

Yes, when are you taking the bite? How far down the line?

Ed Gamble

You don't want to be right at the end of the line. Bites, that is fucked up, this restaurant.

Celya AB

No, so, bite is like a bite-size, let's say, hygiene, you know.

James Acaster

I mean, each person's bite is a different size, though.

Celya AB

They know you.

James Acaster

They know you, okay.

Ed Gamble

This is interesting, because I once came up with an idea for a restaurant that I might have said on Off Menu before. Me and my friend Leo came up with it, called Steak Face, where you go in and they measure your face and then you get a steak the size of your own face.

Celya AB

That's amazing.

Ed Gamble

Pretty good, right?

Celya AB

Not the circumference of your head?



Ed Gamble

Not the head, the face, so it's just the face.

James Acaster

Pretty sure this is the first time I've heard about Leo as well. Leo? Yes, you and Leo came up with Steak Face together?

Celya AB

Do they draw your face on it?

James Acaster

Yes, good idea.

Ed Gamble

They could do, yes, that's not a bad idea.

Celya AB

I'd love to eat my own face.

Ed Gamble

I think that's good.

James Acaster

What, Steak Face?

Ed Gamble

No?

James Acaster

That is shit.

Celya AB

I like it. I'll give you a million.

Ed Gamble

Well, also, because if there's a little baby or something, they're not going to want a big steak, so it works perfectly, proportionally.

Celya AB

I've never seen a baby eat a steak.

Ed Gamble

Well, you've not been to Steak Face.



Celya AB

'Rare, please.'

James Acaster

He's luring us in there, he knows babies don't eat steaks. He's trying to get us in.

Ed Gamble

Find a little kid.

James Acaster

Even a little kid.

Celya AB

Oh my god, if I see a kid eat a steak I'm bullying him.

James Acaster

That kid'll bully you I think.

Celya AB

No, I'm stealing his lunch money, and his lunch actually.

James Acaster

A kid eating a steak, I reckon that kid could beat up anyone, an adult.

Celya AB

Oh my god, yes.

James Acaster

I reckon good luck bullying that kid. You try and bully a kid who's eating a steak.

Ed Gamble

Steak baby, you aren't bullying that steak baby.

James Acaster

He'll bully you right back.

Celya AB

Yes, he'd win a fight wouldn't he, steak baby.

Ed Gamble

Anyway I'm sorry to distract from the Bite's concept.

James Acaster

You've got the lamb bap.



Ed Gamble

Bite size lamb bap.

Celya AB

Then I want-, there's a restaurant in Paris that I go to a lot. So, it's right by one of the bridges. I'll find the name of it later. It feels like a tourist trap, but the food is actually really good. And, what I want from it is the bottom of a thing of mussels, just a sauce, and I can soak a bit of bread in it and eat that. I'm not bothered about the mussels. They're nice, but I don't like food that has tech (ph 46.33), it's too much. So, just get rid of all the mussels, and then I'd just like to dip a bit of bread in it. So far, it's a lot of bread.

James Acaster

Yes, we got some more bread here.

Celya AB

But, that sauce was delicious.

James Acaster

So, you want to dip it in? You don't want, like, a cube of bread that's had that sauce soaked up into it and then you-,

Celya AB

No, I want to dip it in. I want to feel strong.

James Acaster

You want to feel strong.

Celya AB

I want to dip it in, and there's two more which are not bread. I want a sip of a vegetable soup that I had in a pub in Rotherhithe.

Ed Gamble

Soup's an interesting one. Would that be in Sips or Bites?

Celya AB

That's Sips.

James Acaster

Got to be the Sips.

Celya AB

But, then if you want the bread, you have to go to Bites.



Ed Gamble

Yes, so it's tricky.

James Acaster

Yes, see, that's why you should maybe adopt Ed's idea of having Sips and Bites.

Celya AB

No, what if there was a conveyor belt-, a secret tunnel.

James Acaster

A secret tunnel.

Celya AB

A secret tunnel between the two.

Ed Gamble

The Yo! Sushi and Ed's Diner in the centre of London, when there was an Ed's Diner there, used to share a toilet.

James Acaster

Is that true?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you'd go in, you'd go into the toilet and you'd be, like, in the toilet and then someone from Yo! Sushi would be trying to get into the toilet.

Celya AB

That's amazing, I bet they had tales to tell each other.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Toilet tales.

Celya AB

Yes, 'What's it like in Yo! Sushi?'

James Acaster

'You wouldn't believe it.'

Ed Gamble

So, that could be a way of getting around Sips and Bits. You could just eat in the toilet?

James Acaster

Share the toilet. Dip your bread in your Sip thing.



Celya AB

Dip the bread in the toilet? I thought that's what you meant. I want a sip of the vegetable soup from a pub in Rotherhithe which I forgot the name of, but it's lovely. So, for the listeners, I'm Algerian as well as French.

James Acaster

Plot twist, but we haven't made fun of that.

Celya AB

No, Ed does twenty minutes with an Algerian accent.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Pretty wrong actually Ed.

Ed Gamble

I shouldn't open with it either should I?

Celya AB

No, you shouldn't, also the outfit is a bit much. So, there's an Algerian type soup called Chorba which my mum makes. I don't know if you've ever had it.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No.

Celya AB

It's lovely, it's quite mild but it's very satisfying and you have it around Ramadam a lot. I did Ramadam once in my life and then I fainted so I don't do it anymore.

James Acaster

Fair enough.

Celya AB

But, I always had a meal at dinner time which was amazing.

Ed Gamble

So, you'd eat throughout the day, and then you'd break the fast with a meal.



Celya AB

I was seven stone heavier as a teenager, yes.

James Acaster

How did you faint?

Ed Gamble

You fainted when you actually did Ramadam?

Celya AB

Yes, it was in a shopping centre and the guy called an ambulance and the man said, 'Why haven't you eaten?' And, I said, 'It's Ramadam' and he said, 'Don't do that anymore.' And, then I'm not a Muslim anymore so I guess that man had a big impact on me.

James Acaster

He converted someone.

Celya AB

His name was Jesus.

James Acaster

Don't do that anymore. Thank you Jesus.

Ed Gamble

Isn't that folded into Islam though that if you can't do it, for medical reasons, that's fine because then everyone else doing it is taking on the fact that you can't do it?

Celya AB

Yes, I was very young and I think I just thought I'm just going to leave Islam instead, that's a bit quicker than putting my guilt on everyone else.

James Acaster

Sorry everyone else who has to take this burden on.

Celya AB

I just leave the room actually.

Ed Gamble

'Don't worry about me guys, so sorry. I'm off to Sips and Bites.'

Celya AB

But, I want a sip of Chorba, actually two sips of Chorba.



James Acaster

Two sips? Is that allowed in Sips?

Celya AB

It's allowed.

James Acaster

You're allowed two sips.

Celya AB

Two different containers.

James Acaster

Wow, that's pretty mad that you can go in Sips and order two sips of something. That's a gulp.

Celya AB

Yes, and then on Fridays they have Two Sips Fridays. You can get deals for it. And, so that's my starter. I want a sip of Chorba, a sip of that vegetable soup from that pub in Rotherhithe which was the best vegetable soup I've had in my life, and I usually hate vegetable soup, the bread at the bottom of the mussels from the French restaurant.

James Acaster

So, that's a sip and a bite as well.

Celya AB

That is a sip and a bite.

Ed Gamble

That's a sip and a bite.

James Acaster

Yes, you're a bit and a sip there.

Celya AB

Oh my god.

Ed Gamble

Normally, we get a bit weird about people ordering what's clearly multiple things on one course, but you've so specified that it's sips and bites that it's absolutely fine. It's global tapas.

James Acaster

It's global tapas but, like, on a smaller scale and I think, if we're talking two bites, three sips here by my calculation, that's basically a starter.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so.

Celya AB

I think you'll find, and I'm going to say the word because I know everyone's thinking it, it's quite sophisticated.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're right actually.

James Acaster

I'll tell you what makes it not sophisticated in my head, is that I've imagined Sipz and Bitez is spelt with a 'Z'.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's in comic sans on the sign.

Celya AB

No, sips and bites is all in lower case, somewhere in east London.

Ed Gamble

With a full stop after it.

Celya AB

Yes, 'sips. bites.' It's all in lowercase. Wood. A lot of wood, and the people working there are all wearing little hats and glasses. It's very hipster-y, sips and bites, is how I imagine it.

James Acaster

Your dream main course.

Celya AB

Okay, I've really thought about this.

Ed Gamble

You thought about the starter.

Celya AB

And, I thought I would know by now, but I don't know if I want a main course. I think I just want sides.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

James Acaster

Interesting.



Ed Gamble

This is going to be another sips and bites situation, isn't it?

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

We thought we'd left sips and bites.

Celya AB

We're back in there. So, sides, first side I want, as my main-,

Ed Gamble

Is this the first time someone has skipped main?

James Acaster

I'm not sure. Maybe.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it might be, because we've definitely had starter skippers and dessert skippers.

James Acaster

Yes, we have.

Ed Gamble

We've never had a main skipper.

Celya AB

Skipping starters?

James Acaster

That's fair enough.

Celya AB

No, that's mad. That's the only reason I go to restaurants, is for the starter.

Ed Gamble

It is mad, but as someone who is about to skip main.

Celya AB

I just think main is too much when you think about it. After you've had a few sips and bites.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it's not too much at all. That's why you shouldn't have a fucking bag of crisps before you arrive at the restaurant.

James Acaster

I'd like a bag of crisps, and I'd like to skip my main course.

Ed Gamble

It's too big.

Celya AB

Oh my god, I've just remembered on the way here I settled on a main, so I've got a main.

James Acaster

Okay.

Celya AB

Are we ready? Oh my god, okay main is-, I really like Studio Ghibli films, is it Ghibli or Ghibli?

James Acaster

Ghibli.

Ed Gamble

Ghibli.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

It is Ghibli, yes.

James Acaster

I said 'Ghibli' the other day to someone, like to their face.

Celya AB

And, then texted me didn't you?

James Acaster

Fuck me, I said Ghibli for a long-, actually, no. I think I said Ghibli.

Ed Gamble

I think ghibli is acceptable but I think it is Ghibli.



James Acaster

I think someone else said Ghibli to me the other day, and I have now thought that that's how it's said.

Celya AB

Is it ghibli?

James Acaster

Benito, you've got to cut that out the podcast now. Don't have people thinking that I go around saying the wrong one.

Celya AB

So, Studio Ghibli, I really like the food in it, I think that's quite a common thing. There's a page I follow on twitter that's just Studio Ghibli food, or Studio Ghibli food, so my main course is I want a bowl of ramen with pork at the top of it, and I want the broth to be rich and spicy, and the noodles to be on the thicker side. I don't like little noodles, size queen. I've never said that in my life.

James Acaster

I don't think anyone's said it on the podcasts before. We haven't heard the term 'size queen' said on the podcast.

Celya AB

I don't even agree with it, but when I walk into a noodle place.

Ed Gamble

Yes, suddenly, the size queen.

James Acaster

Got ourselves a size queen.

Ed Gamble

The size queen's arrived.

James Acaster

She just likes the udon.

Ed Gamble

You've better have that udon.

James Acaster

Rice noodle, waste of time.

Ed Gamble

I don't want no rice noodle motherfucker.



James Acaster

Macaroni guy.

Ed Gamble

Fucking Cardi B lyric. It's funny.

Celya AB

So, I don't want it to be quite udon, but, like, on the udon scale, I would say, and I would like two tea-stained eggs, because one is not enough. Every time I have one, I think, 'That was amazing, I'd like to have that again.'

Ed Gamble

Always order an extra egg.

James Acaster

Always. I mean it

Celya AB

And, also, it makes you think, because where's the other half of the egg going?

James Acaster

That's true.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

Certainly not in another ramen they're serving.

Ed Gamble

Yes, where's that egg going? They must be putting half an egg in and then throwing the rest of the egg in the bin.

Celya AB

There's a meet cute that could happen, where you find-

Ed Gamble

You find the other half of your egg in someone else's ramen.

James Acaster

And, you both put them together.

Celya AB

Yes, oh my god, that's so sweet, isn't it?



James Acaster

Yes, and disgusting, but yes.

Ed Gamble

How different do you think eggs are that if you put the two halves together that they wouldn't match any other egg?

Celya AB

They're quite different, aren't they? They're quite different, I'd say. I had an idea for a game where-, unrelated.

James Acaster

Okay, let's fuck that off.

Celya AB

I think you'll like this, it's kind of related. So, imagine if there was a game where it's a packet of crisps and then you have to put back the potato from the packet of crisps, like a puzzle.

Ed Gamble

What, put it back into potato shape?

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you think, maybe, the slices change shape when they're fried?

Celya AB

No, I think it would be really fun.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but it's impossible because, as I think you know, when you fry the potato slices, they change shape. It's like getting a jigsaw, fucking it into a blender and then saying, 'Let's try and put that back together again.'

Celya AB

That sounds fun, Ed. I'm trying to get away from my phone, so please, give me a crisp puzzle.

James Acaster

Chuck it into a blender?

Celya AB

I'm sure you've done that as well.



James Acaster

I like the idea, though, of the potato jigsaw.

Celya AB

I think about that puzzle a lot and I know they change shapes and stuff, but I think, life is dull. Have a bit of magic.

James Acaster

You know, who knows? They change shape but maybe those shapes, the new shapes, will fit into one another and you'll create a big fired potato.

Ed Gamble

I'm not convinced guys, I'll be honest.

James Acaster

It could happen, we're not the ones fucking jigsaws into a blender whatever you spend your time doing.

Celya AB

So, that's my main, are we happy with that?

James Acaster

You want the ramen from spirited away?

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

Actually, there's one were the ramen, specifically ramen, is really good in it.

Ed Gamble

Is it Ponyo?

Celya AB

I think it might be Ponyo.

James Acaster

It's the one that's like, they spend a whole scene making ramen.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

With, like, the pork and the-, I think it might be Ponyo.



James Acaster

He says-, I've forgotten the guy's name now, the main guy behind the Studio, he says that, like, in every film there should be a moment where they have a meal and spend that time and it does look delicious every time.

Celya AB

Yes, even in spirited away that scene where they eat all the food and turn into pigs, I mean, there's a part of me that's like, make me a little piggy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, turn me into a pig, those dumplings.

Celya AB

I think they had the best day out of everybody.

James Acaster

The pigs?

Celya AB

The pigs, the parents. They sat down, had a meal, turn into pigs, and then turn back into humans. I don't remember the end to be honest.

James Acaster

Yes, I don't know what happens at the end. So, your dream side dish, you were going to choose loads of sides for your main.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

You've decided not to.

Ed Gamble

Are the sides now just the things that you were going to have for your main?

Celya AB

Yes, there are quite a lot. Okay, the first one is, the first side I want is something I think you'll be familiar with. I want the chicken wings from Shack Fuyu.

Ed Gamble

The Korean chicken wings.

Celya AB

Yes, but I want them to be magical. You know they're very sticky?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

So, I want to eat them, enjoy the flavour, but magically my fingers aren't sticky afterwards. If anything they're cleaner.

James Acaster

Yes that would be nice.

Ed Gamble

Good, because they are delicious but I would say they're in my top three foods of feeling disgusting after you've finished eating them. And, they only make me think of Nish Kumar. Because, he is a man-,

Celya AB

Because, he makes me feel disgusting too.

Ed Gamble

Yes, always gets them and does not care if he's got dirty hands.

James Acaster

The same goes for my dad who ate them and looked like the joker afterwards, and we told him that and he didn't care.

Ed Gamble

'You look like the joker.'

James Acaster

We said, 'dad, it's literally on your nose' and he was like, 'So what?' Just really pointed it out, 'So what? I don't care.'

Ed Gamble

Which joker? Heath ledger?

James Acaster

Heath ledger's joker.

Ed Gamble

Not Jared Leto. He didn't have, like, fucking 'Ha ha' written on his face.

James Acaster

If he did he wouldn't have cared.



Celya AB

He had one wing and looked like Jared Leto afterwards. It was amazing.

Ed Gamble

Now, with the starter we let you get away with multiple things because it was all sips and bites. Those wings are massive. To the extent I have never seen a chicken the size of those wings.

James Acaster

Yes, I don't know what they're actually-, what bird.

Ed Gamble

Ostrich wings.

Celya AB

Body builders, they're at the gym.

James Acaster

I think they are body building chickens, and there's about, what? Three wings to a portion which is disconcerting.

Ed Gamble

It's always disconcerting to get three wings in a portion.

Celya AB

Yes, it's weird isn't it, when you think about it.

Ed Gamble

You're like, what do they do with the other wing? With the other half egg?

Celya AB

Oh my god, you have to find who has the wing.

Ed Gamble

Who has the other wing.

Celya AB

And, then you fly away together.

James Acaster

This could have happened to you and you don't even know it. What if in the same day you had some chicken wings and you had some ramen with the tea stained egg, and the egg came from the same chicken?



Celya AB

I think about that stuff constantly, honestly. If I have a meal I wonder if there's chicken that I'm having for example, if I've had it before.

Ed Gamble

Yes, or had one of its eggs.

James Acaster

One of its mates.

Celya AB

One of its mates.

Ed Gamble

The chickens that make the Shack Fuyu wings you'd know if you had one of their eggs because you wouldn't be able to use them for ramen because there would be no space for broth, big eggs. The eggs have got pecks. So, do you want a whole serving of these chicken wings?

Celya AB

Id be lying if I said I didn't. Yes, I do, because I can't be full in that meal so I want a full serving please.

James Acaster

You really have to sell these other bites then because that sounds like a side in and of itself, but let's hear the rest of them.

Celya AB

I want a post-it note square of lasagne, specifically I used to live with a guy who was a tech at a comedy club in Birmingham and he also was trained as a chef, and he would make the best lasagne I've had in my entire life. And, he would spend all day doing it and I don't know what he would do it but he would, like, soak the tomatoes and it was the best thing I've ever had in my life. And, what he would do is he'd make a big batch and then he'd have a square of it, and then he'd go, 'You can have the rest for tonight and for work.' It's the best thing I've ever had in terms of lasagne. My favourite dish is lasagne but this is the best lasagne I've ever had. Oh my god, we don't live together anymore and it'd be weird to, like, pop round for lasagne seeing as I live in London.

Ed Gamble

I don't know, if it was that good.

Celya AB

It was incredible.

Ed Gamble

God, I love lasagne.



Celya AB

Yes, it's like book isn't it.

Ed Gamble

It's like a book.

James Acaster

It is like a book.

Celya AB

Yes, I used to have a joke that never worked, do you want to hear it? About lasagne.

James Acaster

Yes, I have a lasagne joke that never worked as well, so you go ahead.

Celya AB

Hey, your special was good.

James Acaster

Yes, the whole thing didn't work.

Ed Gamble

He's so confident with it, it was the title of the show, had to drop the bit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

So, the joke was, hey-

Ed Gamble

All the best jokes start with 'hey'. Drop it in halfway through a set, hey, as if you don't have their attention already, 'Hey, listen to this.'

Celya AB

It's sad because I actually do that. The joke was, do you use a bookmark or fold a corner of your lasagne when you want to pick it up later?

Ed Gamble

That presumes that everyone looks at lasagne and goes, 'That's like a book.' Whereas you're the first person I've ever heard say that.



James Acaster

Yes, we get it because you gave us the context earlier of saying you think lasagne is like a book because of all the-

Ed Gamble

And, also, you don't eat lasagne by peeling the layers back like pages.

Celya AB

I do, and I go, 'That's enough of that, going to bed now.'

James Acaster

Writing the joke, shall I establish that lasagne is like a book? No, I'll just say hey.

Ed Gamble

Everything I need is in that 'hey'.

Celya AB

Honestly, the sad bit is for ages I was like, 'I think that's one of the best jokes I've ever written and people just aren't getting it, but one day it will click.' Never did.

James Acaster

I love the sound of this lasagne.

Ed Gamble

The square of lasagne.

James Acaster

I love the sound of it.

Ed Gamble

Are there other things you're about to tell us about earlier? I think we're going to have to make you make a choice at some point.

James Acaster

Yes, maybe we will also have to have an opinion on it. So far, if I was to limit you to one side, as much as I love Shack Fuyu-

Ed Gamble

You don't like the wings, you never get the wings.

James Acaster

I never get the wings but it's because of the messiness. One more wing story, a Shack Fuyu wing story, going there with Kumail Nanjiani who's been a guest on the podcasts before. He got the wings, didn't want to get messy so he used-, well I'm going to say cutlery but it was two chopsticks.



Celya AB

Your lovely girlfriend told me this story and I'm still trying to work out how he did it.

James Acaster

It was quite expert, it was like he'd done it before.

Ed Gamble

Well, he'd met that chicken in the gym.

James Acaster

He'd met that chicken in the gym, they're both preparing for a role.

Ed Gamble

When that chicken dropped the Instagram transformation.

James Acaster

Everyone couldn't believe it.

Celya AB

Chicken man.

James Acaster

You're making all the rest of us chickens look bad.

Celya AB

New Marvel but the super hero is a Shack Fuyu chicken.

James Acaster

He held the chopsticks at the very end, the fat end, and, kind of like, pinned it with one chopstick and with the other one just shredded along the chicken.

Ed Gamble

Did it work?

James Acaster

Yes, it came off the bone, just did it all like that.

Celya AB

That feels wrong though, doesn't it?

James Acaster

It felt wrong.



Celya AB

Because, when you eat chicken wings you have to be okay with the fact that you're going to hate yourself a bit, but it's like a milkshake. When you have a milkshake it's the fastest you can go from, 'Little treat' to 'I hate myself'.

James Acaster

I'm going to have to be very restrained at the minute, I got given as a present for Christmas-, but I thought they were, like, mixers and I've just realised yesterday that they're not. These, like, massive wine-sized bottles of basically chocolate liqueur from Hotel Chocolat that's just velvetised chocolate milk, different flavours, with vodka in it. And, I thought, 'You've got to mix that with other stuff' and I looked at it the other day and go, 'You just have it on its own.' It's going to be a daily battle of not just pouring myself a big old milkshake, a boozy milkshake, that's like chocolate and mince pie flavour, one of them is.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god that sounds amazing.

James Acaster

Yes, it's really, like, how the hell do I not?

Ed Gamble

I can't drink a whole milkshake. If I get halfway through I have to fold the corner over to remind me where I am.

Celya AB

Can I suggest something?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

There's a place where you can have just a bit of a milkshake.

Ed Gamble

Suddenly I'm on board with Sips.

Celya AB

There are two more sides, they're quick ones, and I'm realising now that, I mean, I could just go to a normal restaurant and they will have that. Pork bao buns, I love them. Bao buns in general I think are just a brilliant invention.

James Acaster

Yes.



Celya AB

I think, what a concept. It's like food on a cloud.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That must have been how they came up with the idea, yes.

Celya AB

Yes, food on a cloud.

Ed Gamble

Food on a cloud.

James Acaster

I'd like to eat food on a cloud.

Celya AB

I bet they'd make-, like, if you had a giant bao, that would make a good pillow.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it would.

James Acaster

Yes. Oh, easily. If I'm going to choose something from the food world to have as a pillow it would be a bao bun.

Celya AB

That's one of my questions actually.

James Acaster

Yes? Probably is.

Celya AB

That's one of my questions.

James Acaster

Duvet. That's a bit more difficult, isn't it?

Celya AB

Duvet. A sheet of lasagne, easily.

James Acaster

That's too crispy.



Celya AB

No, cooked.

Ed Gamble

One of the middle sheets.

James Acaster

Oh no, too soggy.

Ed Gamble

Alright, Goldilocks.

James Acaster

Sorry. I'm sleeping in something made of food, I'm sorry if it's very Goldilocks of me. So, you've got your pork bao-,

Ed Gamble

Pork bao bun.

Celya AB

Pork buns, and I would love some shredded sweet seaweed from Bao in Borough. They've got shredded seaweed and it's crispy and they've put, like, sugar on it and it's delicious.

Ed Gamble

Now.

James Acaster

How do we feel about that?

Ed Gamble

What are we going to do here?

James Acaster

So-,

Ed Gamble

I'll say it. I don't think we can allow all four.

James Acaster

No. I don't think we-, normally, if you were to say that as your main, fine. Here's what I would allow, all four of them as a main, and a side-sized ramen as your side.

Ed Gamble

A cup of ramen.



Celya AB

Yes, let's do that. Let's do that. I want a cup of ramen with one egg, because, otherwise, there's no more ramen left. Oh my god, it could just be one long noodle and then I just-, and do it all in one.

Ed Gamble

One long noodle in a cup with half an egg. I think that's-, in a little mug. That's great.

Celya AB

That's a great idea, oh my god. For sips, you could have a sip of ramen.

James Acaster

Yes. Little shot. Little ramen shot.

Celya AB

Yes, let's do that. Is that okay? Can I have that?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. You can have your little ramen shot.

Ed Gamble

Switch them round.

James Acaster

Problem solved.

Ed Gamble

The old fliparoo.

James Acaster

The old fliparoo.

Celya AB

Wow, that would make me so happy, actually.

James Acaster

Yes, so now you've got everything.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

I've got everything. Except one last thing. Can I have an extra sip? An extra bite?



James Acaster

Here we go. What is it?

Ed Gamble

Come on.

Celya AB

The chilli beef noodles from Noodles and Dumplings in Edinburgh.

Ed Gamble

That's not an extra bite, you've just picked some more noodles.

Celya AB

Yes but, like-,

Ed Gamble

Are you fucking kidding me? We've just managed to find a way so your side could be a mug of ramen noodles and you've gone, 'Oh, one more extra thing, an entire other portion of noodles.'

Celya AB

Okay, I let them go. Do you know what's mad is-,

James Acaster

Do you know what I think? I think if you had completely skipped sides and said, 'I just want all this for my main,' and skipped sides, I think I'd be like, 'Yes, fine.'

Ed Gamble

Shout out to Noodles and Dumplings in Edinburgh, it's one of the best restaurants in Edinburgh. It's absolutely incredible.

Celya AB

It's amazing. And I think that-, do you know what? I'm going to skip the chilli noodle beef. But I've just remembered, on the way I was like, 'Do you know what? I haven't really picked pasta,' but noodles is pasta. I was thinking to myself, 'I don't really eat pasta.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, and you've got lasagne.

Celya AB

And I've got-, yes. So, I'll say bye to the chilli noodles.

Ed Gamble

You've got a square of lasagne as well.



Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

I don't know if you remember declaring yourself a size queen earlier, but it was about pasta.

Celya AB

Yes, a lot of pasta. Yes, I'll let go of the chilli noodles. Although, if I may, just hop on the shout out?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Hop on the shout out.

Celya AB

Just hop on the shout out, oh I'm on the shout out. Noodles and Dumplings, those noodles have got me through a lot of Edinburgh fringes and I love them so much.

James Acaster

So, your dream drink. Is this one sip or multiple sips of different drinks that you like?

Celya AB

Okay. My dream drink is a cocktail that I-, you're going to hate this because you're not going to be able to find it. Because I had a cocktail once, and I'm not a cocktail person generally, I like just wine or sparkling water or the two of them combined. It was the best thing I've ever had. It was peachy and-, I like it in cocktails when there's a layer of sugar around the glass, it had that. I don't remember where it was from, I don't remember who I had it with but I just know that it was incredible. I had three of them and they were quite expensive but they were so delicious that I kept-,

James Acaster

Do you know what was in them?

Celya AB

It was, like, peachy, orangey, it has-,

Ed Gamble

Do you know what the booze was? Do you know what the booze base was?

Celya AB

No idea but that's the dream restaurant, right? You can find it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you remember what city you were in?

Celya AB

No.

Ed Gamble

You must be able to remember what city you were in.

James Acaster

How strong were these drinks?

Celya AB

In my mind I think I'm-, oh god. It was a party night but I can't remember if it was a tour thing, or-,

Ed Gamble

It was party night?

Celya AB

It was a night on tour or after a gig when everyone goes, 'Let's have a drink after.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

You know?

Ed Gamble

It was party night.

Celya AB

You've been away from the circuit.

James Acaster

It was party night.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

Celya AB

We take off our shoes and have a dance these days.



Ed Gamble

When we were on the circuit.

James Acaster

Taking our shoes off.

Ed Gamble

When it was party night, we'd all go get cocktails.

James Acaster

So far we know that sugar's all around the glass. I personally can't do that with a cocktail anymore because-

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

I did some gigs in Tenerife and we all went out afterwards, the comedians, party night, and loads of massive sugar crystals around the glass-

Ed Gamble

Which you must have loved.

James Acaster

Yes, at the time I was in heaven, but the hangover was so disgusting the next day. Because I ruined it for myself, we went to a water park, I couldn't go on any of the rides because I was too hungover, had to just lay on a sunbed, I got my legs sunburnt.

Ed Gamble

I'm going to say that that wasn't the fault of the sugar.

Celya AB

I think it's the alcohol.

James Acaster

Yes but it's the sugar that makes me feel sick thinking back on it.

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

I had loads of daiquiris and I just remember the feeling of the sugar on the rim of the glass, and as the night went on, that getting more and more-, just, like, making me feel ill. And I puked up in a bush, it was a bad night, really bad.



Celya AB

I think I just remembered where I had that cocktail. Oh my god, yes.

Ed Gamble

Tenerife.

Celya AB

No. No, no, no. Birmingham. Very similar. In Birmingham where I used to live, remember, I worked in a photography studio for a bit and my friends Maro and Vlad were both fashion photographers, and they invited me to this little runway thing. And it was my first runway I've ever been to, it was very low key, like-, but I had cocktails there.

Ed Gamble

This is incredible that even when you move to Birmingham you can't help but live a French life.

James Acaster

On the runway.

Celya AB

It was so weird. But also, like, I come from trash in France-,

Ed Gamble

La poubelle.

Celya AB

That's my favourite French restaurant. La poubelle. No, I come from, like-, basically where La Heine is, is where I come from. But I moved to England and something got lost in translation and everyone thinks I'm posh, and I've started living like it. But, like-,

James Acaster

That's worked out quite nice.

Celya AB

I had a cocktail from that thing and it was very fancy, they didn't have the prices of the cocktails and I thought they were free. They weren't free. But that was one of those cocktails, it was there. It was incredible.

Ed Gamble

So, you had the peachy, orangey cocktail at a fashion show in Birmingham.

James Acaster

So, we can't Google that. We can't Google their menu because it was a one-off thing that isn't going to happen anymore.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

It was in Digbeth. Does that help?

Ed Gamble

It was in Digbeth in Birmingham.

James Acaster

Digbeth, yes. And you don't know what the booze was?

Celya AB

No idea. I just remember it was delicious and I had three, and then I think they were very expensive. It was £17 a cocktail or something. I think because so few people came they had to offset the-

Ed Gamble

They started charging for the free drinks, yes. 'This is brilliant, she's on her third peachy Digbeth.'

Celya AB

I have another drink.

James Acaster

You have another drink?

Celya AB

I have a post-drink.

James Acaster

Let's hear it.

Ed Gamble

Come on.

Celya AB

A cup of tea. A cup of lovely liquorice and chamomile tea.

James Acaster

Trying to ingratiate yourself into the English listeners.

Ed Gamble

Yes, with liquorice and chamomile tea.



Celya AB

Alright governor. That's what I'll say.

James Acaster

I love when Celya says alright governor and stuff like that.

Celya AB

Alright governor.

James Acaster

What kind of tea did you say? Liquorice tea?

Celya AB

I want, like-, I really love tea so I want-, there's a liquorice one that I really like that you can buy. I think it's from one of those-, is it Pukka?

James Acaster

Yes.

Celya AB

Those things. It's liquorice but I can't remember what the other flavour is, but it is delicious. It's really sweet by itself.

James Acaster

Okay. Well yes, I mean, is that at the end of the meal?

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, come on.

Ed Gamble

No, that's fine.

Celya AB

Was your stomach rumbling?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that was my stomach.

Celya AB

Hello stomach.



Ed Gamble

I didn't have time to eat this morning, so my stomach's going.

James Acaster

Different things set your stomach off. Liquorice tea this time.

Ed Gamble

I've got to get back home. I've only got five pages left of my lasagne.

James Acaster

Peppermint and liquorice.

Celya AB

Peppermint and liquorice is the best.

James Acaster

After Benito read out from the website all the Pukka flavours with liquorice in.

Celya AB

Also, three cinnamon is really nice. You hate hot drinks, don't you?

James Acaster

I don't hate hot drinks, no, no, no. I just don't really have them very often these days. I went through-, you know, I used to have cups of tea all the time, then I stopped having caffeine for about five years I think, and during those five years just was on to herbal teas and then got bored of them, stopped having them. So, now I really only have hot chocolate from the velvetiser and-,

Ed Gamble

Like a grown up.

Celya AB

My dessert. Do you want to know what I'm going to have?

James Acaster

Yes, actually.

Celya AB

Okay.

James Acaster

How many things? Yes it's four.

Ed Gamble

Fucking hell.



Celya AB

Four bites of dessert.

James Acaster

Four bites.

Celya AB

I'm going to run through this because I can tell that-

Ed Gamble

I'm going to order a Deliveroo. I'm going to order a Deliveroo while you're talking.

Celya AB

Because Ed is absolutely seething.

James Acaster

You're ordering a Deliveroo?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

During the chat?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

This is rude. I apologise Celya.

Celya AB

This is very rude actually.

James Acaster

I can't believe it. First of all he does an impression of you in his show.

Celya AB

I know. Ten minutes.

Ed Gamble

I'm looking forward to hearing your desserts.

Celya AB

Then he dresses as an Algerian man for the recording.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

Which we never-

James Acaster

We weren't going to mention but now, due to this-

Celya AB

He's in a djellaba.

James Acaster

Yes, you are in a djellaba.

Celya AB

Nothing from Ed, he's-

James Acaster

Yes because he's lost in his Deliveroo.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes. Dessert. Sorry, I won't do that, that is rude.

Celya AB

So, dessert is, I went to a fancy restaurant in London once, I was meeting my, at the time, partner's mum. She took us to this really fancy restaurant, the dessert was a deconstructed tiramisu. I didn't like the fact that it was deconstructed-

Ed Gamble

Yes, fuck that.

Celya AB

So, I want it reconstructed but with the same elements.

Ed Gamble

So, you want all of those elements but for someone to put them back together as a tiramisu should be.

Celya AB

Yes, put them back together. Like the packet of crisps and the potato. So, like-

Ed Gamble

Not exactly the same.



Celya AB

Because individually-, exactly the same. Nothing different between the two of them. I think that all the elements of it were incredible but I didn't like how snobby it was to deconstruct it. Like, don't play with the form.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I completely agree with you.

Celya AB

Just stick to it.

Ed Gamble

Because all you're doing with deconstructed stuff is you're putting it all in your mouth and then it tastes the same, so it's just more effort. It's annoying.

Celya AB

It feels like then your mouth is like an IKEA furniture and your mouth puts them all together.

James Acaster

Are you supposed to eat the elements individually? When it's deconstructed, are you supposed to just go round, have the sponge fingers, have the-,

Ed Gamble

But who wants that?

Celya AB

I just think it looks unfinished, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Who wants that? Who wants a-,

James Acaster

I mean, maybe that's the point-,

Ed Gamble

Just a dry sponge finger and then some cream.

James Acaster

But maybe if each element is that luxurious that's what they want you to do, is experience how good this element is.



Ed Gamble

No man, no man. All goes in your stomach and comes like a crap out of your arse. It's all the same. No point deconstructing it. It's all going to be a crap out your arse.

James Acaster

But if we start saying that then our whole podcast is pointless. It all just comes out of your butt as a crap out of your arse and then it's like-, and then people are just going to come on and go, 'Who cares what I want on my dream menu? It all comes out like a crap out my arse.'

Celya AB

I enjoy that when you're hungry Ed, you turn into an existentialist.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

What does it matter? So, I want that tiramisu but also I would like a-, it's a type of pastry that you can get in France. I don't think you can get good ones here, they're called Paris-Brest.

James Acaster

What?

Celya AB

Have you had them before?

Ed Gamble

The ones that look like tits?

Celya AB

I was going to go on about a thing about how it relates to my childhood. And you said, 'No, they look like knockers.'

Ed Gamble

I think I'm actually thinking of a different thing anyway.

Celya AB

I think you are.

Ed Gamble

But yes, Paris-Brest.

Celya AB

Paris-Brest. So they're, like, choux pastry but it's cut in half and there's praline cream in it, crushed almonds and some sugar. Not normal sugar, what's that special sugar? Do you know? The white-,



James Acaster

Icing sugar?

Celya AB

Icing sugar, that one, special sugar.

James Acaster

Yes, special sugar.

Ed Gamble

Daddy's special sugar.

Celya AB

So, I would like a bite of that. And then an hour after the meal, and this is the last thing I'll say, and I have edited down as I went along because I'm feeling a bit of impatience from the both of you actually.

James Acaster

No, I'm not impatient.

Ed Gamble

No, no, no.

James Acaster

I'm loving it, this is dessert course.

Celya AB

Dessert course. Kipferl is a lovely bakery in London, in Islington. They have a Viennese thing called a Sachertorte which is, like, a really-, it's a really dry chocolate and apricot cake that you have with cream on the side. It's delicious so I want a bit of that, but then an hour after the meal I want a Happy Hippo.

James Acaster

From Kinder?

Ed Gamble

The Kinder Bueno Happy Hippos?

Celya AB

I want a Happy Hippo.

Ed Gamble

I kind of do respect the hour before crisps, hour after Happy Hippo.

James Acaster



So, what for you makes the Happy Hippo the superior Kinder product? Because there's a lot of Kinder-, you can have the Kinder Bueno, Kinder Surprise.

Ed Gamble

White Kinder Bueno.

James Acaster

Those fingers that they do now. I got some Kinder Cards when I moved into my house.

Celya AB

Did you like them?

James Acaster

No, they were too sweet for even me. I bit into them and I was like, 'I'm giving these to my nephews when they come over because I can't stand that.' I was like, 'This is too much,' turned my face inside out.

Celya AB

Yes. I like them. I don't usually eat sweet stuff because it could ruin my life. So, this is what I love about the Happy Hippos. First of all, fun name. I love the name of it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

You are what you eat. I like that it's, like, a cannoli but accessible. Do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is a bit. It has cannoli vibes.

James Acaster

But you've only just been learning about cannoli's recently.

Celya AB

No. Maybe.

James Acaster

Cannoli's is a thing that Celya's only recently learnt about.

Ed Gamble

Have you just started watching the Sopranos?



Celya AB

You tell the story James.

James Acaster

I mean, I don't know how it really started but my girlfriend and Celya decided that they were going to watch the Godfather films.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay. So, I wasn't that far off.

Celya AB

No, you were so close actually.

James Acaster

And I was like, 'I'll watch the first one with you and when you get onto the second one I will watch that, although I don't think you are going to get onto that because the other day you were meant to watch Goodfellas and you used my Amazon account to rent it,' and then I went downstairs and they were watching Channel 4's The Dog House. And watching dogs get adopted and crying together, and they'd given up on it.

Ed Gamble

The opposite of Goodfellas.

James Acaster

They were watching Scarface the other day and absolutely appalled by the lead character. Appalled by his behaviour.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'People like this guy?' No. No, it's a film about an asshole. And Celya, suddenly you learned about cannoli's watching the Godfather. 'Leave the gun and take the cannoli's' and Celya's like, 'What is that? What are they talking about?'

Ed Gamble

I tell you what I'm going to get, a Happy Hippo.

Celya AB

Yes. The cannolis from that place are incredible.

James Acaster

Yes, there's a place called Grains & Greens.



Celya AB

Which does hazelnut-, it tastes like Nutella, but it's, like, a little-,

Ed Gamble

It tastes like what?

Celya AB

Nutella. Am I saying it wrong?

Ed Gamble

Never heard of it, it doesn't exist. I'm trying to help you out here, Celya.

James Acaster

What's the cannolis, then?

Celya AB

I mean, I have to say, I had met cannolis-, not met, I had seen cannolis before, but I just forgot about them a bit. And then, what a comeback, 2023, cannoli year.

James Acaster

Yes. You're doing good on the cannolis, now.

Celya AB

Yes.

James Acaster

So, I can see how a Happy Hippo is kind of like a cannoli. The wafer, the crispiness and the chocolatey-ness.

Ed Gamble

Yes. The filling, the lovely filling.

Celya AB

Yes. How happy it makes you.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's a hippo. And it's a good size as well, for a little, just a little sweet treat.

Celya AB

Exactly. If I have a bad gig, I have a Happy Hippo. So, there's a map to it. There are some shops that don't carry them, so I keep track in my mind of who has Happy Hippos.

Ed Gamble



So, if you have a bad gig, you have a Happy Hippo.

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

If you have a good gig, do you have a sad hippo?

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Celya AB

If I have a good gig, I have a cannoli. So, not every shop carries them. In lockdown, I threatened my ex-partner to order 50 Happy Hippos on Amazon.

James Acaster

Threatened them?

Celya AB

Yes, because he was like, 'That's going to ruin your life,' but I was like-, it's, like, £7.50 at the time and you could get 50 Happy Hippos, and I almost did it so many times.

James Acaster

'I'm going to do it.' Was it like that?

Celya AB

Yes, yes. Like Scarface, in a way.

James Acaster

Here we go. I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel. There are so many pages of this menu, it's just like looking at a big lasagne. One hour before, you want some ready salted Walkers crisps dipped in soy sauce.

Ed Gamble

Fucking hell.

James Acaster

Twenty minute walk to the restaurant, then you want a pint of really sparkling water, more bubbles than water, with ice. And then, throughout the meal, you would like still water, tap water indeed, filled up throughout. Poppadoms or bread? You want poppadoms and dips from Milan in Birmingham next to the station, and then you want some bread from Du Pain et des Idées.

Ed Gamble

IDs. It's where you can only buy the bread if you've got ID.



Celya AB

Yes. And if you're in pain.

James Acaster

In Paris. With salted and unsalted butter, so you can experiment. Starters, bites and sips. Lamb bap from the Red Lion in Birmingham. Bread and mussel sauce with a little bit of bread, cube of bread. Vegetable soup from Rotherhithe. Chorba?

Celya AB

Yes.

Ed Gamble

This is always the most vulnerable I ever see you, in this bit.

James Acaster

When I've got to pronounce words?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Celya AB

I think it's very sweet and you're doing a great job.

Ed Gamble

I love it. He's not doing a great job, it is sweet though.

Celya AB

I never thought I would see you say anything in French in my life.

Ed Gamble

Well he didn't. He said IDs.

Celya AB

You still haven't, so it's-

James Acaster

I'm back in the service station again, panicking. Mains and sides mixed together here. Chicken wings from Shack Fuyu, square of lasagne made by your housemate, pork bao buns, shredded seaweed from Bao, a little cup of pork ramen from the film Ponyo. Drink. Peachy cocktail from the Birmingham fashion show. Dessert, reconstructed tiramisu, reconstructed. Paris-Brest.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough.



James Acaster
Sachertorte from Kipferl.

Celya AB
Yes.

James Acaster
And then a peppermint and liquorice tea. Then twenty minute walk home, then a Happy Hippo an hour later.

Celya AB
Yes and doesn't that sound amazing?

James Acaster
It sounds insane.

Ed Gamble
I think it could be an amazing menu if you focused it down maybe.

Celya AB
I mean, I will show you the first draft of this menu.

James Acaster
It's fairer than fair. Want to have a guess what your secret ingredient was before we go?

Celya AB
Was it snails or something?

James Acaster
Not snails, come on. Pain-au-chocolat.

Ed Gamble
Pain-au-chocolat.

Celya AB
Fuck, that was close.

Ed Gamble
Was it?

Celya AB
It almost made it in there.



Ed Gamble

Yes, but you didn't want to give me the satisfaction I'd imagine, of ordering a pain-au-chocolat.

Celya AB

I think-, oh my god, I even said pain-au-chocolat. It was so close. It's, like, do you know those films where you look back and everything was so close to happening?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Celya AB

It's exactly like how I imagine Goodfellas.

James Acaster

Yes, you can imagine that as much as you like.

Ed Gamble

Yes, however that's going to end. Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Celya.

Celya AB

Thank you for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you Celya.

Ed Gamble

There we are, James.

James Acaster

I mean, listen. Loopholes galore.

Ed Gamble

Loopholes galore. We do respect people who order a lot. We've had a lot of people order a lot.

James Acaster

Lou Sanders with her global tapas.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and there was a lot of nice stuff in there.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble



But sometimes when people order a wide ranging amount like that, it's very difficult to discuss things specifically. We ended up having to glaze over a lot of delicious stuff that I was happy to see in there.

James Acaster

Was there stuff that you wanted to-

Ed Gamble

I wanted more Paris-Brest chat.

James Acaster

Sure, that sounded really nice.

Ed Gamble

I was thinking-, I think I was thinking of a different dessert when I said what it looked like. There is something that's based on Marie Antoinette's breast.

James Acaster

Do you know what? Yes.

Ed Gamble

I think it might be a glass though.

James Acaster

There is. It's the glass, it's the wine glasses.

Ed Gamble

The champagne bowls.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

But also I think there is another-, there's a cake like that as well.

James Acaster

Are you now thinking of just, 'Let them eat cake'?

Ed Gamble

Oh, maybe. Anyway, that's what I was thinking of. I'm not grubby.

James Acaster

Look, he's not grubby. Although if people listen to this podcast enough they know that you are grubby.

Ed Gamble



Yes, I'm a little grub grub.

James Acaster

Yes, if anything you're the grubby one.

Ed Gamble

I'm a witchetty grub.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

But-,

James Acaster

Celya also didn't say pain-au-chocolat. We discussed the incident.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

At the top of this show so maybe some listeners might have thought that's unfair, you're putting the dish in her head, maybe Celya will pick it later on and then you'll kick her out for that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but she probably didn't want to pick anything that would make me do my French accent.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, and a bit of a minefield. Well done for not doing it.

Ed Gamble

Merci. Lovely to hear some behind the scenes info on your fridge as well, James. A little peek behind the door of the fridge.

James Acaster

I think more condiments than people were expecting, you know? I think the people would expect the sweets-,

Ed Gamble

And the condoms.

James Acaster

People would expect the diet coke, people wouldn't expect the condiments. Not the condoms.



Ed Gamble

Thank you very much to Celya for coming on the show. Go and see Celya gig, she's gigging all the time. She's absolutely brilliant. If you're at the Edinburgh Festival I think she's doing a show this year, go and see that. And check her out on social media, ABCelya on social media.

James Acaster

Fantastic. Also, congratulations, Ed, on the fox and the mole and the horse.

Ed Gamble

We just had a hamper delivered that was congratulating the makers of the fox the mole the horse and the boy, or whatever it's called, on all their success, from the Apple Originals team. We did not make that thing and we thought, well, they must have clearly meant to send us one and they've put the wrong note on it. So, we started looking in it, working out what we were going to take away from this fantastic hamper from Dalesford Organic. If anyone from Dalesford Organic is listening, we'd love one of our own hampers before we were told that it wasn't for us and it was for the neighbours. So, we've put everything back in the hamper, I considered taking something but I didn't, so you can do a full inventory check. But if you're listening, from Apple Originals, or Dalesford Organic, we'd love to have our own hamper.

James Acaster

And include the florentines in there, please.

Ed Gamble

Include all of that and include-, oh god.

James Acaster

And cannolis. There were cannolis in there. After that cannoli chat with Celya, there were cannoli's in the hamper.

Ed Gamble

There was a fridge bag with cheese and tapenade and-,

James Acaster

I'd chuck that in the Thames.

Ed Gamble

Thanks so much to Celya. We'll see you next week.

James Acaster

Goodbye.

Ed Gamble

Bye.

