

Off Menu – Ep 205 – Jordan Gray

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast taking the meringue of humour, the whipped cream of good times, the raspberries of chuckles and mashing them all up into a big, old Eton mess.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, this is the Off Menu Podcast and we welcome a guest into our dream restaurant every single week and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is Jordan Gray.

Ed Gamble

Jordan Gray. Jordan Gray is a wonderful comedian and musical genius.

James Acaster

Musical genius probably if you've ever seen her perform, it's pretty phenomenal. And I don't know, we're recording this episode, yes, we have to record all our episodes in big batches, let them out one by one as the year rolls by. I think there's going to be quite a gap between us recording this and releasing it. Who knows the projects that Jordan's got out now because I know there are a lot of projects in the works so-,

Ed Gamble

She's busy.

James Acaster

You know, don't know what to promote at this stage.

Ed Gamble

We'll just promote Jordan.

James Acaster

Just promote Jordan, go and see Jordan's stand-up if you can and Jordan's podcast 'Transplaining', which is available on all, wherever you get your podcasts.

Ed Gamble

All your poddy platforms.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Go and listen to that but honestly, just go and check out whatever she's doing, she's brilliant. Very much looking forward to talking to her today James, about food.



However, even though we're very much looking forward to talking to Jordan about food, if Jordan says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick her out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Bye bye Jordan.

James Acaster

And this week, the secret ingredient is quail.

Ed Gamble

Quail. Now, it's a tricky one this. Jordan's show, her sort of break through show, is called 'Is It a Bird?' And quail is a bird.

James Acaster

Well we thought, 'Let's think of a bird.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. Quail is a bird. Now, I like quail.

James Acaster

Of course.

Ed Gamble

But it does annoy me because it's tiny. So, I often think, 'I'd like that if it was big.' But that is basically a chicken. The bones are tiny, so you try and get more meat and then you're eating these tiny little bones-,

James Acaster

Yes, I mean-,

Ed Gamble

So, that's why I'm saying we are justified to put quail on.

James Acaster

I hate tiny little bones. Also we put quail eggs in the past as a secret ingredient, so, I think, you know, by association, the quail that's causing them-, we wouldn't have quail eggs-,

Ed Gamble

Causes the eggs.

James Acaster

If it wasn't for-,



For the quail.

James Acaster

I know people are now going to be like, 'Well what came first?' Listen, that's not the point.

Ed Gamble

No, it's not the point.

James Acaster

We definitely wouldn't have quail eggs if it wasn't for quails popping them out. So, I would say, you know, just by association, a quail becomes the secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

That's fine. Bang. Quail is the secret ingredient. If Jordan says quail, she's out on her ear.

James Acaster Sorry.

Ed Gamble Sorry not sorry.

James Acaster Sorry not sorry not sorry.

Ed Gamble This is the Off Menu menu of Jordan Gray.

James Acaster Jordan Gray.

Ed Gamble Welcome Jordan, to the dream restaurant.

Jordan Gray Thanks, it's nice here. Lovely.

James Acaster

Welcome Jordan Gray to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Jordan Gray

This is nice dream restaurant, thanks for having me in your dream restaurant. This is proper nice. Not met you before. Ed maybe very briefly. Very, very briefly.



Very excited to meet you and straight in.

James Acaster

Didn't know this.

Jordan Gray

Very briefly met James before and if I may quickly recap it, because you get chance to repeat history.

Ed Gamble

Oh please, I love this.

James Acaster

Fair enough.

Jordan Gray

What happened is, we met at a little charity gig, it was really nice and first time I met him, and in he walks, 'Oh there he is.' And a man I deeply admire, but I didn't want him to know that. So, I'm like being all aloof in the corner. And then I really wanted to say, like, 'Oh thanks for that little cis boy sketch that you did,' because I'm transgender and it was like, really nice. So, I waited all night and then I didn't get really a chance to see your set and at the end I just come up and I was like, I wanted to say, 'James, thanks for that cis boy sketch.' But what I said was, 'Thanks cis boy.' And then he, very sweetly was like, 'What?' And I was like, and then I just went, 'Thanks for everything you've done for the transgender community.' And then I just ran away. And it must have been baffling for you. But you were very gracious about it.

Ed Gamble

Thanks cis boy.

James Acaster

Yes, I loved thanks cis boy, yes, yes, yes. Cheers.

Jordan Gray

Like it's a power move.

James Acaster Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray It's just like-,

James Acaster

I mean, that's how everyone refers to me actually, I don't even notice.



Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, everyone on the bill was saying that when I turned up.

Ed Gamble Thanks cis boy.

James Acaster Here's the cis boy.

Ed Gamble That's great.

James Acaster

You had such a good gig that night as well.

Jordan Gray

I do love a gig and like them when they're nice, thanks for saying that. It was good. The tech was all over the place and as a musical comedian, that's annoying because it's, sort of, a binary system. If the tech doesn't work and you're a musical comedian, there is not a performance, but it was alright.

James Acaster

Here's my question about your live performances. Have you ever fallen over?

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

Because you do stuff where you stand really precariously.

Ed Gamble

Up on the stool.

James Acaster

On the stool, on the keyboard, and I was like, 'Surely that's gone wrong before.'

Jordan Gray

Definitely and in the most embarrassing way one time. So, there's no surprise at this point, I get nude at the end of my hour and I did that in Coventry and I fell off, nude off my keyboard and landed on my wrists backwards. So, I'm just there with these floppy wrists nude. Everything about me's flopping at that point, basically, and it's like, it was painful, but you can't be nude and in pain. You have to, like, just



suck it up. So, I'm just naked and, 'It's fine'. I mean, this is audio medium, you can't see, but I'm flopping, you know, I'm-,

James Acaster

T-Rex stance.

Jordan Gray

Standing there, yes. T-Rex stance. But life's just really short, so it's alright, it's fine. I'm not embarrassed enough to not talk about it with you.

Ed Gamble No, absolutely not.

Jordan Gray Yes, I fell off.

Ed Gamble I mean, that is not the first time someone's fallen naked on a keyboard in Coventry.

James Acaster Yes, yes, come on.

Ed Gamble Come on. Yes.

James Acaster The city was built on it. That kind of behaviour.

Ed Gamble So, you said the dream restaurant is nice when you came in.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Now, obviously, the dream restaurant exists within the minds of the guest diners, so what are you seeing when you walk into the dream restaurant?

Jordan Gray

It's quiet.

Ed Gamble Yes.



There's not a lot of people there. People perhaps are pictures of people I admire more-so than them actually being there. I don't want to interact with them.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that's good.

Jordan Gray But I can see their faces.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

So what are the-, so, some other cis boys?

Jordan Gray

It's just all cis boys everywhere. I like to be reminded of the past. I like the nostalgia of cis gender people everywhere and I'm the only transgender person there because you can only have one of us in the room at a time.

Ed Gamble

It's the rules.

Jordan Gray

Fight to the death. Course, three years, transgender person you've just murdered in a dystopian fantasy.

James Acaster

Can't wait to get to that.

Jordan Gray

Lots of nice cis people but that's irrelevant. Just nice faced people that I like and I look up and be reminded of all that while I'm enjoying a meal. That's nice. Like, a television I think as well. I think just a tv screen screen.

James Acaster

No one's had a tv in the-,

Ed Gamble

No one's had a tv, yes.

James Acaster

Mike Skinner had his phone watching YouTube.



Yes.

James Acaster While he was eating. I guess he didn't think to have a TV.

Ed Gamble

A big TV.

James Acaster But you'd have a TV?

Jordan Gray

Yes, like, I don't know what happened to kebab shops with TVs playing in the corner all the time but that was nostalgic isn't it?

James Acaster

People throw their kebabs at the screen, I think that's the main problem.

Jordan Gray

I just remember, oh God, do you remember, I mean, Hurricane Katrina was a big thing, and I remember being drunk in a kebab shop and seeing it on TV and somebody, it had been weeks of coverage and some guy goes, 'Oh, who bloody cares?' And I was really drunk and I just went into full, like, Captain America mode and I was like, 'Maybe our trans-Atlantic cousins care.' And we just got in a fight in a kebab shop. It was so stupid and I'm not that sort of person at all, I just got really patriotic for a country I don't live in. I was like-,

James Acaster

Quite a good reason.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster

To have the fight. A lot of people are just having fights because people have looked at them funny. You were defending the people of New Orleans.

Jordan Gray

I was. And it was not really, it was one of those fights like, what, do you remember when Homer Simpson fought that boxer in the thing and he doesn't really fight, he just stands there, that's all that happened. I just stood there and took lots of beatings without falling down, while continuously being like, 'The families, the families, that's who cares.'



That's great.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But hopefully that won't happen in the dream restaurant. Unless you want to have a fight in the dream restaurant.

Jordan Gray

No, I'd like to keep things civil and peaceful and tasty. A television in the corner, doesn't have to be a big one.

James Acaster What do you want on the television?

Jordan Gray

I'd like access to all the sitcoms of all time.

James Acaster

All the sitcoms.

Jordan Gray

A hybrid streaming service with all the sitcoms so I can flick at my leisure. 30 Rock on repeat would be good for me while I'm eating, I enjoyed that while I'm eating.

James Acaster

Ed did that as his specialist subject in Mastermind.

Jordan Gray Did you really?

Ed Gamble Yes, I did. Yes.

Jordan Gray Oh man, I didn't see that.

Ed Gamble

Just thought it would be a good excuse to just watch all of them again.



That's wonderful. That's what I'm watching when I get home. No, that's it. That's the answer. I want to see that on repeat for my time, because it's not a long meal, and they're hour-long episodes, aren't they? Mastermind. So, you on Mastermind doing 30 Rock, I'm having that.

Ed Gamble

Spoiler warning, I didn't win, Jordan.

James Acaster

Very rare.

Jordan Gray

Alright, well by the dessert we'll switch over to a different channel.

James Acaster

Very rare for Ed not to win. Ed, can you remember any of the questions you had? See if Jordan can answer.

Ed Gamble

I don't think I can, you know. I did okay on 30 Rock. There was one about which city does Jason Sudeikis's character move to, to move away from New York?

Jordan Gray

Fucking hell, dude. It's not Philly. Oh, it's really funny, they've got the rock and roll museum and stuff. Oh and there's a whole song about it and it mentions it in the song.

James Acaster

This is great, I love it.

Jordan Gray

God damn it.

James Acaster

Even if you had no idea or if you had got it straight away, not entertaining for me at all. But this is perfect.

Ed Gamble

Just hanging in the balance.

James Acaster

Clearly on the tip of your tongue.

Jordan Gray

I can remember the song but I don't, I'm sorry, I don't know.



I'll tell you what, here's to put extra pressure on you. We now know that Tina Fey listens to this podcast.

Jordan Gray Really?

James Acaster So you-, she's listening to it right now.

Ed Gamble Okay, okay, we don't know that.

James Acaster She's listening to you get this lot-, what?

Ed Gamble We don't know that.

James Acaster We know that for a fact.

Ed Gamble She came to the Christmas live show.

James Acaster She came to our live show.

Jordan Gray That's bloody wonderful.

James Acaster Yes, we were very-,

Ed Gamble She came with her family.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble So, it might be a member of her family who listens to it.

James Acaster Bullshit.



And also, the live show was absolute chaos. So I would imagine, even if she did listen to it there's absolutely no way she listens to it now.

James Acaster

Oh yes, sorry, everyone who was at those live shows doesn't listen to it any more. That whole audience are no longer listening to the podcast. To be honest, we burnt a lot of bridges.

Ed Gamble

Cleveland.

Jordan Gray Cleveland.

James Acaster Congratulations.

Jordan Gray Oh.

James Acaster

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

Jordan Gray

Yes, I can't imagine why anyone would go out and order anything but sparkling because I can have still at home on tap and literally on tap.

James Acaster

This is what I've really enjoyed about this part of the pod, is that people often lead up to their answer with, 'Well obviously,' but it's always different. Well, it's obviously one of two, but-,

Ed Gamble

It's sort of a half always the same really isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, but always the person is like, 'Clearly this.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, why would-,

James Acaster

Why would anyone else choose the other one? So, for you it's because you couldn't get sparkling at home.



Yes. But I can't imagine a person saying, 'Still because obviously.' What's an obvious reason to have still water in a restaurant?

Ed Gamble

First, I guess-,

James Acaster

People who don't like sparkling properly think it tastes rank. Like, they think it's horrible, it's like someone's farted in your water, all this kind of stuff.

Ed Gamble

Well, we've had all the reasons, haven't we?

James Acaster

Yes, so many reasons for people like, why would anyone ever out of choice drink that? But then, conversely, we have like, the, obviously, it's fancier to have the sparkling, it's nice, you're on a night out, you want to do this, you know. So, it's always people just think-, I think people don't know how strong everyone else's opinions are about water until they come on this pod.

Ed Gamble

You could have sparkling at home.

Jordan Gray

I could. I suppose it's going out of my way, whereas I'm here at this restaurant.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

At your behest. A bubbly water, like, yes, it's like a party in my mouth and I'm the only one that's there but I'm enjoying the bubbles.

James Acaster

Yes, or there are pictures on the walls of your mouth of other people who you like, who-,

Jordan Gray

Yes, I want pictures of everyone having just had a sip of sparkling water and they didn't realise it was sparkling. All my favourite people going-, like, all spit coming out.

James Acaster

All frothy.

OFF MEND

Ed Gamble

Are you at the party in your mouth or are you the party in your mouth?

James Acaster

Yes. Good question.

Jordan Gray

So, have I administrated and invited everyone to a party in my mouth or am I at my own mouth party?

Ed Gamble

When you drink the sparkling water, it is a party in your mouth, but are you a guest at that party or are you simply the venue?

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

You're right, no, I'm the venue. I'm up in an office counting the money at my own party, yes. I took money on the door and then I'm in a dark corner at the party in my own mouth.

Ed Gamble

That's quite sad really, isn't it?

Jordan Gray

Yes, that's alright. Yes, you're right.

James Acaster

Do you think you could recognise your own mouth from the inside? If you woke up and you were inside a mouth and someone said, 'Guess who's mouth this is.'

Jordan Gray

It definitely wouldn't be my first, I wouldn't have thought, I'm in my own. In fact, of all the mouths, if I woke up in a mouth, the last mouth I'd think of is mine.

Ed Gamble

That's the least likely mouth to be in, isn't it?

Jordan Gray

Mine's here. However, if I did this, and then a giant finger appeared in front of me.

Ed Gamble

Oh that's brilliant. Yes.



I'd be like, 'That's my mouth.'

James Acaster

That'd be insane actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that would be mad to be able to do that. Yes.

James Acaster

To be able to do that. Wrap your head around that.

Jordan Gray

And then behind, here's what would happen, this is right, layer three of the mouth inception party is, you put your finger in, I see a giant finger, and then the minute I touch that giant finger, I feel a tiny me in my own mouth, and it's a little me having a party in my mouth.

James Acaster

Oh yes. And it'd go on and on and on.

Jordan Gray It goes on forever.

James Acaster

Past the big finger touching you, you'd be able to see your mouth.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh brilliant.

James Acaster

No, yes you would. You would be able to see the inside of your mouth again.

Jordan Gray

Jeez.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I can see why you picked sparkling water now.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. This is great. This is an amazing choice.

It's an effervescent theory and you don't get that with H2O.

James Acaster

I get the impression that if you could have a tap in your house that had sparkling water coming out of it, you would say yes to it. Or would you say no because it would ruin going out?

Jordan Gray

No, you're right, I'd have one. A Soda Stream definitely, yes. The going out is the hassle of it all.

James Acaster

Got to be careful with Soda Streams, they don't work very well.

Ed Gamble

James had a Soda Stream and he's very thick so he didn't know how to work it properly.

Jordan Gray

What happened, you put milk in it or something?

James Acaster

I wish. That was the plan long-term, I didn't even get that far. They don't work. They're faulty.

Ed Gamble

He never screwed it in properly so every time he pumped it up it went everywhere.

Jordan Gray

Oh, you have to manually pump it as well?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

I always just assumed it was a-,

Ed Gamble

You've got a button thing you, like, got to pump it to get, basically, still water, screw it in, you know, three times, just to make sure it's secure. Press the button a few times and then it puts gas into the water.

Jordan Gray

That's silly. That's really silly. That's like just a few steps removed from a clown's seltzer bottle. You've got to do it yourself?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, ridiculous. I'm working for the man.





The sparkling water man.

James Acaster

I shouldn't be having to do that. Yes, yes, working for big sparkling. They should be doing that for me.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, you can just buy sparkling water.

James Acaster

What am I, a mug? Go there, pay for it myself. I want to get a Soda Stream and you want to just pour-, ideally, ideal world. I think Jordan agrees with me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You just pour the water into the Soda Stream at the top and it just comes out the bottom sparkling is what you want.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

That's what you want, like a Willy Wonka kind of thing.

Jordan Gray

Yes. Yes. I want an element of whimsy about my-,

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Beverages. Every beverage I drink.

Ed Gamble

Too whimsical. Living in a dream world over here, living in your own mouth, unbelievable.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

Some of us are realists.



Yes, yes. You'll never entertain such things.

Ed Gamble

No. Push the button a few times, lovely.

Jordan Gray

Me and James bumping on the ceiling of a moving fan because we've had our lovely effervescent bubbles. Living the dream out there in the Willy Wonka factory.

James Acaster

We're going to get bollocked for this later.

Jordan Gray

You Slugworth down there with your little still water.

Ed Gamble

I am the Slugworth of this podcast actually.

James Acaster

Slugworth whispering in everyone's ears. And then at the end it's revealed you're a goody all along.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's going to be the twist of the Off Menu podcast eventually. Everyone discovers that Ed was actually alright at the end.

Ed Gamble

Well that makes me put the rest of it in perspective.

James Acaster

A lot of people come up to me in the street going, 'Ed's the baddy.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble And then what do you say?



I say, 'Well you wait until the end.'

Ed Gamble

No you don't. You put your headphones on, you pull your jacket up and you walk away without saying anything.

James Acaster

Yes. Course I do. Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms or bread Jordan Gray, poppadoms or bread?

Jordan Gray Poppadoms. Yes. Wait, hang on, no, bread. Because I've got-, sorry, I was so committed.

James Acaster

You got confused.

Jordan Gray

I got confused between what poppadoms and naan is. No, I'm very much bread and I like it a naan. Is it alright to say naan bread?

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray Well then a naan, yes, absolutely. And plain as well, I don't need any additions.

Ed Gamble

No faffing.

Jordan Gray

That's a meal on its own is a lovely naan bread cooked properly.

James Acaster

Yes. Have you tried the other ones and they're just not for you, the other naans?

Jordan Gray Is Peshwari a meat?

Ed Gamble

No Keema's the meat one.

Jordan Gray Oh, yes, I'm vegetarian so-,

Ed Gamble Peshwari's like the really sweet coconutty one.

Jordan Gray Oh, that's a bit much I think, that's just sickly.

Ed Gamble It's mad.

James Acaster Some people love it. Like, even as a sweet toothed boy.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Getting a Peshwari naan at the start, I'm like, 'This is bananas isn't it?'

Jordan Gray Yes, you've combined, sort of-,

Ed Gamble It's coconut.

Jordan Gray Starter, main and dessert into one.

James Acaster

As soon as I said it, Jordan. As soon as I said this is bananas, I knew I've opened myself up there to, no it's coconut.

Ed Gamble Yes, I mean, I'm not proud of myself.

Jordan Gray I mean, a banana naan's great because it's a built in pun.

James Acaster

Oh yes.





Oh yes.

Jordan Gray

It's just a banana but you add an extra A wherever you like.

Ed Gamble

Banana.

James Acaster

It will work, yes, it works written down. Yes. It's kind of thing you tweak that, absolutely go nuts.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster Just say it out loud on a date, getting nothing mate.

Ed Gamble Banana.

Jordan Gray It's that-,

Ed Gamble You see, I've put an extra A in.

Jordan Gray Who was the lead singer of No Doubt that went solo?

James Acaster Gwen Stefani.

Ed Gamble Gwen Stefani.

Jordan Gray Duff her up a little bit wouldn't it? B-A-N-A-A-N-A start again.

James Acaster Doesn't fit in with the rhyme scheme.

Ed Gamble

This bread is bananas, B-A-N-A-A it's hard, that is hard.



Pharrell having to pause the recording. 'Gwen, how wedded are you to this pun? Be honest.'

Ed Gamble

Because people aren't aware of banana naans existing, so-,

Jordan Gray

Yes, it's a niche product at this point, we're not launching that, that's not our job.

James Acaster

I've had it, if you were launching the banana naan, obviously, you would have to do it with that song and do that as the jingle to promote it. But you'd have to do it in a different time signature. It's in a 4:4 but you would have to, that's at least a bar of four and a bar of five following each other.

Jordan Gray

I was going to say yes, you're collabing with some obscure mathcore band, they got their big break because we need a 6:7 time signature to-,

Ed Gamble

There's a lot of music chat flying around that I don't know about. I don't know 4:4 and 5:5 and stuff.

James Acaster

Oh, Jordan and I are musicians.

Jordan Gray

Maybe you don't know it on the surface but you know it in your heart, because 4:4's basically most songs.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Jordan Gray

Right, if you're boogying, it's 4:4. If you're doing a sort of, little, sway, it's probably in 3:4.

James Acaster

Yes. Waltz.

Ed Gamble

As far as I'm aware, I've never boogied or done a little sway.

I've seen you boogie and sway, don't be so modest.

Ed Gamble

And do I boogie and sway more to 4:4 or the other ones?

James Acaster

You boogie to the 4:4, you sway to the 3:4.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And to those other, you listen to a lot of mathcore, a lot of tech metal bands.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And for those I just, normally, have seen you sit and pensively watch some with an angry look on your face. That's mainly what-,

Ed Gamble Yes, I don't look like I'm enjoying it, do I?

James Acaster No, I think that in your head you're enjoying it.

No, I think that in your head you're enjoying

Ed Gamble But I am.

James Acaster

But yes yes.

Jordan Gray

Getting more and more wedded to this idea for the next, it's not quite a sketch, but yes, as a tableau or something in a music video, that's really interesting because there are so many layers.

James Acaster

It's good.

Ed Gamble

I guess you could try and eat a bit of banana naan and then the big banana naan comes in.



This naan is bananas, and then it just keeps going and going.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

And it trails off into, sort of, you hear the echo, it just gets really discorded dystopian music as we go into the darkness. I'll say that then, if that's alright, I know that's sort of, technically a side, because it's not really an existing bread but I'll say banana naan for bread. Sparkling water and banana naan.

Ed Gamble Banana naan.

Jordan Gray It's a harrowing combination.

James Acaster And banana is spelt with the A.

Jordan Gray Yes, it is.

James Acaster

I think banana, so I'll go B-A-N-A-A-N-A. That's where I put the extra A, would be in that.

Ed Gamble Yes, in the middle.

Jordan Gray Yes, banaana, yes.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray Like that helps by just saying it.

Ed Gamble Banaana.

Jordan Gray Yes. That's about right.



Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. So, just for the person who's going to inevitably put it in the Wikipedia.

Ed Gamble

Well where else would it go? The extra A can't go at the beginning.

James Acaster No.

Ed Gamble It's not going to be a banana.

Jordan Gray It's not the alphabet.

James Acaster

What-,

Ed Gamble

That doesn't say naan does it? The whole point of the pun is it's got the word naan in the middle.

James Acaster

Yes, but I'm just being crystal clear. I want us all to be on the same page.

Ed Gamble

No one's muddy about that.

James Acaster

How you spell banana. Every time I hear Holla Back I'm going to be thinking-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

This naan is bananas. I'm never gonna think that-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Is your dream starter an invention or is it a pre-existing dish?



It pre-exists and I don't think there's any greater flavour combination in the world than tomato, basil and cheese. A Caprese salad, anywhere I go, it's fresh and it's light. And they do a burrata Caprese in Gaucho's in Soho that is the best Caprese, perhaps the best thing I've ever eaten and I think it's the way they reduce the jus. And I'm just going to throw the word jus out there like I know that it's.

Ed Gamble

You've got to chuck out the word jus every now and again.

Jordan Gray

I think it's a jus. Got to chuck out a jus. I think it's like, balsamic vinegar and brown sugar that they reduce down so it's just a thick sauce on a very sparse amount of basil, quite a lot of tiny tomatoes and then the burrata that's like a universe of cheese. Because a burrata's like a mozzarella but with loads of little mozzarellas floating in some mozzarella juice inside, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, sure, yes. Yes, yes, yes.

Jordan Gray

It's like a dinosaur egg or something. It's like Godzilla. It looks like the Godzilla eggs from the original 1990s Godzilla film on some tomato and jus and it's absolutely bloody beautiful. And considering Gaucho's is a steak restaurant and I thought I was going to be sitting there eating salad, I was like, 'This is lovely.'

Ed Gamble

That's a treat. I mean, burrata is just the ultimate, isn't it?

Jordan Gray

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Also, so rare to eat a whole cheese. So rare for someone to go, 'This is a dish for one person and it's a whole cheese.' And you've got to breach it.

Jordan Gray

I love breach, that breach is involved in any meal.

James Acaster

You know, what the listeners don't know is that Ed, on the way here, you were rear-ended.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I was, yes.



And you're probably in, like, you know, survival mode in your head, so you're talking about breaching stuff, you're very much, like-,

Ed Gamble

I don't think I'm in survival mode, I was in an Uber and-

James Acaster

Someone mentions cheese and you're like, 'We've got to breach the cheese'. Like, it's fully-,

Ed Gamble

It wasn't a bad accident or anything. Everyone's fine.

James Acaster

You got rear-ended though.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And you said it hurt your neck a bit because you'd been wrestling yesterday.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, what an insight into my life.

James Acaster

That's Ed's life.

Ed Gamble

That now I'm talking about breach the cheese because I've hurt my neck a bit.

Jordan Gray

The story I heard, which only happened 30 seconds after it happened to you, via James, was that you hurt your neck in the Uber as well. You hurt your neck wrestling and it's been compounded or expounded by the accident.

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly, well-,

Jordan Gray

Oh bless you.

Ed Gamble

Yesterday I did a couple of bumps in the ring, which is wrestling terminology and it's not drugs.



Jordan Gray It's like a 1990s pop band.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Bumps in the ring.

Jordan Gray Bumps in the ring.

James Acaster Oh lovely.

Ed Gamble

And I forgot to, one of the important things when you're wrestling is make sure you tuck your head in when you fall on the floor and I forgot that bit. So, I just sort of, like, a little bit of mild whiplash and I thought, 'Well I'll have a day off that today,' and then I got in an Uber that was rear-ended.

James Acaster Tuck your head in like a turtle.

Ed Gamble Not downwards.

Jordan Gray I wish I'd known you before Coventry. I wish, I can't remember where I fell off a keyboard.

James Acaster Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble Coventry, yes.

Jordan Gray

Coventry.

Ed Gamble

Did you tuck your neck in when you fell off a keyboard? No?

Jordan Gray

No just, there were all appendages out and about, heads, everything yes. It's not healthy. I hope you're feeling better.



Oh, I feel great. Honestly.

Jordan Gray

Because this meal is going to require neck movement.

Ed Gamble

Is it?

Jordan Gray I mean, most do. Most do. I mean-,

James Acaster Yes, you've got to move your neck.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I suppose so, for the swallowing part.

Jordan Gray

Turns out like, I mean, birds don't have, oh what's it called? Peristalsis, like, the movement of, like, swallowing is peristalsis, it's the contraction of the thing all the way down from the mouth to the old bum hole. But like, birds don't have that, they just use gravity don't they? They just put things in and then just keep bouncing like that. That's why you see a bird do that.

Ed Gamble

What?

Jordan Gray

Yes. Birds don't have peristalsis, so food just has to fall down their neck. Like, fish don't have it and they just have to, like, keep moving as far as I know. But humans, or most mammals, you've got to use your neck to eat, I think.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I think so, yes.

Jordan Gray

Basically, let's not put anything too chewy or difficult to swallow.

Ed Gamble

No, I'll just sit very still.



Fun challenge though, for all the listeners. Next time you have a meal, try not using your neck.

Jordan Gray

Cut out the middle man, head to stomach.

James Acaster Yes.

Jordan Gray Digestion.

Ed Gamble See if you can manage it. Birds use gravity to eat?

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble They really pick and choose when they use gravity don't they?

Jordan Gray Yes, they are masters of it.

James Acaster That's fucking rich.

Ed Gamble It's rich of birds, isn't it?

James Acaster

It is rich. Oh now you come crawling back. Always ask this when people say burrata, do you think you could ever go back to mozzarella.

Jordan Gray

My dad, bless him, he knows it's my favourite meal, so he makes it with mozzarella and because it's infused with fatherly love, I could have a loving mozzarella. A loving mozzarella is on par with a dispassionate burrata. Like, that's about the same. But a loving burrata would top everything.

Ed Gamble Oh yes.

Jordan Gray I don't know who, yes.



It's just not as fun though, is it, mozzarella now? Because the burrata, I hate to bring up the word breach again, when you cut into that and it just explodes and oozes and oh.

Jordan Gray

Yes. It's not often I hear myself saying I would like my cheese to have a surprise. That's the last thing you really want, cheese can do that to you. But yes, in that case, it's like a little gift.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd put the extra A, B-U-R-A-A-T-A.

Jordan Gray

I knew that that was in your mind.

James Acaster

Yes, as soon as you started saying it. I made a lot of Caprese salads during the lockdowns.

Ed Gamble

It was a rough time for you, wasn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, yes it was.

Ed Gamble

A lot of people struggled during lockdown but I just want people to know that James made a lot of Caprese salads.

James Acaster

I made a lot of Caprese. I ate a lot of Caprese. But mainly because I refused to open the door to any delivery men so I could only eat what they could slide under the door. So, I had to just slice by slice with the tomatoes and everything just under, and I'd assemble it myself on the other side.

Ed Gamble

Would you say Italian is probably the cuisine where you could get most of the food under the door?

James Acaster

Good question.

Jordan Gray

Your brain goes straight to pizza of course, so yes.

James Acaster

Pasta. It's messy but you can get that under the door.



Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray I suppose, like a-,

Ed Gamble Deconstructed lasagne you could.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble Sheet by sheet.

Jordan Gray I mean, really, a lot of Thai is just broth and broth moves quite fluidly between any-,

Ed Gamble Yes, that's true.

Jordan Gray Poured under it. It would be difficult to receive at the under end.

Ed Gamble Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray Getting it under the door, your question, yes.

Ed Gamble Yes. You could definitely get a lot of broth under, and I noodles and stuff and bok choy, all of that stuff.

James Acaster Pour it through the keyhole with the broth and I'll be waiting with a bowl, so then you're using gravity.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster

Then gravity's your friend, then like a little bird, a little clever bird.



And really, with noodles, you could feed a noodle through the keyhole and if you put your lips up against it, you just suck.

James Acaster

Yes, just suck.

Jordan Gray

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble And all of the noodles would go through.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Yes. That's how I met my wife. The door. My wife the door. Yes, you're probably right, Italian is a two dimensional cuisine.

James Acaster

Yes, it's the flattest cuisine that there is.

Ed Gamble

Parma ham.

James Acaster Parma ham, that's going under the door, yes. You're not thinking twice there.

Ed Gamble

No, no way.

Jordan Gray

Or anything that unrolls, like sushi or one of those Swiss rolls. I don't mind reassembling it at the other end. It's like a carpet.

James Acaster

It's a little bit of fun.

Jordan Gray

It's like when you buy a mattress and it's rolled up.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



It's just sort of the opposite of that. Give it to me flat and I'll arrange my sushi at the other end.

James Acaster

Yes, a lot of people say that about sushi. The opposite of a mattress.

Jordan Gray

With that in mind, I do very often think I wish there was such a thing as, like, a bread pillow and that's not me being a silly surrealist comedian about it. I often think I'd love to sleep on a pillow of warm bread, because it's just nice, when you've got a naan bread, be in it and eating it at the same time.

James Acaster

Well yes, I mean, like, you know, sometimes a lot of the way people can describe really good bread is saying it's really pillowy on the inside.

Ed Gamble Yes, pillowy and soft, yes.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster They know what they're on about.

Jordan Gray Pillowy bread.

James Acaster

Wish that they could lay their head on it, that would be good.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

I wouldn't complain there. Would it be naan bread for you if you were to have it as a pillow?

Jordan Gray

Yes. Because often you don't usually want lumps. I like the topography of naan. I think I've just realised, I quick like how it's got different shapes and layers and it's all quite organic. But that's nice because you find your little niche in it and go to sleep.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you find your little divot.



Yes.

James Acaster Little divot in the naan.

Jordan Gray

So yes, a burrata, leafy, I love me some basil.

James Acaster

And have you ever had a basil plant at home? Have you ever took the leap?

Jordan Gray

No. Only in my whole life ever owned a single species of plant. Many of them but one species because I'm a little nerd and I always had a Venus fly trap growing up as a kid.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Jordan Gray

And I kept that going for about fifteen years. Haven't got one any more.

Ed Gamble

Why?

Jordan Gray

It's not the same plant, sorry, like, loads of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray Venus fly traps.

James Acaster And would you feed it flies?

Jordan Gray

Yes. Feed it a bit of everything. And I saw a documentary online that said they can count, because if a fly goes in, and it feels a movement, it doesn't just close straight away, because what if the second movement it feels is that fly flying away, because then it'll close for no reason because it hasn't got a brain or eyes. So, it will only close on either odd or prime number feelings. Because a third thing means it's come, come out and gone again, something like that.



Oh that's cool.

Jordan Gray

So, they can kind of accidentally count, which is very cool.

James Acaster

I haven't thought about Venus fly traps.

Ed Gamble

You don't see them any more.

James Acaster

For a very long time. And now you've brought them up I'm like, 'They are nuts.'

Jordan Gray

Yes. It's a really weird thing to get at B&Q in the plant section. As a little nerd, as a goth as well, and it's, like, the most, sort of, gothy plant.

Ed Gamble

Yes, for sure.

Jordan Gray

Something that's got teeth that it was such a huge thing. Every Halloween, me and my partners would buy Halloween gifts instead of Valentine's Day gifts and we always gave each other, like, Venus fly traps or something with a macabre edge to it instead of flowers. Like a little Addams Family. Little nerds.

James Acaster

Ed wishes he was in that friendship group.

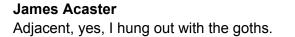
Ed Gamble Yes, I'd love that,

James Acaster You wish man.

Jordan Gray Were you, sort of, goth adjacent, either of you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, I was.



Yes.

James Acaster

But they would have a go at me for wearing too much colour.

Jordan Gray

Yes. I was too happy to be a goth, to be fair, that does give you away straight away, but-,

Ed Gamble

I had that, you know, I had a leather trench coat.

Jordan Gray

Yes, same.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray Like Neo from Matrix, that year. Everyone had those.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

Jordan Gray What did your hair look like, Ed?

Ed Gamble I had dyed back hair for a while.

Jordan Gray Did you? Me too.

Ed Gamble Yes. Yes, but still with a, sort of, fairly conservative looking hair cut.

James Acaster I didn't know that. I didn't know you dyed your hair black.

Ed Gamble Yes. Dyed my hair black, black nail varnish.



Jordan Gray Tiny bit of eye liner maybe?

Ed Gamble Little bit of eye liner now and again.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble Big New Rock flame boots.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble Yes, brilliant.

James Acaster I didn't know any of this.

Jordan Gray No.

Ed Gamble Didn't you?

Jordan Gray This is lovely.

James Acaster No. This is great.

Ed Gamble Oh, I loved it.

James Acaster I had no idea.

Jordan Gray You were sitting next to Edgar Allen Poe this whole time.

James Acaster That's what Ed's short for. I didn't know that.





Ed Gamble

I didn't have a Venus fly trap though.

Jordan Gray

No.

Ed Gamble So, I wasn't the full goth.

James Acaster That's proper hard core.

Jordan Gray

They don't really go in for botany most goths. Everything's supposed to be dead. The fact that anything was alive in the house, it's got to have teeth or eyes. What about you, man, James, are you a gothic boy?

James Acaster

So, my friends were.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

I was still a Christian at the time, so that wasn't cool. So, I was there. And also, I'd gone from like-, so thirteen was when I started getting to that kind of music, hanging out with those sorts of kids. Before then, I was, like, trying to be cool and not succeeding. Buying all the, like-, everyone was into Adidas bottoms and sportswear. So then, I just had this, you know, realisation that all of this is bullshit. I'm going to hang out with these kids who don't care about any of that stuff. But then quickly discovered they do care about that stuff, it's just another group of them and I was exhausted when I started hanging out with them. I remember going round one of their houses, and they're like, 'Why are you wearing an Umbro shirt? You're meant to be one of us.' And I was like, 'Oh fucking hell. This is even worse than before.' And so I was still wearing-, I, kind of, deliberately didn't even think about what I wore until I was in my mid to late twenties because I was too exhausted about it when I was thirteen.

Jordan Gray

There's so much paraphernalia to being a Goth. And it's not brands as much either, it is just, sort of, a vibe.

Ed Gamble

It's Camden Market basically.



It is Camden Market. Everything I owned was from Camden Market. Massive chains. I bought a bullet belt in Australia and it was like a whole thing. They looked like bullets but it's obviously a belt. And they said, 'You can't take that on the plane,' which is, sort of, I get, because they're not sure if they're really bullets. But then they said, 'But you can post it to yourself.' So, wait hang on. So, the problem is that you're worried that I'm going to use them on the plane but not when I get to my country of origin? They're either bullets or they're a belt, make a decision.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster Yes. Use it there, use it.

Ed Gamble I'm so jealous, I never had a bullet belt.

Jordan Gray

Bullet belts, yes. It doesn't even work, because that's, sort of, more cowboy and Western.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Yeeha, Goth. It's a weird combination.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Goths shouldn't be using guns and stuff, should they?

Jordan Gray

No, definitely not.

James Acaster

It would be good if there was a Goth in The Magnificent Seven. An eighth one. Just a little Goth there complaining it's too sunny in the Wild West.

Let's talk about your dream main course.

Jordan Gray

This is a perfect segue because actually-

James Acaster

It's bullets. Flies. Plate of flies.



Yes, during that time, being a goth and that, I was a proper nerd that suddenly became the lead singer of the band, the big band from our school. And every school's got, like, one, and during those times we'd finish the gig and my mum said we'd keep all the ticket money from-, because I lived in a pub, sorry, rewind. Lived in this pub and we'd invite everyone to the gigs. We could keep all that money so long as she got the bar takings, and I'd just sit there with a pint of money, like, pound coins and stuff, all of us band members got loads of money, and we'd go to the kebab van that was outside. And the kebab van was paying, like, no rent and they knew it, so they didn't even charge us any money, so it was a free a meal. And there's such a sense of victory when you're fourteen of being a nerd that's suddenly in a-, I was a grind core band, it was-,

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Jordan Gray

Proper. They're all there, they fucking loved it all these kids, and I know on Monday in school, everyone's going like this, I'm sat there with a chicken kebab and I'm vegetarian, and yet I'm putting this in, because that's how nostalgic and good it was. Let's say, because it's the dream restaurant, magically you're able to affect the bio chemical molecular structure and it's not got any meat in it.

James Acaster

I've done it.

Jordan Gray

Thanks, that's wicked. So, it's a chicken kebab from this specific place because he was worried about his rent getting put up so he gave us free food. I know that this podcast includes a side, or it has historically but I used to get them as one meal, with chips and burger sauce, am I allowed to include that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely.

Jordan Gray

Right, so, it's a chicken kebab and a thing and some chips with burger sauce on, which you can't get any more, the burger sauce that they've got. I don't know why that's, you know burger sauce?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, what was it?

Jordan Gray

Exactly. Burger sauce is supposed to just be ketchup and mayonnaise, sort of, really isn't it? But I learnt about colours in school and it's orange, so it's got to have yellow and red in it, so I assume it's either mustard or-,



Ed Gamble

Bit of mustard in there as well.

Jordan Gray

But, for whatever reason, cheap burger van kebab sauce is amazing. They were called Orsett Best Kebab, which is a bold claim, and we did live in Orsett, so that at least made sense. But they had a cheeseburger there as well, and I know that's a stretch, but it was one meal that I had, and I would sit there in my underwear, with all my goth makeup still on and I'd just like, sort of, legs akimbo with this food like a little king. Just picking, with my hands, no one's looking, that's why nobody can be in this restaurant. Just greasy handfuls of everything, just with a pint of money on the side. And it was the best feeling in the world because that shouldn't happen to a little anorak, which I definitely was.

Ed Gamble

So, this meal, this main course, is a chicken kebab, chips and burger sauce and a cheeseburger.

Jordan Gray

And a cheeseburger and eat it with no plan as to how and in what order any of that's going to be consumed. But it's piecemeal. You're eating a bite of a bit, a bite of this and always there's a television on there. I think I've based the restaurant mainly around this meal to be fair.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes. It sounds like this is the centre. And just to be clear, I'm changing the molecular structure of the chicken but not the burger.

Jordan Gray

You can't have everything. It was so, so sweet. Like, you could see the terror in his eyes every time he came past, it's like, any way that he could get his rent to stay down. So, I'd have just eaten and he'd offer food. I was like, 'Yes, definitely.' And also, just, it had like, sort of a little mafia feel to it, that I could take all my friends there and he had to give them all free food and that wasn't my intention, but it was always going to happen.

Ed Gamble

Were you holding the pint of money as well, just to show that you could pay if you wanted?

Jordan Gray

Taking a little, yes, performative sip out of a pint of pound coins.

Ed Gamble

Ah, tastes good.

Jordan Gray

And then they found out that the plot of land that we lived on, there was a little gap where technically, he wasn't even on our land. So, you can't really open up a business right next to a working food



business because they were taking a lot of our business away, but we didn't mind. But then it turned out even though it was cheap rent, it was rent that they didn't even technically owe us.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Jordan Gray

So, there was a chequered history to his van.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Oh, and it burned down. Oh shit. It burnt down And that's got nothing to do with us. Like, I woke up one night. It faced out of my window because I lived in the pub, and I looked out the window and I saw what I thought was aliens landing because you're in a dreamy state, it was amazing. And imagine seeing that in real life. I was, like, 'There's aliens. This is history. It's amazing.' Then I'm, like, opening my eyes a bit more and I was, like, 'Oh, it's not aliens, it's a shoot out between the police and someone.'

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

Jordan Gray

That didn't happen, but I'm thinking it's that. And I'm going, 'Oh, it's not-, right, so, that's just the police they're shooting. Oh, this is bloody-,' Then I'm opening it more and I'm, like, 'Oh, it's loads of firemen with a hose putting out the fire of a flaming kebab van.' And I thought, 'This is all mad, it must be a dream.' So, I just went back to bed. In the morning, woke up my mum and was, like, 'Mum, I think the kebab van is just a flaming pile of ash.' It was. It was gone. Just gone.

Ed Gamble

What a drop off in what you thought it was to what it actually was.

Jordan Gray

Yes, but there was no paradigm shift to me thinking, 'Oh, I'm actually awake.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray It was all a dream.

James Acaster Yes.



It just got more and more boring and pedestrian as a dream, so, I just thought, 'It's a dream.'

Ed Gamble

Aliens, shoot out, flaming kebab van.

Jordan Gray Flaming kebab van. Yes. Oh no.

Ed Gamble

I always think it's funny when people describe anything other than a building burning down. Like a van burning down doesn't sound right does it?

James Acaster Yes. The van burnt down, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble But it is the only way to say it, but the van burnt down-,

James Acaster Yes, it doesn't work.

Jordan Gray No, you're right.

James Acaster In your head. Yes, I was trying to think of anything that would sound like-,

Jordan Gray Even a birthday candle, 'Oh, it burnt down.' Yes.

Ed Gamble 'Oh, my cake's burnt down.'

Jordan Gray The cake's burnt down.

James Acaster

Oh, a whole cake's burnt down. I love the sound of this meal though. Is it pure nostalgia or was it, like, genuinely good versions of that stuff?



It was-, yes, they lived up to their name of Orsett Best Kebab, because everyone, sort of, says that and maybe it was home-, even home town pride, they were basically in my house. They were in my garden. So, it was like home pride that it was good, but, yes, it was good stuff. The salad was always fresh.

James Acaster

Great.

Jordan Gray

And I'm sorry but it ain't always fresh in a kebab shop, and I like red onion, all that. I've tried to recreate it now in a vegan way with all the individual ingredients and a kebab van kebab is more than the sum of its parts. If you try and make it yourself you just taste all the things you've bought from a shop. It's not a cohesive thing. It's just a pastiche of a meal filled with sadness.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What was going in this kebab then? So, you had the salad and-,

Jordan Gray

Chicken, onion, red cabbage, very finely diced lettuce, and it's the bit of the lettuce that's not really green. It's when they get down to the white bit. That's what you get in a salad.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray

Not cabbage, lettuce. Chilli peppers, but not done for me. Chilli sauce if I'm really drunk and I haven't drunk for ten years as well, so, I remember that feeling of, like, 'Oh, this is going to hurt tomorrow, but right now it feels so perfect on my little drunken tongue.' So, sometimes some chilli sauce. All the chips and vinegar. No salt. Vinegar and loads of burger sauce, and then the cheeseburger just your cheeseburger that you'd expect from a kebab van.

James Acaster

I'm going to, if I may-,

Ed Gamble

Please.

James Acaster

Drill into the all vinegar no salt part of that. Was that what you were going to ask?



Ed Gamble

No, I was still thinking-, I was thinking about, were you the singer in the grindcore band?

James Acaster

Oh, yes, sorry.

Jordan Gray Yes, I was the singer.

James Acaster

I can't believe we've glossed over this. This is our first person who we ever had on the podcast who was in a grindcore band.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Your throat must have been red raw after those gigs, and then you're pouring a big hot kebab down it.

James Acaster

With loads of chilli sauce.

Jordan Gray

Yes. Yes, I had a husky voice throughout my teens for sure. Definitely-, also, I wasn't doing it right. You're supposed to growl, and there are amazing techniques to do it. I'm doing it in, and I won't do it near a microphone, but you just go, 'Roar, roar, roar.' Like, inwards. So, you just breathe-, it's horrible, it's really really bad. Sorry about that, producer Ben is sitting there like didn't enjoy that.

James Acaster

That was great. Sea lion on the pod.

Jordan Gray

Yes, and it's better than that as well, so, I've lost it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray I've lost the heart really, it's the emotion-,

James Acaster

Rusty. You're rusty. Come on, nobody's expecting you to pull it out the bag.

Ed Gamble

For the next show. Bring it back for the next show.



Yes, oh, bloody-, it's just that it's such a cool thing to be part of. When you're a kid and there's only one place that you can drink under age, it doesn't matter what music is playing there. We were a grindcore band, we might as well have done anything. All the kids decided that they loved it because it was where they could come and get drunk for-,

James Acaster

And let's be clear, that was your pub?

Jordan Gray

It was, yes. It's not there anymore, it is now an Indian restaurant.

James Acaster

I told the world I could drink underage, it's the pub that my parents own.

Jordan Gray

Yes, that's true. Yes, I was like a little Richie Rich.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Yes, it's an Indian restaurant now with a wall to ceiling aquarium in it where my bedroom used to be.

James Acaster

Ah.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Jordan Gray Fish live there now.

Ed Gamble

I love it.

Jordan Gray

I miss being in that band. I wish I was there eating my kebab right now.

James Acaster

So, in Kettering, when I was growing up, sludgecore was the thing.

Jordan Gray

What is that? I've never heard of that.



James Acaster

It's very slow.

Jordan Gray

Right, okay.

James Acaster

Kind of, I guess, a branch of doom metal in a way.

Jordan Gray Doom, yes.

James Acaster

But mixed with blues metal as well. So, it's blues metal, doom metal, kind of, mixed, very-, like, the slower the better.

Ed Gamble Raging Speedhorn.

James Acaster

Raging Speedhorn, but Scurge were the main local band, they were, like, the proper sludge band who we all loved and they supported Raging Speedhorn at the Roadmender, which is no longer there, in Northampton. We all went to see them. Really excited that they were doing this proper venue, and I was right at the front, and Cliff was the lead singer of Scurge. He got right up to the front of the audience and he got the mic and he was looking around for someone to do a guttural growl and he just shoved the mic right in my face.

Jordan Gray

Oh man.

James Acaster

I could feel the grill of the mic against my teeth.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

And I didn't know what to do. Little Christian boy not knowing what to do, and I just went, 'Err.' And, Toby, who was the base player who I knew, had his foot right upon the monitor and he said he got that sound right up to him and just started laughing at it. And he was, like, 'That's too funny.' It's, like, I sounded like the cookie monster or something.

Jordan Gray

Oh, god, a Christian growl. That's lovely. Christian growl metal.



James Acaster

Please forgive me.

Jordan Gray

I used to walk around in steel toe cap boots with the trench coat and everything. No shirt, just the trench coat, oh and a cog from a machine that my dad worked in a steel factory and a cog broke and I hung that on a chain around my neck.

Ed Gamble

Oh man.

Jordan Gray

I'd walk around on the tips of the steel toe cap boots like, sort of, a spider, like I'd invented this walk that was going to catch on with the goths and I got really good at it, so I'm just-, I was an audio medium-, well, I'd describe it, I looked like an idiot, right. And I'd, sort of, do that and I'd scream at people, and I remember I broke up with my first girlfriend when I was, like, fourteen, and then she brought her new boyfriend to the gig and I'd written on my chest in red lipstick in just capital letters it just said 'broken heart'.

James Acaster

Oh yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh my god.

James Acaster

I love it.

Jordan Gray

Because, like, normally I wouldn't wear-, I wore something else, I wore, sort of, a boutonnière-type thing as well so I could just pull it open, as if people would see that and go, 'Oh, he's got a broken heart. Oh, it's probably that bird.' Like, it doesn't mean anything. It's the most on-the-nose thing ever. I'm sitting all sad singing music, but I just want you to know that it's because I've got a, capital letter, broken heart.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I love it. A grindcore emo band, basically.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble That's great.



Yes.

James Acaster

Our singer of our band when I was in a new metal band, not as cool, he wrote on his chest, also probably in lipstick or permanent marker, I can't remember, 'Suzie was here' with an arrow pointing down to his dick. She was at all the gigs.

Ed Gamble

How did Suzie feel about that?

James Acaster I think she was in on it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I think she wrote it. I think she wrote it for him and put it on there. We didn't know it was going to be there. It's part of a longer story which I've told on other things. He was an absolute maniac.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And that was the final surprise that he had for us one night, was that he wrote that on himself.

Ed Gamble

Our most popular band in our school was called Kalus, and they played in the tuck shop.

James Acaster

I love that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. They played a cover of Soulfly, Eye for an Eye, and the place went off.

James Acaster

Eye for an Eye, I remember that song.

Ed Gamble

It was brilliant. Yes.



To bring it back around to food, with my pints of money what I would do, tuck shop adjacent, is I'd go in, this is so stupid, I'd go to, like, the ice-cream van which was like a roaming tuck shop essentially, and I'd just buy way too much, like armfuls, and I'd just walk out into the crowd of people that are waiting, because there's no queue is there when you're a kid, and I'd just throw them up in the air.

James Acaster

Oh, that's good.

Jordan Gray Just bags of-, no sweets.

James Acaster Sorry.

Jordan Gray Sorry, I really should have clarified that.

Ed Gamble

99 flakes.

Jordan Gray

Bags of, like, those shrimps and Gummy bears and throw them up in the air again, like, I'm, I don't know, a Victorian, Draconian, sort of- And it made people flock, but that doesn't equate to friendship.

James Acaster

No.

Jordan Gray

I thought it did. I thought all these people were around because they bloody loved me.

Ed Gamble

So popular.

Jordan Gray

Throwing, yes, pounds and pounds worth of sweets round.

James Acaster

Wow, I mean, I think we had, like, opposite experiences of school and teenage-, you seem like the most confident, like, I absolutely love it, just going around wearing a big cog round your neck, throwing sweets around. You've got a Venus fly trap.

Jordan Gray

I did a spell on that cog and put it in the ground because I used to think I was a witch.



James Acaster

Yes, of course.

Jordan Gray

I'm not even-, don't even mind that because it's, like, yes, I'll own up to it, I thought I had magical powers at one point.

Ed Gamble

What spell did you put on the cog?

Jordan Gray

To make all the-, I think it was just there were people that were being mean to me and it was just to make-, not make them die or go away, just for them to leave me alone.

Ed Gamble

To turn them into machines.

Jordan Gray

Because I'd had this thing on my neck for so many gigs I thought it must be infused with all of my power and confidence. So, I did a spell on it and buried it in the beer garden of the pub we lived in.

Ed Gamble

Oh, amazing.

Jordan Gray

So, there's just a little patch of dirt where it was. I think I dug it out once to get it back and then put it back in again.

Ed Gamble

That could still be there at the Indian restaurant.

Jordan Gray Yes, yes definitely.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, the spell.

Jordan Gray

Shouldn't be as it's genuinely an industrial piece of metal that probably had some radioactive- It broke out of a machine, so, my dad gave it to me and I fixed it up.

James Acaster

Man, I don't know why suddenly I find spells so funny but I do.



Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray They are funny.

Ed Gamble Spells are funny.

James Acaster Spells are-, it's funny who casts a spell isn't it.

Jordan Gray

I slept at my friend's house, and his grandfather, bless him, was on his last legs, like, death bed last legs. It's a really awkward thing when you don't know that person, and I said to him without irony, this is so bad, I was fourteen and I said to him, 'Look-,' Oh no. I was, like, 'Mate, I know your grandad is dying but if we can just get to the shop now and you get me some red thread and a candle there is a chance I could make him last a bit longer.'

James Acaster With a spell that you knew?

Jordan Gray With a spell that I knew.

Ed Gamble You had the red thread and candle spell?

Jordan Gray But there's no irony to that.

James Acaster

No, yes.

Jordan Gray

I'm not going, 'It's a gate-,' I'm, like, 'I'm going to do this for your man. I love you and I might be able to make your grandad last an extra few hours if you get me the right colour thread.'

James Acaster

Few hours. Not even worth it.

Jordan Gray

Because we were going to see Slipknot Slayer that night and it was going to be really awkward conversation that we might not be able to go to see it and he-, I knew that about him, and then when he



did die and we were in the hospital he literally turned to his dad and was, like, 'Does this mean we can not go see Slipknot Slayer?' And he was, like, 'We will, because it's what your grandad would have wanted.'

James Acaster

Yes,, yes, he would have wanted you-,

Ed Gamble

It's amazing what people want after they die isn't it?

James Acaster

They want all sorts of selfish things. They want everyone to do whatever they want. They didn't want that in life.

Jordan Gray

Never mentioned that in life at all. Never even a passing interest in either of those bands. 'They wanted you to go and see them tonight.'

James Acaster Great Benito went to see Slipknot.

Jordan Gray Did you really?

James Acaster Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray Slipknot Slayer, yes.

Ed Gamble

It was very funny. So, I love Slipknot and we had Corey Taylor on the podcast.

Jordan Gray I didn't know that. Oh man.

Ed Gamble Yes, and then we got invited to go and see them do a live session at BBC Maida Vale.

Jordan Gray Right.

Ed Gamble Smallest gig they played in twenty years. 100 people in the room.



That's amazing.

Ed Gamble

And Benito came. He doesn't have a fucking clue anything about them. Everyone else losing their mind, Benito and his friend, Guy, stood at the back in anoraks going, 'Oh, what's all this then.' It was great.

James Acaster

Always love the detail that your friend's called Guy. I don't know what I find it funny that Guy went to see-, your dream side dish?

Jordan Gray

Alright then, some Bombay potatoes, because that's your side dish in Indian and Indian is perhaps the best cuisine for sides.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray I don't know if that's fair to say.

Ed Gamble I think that's a good shout.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray It sorts almost all sides really, a lot of it, depending on-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray Even when you order a main it comes at the same size as a side doesn't it in an Indian restaurant.

James Acaster Yes.



So, Bombay potato and I don't mind a cheap one in a-, I, kind of, like that it will come in an aluminium rectangle with a bit of paper on top with the little B on it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, oh, I love that.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble The cardboard lid.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

Ed Gamble It's so exciting, like, rolling back the foil and taking the little lid off.

James Acaster Yes.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble Oh yes.

Jordan Gray

And for the nostalgia of it, the table, let's say it's this table as well, your lovely round table, but I'd have it carpeted with, like, a white cream carpet because there's nothing like Bombay potato to stain a carpet.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

And I really like that. That really takes me back. The red of chicken tikka and the yellow of Bombay on a carpet is not going away.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. So, would you be deliberately slopping it about?



Yes. Oh, yes, yes. Like, a scoop onto the thing, rub it round a little bit like finger painting while I'm eating. It's like the freedom of that, because how many hours have we spent worried about getting food everywhere.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

But it's a messy thing, mastication is a messy process and yet we've civilised it into this weird thing. Yes, I want to make mess. Maybe that's the point of this restaurant really.

James Acaster

Yes, messy restaurant.

Jordan Gray Messy restaurant.

Ed Gamble Make mess.

Jordan Gray Banana naan. It's messy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, banana naan, it's a banana naan make mess restaurant.

Jordan Gray

So, yes, half of it's going on the carpeted table and half is going in my gob, in my uncarpeted mouth.

James Acaster Are you still in your underwear for this bit?

Jordan Gray No, I've got dressed in a lovely pristine white dressing gown that will also be covered by the end.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you've got to.

Jordan Gray

Yes. I want to see the fall out. What's the collateral damage that my meal has caused?



James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

That was a good film, Collateral, I've just remember how good that film was.

James Acaster

Do you know what, good film. It's like every time I see it on some listings I'm bloody tempted.

Ed Gamble Yes, yes.

James Acaster Because I was, like, 'That was gripping.'

Jordan Gray Yes, it was gripping.

James Acaster He was menacing in that.

Jordan Gray He was.

Ed Gamble The bit where he drops the Bombay potatoes everywhere. Oh.

Jordan Gray Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

And Jamie Foxx is, like, 'We can't do that man. We can't be dropping the Bombay potatoes all over the place. People live here.'

Ed Gamble 'The turmeric. The turmeric is never going to come out.'

Jordan Gray

Turmeric is what it is. I've just realised that's what the yellow is.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.



James Acaster

Oh, yes, they fucked that.

Jordan Gray

Yes, so-,

James Acaster

Fuck that, man. I was having one of those mornings recently where I was feel like, 'Oh, you're so unhealthy, man, you need to really turn your life around. You need to starting eating more healthy.' And I went in a shop and I got a turmeric shot. I was, like, 'This is the first day of the rest of my life.' And downed it, then I was trying to put the top back on to the turmeric shot whilst I was walking, fumbled it, dropped the empty bottle. It bounced once on the pavement and all of the turmeric that was inside sprayed up on my trousers. I was, like, 'Well, that's what I get. That's what I get for trying to do a good thing.'

Ed Gamble

Straight to the ice-cream shop.

James Acaster

That's what I fucking get. I then went straight to the ice-cream shop, took two armfuls of it and I threw them into the crowds and I was, like, 'This is how we're living our lives now. Fuck turmeric man.'

Jordan Gray

Yes. I don't know why I'm making a habit of doing this, I've got, like, Lego teeth. Not literally, but I'm missing two teeth and I bought these beads off the internet called thermal beads and you make your own teeth, saves loads of money. I'll show you.

James Acaster

What?

Jordan Gray It's like a little Lego tooth.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Jordan Gray

Because I've got a gap above the tooth, and it comes out bright white, so, you have to put it in a cup of tea for an hour to stain it to the colour of your teeth. But a turmeric, a shot of that mooki turmeric that you're talking about, or any turmeric will make it go bright yellow and I'll sometimes forget a meal has got turmeric in. So, mid meal I'll have that and I'll just have a bright yellow, sort of, prospectus gold tooth like out of nowhere.



Ed Gamble

So, then what do you have to do, make a new tooth?

Jordan Gray

Make a new tooth and it's a real hassle, because what it is, right, you get it in like a globule of Playdoh. You can stick it in and it's see-through and you have to keep putting it in and out and in and out, and as it cools-, because if you left it in and it cooled it would expand and you'd never get it out and then you're in trouble. Likewise if you left it out you'd never get it back in. So, you have to keep in and in and out as it's drying.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

I mean, you didn't ask to see this, this is the second time I've shown you a bit of my insides.

James Acaster

I like seeing it. I like it.

Jordan Gray

Imagine the massive finger just coming into my mouth and grabbing a chunk of tooth out the side of it.

James Acaster

Oh, yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

There's absolutely no way you're not recognising the inside of your own mouth.

James Acaster

Yes, you go, 'Oh, look, I've got Lego teeth.'

Ed Gamble

You literally just grab onto one of the teeth and go, 'Right, there it is.'

Jordan Gray

Yes, it's a chaos in there. The inside of my mouth, this is going to be a niche a reference as you've ever had on this programme, probably looks like the opening to that film, Zardoz. Did you see, like, Zardoz?

James Acaster

Absolutely never heard of it.

Ed Gamble

No, no idea.



Jordan Gray You've never heard of Zardoz?

Ed Gamble No.

James Acaster Never heard of Zardoz.

Jordan Gray No, well, we don't need to go into it.

James Acaster Yes, we do.

Ed Gamble Yes.

Jordan Gray

It's a Sean Connery film where-, right, okay, so, you've seen it in parodies of it, that giant floating rock head that you get in stuff like in Family Guy or whatever, giant head and loads of guns fall out of it. It's a film called Zardoz from the '70s and it's absolutely bizarre. It's Sean Connery in a red leotard-, no, not leotard, what's the word-,

Ed Gamble

I think I've seen a picture of him-,

Jordan Gray

Yes, yes, parodies of that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, where he's got, like, long hair and he's got-, it's like a sort of-,

Jordan Gray

A two bullet belts and that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've seen pictures of him in that. Yes.



And he gets in that head, which you're not supposed to. It basically spews up guns for them to kill each other and you don't know why, and, spoiler, there isn't a reason at all. It's a '70s film. This is before Jaws. Before there was actually a three-act structure to anything. So, it was just someone's thoughts in a film for two hours. He gets in that head and he goes to a posh place where people are controlling the film that you're in. It's a meta upon meta.

Ed Gamble

Perfect.

Jordan Gray

But, yes, inside that head there are loads of people, naked people, shrink-wrapped against the walls and it feels '70s, but I think, maybe, it's just not '70s, maybe it's just that film is really weird.

Ed Gamble

And that's what the inside of your mouth is like.

Jordan Gray

The inside of my mouth must look like that, because there are mysteries going on in our mouths isn't there really. It's like the ocean.

James Acaster

Yes, there could be naked people cellophaned to the roof of my mouth.

Jordan Gray

On a good day there are naked people in my mouth, yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray Or parts of, appendages of, not entire people.

James Acaster

Main question about, was it Zapdos? What's it called?

Jordan Gray

Zardoz, you've just quoted a Pokémon, which has made me really happy. Zapdos the electric Pokémon.

James Acaster

Yes, electronic bird Pokémon.



Ed Gamble

Let's not get worked up with that.

Jordan Gray

I didn't think it was going to get more niche than Zardoz, but you're right, Zapdos.

James Acaster

He won't let me talk about Pokémon on the podcast.

Jordan Gray Let's talk after.

James Acaster But in Zardoz-,

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster When Connery is getting on board the massive, flying rock head-,

Jordan Gray Yes

James Acaster Do they let him take the bullet belt on or does he have to have send it to his house?

Jordan Gray Oddly he's the only one on it. It's an automated thing so he got away with it.

James Acaster He's okay.

Jordan Gray Yes.

Ed Gamble Good for him.

James Acaster He's allowed to do what he wants. Dream drink?



Right, I am eleven years sober, but I am going to put some alcohol onto the list because my drink of choice was a Jägerbomb and I miss it dearly. On a daily basis I miss that lovely-, what's it called, a digestif?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think we can call a Jägerbomb a digestif.

Jordan Gray But what I had-,

James Acaster Would you care for a digestif?

Ed Gamble Have you enjoyed your meal?

James Acaster

Bombs away.

Jordan Gray

And there was a cheap version of Jägerbomb called Jungfrau that you could get if you were doing it at home.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

Which I sadly did because I-, there's a reason I don't drink anymore, I drank way too much. But I had this dream of, like-, I didn't go to uni, but had I, I remember researching that at uni they have these little beer tasting clubs and things that you can go to in the first week to be friends with people and I thought, 'I must start one of them, but it will be specifically for Jägerbombs that are paired with various different energy drinks.' And we trialled the different drinks.

James Acaster

Wow.

Jordan Gray

And I'd make like a really glossy pamphlet with all the different various-,



Ed Gamble

All the tasting notes and-,

Jordan Gray

Yes, and how Monster's different from Red Bull and stuff. And I found the perfect pairing because-, and I'm sorry to do this to you, Ben, but this is a naughty word to have on a podcast.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray There's an energy drink called Pussy energy drink.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray And they know it's rude because they put a little star over the U. It's not even, like-,

Ed Gamble Yes, they know, they know.

Jordan Gray They know. They know.

James Acaster I thought that was going to be way worse.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster I thought, 'Oh, great-,'

Jordan Gray Yes, imagine, suddenly just change the tone completely.

James Acaster Drank something called cunt juice. That was what I was expecting.

Ed Gamble Yes.



There's an energy drink called Pussy, and if you pair it with Jägermeister in the Jägerbomb, it tastes exactly like a Marks and Spencer's Percy Pig without any deviation. It's a fizzy Percy Pig.

Ed Gamble

Right, Jordan, this is so great, but you can't tell James stuff like that.

James Acaster

Yodelayheehoo.

Jordan Gray Yes, that is happening.

Ed Gamble

This is going to be the end of his life.

James Acaster

Oh man. Are you telling me Percy is in liquid form now? I'm absolutely having that.

Ed Gamble

He's going to be texting his girlfriend saying, 'Get a crate of Pussy's.'

James Acaster

Yes. When we get back I want to see all the Pussy you can get.

Jordan Gray

So, it's a Percybomb if you want to call it. You could call it a Pussy Pig or you could call it a Percybomb. I'd go with Percybomb.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray And that's what I want to submit.

Ed Gamble No, we're going with Pussy Pig.

James Acaster Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble Write down Pussy Pig.



Jordan Gray Pussy Pig.

James Acaster That is what it's called.

Jordan Gray

Pussy Pig cocktail I suppose you would call it. What is a Jägerbomb? I mean, it's not-,

Ed Gamble I wouldn't say cocktail.

Jordan Gray But-, yes, you're right.

Ed Gamble But it's not a shot either, is it?

Jordan Gray

It's not a shot and it's not like a mixer, it's not vodka and coke because it is supposed to be-,

Ed Gamble Downed.

James Acaster Yes.

Jordan Gray Which most drinks aren't.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Yes

Jordan Gray Most mixed drinks aren't designed to do that.

James Acaster Yes, most nice things.

Ed Gamble It's, sort of, got the energy of a shot, right?



Yes. I-,

James Acaster

I mean, this stuff, if it tastes like a Percy Pig I'd want to be sipping this. I don't want to shot it.

Jordan Gray

Perhaps it's a long drink. Perhaps it is a long drink.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

With little pink ice cubes and stuff, like, really partner it up-, maybe it's a Marks and Spencer's collab situation.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, you'd have to. They'd come after you with everything they've got it they knew that you were marketing your own Percy Pig drink.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but also they're not going to sell a Pussy Pig at the services are they?

Jordan Gray

No.

James Acaster

It would be a good-, I would at least like to sit in on that business meeting. We call it Pussy Pig or nothing. Oh, I mean, it sounds great obviously. Obviously right up my street is unreal.

Jordan Gray

It's nice. Properly used to get me, and it's not something you find anywhere so you have to make it a home as well. So, it's very much a drink to be enjoyed in solace. At a friend's barbecue you can always show up with the Pussy and get the party started.

James Acaster

Obviously I think all Percy Pigs are veggie now aren't they?

Jordan Gray

They are, yes.

James Acaster

But the original veggie Percy Pigs-,



Jordan Gray With the little green ears.

James Acaster With the little green ears.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster So, I think they're my favourite Percy Pigs. Where do you stand?

Jordan Gray Yes. Yes, there's a different texture to a-,

James Acaster Yes, and chewier.

Jordan Gray To a chewy gummy isn't there?

James Acaster Yes.

Jordan Gray

You get to recognise them as vegetarians and vegans, like, the strawberries. They're a bit harder. Basically a vegan gummy is a little bit harder because of the old gelatine and that. You're right. And also perhaps one of them on a little cocktail umbrella on the top of it makes a lovely and cool sweetie garnish.

Ed Gamble Lovely, yes, that's nice.

James Acaster Yes, yes, that-,

Ed Gamble Where do you stand on Percy and friends?

James Acaster Yes, yes. The pals, sorry.

Ed Gamble The pals, sorry. Percy and pals. Sorry. He doesn't-



I like the story of it. I like the pick and mix with narrative.

James Acaster

What's the story in your head, because I don't think that's written on the back is it?

Jordan Gray

Well, he's globe-trotting isn't he, that's what is it. There's this globe-trotting Percy. That's what it says on the front of one of them.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Jordan Gray

And I think that's because the species-, Ben's nodding, or is that just solidarity. So sweet. That was so adorable. I think the animals are more exotic. So, there's, like, a zebra-, do you know what the flavour of Percy Pig is? I do, and I shall tell you, but do you want to have a guess at what the actual flavour is?

Ed Gamble

I've got no idea. It's just sweets, right, from-,

James Acaster If I can remember, I think it's raspberry.

Jordan Gray You're very close.

Ed Gamble Strawberry.

Jordan Gray It's strawberry and kiwi mix

Ed Gamble Oh.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster Oh, okay, I wouldn't have got that. I would not have got that.

Ed Gamble I had no idea.



And that's what Pussy energy drink is, it's literally strawberry and kiwi which is why it tastes exactly like it. I had no doubt that Percy Pig contains raspberry, or did at some point or some variation has raspberry-,

James Acaster

I think the sheep has raspberry in it.

Jordan Gray

Yes, and there's the Coco-Cola flavoured cow is my favourite pals.

James Acaster

Yes, that's the best one. It's the best of the pals.

Jordan Gray

It's the best. That is without question, in fact I could even retro engineer my cocktail to just be a Jägerbomb and coke with one of those sweet cola flavour cows on the top. I'd be just as happy with that.

James Acaster

Yes, I'd love a bag of just the cows. If Mark or Spencer are listening, I would love it if we had a bag of just the cows.

Ed Gamble

Well, they do the drink now, right? There's a Percy Pig soda that they sell in Marks and Spencers.

Jordan Gray

Oh, well, that fucks everything up. Sorry to swear.

James Acaster

No, no, it won't be boozy like yours.

Ed Gamble

It won't be boozy.

Jordan Gray

No, but, I mean, it's the same general idea.

James Acaster

No, no.

Jordan Gray

A virgin Pussy Pig is what you're saying.



James Acaster Oh god.

Jordan Gray That's not-,

James Acaster Watch sales plummet. What if they call it that?

Ed Gamble Oh, I've bought a bottle of this Virgin Pussy Pig.

James Acaster No thank you.

Ed Gamble Absolutely not.

James Acaster I'm going nowhere near that. That's right up my street that.

Jordan Gray I'm going to do a wee.

Ed Gamble Don't drink that.

James Acaster Yes, the cow was the best of the pals, so, I'm going to-,

Jordan Gray The what? The cow?

James Acaster The cow was the best of the pals.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster It is nice that he's globe-trotting and making friends while he's doing it.



Jordan Gray

Yes, the pun-, Marks and Spencers with Percy Pigs are working backwards from puns I swear all the time. They don't go, 'Let's make one that's opposite, it's a reversy pig.' They go, 'Reversy pig, what's that?'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

And me and my sister came up with this massive list of Percy Pigs, like, coercy pigs. And it's, like, you buy a meal deal and then they are obligated professionally to try and up sell you a big of Percy Pigs and that's the coercy pigs.

Ed Gamble

Oh brilliant.

James Acaster

Oh great.

Jordan Gray

And we made this list that went on forever, like, oh, I don't know, what's another thing that rhymes? Cursy pigs. Circe pigs because Circe was the Greek goddess that turned people into pigs.

James Acaster

Really?

Jordan Gray Yes, Circe made people pigs.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that's amazing.

James Acaster

Come on.

Jordan Gray

So, like, Circe pigs, I don't know what the gummy-, I get we were working backwards from a pun.

James Acaster

Well, I guess you could have it in like a-,



Well, Circe pigs, I guess we should turn them into pigs. There would be some human-shaped ones in there and then some where it's, like, halfway between a human and a pig and then-

James Acaster

Screaming in torment. It was, like, 'Whoa, no.'

Jordan Gray

Or you put it in water and it expands into a pink, like, those toys. Yes, oh, well, obviously think of everything.

Ed Gamble Mercy pigs.

Jordan Gray Mercy pigs is really nice.

James Acaster

Being merciful.

Jordan Gray

Yes, that's the free bag they give you if you feel upset by the coercy pigs. If you feel upset or there's anything you feel like-, and you try to see, they give you a bag of Mercy pigs. So, anyway, yes, that's my cocktail is a Percybomb. I shall continue to call it a Percybomb. Call it what you will.

Ed Gamble

Percybomb is fine.

James Acaster

Yes, Percybomb is nice, more marketable.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray Than a Virgin Pussy.

James Acaster

But it's a Pussy Pig. No, it's not a Virgin. Look, I'm not-, it's not called a Virgin Pussy.

Jordan Gray

It's an alcoholic Pussy Pig.



Yes that's what it is. Also before we move on it would make me laugh if one of Percy's pals was called Guy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and there's only one per packet.

James Acaster Yes, yes. There's one-,

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster And it looks exactly like Benito's friend.

Ed Gamble Oh lucky you, you got the Guy.

James Acaster We arrive at your dream dessert.

Jordan Gray

What I've very much enjoyed about this conversation is how fluidly we've moved from one end to the other, because this is another perfect segue. My dessert, and I've thought long and hard about it, when I was little we used to get given a pound for pocket money each week, and on a Friday we'd go to the Happy Shopper. Remember Happy Shoppers?

James Acaster

Oh, Happy Shopper, man.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

And they've have the trays of pick and mix sweets that you can't grab, you have to say, 'I would like one of them, two of them.' And it's behind a glass thing, and somebody had to one by one get it out. And the woman that worked there loved it and her husband hated it. So, depending on who you got it was a different shopping experience. And I would get them-, we'd get a pound's worth, which was a lot of different things and variety, and I'd make-, this is so stupid as well, I'd make dioramas out of my things. Which is fine because you get like a little-, I'd say, like, a little-, a few mice and they live together and then I'd make a house out of the square things. It's like a diorama. Then I'd eat it.



Yes.

Jordan Gray

And that was fine. And then my mum got uncomfortable with it because I'd start to chew off half of one-, like a gummy baby and then half a jelly snake, and I'd stick them together and I'm, like, well, that's it, it's extended the, sort of, the mythos I used to storyline with my diorama.

James Acaster

Great, yes.

Jordan Gray

And then she said I had to stop when I was about nine because I got a jelly baby and a mouse and I was, like, 'That looks like a man walking his dog but there's no lead.' So, I just chewed up some gum-,

James Acaster

Oh my god.

Jordan Gray

And then I stretched it out and I made a lead out of the gum, and she saw that and told me I had to stop doing it.

James Acaster

Yes, sure, fair enough.

Jordan Gray

So-,

James Acaster

Fair enough.

Jordan Gray

So, then, and this is my dessert, the next day-, the next Friday even, and we went to that shop and we had a babysitter, what I fancied a lot, right, and I'm too young for that babysitter. I'll admit it now. That's fine. I was nine or maybe ten, and she was really cool, and she took us there. My brother and sister got their pound's worth of sweets, like, 'One of those please, two of those.' And I just looked at the guy and I was, like, 'Oh, yes, get a pound of lemon sherbet please.' And that was my childhood gone. That was me being an adult. I was, like, 'I'll have a pound of lemon sherbet.'

Ed Gamble

That was the most grown up thing you could think to do in that moment.

James Acaster

Just to show off to the babysitter, yes.



Jordan Gray

To show off to the babysitter, and I sat with a spoon shovelling lemon sherbet into my mouth. That's my night then. There's one flavour. That's so disappointing because there's no variety anymore.

Ed Gamble

Yes, no diorama.

Jordan Gray

Just sitting there like my lips had imploded in on themselves of lemon sherbet at this babysitter, like, 'Oh, yes.' And I just have fond memories of it. So, I'd have a-, I think a bowl is too much but-,

James Acaster

A bowl of lemon sherbet. So, just the lemon sherbets.

Jordan Gray

A quid's worth of lemon sherbet in a little paper bag that's sort of-, you know when you get-, oh, that's just hit me like a proper memory. When you get the bag and then you do the flip with the paper bag so it's got little twizzles.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the rolls, yes.

Jordan Gray

I want it to arrive like that, sort of, like a Japanese dumpling. Like a, what are they called? What's a Japanese dumpling called? Like a Bao bun or something. I want that.

James Acaster

Or a Gyoza?

Ed Gamble

Gyoza.

Jordan Gray

A Gyoza. It's like a little Gyoza of edible sugar paper filled with lemon sherbet on a beautiful little chopping board.

James Acaster

Oh, I want to eat the whole thing.

Ed Gamble

Love it. You've just elevated it, right now in the moment.



If it's edible sugar paper are you still opening up the bag eating the lemon sherbets and then-, or are you just-, I would be tempted just to pick up the bag all twizzled up and just bite out of it, out of the side of it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

That is a very appealing prospect, like biting into a bag of sand.

Ed Gamble

So, this is like the sherbet powder, not like the little sweets, right.

Jordan Gray

No, yes, it's the-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray It's more granule. It's, sort of, like lemon sugar.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray It's like as if sugar was yellow and lemon flavour.

James Acaster Oh, hold on a second. I'm confused.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're thinking of the sweets.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm thinking of the sweets. Are they sherbet lemons in them and sherbet is a bit different.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

I see what you mean. Yes, no, this is just like sugar. It's yellow sour sugar.



That's even more insane.

Ed Gamble

It's literally the powder that's inside sherbet lemons.

James Acaster

I thought it was mad that you'd just ordered the sweets, a pound of them.

Jordan Gray

Yes.

James Acaster

I didn't know you'd ordered just a pound of sherbet.

Jordan Gray

Yes, because then you're just shovelling sugar into your mouth.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jordan Gray

But it felt like the most grown up thing because it's also, like, sour which is away from the sweet end of the spectrum, the kiddie end of the spectrum.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

I was going to shovel lemon into my mouth.

James Acaster

Surely to be proper grown up you should have wrapped up lines of it on the coffee table in front of the-,

Ed Gamble

Smash your face into it like Scar Face.

James Acaster

Don't mind if I indulge do you?

Jordan Gray

My little library card, just cut it out. But perhaps, because of the sugar paper, you're right, that is really appealing. Bite into it and just let it all pour out.



Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jordan Gray

But perhaps you-, much like one of the those chocolate fondants, so, there's ice-cream and chocolate and you pour hot caramel and it melts. Maybe you take your Pussy Pig and you just pour it onto the lemon sherbet.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Jordan Gray

And you've got this sandy sugary mush and you, sort of, eat that at your leisure, or just watch it.

James Acaster

I'd find it hard to resist doing that. I think I'd have a bit of the sherbet, but then soon or later I'm going to pour the Pussy Pig over it.

Jordan Gray

That's it.

Ed Gamble

I like the way we agreed with Percybomb. We agreed on Percybomb about five minutes ago, and now everyone's just gone back to Pussy Pig.

James Acaster

Yes. I'm a goth.

Jordan Gray

You're right, yes, it's hard to get away from it. It is the catchier of the two.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray

And that's the only meal that I'd want company for. I'd want that babysitter-,



Yes.

Jordan Gray At that age-, no, that's bad, no. She was alright.

James Acaster How old was she?

Jordan Gray She was, like-, oh, she was probably nineteen. Can we break an average of how old she was then and how old she is now?

James Acaster Do you want to be the age you were then?

Jordan Gray I do want to be the age. Of course I do. Is that alright.

Ed Gamble Well, no, you can't.

Jordan Gray I want to be fourteen-,

James Acaster It's back to five, yes.

Jordan Gray No, yes, I want to be old enough that it's conceivable.

Ed Gamble But do you have all your thoughts and memories that you have now, because that-, that's not alright.

James Acaster Yes, because then you're the one with the power again.

Jordan Gray

You're right.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You can't go, 'Oh, I wish I was fourteen again with all of my thoughts now and then I can chat up a nineteen-year-old babysitter.'



James Acaster Yes.

Jordan Gray Yes, you're right, no.

James Acaster Bless her. That's what all the baddies think to themselves.

Ed Gamble Yes, 'And then I'm going to do a spell on the babysitter.'

James Acaster 'Then I'll do a spell. I'll bury the sherbet and I'll do it today.'

Ed Gamble 'Then she'll fall in love with me.'

Jordan Gray I'd like just you to track her down now then, that's fine. Just how she is now. For a-,

James Acaster What's her full name?

Jordan Gray There's probably a million-,

James Acaster Benito can decide if he bleeps it or not. It's coming out. Cunt juice staying in?

Ed Gamble You can bleep. You can bleep that, that would be funny.

James Acaster Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray Yes, that's true, yes, you didn't hear it the first time.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Just bleep juice.



Jordan Gray

That's funny. That is perhaps the name that I'd give to the end result of my dessert after you've poured everything on. That's what we call that final dessert.

James Acaster

Yes, I figured that's what you'd end up with.

Jordan Gray Eleven sugar paper Percy Pig combination.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, that carpet and table is-, that's a write off. You're never seeing that again.

Jordan Gray Yes, you get to take that home.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray

It's like Harry Ramsden's when you get a certificate for eating all those chips and-,

James Acaster

Do you?

Jordan Gray Yes, well, you used to. They don't do it anymore.

Ed Gamble My dad did that once, we went to Harry Ramsden's.

Jordan Gray Yes? Humble brag.

Ed Gamble He had to eat like a-, it was double portion of chips wasn't it?

Jordan Gray

Yes.



And, like, a huge bit of fish and mushy peas, the double mushy peas I think, and if you ate all of it you got a free pudding. And we were on our way to somewhere, we were on the motorway, and he did that, and he finished it, got a free pudding.

James Acaster

Did you respect him?

Ed Gamble

No. The waitress came over and went, 'We had some Japanese tourists, a whole family in the other day and they shared one of those.' That made him feel worse.

James Acaster

Harry Ramsden's, man.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster

It's a funny name. It always makes me laugh is that Harry Ramsden is funny.

Ed Gamble Yes, it is funny.

Jordan Gray It's a mouthful. Yes, yes.

James Acaster

'Hello, my name is Harry Ramsden.' What? You're joking.

Jordan Gray

Well, you like to say it that way. It's the way you say Ramsden is quite funny.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jordan Gray You come in with a soft R.

James Acaster Yes, yes.



Ed Gamble Anything with an R he loves saying.

James Acaster Yes, yes, I love saying it. It's funny.

Jordan Gray Bananarama?

James Acaster Bananarama, I'll say that.

Ed Gamble Bananaaana.

James Acaster Yes, yes, of course.

Jordan Gray I'll say that if you like. I'll say that.

James Acaster I'll say it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, banana-, I know we've given Gwen Stefani the job, but surely Bananarama are in with a shout of advertising the banana?

James Acaster Bananaana?

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Banananananana.

Jordan Gray Banananan, de de de de de.

Ed Gamble

How do we live a good time?

James Acaster Fuck it, why have we not done that.

Ed Gamble Oh, that took too long.

James Acaster I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

Jordan Gray Thanks.

James Acaster Water, you want sparkling water.

Jordan Gray Yes please.

James Acaster Poppadoms or bread. Banana naan.

Ed Gamble De de de de de.

James Acaster I deliberately left the pause.

Ed Gamble Yes.

James Acaster Starter, burrata caprese salad from the Gaucho?

Jordan Gray Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Main course, chicken kebab, chips and burger sauce and cheeseburger from Ossett Best Kebab. Side, Bombay potatoes. Drink, the Pussy Pig. Dessert, one pound of lemon sherbet with the babysitter.

Jordan Gray

If I can just quickly amend that last one. A pound's worth, rather than a pound in weight.





Right, yes.

Jordan Gray Pound's worth.

James Acaster A pound's worth, not a pound in weight.

Jordan Gray Yes.

James Acaster One quid's worth served by the wife and not the husband of the Happy Shopper.

Jordan Gray That's so sweet that you remember that. Yes, that's great.

James Acaster Yes, we don't want him.

Ed Gamble We don't want the husband involved.

James Acaster He could ruin it.

Jordan Gray Oh, I'm happy.

Ed Gamble Do you want a pound's worth as it was then or as it was now?

Jordan Gray Then, oh gosh, yes.

Ed Gamble Yes, because you'd barely get any now would you.

Jordan Gray A teaspoon, yes.

James Acaster Yes, yes.



Ed Gamble Bloody economy.

James Acaster Not worth it.

Ed Gamble Thanks so much for coming to the dream restaurant, Jordan.

Jordan Gray Thank you very much. It's been so joyous.

James Acaster Thank you, Jordan.

Jordan Gray Lovely boys.

Ed Gamble There we are. Thank you very much to Jordan for coming in.

James Acaster Thank you Jordan. I wonderful menu. Wonderful insight into-,

Ed Gamble I don't think it was a wonderful menu.

James Acaster No?

Ed Gamble I think it was a lovely nostalgic menu.

James Acaster Yes.

Ed Gamble

And I like those ones too where it clearly means a lot to someone they've-, it, sort of, triggers memories with them of a good time. That's not one of the menus where I'm, like, 'I can't wait to go to Orsett Best Kebab.'

James Acaster

Sure, well, it's burnt down.



Ed Gamble Well, I can't know, it's burnt down.

James Acaster The van burnt down.

Ed Gamble The van burnt down.

James Acaster I mean, obviously I want to try the Pussy Pig.

Ed Gamble Yes, James wants to try the Pussy Pig.

James Acaster So, obviously I'd like to do that, so, that's-,

Ed Gamble Do you promise to record a video of you trying the Pussy Pig?

James Acaster Yes, if I ever-, hey, if I ever sample the Pussy Pig-,

Ed Gamble

You heard it here. James is going to try the Pussy Pig. He's going to take a video of it and we'll put it on the Off Menu social media accounts.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

And it might be retweeted by Jordan, who is talk dark friend on social media.

James Acaster

Follow her on all platforms and look out for anything that Jordan's doing, and thank you Jordan for not saying the secret ingredient. You didn't say quail.

Ed Gamble

No quail.

James Acaster

Really appreciate that.



Orsett Best Kebabs do not do quail.

James Acaster

Imagine if they did, they wouldn't be burning that place down if it had us a quail in it.

Ed Gamble

No way.

James Acaster

Maybe they would. Maybe they would have gone-, run out of money. I think they would have been bankrupt a lot quicker if they had quail.

Ed Gamble

Yes, be a big left turn to say, 'We do quail now.'

James Acaster

Yes, yes, bad luck, you'd better burn that place to the ground.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much to Jordan. Don't forget to listen to her podcast, Transplaining. Bye bye. We'll see you next week.

James Acaster

See you later.

Ed Gamble

Suckers.

James Acaster

Suckers.