



Off Menu – Ep 206 – AJ Odudu

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast. Peeling the satsuma of humour and putting in the segments of good friends into the fruit salad of the internet.

James Acaster

Oh, that's looking like a nice fruit salad now.

Ed Gamble

Things are going well.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

AJ Odudu, a brilliant presenter, broadcaster and fantastic company.

James Acaster

I'm so excited. I'm a big fan of AJ, especially her series of Strictly Come Dancing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

A big moment in my life.

Ed Gamble

Yes, huge for you.

James Acaster

Big highlight of my lockdown.

Ed Gamble

What I've not realised until this point is what James is doing with the people that we book is he's pretty much saying yes to people who have been on that series and is trying to tick off the whole thing.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.



Ed Gamble

Even though we haven't completed your bake off episode yet.

James Acaster

We still haven't completed that and I want to. There are a few things that I want to complete and we're getting there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we are.

James Acaster

We're getting there with a few of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And I think that Strictly series bit by bit now.

Ed Gamble

Bit by bit.

James Acaster

We're doing alright. But, listen, I love AJ.

Ed Gamble

Yes, she's brilliant.

James Acaster

And all the stuff that she's got coming up.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Big Brother's coming up.

Ed Gamble

She's the new host of the new Big Brother which is going to be on ITV2 and ITVX.

James Acaster

Yes. Big fan, but if AJ says the secret ingredient.



Ed Gamble

What are we going to do?

James Acaster

We're going to-,

Ed Gamble

Evict her.

James Acaster

Evict her, yes, sorry, yes, we will evict her.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes. Sometimes I think we're on the same page and then sometimes I know we're not.

James Acaster

Yes, I just thought that was really dark what you were about-, I was, like, 'What the fuck is he on about?'

Ed Gamble

You thought I was going to say, 'We're going to kill her.'?

James Acaster

Yes, well, you were, like, 'What are we going-,' You pointed at me and went, 'What are we going to do?' I was, like, 'What the hell?'

Ed Gamble

The secret ingredient this week is piccalilli.

James Acaster

Piccalilli.

Ed Gamble

This was suggested by a listener.

James Acaster

Yes, Peter Kay. He brings it up in his comedy. He says, 'Don't eat anything that's luminous.'

Ed Gamble

That's a good point.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I mean, we'll basically we'll ask Peter Kay really.

James Acaster

I believe he's from the same county as AJ.

Ed Gamble

That was suggested by Martin Trury, James, not Peter Kay.

James Acaster

Oh, fair enough.

Ed Gamble

I don't personally mind piccalilli but I'd say I have piccalilli once every three years.

James Acaster

I don't think I've ever had it.

Ed Gamble

It's very vinegary, which I like. It's got a real bite to it-,

James Acaster

Oh, I might like it.

Ed Gamble

Picallee, and piccalillily.

James Acaster

Oh, do you know what, I'd love it then. But, you know, if Martin doesn't like it-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Then we'll make it as the secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

We'll bow to Martin and Peter Kay now and I'm not sure-,

James Acaster

Yes, always.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like you say, AJ is from the same county as Peter Kay so maybe they're all anti piccalilli over there.



James Acaster

Maybe she's, like, 'Don't eat anything that's luminous.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, fair enough, but very excited to speak to AJ. This is the Off Menu menu of AJ Odudu.

Welcome, AJ, to the dream restaurant.

AJ Odudu

Thank you for having me.

James Acaster

Welcome, AJ Odudu, to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

AJ Odudu

Thank you so much. I mean, honestly I'm delighted. You've just jumped out of the lamp like a real genie.

James Acaster

Yes like a real real genie. Do you want to describe the jump to the listeners?

AJ Odudu

It was plosive, ex-plosive.

James Acaster

Now, you're reading the fact it says plosive behind me. It says explosive many times behind me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

What is with the plosive? I love it. I love it.

Ed Gamble

That's the name of the production company.

AJ Odudu

Okay, classic.

Ed Gamble

But you went with explosive in the end?

AJ Odudu

I did. I did. It was. It was a big bang.



James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

A puff of smoke.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

In theory.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

In our minds, mentally.

James Acaster

Well, no, in reality it was real.

AJ Odudu

Yes, it was real.

James Acaster

Yes, it was real.

AJ Odudu

In a way.

Ed Gamble

It was mind smoke.

James Acaster

Yes, it's mind smoke.

Ed Gamble

You've asked AJ to describe you. You can't start correcting her.

James Acaster

It was real. I don't want the listeners to think it wasn't real.

Ed Gamble

No. But it was real in our minds.



James Acaster

Yes, and in reality.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And in life. Do you think, AJ, Derren Brown would be able to trick you quite easily, because just then, like, I got you to say explosive without even-, you know, because it was written loads behind me, do you think he'd be able to trick you?

AJ Odudu

Yes, I'm easily manipulated.

James Acaster

Yes?

AJ Odudu

Yes. You know when people go on and see psychics and stuff like that and they're, like, 'Oh my gosh, they were absolutely amazing, they just told me loads and loads. And I'm, like, 'Did they tell you, or did you tell them and they repeated it back to you?'

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

And especially if it's positive stuff, people love hearing that. It's like star signs. It's, like, 'Oh, I'm an Aquarian it means I'm really creative. I go with the flow.' Blah, blah, blah. And it's, like, what's the negative? And I'm, like, 'Mmm, I don't remember any negatives about my star sign actually.' It's very that energy.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

I will focus on the positive, the plosive, and then I will correct myself, yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes.



James Acaster

You know who really loves star signs and believes in star signs is Sally Traffic. Do you know Sally Traffic?

AJ Odudu

No.

James Acaster

She does the traffic on the radio.

Ed Gamble

James has got a vendetta against the lady who does the radio weather on Radio 2-

James Acaster

This is the traffic.

Ed Gamble

This is the traffic, sorry.

AJ Odudu

Oh wait, no, she does it on Claudia Winkleman's show and Dermot O'Leary's show as well.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

I do know who she is, of course I do.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Right, what's your vendetta against her?

James Acaster

Well, she believes in star signs and I'm not into them.

AJ Odudu

Oh.



James Acaster

Which is fine, I think.

AJ Odudu

But, hence the eye roll when I said Aquarius.

James Acaster

No, no, I was, like, 'Good on you.' You were talking about it in realistic terms.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You were saying, 'Oh, those people fall for all that shit.' But, like, I wasn't even being disrespectful when I met Sally Traffic, I was just standing around talking to-, Clara Amfo was about to go in and do a show talking about promoting her show about star signs. Sally Traffic comes out of her office, this is, you know, in the waiting area, and she's, like, 'I love star signs. I believe in all that. That's me down to a T.' Then Clara Amfo left us alone to go and do her interview, so, then Sally Traffic was like, 'You believe in them as well?' And I went, 'No.' And she went, 'Ehch, how old are you?' And I was like, 37 at the time. She was, like, 'Oh, I get it. Woke.'

Ed Gamble

James is very outspoken, he's very honest, and that's why he's a classic Sagittarius.

James Acaster

Yes. That's true.

AJ Odudu

Are you a Sagittarius?

James Acaster

No, Capricorn.

AJ Odudu

Oh, do you know some of the most successful people in the world are Capricorns.

James Acaster

Yes, man.

AJ Odudu

Can't name them right now, but yourself is one of them.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm one of the most successful people in the world.



AJ Odudu

Yes, yes. And do you know the other star sign-

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Which is hugely successful, Aquarius. That's me.

Ed Gamble

Is it?

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

You, yes, there you go.

Ed Gamble

Would you say that all of the star signs are represented amongst all of the most successful people in the world? Maybe.

AJ Odudu

Possibly.

Ed Gamble

Yes, possibly.

AJ Odudu

Probably.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

Definitely.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, who knows.



Ed Gamble

Pisces probably gets a look in.

AJ Odudu

Are you Pisces?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Oh lovely.

Ed Gamble

What does that mean about me?

AJ Odudu

I don't know, but you're very creative and fun I think.

Ed Gamble

Thank you.

AJ Odudu

And also compatibility wise Aquarians tend to get on with Pisces.

Ed Gamble

So, it's going to be a great episode.

AJ Odudu

It's going to be a great episode.

James Acaster

So, you two are going to get on.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Capricorn get on with anyone?

AJ Odudu

Well, no we get on as well.

James Acaster

Oh, we get on too.



AJ Odudu

No, we do get on.

James Acaster

Oh good.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. That's a relief.

AJ Odudu

Yes. Full stop. No, we do get on. Listen, Aquarians, we go with the flow. Everyone thinks that we're a water sign.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But we're actually an air sign.

James Acaster

A what?

AJ Odudu

An air sign.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, yes. Ed's, like, 'Yes, yes, yes.'

AJ Odudu

Air. Air.

James Acaster

Yes, no, I know, air, don't-,

AJ Odudu

An air sign.

Ed Gamble

Don't change it. Don't change it for us.



James Acaster

Benito, google what star sign Sally Traffic is please. I just want to see why we didn't get on.

AJ Odudu

Yes, compatibility wise.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

You probably weren't compatible.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Maybe she was trying to spark a romantic connection and sometimes-, basically your compatibility changes romantically.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

So, for example, Aquarians were really romantically connected to Librans and, who else, can't remember. I'm not massively into star signs.

Ed Gamble

I'm beginning to get that sense, AJ, that you don't really believe it at all.

AJ Odudu

I don't really, come on, I'm not Mystic Meg, I'm not psychic, I'm not into star signs. I don't get it.

James Acaster

The most legitimate of all the psychics, Mystic Meg.

AJ Odudu

That's it. She was the one.

James Acaster

Virgo, apparently, Sally Traffic.



AJ Odudu

Oh, no we like a Virgo.

James Acaster

Capricorn and Virgo?

AJ Odudu

Now, I don't think you two are compatible because you're very creative and strong minded.

James Acaster

Me?

AJ Odudu

Yes, Capricorns are very focused. You can work solo, do you know what I mean. You can work collaboratively but you have a vision and you stick with it.

James Acaster

I keep telling these guys that.

AJ Odudu

Virgos are very strong as well. I do like a Virgo.

James Acaster

Well, okay. Yes, yes, hey, you know, I think Sally Traffic is a good egg.

Ed Gamble

Virgos are good at traffic.

James Acaster

Virgos are great at traffic.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Virgos are great at traffic.

James Acaster

Do Aquarius' like food?

AJ Odudu

Yes. Absolutely. All types of food.



James Acaster

All types?

AJ Odudu

All types.

James Acaster

You've got nothing that you don't like? When you're going to a friend's house for the first time and they say, 'Anything you don't eat?' Are you just like, 'No, fine.'

AJ Odudu

I tend to say, 'As it comes.' Because there are things that I don't eat can be picked out usually with ease. But there is one food that can't be picked out with ease and it's mainly because people tend to crush it and crumble it everywhere. Sprinkle it everywhere on top of things, and that thing is pistachio.

James Acaster

Pistachio? I thought you were going to say parsley or something.

AJ Odudu

No.

James Acaster

Pistachio?

AJ Odudu

Pistachio. I don't like it. I don't like it. I don't know why. It feels creamy and sickly, the texture, the flavour, I don't like it and people like to put it on cheesecakes, on top of ice-cream, on top of a lot of amazing things. I'm like, 'Why ruin an ice-cream with pistachio?'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And it is, you're right, you don't like one of the only things that can't be picked out of something.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because no-one's really putting whole pistachios in stuff really are they?



AJ Odudu

No.

Ed Gamble

They're crumbling.

AJ Odudu

They're crumbling it.

Ed Gamble

They're crumbling. It's a nightmare for you.

AJ Odudu

It's a nightmare. I can't get it off. Can't get it out, can't get it off. It's just in my mouth.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

And I can't get it out, I have to swallow. It's a mess.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, if someone said to you, 'Oh, we're having you over for dinner, is there anything you don't like?' You wouldn't say, 'I don't like pistachios.' You'd just take the risk?

AJ Odudu

I'd take the risk, to be honest, and I'd probably just skip dessert. I don't want someone to, like, completely change the menu because of me. I'm not that person. That being said, it would be nice if there wasn't pistachio on the menu, but it's not the end of the world if there is.

James Acaster

I'll agree, I mean, it doesn't improve any dessert crushed pistachio over the top of it.

AJ Odudu

I don't think so.

James Acaster

I'm not-,

Ed Gamble

I don't know.



James Acaster

I'm not having a better time.

Ed Gamble

Look, I'm a pistachio fan.

James Acaster

I like pistachios, but I think crushed up and put over desserts, no, no, that doesn't do anyone any favours.

AJ Odudu

But even pistachio as a nut itself, I'm like, 'It's a bit of aggro isn't it?' You have to crack it, open it, eat it.

Ed Gamble

Right, well, there's a great new project-, project, product, and it's a project in their hearts, wonderful pistachios. They come in a bag. They've had the shells removed.

AJ Odudu

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Excellent stuff.

AJ Odudu

Stunning.

Ed Gamble

And, yes, we have advertised them in the past but this is a personal recommendation.

James Acaster

Yes, and, AJ, I mean, if I may, I would double down on that because Ed was, like, 'You've had those wonderful pistachios, they live up to their name I tell you.'

Ed Gamble

I don't think I said it exactly like that.

James Acaster

You did say that. He said, 'Talk about wonderful.'

Ed Gamble

No, I didn't say that, AJ.



James Acaster

He said that, 'They are wonderful pistachios, I can see why they're called it.' Is what he said. And he was, like, 'You've got to try them.' I was, like, 'I'm not bothered man.' He was, like, 'No, you don't have to open them, they're just like-', I was, like, 'Forget it.' Then one day didn't have long between episodes, had to quickly wolf something down. There was a bag of them on the table. I thought, 'I'll have a little bit. I'll just have a couple of nuts, then go back in.' I ate the whole bag. They were delicious. I couldn't stop eating them.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

You couldn't stop.

James Acaster

The salt vinegar ones, just wolfing them down.

AJ Odudu

What, they come in different flavours?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes.

AJ Odudu

Oh my word.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes.

James Acaster

Wonderful flavours.

AJ Odudu

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Barbecue. Salt and vinegar. Honey roasted.



AJ Odudu

Do you know what, genuinely, these are all delicious flavours but, like, the thought of those flavours paired with pistachio is making me feel sick.

James Acaster

Have you still got them in the next room, Benito?

AJ Odudu

Eww.

Ed Gamble

We've nearly ran out.

James Acaster

We've still got them in the next room. Would you, at the end of this podcast, end of this episode, would you try one?

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes, I'll try one.

Ed Gamble

Alright, okay, remember to do that.

AJ Odudu

I'll try one.

Ed Gamble

Also, we are nearly running out, so-

AJ Odudu

Of time, I've only just got here. Blooming heck.

James Acaster

It would be good if you could get some more.

James Acaster

Bye bye.

Ed Gamble

We just want you to eat a pistachio. Yes, what's your menu? Eat a pistachio.



James Acaster

Also what we want to talk to you about before we run out of time, we've only got about five minutes left, is the new series of Big Brother.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Very exciting.

AJ Odudu

I'm so excited about it.

James Acaster

So, what can you tell us about this series? Are they going to ramp it up?

Ed Gamble

Which you are hosting, by the way, we should say.

James Acaster

Which you are hosting, yes, AJ's not in the house.

Ed Gamble

No.

AJ Odudu

I'm not in the house. I did actually have to explain that to someone the other day who's very very young, a very young person. And they were, like, 'Oh, you're going in?' And I was, like, 'No.'

James Acaster

Would you, ever?

AJ Odudu

No.

Ed Gamble

No, you're hosting now, why would you go in?

AJ Odudu

Yes, I wouldn't go in, don't need to.

James Acaster

You've seen how the sausage is made haven't you?



AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

You've seen how the sausage is made. You don't want to be in there.

Ed Gamble

That's the phrase isn't it, if you've seen how the sausage is made you don't want to get inside the sausage.

AJ Odudu

You don't want to get in that side.

James Acaster

You don't want to become a sausage?

AJ Odudu

No. But I'm so excited. They are going to ramp it up this year. It's going to be out in the autumn, and it's a new home of ITV2 and ITVX and I'm going to be hosting it alongside the wonderful Will Best, who is a really good mate of mine, and an amazing live host. So, us two together, it's, like, dream team.

James Acaster

Yes, you think.

AJ Odudu

I think.

Ed Gamble

I'm sure it is.

AJ Odudu

And so does the channel, obviously why they put us together.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you're on board, the channel is on board.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Will's on board?

Ed Gamble

And soon the audience will be on board.



AJ Odudu

Fingers crossed.

James Acaster

I mean, Big Brother audiences, you know, they're pretty hard core. They're all going to get their favourites in the house. You're going to have to deal with those people. Have you got a technique for when someone's about to come out the house, everyone's going nuts, all the live audience.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Have you got to, like, do a bit of crowd control there?

AJ Odudu

Do you know what, the crowd control with me is just be louder than the crowd. I feel like I'm very equipped for that role. I've never been described as quiet.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Body language, do you know what I mean. Sometimes you just have to look at someone and go, 'Come on.'

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

That's it.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Do you know like when you were younger and you were getting told off by your parents at someone else's house and if you were acting out of line they didn't even need to raise their voice. They didn't even have to say anything. My mum would just give me a look and I'd be, like, 'Oh, I've crossed the line here.'

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

So, you can give the crowd one of your mum's looks?

AJ Odudu

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

One of my mum's looks, that's it.

James Acaster

To be fair, the listener didn't see it, but, AJ, did the impression of her mum's look as you were saying, and that works.

Ed Gamble

It works. Yes, you're right. Yes.

James Acaster

As soon as she did it I was, like, 'Actually, I'm going to behave for this podcast now because-'

AJ Odudu

Yes. Calm down. Stop throwing eggs guys, okay.

Ed Gamble

If anything, I don't think you even need to announce who has been evicted. I think that you should just put a live feed into the house and have everyone who is nominated sitting in front of the screen, and then you just look at the person who is evicted, and they come out and they'll be, like, 'That's me.'

James Acaster

'That's me. I'm out. I've messed up.' Do you ever just-, I mean, because I've seen some reality shows where, like, the do the eviction chat, or, they do a big reunion at the end and the host interviews everyone, and some hosts do a better job than others at masking their actual feelings on the housemates or something, and sometimes you can tell they hated this person as well. We've all hated them for the whole series, but you can tell the host also disapproved of them.

Ed Gamble

Do you think you will be good at masking that?

AJ Odudu

So, I think I am going to be quite good at masking how I feel about them personally, because it's about their story isn't it. It's their journey, their story. I just want to get inside their minds I guess. I want to ask all of the questions that everyone at home wants to ask. I want to understand why they did what they



did or said what they said, and I think because it is Big Brother and everything is filmed 24/7, I wouldn't even need to really say, 'This is what I think.' I can just say, 'Have a look at this clip.' Now, how do you think the public responded to that? Do you think maybe that is the reason why you're sat here today and not someone else?'

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

That's my energy. That's going to be my energy.

Ed Gamble

I think it's going to be great. That's really good. Almost like, sort of, headteacher energy of, like, 'And why do you think that was wrong?'

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes, do you know what I mean, like, 'Don't ask me the question. I'm asking you the question.'

Ed Gamble

It's good as well because that is less work for you overall.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes, yes, just clips.

Ed Gamble

I think a lot of the arguments in Big Brother classically have been driven by lack of food sometimes.

AJ Odudu

Oh my god, well-,



Ed Gamble

I think people get hangry don't they?

AJ Odudu

Do you know what, genuinely, this is the reason why I'd never go into that house, right, because I just think, you know, meeting people, being sociable, that's one thing. That's amazing. But also, you know how it is, it's exhausting. You might get back, I mean, I don't know what you do to unwind in the evening, but I'm, like, I do like to sit in silence and watch TV.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It's hard to believe because I go, 'Yap, yap, yap, yap, yap.' All day. But I do. I have quiet time with me, myself and I and I don't want to speak to anyone.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But there, it's 24/7.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

I'm, like, 'Oh my gosh, what, they're sleeping next to me?' They all sleep next to each other. They have to do the shopping list with each other. It's, kind of, like, I always remember in previous series people being, like, 'Cheese, you want cheese? That's so expensive, I don't eat cheese. I don't even eat cheese.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's always an argument isn't it about cheese?

AJ Odudu

Yes, and also the scenes, the desperate scenes where people are going, 'Right, we're dividing the toilet roll.' And sheet by sheet they're cutting it out and they're rationing toilet paper-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.



AJ Odudu

And it's just-, I just couldn't do it.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

No.

AJ Odudu

I wouldn't want to ask any house mate in there, do you scrunch or do you fold? Because one's economically not right.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

One is a bit more wasteful than the other. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you know what, I'd go through all of my toilet paper ration within the first hour of getting it.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

Why?

Ed Gamble

Because, you know, I'd like to be luxurious with that sort of stuff, and then for the rest of the week I'd just be having a shower every time I went for a shit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a good way of doing it.

James Acaster

That's fair enough.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

They don't film you in the shower.

Ed Gamble

No.

AJ Odudu

They don't film you in the shower.

James Acaster

So, it's okay if you've just got shit running down your legs in the shower, they're not going to get that on camera.

Ed Gamble

Because there are always-, like, I remember a classic Celebrity Big Brother argument, John McCririck wanted his Diet Coke. He complained about his Diet Coke the whole time.

AJ Odudu

There's the Diet Coke.

James Acaster

David's dead.

AJ Odudu

David's-, oh my gosh.

Ed Gamble

Well, that was nothing to do with food, but-,

AJ Odudu

That was nothing to do with food, but it was iconic.

Ed Gamble

Well, it's the best TV show moment of all times and I'm including, like, succession.

AJ Odudu

It was so good, and I just remember Nicky, bless her, RIP, but she was amazing when she was, like, 'Who is she? Who is she? Where did you find her?' And then just complaining about, you know, 'She



just eats all of the cornflakes, like, the mountain of cornflakes that's in that bowl.' And you're, like, 'Oh my gosh, babe, chill out. It's literally cornflakes.' But they are, they're so hungry-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, it sends people mad.

James Acaster

I do that with cornflakes.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

I think cornflakes you've got to have a big mountain of cornflakes in the bowl.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Why, because it melts down?

James Acaster

It's just great, like, I want to eat loads of cornflakes, so, I like piling them up, and then you put the milk over, maybe a bit of sugar.

Ed Gamble

First out the house.

AJ Odudu

What? Get out.

Ed Gamble

He'd be absolutely first out the house.

James Acaster

Yes, I imagine I would, but-,

Ed Gamble

'James, why are you eating all those cornflakes? You've eaten everyone's cornflakes for the entire week in one bowl.'

James Acaster

'Because it's great, because I like a big bowl. I feel like a big bowl. So, a small bowl of cornflakes doesn't hit the spot.'



AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh, you'd be amazing in the house.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you would be actually.

AJ Odudu

Already, I know you'd be iconic.

James Acaster

Do you know what, AJ, it's genuinely one of the things I have to live with in life is knowing that I would be the best on reality TV, and yet I'm too up myself to do it. It's a real shame because I know I'd be excellent value.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Strictly.

AJ Odudu

You would be.

James Acaster

Strictly, I'd be brilliant. I'd be brilliant on Traitors, anything, any of that stuff. I could make a whole living just doing all those shows, but sadly I'm too stuck up. Too pompous.

AJ Odudu

Oh. How do we bring you back down to earth?

Ed Gamble

Yes, knock you down a peg or two.

James Acaster

It's just, like, I mean, sadly, because I'm a Capricorn it means I'm hugely successful which means that I'm never going to do those shows.

AJ Odudu

Yes. You don't need to.

James Acaster

But, if my career crashes, if someone can somehow figure out how to bring a Capricorn down, then I get desperate, then you might see me in the house yet.

Ed Gamble

Well, the only person I know who could bring a Capricorn down is an Aquarius.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, you're going to have to do some work there, AJ.

AJ Odudu

Head to head.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

I don't ever want to bring anyone down though. It's not my vibe. I just want to bring them up. Everyone can be up up together.

James Acaster

Well, then I'll never be on those shows.

AJ Odudu

Oh.

James Acaster

And if I was ever on those shows, I tell you, you think McCririck gets angry when someone steals his Diet Coke, I'd be furious and I'd have a story to tell them as well about how much Diet Coke means to me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Still or sparkling water?

AJ Odudu

Still, but it's actually tap water still.

James Acaster

Your preference is tap water?



AJ Odudu

Yes, well, especially Blackburn. So, I'm born and raised in Blackburn and the water, honestly, is delicious. In Blackburn, Lancashire, that water coming out of the taps is from the Pennines darlings.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

So, it's stunning, it's delicious, and all through my youth growing up I was, like, 'I just don't get bottled water.' Why in the UK is anyone paying for water? Unless it's flavoured or sparkling or whatever, I, kind of, get that, but I still am, like, 'I don't get it as a concept.' And then I moved to London. We've got hard water in London and you can taste the difference, and I am, like, 'Oh my word.' This tap water is disgusting in comparison to Blackburn tap water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But I've got a filter, a filter through the tap. So, it's somewhat filtered, but still just as it comes. I still stand by the logic. I'm, like-,

Ed Gamble

But you want for your dream meal Blackburn tap water?

AJ Odudu

Blackburn tap water. It's got to be from my mum's kitchen's tap.

James Acaster

Yes, I completely get this. I mean, when Ed and I did our dream menus we, kind of, did loop holes on the water course like naughty little boys, but if I was going to choose the water it would be the water from my girlfriend's mum's kitchen tap in Salford, and I'd have that, because that is delicious.

AJ Odudu

Oh.

Ed Gamble

You know the individual tap doesn't-, both of you need to readjust what you're talking about here.

James Acaster

What are you talking about?



Ed Gamble

The actual tap doesn't make a difference-

AJ Odudu

It does-

James Acaster

Does make a difference.

Ed Gamble

The area, I'm fully on board, makes a difference.

James Acaster

The tap-

Ed Gamble

The tap, you can't go-

James Acaster

What are you talking about?

Ed Gamble

'The tap in my girlfriend's mum's kitchen.' Because what if she moves? What if she moves to London?

AJ Odudu

Okay.

James Acaster

Yes, but, like, in Salford. I added in Salford didn't I?

Ed Gamble

Yes, but it is someone else's tap.

James Acaster

Did everyone hear that?

AJ Odudu

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

That's someone else's tap.

AJ Odudu

I hear you.



James Acaster

Thank you.

AJ Odudu

But I was thinking my dream meal, you know, my dream water from my dream scenario and it is-

Ed Gamble

In your mum's kitchen.

AJ Odudu

It's in my mum's kitchen.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, I understand that.

AJ Odudu

Do you know what I mean.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It's genuinely the first thing I do when I go back home to see my mum, I'm, like, 'Oh mum, I'm back.' And instead of popping the kettle on, I just head straight for the tap.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

And when I come back as well, I always take my massive water bottles and bring Blackburn water back.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

AJ Odudu

It's like I've been to Lourdes. Have you ever heard of Lourdes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Roman Catholic. If you're Roman Catholic Christian, you'll have heard of Lourdes, it's where people go to get holy water, have miracles performed on them and cure themselves from ailments, right. So, I've



never been, but growing up I went to a load of religious primary schools and churches and whatever, and that was-, that was where we'd go, and people would bring back gallons of holy water.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

And that is what I'm like, coming back from Blackburn I feel like I'm carrying holy water.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But it's Blackburn tap water. But it does, and when it runs out in London I'm like, 'Oh, gutted.'

James Acaster

Get a priest to bless your mum's kitchen tap?

AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh.

James Acaster

And then it would be holy water as well.

AJ Odudu

Then it would-,

James Acaster

Then you've got both.

AJ Odudu

Then my mum's would become Lourdes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But then more people are going to go there, right?

James Acaster

To your mum's house.

Ed Gamble

Feels like you're going to have a queue of, like, people with ailments all the way around the corner.



AJ Odudu

She's going to have a massive water bill.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, yes. I don't think we'll talk about that. Look, I grew up in London and I've got to say, I think the rest of you your water's too soft.

James Acaster

Not true.

AJ Odudu

What?

James Acaster

Not true. Doesn't know what he's talking about.

Ed Gamble

I've got family who live up north and when I go and visit them and I have a shower, I come out of there, my hair, I look like a chihuahua puppy. It's too fluffy.

James Acaster

Yes, well, you've been standing in there doing a full shit, so, that would be one.

Ed Gamble

I'm not going to do the shit in the shower in Big Brother because you shit in the toilet and then immediately get in the shower to wash my butt.

James Acaster

Well, sorry.

Ed Gamble

The water is too soft.

James Acaster

Still, I'd say you're still in the shower for too long because you're washing the shit off your ass, so, no wonder your hair is all fluffy.

Ed Gamble

It's too fluffy. I come out looking to fluffy.

AJ Odudu

Oh my word, no, I think you're wrong there. I think you're just not used to the good stuff. That's it.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I think that's it.

AJ Odudu

Do you know the worst thing is though, right, I don't always drink filtered water and my houseplants do get filtered water.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

The houseplants are fussier than me, let me tell you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

They die if I give them London water, and you actually do see the hard residue on the soil sometimes and I'm, like, 'I am putting that inside my body, what is in this London water?'

Ed Gamble

Wow. Yes. Have you ever tried giving your plants the Blackburn water?

AJ Odudu

I haven't actually because-

James Acaster

Grow all the way around the walls like from Jumanji.

Ed Gamble

Mate, that's exactly what I was going to say.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh, they did a fist pump.

James Acaster

Little fist pump.

Ed Gamble

Jumanji, this is perfect.



James Acaster

Wait, there's no real need-

Ed Gamble

I can't even be annoyed that you got there before me.

James Acaster

There's no need for us both to be on this at this point.

Ed Gamble

We're joke brothers.

James Acaster

We're joke brothers. We both share the same mind. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, AJ Odudu? Poppadoms or bread?

AJ Odudu

I'm going poppadoms because it's lighter. It's crispier and before a main meal, I'm very against the notion of filling myself up with loads of bread. It's too heavy but I love bread, don't get me wrong, love, love, love bread but it wouldn't be in a three-course meal scenario. I love poppadoms with, like, a chutney with it as well that's nice. What's the mint one that you get from the Indian restaurant?

James Acaster

Raita.

AJ Odudu

Ah, that's gorgy.

James Acaster

Yes, gorgy?

Ed Gamble

Gorgy.

AJ Odudu

Gorgy. Gorgina.

Ed Gamble

Gorgina. That's gorgina that is.

James Acaster

Yes, I love it.



AJ Odudu

Gorgina. Lovely.

James Acaster

So, you want just those two dips, the chutney and the raita? That's it?

AJ Odudu

That's it. That's it, nothing else. I don't want any of the onions. I don't want anything else and actually, two poppadoms specifically. That's tops actually. I'd probably have one and a half.

Ed Gamble

Because you just end up filling yourself up.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes, and I don't want to be full before my meal. Honestly, when I go to restaurants as well sometimes with my mates, and everyone's like, 'Oh, would you like bread with that?' I get the bread and I'm like, 'Why are we doing the bread?' We're about to get a meal with sides, desert. There's going to be no room for desert if we have half a loaf of bread before the meal.

James Acaster

But what if it's really good bread that's worth it? Like, when it's so good. There are some restaurants where I'm like, 'We have to get the bread here. It's so good.'

Ed Gamble

AJ is giving you the look.

AJ Odudu

No.

James Acaster

I'm getting the look. I'm getting-,

Ed Gamble

You're getting evicted.

James Acaster

I'm getting mama Odudu look.

AJ Odudu

What's your favourite bread?



James Acaster

Okay. There's a whole bunch I like, I guess. Like, I've chosen on this before this fluffy, kind of, pizza bread from Alter. I like Guinness bread.

AJ Odudu

It's not, oh, they're quite heavy Guinness breads.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

That's too heavy. That's like the main meal.

James Acaster

I like it.

AJ Odudu

This is what I'm saying it's too heavy. It's too stodgy, it's like, too much and then obviously you can't just have bread in it's own, right? So, it's like, I love salty butter. Like, really salty, I love it and then if that bread is warm, I do like it when the bread is served warm. Look, guilty as charged, especially as you've got the salty butter and you just spread it, a thick layer and it just melts into the bread and it is so delicious. I mean, it's like having a crumpet bread cake. It's just, like, delicious but it's filled me up. That's my issue with it. So, I can't have it in my dream meal.

James Acaster

No, it's fine. The poppadoms is great. I mean, I love poppadoms. Are you going to, well, I mean we've seen you be mother already today because you shot me that look but are you going to be mother and smash the poppadoms?

AJ Odudu

No. I break it off piece by piece and I never understand when people are just smashing through poppadoms. I'm like, 'Excuse me, what sort of etiquette is this?'

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It's not right. There's loads of crumbs when you smash through it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Sure.



AJ Odudu

And I don't, yes.

James Acaster

You can't dip the crumbs.

Ed Gamble

You're losing some crumbs there.

AJ Odudu

We're losing, we're losing edibility once we get to crumbs because how are you eating the crumbs?

Ed Gamble

Do you want some salty butter to spread on your poppadoms, just so you don't miss out on that?

AJ Odudu

No. I don't want it. I don't want salty butter there.

Ed Gamble

Okay. Fair enough. Just good to offer these things.

AJ Odudu

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Because they don't often in Indian restaurants they wont often offer you salted butter to spread on your poppadoms.

James Acaster

Bring along sandwich fillings and stuff for you.

AJ Odudu

Can I have a bit of tuna mayo on my poppadom?

James Acaster

I wouldn't say no to that.

AJ Odudu

Yes, that would be quite nice.

James Acaster

Like, a tuna melt but with poppadoms.



Ed Gamble

Oh yes.

AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh, that'd be so nice. Not, I don't think the melt bit I just think the tuna.

James Acaster

I think the melt bit. I think tuna mayo, cheese, poppadom either side.

Ed Gamble

But then how are you melting it?

James Acaster

Just zap it under the grill.

Ed Gamble

Zap it under the grill.

AJ Odudu

Zap it. Just zap.

Ed Gamble

You could zap the tuna and cheese under the grill and then put it on the poppadom.

AJ Odudu

I think that's too many textures you see because I think once you get into chewy territory with crispy, it's getting a bit messy but if you have like tuna mayo on the corner, maybe a cheeky little cucumber on top nicely sliced and then, like, the poppadom on the bottom almost like a pizza poppadom, that in your gob, ten, ten. Chef's kiss.

James Acaster

So, do you want that then? If that's ten, ten?

AJ Odudu

Do you know what? I do. I do.

James Acaster

So, you'd like the tuna mayo with cucumber poppadom?

AJ Odudu

Yes. Yes, yes, yes. I love that. Scrap the chutney. Scrap the raita and let's just have tuna mayo on the poppadoms.



Ed Gamble

Perfect.

AJ Odudu

We've invented a new thing.

James Acaster

Yes, that feels good.

AJ Odudu

Do you think it's going to catch on?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I think at least one person listening to the podcast will do it.

Ed Gamble

Well, No Context Off Menu runs a Twitter account, normally if someone invents a dish they will then try it.

AJ Odudu

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Well, tell us how it is please.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Your dream starter.

Ed Gamble

Oh no.



AJ Odudu

I'm just giggling because given the conversation we've just had, this makes no sense but my dream starter is home made cheese on toast.

James Acaster

Wow. Here we go.

Ed Gamble

Well, now I can-, no, it makes more sense to me now because you don't want to fill yourself up on bread before your cheese on toast, right?

AJ Odudu

It's too much.

Ed Gamble

That would be insanity.

AJ Odudu

It would be insanity, yes, but I love cheese on toast so much. I love, I love toast actually and any time I'd get back from school growing up, so, we'd have stew. There's always rice and stew in any Nigerian household there's always rice and stew in the fridge and the stew is, like, tomato based, there's meat in it, it's a little bit spicy, it's delicious, right? The flavour just gets better and better the longer it's in the fridge. So, that would kind of be my snack. My mum would always have rice in there to have with the stew but I loved toast and stew together, dip it, it's amazing. Like, oh, it's so good but that being said, leave the rice and stew in the fridge for the moment because cheese on toast is my dream starter and it needs to be a really strong mature cheddar.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It needs to be thinly sliced, not too thin.

James Acaster

I knew he wouldn't like it. As soon as you said thinly sliced, I just saw, I knew it was going to happen but out of my peripheral vision, after he'd been like, 'Yes,' to the mature cheddar, as soon as you said thinly sliced I saw him go-,

AJ Odudu

Not too thin.

James Acaster

He didn't like it. He didn't like it.



AJ Odudu

I don't like it-,

Ed Gamble

I didn't like it.

AJ Odudu

I don't like it dripping over the edges.

Ed Gamble

Oh come on.

AJ Odudu

Getting your grill all messy. No, I don't like it.

Ed Gamble

Grow up AJ.

AJ Odudu

It needs to be, it needs to melt perfectly. Do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

So, I would get, like, brown bread with the seeded bits in there.

Ed Gamble

What the fuck?

AJ Odudu

You don't like that as well?

Ed Gamble

Seeded, I'm happy with seeded.

AJ Odudu

Are you joking?

Ed Gamble

No, I'm happy with seeded. Seeded is good. I was back on board with by the seeds but when it was brown bread I was like, 'Come on.'



AJ Odudu

Seeded brown bread.

James Acaster

I love it. I love it.

AJ Odudu

Thickly sliced.

James Acaster

I was raised on brown bread.

AJ Odudu

Oh lovely, lovely. I had you down as a sourdough guy?

James Acaster

No, I didn't discover sourdough until about five years ago.

AJ Odudu

Why is it all the rage now? I don't get sourdough.

James Acaster

No, it's nice.

AJ Odudu

That's another thing that I don't understand because put that in the toaster, ten seconds too long and you're chewing on cement.

James Acaster

Sure.

AJ Odudu

It's so hard. It's like chewing a brick, scratching the sides of my mouth. It's just not good.

James Acaster

No, no, it's too much.

Ed Gamble

It's very difficult to find the point where it's correctly toasted.

AJ Odudu

Exactly.



Ed Gamble

Because if it's under-toasted-

AJ Odudu

It's bread.

Ed Gamble

It's too chewy. Yes, it's bread.

AJ Odudu

It's chewy bread.

Ed Gamble

It's bread.

AJ Odudu

And then if it's over-toasted it's just rock solid. It's like eating tiles, I don't want it. It's not nice. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

So, we're back to our thickly sliced, seeded bread, in the toaster.

James Acaster

Ah, now, now I have a question.

AJ Odudu

Yes, hit me.

James Acaster

I was fine with the thinly sliced cheese but now you've said it's thickly sliced bread and for me, that combo, that scares me.

AJ Odudu

The ratio is off for you? It's not thin, it's not, like, too thin. It's not, like, see-through. So, you can't see, once melted, you can't see the toast.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.



AJ Odudu

But, it's not dripping. It's not so thick that it's dripped over the edge. I want to see the crust as well. So, about 3mm.

James Acaster

Of cheese?

Ed Gamble

That's the cheese?

AJ Odudu

That's the cheese.

James Acaster

How much bread?

Ed Gamble

How many millimetres of bread?

AJ Odudu

I'd say about five.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

Oh okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's alright. Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Oh, yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

And then, I think, I mean listen my maths is all off. I can already tell because 5mm isn't thick.

James Acaster

No.

AJ Odudu

But it's thick. It all makes sense in the toaster.



James Acaster

Okay.

AJ Odudu

If you take it out the toaster and you put salted thick butter on there, loads of it, it's drenched in salty butter.

James Acaster

Yes, of course.

AJ Odudu

Then we put the mature cheddar cheese all over it. We melt that, we get it out. I don't want any of the sauces on there, although I do like that sometimes to just treat myself, makes it feel like a pizza, doesn't it? And then, it does, doesn't it?

James Acaster

No.

AJ Odudu

And then, we have just to like if I'm feeling healthy, I feel like, right, you know those oblong tomatoes?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Those, cut in half, face-down. They've not been under the grill, they're cold. You put them face-down about three slices on each half of bread.

James Acaster

Yes, that is like a mini pizza.

Ed Gamble

That's like a mini pizza, yes.

James Acaster

That is.

AJ Odudu

It is.

James Acaster

Yes, that's proper mini pizza.



AJ Odudu

It's like an upside-down pizza because the tomato is on the top and the cheese is on the bottom.

James Acaster

Yes, it is actually.

Ed Gamble

Would you ever stray into the air of Marmite on cheese on toast?

AJ Odudu

No.

Ed Gamble

No?

AJ Odudu

No, no, no.

James Acaster

Lea & Perrins?

AJ Odudu

Yes, love that.

James Acaster

Henderson's?

AJ Odudu

Yes, like that?

Ed Gamble

Mustard?

James Acaster

Even though they're the same. I know you're not from Sheffield but you know, you could say on the podcast that Henderson's and Lea & Perrins are exactly the same, can't you?

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

You can confirm that they're the same.



AJ Odudu

Yes, I mean, it's all by-the-by isn't it really?

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Just so people know.

AJ Odudu

But I do like a bit of Lea & Perrins on my toast but again, that's just a bit of a- sometimes, do you know what I mean? It's just a bit of a treat if I'm feeling a bit saucy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But otherwise, it's just cheese. Cheese and tomato.

James Acaster

Yes, lovely.

Ed Gamble

I don't think we've ever had cheese on toast.

James Acaster

I'm trying to think if we have or not and I'm very that you've chosen it. When I first got into cheese on toast, when I was a kid it was an absolute life changer.

Ed Gamble

It's a revelation.

James Acaster

It's like this is worth being alive for.

AJ Odudu

Right. This is what life's all about.

James Acaster

Whatever else life throws at me, at least I've got to taste this.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Absolutely brilliant. I went through a Marmite and cheese on toast phase. Lea & Perrins and cheese on toast phase. I probably chucked a few tomatoes on there. Definitely went through a big olive and when I discovered olives and got into olives, they were going on the cheese on toast every time.

AJ Odudu

That's interesting.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

You're going all the toppings on there, aren't you?

James Acaster

I just think get creative, you know?

Ed Gamble

Capricorn.

AJ Odudu

Oh, I love that. I think that is it. That's the message today. We've got to be more creative with our toast.

James Acaster

Yes. Would you ever try another cheese on the toast? Would you ever do a Stilton or a Brie?

AJ Odudu

Not on toast. I love Brie, I love Stilton, I love cheese but not on toast. Classic cheese on toast let's just keep it mature cheddar. Do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

So, get quite creative but not too creative?

AJ Odudu

Yes. I don't even want Red Leicester on it, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

You don't want that, horrible.

James Acaster

Looks nice.



AJ Odudu

I like it yellow. I think yellow and red, beautiful. Orange and red, it's getting a bit wild. Visually, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Clashes a bit.

AJ Odudu

Yes, and you've got to see. You've got to taste with your eyes first before you taste with your mouth, haven't you?

James Acaster

Yes, you do. First bites with the eyes.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

I like that you specified home-made as well. It has to be made by you?

AJ Odudu

It has been made by me. Also, my really good mate Temby makes a banging cheese on toast, honestly. She's the only other person I feel like has got it absolutely spot on.

James Acaster

And what does Temby do that's different to other people or does she not let you see?

AJ Odudu

She doesn't let me see, it's just the, she's better at presentation. I'd say that. I go in halves, she goes in triangles.

Ed Gamble

That's why you get on.

AJ Odudu

She gets a beautiful, she somehow gets a texture of the cheese that I've not quite mastered. It's a bit brown in places and yellow in others and golden in others and it's just, she's really good.

James Acaster

Is she blow-torching the top do you reckon?

AJ Odudu

Oh yes, maybe.



Ed Gamble

It's a good idea.

James Acaster

I think she's blow-torching that before she brings it out the kitchen.

AJ Odudu

Do you know what, sometimes, I have that as dinner.

James Acaster

Yes, that's your full dinner, cheese on toast?

AJ Odudu

And I just think, you're going through the process of preparing, you know, cutting the chopping boards out for the tomatoes, do you know what I mean? So, it does feel like you've treated yourself.

Ed Gamble

You're cooking, in a way.

AJ Odudu

In a way. It's like elite toast making. Also, in home economics at St Bedes Roman Catholic High School, which is the name of my high school, in Blackburn.

James Acaster

Glad to hear that it is yours.

AJ Odudu

In home economics, that was the first thing that we got taught to make.

James Acaster

Wow, yes.

AJ Odudu

Toast in a grill and a cup of tea, which I was very baffled about because by that I was like, 'We're making rice and stew, in our house. So, what are you guys doing? What you can't make toast in a toaster? Why are we doing it in a grill?'

Ed Gamble

It's an easy day at school for you that though, isn't it?

AJ Odudu

Ah it was lovely. It was like, 'On your to-do list for tomorrow, like, must bring in one tea bag.'



Ed Gamble

You had to bring your own tea bag in?

AJ Odudu

We had to bring in our own tea bag and we had to bring in two slices of bread.

Ed Gamble

What? They're not providing a tea bag and two slices of bread?

AJ Odudu

They would provide the milk.

Ed Gamble

Oh good for them.

AJ Odudu

They would provide the sugar and they would provide the butter.

James Acaster

Cheese?

AJ Odudu

They didn't provide cheese, jam or any other toppings, no. No, they didn't.

Ed Gamble

What would happen if you turned up without the bread?

AJ Odudu

That was it. You had to sit out of the whole thing.

James Acaster

Put a tea bag in the toaster.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

For your main course?

AJ Odudu

Oh, so tricky. I'm thinking a dish called starch with ogbono soup and it would need to be cooked in Nigeria on my mum's veranda.



James Acaster

Love it. Now, I thought your mum lived in Blackburn.

AJ Odudu

She does but she does have a gaff in Nigeria. Yes, go mum. She did it. Basically, a lot of Nigerian cuisine that I grew up on was, like, you'd have a carb-based thing like grounded rice or pounded yam and that's quite plain tasting and then you'd dip it in a really rich soup or sauce basically, which has a lot of meat in and fish and it's just so flavoursome it's delicious and we grew up on this thing called starch, which is like yellow and jiggly but it's really nice. It's hot and really nice. My mum would make that and we'd pair it with all sorts of different soups. It's really delicious with pepper soup but it's also really nice with ogbono soup but when I got to Lagos and asked for this dish, they didn't even know what I was on about. I was really confused because I was like, 'Am I more Nigerian all of a sudden that I know this exotic food that no one in the land knows about?' I was so, so, so confused and then when I was on WhatsApp call to my mum, I was like, 'Mum they don't know what this thing is, like, am I saying it wrong? Like, am I using your pronunciation? I don't get it,' and she said, 'No, it's more common in the south of Nigeria in Delta State,' that's where we're from, very far from Lagos actually. So, it makes sense.

James Acaster

So, have you been there and got it since?

AJ Odudu

Yes, and it's delicious.

James Acaster

It's great?

AJ Odudu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What's in this soup? How is the soup prepared?

AJ Odudu

I, to be honest, guilty as charged, I have no idea about this. I don't know how this soup is prepared, it just comes to me.

Ed Gamble

Can you describe the taste?

James Acaster

Meat in it?



AJ Odudu

There's meat in it. Well, whatever meat you want in it. I tend to have, like, lamb in it and fish. Like, a white fish basically. You just have to hack through the bone. We just deal with bone and skin and tails in our soups. Just, like, 'Whatever,' do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

But you don't like pistachios crumbled up on your ice cream?

AJ Odudu

No, no. Well, you're eating it with your hands. You eat with hands. Do you know what I mean? In Nigeria you eat with your hands so you can just pick things out. Whereas, here I'm like, 'How am I going to pick out the pistachio from the ice cream with a fork?'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It's too much. It doesn't make sense. Cutlery is very difficult for me at the best of times, but whatever, but it's delicious. It's spicy. I can't really describe the taste, you have to, it has be tasted to be appreciated, do you know what I mean?

Ed Gamble

Is it hot spicy?

AJ Odudu

It's like a hot spice but on the spice-o-meter because I've got quite a high spice threshold. So, I'd say for me it was quite mild but for you it might be off the charts. Do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Have you seen other people have it and been like, 'You didn't warn me this was hot,' and you're like-,

AJ Odudu

Yes, it's a lot of fanning of the mouth and a lot of cold water.

Ed Gamble

Which doesn't help by the way. Anyone who's doing that out there. Fanning your mouth absolutely doesn't help as a reaction to spice.

James Acaster

Doesn't help at all.

AJ Odudu

Cooling down, it doesn't-,



Ed Gamble

Yes, not at all.

James Acaster

Nothing helps.

AJ Odudu

Apart from a glass of milk apparently but who wants milk with a meal?

James Acaster

Sure.

AJ Odudu

Doesn't make sense. Messes up the taste buds, let's leave it out.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

I was torn between that dish and chips, cheese and gravy.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Very different.

James Acaster

I guess once you've had cheese on toast.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Following it with chips, cheese and gravy is a bit-,

AJ Odudu

It's too much.

James Acaster

You're a bit too much in the same, although I don't know. Maybe just a big blow out meal where that's your vibe and you're just basically doing that over and over and you would never do it again.



AJ Odudu

Literally, I did so much sports at school growing up that I just ate so much it was absolutely an incredible time in my life actually when I think back because I cannot eat that amount of food anymore without severe consequences but every single day, I used to have a slice of pizza with chips, cheese and gravy, a chocolate chip cookie, and bottle of limeade. Every day, for five years and that was just my lunch.

James Acaster

Just in case anyone listening wasn't aware of where AJ is from, Blackburn. No one else is having a bottle of limeade for lunch.

Ed Gamble

A bottle of limeade, slice of pizza, chips.

James Acaster

That is the most Blackburn thing I've ever heard is a bottle of limeade for lunch. Limeade or cherryade.

AJ Odudu

Yes, limeade and it was one of those Panda pops. Do you remember them? So good.

James Acaster

Limeade and cherryade for me, they're the best ones. Limeade and, like, I haven't thought about limeade for years.

AJ Odudu

I loved it so much.

James Acaster

Until you just said it.

AJ Odudu

And if I'd get in to dinner late, I've made friends with the dinner ladies because back in the day I did used to be on detention a little bit.

James Acaster

What?

AJ Odudu

Yes, I know.

James Acaster

You?



AJ Odudu

But I was actually really good but it was just too chatty.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

And this voice it really carries. Like, I'd deny it and be like, 'Sir, it wasn't me,' and they'd be like, 'Right, come on, you've answered back and you were talking, detention,' and I'd be like, 'Ah, for crying out loud.' Lines didn't really work with me, so, they'd get me to, like, empty the bins and stuff. So, the dinner ladies in our school were also the cleaners. So, then I'd become really good mates with the cleaners because they'd be like, 'Oh, we get to go home early, AJ's been on detention. She's emptied all these bins.' So, Tina would just save me the bottle of limeade.

Ed Gamble

That's nice of her.

AJ Odudu

Sometimes, she'd be like, 'AJ, don't you worry.'

Ed Gamble

Because you were doing her job for her.

AJ Odudu

Yes. 'Limeade, it's on the house,' and I'd like, 'Cheers, Tina.' It's so good.

James Acaster

The name of every dinner lady ever as well. 'Thank you Tina.'

Ed Gamble

'Thank you, Tina, and Janet.'

James Acaster

Yes, of course, and Doris.

Ed Gamble

I love the idea as well that for a while they were like, 'You've got to do lines, AJ' and then eventually they were like, 'Just empty the fucking bins.'

James Acaster

No point getting her to do lines, she wont do it.

Ed Gamble

'Just empty the bins or something.'



AJ Odudu

'Just empty the bins. She's a lost cause. She wants to talk. She wants to talk, let her talk whilst emptying the bins.'

James Acaster

To the dinner ladies. Hustling herself some free limeade.

Dream side dish?

AJ Odudu

Creamed spinach. Don't you just feel so posh when you're having creamed spinach in a restaurant?

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

And my favourite creamed spinach at the moment is on Dean Street Town House.

Ed Gamble

Nice place.

AJ Odudu

A very swanky establishment in the heart of London, Soho.

James Acaster

The amount that Ben is laughing this episode. No, it is funny but at things like, 'in the heart of London, Soho.'

Ed Gamble

It's really, yes.

James Acaster

He's gone.

AJ Odudu

He's on the floor. I don't know why, but I just remember, right, so when I moved to London everything is just, oh god so expensive. It's actually criminal, like, how expensive things are.

James Acaster

They should be locked up.

Ed Gamble

Yes. £15 for a bottle of limeade.



AJ Odudu

Come on.

James Acaster

You can get them free off the dinner lady back in Blackburn. What are they £15 here for?

AJ Odudu

But, like, a lot. I remember going to Dean Street Townhouse for the first time many moons ago and I had, it was like a TV meeting. So, it's one of those meetings where you're not paying but also, it was one of my first meetings so I didn't know the paying etiquette.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

I thought I was paying. So, I would quite often genuinely pick the cheapest thing on the menu, even if I didn't like it and be like, 'I am going to go for what I can afford, which is this,' and it's usually like burgers and chips and it's like in a really swanky place but I remember I just was like, 'Oh, I'm going to get,' what's that really cheap steak? As in, like, the really thin one.

Ed Gamble

Minute steak?

AJ Odudu

It's like a minute steak.

James Acaster

Butler steak?

AJ Odudu

Right, so, I ordered that and I was like, 'Right, I'm going to get that and that will come with a side, so lovely,' and then they were like, 'Do you want a side with that?' I said, 'Does it not, what does it come with?' And they said, 'Nothing.' I couldn't believe my ears. I couldn't believe it. I was like, 'Wait a minute, this place is robbing people blind.'

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

You're just presenting people with a piece of meat with nothing on the side, I had to pay extra for that. Anyway, I treated myself to a £5 portion of creamed spinach and I've never looked back since. Stunning.



James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Made to perfection. It comes in this little, like, oval dish. All those posh places it comes separately, doesn't it? Chips has a pot, spinach has a pot, your meat has a plate. Like, everything's separated it's not just slapped on one plate like in a Wetherspoon's, do you know what I mean? Nothing's touching and you sort of have to scoop it out one at a time as you so please but I love it.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

It's so nice.

James Acaster

Do you think, because £5-

AJ Odudu

Spenny.

James Acaster

I always think there's not enough spinach. Like, I haven't been to, I think I have been to where you're talking about actually but I don't know if I've had the creamed spinach but every time I've ordered spinach, like wilted spinach, creamed spinach whatever, I always think there's not enough.

AJ Odudu

Well, it's tricky with spinach, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

It's the nature.

AJ Odudu

Because have you ever made it at home?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

You will buy the biggest pack of spinach and you'll put it all in your frying pan and it will just cover one slice of toast with your eggs and avocado.



Ed Gamble

That's going on toast as well, is it? Everything you cooking at home, whack it on some toast for god's sake.

AJ Odudu

Of course. Honestly, just whack it on.

Ed Gamble

No, you're right. Spinach is mad. It's mad.

AJ Odudu

It is mad. It just disappeared, it evaporates. So, I'm like to be honest, they must have used about three gallons of spinach in order, 3kg of spinach in order to get that little pot.

James Acaster

Yes. I think it should be bottomless though.

AJ Odudu

Bottomless spinach?

James Acaster

For a fiver I want bottomless spinach. I want them to just keep bringing them out.

Ed Gamble

How much could you eat of that though?

AJ Odudu

It's not a Toby-,

James Acaster

I could eat at least three of them.

AJ Odudu

It's not a Toby Carvery though, you can't have bottomless of that.

Ed Gamble

Creamed spinach, I love creamed spinach but it's so rich that I'll only get through one oval.

AJ Odudu

Oh really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



AJ Odudu

Yes. It is rich but that's what I like. It tastes expensive.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Do you know what I mean? It's like we've made it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

We've absolutely made it. You get to the end of that meeting meal and you're like, 'I've ordered really humbly because I obviously am going to get my card out in a second, use the bar job money to pay for this,' and then they get it and you think, 'Oh bloody hell, I should've absolutely, I should've eaten more.'

Ed Gamble

You knew for the next time though, right?

AJ Odudu

Yes, I knew for the next time.

James Acaster

Surely nowadays, you know they're getting it, right?

AJ Odudu

They don't always get it. Sometimes I get it, yes.

James Acaster

Who are you meeting with?

AJ Odudu

I know. Execs, stingy.

James Acaster

And they're not getting it? Execs aren't getting it?

AJ Odudu

Stingy execs. Making me pay my way, how dare they?

James Acaster

It is appalling.



Ed Gamble

We've talked about creamed spinach a bit on the podcast before and I always bang on about this the Hawksmoor creamed spinach.

AJ Odudu

Oh, that's nice.

James Acaster

I thought you were about to say Hawksmoor and then Ed was going to be really delighted.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's good stuff.

AJ Odudu

That is delicious. Have you ever had a roast dinner there?

Ed Gamble

No, I've not had a roast there before actually.

AJ Odudu

Yes, it's quite nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Very delicious.

Ed Gamble

They know what they're doing.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

We got sent some boxes in lockdown from them and the creamed spinach came in a big plastic pouch but loads of it and just-,



AJ Odudu

Oh, industrial sized?

Ed Gamble

Yes, just sat there eating a big bowl of that. Loads of nutmeg in it as well. It's really good.

AJ Odudu

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

It's good it works.

AJ Odudu

Does it? You're nodding along as well, James.

James Acaster

Ed had told me that he just sat there and ate the whole thing, and I was like, 'Ed's got problems.' And then the next day I was texting him, like, 'I just do it, I just take the whole thing.' Just sat and watched whatever it was in lockdown, Squid Game or something.

AJ Odudu

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

What have I just watched, in front of Squid Game, ate all the cream spinach. Your dream drink, AJ? Looks like there's a lot of things competing in your head at the minute.

AJ Odudu

There's a lot of things competing. As you know, I love water, so there's Blackburn water as a contender.

Ed Gamble

No, come on, Blackburn water can't be a contender for dream drink. Surely not, AJ.

AJ Odudu

Come on, it is nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

AJ Odudu

But, do you know what, I do love-

James Acaster

Like holy water.



Ed Gamble

Limeade.

AJ Odudu

Yes, limeade, limeade could be in the mix.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

Little Panda Pop.

James Acaster

From the dinner lady.

AJ Odudu

Beautiful. I love it when you go-, you're going on holiday.

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

You're catching an early flight, and nothing says a holiday like popping into the airport Wetherspoons and getting a little glass of fizz, something nice, do you know what I mean? Usually if I do that at the airport, I like a rum and coke or a little glass of Prosecco, and I love that, and I think, 'Blooming heck, it's 11 a.m. And I'm having a drink, I am on holiday.' Like the holiday has started in the airport. That's very exciting, that feels like a dream in itself because it's just, honestly, it conjures up so many positive memories. I also love pina colodas, and have you tasted the M&M pina colodas out of the tin?

James Acaster

No?

AJ Odudu

They're so good. Like, perfect for a picnic in the park or just, like, a journey on a train.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

Really lovely, so I like a pina colada. My favourite drink at the moment is a margarita. People think that's quite basic, but, actually, I think it's quite bougie, because I feel like you have to have a quite an acquired taste to really like the taste of margarita and also I always specify the salty rim. I really like a salty rim all the way around. All the way around. There's some places, I recently was in New York, sometimes they just put the salt just down the side of the glass, and I was like, 'Don't make me lick the



side of the glass before taking a swig of this margarita. Just put it on the entirety of the rim and I can drink it normally, but you're making me glass lick, and it's just not okay.'

James Acaster

You're rotating it, as you're drinking it, all the way around the rim.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because sometimes they'll do, like, a half-rim as well.

AJ Odudu

No.

Ed Gamble

No? Just, if you want a salty rim you should get it all the way around.

AJ Odudu

All the way round, unless you specify. The standard margarita, in my opinion, should come with a salty rim all the way around the entire circumference of the glass should be salty, unless otherwise stated.

Ed Gamble

Here's an idea for you, if we're, you know, I feel like we invented the poppadom course, why not this? A margarita but rather than fresh lime juice, you use a Panda Pop limeade?

AJ Odudu

I think that would be disgusting. I really do.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

AJ Odudu

I really do, what would a Panda Pop mix well with? I think a white rum and a Panda Pop would do really nicely-

James Acaster

Like a limeade?

AJ Odudu

Like a limeade with a Wray & Nephew, I think that would take the edge off Wray & Nephew. That would be quite nice. Or just a Malibu. Do you know what I mean?



Ed Gamble

Yes, Panda Pop and Malibu.

AJ Odudu

Very sugary, very sweet, very very sweet, but worth it.

Ed Gamble

So for this drink for the drinks course, would you like to be in an airport just before you're about to go on holiday? Is that the feeling that you want to evoke when you're having this?

AJ Odudu

I love that feeling, and I do, I love it, I love the Wetherspoons, I'm just like, 'It's nice.'

James Acaster

And why the Wetherspoons? Because, obviously there's a lot of options in the airport, places to drink, but if it's Wetherspoons, do you feel like you're properly saying goodbye to the UK?

AJ Odudu

Yes, I do, because I think as well, when you're going to certain places, nowhere does pubs like the UK, like, at all, even in America, they're like, 'We've got the Irish bars,' and, like, it feels like a themed bar rather than an actual pub.

Ed Gamble

And it's table service.

AJ Odudu

Yes, it's very confusing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

So, yes, I think maybe, shall we have a rum and coke at the Wetherspoons before catching a flight? That'd be nice.

Ed Gamble

You can tell the truth to us, you're still not going to Wetherspoons in the airport?

AJ Odudu

Come on.

Ed Gamble

You're in the lounge, mate.



AJ Odudu

I'm not.

Ed Gamble

Give over, AJ.

AJ Odudu

I'm not, I'm very rarely in the lounge.

James Acaster

You've got access, though?

AJ Odudu

But I've got access.

James Acaster

Yes, you've got access.

AJ Odudu

Do you know what it is with the lounges that confuses me a little bit? Not all of them do the announcements and I need a tannoy. I'm very easily distracted. Tell me to go to my gate, but if it's silence I'll be like, 'Oh, I'll listen to a podcast or listen to some music, read a bit of a book, ooh, what's that on the counter? I'll have a little bit of a bite to eat.' And then I'm like, 'Oh, should I get these nuts for the flight? They're probably serving food on the flight but I'll get these ones as well, should I do that?' And before you know it, I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh, I've missed my flight.' Or like I've nearly missed my flight, do you know what I mean?

James Acaster

Have you missed flights before?

AJ Odudu

I've only missed one-, I've missed two flights before. Two. And it was bad. It was not good. It was not good. God, one of the flights that I missed was to one of my best mates, Veronica, she was getting married in Casablanca. Casablanca in Morocco basically has, like, one flight a day from London, do not miss it, because if you miss it, you're not getting on that flight today, you'll have to pay loads of money to get there tomorrow. Fine, I've missed the flight, that's stressful, mismanagement of time, let's just put it down to that, and then-,

James Acaster

Were you at the airport when you missed the flight?

AJ Odudu

No, I was on-, I was actually on the train to the airport being, like, 'I've got my train times mixed up here I think, wait a minute, this train doesn't get to London Bridge until that time and then I need to get to



Victoria and then I need to get to onto the Heathrow Express, and, oh, I'm going to miss this flight.' I basically was, like, 'I'm going to miss the flight, I'm en route,' and I'm, like, I literally got there and they were like, 'We closed this gate two hours ago, you're not even a little bit late for your flight, you're like well late for your flight.'

Ed Gamble

Amazing that you still, even though you knew that, you still went to the airport on the off chance.

James Acaster

Just in case.

AJ Odudu

Because I just thought, well, you know, there's flight delays, there's pandemoniums at airports, I was praying for a flight delay, got there, no, they were running on time. So the flight had gone and I was left with a real dilemma because there's no more flights until tomorrow afternoon but I need to be there for tomorrow morning because in the afternoon, my friend is getting married and I am the bridesmaid.

James Acaster

Oh, no. Oh, AJ.

James Acaster

Oh, AJ.

AJ Odudu

Oh, guys, it was so bad, I literally had to fly via, like, Portugal. I had to go to, like, three different countries before I could get to Casablanca. I was like, 'Guys, I need to get there in the morning,' and they were like, 'Do you know what, the only way you can do this is by spending all of your money and we just start flying from now. Get to Portugal, go to Spain, go to France, go here, go there,' I literally was on, like, five different flights to get to Casablanca and then I get there, taxis I needed to get, it was a lot. Long story short, I got there just in the nick of time but I looked dreadful. I looked like I'd been dragged through a hedge backwards. My mate was like-, also, Veronica is the most chilled person ever, it was like she wasn't even bothered. She was like, 'Oh, don't worry about it.' I was like, 'I have been around the world to get here, this is insane.' So, yes, that's why I don't like lounges.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert?

AJ Odudu

Custard and cake. Custard and cake is one of my favorite all-time desserts, it reminds me of home and my dad has got a sweet tooth, and for many years before I moved into my own place I lived in my dad's living room, essentially, and sometimes he'd knock on the living room door, where I slept, the living room was also my bedroom, and then he'd knock on the living room door and he'd go, 'Do you want some custard and cake?' And it'd be like, midnight, and I'd go, 'Yes.' It felt, like, really naughty, it was, like, it's bed time, our eyes should be closed, but here we are, we are going to crack open a tin of



custard, thick custard, and we are going to get, like, a sponge cake, and drizzle it all over and it's going to be amazing. I actually say, I say the can, because I'd get the, like, Ambrosia, my dad would use the powder.

Ed Gamble

Right, yes.

AJ Odudu

The powder of custard and he'd make it himself. He was just lovely. And we'd always have that growing up as well, that would be our big dessert. Maybe it's a Nigerian thing, they only liked hot desserts, really. Of course we'd have ice cream, but, really, it was all about custard and cake. My mum just-

Ed Gamble

So just hot custard.

AJ Odudu

Hot custard.

Ed Gamble

On cold cake? Or would you warm the cake through?

AJ Odudu

Room temperature cake, yes, but the hot custard, obviously, heats the cake and it's amazing. It was also my favourite dessert at school, if there was custard and cake, it was amazing, but at school it'd be, like, a chocolate cake with mint custard, and it would be green mint custard. Have you ever had it?

Ed Gamble

I remember having that at school, I think.

AJ Odudu

I loved it.

James Acaster

I don't think I ever had it, but I've heard about it on this podcast.

AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh, always lumpy, but fine.

Ed Gamble

Presumably, Tina's saved you a portion of that?

James Acaster

Yes, surely.



AJ Odudu

Tina's got my back, yes. Really, really, delicious, but I love, love, love custard and cake to this day and it feels like a real treat every time I have it.

James Acaster

It's a really nice story. I like it a lot, and it was, like, normal sponge cake at home?

AJ Odudu

Normal sponge cake.

James Acaster

Plain?

AJ Odudu

Yes, always plain.

James Acaster

Victoria sponge?

AJ Odudu

Victoria, is Victoria sponge the one with the ice-, the jam in the middle?

James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

No, not that. Not that.

James Acaster

Just normal?

AJ Odudu

Just sponge throughout, the entirety is sponge, I don't want any fussiness, really, I don't love icing on cakes, massively, as well, I tend to scoop that off most of the time. Yes, that's me, custard and cake, always made at home, because, quite frankly, restaurants don't really do it, do they?

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Custard and cake? No.



AJ Odudu

It's like, even when you order an apple crumble in a restaurant, it's always with ice cream or cream, no one really does custard, not even in the winter.

James Acaster

Or yesterday, Ed and I went for lunch together.

Ed Gamble

We did.

James Acaster

And we got so full on the main course and we also ordered a whole bunch of starters, that I couldn't manage a dessert, which I was gutted about, because they had a deep-fried bread and butter pudding with cold custard.

AJ Odudu

Ew.

James Acaster

Oh, come on. What are you on about.

Ed Gamble

He's sharing, he's spilling his heart out here.

AJ Odudu

Sorry.

James Acaster

You've no idea how important this is to me.

AJ Odudu

Cold custard?

James Acaster

You've got, like, cold custard on a hot dessert?

AJ Odudu

No.

James Acaster

For me, it's got to be cold custard on a hot dessert.

AJ Odudu

Ew. Guys, what's happening here? The only cold custard I like is in a crème brulee.



James Acaster

Yes.

AJ Odudu

And is that even counted as custard?

James Acaster

Yes, kind of.

Ed Gamble

I think it is, yes.

AJ Odudu

Yes, that's the only one I will accept, because it's hard on the top and everything is contextualised, everything's the same temperature, do you know what I mean, the topping's the same temperature as the inside, but this hot and cold, like, it's a bit-

James Acaster

I don't know.

AJ Odudu

Wild, especially when it comes to custard, which I think should always be served hot.

Ed Gamble

What would you do if one night when your dad knocked on the door and he said, 'Do you want some custard and cake?' And you went, 'Yes, that would be great, I know it's midnight and we should have our eyes closed, but I want custard and cake,' and then he brought it in and he goes, 'I've tried something new,' and then he opens his hand, dashes a lot of pistachio dust all over the top of it, what would you do?

AJ Odudu

Oh, dad, are you all right?

Ed Gamble

Are we role playing it?

AJ Odudu

Do you need to-

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm just trying something new.

AJ Odudu

Do I need to take you to see someone. You are getting on a bit now. He just turned 84, my dad.



Ed Gamble

Happy birthday.

AJ Odudu

Happy birthday, dad. Are you, is everything all right?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm just trying something new, I know I'm 84, but I'm just, you know.

AJ Odudu

He wouldn't like that, I know my dad, and he would not like pistachio on his custard and cake. Absolutely not. Oh, my gosh.

Ed Gamble

It sounds quite nice, I've convinced myself into it.

James Acaster

We'll read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it?

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Water, you want Blackburn tap water from your mum's kitchen tap, poppadoms for bread, do you want a tuna mayo poppadum with cucumber?

AJ Odudu

Stunning.

James Acaster

Starter, a homemade cheese on toast with tomato. Main course, starch with-

AJ Odudu

Ogbono soup.

James Acaster

Ogbono soup from your mum's place in Nigeria. Side course, dream, no, cream, what did I say-

Ed Gamble

Dreams.

James Acaster

Dream spinach. Cream spinach.



AJ Odudu

Cream spinach.

James Acaster

From the Dean Street townhouse. Drink, you want rum and coke at an airport Wetherspoons.

AJ Odudu

Yes.

James Acaster

Or before a flight.

AJ Odudu

Before a flight.

Ed Gamble

That you're definitely getting.

AJ Odudu

That I'm definitely catching.

James Acaster

Dessert, custard and cake, brought down to you at midnight by your dad.

AJ Odudu

Oh, that's lovely, that.

Ed Gamble

It's lovely. Everything really tied to home, in some way.

AJ Odudu

Yes, I am actually a real homebody, I am.

James Acaster

Do you know what, I'm going to chuck in a free Panda Pop and limeade as well.

AJ Odudu

Thank you. From Tina.

James Acaster

Deserve it for emptying bins.

AJ Odudu

From our Tina. That is so nice.



Ed Gamble

Thank you so much, AJ.

AJ Odudu

Wait, is that it?

Ed Gamble

Do you want more?

AJ Odudu

Do I not have the munchions?

James Acaster

Honourable munchions?

Ed Gamble

Have you got anything you want to throw in, want to talk about that?

James Acaster

Want to talk about breaking your leg on Strictly?

AJ Odudu

Guys, don't do the honourable munchions with everyone else but me.

Ed Gamble

Well, you didn't bring them up.

AJ Odudu

Well, now that you've asked, my honourable munchion would be broken biscuits. Do you remember them?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

AJ Odudu

So, my mum was a cleaner and she'd pick us up, she'd pick me and my sister up from school and then we'd go to another school which she was the cleaner of in Blackburn and it was amazing, it felt like I was in Harry Potter, it was just, like, this grand school in Blackburn and I just found it so exciting. And I also felt very grown up because it was, like, we're hanging out with my mum and all of my mum's friends, who were also cleaners, and before they started cleaning the school they would all congregate in the staff room and have a cup of tea with broken biscuits, but they'd bring in biscuits basically, everyone would bring in a scone or a piece of cake or something and my mum's contribution was always broken biscuits, which I absolutely loved. And growing up I always thought I was drinking a



cuppa, I always thought, 'Oh, I'm having a cuppa with Doris and Margaret, it's amazing, with my mum, so good before we, like, were around school.'

Ed Gamble

How old were you in this situation?

AJ Odudu

Oh my gosh, I was, for many years, actually, but definitely between the ages of, like, six and thirteen and I loved it.

Ed Gamble

Because I'd say, yes, thirteen's probably the point where, when you're hanging out with your mum and loads of women called Doris and Margaret, you're starting to go, 'It's probably not my scene anymore.'

AJ Odudu

Yes, this isn't my scene.

James Acaster

And really, I should be back at my own school emptying the bins, so I'll see you later, ladies.

Ed Gamble

Presumably, yes. All the cleaners from your school came over. They were dozing off.

James Acaster

Nothing to do again today. Thanks AJ. Keep being naughty in class.

Ed Gamble

I reckon even though it's an honourable munhion-, we'll ask the genie but I think we can throw in a few broken biscuits for after the meal.

James Acaster

Petit four.

AJ Odudu

Yes. That would be lovely.

James Acaster

Bring it along with the cheque with a cuppa.

AJ Odudu

It needs to be brought along with a hot cup of Ovaltine. Do you remember that? That's what I was actually drinking.



Ed Gamble

I see.

AJ Odudu

But I believed in my head that it was a cup of tea but we just all called it a brew basically so it was, like, 'Oh, yes, we're having a brew with the girls.'

James Acaster

Is it like a malted thing Ovaltine.

AJ Odudu

Yes. It, kind of, looks like hot chocolate. I think the actually way to make it is just with hot water but we'd always throw in milk. Do you know what I mean? It was just so nice. It's like a proper comfort and I love going to that school. It was exciting.

James Acaster

And what kind of biscuits before we wrap. I'll be annoyed if I don't know what, kind of, biscuits are in the broken biscuits.

AJ Odudu

Well basically broken biscuits is just literally the factory odd bits of the biscuits and so my favourites would be the custard creams, the chocolate bourbons. I always liked the chocolate digestive as well. That felt very mature because my mum and dad liked that so I felt if they like that that's quite grown up and controversial because a lot of people think this is very plain and boring but I think it's one of the most underrated biscuits on the planet. A rich tea. They're really good for dunking. Really good.

James Acaster

You know, rich tea verses a plain digestive I'm going rich tea every time.

AJ Odudu

Exactly.

Ed Gamble

I'm a digestive boy. I don't mind a rich tea but I love broken biscuits.

James Acaster

He doesn't deserve a broken biscuit if that's his-

Ed Gamble

My grandma used to buy broken biscuits from Leeds market all the time just in big plastic bags. Just go and get a massive plastic bag of broken biscuits and the good thing about them is because there's so many crumbs in there that then covers the other biscuits so you get the flavour of some biscuits on the other biscuits.



AJ Odudu

That's so true. I forgot about that small detail. But that is so true. We'd get them in massive sacks, right, in Morrisons in Blackburn. Even shopping on a Saturday was quite an exciting experience. We'd alternate between two. Morrisons which was fun because it had this huge clock which was like a monkey on a tree with palms. It was this huge animated clock in the middle of Morrisons. It's amazing. So, I loved that shopping experience for that, but we'd also go to Kwik Save. Do you remember Kwik Save? That we'd also go there and the dairy section, you'd have to go through-, what are they called? It's like the plastic curtain that you'd only see in like an industrial milk factory or whatever. That's where they'd store the milk and butter.

Ed Gamble

Are you sure you're sure you're supposed to be back there? It sounds like you've gone into the back of the shop.

James Acaster

Doesn't sound like it's legit.

AJ Odudu

That was legit. That's where you'd have to go shopping and I loved it because I felt like-, you know, especially on the trolley you'd feel like you were going through the car wash as a car. It's so fun.

Ed Gamble

I'm so glad we got your honourable munchions. We never would've heard you, like, feeling like you're a car.

James Acaster

This is the longest we've kept on chatting after I've read the menu. I feel like you're about to get a detention for talking too much. But yes, I'm delighted we're here.

Ed Gamble

Yes, fantastic. Thank you so much AJ.

AJ Odudu

Thanks for having me.

James Acaster

Thank you AJ.

Ed Gamble

Well there we are, James. AJ Odudu. Lovely chat.

James Acaster

What a lovely chat. I mean, I imagine that's been edited down quite severely but every single bit of that conversation was a joy.



Ed Gamble

Yes. It was and some real chuckles coming from Benito.

James Acaster

Yes. Benito has had a lovely day today. He's had three episodes in a row which he's loved.

Ed Gamble

He's had a lovely day hasn't he?

James Acaster

Yes, he's had a great day laughing and giggling and that's good. That's important that he has a nice day.

Ed Gamble

Yes. You're going to get a lot more questions from your girlfriend saying who was the lady laughing in the background.

James Acaster

Yes. That was the great Benito enjoying his job.

Ed Gamble

Of course, watch Big Brother. Big Brother is coming out in October on ITV2 and ITVX and AJ is the host and I'm sure there's going to be some pretty fruity goings on.

James Acaster

Yes, pretty fruity just like Ed's fruit salad.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We should also say we forgot to make AJ taste the pistachio at the end.

James Acaster

We did it afterwards in the kitchen.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

She wasn't a fan.

Ed Gamble

No.



James Acaster

Which was-, I felt bad about but she disliked it so much she had to drink an entire glass of red wine to get rid of the taste.

Ed Gamble

Of course, AJ did not say piccalilli.

James Acaster

She didn't say piccalilli. Don't trust anything that's luminous. Don't eat anything that's luminous.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

You can trust luminous things I guess.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can trust them like air traffic controllers. Those guys on the ground.

James Acaster

Yes, they're luminous. You have to trust them.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you've got to trust them. Especially if you're a pilot.

James Acaster

If you go I ain't trusting you you're luminous just like piccalilli and then you'll crash a plane.

Ed Gamble

The danger is I suppose is if you're a pilot and you're landing at night if someone spilt some piccalilli on-next to the runway.

James Acaster

Especially if they've spilt it in the shape of an arrow pointing in the wrong direction.

Ed Gamble

Pointing towards the terminal.

James Acaster

The piccalilli strikes again.

Ed Gamble

Oh, piccalilli. I'm on tour as well. Hot Diggidy Dog. Ed Gamble.co.uk.



James Acaster

Hot diggidy dog.

Ed Gamble

For details and tickets. There's lots of different ways to say it. In one of the trailers I look down the camera and go 'hot diggidy dog'. I've just been hanging out with James too much.

James Acaster

Yes, well, hey, we hang out with each other too much.

Ed Gamble

That's the way James would say it.

James Acaster

We're the same person at this point.

Ed Gamble

But in another one I say hot diggity dog.

James Acaster

Because we've been hanging out too much.

Ed Gamble

It's just a grandpa from a wild west film. I've got a book coming out as well. Glutton: The Multi-Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy. Available for pre-order now. If you go to Waterstones you get a signed copy if I ever get through signing these front pages which is unlikely at the moment.

James Acaster

That takes a long time. Hey, and apologies for the people at Waterstones who are running the Waterstones tent at latitude because he kept asking me to come over and sign the books and I swerved you. We got loads of food sent to us recently.

Ed Gamble

We did.

James Acaster

I want to say thank you personally. Here's one big thank you. Longbottom and co Virgin Marys. Now, as you may have gathered from listening to this podcast the Off Menu fridge is often stocked very generously. The soft drinks, maybe the occasional alcoholic beverage. I was very excited and I didn't know we'd been delivered these and I opened up the fridge door and saw that we had Virgin Marys. I've been sinking them like nobody's business and I've got such a craving for them that yesterday when I went out for a meal I ordered a Virgin Mary because I've enjoyed the Longbottom Virgin Marys so much.



Ed Gamble

Well, there you go. Longbottom & Co of course started by Neville Longbottom and he decided to go with Virgin Marys because that was his nickname at school.

James Acaster

It was his nickname at school until he beheaded the Basilisk and then he was called big dick Longbottom.

Ed Gamble

That's what. If you ever take a Longbottom & Co Virgin Mary and add vodka to it you have to call it a big dick Longbottom.

James Acaster

You have to. Because he beheaded the Basilisk.

Ed Gamble

That's the rules and I'm looking forward to hearing.

James Acaster

It wasn't the Basilisk was it? It was Nagini. Apologies to all the Potter heads out there.

Ed Gamble

No, I don't apologise for those guys anymore. I look forward to hearing this entire conversation on their Instagram stories.

James Acaster

Oh yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, for sure.

James Acaster

Oh great. Well, it's a good conversation.

Ed Gamble

Yes, well, thank you for sending those.

James Acaster

Yes, I really enjoyed that.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much to Rave Coffee Co. We get coffee sent to us on the reg and it's always exciting to try new coffees. This is a particularly delicious bean and we're using it in the office. It goes to the guests. It goes to me.



James Acaster

And let me tell you, I do think it's delicious because whatever we had before this-, I didn't say anything but it was gross. I wasn't liking it. It was making me feel a bit sick. I wasn't finishing the cups.

Ed Gamble

It's because you only just started drinking caffeine again.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, that's probably why it was a bit too full on for me but these have been delicious the last few days.

Ed Gamble

Yes, thank you Rave. Thank you so much to Chunk Cookies. Plant based cookies.

James Acaster

Delicious. Really gooey.

Ed Gamble

Really gooey. I took a few home. We had some vegan friends staying over. I thought this was going to be perfect and I ate one of them. I put the rest in the cupboard and I think subconsciously I thought that was delicious so I did not make my vegan friends aware of them.

James Acaster

Very clever.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I ate two in the office so I thought best not bring any home.

Ed Gamble

I was warming them up, had the Kinder Bueno one was delicious. There was one with a bit of brownie on the top.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

There was one with a bit of brownie on the top. That was delicious.

James Acaster

The chocolate orange one.



Ed Gamble

Oh, my goodness.

James Acaster

The chocolate orange one that I went for straight away and Ed immediately went I knew you were going to have that one out of all of them.

Ed Gamble

I know you.

James Acaster

So, there you go. That's the point of my life we've got to know. I'm predictable sad old man.

Ed Gamble

Thank you Chunk. We also got sent a perfect draft beer machine James.

James Acaster

Talk me through that.

Ed Gamble

It's like draft beer that you can have. I mean, I'm not taking that home because that's a disaster for me if that's knocking around.

James Acaster

Yes. I think it's fun to have in the office.

Ed Gamble

There's one in the office so now we can offer guests at any time of the day a cold draft beer from a perfect draft beer machine.

James Acaster

So if there's anyone listening to this who we've asked to be on the podcast, any potential guests who have said no in the past now if this sweetens the deal we've got a perfect draft beer machine in the office we can pour you a perfect draft beer.

Ed Gamble

Always cold. Always delicious. Come in, 9:30 AM sink a beer with us and then we'll record a poddy.

James Acaster

Then we'll record a poddy. I don't know. The only thing that rhymes with it is hot toddy but I don't think the machine does that.



Ed Gamble

Boddy. Boddingtons. But I don't think it does that either. Thanks for listening. We will see you next week. Goodbye.

James Acaster

Goodbye.