



Off Menu – Ep 213 – Harriet Kemsley

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast taking the cucumber of conversation, putting it into the vinegar of humour, adding the dill of friendship, sealing up in the jar of the internet, leaving for a few weeks and creating the pickle of podcasts.

James Acaster

It's a pickle of a podcast. That's Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. We own a dream restaurant and we invite a guest in every single week and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink. Not in that order. And this week our guests is Harriet Kemsley.

Ed Gamble

Harriet Kemsley.

James Acaster

Kemsley.

Ed Gamble

Harriet is an amazing comedian James.

James Acaster

Such a funny comedian. Always funny no matter what, if she's doing in stand up.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Guest on a podcast. Guest on a TV show.

Ed Gamble

Just having a chat.

James Acaster

Just having a chat.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Going to be the funniest person in the room.



Ed Gamble

Very, very excited to talk to her about food.

James Acaster

Yes. I don't really know that much about what food Harriet likes.

Ed Gamble

No, but you can pretty much guarantee that it's not going to be a normal conversation.

James Acaster

No, it won't be normal at all. There's no way it will be normal. Every time Harriet would come on Hypothetical that I did with Josh Widdicombe on Dave, she would have the biggest nightmare out of any of the guests. She would have a full on meltdown during it.

Ed Gamble

Great.

James Acaster

So, I'm looking forward to her having to choose what food she would like.

Ed Gamble

Perfect. Harriet has recorded a special, James.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But we don't know when it's out and we don't know what it's called.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

And that's not our fault.

James Acaster

It's not our fault. Harriet has not given it a name, she doesn't know when it's being released.

Ed Gamble

It might be out now.

James Acaster

It might be out now or it might not be.



Ed Gamble

Or it might not be out now.

James Acaster

But just, you know, obviously, go and follow Harriet on all forms of social media and when that special is out, she will post about it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it will be good.

James Acaster

It will be good. It will be great. So, you know, do that. Also, listen, we love having Harriet on the podcast but as always if she says the secret ingredient, which is an ingredient we deem to be unacceptable by the way. Then we will have to kick her out of the dream restaurant. She won't get any dinner.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And this week the secret ingredient is-

Ed Gamble

Caterpillars.

James Acaster

Caterpillars. Dried caterpillars.

Ed Gamble

Now, this is one you selected, James.

James Acaster

Yes. I went on the TV show The Last Leg and they wanted us to try dried caterpillars and I was a good sport and I ate one but the word dried has never been so accurate. It dried my entire mouth out. It was disgusting.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It had no flavour to it. It was just dry flavour.

Ed Gamble

That's a shame.



James Acaster

It was the driest thing ever.

Ed Gamble

Because a lot of people are talking about insects as the next big source of protein.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Environmentally, this might be a good way forward.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You know, people are going to eat less meat, moving forward hopefully. So, your not saying you don't want a lovely roast caterpillar for Sunday lunch or anything?

James Acaster

Look, I don't want it but if it's our way of saving the human race at some point, then I'll eat whatever we have to eat. Dip it in chocolate, maybe I wont notice it as much.

Ed Gamble

You love chocolate.

James Acaster

Yes. So, that could be alright but I've said on this show and I'll say it now, the worst part about eating a dried caterpillar is knowing that it's going to come out of your butt a butterfly.

Ed Gamble

You're good value on that show, man.

James Acaster

Yes. I earn my keep, you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you earn your keep. Well done you but this without further ado, is the Off Menu menu of Harriet Kemsley.

James Acaster

Harriet Kemsley.



Ed Gamble

Welcome Harriet to the dream restaurant.

Harriet Kemsley

Hello. Thank you. Oh my god. Whoa.

James Acaster

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

Harriet Kemsley

Thanks for having me. Hello.

Ed Gamble

That was good, that was a good reaction to the genie.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Quite often people come in here and they're just like, so non-plussed.

Harriet Kemsley

It was quite dramatic. It was quite a dramatic thing to happen.

James Acaster

I don't interrupt people most of the time.

Harriet Kemsley

You were trying to make me on edge, I think.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. That's what it is, yes.

Ed Gamble

Because quite often we have people in here who we don't know and you see James really trying to work out how he should do the genie thing but as soon as you came in, I was like, 'Oh, he's going to deliberately interrupt Harriet.'

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, going to try and make her jump. What do you do? You just go like, 'Oooh.'



James Acaster

No, no I still do the sound but-,

Ed Gamble

It is as camp as that.

James Acaster

I'll wait until, you know, often they'll go, 'Well, thank you for having me,' or whatever and I wait for them to finish that thought and then I do the-,

Ed Gamble

And then you go, 'Oooh.'

James Acaster

Then I go, 'Oooh.'

Harriet Kemsley

But no politeness when I'm here, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, absolutely.

Harriet Kemsley

Great, great, thank you, okay. Brilliant.

James Acaster

Yes, but you know, sometimes-,

Harriet Kemsley

You respect the guest.

James Acaster

We have our mates on. Yes, and I get to just be like, 'Oh, okay, cool. I can just be a bit more cheeky.'

Ed Gamble

Yes and James has clearly decided that he finds you funnier when you're slightly on edge.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I know this is a thing. Yes. It's quite stressful. You can never really relax.



Ed Gamble

Does that happen in your life a lot? Do a lot of people do that to you?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, like, jump out from things. Like there's, Adam Larter, he once spent a whole summer just jumping out from places at me and it really puts you on edge. It really, like, it really makes your whole day, kind of, tense.

Ed Gamble

Are you worried now that he's going to jump out-

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. When you reminded me, I'd managed to block it out and then I'm like, 'Oh my god, where is he?' So, yes, I don't love it personally but people seem to enjoy it. So, you know.

James Acaster

You seem stressed. You seemed immediately stressed.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I love the compromise that you're like, 'I don't like it when people jump out at me but they enjoy it so, you know, got to deal with it I suppose.'

James Acaster

You've got a thousand yard stare. The deepest exhale I've ever seen because I'm worried because obviously, you know, we're asking your dream meal on this podcast. It's not real. It's just what your dream meal is. You don't have to actually eat it and all this but you know, back when me and Josh did Hypothetical we had you on it about three times because you were the only person who couldn't differentiate hypothetical situations and real life and you would get stressed as if it was really real and you had to do it. You were never clear on the rules about whether that would mean you would now have to do the thing after the show.

Ed Gamble

Even after you'd done the show multiple times.

Harriet Kemsley

I just really get into something and then it's hard to focus. I'm quite worried about this especially because I don't think people often like my choices, not like life choices but food choices.



Ed Gamble

Yes, but that's fine. You know, this episode's all about you.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

No one's going to be criticising apart from me and James and all the listeners.

Harriet Kemsley

Great, great, great okay.

James Acaster

You just won't be able to go on social media ever again.

Harriet Kemsley

Okay, okay, that's fine. That's probably healthy actually. You've probably done me favour.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a good way of cutting that off. Cutting it off at the source.

Harriet Kemsley

I hope other people don't think that jumping out on me is a nice thing after listening to this now because I've reached my fill of people jumping out at me. I don't want this to become a thing because you seem like people that would start, like, a thing.

Ed Gamble

I'm not recommending to the listeners that they jump out at you. If you don't know Harriet, I think that takes on a whole different-

Harriet Kemsley

Thank you. Yes, that's quite terrifying, yes.

Ed Gamble

If the day this comes out, you walk out onto the street, Oxford Street, and it's completely empty because everyone, everyone is hiding from you.

James Acaster

Yes, that's when you know. I mean, that's when we know this podcast is a hit.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.



James Acaster

Yes, I'd say any listeners, just don't jump out at Harriet, you don't know her. It's not cool.

Harriet Kemsley

Great.

James Acaster

Just like it's not cool if you don't know someone to shout poppadoms or bread in their face in the street as you walk past them. You know, for example.

Ed Gamble

Or just at their shows.

James Acaster

Just because they say it.

Ed Gamble

Or at their shows that are unrelated to the podcast, for example.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, when they're not even the one who says it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, so, just like those things aren't cool.

Ed Gamble

I did say that really angrily at a show once. I went, 'It's not even my catch-phrase.'

James Acaster

Yes. Who is it who doesn't like your food choices? So, is it someone particular in your life who-

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, well, everything I like gets discontinued because it's not popular, which I think is a sign that generally people aren't into it. And I really get into something and I will, like, eat the same thing every day and then it will suddenly just disappear and it's heartbreaking.

Ed Gamble

We're going to need a list of these discontinued things, unless, are they on your dream menu these discontinued things?



Harriet Kemsley

No, there was a sandwich a M&S. It was, like, in a pitta bread thing, it had roasted vegetables and mint yoghurt. I had that everyday for maybe two years and then just one day it disappeared.

Ed Gamble

Every day for two years?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, if I was near an M&S, yes. I didn't go out of my way to get it. If you were at home, I wouldn't be like, 'Oh, I'm going to go home and get my sandwich,' I would just make something at home but yes, anywhere that I was near somewhere that had it and I would have it. So, you'd think I was creating demand but I wasn't enough.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm not sure one sandwich every day for two years is enough to keep a sandwich going.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Maybe you gave it a few extra months because they were like, someone keeps liking it.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, there's one person that really needs this sandwich.

James Acaster

'We keep selling them. One a day and it seems to be following Harriet Kemsley's route on tour.'

Ed Gamble

What they should've done is jumped out at you every time you had one so you dropped it all over the floor so you had to buy another one.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that's what we needed. Yes, sandwich chaos. Yes.

James Acaster

So, what else has been discontinued. Tab Clear? Were you a big Tab Clear fan?

Harriet Kemsley

What is that?

Ed Gamble

It was a clear soda?



Harriet Kemsley

Oh, is that the one that was red. No wait. No, there's was a clear one after red one.

Ed Gamble

Okay, Harriet, let's examine that.

James Acaster

Fucking hell. Wow.

Ed Gamble

It was like Coke, wasn't it? It was like a Cola a clear cola.

Harriet Kemsley

That's not it, no.

Ed Gamble

No, it wasn't red.

James Acaster

It wasn't cola but it was clear.

Harriet Kemsley

What was the red drink?

Ed Gamble

Okay. Ribena?

Harriet Kemsley

Oh that's it, yes, Tizer.

James Acaster

Probably discontinued.

Harriet Kemsley

Tab Clear and they stopped doing that?

James Acaster

Yes. So, just thinking of things that have been discontinued that maybe were your favourites.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

White chocolate Coco Pops?



Harriet Kemsley

No. That wasn't a thing. Have you?

James Acaster

They did that for a really short amount of time I think.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

James Acaster

Banana crispies.

Harriet Kemsley

I absolutely hate banana. So, nothing-,

James Acaster

Banana Rice Crispies?

Harriet Kemsley

Nothing to with banana, no. It's, like, genuinely a phobia I think, yes.

Ed Gamble

Real bananas as well as banana flavour?

Harriet Kemsley

Banana flavour is actually better than actual bananas.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Harriet Kemsley

The thought of a banana in a wastepaper basket is-,

James Acaster

That's too specific for Ed. He nearly choked on his drink there.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, I was having a sip of water. The thought of banana in a wastepaper basket?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. You know how it creeps out? Like, or it could be over the side the way that it splays itself.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

So, if you saw someone throwing from across the room, the banana skin into a wastepaper basket?

Harriet Kemsley

No, awful. And this is another thing that people know and they find it funny to wave them in my face because they know that I don't like it but it's genuinely, I just don't trust it.

Ed Gamble

What about in a cartoon when someone slips over on a banana skin? How do you feel about that?

Harriet Kemsley

I hate it.

James Acaster

That's the origin of your craft. That's the origin of comedy.

Ed Gamble

That's the original comedian, the banana skin.

James Acaster

And you say you don't like it? You wouldn't have a job if you it wasn't for that?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, but maybe it's my enemy. You know, maybe that's what it is. It's like that's my kryptonite maybe, that we work against each other and I'm just trying to genuinely walk down the road and then there's a banana peel.

Ed Gamble

What would you do if banana skin jumped out at you?

Harriet Kemsley

That would really be bad but a costume would probably be fine but it's the way that they turn brown sometimes and then, like, the texture and then the inside bit and how people eat them, I just find so upsetting.

James Acaster

What do you mean?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, they just like, I don't know. They just eat it, it's just, like, I don't know.

James Acaster

How they eat them?



Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, none of this is about the taste of banana.

Harriet Kemsley

I think one of the things is I'm allergic to a lot of fruit. I actually think I'm not allergic to banana so it is unfortunate that I don't like banana, but yes, I just don't like how they peel them and then they eat them. It's just, like, they hold it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They.

Harriet Kemsley

Do you do that?

James Acaster

Everyone in the world but some people-, what do you think about this because this is how monkeys do it?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

And then some people copy this. Hold the banana-,

Ed Gamble

The other way around.

James Acaster

What to us would be upside down. So, they hold it by the stalk bit.

Harriet Kemsley

No.

James Acaster

Like, so it's like a little handle and then they peel it at the top and they eat it.

Ed Gamble

It makes more sense because then you get the little spiny bit at the time and you've got a little handle.



Harriet Kemsley

I don't even, yes, I don't even know if I know what the spiny bit is. Like, I really stay away from them.

James Acaster

When you get down to the bottom of a banana you get the little black bit at the bottom.

Harriet Kemsley

I've never got to the bottom of a banana.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

You don't know-

Harriet Kemsley

I don't know what's happening at the bottom of the banana.

Ed Gamble

There's a little spike at the bottom of the banana going into the banana.

Harriet Kemsley

To keep it in.

Ed Gamble

To keep it in, yes, to keep it in.

Harriet Kemsley

It's not for me.

Ed Gamble

Yes, when they were designing the banana they went, 'We're going to need a little spike in there to keep it in.'

James Acaster

Yes. Keep it in place. Okay, so, there's going to be no bananas on this, and you don't like the thought of the banana Rice Crispies that I had when I was a kid that got discontinued.

Harriet Kemsley

The flavour thing I can kind of handle but then it makes me think of a banana and then that's the problem.

James Acaster

Yes, sure.



Ed Gamble

So, foam bananas which are banana flavoured but they're in the shape of bananas?

Harriet Kemsley

I could handle it but I'd rather not.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's fine. Look, this is your dream menu.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, thank you.

Ed Gamble

We're not going to force a foam banana.

James Acaster

Just getting a feel for you.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

At the top of the episode. Now, we wanted to promote your new comedy special that's being released.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Yes.

James Acaster

But at time of recording, we're doing this in May. It's coming out in the Autumn, this episode is coming out in the Autumn, but right now, you say that you don't know exactly when it's coming out and you don't know what the title of the special is even though you've already filmed it?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Yes, absolutely. Two big things that I really should have come into this knowing but I don't.

Ed Gamble

We'll come up with it during the course of this episode.

Harriet Kemsley

Okay.



James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

That's actually helpful, yes.

Ed Gamble

Banana in a Wastepaper Basket.

Harriet Kemsley

No, absolutely nothing to do with banana, no.

James Acaster

And that's the poster. Just your head coming out of a wastepaper basket and a banana peel hanging off the side of it.

Harriet Kemsley

If a banana peel was to touch me, I would lose my shit.

James Acaster

Yes, why would you say that? What if Adam Larter is listening to this?

Harriet Kemsley

No. Don't. Don't, I feel like I have told a few people about my banana thing because people use it against me because they find it funny but it's really not funny. I just want to say. It's a very serious phobia and please-

James Acaster

No, go on.

Harriet Kemsley

Please, don't use it against me just so you can have a laugh.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

At my expense. Please just let me live my life without throwing bananas at me. Thank you.

Ed Gamble

It's the second desperate plea to the listening audience.

James Acaster

Yes, haven't even got into the main yet, haven't even asked you what water you want.



Ed Gamble

Yes, don't jump out at me.

James Acaster

Please.

Ed Gamble

Don't touch me with a banana.

James Acaster

Please don't do any of these things. I know I seem like an easy target and fair game but I'm not. I'm a person. Well, you know, do you want to promote the special anyway?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's coming out-

James Acaster

Talk about it. It's a best of, right?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's a best of, so it's like two shows combined, but then it doesn't necessarily have a story. But then I guess it's about me, so I'm the story.

Ed Gamble

You're the story.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm the story but-

James Acaster

Another good title.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

It's just, oh I'm the Story.

Ed Gamble

I'm the Story.

James Acaster

That would be good. That's a funny title for a stand-up special.



Harriet Kemsley

Okay, we've got one-

James Acaster

I'm the story.

Harriet Kemsley

One contender, I'm the story, it sounds-

Ed Gamble

We've got banana in a wastepaper basket as well.

Harriet Kemsley

No we don't have that. Stop saying that because every time I get an image and then I think about it.

James Acaster

So do I every time he says it. I'm alright.

Harriet Kemsley

Do you have a phobia of bananas?

James Acaster

No.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh okay, well then that would be why.

James Acaster

My favourite fruit.

Harriet Kemsley

They're your favourite?

James Acaster

I had two this morning.

Harriet Kemsley

Two?

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

How did you eat them?



James Acaster

With my mouth. I peeled them, I ate them the right way round.

Harriet Kemsley

Because if you cut them up then I can kind of handle that. But eating it-

Ed Gamble

What about mashing them?

James Acaster

I went like this-

Harriet Kemsley

No thank you. No, luckily that's a really bad mime. So, it wasn't, that wasn't offensive at all, yes.

Ed Gamble

Even though you cued it up as to what you were doing, half way through it I was like, 'What's James doing?'

James Acaster

I was eating a banana.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I know that now.

James Acaster

It's smaller than you thought, the banana was.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, your other arm, I don't know what your other arm was doing as well, that was involved.

Ed Gamble

Like a monkey.

James Acaster

What was it doing?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it was like, doing this-, it was like-,

James Acaster

Was it going up and down.



Harriet Kemsley

A bit accordion-like.

James Acaster

Like I was wanking off the second banana, getting it ready for my mouth.

Right, we always start with still or sparkling water.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, we're going to sparkling please, it's just more fun. It's just more fun. Water I will have tap, but sparkling, you've just got to do it, you know.

James Acaster

Sparkling tap?

Harriet Kemsley

If it's sparkling is on tap I'm in, because then you don't feel guilty, it's really good. I have a problem though, what I do I drink too much water and I actually have to be careful.

James Acaster

Go on.

Harriet Kemsley

Because my mum, it became maybe like a compulsion and then my mum saw on This Morning that people can die if they have too much water and so-,

James Acaster

It's a good show that, This Morning.

Harriet Kemsley

So, if I have a drink sometimes-,

Ed Gamble

Did your mum see something about drowning and misinterpret it?

Harriet Kemsley

I don't know. But every time I have a drink she's like, 'Harriet, be careful.' She's really worried because I think you can drown in your own body.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Too much water.



Ed Gamble

I mean, you can, that's true, that's happened to people, but I wouldn't say it's necessary for your mum to say every time you have a drink, 'Harriet be careful.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Or she'd give me a look.

James Acaster

Why do you think you are the way you are?

Harriet Kemsley

Because I was like, 'Please just leave me-,'

James Acaster

There's something, always completely understand someone when you hear just one thing about their parents. Oh, that's why. Because every time you drink water your mum's like, 'Harriet, be careful, you'll drown in your own body.'

Ed Gamble

You'll drown in your own body. And your mum saw that on This Morning?

Harriet Kemsley

She saw it on This Morning and then she was like, 'I think you have that problem.' And then it made sense because if you have too much it can make you quite light-headed, a bit confused apparently and then that is, kind of, the state that I live in and so I think it is too much water and I've tried to cut it down and I've cut out squash, because that was part of the problem, I think. So, I can't have squash.

Ed Gamble

Okay, immediately in this episode, because we've done so many of these episodes now-,

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And I know James so well now, I've felt James come in at a lower energy than he normally does because he knows that you're absolutely going to handle the rest of this episode.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.



Ed Gamble

You're going to bring so much to it.

James Acaster

It's fine.

Ed Gamble

Every ten seconds there's something insane coming out of your mouth.

James Acaster

Basically, I'm not going to pay attention, every now and again I'm going to tune in and just repeat the last thing you said. Because ridiculous.

Ed Gamble

You've cut out squash, sorry-,

James Acaster

How much water were you drinking, are you drinking that it means that you're getting light-headed and confused?

Harriet Kemsley

It's less now but there was so much I had to go to the doctors because I was peeing too much and they thought I had a problem and then they were like, 'You just have to control when you pee and you have to try and build it up and go longer between pees.'

James Acaster

That's what the doctor said?

Harriet Kemsley

He gave me a schedule.

James Acaster

He gave you a schedule?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Yes, I had to try and like, even if I think, 'Oh I should pee,' I have to be like, 'No, no, no, it's not time yet.' And then I have to try and delay it.

Ed Gamble

Save it all up as a treat. Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, delay it rather than keep going because then your bladder things you need to keep going.



Ed Gamble

How old were you when this happened?

Harriet Kemsley

It was like three years ago.

Ed Gamble

So what was your-, can you remember your schedule.

Harriet Kemsley

I thought there was a real problem, I was genuinely worried when they said keep it, like, so start with once an hour and then build it up from there and then try and go, like, very two hours, you know, and then ideally you want to be going less than that throughout a day.

Ed Gamble

So, how much, if you don't mind me asking, how much were you peeing?

Harriet Kemsley

So, it was more like a nervous thing. It was like, if I had to leave the house then like, three times in ten minutes, which doesn't make sense at all because I've just been, but then I was like, 'Oh I should go.' So then, it was becoming multiple times and I was like, maybe I've got a problem. Then he was like, 'You've given yourself the problem and you've got to try and cut back.' So, I've had to cut back water and peeing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But now you're keeping all the pee in you, there's more of a chance you'll drown in your own body.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh my God.

James Acaster

Your pee will fill up your body as well.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

If you're going that often, there's no chance you're going to drown in your own body, right?

Harriet Kemsley

That's it, yes.



James Acaster

Yes, if you're getting rid of it all. But now you're filling up more because you're rolling the dice.

Ed Gamble

But you're drinking less water.

Harriet Kemsley

But I'm drinking much considerably less, yes.

Ed Gamble

And you've cut squash out.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

So, how much water are you drinking now though? You've not answered that.

Harriet Kemsley

Look, I've barely touched this.

James Acaster

That glass of what-,

Harriet Kemsley

But I did drink some drink on the way here out of that bottle, yes.

James Acaster

So, you're still not letting us know exactly how much water you're drinking a day. You're keeping that quiet. You're very reluctant to answer that.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's a few, probably like a few litres of water and then, like, some soft drinks, and then some coffee and some tea and maybe a wine and it adds up, you know, throughout the day.

James Acaster

Sure, yes sure. Yes, yes, yes, yes. But it used to be worse?

Harriet Kemsley

It was much worse, it was like seven pints of squash a day, and that's just squash.

James Acaster

What was your go-to squash flavour?



Harriet Kemsley

Like, the orange and, I quite like the orange. No, actually not the orange one, the peach one, that was the one I liked. I didn't really like orange, so I the peach one. But then I'd have to cut it down because I was like, I'm drinking so much, so I'd have half the amount, so it was like very weak. But then I think I was just addicted to squash. I think you just get used to the taste. You're looking at me like I'm crazy, but I feel like.

Ed Gamble

No, no, no, I'm just enjoying it. I'm letting it wash over me.

Harriet Kemsley

You know when you drink too much squash?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Do you want to know when I drink too much squash? What do you mean?

Harriet Kemsley

Do you have squash?

James Acaster

Yes, we've got it in the house now, yes, my girlfriend likes it.

Harriet Kemsley

But you can just have it there and you don't-,

James Acaster

I'm not really into it.

Harriet Kemsley

You don't touch it, right yes.

James Acaster

But my girlfriend loves it.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. How much does she have?



James Acaster

Like, a pint a day.

Harriet Kemsley

Wow, she can really keep it under control, yes.

Ed Gamble

She went to the doctor, he gave her a schedule.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Great, great, good, good.

James Acaster

She got it down.

Ed Gamble

We don't have squash in the house. I used to be a big squash guy when I was a kid.

Harriet Kemsley

Thank you, thank you yes.

Ed Gamble

Used to love squash but I would be like, that's pretty much how I took my water in. Now, straight water.

Harriet Kemsley

Straight water, yes.

Ed Gamble

But I'll glug. I'll be like, I've not drunk water in a while, down to the sink, down a pint.

Harriet Kemsley

You've got to be careful with that, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. But then I go to the toilet a regular amount, I think.

Harriet Kemsley

Before you know it, it becomes a problem. Okay yes. How many times do you go?



Ed Gamble

I probably go more than average I'd say. But you know, I've probably been for two since I've been in the building, so that's two in half an hour.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh you've got to really watch out.

Ed Gamble

If I wanted to, I could go again now.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh yes, I could go now.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm just waiting.

Ed Gamble

James?

James Acaster

I couldn't go now, but famously, you know, I rarely get through a whole episode without desperately needing a pee and having to ask to stop and Benito's like, 'Oh (muttering),' he hates it. So, like, you know, with me, I either absolutely not even remotely need a wee.

Harriet Kemsley

Very dry, yes.

James Acaster

Or, I urgently have to piss now or I'm going to piss myself.

Harriet Kemsley

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And that's my two settings.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.



James Acaster

So, my two settings are absolutely fine, and then suddenly, shit, oh no, Jesus Christ.

Ed Gamble

But if you listen to Harriet's doctor that's probably good.

Harriet Kemsley

No, actually, that sounds bad actually because yes, that's not an anxiety thing. Or maybe you're not connected with your body. You're not listening.

Ed Gamble

Maybe your bladder isn't connected to you in any way it's just floating around in there.

James Acaster

Little separate guy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, got a little loose bladder.

James Acaster

Yes, probably. Probably got a little LLB.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I imagine. I mean, definitely something's wrong with me. I often think like, you know, you're 38 now and this is hitting you. Imagine when you're an old man, I'm scared.

Ed Gamble

Just going to have to get a bag I think.

James Acaster

Yes, I think I'm going to have a bag.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

And I'll have to be very open and proud. As a celeb, I'm going to have to be very open about that. You know, with the public and normalise having a bag.



Ed Gamble

Yes, you are, you'll be an ambassador, a bag-bassador.

Harriet Kemsley

It's nice, good for you actually, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. So, I'm going to have to go on all the talk shows about it, do the press tours.

Ed Gamble

Go on This Morning.

James Acaster

Go on This Morning, talk to them about having a bag.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh don't, my mum.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms or bread, Harriet Kemsley? Poppadoms or bread?

Ed Gamble

Obviously been looking forward to that for a while.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Harriet doesn't like people jumping out at her.

Harriet Kemsley

That was really loud.

James Acaster

You dealt with that quite well though.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. I did. Because I was like, what is happening? It was just like, it felt like it was a personal thing about you rather than me



James Acaster

Yes, or actually, you're the first guest to correctly interpret that I'd say. Everyone else gets scared but no one else goes, 'This is more about him than it is about me.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I didn't take it personally because I knew it was your own thing, you know.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's dealing with some stuff.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. I need to work for it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's worried about his bag.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm very worried about it in the future.

Harriet Kemsley

So, I think it's going to have to be bread. I'm a big poppadum fan actually, but and I need all the dips, but I think on this occasion I'm going to go bread.

Ed Gamble

You've gone so serious.

James Acaster

Wow, you're a politician almost.



Ed Gamble

The energy, you changed the energy in the room perfectly.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm just, I'm nervous about this because I think people are going to get mad with my food choices and so I'm really trying to gain good will before what happens later.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

So, you think the way to gain good will is by calmly saying bread.

Harriet Kemsley

Calmly just saying bread and then just trying to try not to make a big deal about it. Just some bread. I like it when they have the olive oil and then when I learnt how to put that balsamic, you can put a dot in the middle. That was, it felt so glamorous.

Ed Gamble

When you say learned.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

I was also going to hone in on that.

Ed Gamble

Do you mean the existence of being able to do that or do you mean the technique of putting the balsamic into the oil?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, do you know when you have some oil and then you take.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.



Harriet Kemsley

Then you take balsamic and then you put it in and then they're separate and then you have the balsamic in the middle and then the olive oil.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do know all that yes.

James Acaster

We both know that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

The question that Ed's asking, which I thought as well, and I'm going to speak on his behalf, Benito also thought it in his head was when you said when you learnt to do it.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Does that mean you learnt that you could do it so you started doing it.

Harriet Kemsley

That I was capable of it.

James Acaster

Or that you learnt the technique so that you couldn't do it properly. So, originally, you were glugging it in and overflowing it with balsamic, so you had to learn the technique of doing it and getting the dot. Or did you learn that it was even a thing that you didn't know that people were doing that, and then you learnt about it and then when you started doing it it was great?

Ed Gamble

And don't just explain oil and balsamic again.

James Acaster

If you do that again, you're off the podcast.

Harriet Kemsley

It feels like there were a few questions there.

James Acaster

No.



Ed Gamble

No, it was one question.

James Acaster

It was one but we're having to clarify it. We gave you two options and you just choose the one of them.

Harriet Kemsley

I think I first saw oil and vinegar next to each other and then I didn't really know that they could stay themselves but together. And then maybe I saw it for the first time and then I thought, 'Woah, that's crazy how they did that.' And then I saw somebody do it in front of my eyes and I was like, 'This is some magic shit.' And then I learnt to do it for myself.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

The way Harriet described it, it sounds like oil and vinegar is a metaphor for a wonderful relationship because they're together but they still hold their own personalities.

Harriet Kemsley

That is lovely.

James Acaster

That's nice. That's quite beautiful actually. When was the first time you saw someone do it in front of your eyes?

Harriet Kemsley

I'm going to say it was at a restaurant but I'm not sure if I can remember the exact time. You know, like, it all blurs into one but I think I was definitely in my 20s.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Look, I'm not Spanish, I think this is something that maybe you learn in Spain maybe. But it's not like a common thing.

James Acaster

What the fuck are you talking about?

Harriet Kemsley

Is it Spanish?



Ed Gamble

I would say more Italian.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh. Well I'm not Italian.

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Because of the balsamic.

James Acaster

Join the club.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes. So, I wasn't aware of these things.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But that's fine, that's fine to not be aware of these things at all and I like that the first time you saw someone do it it blew your mind.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and still I think whenever I do it, I think I'm going to blow whoever's watching it's mind, but-

Ed Gamble

Glad you finished that sentence.

James Acaster

Absolutely. Very Italian.

Harriet Kemsley

They're never impressed because they know how to do it because I think everyone is. Yes, yes, but I didn't know it was a common thing.

Ed Gamble

So, you want this a your dream meal, you want the oil, do you want them next to each other and then you can do that and then someone can walk in who's never seen it before.



Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's like, 'What the fuck?'

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and I'm like, 'Well you have to really get it in the middle because sometimes you get it on the side and then it doesn't work and it goes all blobbly at the side and so you really have to get it in the middle.' And they'll be like, 'This, what, this is mad.' And I'm like, 'Yes, stick with me.'

Ed Gamble

And then they leave.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Who would you like that to be?

Harriet Kemsley

Somebody that you think would know about it but, like, I'm teaching them. I don't often get to teach people things and so I think it would feel really good to teach somebody something. Maybe, like-,

Ed Gamble

Gordon Ramsay?

James Acaster

Ed Milliband?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, like a professor maybe.

Ed Gamble

So, hang on, I'll just track back what happened there.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I said Gordon Ramsay, James said Ed Miliband, and you said, 'Oh yes, like a professor.'

Harriet Kemsley

That realm, you know what I mean? Like.



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, yes they're in the professor realm.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

I think Ed Miliband is the kind of person you would think would know it but if you found out he didn't know how to do it, you wouldn't be surprised because he couldn't eat a bacon sandwich.

Harriet Kemsley

He would mess that up I think more times than he got it in the middle.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he'd go blobbly on the sides.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes and he would be, you know, like he's trying his best. But yes.

Ed Gamble

The press would have a field day with that.

James Acaster

They would absolutely crucify him for that.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes.

James Acaster

If he got blobbly on the sides.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

But you would like a professor. Brian Cox?

Harriet Kemsley

Maybe Brian Cox if he was older.



James Acaster

Because he's a professor but like a fake one.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, like an older professor, like-

James Acaster

Doesn't really know his stuff.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Oh wow.

James Acaster

Which we discovered.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He was on the podcast, he doesn't know anything.

James Acaster

It was embarrassing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Really? Would you say I know more than Brian Cox?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Definitely about balsamic and oil.

James Acaster

Easily.



Harriet Kemsley

Wow.

James Acaster

Easily. He wouldn't know any of that stuff. He wouldn't know, like, if the balsamic was evil or not.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Does he eat a lot of space food?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

He eats potatoes that are grown with shit on Mars.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's what he said, he would like to eat that.

Harriet Kemsley

I would not want to have dinner with him.

Ed Gamble

Even if you were showing him the balsamic and oil thing?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

'Oh my God,' he'd say.

Harriet Kemsley

I feel like he's easily impressed, you know what I mean? I need somebody that's really going to-

Ed Gamble

That wasn't our experience.



James Acaster

No.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

James Acaster

Really hard to impress him actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Maybe the actor Brian Cox.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Because I feel like he's-

James Acaster

Notoriously easier to get on with.

Ed Gamble

He seems like a chilled guy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

But that's what I mean, like, he's angry. Like, you think he thinks he knows everything then I'm going like, 'Fucking watch this Logan.'

Ed Gamble

Is he in character? Is he in character?

Harriet Kemsley

I think that is his character.



James Acaster

Who do you want? The character or do you want the actor?

Harriet Kemsley

Well I feel like they're the same thing maybe.

Ed Gamble

If he was in character, you'd do that, the balsamic and oil thing and he'd go, 'Fuck off.'

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that's what I want.

James Acaster

Fuck off.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes, that's it.

James Acaster

Fuck off.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

You would like to be told that?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and then I would be like, 'I know. I know, I can just do these things, I just know how these things work.'

Ed Gamble

What sort of bread are you having?

James Acaster

Banana bread. Maybe?

Ed Gamble

Banana bread doesn't really taste of bananas.

James Acaster

What about banana bread hanging outside of a bin? Hanging on the edge of a bin.



Harriet Kemsley

That's actually fine, that actually doesn't upset me at all. I'm actually fine with that. It's when the wrappers, what is it called?

James Acaster

The wrappers?

Harriet Kemsley

What's it called? The bit with the, the skin.

Ed Gamble

You really don't engage with bananas do you?

Harriet Kemsley

When that starts to go funny.

James Acaster

The packaging. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

The smell.

Ed Gamble

What sort of bread is this, Harriet?

Harriet Kemsley

So, it's the really nice bread.

James Acaster

Oh yes?

Ed Gamble

Cool. Next question.

Harriet Kemsley

So, you know when it's bouncy in the middle, it's all, like, bouncy and it's got little holes in. Maybe focaccia I think it's called and then it has those big herbs, but they're like-,

James Acaster

Fucking hell.



Ed Gamble

When's the next guest coming in, Benito?

James Acaster

Big herbs. Big herbs.

Harriet Kemsley

You know what I mean, the-,

Ed Gamble

Rosemary?

Harriet Kemsley

Rosemary, rosemary.

James Acaster

Yes, okay. Yes, that's focaccia but-,

Ed Gamble

You love guessing games, this whole episode is guessing games.

James Acaster

Guessing games.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I feel like you've finally found someone that you can bully. That's what I feel like, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Correct.

Ed Gamble

And salts and flaky salt on the top?

Harriet Kemsley

Oh yes, some salt, yes. Yes that's what I want and I dip it in and then it does always make me feel sad when it all spludges together, but you know, it's part of it.

Ed Gamble

Well look, this is the dream restaurant, so would you like us to bring you a dish of balsamic and oil that never spludges together?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes please. But not keep bringing it to me every time I spludge it, because that feels wasteful. But one that consistently re-separates.



Ed Gamble

When you take the bread out-

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It never goes blobbly.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes thank you, yes, thank you.

James Acaster

Is it warm, the focaccia?

Harriet Kemsley

It's a little bit warm and it is very fresh.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Okay, great. I've got to be careful now because I've been called out for the bullying so I've got to-

Harriet Kemsley

Yes I feel like you're smiling much more, yes.

James Acaster

I've got to pace it out. I've got to pace it out. I've got a few things in the chamber already that coming in here to do the podcast I knew I was going to bully you about and I haven't got round to them yet.

Harriet Kemsley

Is it the Invisalign?

James Acaster

Yes, I was going to bully you about your Invisalign.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Because-



Harriet Kemsley

Because you got rid of yours.

James Acaster

Well, not because I got rid of mine but because you keep drinking drinks and keep the Invisalign in and you're meant to take them out because otherwise the drink that you're drinking just gets in the Invisalign and your teeth just soak in the sugar.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, we had an argument about this because I said clear drinks was fine with Invisalign because you can't see it and so it doesn't count. And then James said that's absolutely not how it works scientifically and then your teeth just sit in it and I continued to drink my wine and tell James that he was very wrong and the next morning I woke up with a really bad ulcer on my tongue.

James Acaster

Didn't know that.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm not saying James was right but I have stopped drinking wine with my Invisalign in.

Ed Gamble

So, not only are you drowning in your own body, your teeth are drowning.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You'd think.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

You're drowning all over the place.

James Acaster

I was just trying to help Harriet at the party. Because Harriet was saying-

Ed Gamble

At the party. You were going round at a party going, 'You need to take your Invisalign out if you're having a drink. If you're trying to relax and have a drink you need to go to the toilet and take your Invisalign out.'



James Acaster

Yes, I was actually.

Harriet Kemsley

That is exactly what he was doing.

James Acaster

Have a nice party. Yes. I think that's helpful. And like, Harriet was there drinking a white wine, a champagne or something and going-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And going, like-,

Harriet Kemsley

Just swigging her champagne, it was white wine yes.

James Acaster

I've got an Invisalign and talking about her Invisalign at the top of her voice and I was like, 'Have you got it in right now?' And she was like, 'Yes.' And I was like, 'Harriet, you can't drink sparkling wine when you've got your Invisalign in.'

Harriet Kemsley

It wasn't sparkling.

James Acaster

She was like, 'Why?' I was like, 'It's going to sit in the trays, your trays will fill up with wine and then your teeth are just sitting in wine for the whole thing, and you're meant to be making your teeth better.' And she was like, 'The doctor said I could have water and this is fine.'

Ed Gamble

The doctor didn't say you could have water. To be fair, the doctor actively said don't have water.

James Acaster

Mixed messages.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But like, 'So this is fine because this is clear.' And then everyone at the party jumped on that. It wasn't just me everybody was around us like, 'What the fuck are you on about?'



Harriet Kemsley

No, there were some people on my side actually, saying it was clear.

James Acaster

Who the hell was on your side? I can't remember this?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Because I was drinking, I was like, putting it back. I wasn't just having it in my teeth. I was just sipping it through the teeth, I was like putting it back.

James Acaster

Yes, so Harriet was trying to aim it directly down her throat so that it would not touch anything and just splash down in her tummy and not touch anything. And it was, obviously, getting everywhere all the time.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Sitting in the trays.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

But eventually you took the trays out.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, well I was very stressed because they said you can only take them out for two hours a day and then sometimes I'd been doing three gigs a night, so then that's at least an hour and then I have an hour and I'm constantly snacking and having a coffee or a drink or a squash, you know, and so I was like, 'How am I going to find the time to manage this?' And there wasn't a moment I wasn't thinking about my Invisalign and it was a very stressful time. And then James came in with all his opinions.

Ed Gamble

You finally relaxed, you're at a party.

Harriet Kemsley

Finally relaxed after a very stressful week of Invisalign having a nice glass of wine and then James like, 'Take your-, what are you doing? You can't drink.' And then I was like, 'I guess I have to stop drinking because I've used my Invisalign quota for the day.'



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

But anyway, I woke up with a really painful ulcer and I told Stu the next day and I told him not to tell you.

James Acaster

It was Stu's party.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Stu was the host.

Ed Gamble

You know there's one type of wine you can drink with Invisalign?

Harriet Kemsley

Oh really.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Invisawine.

James Acaster

Oh great, that's great.

Ed Gamble

Thanks.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes that was nice, I liked that.

James Acaster

That works on every level.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes. Yes, where did you get that?

Ed Gamble

I don't have follow-ups for that unfortunately.



Harriet Kemsley

Okay well that is the information I need.

James Acaster

So, that's one of the things I had in my head that I was going to bully you about. There's one more but I won't use it. Might not even use it at all.

Ed Gamble

Save it. Keep it in the bag.

Harriet Kemsley

Save it, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I'll save it.

Let's have your dream starter and relax into the-

Harriet Kemsley

Okay, dream starter. So, I've picked this one because I think it will really-, the thing is, okay, I'm just going to say this. I think starters are bullshit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Do you hate starters?

Ed Gamble

You don't hate starters. Don't bring all this shit.

Harriet Kemsley

Do you hate starters?

Ed Gamble

He doesn't hate starters, he just loves desserts and he sees it as a war.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes. Well, I just think-,

Ed Gamble

It's not a war, have both.



James Acaster

It is, you've got to pick a side. Starters. Desserts.

Harriet Kemsley

I think that everyone always wants a starter and they're never as good.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

They're never as good as the main and the dessert.

Ed Gamble

They're better. They're always better.

James Acaster

You can pass if you want.

Harriet Kemsley

What is better?

Ed Gamble

They're always more inventive. They're always more interesting.

Harriet Kemsley

No, they're just small.

Ed Gamble

No, not true. In most menus I look at now, I'm way more interested in the starters and then the mains are always quite standard.

Harriet Kemsley

I think it might be that you're not vegetarian. Because I think the vegetarian option is always, like, bruschetta and I'm not good-

Ed Gamble

Go on.

Harriet Kemsley

Tomatoes, big tomatoes, not my thing.

Ed Gamble

Fully willing to accept that.



Harriet Kemsley

You're not into big tomatoes?

Ed Gamble

Well, no I don't mind big tomatoes, but I would never pick the vegetarian option on the starters.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh okay, well that's my life so that seems-, yes.

James Acaster

Bruschetta they're chopped up though the tomatoes aren't they?

Harriet Kemsley

They're big, yes.

Ed Gamble

They start big.

Harriet Kemsley

Bigger than, I like it if it's smooth but not if there's even, like, one of those little pips or even a bit of the slimy bit. And so it does get embarrassing in restaurants because I have to say, 'Are they big tomatoes?' And then they say, 'What do you mean?'

Ed Gamble

But at no point have you thought, 'I'll change the question.'

James Acaster

Change the language.

Harriet Kemsley

What should I change it to?

James Acaster

Maybe just, like, say like-,

Harriet Kemsley

It's not as easy as it seems, is it?

Ed Gamble

Say you only like smooth-,

James Acaster

Well it is because you didn't let us talk.



Ed Gamble

You only like smooth tomatoes like tomato sauce or pureed tomatoes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You could just say, 'Are there chunks of tomato?'

Harriet Kemsley

Ah but sometimes they think that like-

James Acaster

Is there chopped up tomato in this? I don't like seeds.

Ed Gamble

Raw tomato.

James Acaster

I don't like bits of tomato, I can only have it if it's smooth.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, okay well, we're learning as we go.

Ed Gamble

So, starters are bullshit?

Harriet Kemsley

I think starters are a bit bullshit, personally.

Ed Gamble

I'm willing to admit on most menus the vegetarian option on the starter is boring.

Harriet Kemsley

Is not good, yes. And it's also very, they're often very fried and just like, it's just the taste is fry, you know what I mean? And so I'm not so into that, so then I was like, I do quite like scallops sometimes. Scallops, scallops.

Ed Gamble

So you're not vegetarian?

Harriet Kemsley

No but because they don't have a brain. And so they, they don't. Where's their brain?



James Acaster

I mean, probably Google it.

Harriet Kemsley

They don't have a brain. Genuinely they don't have a brain.

Ed Gamble

I am aware of this branch of vegetarianism and veganism where scallops and oysters are acceptable.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Because they don't have a brain?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes and I think I need, I feel myself get smarter when I eat them.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

Why? Because-

Harriet Kemsley

Because there's something I'm lacking I think from my diet and I eat them and I feel like-

Ed Gamble

It doesn't make sense that you feel smarter eating something without a brain.

Harriet Kemsley

It has that omega or whatever or the protein in it. It feels like you know how you eat something and it makes you feel like, oh, it makes me feel like, 'Oh, I'm ready to go,' you know? But I don't know how to cook them.

James Acaster

Last time you ate a scallop, what stuff did you know afterwards that you didn't know before?

Ed Gamble

Good question.



Harriet Kemsley

That is a good question. I think it's more like a general alertness, it's not necessarily specific thoughts but I'll pay attention next time.

James Acaster

Yes, see if you get better at stuff.

Harriet Kemsley

Find out if I suddenly know something better, yes.

Ed Gamble

Scallops is a good choice. Is there any way that you want them prepared or with certain things on them?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, I was thinking about this and I quite like them with lemon I think is what I like.

Ed Gamble

So, just straight, like, pan-fried scallops?

Harriet Kemsley

Well how else are they?

James Acaster

Loads of ways.

Ed Gamble

Well, you can have them loads of ways. But there's loads, you know-, truffle you can put them in loads of stuff.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Like celeriac puree.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh yes. Maybe. Is it cooked?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes.



James Acaster

What, the scallop itself or-,

Harriet Kemsley

No, I can only have vegetables if they're cooked and so it's-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's cooked.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes then that works.

Ed Gamble

Or sometimes you can have raw scallop. You could have like scallop ceviche. No? Not raw?

Harriet Kemsley

No, no no.

James Acaster

Don't want that at all.

Harriet Kemsley

And ceviche that has the big tomatoes, so that's-,

James Acaster

Not always. No.

Ed Gamble

It's just citrus, it's just-,

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh really, that's what what means?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Well, yes, just a scallop with some lemon, that's great. Yes.

Ed Gamble

And you said you don't know how to cook them.



Harriet Kemsley

No.

Ed Gamble

Very easy to cook.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes, just pan fry them just don't do them for too long. Very, very quick.

Harriet Kemsley

And you just can just buy them just from the shop?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

It really feels like a restaurant kind of thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it feels restaurant-y and I've cooked scallops at home and you do feel very fancy doing it.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes bit they come sometimes with the big orange bit attached.

James Acaster

Yes the big-,

Harriet Kemsley

Oh what is that?

James Acaster

Membrane-y thing.

Ed Gamble

It's their beard.

Harriet Kemsley

I wouldn't like, yes, I wouldn't be good with that.



Ed Gamble

No.

Harriet Kemsley

No.

James Acaster

I went somewhere once, a restaurant, and they had taken those orange bits off of them and then dried them, powdered up and then sprinkled the powder over the top of the scallop.

Harriet Kemsley

And that was nice?

James Acaster

I thought it was nice.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I leave them on. I pan fry them.

James Acaster

Using the whole thing?

Ed Gamble

Yes, use the whole thing.

Harriet Kemsley

But we don't know what it is?

Ed Gamble

It's the roe. It's the roe.

Harriet Kemsley

It's the roe. Is that the baby?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes. It's the baby.

James Acaster

It's the baby.



Ed Gamble

But if you don't want that, that's fine.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I'll just go with that.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like a really refreshing starter. Pan-fried scallops.

Harriet Kemsley

There's a refreshing, yes.

Ed Gamble

Pan-fried in butter?

Harriet Kemsley

I could do without butter, I don't really love to have stuff cooked in butter so probably more like an oil.

Ed Gamble

Yes you've got the oil on the table, you know.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Get that involved again if you want.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Bit of salt?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes, lovely.

James Acaster

Salt and lemon. A single scallop, is this one?

Harriet Kemsley

No, no, a few of the scallops. They're quite small, that would be very small wouldn't it?

James Acaster

Well sometimes-,



Ed Gamble

It depends, you can get ones like that.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh you can get big ones.

Ed Gamble

I think you should have big ones.

Harriet Kemsley

A few big ones maybe and maybe a bit of chilli, little bit of chilli with it.

James Acaster

Okay, chilli, lemon, salt.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Classic, sounds good, that sounds like a refreshing starter.

James Acaster

So, how many is it?

Harriet Kemsley

Six. Six small.

James Acaster

Six.

Harriet Kemsley

Six small.

James Acaster

Six standard size.

Harriet Kemsley

The bigger ones are more likely to have a brain, aren't they? A small marshmallow.

James Acaster

The bigger ones are more likely to have a brain?



Harriet Kemsley

Well, they've got more going on probably, do you think? Is it the same, they're just the same just some are big some are small?

Ed Gamble

It's not, I mean, I don't even know where to start with that.

James Acaster

What do you mean they've got more going on? Like, their schedule?

Harriet Kemsley

Well there's more space for a brain to form maybe.

Ed Gamble

That's not how animals work, is it?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, but it's not an animal. They're not animals.

James Acaster

Okay, so-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, but you're saying-,

Harriet Kemsley

They're an organism.

Ed Gamble

That if one's bigger it could be an animal.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Well, I'd be worried that it might be-,

James Acaster

Mount Everest got a brain?



Ed Gamble

Get a really big scallop, they've got a bigger brain.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh so now you're saying they are vegetarian so you're agreeing with me. You're agreeing, vegetarian?

James Acaster

I mean, I've no idea. You've completely confused me as to what they are. I don't know, I mean-,

Ed Gamble

You're saying if they get big enough they've got room for a brain and they just grow a brain.

Harriet Kemsley

It would just make me nervous, you know, like if they're small then I know that-,

James Acaster

I mean, ironically, I feel like talking about scallops has made me less intelligent. I think I know less now than I did when we started talking.

Ed Gamble

What would you do if you ordered a big scallop and it arrived and it had glasses on?

Harriet Kemsley

I would hate that. I would absolutely hate that because this is the thing, it's so quickly-,

James Acaster

And it looked up at you and said, 'Hello, I'm Simon.'

Harriet Kemsley

This is why I can't have salmon because I was trying to have salmon for a while but then I heard that they sing when they die. So- it's true. It's true. You can find it on the internet they sing. Not like, a popular song but-,

James Acaster

'You can go your own way.'

Ed Gamble

What do you mean they sing when they die?

Harriet Kemsley

They're like, 'Ah.'

James Acaster

Go on.



Harriet Kemsley

You can imagine it, it's like, yes.

James Acaster

I actually can't imagine a fish singing.

Harriet Kemsley

Imagine loads of salmon and they're all being killed and they're letting out this horrible song that's like they're so sad because they're being killed, that's what it is. Is Ben googling it right now?

James Acaster

Yes, Ben will be googling it because it sounds made up. It's a Chemical Brothers song apparently, that's called the salmon dance.

Ed Gamble

Is there any chance you've seen a Chemical Brothers song and got mixed up?

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

This is definitely true. If it's not true it will be very helpful because I did used to like the Pret smoked salmon sandwiches.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But you know they're not actually-,

Ed Gamble

They're discontinued.

Harriet Kemsley

They've been discontinued?

Ed Gamble

Probably.

James Acaster

Probably yes, if you like them. But obviously, they're not really singing. They don't think they're singing. When they make a noise.



Harriet Kemsley

But it's like a sad mourning noise.

Ed Gamble

It's an emotional based thing.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's very emotional. Yes.

Ed Gamble

I see what you mean.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, so I feel too bad. I just, like, this is the thing, they get in my head. When I gave up meat I pictured them, this is the thing. They're looking at me and they're like, 'Why?' You don't have that. See, this is what I think most people they can disconnect in some-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, no I think I do have it but I can disconnect.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that's it, I can't disconnect. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I've got pets now for the first time since, you know, I was a little kid.

Harriet Kemsley

What pets have you got?

James Acaster

Two cats. Love them absolutely love them. If someone said to me, 'I'm going to kill them and eat them,' I'd be like, just the worst thing in the world.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes yes.

James Acaster

But yet, you know, hypocritically, I am going around eating dead animals most days.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. And cows can play football.

Ed Gamble

Harriet, you-,



Harriet Kemsley

That is true, you can see that on the internet. They play football and they're actually much smarter than you think they are. They're actually like dogs.

Ed Gamble

You know you've got James into a really serious contemplative state there for a second. He was genuinely confronting his own lifestyle.

Harriet Kemsley

Ben that is true, cows play football.

Ed Gamble

And then you said, 'Yes, cows can play football,' as if he'd said anything that related to cows playing football.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes because a cat is like a cow, this is what I'm saying.

Ed Gamble

A cat's like a cow and a cow can play football.

James Acaster

I mean, I was like, literally just going, I'm not going to make fun of Harriet for this, I'm going to admit that yes, even though you're saying about salmon singing and all this kind of stuff, I'm going to like-

Harriet Kemsley

It's all true, but it's not football, it's fetch.

James Acaster

I'm going to admit that yes, our lives are hypocritical and that you're actually, you imagining them dying and stuff, that's not the weird thing. It's weirder that we block it out. Just try and extend that to you. And then as I'm saying that, you say cows can play football and while I've been saying this bit, I think you said it's veg, not a football.

Ed Gamble

No she said it's fetch.

James Acaster

It's fetch.

Ed Gamble

It's not football, it's fetch.



James Acaster

I thought you said it was veg like they were playing it with a lettuce. It's fetch, so that's not football.

Harriet Kemsley

What I was trying to say is that you love your cat and your cat you find an acceptable pet but you could have a cow, is what I'm saying. A cow is more like a cat than you think it is. But you try and cut it off and you think, 'Oh the cow,' like it's some big stupid cow. But actually they're very intelligent and-

Ed Gamble

Well James was confronting that logic there in quite an openly emotionally raw way and I actually think you've made him eat more meat now.

James Acaster

Yes I don't care now.

Ed Gamble

Because you've said he could have a pet cow and cows can play fetch.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

And salmons sing when they die.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm sorry you don't know this, this is all just true things.

James Acaster

Well we do now. The football thing, so they can't play football?

Harriet Kemsley

I actually don't know if they can play football, but I know-

James Acaster

That was bullshit.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

I got confused between football and fetch. If you throw a ball they will go get it and they will bring it back, like a dog. So, this is what I was trying to say, like, a cow is like a dog. You can't eat dogs but you can eat a cow. You can't eat a cat but you can eat a cow. I was trying to, I was, yes, I was just trying to go along with what you were thinking and then you took it as an absolute affront.



James Acaster

Well you didn't go along with what I was thinking. First of all you lied and said that they could play football.

Harriet Kemsley

Ben, can they play football. Oh, interesting, yes look.

James Acaster

Let's see it. Here we go, standing in the middle of a-, just for the listener. It's standing there not doing anything with this football.

Harriet Kemsley

It's looking round, it's looking where it's move is going to be.

James Acaster

So it's still left it alone.

Ed Gamble

Just in case you're wondering, there is a title above the video that says cool football.

James Acaster

It says 'cool football'. There's a bunch of people stamping up to the cow which is stood near a ball and it seems to be not playing. One of them has kicked the ball at the cow.

Ed Gamble

At the cow's arse.

James Acaster

And the cow is now-,

Ed Gamble

They're surrounding the cow.

Harriet Kemsley

Dribbling with the ball.

James Acaster

So, there's a bunch of absolute arseholes and a cow that seems to be just guarding the ball but not playing with it. And it's just walking along with the ball, it's not playing.

Ed Gamble

It's accidentally playing football.



James Acaster

Yes, it's not playing football. It just wants to keep the ball and these people are antagonising the cow. So, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

I don't approve of this. Yes.

James Acaster

I guess the video has made me want to eat less beef because I feel sorry for the cow, I'm on the cow's side in that video but I don't think that cow could explain the off side rule.

So, your dream main course.

Harriet Kemsley

Okay, this is what I'm nervous about okay.

James Acaster

Is it exciting?

Harriet Kemsley

I've always really loved Pizza Express. It's really important to me. I've been really worried about its future. I've been there for, like, birthdays, ear piercings, it's the place to go. Not to get them pierced, afterwards to celebrate.

Ed Gamble

There's got to be a more hygienic place to get-, not that Pizza Express isn't hugely hygienic but you don't want a bit of pomodoro sauce getting in there.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, no, you go afterwards as, like, 'Oh that was exhilarating,' and then you have a nice pizza.

Ed Gamble

Do you have to have the one with a hole cut in the middle to celebrate an ear piercing?

Harriet Kemsley

Well- that is a really good idea but I can't have the salad and I have tried to ask for it without the salad with the hole and they do not want to do that.

Ed Gamble

Because of the raw vegetables thing?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So hold on, but you still have asked for it without the salad because you want the hole in the middle?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes and they really refused to do that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

I don't know why.

Ed Gamble

Really, they won't not put the salad in the middle?

Harriet Kemsley

They won't do it because I always thought that pizza was quite a healthy option because it's just bread and then tomato and usually for me vegetables and cheese and then I saw the calories when they started putting them and I was like, 'Wow I have been eating much too much pizza.' So I was like, 'Oh I'll just get it with the hole,' because I can't control myself, I need them to control it for me. But they-

James Acaster

So that would help, just having a hole in the middle?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

And then it's healthy?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes but they won't do that.

Ed Gamble

So, they had to start putting calories on menus maybe last year, I'd say.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So, up until that point you thought pizza was a healthy option?



James Acaster

Going in there with like-

Harriet Kemsley

I was having one a week. One a week and I had no idea that it wasn't-

James Acaster

How many piercings did you have? Please.

Ed Gamble

Oh by the way, Harriet is covered in piercings.

James Acaster

Absolutely covered.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Absolutely riddled with piercings.

James Acaster

Jingling and jangling all over the place.

Ed Gamble

In case you've never seen Harriet before, she's that lady who lives on the Royal Mile.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

That is specific.

Ed Gamble

Yes, sorry.

James Acaster

I know who you mean.

Harriet Kemsley

I know who you mean, yes.

James Acaster

She's great.



Harriet Kemsley

Edinburgh lady. Yes, so I just find it very comforting Pizza Express and-

James Acaster

Just read you a text I got from Stuart Laws when I was on my way here.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh no.

James Acaster

I told him that we had you on the podcast and he said, 'She's obsessed with Pizza Express, so I imagine it'll just be that.' That's what he said.

Harriet Kemsley

I wanted to have dough balls as my starter and then I thought people would be too cross and so I said scallops because I wanted to sound more interesting and I am trying to branch out more. The problem is I just have a bad history with restaurants, I think, and so it's difficult because I want to try things but they don't want me there.

Ed Gamble

The restaurants don't want you there?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Why?

Harriet Kemsley

Because well, like, I'm quite happy to go to a nice restaurant and just eat bread or whatever because often there's not stuff I can eat. But then I went to this really nice Indian restaurant, and I won't name it, but they refused to serve me, but they wouldn't even give me bread or rice because I'm allergic to nuts and so they just refused. But it was my dad's birthday and I mean, to be fair, they should've left and gone somewhere else, but they were like, 'We're having a nice time they'll serve us.' So then I just had to sit there for like two hours and they wouldn't give me any food.

Ed Gamble

That's a shame.

James Acaster

I've had that once with a friend who's allergic to shellfish in a way that was like, you know, she just can't have it anywhere near anything.



Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

And we had to leave. And it's not a good time. It feels pretty rough, and this is me again, extending something to you, so don't suddenly go-

Harriet Kemsley

I know when you're trying to be nice, he's trying to be sympathetic now he knows yes.

James Acaster

Did you know nuts can do algebra?

Ed Gamble

I mean, let's lay it all on the line here, Harriet. You are a vegetarian who can't have raw vegetables and you're allergic to nuts.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. But the nut allergy is not really serious. It's not like where I go in a place and there's a nut and it's like game over. I can be around nuts, I can be near them.

Ed Gamble

You're not the person who stops any nuts being opened on a plane, for example.

Harriet Kemsley

No, no, that's not me. And so yes, it's fine. It's just I was also very, I'm a bit fussy and a bit particular and then I think maybe part of it was having these allergies. So, like, my skin is allergic to the raw fruit and raw vegetables but no one believed me for a long time and so it was very confusing because I would be like, 'I can't eat that apple, it's hurting my mouth,' and everyone would be like, 'Just eat the apple.' And I'd be like, 'No really, like, I'm getting hives.' And so yes, it was a bit stressful.

James Acaster

Why do you think they didn't believe you? Was it because you were also saying stuff like cows can play football.

Harriet Kemsley

This is the problem, yes. In amongst all of this, there might be oh, there are real truths and then I had to go to the hospital. And it's just like, it is mad how they do it. Like, I had to go there and then you have to go get tested for it. And the test is you just go and buy a load of fruit and vegetables and bring them in in a carrier bag and then they put them on your arm and then they go, 'Oh, quite allergic to that bit.' And then you just get a big hive on your arm.

Ed Gamble

Wow, did they do it with banana?



Harriet Kemsley

No, I didn't bring banana, no. I think I'm not allergic to banana because it's in a big skin so I actually could have banana probably, yes.

James Acaster

The wrapper, right.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, so-,

Ed Gamble

I mean, complement incoming, not a joke, huge props to you for still being a vegetarian even though your body's absolutely screaming for you to eat meat.

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Maybe-,

James Acaster

Really your only exit route isn't it?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes. I tried veganism, I'm vegan at home mostly but going out is just too much to put on people. It's really you would never get invited anywhere, it'd just be like that's too much. But maybe at this dream restaurant I could have a salad or something. Maybe I could have that salad in the middle because I wouldn't be allergic. I could eat my first salad.

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you can. But do you want a pizza from Pizza Express? Is that your main?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that was my main yes.

James Acaster

And what kind of pizza is it?

Harriet Kemsley

Podana. Because it used to be margarita and it's always smooth there the tomato, so it's good. But then I grew up, you know, and I'm a bit more sophisticated now and I have a podana.



James Acaster

What's a podana?

Harriet Kemsley

So it's like goat's cheese and spinach and then it has this caramelised onion thing so it's got the goat's cheese and then the sweet and the tomato sauce, it's really good.

Ed Gamble

I love Pizza Express.

Harriet Kemsley

Thank you. Okay good, good, great.

Ed Gamble

I love it. Sometimes I'll be like, I want a pizza but that doesn't feel like a healthy option and I do agree, I'll take Pizza Express as a compromise because it feels healthier.

Harriet Kemsley

It feels health-, and then it's got loads of spinach on it.

Ed Gamble

Also, it tastes nostalgic. Pizza Express tastes like you've just been swimming. So, I'll have Pizza Express and I'll be like, 'Oh, I can almost smell chlorine in my hair.'

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes that's what I like at a meal. I've been to Pizza Express three times.

Harriet Kemsley

What?

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Just, which one? Just one of them three times or-,

James Acaster

No, no, just three different ones.



Harriet Kemsley

Of all the Pizza Expresses in all the world, you've only been three times?

James Acaster

Maybe three times, that's it.

Harriet Kemsley

Why? What's happened?

Ed Gamble

Just not part of your upbringing?

James Acaster

Just not bothered.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, not majorly bothered if I'm going to have pizza, there are a few other places I'd go to before Pizza Express.

Harriet Kemsley

Where?

James Acaster

I'd go to Franco Manca.

Harriet Kemsley

No.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Oh look, there are better pizzas.

James Acaster

I can't remember where.

Ed Gamble

There are far better pizzas than Pizza Express.



Harriet Kemsley

It's its own thing though.

Ed Gamble

It's its own thing.

Harriet Kemsley

I like Franka Banka but it's its own entity. It's a whole other genre now.

Ed Gamble

Well for me, it's all about nostalgia Pizza Express, so I think if you didn't grow up going to Pizza Express once a week, you wouldn't have Pizza Express now because there's your Yard Sales, there's your Franco Mancas.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes yes. There wasn't a Pizza Express in Kettering.

Ed Gamble

No.

Harriet Kemsley

There wasn't one?

James Acaster

No, there was a Frank's Pizza, which is still there which is again, I'd go to ahead of Pizza Express any day. Delicious Frank's Pizza. Great.

Ed Gamble

Well you know my order, Pizza Express, American hot with extra cheese.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Remember why that's my order? Because it's my dad's order.

Harriet Kemsley

Oh, that's really sweet.

James Acaster

I'm glad I forgot it because I can enjoy it all over again when he says it to me.



Harriet Kemsley

That's so sweet, you get it because your dad had it.

Ed Gamble

Very sweet, yes.

James Acaster

So, just the pizza is your main course, podana did you say? Podana pizza.

Ed Gamble

Podana with a hole in the middle with a salad.

Harriet Kemsley

Podana pizza ideally with a hole in the middle with a salad, yes.

James Acaster

And your first salad.

Harriet Kemsley

That would be so exciting. Yes.

Ed Gamble

What do you like the idea of in the salad if it's not going to make you feel ill?

Harriet Kemsley

I like it when they shake them, you know, when you see it and it's all shaken up with the-,

Ed Gamble

Dressing.

Harriet Kemsley

Dressing, yes, yes, yes, so some of that and everyone always says, 'Oh it's so crisp.' So, I want to-,

Ed Gamble

Is this you imagining what a salad would be like? This is amazing. Everyone says it's so crisp.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, yes and then I think that people would have olives in it and it'd be like, oh.

Ed Gamble

Rocket, do you want rocket in it?



Harriet Kemsley

I don't know. I guess so that's what people do. I've never had a salad. So I'd have yes I guess, some rocket in it. Because every time I go to a restaurant it has that, they put salad bits on and then everyone has to take it off and they all get a bit worried. But I'm not really that allergic, it's just like my skin's allergic and so it would be yes, it would be wonderful. That would be my first ever, and maybe it could be in a cat café because I am allergic to cats as well but then I could be around all the cats and eat a salad.

James Acaster

Okay yes, we'll sort that out for you. Cats playing table tennis in the background.

Ed Gamble

More than anyone I've ever met, you've thrown new information in as if we should know it already.

Harriet Kemsley

Right, okay yes.

Ed Gamble

So quickly.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, okay.

Ed Gamble

And also it's in a cat café, at the end of a really long sentence about salad.

Harriet Kemsley

But it is a Pizza Express, maybe it's a collaboration between Pizza Express and a cat café.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What would that be called?

Harriet Kemsley

Pizza cat.



James Acaster

Fuck, Pizza cat.

Harriet Kemsley

You put me on the spot, I didn't have time to think about it.

James Acaster

I set you up.

Ed Gamble

Pizza cat, write that down Benito, thank you. Pizza cat.

Harriet Kemsley

Why are you writing it down?

James Acaster

No wonder you can't name your fucking show, Jesus. Call your show that.

Harriet Kemsley

Pizza cat?

James Acaster

Call your show 'Pizza cat'.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's got pizza in it, and cat in it as well actually.

James Acaster

There you go, call it 'Pizza cat'. And, then people will listen to this episode, they'll know that you literally named it here, now.

Harriet Kemsley

I really have to name it soon.

James Acaster

Call it 'Pizza Cat', just do it. People will love it.

Harriet Kemsley

You like that? That would make you think, 'I'll watch this.'

Ed Gamble

'Pizza Cat' or 'I'm The Story'.



Harriet Kemsley

'I'm The Story'.

James Acaster

Pizza Cat: I'm the story.

Ed Gamble

I'm the story, pizza cat.

Harriet Kemsley

'I'm The Story' feels like a novel in an airport or like an autobiography where somebody's, like, looking out to sea and they're like, 'I'm the story'. I don't know, it feels a bit dramatic doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, I mean I know you've said cat café now, but I was going to ask you what branch of Pizza Express you would like to be eating in, because you've been to a lot of them.

Harriet Kemsley

I've been to a lot but it all has to go back to Canterbury Pizza Express, or the jazz one in Soho, but no. We go back to Canterbury. It's by the river, it's lovely.

James Acaster

Not Woking?

Harriet Kemsley

No, not the Woking. Can't spoil that one.

James Acaster

Is that the Prince Andrew one? How did you feel about that as a devoted Pizza Express-

Harriet Kemsley

Horrified about it, worried, like, concerned about Pizza Express's future. Like, they're saying they're in debt by like a million pounds, like a restaurant. It's a lot to think about, and my local one, it's always empty but I think they're sending it out with the delivery people. So, they're not coming in necessarily, and on weekends it's chaos. It's the kids I think. So, yes, very worried about their future but I think they've got a good product. You look a bit like you work in a Pizza Express.

Ed Gamble

That's my aim.

James Acaster

How do you like that compliment, Ed?



Ed Gamble

Well no, it's black and white isn't it. It's thick black stripes.

Harriet Kemsley

The other way round, if you were to wear it sideways, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I see what you mean. I love it, those guys are skilled.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I've never seen a woman do it.

Ed Gamble

Have you not?

Harriet Kemsley

Have you ever seen a woman do it?

James Acaster

I've been in three times, I wasn't clocking people's gender or anything.

Harriet Kemsley

You can see the pizza makers in the thing, it's like, that was part of the excitement as well.

Ed Gamble

I've got to say, I've never focused on that.

Harriet Kemsley

You've never seen a lady there?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

What three did you go to, James?

James Acaster

Well, I couldn't tell you. Well, one was near Leicester Square, but it wasn't the jazz one. But, it was me, Romesh and Nish and Romesh's pizza didn't arrive, so me and Nish got free pizza. And, Romesh still gets angry about that today if you mention it to him. But, that was a lady who told us we had free pizza, I remember that.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, the waiters can be women, but I've never seen a woman make the pizza.



James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Okay, but you're not saying they're not allowed to make the pizza. I don't think that's a thing.

Harriet Kemsley

Not that I know of, no.

Ed Gamble

King's Road Pizza Express, have you been to that one?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Legendary.

Harriet Kemsley

It's actually nice to do gigs at the one in Holborn. That's where I wanted to do my show but then I think I was just being swayed by the pizza.

Ed Gamble

It's a good room though.

Harriet Kemsley

It's a really nice room, yes, so I was like, I wanted to do it there. But, then they were like, 'It's really not,' and I think I was just thinking about the pizza.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

And, you've got to think about the show.

James Acaster

Yes you do, you have to think about the show. For the listener, actually, this is something we talked about before recording is Harriet nearly recorded her special in a Pizza Express and was going to call it 'Live at Pizza Express'. We said you should still call it that, and Harriet got very in a tizz about how, 'But it's not in Pizza Express so I can't call it that and I'd have to explain it.' That's what happened isn't it?

Harriet Kemsley

So, I'm just going to call it Pizza Cat and you don't have to worry.



James Acaster

I think Pizza Cat is great.

Your dream side dish then. Is this is also from Pizza Express?

Harriet Kemsley

No, I think because I do love their dough balls and then I was like, 'I could go the whole thing,' and then I thought, no, like, I've grown. I do eat at other places now and I've got to branch out. I do like a breakfast, like, a brunchy kind of thing, and I always want, like, a pancake on the side. I don't want it as the main thing, I just want one pancake on the side. But, then I don't think pancake goes very well with pizza and so I'm going to say waffle. But, it's because of this place that's really good that has waffles. I'm not really a waffle person but this place is really good. It's called Utter Waffle and it's in Herne Hill and I often go there with my baby and dog, and it is chaos and they're really nice about it. And, they have this one waffle that's, like, waffle and then it has, like, caramelised peach so I can eat it because it's kind of cooked, and then cinnamon frosting and then cream cheese. And, then you can have pistachio but then I don't, and then veggie bacon and it's really good.

Ed Gamble

It sounds good.

James Acaster

Well, obviously I respect this.

Harriet Kemsley

You respect it?

James Acaster

A side dish that's a dessert.

Harriet Kemsley

Finally got some respect. It's called 'James Jules and the Giant Peach'. That's the name of the waffle.

James Acaster

James and the Giant Peach?

Harriet Kemsley

James Jules-, I don't know who Jules is.

James Acaster

James Jules is-, so they're two different people. James Jules and the Giant Peach?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I'm just imagining you're eating this waffle and your dog's in the corner reading a novel or something.

Harriet Kemsley

No, he's causing absolute chaos.

James Acaster

Your dog's the one who made it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do you want your dog to be there when you eat the side dish?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes and the baby.

Ed Gamble

Even though this meal's in a cat café?

James Acaster

Yes, bedlam.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, actually that wouldn't go very well.

Ed Gamble

No.

Harriet Kemsley

I wish he could be there. But, then it's a dream place so I guess he gets on with cats.

James Acaster

At canterbury Pizza Express there's cats around and your dog's there. And, your baby's there?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Take me through this waffle again, as in the details.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes okay.

James Acaster

It sounds good. Is it a Belgian waffle?



Harriet Kemsley

What is a Belgian waffle?

James Acaster

Well, I mean, that's a good question.

Ed Gamble

Like a sweet waffle.

James Acaster

It's a sweet and not a savoury waffle.

Harriet Kemsley

So, I think it's only sweet because of-

Ed Gamble

The things on it.

Harriet Kemsley

The things on it, and Mabel my baby likes the one that has, like, cheese and then an egg. So, it's generally all savoury so if people like chicken on it, they can have chicken on it. That's a big thing there, everyone always want the chicken one, but not me.

Ed Gamble

How old's Mabel?

Harriet Kemsley

She's one and a half.

Ed Gamble

Very funny that she wants the one with cheese and egg on it for some reason. I like that one.

James Acaster

She has a preference.

Harriet Kemsley

It has, like, a proper boiled egg and yes, she loves it.

Ed Gamble

Respect to Mabel.

James Acaster

So, this is like a Birdseye potato waffle?



Ed Gamble

It's not a potato waffle.

Harriet Kemsley

It's not potato, no.

James Acaster

Batter.

Harriet Kemsley

It's batter, yes, because pancakes are, kind of like, my favourite food but it doesn't work here, and I like a galette which is very savoury. I really like a galette but this is just beautiful, I don't know why. And, everyone wants to go there. It's very good. They have a van as well so it can travel.

Ed Gamble

I think we've not really had a side dish like this before.

James Acaster

Waffles haven't featured much, and we've not had a side dish which is this sweet which I'm loving. I'm loving that we've got to dessert early and I can relax.

Ed Gamble

It's a bridging course isn't it, really?

James Acaster

In a way.

Ed Gamble

Because, it is sweet but you've got veggie bacon on there as well.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and it's really good veggie bacon. Quite often I've accidentally ordered the bacon and they've handled it very well. It's so confusing because it does seem like bacon. I think anyone that ate bacon would not say that, but for me it seems like. I'm like, 'Is it bacon? Is it not bacon?'

Ed Gamble

It sounds good. It's a bit of a shame we can't absolutely rip the piss out of Harriet for this course.

Harriet Kemsley

Wow, interesting.



James Acaster

And, look, I'll be honest with you Harriet, when you were describing it my brain immediately went into piss take mode, 'Let's get her. She's chosen a dessert waffle side dish with her pizza. Let's get her.' And, then I was like, 'No, but you like this.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, you would do that.

Harriet Kemsley

I really like it, it's a really nice place.

James Acaster

Like, be honest with yourself, you know that you like this. You know that you think it's great.

Harriet Kemsley

You like this?

James Acaster

Yes, to me, I was like, 'You know this is exactly the kind of thing you would love to eat, especially if it's a good version of this. So, you can't get her.'

Ed Gamble

I personally wouldn't have it, but I respect you for picking it. I'm not a huge fan. I put waffles in the same family as Yorkshire puddings, as pancakes.

Harriet Kemsley

But, it's different, you don't like those?

Ed Gamble

No, I don't like any batter based thing really.

Harriet Kemsley

It's my least favourite batter based thing, but at this place it's really good.

James Acaster

Here we go, rank the batter based things.

Ed Gamble

I think you need to sort out the pancakes from each other, so I think you've got to say 'crepes' and 'American pancakes'.

James Acaster

Are two separate things?



Ed Gamble

Are two separate things.

James Acaster

Waffles.

Ed Gamble

Waffles.

James Acaster

Yorkshire puddings.

Ed Gamble

Yorkshire puddings, those are the classics really aren't they?

James Acaster

Yes, I guess, I mean look, if you've ever seen Deep Fried Masters it's a whole-,

Ed Gamble

Churros.

James Acaster

Churros, of course. Yes, there's loads of things on Deep Fried Masters.

Ed Gamble

But, the things that are just batter, these are the things I'm not a massive fan of.

Harriet Kemsley

Doughnut, is that batter?

Ed Gamble

No, I guess it is.

James Acaster

Is it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I guess it is.

James Acaster

It's just dough and you bake it.

Harriet Kemsley

I really like galettes, I really like a savoury galette.



Ed Gamble

I would be on board with that, more savoury.

James Acaster

That's pastry though.

Ed Gamble

No it's not.

Harriet Kemsley

The galette? Buckwheat.

Ed Gamble

It's a buckwheat pancake.

James Acaster

What? That's blown my mind.

Ed Gamble

You know doughnuts are batter?

James Acaster

I didn't know that.

Harriet Kemsley

Do you know what batter is?

James Acaster

Well, I thought I did.

Harriet Kemsley

Wow, who's the real idiot of this podcast? The tables have turned throughout this show it turns out. The bully is the bullied.

Ed Gamble

And, it's you again.

James Acaster

Yes, because the way you said that, 'The tables have turned on this show it turns out.' But, yes, you're right, the tables have turned on me because like-

Harriet Kemsley

Don't turn it back, no, keep it, no. It's too quick.



James Acaster

I'm trying to figure it out. So, okay, those are batter are they? Galettes are batter, they're not, like, pastry? They're not a pie?

Harriet Kemsley

No.

James Acaster

An open faced pie?

Harriet Kemsley

No, of course not.

Ed Gamble

What are you thinking of?

Harriet Kemsley

They make them on those circle things.

James Acaster

Oh like that? That stuff? Okay, I think we're both right.

Harriet Kemsley

No, you're not right.

James Acaster

I think we're both right.

Harriet Kemsley

No, you are wrong. You don't know what it is, you're confused. You're thinking of something else.

James Acaster

I know what you're talking about, and I've had that in Ponsonby in New Zealand, and they're delicious. But, also, I look at Benito's face and I'm right. French galette.

Harriet Kemsley

French galette, you're thinking of New Zealand galette.

James Acaster

So, there is one that is an open faced, like, pie thing but with pastry. You can get them sweet and savoury.

Ed Gamble

There is, like, a buckwheat crepe is a galette right?



Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that's what me and Ed are talking about.

James Acaster

Yes I love those, I got a photo of one of those on my phone.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

James Acaster

Yes, from Ponsonby.

Ed Gamble

What are you talking about?

James Acaster

I'm talking about pastry.

Harriet Kemsley

Why though?

Ed Gamble

The thing they have, like, the celebratory pastry cake thing?

Harriet Kemsley

But, why are you talking about that?

James Acaster

Because, that's the galette that I get most weeks from the place round the corner from my house.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that is something different.

James Acaster

One of those, that's a galette.

Harriet Kemsley

That's a pie.

James Acaster

Pear galette with flaky crust, it says it right there.

Harriet Kemsley

That's what I'm talking about, that one with poking out.



James Acaster

And, we're both right, yes that's right.

Ed Gamble

Yes, James is right too.

James Acaster

So, they're both galettes.

Ed Gamble

But, Harriet's talking about the-,

James Acaster

I get it, I get it. It's good to know that because I love those and I wouldn't have thought of it as a galette and in Ponsonby I always make sure-, I can't remember what it's called but it doesn't have bechamel sauce and I always get the bechamel sauce. I always add that and that's my favourite thing to get in Ponsonby central. But, you haven't ranked your battered based-,

Harriet Kemsley

So, I think galette and American pancake, kind of, joint at the top, and then maybe the waffles but only from this waffle place. Otherwise they're at the bottom. Yorkshire pudding I do really like, churros, and then a regular crepe. They're, kind of, lower down, maybe. What about you?

Ed Gamble

I'm not an American pancake guy?

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I just think they're boring and then you stack them on top of each other and it's just like layer after layer of like-, sometimes they just suck all the-,

Harriet Kemsley

But, that's why you just want one on the side, like a blueberry one and they have that cream.

Ed Gamble

You have to add so much syrup to them to make them interesting.

James Acaster

That's why we talk about quality, right? Because, like, a good one of them is incredible. When they've actually made the batter really delicious so that every bite is really amazing.



Ed Gamble

It's still dry.

James Acaster

When they've been lazy with them, I don't know man. That Ezra and Gill place that I shouted out before on the pod, in Manchester, I could eat just one of their pancakes on its own. It's incredible.

Ed Gamble

The best pancakes I've had were in Japan. Japanese souffle pancakes.

James Acaster

Japancakes, come on, let's give that a moment.

Ed Gamble

And, they're like wobbly, and they're a bit softer inside.

Harriet Kemsley

No, not for me.

Ed Gamble

No, yes.

Harriet Kemsley

No, it's for you, but it's not for me.

Ed Gamble

It's for you.

Harriet Kemsley

It's not for me, and in American it's just different. It's better. Here it's bad.

James Acaster

Blueberry pancakes are great though.

Harriet Kemsley

Who? Blueberry pancakes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Who? Instant reaction was 'who'.

James Acaster

Dream drink.



Harriet Kemsley

Okay, so we're not on a train and that changes things.

James Acaster

What?

Harriet Kemsley

If we were on a train then it would be different.

James Acaster

Did I miss something? Did I miss a bit of the pod?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, unless we're suddenly on a train.

Ed Gamble

We can be on a train, we can put all of that on a train.

James Acaster

Still call it the Pizza Express.

Ed Gamble

It's not called Pizza Express, remember?

James Acaster

Yes, sorry it's called Pizza Cat.

Harriet Kemsley

It could be Cat Express.

Ed Gamble

So, it's a cat café, in a Pizza Express on a train?

James Acaster

It's called Cat Express.

Ed Gamble

Pizza Cat Express.

James Acaster

Fucking hell, okay great.



Harriet Kemsley

Well, if you're on a train then you want a little drink out of a tin, you know what I mean? Like, it's exciting, you're like-

James Acaster

So, this what you're teeing up is that you want a drink out of a can?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, then I want to drink out of a can but if I'm in a restaurant then I don't want that because that would be weird though, just to bring your drink out of a can.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there is something specifically exciting about-, especially after a gig.

Harriet Kemsley

Exactly, you run, you get time, you get to go into M&S, get a little can and then you get on the train.

Ed Gamble

Specifically from Brighton? This feels like from Brighton.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, very Brighton based.

Ed Gamble

Getting very niche for the listeners but last train back from Brighton to Victoria, go to the M&S which is still open, buy a few tinnies of whatever. What's in the tinnie, that's what I want to know?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, it would have been gin and tonic probably, but now I've really got into wine in a can. Have you had it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

It is quite new.

James Acaster

Do you think it's bleaker than the G and T in a can? It feels bleaker.

Harriet Kemsley

No, because any other time it's bleak. At that moment though, when you run from a gig and you really want to have a drink on the train. You've managed to get there and you've got it and it's cold and then



you're on a train. Because, those bottles, it's just not the same. You put it in the plastic, whatever, but in the can it's still cold and it's just such an exciting feeling. And, so that's the only time that it's good, yes.

Ed Gamble

Have you ever had, which is the bleakest option I think, where it's a glass of wine in a plastic wine glass with, like, yoghurt lid on top of it?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, that's real bad,

James Acaster

What, that you have to peel?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, like it's Pringles.

Ed Gamble

You peel the lid off. Like, obviously lick the lid and then drink the wine.

James Acaster

Who are they kidding with that? That's bad stuff.

Ed Gamble

Is there a particular brand? The M&S wine, what sort of wine?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, there's one I quite like. It's called 'Hun' which I don't-, but they've got a nice sauvignon.

Ed Gamble

So, you want a can of Hun sauvignon blanc?

James Acaster

Fucking hell, yes.

Ed Gamble

I love it Harriet.

James Acaster

You've just done a gig in Brighton?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and then I get a little tin of Hun, you know, and you just run and then you get on the tube.



Ed Gamble

Do you get one tin of Hun?

Harriet Kemsley

I probably couldn't do two, yes, not on a train. I'd go a bit loopy.

Ed Gamble

Oh no, I can't imagine that.

James Acaster

The tables have turned on this train it would seem for everybody. You're taking your Invisalign out for this Hun drink?

Harriet Kemsley

Well, now after the ulcer yes, you've got to take it out.

Ed Gamble

Because, I do love grabbing a little drink and sitting on the train after a gig. Do you prefer to be with other comedians there or is it solo ideally?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's nice if you've got a little gang and then everyone's got a little drink. And, this is the problem when you're driving back from somewhere, it's not as exciting.

Ed Gamble

When you have your tin of Hun.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, because you're driving so it's frowned upon.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's frowned upon.

James Acaster

I didn't have a gig like that for ages, but like, recently, on the way back from Machfest in Wales, I ended up on a train with a bunch of comics on the way back and they had train beers. It was really fun, a really fun group, Nish, Rosie Jones, Max and Ivan, Josh Pugh.

Harriet Kemsley

Wow, lots of people sat on a train.

Ed Gamble

That does sound nice, but I would prefer to be alone.



Harriet Kemsley

Would you see them in the carriage and then you'd go to the next carriage?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'd say, 'Nice to see you all' and then I'd take my tin of Hun and I'd go to the next carriage.

Harriet Kemsley

What would you do there?

Ed Gamble

Charge my phone.

Harriet Kemsley

You can do that with other people. It's not necessary to be alone.

Ed Gamble

No, listen to a podcast, relax, be with my own thoughts, enjoy my Hun.

James Acaster

So, Hun sav blanc tin?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's quite nice. If I'm in a restaurant, you know, I want a little cocktail or, like, a dry rose or something. But, on a train, a little can of Hun, perfect.

Ed Gamble

Look, that's what's going on the menu, even if you suddenly went, 'I want this amazing cocktail' we're not listening. You're getting a can of Hun.

James Acaster

Just to finish it before you go onto the dessert, you're on a train table, what other three comedians do you want there?

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Harriet Kemsley

So, I've been on tour recently and had people opening for me that were very fun. So, I had Heidi Regan. So, we had a really lovely time together. Kate Lucas, we had a lovely time, and then I had Bella Hull, Lily Philips.

James Acaster

You've got to have three.



Ed Gamble

Oh no.

Harriet Kemsley

I had some others as well I forgot. Maybe I'll throw Sunil in there.

James Acaster

So, hold on, who's there? Who've you got? Three people.

Harriet Kemsley

I hate it when you do this but you're doing this on purpose because I'm not good at choosing.

Ed Gamble

He's asking that question on purpose yes.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I know he's doing it on purpose.

James Acaster

I didn't think it would cause this much-,

Harriet Kemsley

It's you three and you're all drinking Hun and you all have to enjoy it.

James Acaster

The three of us?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and you have to enjoy it.

Ed Gamble

I'd happily neck a Hun on a hot day.

James Acaster

Yes, joke's on you. We're loving it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we're loving it. I've got my headphones on.

Harriet Kemsley

You're sitting backwards.

James Acaster

I love sitting backwards.



Harriet Kemsley

And, nothing's changing and there's a cow on the train.

James Acaster

It's safer if the train crashes, to sit backwards.

Ed Gamble

There's a cow on the train?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Booting a football up and down the carriage?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, still in enjoying it? Having a nice time?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I am actually. As long as I have enough cans of Hun.

James Acaster

Are you?

Harriet Kemsley

This cow really stinks.

James Acaster

Right, dream dessert.

Harriet Kemsley

Okay, sorry I just was thinking.

James Acaster

What happened then?

Ed Gamble

Yes, what happened Harriet?

Harriet Kemsley

I was just thinking there was someone else who opened for me on tour and I couldn't remember who it was and then I panicked.



James Acaster

Who was it? Have you remembered?

Harriet Kemsley

I don't know, I can't remember. I'm trying to be quiet for a moment but you keep asking me questions.

James Acaster

Yes, you're doing a podcast Harriet.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the world of broadcasting.

James Acaster

Yes, here we are, sorry you can't just sit and remember all your tours.

Harriet Kemsley

I feel bad. Sam Lake when I was in the north. Okay, there was someone else as well. Okay, so this I'd like-, you know you have those, with the dessert thing you can have a little selection of desserts?

James Acaster

Yes.

Harriet Kemsley

So, I'm going to have a little, like, selection. So, chocolate Guinness cake.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

Very nice.

Harriet Kemsley

You've both had it?

Ed Gamble

I made it on celebrity Bake Off.

Harriet Kemsley

You made it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Harriet Kemsley

Was it good?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it was amazing yes, a very easy recipe as well. Super easy.

Harriet Kemsley

Is it actually easy to make?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I, sort of, based it on the Nigella recipe for it. Look up Nigella's recipe for chocolate Guinness cake.

Harriet Kemsley

Well, this is it and then Evelyn Mok made me a vegan one. It was amazing. It's so good, so there's this café in Streatham that we used to go to, like, twice a week and be like, 'Have you got the chocolate Guinness cake?' And, then it was so popular they would never have it. But, then I couldn't make it myself because then I'd have a whole-, it would just be too much.

Ed Gamble

It's so dark and rich isn't it?

Harriet Kemsley

It's so good, and that frosting is like it's the cream cheese one.

Ed Gamble

Well, I made up my own frosting which probably wasn't as good. I used Bailey's in the frosting.

Harriet Kemsley

It's not as good.

Ed Gamble

It was nice though.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, but it's not as good.

Ed Gamble

It was the best cake on the day and even Paul Hollywood would be forced to admit it, even though I didn't get star baker.

Harriet Kemsley

Who got star baker?



Ed Gamble

Example.

James Acaster

Example? Example got it? There's a place called café Cecilia, it's really good.

Harriet Kemsley

They do really good-, where is that?

James Acaster

They do-, Hackney.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm always on the hunt for places because it's not everywhere.

James Acaster

So, what they do is they do a Guinness bread that you can have, like, when you get there and then for dessert you can get Guinness bread ice cream where they make-, and that is so good.

Harriet Kemsley

I can't imagine.

Ed Gamble

Why haven't you taken me there?

Harriet Kemsley

But, I don't like the drink Guinness.

James Acaster

I'll take you there, man.

Ed Gamble

Thanks, man.

Harriet Kemsley

Is it like the drink Guinness?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

Well, you've just said you want chocolate Guinness cake?



James Acaster

In the same way that chocolate Guinness cake is like Guinness, that's how much the bread is like Guinness.

Ed Gamble

It just flavours it.

James Acaster

Yes, and then the ice cream has got that bread in it as well.

Harriet Kemsley

But, does it have the frosting because the frosting is the bit that's-

James Acaster

No, they don't frost the ice cream, or the bread, this is not the same thing.

Ed Gamble

So, you've got this chocolate Guinness cake Harriet?

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, and then a scoop of cherry Garcia Ben and Jerry's ice cream. They don't do it anywhere, they only do it at the cinemas. It's bullshit.

Ed Gamble

Discontinued.

Harriet Kemsley

What?

Ed Gamble

Something else, discontinued pretty much.

Harriet Kemsley

This is it, this is the story of my life. Also, ice cream Chewits, they're my favourite Chewits. They don't do them anymore, you can hardly get them anywhere.

Ed Gamble

So, do you want those on the platter?

Harriet Kemsley

Maybe one of those and a Quality Street.

James Acaster

They can come with the bill.



Ed Gamble

Yes, they can come with the bill. James is already angry about that.

James Acaster

Yes, you're not-

Ed Gamble

Don't fuck around with his platter.

James Acaster

I'll put some ice cream Chewits on the plate for your bill.

Harriet Kemsley

No, no it goes on my platter, you know, they have like-,

Ed Gamble

Which Quality Street?

Harriet Kemsley

Strawberry.

James Acaster

Strawberry crème, wow.

Ed Gamble

The only answer is purple.

James Acaster

No.

Harriet Kemsley

No.

James Acaster

I'd have a strawberry over purple.

Ed Gamble

You're welcome to them, we can share a tin any day.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, what do you like?

James Acaster

I mean, I like the fudge ones, the toffee ones.



Harriet Kemsley

We'd work well together with a Quality Street tin.

Ed Gamble

The toffee? You guys are crazy. No wonder you guys need Invisalign if you're eating the toffee one.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm not having the toffee one. That's James.

James Acaster

No, she's having the fruit cream ones. I'm having the fudge and the toffee ones. You're having the big purple ones, and probably the green triangle.

Harriet Kemsley

I'm saying we work together. Don't turn on us right now, we're in harmony.

Ed Gamble

That toffee penny is fucking insane.

James Acaster

Benito is eating all the coconut ones.

Harriet Kemsley

He's not happy about that though.

Ed Gamble

Back luck, Benito.

James Acaster

No, that is what you're eating mate, so bad luck. You will, after this podcast, you're eating them all.

Ed Gamble

The great coco-nito.

James Acaster

The great coco-nito. Green triangle for Benito.

Ed Gamble

Actually I like them, I'll have those as well.

James Acaster

I told you you'd like them.



Harriet Kemsley

Yes, so that's my, like, little-, is it called amuse bouche?

James Acaster

No, opposite. So, you've got Guinness cake.

Ed Gamble

Petit four?

Harriet Kemsley

Petit four, but it's not petit, I want it to be big. So, big slice of chocolate Guinness cake, a scoop of cherry Garcia ice cream, strawberry Quality Street and ice cream Chewits.

James Acaster

Hold on, hold on a second.

Harriet Kemsley

A petit four.

James Acaster

So, actually the dessert isn't really a selection of desserts because you have a big bit of Guinness cake, with a massive scoop of cherry Garcia in the same bowl, and then I'll just bring those sweets along with your bill.

Harriet Kemsley

I want it all on the same plate though, so it doesn't work.

James Acaster

Why would you want the Chewits on the same plate as your cake?

Harriet Kemsley

Because, it's a petit four. I don't know, it's fun together. Don't you think that's fun? I'm in charge.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's Harriet's dream meal man.

James Acaster

I can't understand why.

Harriet Kemsley

Maybe there's not a reason.

Ed Gamble

A bit of fun.



Harriet Kemsley

Yes, it's just nice, it's a petit four.

James Acaster

Do you want them unwrapped for you or wrapped.

Harriet Kemsley

Wrapped.

James Acaster

Like, Chewits. You want to unwrap them? That's what stops me getting Chewits a lot of the time. Well, I haven't had Chewits for ages.

Harriet Kemsley

The palava.

James Acaster

Yes, I can't be bothered to unwrap them every day, yes.

Ed Gamble

Admin.

Harriet Kemsley

Have you had an ice cream Chewit though?

James Acaster

No.

Harriet Kemsley

They're so good, and discontinued again. This is the story of my life.

Ed Gamble

So, this is a good way of using the dream restaurant because you can bring things back.

Harriet Kemsley

I can relive it, yes. Sometimes people find them and they give them to me and it's really good. I think a lot of them are out of date by now but, you know, they're just quite hard.

James Acaster

We're going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. Water, you would like sparkling tap water. Poppadoms or bread, roast beef focaccia with oil and balsamic.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, separate.



James Acaster

Separate, you can do it yourself. Starter, six pan fried scallops with lemon, salt, and chilli. Main course, padana pizza, leggera style.

Harriet Kemsley

Berries with the hole.

James Acaster

With the salad in that you can eat for the first time, and this is in Pizza cat. Side dish, James Jules and the Giant Peach waffle from Utter Waffle. Drink, Sav Blanc Hun on a train with us.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Dessert, chocolate Guinness cake with cherry Garcia Ben and Jerry's ice cream, with also ice cream Chewits and strawberry Quality Street.

Harriet Kemsley

Just one of each.

James Acaster

One of each of those.

Harriet Kemsley

The petit four, yes.

James Acaster

As a little petit four either side.

Ed Gamble

It's actually turned out, I'd say, a remarkably insane episode. When you read the menu back you wouldn't know.

Harriet Kemsley

Really?

Ed Gamble

Like, it makes sense to me.

Harriet Kemsley

Yes, I really thought about it because I knew there would be complaints and I really wanted to be very thoughtful about it, and I hope that's paid off.



Ed Gamble

I think that dessert sounds great.

Harriet Kemsley

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Chocolate Guinness cake and cherry Garcia.

James Acaster

That's great.

Harriet Kemsley

And, Quality Street.

James Acaster

No, I don't care about those.

Ed Gamble

I deliberately omitted those.

James Acaster

But, the actual ice cream with the cake, that's great.

Ed Gamble

I mean it's almost like you may as well have picked chocolate fudge cake and ice cream from Pizza Express.

Harriet Kemsley

No, it's not as good. Absolutely not, look-,

Ed Gamble

It's a version of that.

James Acaster

Is that what you're having at Pizza Express when you do go to Pizza Express? Do you have that dessert?

Harriet Kemsley

I'm too full usually by the dough balls and the thing, but then they did have a nice vegan carrot cake for a while. That was pretty good, but again, discontinued. And, their pasta. I quite liked their pasta. They stopped that. That was smooth, no big chunks.



Ed Gamble

We've learned a lot today, Harriet, about you, about the animal kingdom. Thank you.

James Acaster

Maybe call you special Smooth No Chunks.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Smooth No Chunks.

Harriet Kemsley

That sounds like vomit.

Ed Gamble

Thank you for coming to the dream restaurant.

James Acaster

Thank you Harriet.

Harriet Kemsley

Thanks for having me.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are, the Off Menu menu of Harriet Kemsley, as expected in that I did not know what was going to happen.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean, as you said, the menu itself actually not that bad, despite Harriet's fears.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if you just looked at the menu written down on a sheet of paper you would not know that the conversation was-, I was going to say bananas but that's completely the wrong phrase to use.

James Acaster

It's absolutely not bananas. People might point at the side dish and go, 'That's a dessert as a side dish.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, but I like that. That just felt like a little twist, you know.

James Acaster

I liked it, a bit of fun but yes we learnt a lot there, or did we?



Ed Gamble

I think we learnt that we don't know anything. But, what we definitely learnt is Harriet didn't pick caterpillars.

James Acaster

Touch and go there, I guess vegetarian, but do caterpillars have brains?

Ed Gamble

They must do.

James Acaster

They must do, there's the one in the giant peach story, coming back to the menu in a way. The caterpillar that lives in the giant peach seems pretty on it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, a lot of peach chat so we could have, you know, she could have accidentally eaten the caterpillar on her menu.

James Acaster

Hold on a second, Ed. She picked James and the Giant Peach, inside the giant peach is a caterpillar.

Ed Gamble

So, we should have kicked her out.

James Acaster

Should have kicked her out.

Ed Gamble

That's a shame.

James Acaster

The caterpillar's not called Jules, Benito.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Benito just asked me if the caterpillar in the giant peach is called Jules.

Ed Gamble

Now, the big if, if Harriet had picked Colin the Caterpillar.

James Acaster

Kicked her out.



Ed Gamble

would we have had to kick her out?

James Acaster

Well, we couldn't have right, and I guess the caterpillar in the giant peach isn't a dried caterpillar. It's a living caterpillar.

Ed Gamble

If anything it's a juicier caterpillar because it's got all peach juice in it.

James Acaster

Yes, very juicy. The more I'm talking about it now the more I'm doubting there is a caterpillar in the giant peach.

Ed Gamble

Didn't you read the audio book?

James Acaster

I did read the audio book and that's why I'm trying to think. There's definitely a grasshopper, a ladybird, a silk worm.

Ed Gamble

There's a worm, I'm not sure there's a caterpillar.

James Acaster

I don't think there is a caterpillar. I think she's finding her way.

Ed Gamble

Because, one of the desserts we had on Great British Menu last year was James and the Giant Peach themed and the chef had made a jelly worm. Made his own jelly worm coming out the side of it.

James Acaster

very nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it had a helium balloon attached to it with an edible string, and you popped the balloon and it had peach scent in it.

James Acaster

I thought you were going to say peach juice.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we got covered. Do go and watch Harriet's special. We don't know if it's out now or when it's going to be out. It might have come out during the course of you listening to this episode.



James Acaster

Yes, who knows, it might be out there, but seek it out and seek out everything that Harriet does. It'll always be funny, it'll always be good value.

Ed Gamble

And, also my book, *Glutton: The Multi Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy* is available now.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm very happy with it.

James Acaster

I'm very happy with it, I think it's great.

Ed Gamble

Thank you, recording this quite a long time ago guys and James hasn't read it.

James Acaster

No, it's my favourite book.

Ed Gamble

Thank you.

James Acaster

I think it's brilliant.

Ed Gamble

James does the audio book.

James Acaster

It's a real page turner. I do the audio book as Ed.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much, we'll see you again.

James Acaster

No, thank you very much, I'll see you again.