



Off Menu – Ep 225 – Susan Wokoma (Live)

Ed Gamble

Well, it's Saturday, that means it's time to hear another show from the Off Menu live tour. This was recorded in Bristol, it was the first night of our residency at the Bristol Hippodrome.

James Acaster

Yes, first of two.

Ed Gamble

11th of October, 2023. There'll be callbacks for the first half, don't worry about that. Secret ingredient was chicken sandwich paste, but most importantly, our special guest was the amazing Susan Wokoma.

James Acaster

Susan Wokoma, the first of three, like, when we were doing this tour, a series of Taskmaster was on, that Susan was on, and we got three people from that series on the tour, and what a joy that was.

Ed Gamble

What a joy that was because it was in real-time, people being excited to see them while they were concurrently watching Taskmaster.

James Acaster

It was an honour.

Ed Gamble

It was a true honour, and this is a fantastic episode with Susan. Let's just play it, you're going to love it.

James Acaster

Here we go, Susan Wokoma in Bristol.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the potatoes of humour, boiling them in the water of the internet, grabbing the masher of friendship, mashing it three times, going, 'Well, that looks lumpy and tasteless.' And then getting that magical, gloopy frozen stuff instead, and that's the podcast.

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster. Together, we own a dream restaurant, and every week we ask a guest their favourite ever starter, main course, side dish, dessert and drink, not in that order.

Ed Gamble

Literally on your T-shirt. It's on your fucking T-shirt.



James Acaster

This week our guest is Susan Wokoma.

Ed Gamble

Very, very excited to have Susan on the podcast. She is a wonderful actor, she's currently on the current season of Taskmaster.

James Acaster

Very exciting.

Ed Gamble

And being absolutely brilliant on it as well, so we're looking forward to chatting to her. We already know what the secret ingredient is.

James Acaster

Yes, keep that in mind.

Ed Gamble

Keep that in mind. If it comes up on her menu, I will be surprised.

James Acaster

Shocked.

Ed Gamble

Shall we crack on, James?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Without further ado, this is the Off Menu menu of Susan Wokoma. There we are, welcome, Susan.

Susan Wokoma

Thank you for having me. Oh my God, it's so many of you.

Ed Gamble

Can I just say, I've never seen James Acaster do an air kiss before.

Susan Wokoma

To be honest, I, sort of, forced you, that was pure force.

James Acaster

I nailed it though.



Ed Gamble

Well, I'll talk you through what he actually did, and with an air kiss, it's traditional to make a kissing-, because, you know, it's part air kiss.

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

Ed Gamble

James didn't do that, he just went-

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

James Acaster

That's how I kiss though.

Susan Wokoma

I thought so, I thought so. Just dead behind the eyes, no puckering.

Ed Gamble

I can vouch for that.

Susan Wokoma

And now I can. Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the dream restaurant, Susan.

Susan Wokoma

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

Very excited to have you here. Now, James-

James Acaster

Sorry.

Ed Gamble

Thank you.

James Acaster

Just remembered that. Just sat down straight away.



Susan Wokoma

This is the main reason why I said yes to this.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, do I look away? What do I do?

Ed Gamble

So, I mean, yes, exciting. I mean, feel free. We can either get the audience to rub the lamp with their minds, or if you would like to get up and rub the lamp, that's also welcomed.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, could we do a hybrid of both? So I rub, and then everyone uses their eyes as well to get extra rubbage.

Ed Gamble

Yes, absolutely, we can do a hybrid for extra rubbage, yes.

Susan Wokoma

Excellent. Okay, here we go. I'm going to rub here, is everyone rubbing with their eyes? Okay, let's go.

James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

What an entrance. He's not jumped that far across the stage, that's-,

Susan Wokoma

That was mega.

James Acaster

That was good, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that was good.

James Acaster

Yes, my confidence was up from all the air-kissing I did earlier.

Susan Wokoma

It will do that, give you confidence. That's magical.



James Acaster

Is this your first genie that you've met?

Susan Wokoma

Yes, it is, the very first genie. You haven't disappointed.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Susan Wokoma

You don't have a wispy beard.

James Acaster

No, no.

Susan Wokoma

You don't, but that's alright.

James Acaster

No, I was told you didn't like that. I normally have a wispy beard.

Susan Wokoma

Where are you getting all this information? It's correct.

Ed Gamble

Well, Susan sent quite a long list of demands when we booked her.

Susan Wokoma

I did not. No, I-,

Ed Gamble

Okay. All I'm saying, Susan, we're doing fifteen tour dates, there are fifteen different guests, and you're the only one who specifically asked for Prosecco on their arrival.

Susan Wokoma

No, okay.

Ed Gamble

They respect her.

James Acaster

No, they like it, though, so you're in a tricky position here.



Susan Wokoma

I know. Now, do I deny this fact, or do I embrace it? Thank you, Bristol. Yes, I did ask for a bottle of Prosecco. Thank you very much. Yes, I did, yes. Damn right, and you know what? I've got a glass right now. Cheers, Bristol. Down in one, down in one. I'm really confident about that now, thank you. I did ask for a bottle, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

I did, yes.

Ed Gamble

It's because we went to your people and said, 'Would Susan like anything specific on her rider?' And you panicked and said, 'Water, fruit, and then put-,'

Susan Wokoma

So my publicist, which is very bouji, but you know what, I was working class, so I've earned it. I've earned it now, and she's like, 'What would you like?' And I don't normally know what to say with that, so I just went, 'Tea? Fruit? Prosecco?' And I know that she sent all those three things without the question mark, as in these are the things that she must have, and then you've ribbed me about it for the last couple of hours.

James Acaster

All day.

Susan Wokoma

All day, all day, but now I'm very proud.

Ed Gamble

But you brought us a glass of your Prosecco each.

Susan Wokoma

I did.

Ed Gamble

Before the show started.

Susan Wokoma

I knew you weren't going to drink it, though.

Ed Gamble

We drank it.



Susan Wokoma

Did you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, we drank it, and then sat there for ten minutes going, 'That was a fucking terrible idea.'

James Acaster

I'm drunk right now. That's what-,

Susan Wokoma

I didn't think you'd drink it, amazing.

James Acaster

Would you call yourself a foodie, Susan?

Susan Wokoma

Only so much that I love food. I love going to restaurants. If I could, I would dress up, like, with a lace visor, like they do at funerals, with a feather boa, with loads of rings from all my dead husbands, and go and sit in a corner of a fancy restaurant and eat and dine. That's how I'm a foodie, but me, like personally-, I know, I've thought about it. I've thought about it too much.

Ed Gamble

You'd be amazed how often we get that answer.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, but I just love the drama of eating out, you know, I really take my time with it, but in terms of me cooking, no, thank you, that's not what I do.

James Acaster

I guess I'd like to know how many dead husbands, what are their names and how they died. How many dead husbands are we talking?

Susan Wokoma

I think if you're going to dine on your own in that, kind of, extravagant way, you need at least four I think.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

You need four, and one of them, you've had divorce and remarry, yes, and then you've earned it, then you've earned dining out on your own.



James Acaster

That's swanky.

Ed Gamble

So you divorced and remarried them.

Susan Wokoma

This isn't true, by the way, just so you know.

James Acaster

No, these are just your plans, apparently.

Susan Wokoma

This is my plan. These are my future plans, yes.

Ed Gamble

Do they die in suspicious circumstances, would you say?

Susan Wokoma

Two of them did. You've got to balance it out, like, two of them, who were very old, so everyone saw it coming, and then two of them was a bit, you know, but one's my age, and then one's a toy boy, but not too toy boy, I am very young, 35, but yes, and then one's, yes, suspicious, off a boat or something.

Ed Gamble

I like the way you're trying to, like, pretend like you're making it up on that spot then, you're like, 'I don't know, just like off a boat or something like that, yes.'

Susan Wokoma

Yes, I thought about it a lot, yes, a lot.

James Acaster

Well, we always start with still or sparkling water, Susan, do you have a preference?

Susan Wokoma

I do, and it has to be sparkling water, right?

James Acaster

Popular in Bristol.

Susan Wokoma

Ooh, oh my God, are we going to start a fight, Bristol? Yes.



Ed Gamble

The sparkling people very quickly got on board, and then the still people went, 'Hang on, we need to add our voices here.'

Susan Wokoma

Everyone realised it was too much on sparkling, but my thinking behind that is, the idea of parting with money for still water, which you can get from a tap, is weird, but sparkling water-, I remember the first time I got offered sparkling water at, like, a, I don't know, it was probably at a Wagamama's or something, and I was like, 'Oh, that's quite posh, isn't it?' It's like sexy water. I was like, 'I will part with money for that.' But if it's still water, you just get tap water. That's my thinking behind it.

James Acaster

How did the veil and all the rings go down in Wagamama's? Did you have a share a table with a bunch of strangers?

Susan Wokoma

That's the thing with Wagamama, you can't get your own table, it was like a row of school kids, just mourning my husbands at nineteen.

Ed Gamble

Hello, children.

James Acaster

A family trying to have a meal, you're there.

Ed Gamble

He was pushed off a boat. I wasn't there, I didn't see what happened.

James Acaster

Your bang bang cauliflower.

Ed Gamble

Trying to hold the chopsticks, you've got too many rings on.

Susan Wokoma

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang.

James Acaster

So you want sparkling water, do you want anything in it?

Susan Wokoma

Maybe a slice of lemon, little slice of lemon bobbing around in that tumbler.



James Acaster

Slice, not a wedge.

Susan Wokoma

No, not a wedge. Why a wedge?

James Acaster

Hey, some people like wedges.

Susan Wokoma

I don't like a wedge.

James Acaster

Because they can squeeze them and get a bit more juice.

Susan Wokoma

No, the thing is, for me, the thing is with, like, a slice of lime or lemon, it's purely decorative, come on, let's be honest.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

If you're squeezing it out, like a monster and get it all over your fingers, then what do you do? You, sort of, lick it off, or you put it on the napkin. Weird. It's purely decorative. It's bobbing around, it looks lovely. It makes it a look a bit posher, yes, that's why we're doing it.

Ed Gamble

Well, we can you give a lemon finger bowl if you want. Some people like a lemon finger bowl.

Susan Wokoma

That was on my rider and you didn't have it in my dressing room.

James Acaster

Love the idea of that, yes. Squeezing a lemon, I've got water and lemon on my fingers. Excuse me, can I have a finger bowl, please? A lemon and water, please. Thank you. Ah. Excuse me, you, the one who did the doodle on my tablecloth.

Ed Gamble

Excuse me, all of my rings have fallen off.

James Acaster

Yes, you'd lost them in there. Put them back on for me. That's a lemon.



Ed Gamble

All this water is reminding me of the death of my third husband.

Susan Wokoma

He loved lemons. It's what he screamed as he fell into the water.

Ed Gamble

I love lemons. Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, for fuck's sake. I thought I was going to be so ready for that. Jesus, you're good.

James Acaster

Got you.

Ed Gamble

Best jump of the tour, to be fair.

Susan Wokoma

Is it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

That properly shitted me up. Oh my God.

James Acaster

You were riding high on our love lemons.

Susan Wokoma

I know.

Ed Gamble

Nothing from Mathew Baynton last night, he didn't move an inch.

Susan Wokoma

Did he move?

Ed Gamble

But that guy's a ghost, he's used to scares.



James Acaster

You can't scare a ghost.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, God. Well, I'll answer it now. Bread, bread, bread, bread, bread, bread, bread. Warm, soft bread. We don't want anything too hard, and also, you need really, like, creamy, almost melted butter on it. You don't want to be shagging around, like, trying to warm it up. You know what you do when you shag around trying to-

Ed Gamble

I do know what you mean, what you're going for, I've just never heard that used in that context.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, you know, like, when you're trying to achieve something, so you're just putting it around, trying to achieve your soft butter. Fucking hell.

Ed Gamble

I hate that you're realising this in front of an audience of 2,000 people, but I think you've been using that term wrong.

James Acaster

A lot of people are going to have different opinions of you over the years. Sorry, I was late, I was shagging around at the airport carousel, shagging around. Customs, shagging around.

Susan Wokoma

It's like the GP, shagging around. Oh my God, yes, a lot of things are going through my mind right now, a lot of conversations, but yes, I love creamy butter. I haven't shagged. Fucking hell, and warm bread, but do you know what, actually, what I really love? If you go to a really, like, Bouji place, I love when they give you a basket of bread, and there's a variety of different breads, rather than just this is the only bread, dip it in that oil, fuck off. I love the surprise of going, 'Oh, that's quite nice.' And what I really love, as a starter it is, like, just fruit bread, bit of raisins in it, just to mix it a bit up.

Ed Gamble

Oh, dear.

Susan Wokoma

How do we feel-, what?

James Acaster

Controversial.

Susan Wokoma

Oh my good-, I will shag every one of you. Outside, kit off, now. Yes, oh my God, what the hell? Like, no, I'm sticking with that, that's a hill I'm going to die on.



James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

You've got to stick by what you believe, but yes, not popular here in Bristol.

Susan Wokoma

Not popular.

James Acaster

Don't like the fruit bread here.

Susan Wokoma

No, just a little bit, I'm not talking an excessive amount of raisins, just a little bit dotted around, mix it up.

James Acaster

I like those breads, I do like the raisin breads, yes, yes. I know what you mean.

Susan Wokoma

And also, if it's part of a selection, it's only a small little bit, it's only a small wedge. There we go.

James Acaster

A little wedge, you've got the wedges back on side.

Susan Wokoma

Back on, I like them now.

James Acaster

But you toast it though, like, with raisin bread, I like it to be toasted.

Susan Wokoma

No, not if you're about to have, like, three courses. No.

James Acaster

You've lost me.



Susan Wokoma

Have I lost you?

James Acaster

I was on side.

Ed Gamble

Why is toasting it an issue if you're about to have three courses?

Susan Wokoma

I don't know, doesn't it just make it-, makes it denser. You're about to have-, no, hang on, you're about to have three courses and someone gives you toast, essentially, do you know what I mean? Don't you think that toast is dense? It's just me. Oh my God, I'm realising a lot tonight.

James Acaster

I guess, but if someone gives you bread it's the same, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

No, but if it's a little-, no, because if you hold a loaf, not loaf, if you hold a slice of bread, and then you hold a slice of toast, do this when you get home, the toast is heavier.

Ed Gamble

Is this another problem with your vocabulary here?

Susan Wokoma

No, it isn't.

Ed Gamble

Have you mistaking the word heavier for the word hotter and getting them-,

Susan Wokoma

No. Go home and try it. Slice of bread, untoasted, toasted, the toasted one is heavier.

Ed Gamble

Susan, it's going to be late by the time the show's finished, I can't go home and start shagging the toaster.

James Acaster

Also, you know, I think we're what, three episodes into the latest series of Taskmaster? I feel bad that this audience already knows who's not going to win.



Susan Wokoma

It's a hill I'm going to die on, and also, like, if you've watched the first three, you know I'm not going to fucking win. Jesus.

James Acaster

But toast is heavier than bread.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, that's what we've learned from this discussion.

James Acaster

So on this bread assortment you've got though, you want some raisin bread?

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

James Acaster

And?

Susan Wokoma

You've got to have sourdough, everyone's mad about sourdough, but I'm not really. It's scratchy in your mouth, it's a bit-, like, yes, you're making me doubt everything I say.

Ed Gamble

No, it's just I can feel the audience. You said fruit bread and they're like, okay, and then you said I don't like sourdough, and I think people left.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, yes, because everyone was-, I was about to use another word out of term. Oh, God, because everyone was doing that at lockdown, isn't it? Making sourdough. I wasn't.

James Acaster

No, I wasn't either. What did you do in lockdown?

Susan Wokoma

What I was doing in lockdown?

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Crying, surviving, watched a lot of Normal People again and again, to see a naked man, and the art.



James Acaster

I found loads of website with naked men on it.

Susan Wokoma

Are there?

James Acaster

You don't have to watch Normal People.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, have you frequented them?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Susan Wokoma

Yes. I know, but sometimes you want to see them in, kind of, like, you don't want to see the actual-, okay, you know what I mean. You don't want see, like, the actual-, you just want to see the suggestion of it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, fuck, literally.

James Acaster

Yes, and because there were lockdowns, you couldn't, you know, go and hang around the M&S changing rooms. You had to watch-,

Ed Gamble

Best place to see a suggestion.

James Acaster

It's the suggestion. I'm only here for the suggestion, relax. I'm not going to peep behind the curtain.

Susan Wokoma

I'm not a monster.

Ed Gamble

Can you shine your phone torch from behind it so I can see it on the curtain?

James Acaster

Oh, Mr- So you've got sourdough, you've got raisin bread.



Susan Wokoma

Yes, and just, like, some seeded. You know when it's loads of seed, like-,

James Acaster

Oh, yes, I like those.

Susan Wokoma

Do you?

James Acaster

I like them. No, you don't like them?

Susan Wokoma

No, well, do you know-, what happened?

James Acaster

A bit of fluff just fell down from the ceiling and nearly went in your glass. That was the most dramatic thing that's ever happened in the podcast. That would have ruined that Prosecco, and I know we would have got a very angry e-mail from your publicist.

Susan Wokoma

I would have drank that, I would have downed that.

James Acaster

Good on you, sorry.

Susan Wokoma

And so, like, heavily seeded bread I'm not a fan of because once I was in Maida Vale, and I don't know why Maida Vale is specific, I just don't like Maida Vale after this, but I got some seeded bread with something on it, I think it had salmon on it, and I bit it and it cracked my tooth, and it's the first filling I ever had to have at the age of 28. I absolutely smashed it. Until then, I was, like, look at my teeth, boom, and then I had that, and it was fucked, so don't like seeded bread, don't fuck with it, no.

James Acaster

I had my first filling a couple of weeks ago.

Susan Wokoma

Really?

James Acaster

First one ever. 38.

Susan Wokoma

Well done.



James Acaster

And the guy said, the week before he'd been looking at my mouth, you know, he's a dentist.

Susan Wokoma

He was just looking at the outline of your lips going mmm.

James Acaster

He's my new dentist.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, sure.

James Acaster

And he was like, 'I think we're going to have to give you a filling, which is a shame, because at the minute, you've got what we call a virgin mouth.'

Ed Gamble

Okay, are you sure this guy was a dentist? Where was he looking at your mouth?

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

What was the location?

James Acaster

M&S changing rooms.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, where was-, in a dental-,

James Acaster

In a dental surgery.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes, I was laying on the chair.

Susan Wokoma

Virgin mouth, is that what they call it?



James Acaster

He said, 'That's what we call this. You've got a virgin mouth.'

Susan Wokoma

Gorgeous, that's so lovely.

James Acaster

Yes, they said, 'So, I've got to deflower it. I've got to give it a filling.'

Ed Gamble

Were you really nervous before the filling?

James Acaster

Yes, I was.

Ed Gamble

Did you ask him if it was going to hurt?

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

This feels suddenly really sensual to be sat in the middle of this.

James Acaster

He had to ask my father's permission.

Susan Wokoma

But it is, like, when you've never had one before, it is a, kind of, big deal, isn't it? And someone's just rummaging around in your mouth.

James Acaster

Yes, you just feel a little bit-

Susan Wokoma

It's a big tuggy, and yes.

Ed Gamble

Just in case you were wondering, I was eleven when I lost my mouth virginity.

Susan Wokoma

Fucking hell.



James Acaster

Some people mature faster than others, it's cool. Good on you. Let's get into your menu, Susan. Your dream starter.

Susan Wokoma

My dream starter, sorry, I feel a little bit hysterical. My dream starter would be-, okay, I feel, like, I automatically-, I'm going to lose you, Bristol, but don't worry, I'll see you outside for a shag, so it is oysters. Alright. I love oysters. I love rock oysters because you can get them throughout the year. I like a nice, big, meaty, why does it all sound dirty? But, like, I like an oyster that you can really chew on, like it's a good bit of meat. What? What, Ed?

James Acaster

Don't look at him.

Ed Gamble

As soon as you say, 'Why does everything sound dirty?' And then you look me right in the eye and go, 'I like one I can chew on.'

James Acaster

Yes, you pitched that at the wrong guy.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, I did, yes, I did.

James Acaster

It would have gone right over my head if you'd have said that.

Susan Wokoma

I looked you dead in the eye, I'm so sorry, but no, I love oysters, but the thing is, when I order oysters, what I hate is, like, when I'm out with a friend, I never order the amount of oysters that I actually want, so the polite amount is three oysters, or two oysters. I want six, I want seven, I want eight because I'm a pig, right, so I'll be like-, yes, thank you. So I'll be out with a mate and I'll be like, 'Oh.' They'll be like, 'How many oysters do you want?' And I'll go, 'Six.' And then my friend will be like, 'Yes, three and three.' And the rage I feel under my skin, where I'm just like, 'Pick your fucking own, man.' So my dream starter would be oysters, but as many as I f-ing want.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Susan Wokoma

Big, meaty, juicy oysters. That's me looking at ED dead in the eye. That would be my-, yes.

James Acaster

What's the collective noun for a group of oysters?



Susan Wokoma

Oysto.

James Acaster

You know it's like a murder of crows and a gaggle of geese and stuff.

Susan Wokoma

Does anyone know?

Ed Gamble

A crew.

Susan Wokoma

A crew of oysters.

James Acaster

A crew of oysters. Can anyone Google it?

Susan Wokoma

A cloister of oysters.

James Acaster

Please, let it be a cloister of oysters.

Susan Wokoma

A cloister of oysters.

Ed Gamble

Do they hang out together though? Oh, there you go, a bed.

James Acaster

A bed of oysters.

Susan Wokoma

A bed of oysters.

James Acaster

I like cloister's better.

Ed Gamble

I think we'll go with cloisters.



Susan Wokoma

But that makes sense because they're an aphrodisiac, so like a bed, a bed of oysters, mmm, hello, you know.

James Acaster

Oh, that would explain-, just as I was going under the anaesthetic, I saw the dentist shucking some oysters. I just drifted away.

Susan Wokoma

Into that virgin mouth.

James Acaster

Yes, he was doing the shallots and everything.

Ed Gamble

Opening them with one of his drills.

James Acaster

Watching Suella Braverman speed away at this course. Are we talking the shallots with the vinegar, or the Tabasco? What do you have on them?

Susan Wokoma

Bit of vinegar, but lots of Tabasco. I am a saucy-, I love a sauce. Oh, fucking hell, I am-, yes, thank you. Tabasco, lots and lots of Tabasco. Not too much vinegar, I don't want to, sort of, I don't want to play with the pH balance of the oyster.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Fuck it, I've said it now. That's what I meant, so yes, loads of Tabasco, little bit of vinegar. Shuck it, down it.

James Acaster

Lemon?

Susan Wokoma

Yes, a little bit, little spritz. A wedge is allowed now.

James Acaster

Now we're bringing in the wedges.

Susan Wokoma

Now we're bringing in the wedges.



Ed Gamble

Wedges are in play now.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, they're in play now, they've been tagged in.

Ed Gamble

Do you want them presented on a bed of crushed ice?

Susan Wokoma

Yes. Now this. Yes because like I said, I like the drama of eating out, and crushed ice, that's very dramatic, but then, sometimes, I just fucking-, just bring them to me, do you know what I mean? When it's icy and then I'm like, 'I just want it in my mouth anyway.' I'm impatient.

Ed Gamble

So what would be the quickest way for you then? What would you want them to be presented on?

Susan Wokoma

I would want it to be presented by somebody just shucking them straight into my mouth.

James Acaster

What if we presented them on, like, a ruler? So we shucked them for you, we put the oysters on the ruler, we put the right amount of Tabasco on, and you can just-, and then it'll go down.

Susan Wokoma

On a ruler?

James Acaster

Yes, like a school ruler.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And then they just all slide down in a queue, one after the other.

Ed Gamble

30cm shatter-proof.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, thank you, that's actually what I was asking for.

James Acaster

Yes, sorry, 30cm shatter-proof, yes.



Susan Wokoma

Yes, thank you. Yes, completely adequate, I would do that, yes, yes.

James Acaster

You'd do that?

Ed Gamble

Not one of those bendy rulers that some kids have.

Susan Wokoma

Fuck, no. Oh my God.

Ed Gamble

Because then you hold the oysters up and they all just slip off the end.

Susan Wokoma

Those rulers-, and every time you want to do a straight line, there's always a little hump at the little foldy bit, it pisses me off.

James Acaster

And they use them as weapons. Fucking Joe hit me with a bendy ruler. Bam.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

No, we were using compasses and yes.

James Acaster

Oh, we had compass kids as well. There are compass kids in every school.

Ed Gamble

Joe was a rare beast though, wasn't he?

James Acaster

He was meant to be my friend. Thought it would be funny.

Susan Wokoma

What happened?



James Acaster

Well, I had a bare arm and he had his bendy ruler in his hand, he's not made of stone. Got me, I was like, 'That fucking kills.' And we fell out for a whole day, and a mark on my arm. As I say, the other kids told Joe, if he wants to hit people with his bendy ruler, then they're not going to be his friend.

Ed Gamble

The least cool kid of all time. No wonder you had a virgin mouth.

Susan Wokoma

I have to say, that is so me as a kid. Go and tell Sarah that I'm not going to be her friend because she was mean to me and I won't be her friend until 12 o'clock, but then after 12 o'clock, I will resume being her friend. Please tell her now, idiot.

James Acaster

Great, the kid delivering the message. I mean, they're having a great day.

Susan Wokoma

They're having a lovely day.

James Acaster

The kid delivering the message is like, 'Brilliant. I get to be amongst all the drama, but have none of the actual-, no one's pissed off with me.'

Ed Gamble

So do you want the oysters on a ruler?

Susan Wokoma

I can't say no to whatever the fuck that-, yes, let's do it.

Ed Gamble

No, you suggested someone comes over and is shucking them straight into your mouth, just-,

Susan Wokoma

That would be ideal, but I'm not a monster as well, so like, no, I'll have it on the ruler.

Ed Gamble

I don't want to be impolite, but I will have them off a 30cm shatter-proof ruler.

Susan Wokoma

I'll have them off the ruler.

James Acaster

Do you want someone to lift your veil as well through all this because, like, you're eating?



Susan Wokoma

Oh, yes, I forgot about the veil.

James Acaster

So the veil will need to be lifted.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, yes because I'm dressed like I'm going to a funeral. Yes, that would be ideal, if someone just did that, but I could do that.

James Acaster

You can do it, and then they can shuck them into your mouth?

Susan Wokoma

Yes, I'm not a total diva.

Ed Gamble

So you lift the veil, and then someone shucks them. Are you catching them?

Susan Wokoma

In my mouth?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Hopefully, yes.

Ed Gamble

So this is like they're feeding a seal at this point.

James Acaster

You're on solid ground now.

Susan Wokoma

Okay.

James Acaster

You're teed up good for your dream main course.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, right, so I went to a restaurant in Florence, Florenza, you know, what the fuck was that? That was French. Anyway, and there's this restaurant called-



Ed Gamble

I don't think it was French either.

Susan Wokoma

Mate.

James Acaster

There's been a lot of good accent work tonight, that's embarrassing.

Susan Wokoma

So I went to a restaurant called Paoli, so my friend Claudia, she's half Italian, and she was going through a break-up, and she was out there for, like, three months, and she was like, 'Okay, we're going to go to this place, and the pasta here is sensational, you're going to cry. You're going to cry because it's that good, but all it is, all it is is just truffle pasta. Just spaghetti with cheese, truffle, it's going to be great.' I was like, 'That sounds-', 'We're in Florence, Florenza, I was like, 'No, I want something a bit adventurous.' She was like, 'No.' So you go in, you sit down, you order, and what they do is they have this big vat of spaghetti and they cook it in front of you and there's fire. It's a whole thing, and everyone's there with their camera phones, like 'Ooh.' And the person who's, like, serving it up looks so fucking over it. They don't give a shit, and we're all like, 'Ooh, how exciting.' It's like fire and fire, they plate it up, and honestly, it was so good, I actually cried. I've got video footage of me crying, and I ordered three plates, and it was truffle pasta, just truffle pasta, is my dream main. I love a cheesy pasta, strong-smelling pasta.

James Acaster

Sounds amazing.

Susan Wokoma

So there is that, but my other main is-

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

Hang on.

Susan Wokoma

Wait.

James Acaster

You slipped that by us.

Susan Wokoma

Well, hang on.



James Acaster

I've still got loads of questions about the first thing.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, go on then.

James Acaster

Yes, tell me everything about the break-up, first of all.

Ed Gamble

How's Claudia doing now?

James Acaster

Yes, and also, when she said, 'Honestly, eat this, you'll cry.' Was she saying that about a lot of things at that point?

Ed Gamble

First, I had that yesterday and I cried.

James Acaster

Yes, sit down in this chair, you'll cry.

Ed Gamble

Wait until you see this pigeon, you're going to cry.

Susan Wokoma

No, she's alright, she's doing really well now. That was, like, over a year ago. We're good, we're past it, and she was being honest about it being that good you'll cry because I wasn't going through a break-up, I was fine. So she was like, 'Oh, you're going to cry.' I was like, like you guys, I was like, 'Sure.'

Ed Gamble

Sure, Claudia.

Susan Wokoma

Sure, I'll cry with you, if that's what you need. I will do that, I will squeeze one out, and then they ate it.

James Acaster

Learn to use phrases, mate.

Ed Gamble

Every phrase. Every phrase is wrong.



James Acaster

Jesus Christ.

Ed Gamble

Thought you were being comforting, she was absolutely baffled by that. If that's what you need, mate, I will squeeze one out for you.

James Acaster

Any time you need me to beat one off, I'll do it.

Susan Wokoma

I mean I'll squeeze a tear. Doesn't anyone else use that?

Ed Gamble

No. Do you why we use it? It means I'm going to take a shit, that's what it means.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, right. I use that all the time.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Are you going to-, you know, I'm really sad, so you're, like, squeezing one out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's what I look like.

Susan Wokoma

So I did a shit in this restaurant, and the truffle pasta was amazing. It was beautiful, it was unbelievable.

James Acaster

It does sound very, very good, but now, are you saying there's a contender against it, or you want both?

Susan Wokoma

No, a contender.

James Acaster

Okay. Let's hear it, but we might be able to help you here.

Ed Gamble

We might be able to help you out.



James Acaster

We might be able to help you here with a loophole, but go for it.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, as in, like, you're going to help me decide?

James Acaster

Well, here's the thing. Yesterday, and on another episode of the podcast, people have employed a little hack and had a pasta course before their main course, so if this next one is not a pasta course, you can have both.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, will you let me have both?

James Acaster

So you can have a pasta course, and then you can have a main course.

Susan Wokoma

I didn't expect that.

James Acaster

So you can get both.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, wow.

James Acaster

And because that sounded so good, that pasta course, we wouldn't want you not to have it.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, shall I do it? Cool. I'll squeeze another one out.

James Acaster

I was going to ask what you've been eating, but we're hearing it.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, so it's not a pasta course, so the other course is-, so AJ Odudu, she mentioned Ogbono soup, which is a Nigerian dish. Well, it's a soup, but it's a stew. Anyway, it's part of, like, a cluster of soups, and they're called draw soups, so they're really thick and stringy, and you can make them lots of fish and meat, any sort of assorted meat, whatever you like. So I heard that she did that, I don't like-, this is probably going to get beaten up after this, this is dicey stuff, so I don't like Ogbono soup, I like okra soup, which is another, it's in the family of draw soups, so it's made with okra, or okra if you're American. That was terrible as well. Can I not act?



Ed Gamble

All this RADA training.

Susan Wokoma

So the pods of okra, which is actually a fruit, didn't know that, but you cook it like it's a vegetable, and if you know, like, what gumbo is, anyone know what gumbo is? Yes, it's basically that, but the thing is, to get the stringy texture, you have to chop the okra really really small, and it's super spicy, and it tastes like-, it's quite sweet, but creamy, but grassy. You've got spinach in there, it looks beautiful, like, it's really really gorgeous to look at, and my mum was just King of making that all throughout my childhood, and what you normally do is that you have a pounded root vegetable that you would dip in and you'd eat it and use your hands, but now that I'm a grown-up, I don't do that. I just use a spoon because it's too much, and you get too full if you're doing that. So my very first boyfriend from Tunbridge Wells-

James Acaster

Any of these details relevant to the story?

Ed Gamble

Not at all.

James Acaster

Tunbridge Wells, and just narrow it down a bit.

Susan Wokoma

I think I know. Do you know what? The reason why I mention that is because he's so far away from what I prepared him, there we go, so he's from Tunbridge Wells, and he's like, 'Suze, why don't you cook me one of your-', That's not how he talks. 'Why don't you cook me one of your home dishes from Nigeria?' I've said I don't fucking like cooking. I like eating, I like food being prepared to me, wearing a feather boa and a visor.

Ed Gamble

He sounds like a great guy by the way.

James Acaster

Yes, awful. Absolutely awful man. Suze, why don't you cook me one of your home dishes from Nigeria?

Ed Gamble

Why don't you cook me one of your funny little spicy things? That's the vibe I got.

James Acaster

Yes, that's the vibe I get from this Tunbridge Wells mother fucker.

Susan Wokoma



No, as I'm doing now, is talking about how much I love okra soup, and he was like, 'Well, I'd love to taste it.' And I was like-

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, four years.

James Acaster

Four years.

Susan Wokoma

Four years, and so I was like, 'Right, cool, I'm going to do that.' So I'd made two mistakes. First one was that I didn't chop the okra thin enough, it was too thick, so when it's too thick, you don't get the stringiness, which is the main event, it's the main event. So when he had it, he was like, 'Well, this ain't anything like you said.' So I failed there.

Ed Gamble

Fucking hate this guy.

James Acaster

I distinctly remember you saying something about stringiness, what is this, Susan?

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't call this a main event, Susan.

James Acaster

Have you had shepherd's pie?

Susan Wokoma

Oh God, I feel awful. Yes, he's a prick, anyway, no he wasn't. He was a little bit, and then, so the second mistake that I made was that you're only meant to use, like, scotch bonnets, you're only meant to use a couple.

James Acaster

Uh-oh.

Ed Gamble

Oh, no.

James Acaster

Someone's about to get their comeuppance. I love it. Good on you, Susan. How many did you put in?

Ed Gamble



I don't think this is going to go well with a guy from Tunbridge Wells.

James Acaster

I'll have a nice big spoonful to begin with, Susan. Down the hatch, bombs away.

Ed Gamble

In for a penny, in for a pound.

James Acaster

For Queen and country.

Susan Wokoma

I'm laughing because you're not far off. Oh, what I was doing? So you're only meant to use two, and I used seven.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God.

Susan Wokoma

I used fucking seven, and my spice tolerance is high, but even I was sweating from my eyebrows, I was sweating from, like, creases in my neck. I was like shit, under my tit, I was like, 'Wow.' This guy was pink. He was pink and red, and he was like, it fucking killed him. Oh my God, it was funny, in retrospect. But at the time I thought I was going to kill him, he was so pink.

Ed Gamble

Well, that's good, you can see what he's going to look like when he's 40 at least.

Susan Wokoma

Oh my God, yes, so I love that meal, when it's made by other people, so yes, those are my two mains.

James Acaster

That's great.

Susan Wokoma

So can I have both of them?

Ed Gamble

Obviously, all I'm thinking about is steam coming out of his ears.

James Acaster

Also, they say that we've stumbled into a bit of a trap here, where Ed and I establish a running joke where you can do it infinite times, and all you need to do is do a different phrase before he eats it each time, and it's going to make us laugh. So I've got in for a penny, in for a pound, and for Queen and



country in my head, and if it wasn't for the fact we're on a time limit, that would have carried on for half an hour. That would have been for half an hour.

Susan Wokoma

I could so feel you were going to keep going with that, and oh God, I would have loved it, but yes, Queen and country.

James Acaster

But those are great, those are great. I think a pasta course that made you cry, followed by a main course that made him cry, that's great. Your dream side dish?

Susan Wokoma

Okay, that was quite, you know, really spicy, really flavourful, and so I thought, okay, what is, kind of-, because, you know, I am Nigerian in terms of my parents, and culturally, I was brought up in Peckham, where there was a lot of other Nigerian, West African people, but I was trying to think, okay, what is, like, no offence, the blandest, most British side dish that I can have? So I had another boyfriend, I've had a few.

James Acaster

Here we go. Next on the chopping block, step up.

Susan Wokoma

I had another one. Now, this one, who I won't name, was a proper-, he was a bitch. He was a I did this. I think of him, and I just think, what the fuck was I doing? Like, everyone else, I'm like, 'Good memories, some good times.' But this one, I'm like, 'I could have done without that.' Like, scratch that fucking out. However, after a break-up, I tend to go, 'Okay, what am I going to leave with?' What's one thing that I take with me?'

Ed Gamble

Can I just check, are you speaking as Susan now, or are you the character with dead husbands?

Susan Wokoma

This is me. I'm going to be her.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I got it.

Susan Wokoma

That's in about five fucking minutes, I'm going to be her, but no, so he was a bitch, but he showed me this snack, so he was-, why does that sound dirty?

James Acaster

There are a lot of innuendos in this episode, and when you draw out a sentence like that, it's going to be dirty.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

He showed me this.

Susan Wokoma

He showed me a snack, and was this, so we went out one night, we came in, and he was just like, 'Oh, I want to show you, like, my favourite night time snack.' I was like, 'Babes, yes, come on then.'

James Acaster

By the way, may I say, oldest trick in the book.

Susan Wokoma

So he's like, 'Right, so I'm just going to get some crackers.' I was like, 'Okay, alright, get the crackers out.' So he got some crackers.

Ed Gamble

Not good start.

Susan Wokoma

What are you like? Crackers, and then he sliced some cheese, just cheddar, just boring cheddar, then he got ketchup. Yes, that's why I'm not with him, and he put it on the cheese. Literally, I was watching him going, 'Fucking hell.' Am I going to have to put a pillow over his head, is it down to me, is this the moment where I'm like, 'I must stop this continuing?' And then he put the other cracker on it, I was like, 'Fucking hell.' I don't love anyone this much, I don't, and then I ate it, it's fucking sick. Absolutely amazing. It was gorgeous, so crackers, Jacob's crackers, slice of cheddar, just a couple of slices, ketchup, bish bosh, put in your mouth, gorgeous. That would be my side dish.

Ed Gamble

Your dream side dish.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, I love this sound, you lot are amazing. You lot want to beat me up and I love it.

Ed Gamble

Your dream side dish is crackers, cheddar and ketchup that was shown to you by, and I quote, a proper bitch.

Susan Wokoma

Yes.



Ed Gamble

You said you didn't take anything from this relationship.

Susan Wokoma

No, but that was the one thing I took.

Ed Gamble

The one thing.

Susan Wokoma

That was the only think I took.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it's awful, Susan.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, it is awful.

James Acaster

And he liked cheese boards, and he hates-, and I'm the last person who's going to back you up on it because I hate cheese boards, so obviously, I hate that.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, of course. No, that's alright.

James Acaster

I mean, has it got a name, did he give it a little night time-, he strikes me as a person who would give it a little cheeky name.

Ed Gamble

I'll give it a name, it's a fucking Dairylea Lunchable is what it is.

Susan Wokoma

He was in his fifties as well. I know, don't you think he's a bitch? Yes.

James Acaster

Hang on. Suddenly, I don't give a shit about food anymore.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

You were going out with a guy in his fifties, who was like, 'Let me show you my favourite night time snack.'



Susan Wokoma

Now you get the pillow thing. I was like, 'Geez.'

James Acaster

Try that Susan, try that, but you'll have to be quiet, otherwise, you'll wake Mother.

Susan Wokoma

Again, you're not far off.

James Acaster

Have you brought a girl home? Go to bed, Mother.

Ed Gamble

You better not be up all night making Dairy Lea Lunchables.

James Acaster

Mother, please, I'm a man now. I sleep in the big bed.

Susan Wokoma

Again, you're not far off.

James Acaster

Wow.

Susan Wokoma

You're not far off.

James Acaster

This guy.

Susan Wokoma

I've suffered.

Ed Gamble

Wait until you see this, it's going to blow your mind. Ketchup.

James Acaster

My many years on this planet, Susan, I learned many a thing. You probably haven't encountered this before. I'll let you see how I make it, but don't tell anyone, it's a family secret. Keep it under your hat, Susan. A Jacob's cream cracker, the weakest cheddar imaginable, a suggestion of ketchup, and here's the twist, a second Jacob's cream cracker. You must remember, we used to love this when we were children because when I was born, we were still in the backend of rationing.



Susan Wokoma

Oh, Christ.

James Acaster

Be quiet down there. Are you talking about the rationing again?

Ed Gamble

I hope you haven't eaten all the crackers. Mother, please.

James Acaster

You been in my nice cheese? Don't you be eating my nice cheese again, I'll come down there and give you hell. I'll bosh your ears.

Susan Wokoma

Oh my God. That made every second of that year with that guy worth it, thank you so much. Fucking hell.

Ed Gamble

Okay, we should probably on move onto the next boyfriend.

James Acaster

Here we go.

Susan Wokoma

Right, no, this is isn't boyfriend related.

James Acaster

Drink isn't boyfriend related, okay.

Susan Wokoma

No. Well, as you know, I love a glass of Prosexy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

I do. Thank you. Love you lot, man. Are we going out tonight? See. I love Prosecco, but that's not my drink of choice. My drink of choice is a Craig David.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

Now, again, I don't think you're using that phrase right. That is a UK garage singer.



Susan Wokoma

Yes, there's a drink called a Craig David. Who knows what a Craig David is? Go whoop. It's a real drink. Right, so what it is-

Ed Gamble

Was it the same guy who taught you that one?

Susan Wokoma

No, this is me.

Ed Gamble

And this is my favourite late-night drink, Susan. You take Robinson's orange squash, and you top it up with cold water.

James Acaster

Are you making Craig Davids down there? I'm trying to get to sleep. Mother, I'm making a Craig David.

Ed Gamble

Make me a Craig David while you're making them actually.

James Acaster

If you're going to make her a Craig David, you make me one.

Ed Gamble

Took her for a drink on Tuesday. Fucking hell, so the Craig David, tell me what's the flavour.

James Acaster

He did it, he did it. Amazing. Best in the biz, best in the biz.

Susan Wokoma

God, you're good at this. Well done.

James Acaster

Best in the Biz.

Susan Wokoma

Bloody Hell. Okay, I enjoyed that immensely, thank you.

James Acaster

Yes, it was great.

Susan Wokoma

Thank you for having me. I've had such a good time. So a Craig David is a shot of tequila, and then you have a chaser of orange, not orange juice, geez, no, blasphemous, pineapple juice. So you do



gulp, chaser, done. That's a Craig David. I don't know why it's-, I know you're about to ask me, James, I don't know why it's called a Craig David, but someone told me on New Year's Eve, which is my birthday, whoop whoop, they were like, 'Do you want a drink?' I was like, 'Yes, please.' And they were like, 'I'm going to get you a Craig David.' And I was like, 'What is that?' And then they said, 'Tequila.' I love tequila. Pineapple juice, love it, I was like, down that, have that, and it was lovely.

James Acaster

Wow. I mean, I do want to know. I know you said you don't know why.

Susan Wokoma

I don't know. I don't think there is a-, does anyone know? I don't think there is a definitive reason.

James Acaster

Because I was expecting, when you started lining up shots, I was like, there's going to be seven of them or something.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

No, there's just one. That is a singular shot with pineapple juice. It's called a Craig David. So now what I've done, because I have decorum, is I've now, sort of, just changed it, so I'll just have, like, a single or a double, depending on what I'm going through, of tequila, and then I'll have orange juice with it one glass, and that is what I call-, I'm not doing shots.

Ed Gamble

You're taking it's a long Craig David.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, I'm having a stringy Craig David, that's what I'm having.

Ed Gamble

Benito, see if you can work out why a Craig David is called a Craig David and put it up on your little screen.

James Acaster

As in Google it, not work it out in your head and put your guess up on the fucking thing.

Ed Gamble

I'd love that as well.

James Acaster

Yes. Have you ever met Craig David either of you?



Susan Wokoma

No, have you?

Ed Gamble

I've not met Craig David. Have you met him?

James Acaster

No. I wish I had a story.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Really felt like you were setting up for an anecdote there because that's a pretty bold play if you don't have one ready to go.

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

James Acaster

I thought we all work in the entertainment industry.

Susan Wokoma

No, never met him.

James Acaster

Uh-oh.

Ed Gamble

We've got some information from Benito.

James Acaster

Apparently, he likes it.

Susan Wokoma

That's all I've got is what Benito has just put.

James Acaster

That's all I've got. Apparently, he likes it. Craig David likes tequila and pineapple juice.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, is that it?

Ed Gamble

So he didn't invent-, well, maybe he went into a bar once and ordered it and then someone said, 'We're going to call that the Craig David.' And then that spread.



Susan Wokoma

Yes, it's like that's what people say about espresso Martinis and Kate Moss. What did she say?

Ed Gamble

She asked, give me something to wake me up and fuck me up, something like that, yes, and they invented the espresso martini.

Susan Wokoma

Can you imagine going to a bar and being like, 'Give me something that's going to wake me up and fuck me up.' I'd be like, 'Get the the fuck out.' 'Okay, bartender, give me something that's going to wake me up and fuck me up.' How dare you, get out.

James Acaster

That would be the end of my career.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

That would spread like wildfire.

James Acaster

Yes, he came in, he said, 'I want something to wake me up and fuck me up.' We barred him and kicked him out, and everyone thinks he's a really soft boy. If someone named a drink, a cocktail, after you, Susan Wokoma, what would it be?

Ed Gamble

Good question.

James Acaster

That's a good question, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

It would probably be, like-, already someone's having a giggle. It would be something, like, shagging Suzie or something, or shag-a-Suzie.

James Acaster

No, Susan, I said if someone named it Susan Wokoma, what would the drink be?

Susan Wokoma

Oh.



James Acaster

I didn't say-, you know how the Craig David cocktail is called Craig David, so if someone said, 'I want a Susan Wokoma.' What would the cocktail-, not Shagging Suzie.

Ed Gamble

Probably, thanks for the question, James, I fully understood it and listened. Probably a Shagging Suzie.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, God, no, the thing is, you're all laughing, but I have to be me, I have to walk around like this, fuck. What would it be?

Ed Gamble

What would be in it?

James Acaster

Yes, because I mean, I guess the Craig David one is just because he likes it.

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

James Acaster

So is there something that you like that isn't a traditional cocktail, but that you would go in and order, that someone should call the Susan Wokoma?

Susan Wokoma

Susan Wokoma. Well, I like, I worked in New York for a bit, I did a couple of plays, and what I love about New York is they've got that real culture of you just go to a bar, you sit by the bar, you order your drink, you don't have to go out in a big group, or for it to be a thing. It's just loads of people sitting at the bar having a drink and then they go home. I love that, and that's when I started getting really into, like, whisky and bourbons and pretending that I'm really cool, so it would probably be like Monkey Shoulder with a-, fuck it, put some pineapple juice in there.

James Acaster

So you would also do the pineapple juice, but you put the whisky first.

Susan Wokoma

I do genuinely love pineapple juice.

James Acaster

I like that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



Susan Wokoma

And it's really good for-, they know.

Ed Gamble

I don't. Explain it to me.

James Acaster

You do, Ed, because on the first night of the tour, which was four nights ago, we had this conversation with Jamelia.

Susan Wokoma

Jamelia knows.

James Acaster

Jamelia knows.

Susan Wokoma

There we go.

James Acaster

Jamelia brought up pineapple juice making your cum taste good.

Susan Wokoma

It does.

James Acaster

Does it?

Susan Wokoma

Does it?

James Acaster

Well, we were all, like, look, Ed and I and Jamelia-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Okay.

James Acaster

We didn't know if that was just a myth, but you-, and I don't want to put you on the spot here, but have volunteered yourself that is true.



Susan Wokoma

Yes, it's true. It's true.

James Acaster

Cool.

Ed Gamble

Benito's just put on the screen, don't make me Google this.

James Acaster

Yes, just because he doesn't want the tech team to see it just drop down and already pre-searched, as soon as he puts-

Ed Gamble

Puts in loads of different juices.

James Acaster

Yes, just the letter D, drops down, does pineapple juice make your cum taste like pineapple?

Ed Gamble

Does PG Tips make your cum taste like PG Tips?

James Acaster

From the great Benito, that's how he Googles. He writes from the great Benito every time when he Googles it. We arrive at your dream dessert, Susan. It's been a great meal so far. I feel like there's going to be no cheeseboard here because you've already had-

Ed Gamble

Well, we've already had the finest cheese available to man.

James Acaster

So I think I can relax.

Susan Wokoma

You can relax, there's not going to be any cheese.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, so you have an option, but I'm not going to tell you what they are, you're going to choose.

James Acaster

Wow.



Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

This is like the Joker.

Susan Wokoma

So there are two options. There's one that is quite basic, but I think that everyone will be like, yes, that's a good choice, or there's one that is pretty odd. Which one would you like?

James Acaster

The odd one, right?

Ed Gamble

Definitely the odd one.

Susan Wokoma

The odd one.

James Acaster

We want the odd one, right? Let's have a cheer for the basic one. Cheer for the odd one.

Ed Gamble

Odd one it is.

Susan Wokoma

You're not sure, alright, that's okay.

Ed Gamble

They want you to do both, but it depends which one we're going to hear first.

James Acaster

The lady who walked out and came back wants to hear back.

Susan Wokoma

Oh, you've got opinions. This one had a breather, he's like, 'I can't fucking take this.'

Ed Gamble

She had her coat on, she was half way out the door and she heard odd dessert, and she was like, 'I'm going to get back in there.'

Susan Wokoma

So there's a story behind this. Can I tell you the story?



James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Okay, so-,

James Acaster

The woman down there said yes.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, they really did. Thank you.

James Acaster

Yes, you may tell us the story.

Susan Wokoma

So I-, actually, no, I can't say the locations of these places.

Ed Gamble

So you were near the Colosseum.

Susan Wokoma

So I was near a McDonald's, which is near my family home, and I was about, I must have been about eighteen, and I was with my little sister, and we had ordered two McFlurrys, right, and it was, like, the one with Crunchie balls.

James Acaster

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

Crunchie, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Susan Wokoma

And so we were enjoying them, and then this guy came up to us and he was like-, what? No, this is true. So there was this guy came up to us and he was like-, also, I have to preface this, I've got a very round face, and my mum said to me-,

James Acaster

What the fuck is this story?



Ed Gamble

I don't know, I'm really worried. I'm really worried about this story.

James Acaster

All these details are red flags, whatever's about to happen.

Ed Gamble

Is this going to be the first time you met the guy in his fifties?

Susan Wokoma

No.

James Acaster

Oh, a McFlurry, huh? I have a favourite midnight snack.

Susan Wokoma

No, I've got a very round face, and my mum warned me when I was little, she was like, 'You have a very round face, so you have to be careful.' And I was like, 'Why?' Wait, don't worry, don't panic, it's okay, don't panic. She said, 'You have a very round face.' And I was like, 'Yes, mum. That came from you.' And she was like, 'No, it just means that people will think you're friendly. They'll think you're friendly and they'll come to talk to you, so you have to be prepared for strangers to come and talk to you.' And she's right. Basically, I look friendlier than I am. It's my problem. I'm basically friendly, but not anymore friendly than basically everyone here, but I have this face and everyone's like, 'Burrhgh.' And I'm like, 'Fuck off.' So we were having our McFlurry and this guy came, and I was like, 'Urghh, it's the round face again.' And he was like, 'Yeah, like-, I'm from South East London, I'm not being a dick, he was like, 'Yes, so, like, do you know what's really good with a McFlurry?' Why are you laughing, James?

James Acaster

I love this character, he's funny. He's trying to be cool, and saying, 'Do you know what's really good with a McFlurry?' He's like any other voice, that's not cool.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

If I went up to someone and went, 'Do you know what's really good with a McFlurry?' At night, they'd go, 'Fuck off.'

Ed Gamble

No, they wouldn't, that would be their dream James Acaster story. That's your catchphrase.

James Acaster

Sure, now. Not back in the day when no one knew who I was in Kettering, I'd get beaten up.



Susan Wokoma

Fucking hell. I'm sorry about that.

James Acaster

That's okay. Rubber rulers out their back pocket, I'm dead.

Ed Gamble

Not a lot of people talk to James in Kettering though because he's got a very long face.

Susan Wokoma

That will put people off.

James Acaster

Cheer up, mate, it might never happen.

Susan Wokoma

It does, it's all about. Anyway, so I've got a round face. This guy comes over and he's like, 'Do you know what goes really well with, like, McFlurry?' Why? You look stressed.

James Acaster

It's funny, but it is stressful as well,

Susan Wokoma

Alright, okay.

James Acaster

But the whole thing is just-, I don't know where it's heading, I can't imagine it.

Susan Wokoma

Stick with me, stick with me. So he's like-,

Ed Gamble

Let's just say we know that bit now.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, no, no, I have to say the whole bit.

Ed Gamble

Because also, every time you start this story, you've reiterated that you've got a round face, so yes, where was I? I've got a round face.

James Acaster

Keep that in your head. Keep the round face in your head, even though you can see it. Gives the full impression of the guy.



Susan Wokoma

Again, I have to be me, like, this is my problem, so-,

James Acaster

I like the impression of the guy though, do keep the impression of the guy in. Do that again, because that's great.

Susan Wokoma

I'm going to do it one more time, so he went, 'Do you know what goes really well with, like, a McFlurry?' And me and my sister were like, 'What?' And he went, 'This.' And he pulled- Wait, no, no. Yes, now I see-,

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I don't know what his hit rate on this kind of chat-up line.

Susan Wokoma

Oh God, yes, now I can see why you're both really stressed.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and where you choose to leave pauses in stories is wild.

Susan Wokoma

I'm that kind of person who, if I'm leaving a long voice note for my mates, I'll stop it at cliff hangers.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Susan Wokoma

To, like, go onto the next one, so I'll be, and then, next one.

Ed Gamble

He said this, and then pulled out. Send.

Susan Wokoma

I do do that, and my friends will be like, 'Oh my God, you're such a good storyteller.' But I can see how that's annoying, so I'm going to get to it.

James Acaster

We're not annoyed. I'm having a great time.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Susan Wokoma

So he pulled out a large portion of chips. He dipped it in, and then went you're welcome, and walked away.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so, can I just clarify some details?

Susan Wokoma

Get in there.

Ed Gamble

Where did he pull the chips out from?

Susan Wokoma

He had, like, a bag, you know, he'd just bought the chips. Yes, so he got it out and went, boof.

Ed Gamble

Boof, so he's stuffed some of his own chips-

Susan Wokoma

Into our McFlurrys and went-

Ed Gamble

And left them there.

Susan Wokoma

And went, 'You're welcome.'

Ed Gamble

And walked away.

Susan Wokoma

Yes. Then we looked at each other-

James Acaster

I mean, he might be my hero. I think that's incredible.

Susan Wokoma

Then me and my little sister, we looked at each other and it was like a Thelma and Louise moment, it was like, 'Are we going to do this? Are we going to do this? Let's do this.' And we got the chips, which is



all dipped in McFlurry, we ate it, and it was the most delicious thing I've ever tasted, so that would be my dessert.

James Acaster

That's great. I like that. It is great. Chip-shop chips.

Ed Gamble

No, McDonald's.

Susan Wokoma

No, it has to be McDonald's chips.

James Acaster

McDonald's chips, yes, McDonald's chips.

Susan Wokoma

Because they lace that with, like, crack and sugar, I swear. They're not normal and they're not good for you, but together, it's unbelievable.

James Acaster

That's brilliant.

Susan Wokoma

So that would be my dessert.

James Acaster

That's brilliant.

Ed Gamble

Do you want the guy to serve them to you in the dream restaurant?

James Acaster

Do you want him to come up?

Ed Gamble

Someone else brings the McFlurry and then he just walks in with his bag.

Susan Wokoma

Yes, it has to be like that, and he just goes, 'Boom. You're welcome.' Me there in my visor and my feather boa and my rings and bangles.

James Acaster

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



Susan Wokoma

Okay, thank you.

James Acaster

You would like sparkling water with a slice of lemon. You would like warm, soft bread with creamy, almost melted butter. Sorry, I'm stifling a burp.

Susan Wokoma

Let it out.

James Acaster

No.

Susan Wokoma

No, you're going to suffer.

James Acaster

Starter, unlimited rock oysters with lots of Tabasco, a bit of vinegar and a wedge of lemon. Pasta, truffle pasta from Paoli in Florence. Main course, okra soup. Side dish, Jacob's crackers with sliced cheddar and ketchup, made by the 50-year-old man who lives with his mother. Drink, a Craig David, and dessert, a McFlurry with McDonald's chips.

Susan Wokoma

Yes.

Ed Gamble

The Off Menu menu of Susan Wokoma.

James Acaster

Susan Wokoma.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much for coming.

James Acaster

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming.

Ed Gamble

Cheers, guys. You've been absolutely amazing. Good night, thank you.

There we are, a great episode with Susan.



James Acaster

Thank you, Susan, and afterwards, in the bar, us and Susan and the crew went for a drink, and I sneakily went to the bar and I ordered everyone a Craig David.

Ed Gamble

You ordered everyone a Craig David, exactly. Quite big shots and big glasses of pineapple juice.

James Acaster

Yes, I didn't expect it to be as big as it was.

Ed Gamble

What I didn't expect was you to bring all those shots back, do your shot, and then immediately go to bed.

James Acaster

Yes, I was tired. First of all, didn't want to stay up.

Ed Gamble

And now it's time for us to go to bed. Thanks for listening. We'll see you again next week. Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Sleep well.