



Off Menu – Ep 239 – Jessica Knappett (Live)

Ed Gamble

Oh, let me just check the calendar. What? It's Saturday.

James Acaster

Bonus.

Ed Gamble

A bonus live episode of Off Menu from our tour. This was the first night of our London Palladium residency, 19th November 2023.

James Acaster

Just another big old London venue residency for the Off Menu boys.

Ed Gamble

Honk honk.

James Acaster

I think in the first half of this show, there was definitely loads of stuff that we said to them on the 19th November 2023 in the first half that won't make sense when we do call backs to them in this thing. I think it is, though, maybe important, I don't know when we said it, it was probably in the first half. Maybe it is in the second half, but we did reference the fact that Bruce Forsyth, his ashes are underneath the stage. I think that's true, that's not something we made up for a laugh.

Ed Gamble

It will come up.

James Acaster

I think it definitely will come up, and it's just good to know for the listener that, also it's a fun fact.

Ed Gamble

Secret ingredient is key lime pie.

James Acaster

Fun? Should I say fun?

Ed Gamble

Fun, no.

James Acaster

Key lime pie is the secret ingredient.



Ed Gamble

The brilliant Jessica Knappett, this was such an exciting episode, James.

James Acaster

Jessica and I did a task master together, and I haven't been able to do anything else with Jessica since then because she was living in LA.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So I was very excited to be reunited with the Knappett.

Ed Gamble

Yes, my mum came to this one, another fact for you.

James Acaster

Ed's mum is in the audience, Ed's in-laws are in the audience, and in the first half, very rude.

Ed Gamble

It was a very rude first half, actual. My mum said afterwards, shit, I don't think she knew Jess Knappett, she'd not seen her before, and she went, 'She was brilliant.'

James Acaster

Ah, lovely.

Ed Gamble

'I loved her, she was fantastic.' So, there you go.

James Acaster

What'd she say about me?

Ed Gamble

Well she thinks you're very weird. So, enjoy the episode with Jess Knappett.

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast. Taking my own sourdough bread of conversation brackets wanker. Adding my grandmother's aubergine curry of humour, dickhead. And another ingredient that I got suspicious about, Professor Marsden's ribs of the internet. Stupid fucking husband. It's the Off Menu podcast.



James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, together we own a dream restaurant and every single week we invite the guest, and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. This week our guest is Jessica Knappett.

Ed Gamble

The wonderful Jessica Knappett, we're very excited to have Jess on the podcast. James, I notice that you've already puffed yourself out by the beginning.

James Acaster

Oh, I'm knackered, man.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So just slow down, stop doing little tricks and moves that you've thought of. You should've been in Busted, man, that was incredible. We already know the secret ingredient, we planned the secret ingredient, as you all know. Stop it. You're ill, you are ill.

James Acaster

I'm excited about the podcast.

Ed Gamble

But in a minute we're just going to have to sit down, and you're going to have all that energy riding-

James Acaster

I'm getting all my steps in now.

Ed Gamble

Getting all your steps in?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

How many steps do you think you've done?

James Acaster

Thousands.

Ed Gamble

Thousands of steps, well let's get on with the podcast. Please welcome to the stage, this is the Off Menu menu menu of Jessica Knappett. No guest on the live tour has had this energy at the top yet. I think all Task Master fans would have been very worried as you got closer to the front of that stage.



Jessica Knappett

Yes, that's why you put my chair back here, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, right back here, thank you.

Jessica Knappett

In the safe place.

James Acaster

One of my favourite things that I've ever been present at.

Ed Gamble

James, what are you doing?

James Acaster

Sorry.

Ed Gamble

You'll know what's happening, Jess.

Jessica Knappett

I'll act surprised, shall I?

Ed Gamble

You can act surprised. Would you like to rub the lamp?

Jessica Knappett

Oh my God, yes.

Ed Gamble

Well please feel free to get up and rub the lamp.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, now?

Ed Gamble

Well it would be awkward if we left him in there for a long time.

Jessica Knappett

I thought we could just have a little private chat.

Ed Gamble

Well we can just have a chat, that's fine. He's got a good squat, so-



Jessica Knappett

I actually, I've never rubbed a lamp before. I don't know where to rub it from. In this area, or the tip?

Ed Gamble

Have you seen the film, Aladdin?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, but I-,

Ed Gamble

Do you remember Aladdin wanking the lamp off?

Jessica Knappett

That was a detail they left out in my children's version. I'm going to just go for a safe, is that disappointing if I go down here? All right, dirty bastards.

James Acaster

Welcome, Jessica Knappett to the genie restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

Ed Gamble

Here he is.

Jessica Knappett

That's great, that's really, that's exactly how I imagined it to happen.

James Acaster

Pretty good, right?

Ed Gamble

Do you find it more or less disappointing that the lamp is massive? If a genie burst out of a massive lamp, I think I'd be less impressed.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, I would have preferred a real lamp, and a real genie, if I'm honest.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Because what James is doing is more like a genie thing stripper isn't it, really?

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

You know that's the old trope of people bursting out of a big cake, that feels like an Aladdin themed stripper you might hire for a party, for example.



Jessica Knappett

Ed?

Ed Gamble

Are we using the lamp after the tour?

James Acaster

I'm not a stripper.

Ed Gamble

I know you're not a stripper, James.

Jessica Knappett

I know that is a thing, isn't it? Strippers coming out of cakes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

But I've never witnessed it.

James Acaster

Hold on, does the stripper come out of the cake?

Ed Gamble

You thought the cake came out of the stripper?

Jessica Knappett

Have you been to Blackpool?

Ed Gamble

Just also very aware that my wife is here tonight with my in-laws and my mum, and after the first half, she texted me saying, 'Have you seriously saved all the ass fucking stuff until our parents are here?' And then I've just introduced conversations about a stripper, so, I apologise. Sorry.

Jessica Knappett

I feel like it's my fault, because I lowered the tone with the tip talk.

Ed Gamble

Right, yes, I think it is your fault.

Jessica Knappett

We've established that James isn't a stripper.



Ed Gamble

No, he's just a genie, a lovely genie.

Jessica Knappett

Just a lovely genie.

James Acaster

The only time I've ever stripped ever in my life-,

Jessica Knappett

Oh, yes.

James Acaster

I've only done it once, and it was for Ed's in-laws and his mum.

Ed Gamble

It was my father-in-law's birthday.

James Acaster

And they wanted it, and they paid top dollar and they kept chanting, 'Strip for me, genie boy.'

Jessica Knappett

And that's why they're here tonight.

James Acaster

That's why they're here tonight, they're here for round two, I guess.

Ed Gamble

It's nice to have the end of the show planned out.

James Acaster

Get them sitting in these chairs, we'll get up in-laws, your mum, then I'll come out the lamp.

Ed Gamble

What are me and Jess doing in this scenario?

James Acaster

Well that's your problem.

Jessica Knappett

Throwing money?

Ed Gamble

We could throw money.



Jessica Knappett

That's what you. Do o strippers, it's horrible, isn't it? But that is what you do, you throw money at them.

James Acaster

I wouldn't know.

Ed Gamble

I wouldn't know. Jess, are you a foodie, Jess?

Jessica Knappett

Well, I love going out for dinner. I love staying in for dinner, and I love food, but I feel like if you call yourself a foodie, it just sort of implies a bit of snobbery. That you have a certain level of snobbery about food, and I love food, but I love all the foods including, I'm going to say it, McDonald's. 'Yes', someone just said over there. I love dirty food. I love really posh Michelin food as well. You can see me getting a tasting menu down my neck, I will do that.

James Acaster

That's what they say, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

When the bring it as well, they go, 'Get that down your neck.'

Jessica Knappett

I don't know why I had to say it so aggressively.

Ed Gamble

Get the funnel, Knappett's here.

James Acaster

She'll want it down her neck.

Ed Gamble

I know there's twelve courses, but just blend them all up. Chuck it down her fucking neck.

James Acaster

Fucking neck.

Jessica Knappett

Does that answer the question?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so. I think you're saying, saying you're a foodie suggests that you just like fancy food, whereas you like dirty food and you like fancy food, and you like it all down your neck.



Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

If McDonald's did a tasting menu-

Jessica Knappett

Oh, that's great.

Ed Gamble

This is the best question you've ever asked.

James Acaster

I knew it as soon as I said it, this is the peak of my career. We already know that you would say yes because you like tasting menus and you like McDonald's but say it's a twelve courser,-

Jessica Knappett

Yes, okay great.

James Acaster

We're going to have to rattle through these.

Jessica Knappett

We are actually. I don't know if I could do twelve because I always just go for the same thing.

James Acaster

What's your standard order?

Jessica Knappett

It's a Quarter Pounder cheese meal.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, that's the best, and I'm sorry to come on a food podcast and immediately talk about McDonald's, that's horrendous, but I recently took my daughter to one, and my husband is a big foodie and actually I think that's part of the problem. He's cooks and he makes meals that people talk about years later.

Ed Gamble

For good reason?



Jessica Knappett

Yes. We'll go camping and he'll have rocked up with a Cotes du boeuf. He has to deal with me, I love McDonald's, and he loves Cotes du boeuf, and we meet somewhere in the middle which is steak, I suppose.

Ed Gamble

A boeuf burger.

Jessica Knappett

A boeuf burger.

Jessica Knappett

I took my daughter, and actually the truth is, as an experience, I'm sorry to say, it is amazing. To relive it through a child's eyes, they've just got it right, and it's delicious.

Ed Gamble

Could you see her eyes change?

Jessica Knappett

It's the best restaurant.

James Acaster

In the world.

Ed Gamble

We do talk about McDonald's now and again on this podcast, it's broadly positive chat I think, but no-one's ever said, 'It's the best restaurant.'

James Acaster

I think Lolly Adefope may have said it was the best restaurant.

Jessica Knappett

I went out for quite a fancy dinner with one of my friends, we went to a restaurant called Clipstone, and the food was absolutely delicious, everything that came out was absolutely amazing, just tasting it, and she said, 'Do you know why this is delicious?' And I said, 'Why?' And she said, 'Because it tastes like a Big Mac.' And that's the thing, from time to time, maybe actually all good food just reminds you of McDonald's.

Ed Gamble

It's an interesting point, Jess.

James Acaster

You might be right.



Ed Gamble

Struggling to not get hungry-

Jessica Knappett

I think I'm starting to answer the question, 'Am I a foodie?'

James Acaster

Do you have a favourite branch of McDonald's?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, Guiseley.

James Acaster

Guysley.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, because it's next to Hobby Craft where I go and take my daughter, ostensibly, to buy her craft supplies but I actually just buy myself loads of felt-tips that I don't use.

Ed Gamble

Your daughter's going to have some lovely memories of her childhood. 'My mum used to take me to Hobby Craft and McDonald's'.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What did she eat when you took her to McDonald's?

Jessica Knappett

A Happy Meal, of course.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, inside the Happy Meal there's a tiny cheese burger, chips, carrot sticks.

James Acaster

Fuck that.

Jessica Knappett

They do that now. Water.



Ed Gamble

What do kids need to be hydrated for?

Jessica Knappett

They're not interested in that bit, it's about the cheese burger. I saw her face when she got the gherkin. She was so confused.

Ed Gamble

Did she like the gherkin?

Jessica Knappett

No, but I saw her eat it, and go, 'What was that?' And I know, give it a few years, she'll love that, but I know that's kind of a contentious subject isn't it, gherkins. Pro gherkins? Anti gherkins?

James Acaster

Grow up. Don't like them.

Jessica Knappett

Pro-gherkin?

James Acaster

I love gherkins.

Jessica Knappett

Pro-gherkin?

Ed Gamble

I fucking love gherkins.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, okay.

James Acaster

And I respect McDonald's for sticking with the gherkin because they're, you know, the fast food restaurant. They could just go, 'Why are we bothering putting these gherkins in?' No one's, you know-,

Jessica Knappett

But, you see, that's it. They could be mainstream.

James Acaster

Yes. They're the REM of-,

Ed Gamble

They could be but they stay punk, you know?



Jessica Knappett

They stay alternative.

James Acaster

Like Nirvana.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

You talk to Ronald McDonald, he's like Kurt Cobain.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

He's like, 'Can't believe all these fucking mainstream jocks coming and eating our burgers, I just wanted to make good stuff.'

Ed Gamble

I love the gherkin, man. It's so good. People take the gherkin out and they go, 'Oh, that's disgusting.' Just fucking get away from me.

James Acaster

Yes, think it's more disgusting to take the gherkin out, personally.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, wiggle it around.

James Acaster

Be like that, 'This is disgusting.' Yes, that is, what you're doing, putting a bunch of gherkins on a paper napkin on the side, where we're all eating.

Jessica Knappett

But then you get their gherkin, don't you?

James Acaster

I'm not that person.

Jessica Knappett

I do. I take their gherkin.

James Acaster

That's your daughter's gherkin. That's fair enough.



Jessica Knappett

Well, yes.

Ed Gamble

You take their gherkin off their napkins?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. If they go, 'Don't want the gherkin,' I'll go, 'Give it to me, you prick, I'll have two gherkins.'

Ed Gamble

Are these people you know or just anyone in McDonald's?

Jessica Knappett

Anyone around the restaurant. If anyone is doing that, I'll come along with my burger.

Ed Gamble

I think it's a shame that Heat magazine don't do Spotted any more because-

James Acaster

Are they putting the gherkin directly on your burger, directly on the table, or directly into your mouth?

Jessica Knappett

It should go directly into the mouth, really, shouldn't it, if we're really playing?

James Acaster

Yes, but, as I said to Ed's in-laws, you have to pay extra for that.

Ed Gamble

Oh, man, they are going to be hating this.

Jessica Knappett

You jester.

James Acaster

Yes, your wife will hate it a lot.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, Jess Knappett.

Jessica Knappett

I know, yes.



James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, I know you do because I listen to the podcast, because I love it. I love sparkling water, but we live in a country where we can drink tap water.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

'Ooh.' Someone just did that, tap water-

James Acaster

Because we live in a country where we can drink tap water.

Jessica Knappett

'Ooh.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're from another country. They've travelled here specifically for this.

James Acaster

Well, fair enough. You got us.

Jessica Knappett

Having lived in a country, for a bit, where you couldn't drink the tap water, and that is America, by the way-

Ed Gamble

Really?

Jessica Knappett

Absolutely ridiculous. Don't you think that's ridiculous?

James Acaster

You were in LA, right?

Jessica Knappett

You can't drink the tap water in America.

James Acaster

Yes, that's out of order.



Jessica Knappett

That's the richest country in the world.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Jessica Knappett

You can't drink the tap water so now I, sort of, make a point of drinking tap water. I also disapprove of, although I am drinking it now, any still water in a bottle because I just think you've filled a bottle with tap water, is what you've done there, and then you've sold it.

James Acaster

Just so you know, that's a can.

Ed Gamble

That's a can, that, Jess.

James Acaster

I know you're hammered.

Ed Gamble

What do you mean, you can't drink the tap water in America? Because now I'm going back to all the times I've been to America and glugged all the fucking tap water.

James Acaster

Yes, because you lived in LA. We've been there.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

I've drunk tap water there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we definitely drank tap water.

Jessica Knappett

No but you-, I don't think so.

Ed Gamble

Pretty sure.

Jessica Knappett

Is anyone here from LA who isn't my husband?



James Acaster

You can?

Ed Gamble

You can. How long were you there for, Jess?

Jessica Knappett

Years.

Ed Gamble

Who told you you can't drink the tap water, because-,

James Acaster

Is someone else saying, 'Can't'? No.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

I was just checking.

Jessica Knappett

Oh my god, was it just my house?

Ed Gamble

No, no. I don't even think it was your house. I think you could've-, now, like, we know about Flint, Michigan. That's, you know, the archetype of where you obviously can't drink the tap water.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, that's a thing.

Ed Gamble

It's a different colour, but I think, in LA, you can drink the tap water, and who told you you can't drink the tap water?

Jessica Knappett

Okay, maybe it's just disgusting and that's why I stopped drinking it. Anyway, the point is-,

James Acaster

I don't know if we can just move past this, Jess.

Ed Gamble

No.



Jessica Knappett

The point that I would like to make is I love sparkling water, and sparkling water, there's a sense of occasion about it, isn't there? It's fancy, and so I will order it, but if I'm about to have a big meal, I won't because I don't want to fill myself up. I know you think it is some sort of aperitif.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. That's you that's getting pointed at.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I don't think I've ever said that sparkling water is an aperitif.

Jessica Knappett

I've heard you. I've heard you, on this podcast, say it's good digestively.

Ed Gamble

Well, I don't think I said it that fancily. I think, if you drink sparkling water, it makes you do a big burp and then you feel emptier.

Jessica Knappett

Oh. Well, now that sounds like a good thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

But no, I'd normally go for tap water, but I'll order tap water at my peril.

James Acaster

Yes. Why are you looking at me for the peril?

Jessica Knappett

Because I've been giving Ed my time.

James Acaster

I think, I mean, you don't have to have LA tap water, which you don't trust, for some reason. You can, if you like, have tap water from-, well, what's the best tap water you've ever had? I mean, you grew up in Yorkshire. That's got good tap water.

Jessica Knappett

Yorkshire's got really good tap water, so I am going to have Yorkshire tap water, because it's the best. They bottle it. They sell it. You hate it.



Ed Gamble

I don't hate it. I just think the water's too soft, and when I shower in Yorkshire, it makes my hair go fluffy.

Jessica Knappett

Are you joking? Does that happen?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

You get fluffy hair from living in Yorkshire?

Ed Gamble

I get fluffy hair. Yes, not from living in Yorkshire. I'm not suggesting that when I cross the county border that my hair goes fluffy.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, you get fluffy hair from showering in Yorkshire. That's what you're saying?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes. Yes, you definitely do. I do.

James Acaster

Yes, I get more volume to my hair the further north I go.

Ed Gamble

That's why we got caught on Hunted.

Jessica Knappett

'There he is.'

Ed Gamble

They checked the CCTV.

Jessica Knappett

'I thought he was a hedge.' This is an absolute revelation. Sorry, have you ever been to Norfolk? Because the water there is, in some parts of Norfolk, so soft as to feel greasy to the touch.

Ed Gamble

See, but I know now how fucking gullible you are, Jess, because you've already been stopped from drinking tap water in the place you lived for years, just from one person going, 'You can't drink that,' and you've gone, 'I will take that as gospel,' so now I'm worried you went to Norfolk and someone gave you a bowl of olive oil, and said, 'That's tap water.'



Jessica Knappett

No.

James Acaster

'That's water, that is.'

Jessica Knappett

No, I had a very, very greasy shower in Norfolk once.

James Acaster

But was it the water or the shower? Were you in a, like, dirty shower?

Jessica Knappett

Well, James, who knows now?

James Acaster

What were the circumstances? What were you doing in Norfolk?

Jessica Knappett

We were just staying at Steve's.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

We were staying at Steve's for the weekend.

Ed Gamble

Steve. Greasy Steve's?

Jessica Knappett

Steve's shower was incredibly greasy, and I couldn't make the soap sud. Is anyone with me?

James Acaster

But did you bring this up to Steve? Did you say, 'Steve-,

Jessica Knappett

'Steve, your water's greasy.'

James Acaster

Yes. Did you say, 'Is that a Norfolk thing?' or did you just assume that must be Norfolk water?



Jessica Knappett

Yes, we did, actually, talk about it a little bit, yes, because I genuinely thought that I wasn't able to wash off the soap from my body. That's what it felt like.

James Acaster

Okay, so you'd lathered up. I don't want to sound like a perv.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. It was a shower, James.

James Acaster

So you got soap on you, and then the water went on you, and the soap was staying still and didn't move?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, that's what it felt like but that wasn't what had happened. What had actually happened was it was just the sensation of a highly alkaline water.

James Acaster

So the soap washed away and was replaced with grease, but it felt the same?

Jessica Knappett

It's just a feeling. I mean, you know what soap feels like. It's a pH thing that, you know, you do that in chemistry, don't you?

Ed Gamble

I didn't learn about greasy showers in chemistry.

James Acaster

Not personally.

Jessica Knappett

But you know what alkaline feels like.

James Acaster

Know what alkaline feels like?

Jessica Knappett

We're only on water.

James Acaster

Give us a cheer if you know what alkaline feels like. There's a few people. Mainly ladies, actually. I don't know if that's-



Jessica Knappett

Right. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Give me a cheer if you've had a shower in Norfolk, and give me a cheer, those people. Do you know what Jess is talking about? There you go.

James Acaster

Again, this seems to be your personal experience, once, that you thought was across the board.

Jessica Knappett

That's absolutely mad. I do feel like I'm going a bit mad now, but that's connected to the soft hair thing.

Ed Gamble

Why are you pointing at me so much?

Jessica Knappett

Because it came from something you said, about the soft hair, about your hair feeling fluffy.

James Acaster

Your hair goes fluffy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I should have known when I said that they have soft water in Yorkshire and it makes my hair go fluffy that you'd immediately go, 'I had a shower in Norfolk, it was greasy.'

James Acaster

They're all greasy there.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, I'm just going to drink some water for this-

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Jessica Knappett? Poppadoms or bread?

Jessica Knappett

Oh, hang on.

Ed Gamble

That made me jump, to be fair, that time.

James Acaster

I was pleased with that one.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

It's so easy, actually.

James Acaster

Oh, yes? This question? Yes, yes.

Jessica Knappett

It's obviously pops. No offence to bread. No offence to bread.

James Acaster

If bread were here, it would say, 'None taken.'

Jessica Knappett

Shout out to rosemary focaccia with sea salt. Shout out to sliced white covered in butter, served on the side of every meal in Yorkshire as a condiment.

James Acaster

That's nice.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Jessica Knappett

Bread is a condiment in the north.

James Acaster

I didn't know that.

Jessica Knappett

It's true.

James Acaster

Are you sure?

Jessica Knappett

I'll tell you what else is a condiment, actually. If you go into a sandwich shop, you know, like, a proper sandwich shop?

James Acaster

Yes.



Jessica Knappett

Do you?

James Acaster

Well, I've not ever been to a fake one but I also haven't heard of fake maple syrup until tonight, so, like, what's a-

Jessica Knappett

I'm not talking about Pret. I'm not talking about even Greggs. I'm talking about the one, dare I say it, below that, where it's, like, a bap and you'll get your ham salads, your egg mayo, your chicken coronation. You go in and they're all laid out behind the counter.

Ed Gamble

And the butter comes from a massive tub.

Jessica Knappett

You've got butter, and the question will be, 'Butter or marg?' You know, 'Do you want all the salad?' they'll say, and what they mean by that-, does anyone know what I'm talking about? Yes, and they'll say, 'Mayo or salad cream?' and in Yorkshire, and maybe other parts of the north, if you say, 'Yes, I want all the salad,' they will put a boiled egg in it.

James Acaster

Oh, lovely.

Ed Gamble

A whole boiled egg?

Jessica Knappett

A whole, because a boiled egg is a condiment also.

James Acaster

Yes, in salad.

Ed Gamble

Would it be sliced or they'll just put a whole boiled egg?

Jessica Knappett

It'll be sliced, yes, in an egg slicer.

Ed Gamble

You know, in Norfolk, when you go into one of those shops, they say, 'Butter, marg, or tap water?'

Jessica Knappett

Okay.



James Acaster

Also, just quickly, and this is something that I might have wrong here, but you said, just rolling back, and probably no one else noticed it, you said, 'Chicken coronation.' Now, I call it, this might just be a Kettering thing, coronation chicken. I would think chicken coronation is a literal if a chicken became the monarch.

Ed Gamble

That's a spoiler for the next Aardman film.

James Acaster

Yes, rounding off the trilogy.

Jessica Knappett

No, I'm going to stick with it.

Ed Gamble

Chicken coronation.

James Acaster

The chicken coronation. Congratulations to the chicken, I guess.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

But you're choosing poppadoms?

Jessica Knappett

But yes, despite all that, and also shout out to just, like, really cheap garlic bread from the supermarket, that you put in the oven.

Ed Gamble

Yes, baguettes. Absolutely.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, no, I do want to stick with poppadoms.

James Acaster

But you nearly went for garlic bread from the supermarket just then.

Jessica Knappett

No, I just started thinking about it and it is just wonderful, isn't it, really?



James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

But poppadoms, but specifically poppadoms at the Shama Bingley, which is on the top of Safeway, in 1998. The stack of poppadoms, the top one will be slightly oily because it has come out first.

James Acaster

Sorry, we both thought of the same joke and looked at each other, and nodded. We were going to say it's from Norfolk, weren't we? Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Norfolk, Norfolk.

James Acaster

We have the same brain now. We looked at each other.

Jessica Knappett

Do you know what's upsetting is that I looked at you both nodding to each other and I genuinely thought they were looking at each other, going, 'It's good to have her on, isn't it?'

Ed Gamble

We are also, obviously, thinking that, Jess.

James Acaster

Of course, we're thinking that all the time, Jess. We don't have to look at each other to communicate that.

Ed Gamble

Great to have you on.

Jessica Knappett

But no, it was, 'Which one of us is going to mock her first?' I'll let you take it, James.

James Acaster

That top poppadom was from Norfolk, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, so the top one is covered in Norfolk water, and they're quite spicy, with, I think, some kind of, like, fennel seed or something.



Ed Gamble

It's like. They're good.

Jessica Knappett

Obviously, they're served with all the pickles and the chutneys. Mixed pickle, lime pickle, mango chutney. Why has everyone gone quiet? Raita.

James Acaster

Because they want to make sure-, they're on tenterhooks about the dips.

Ed Gamble

This is what they're here for. This is the audience rapt.

Jessica Knappett

That's the gist of it, really, because it's just so delicious, and do you know what I love? The mixed pickle when you get those big peas.

James Acaster

Yes. Yes, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Do you know the ones I mean?

Ed Gamble

Do I know what you mean by 'big peas'?

James Acaster

The peas in the pickle?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

They're not peas though, are they?

James Acaster

Well, go on.

Jessica Knappett

They're not. They're not, like, frozen peas. They're not petits pois.

James Acaster

No, they're not petits pois. Thanks for clearing that up. A lot of people think it is petits pois in the dips.



Jessica Knappett

No.

Ed Gamble

What are they then?

Jessica Knappett

I don't know, but they're the same peas that you sometimes get in Thai curries.

Ed Gamble

I thought they were petits pois.

James Acaster

I guess we have to-,

Jessica Knappett

They're definitely not petits pois. They're harder.

Ed Gamble

I want to hear more about the Shama Bingley on top of the Safeway in the 1990s.

James Acaster

Yes, I do.

Jessica Knappett

I know that, you know, when people are like, 'Oh, if you could go back in time, where would you go?' 'Oh, I'd go to the roaring '20s,' or, 'I'd go on the Titanic.' Actually, no one says they want to go on the Titanic, do they?

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

Nobody.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I'd go on the Titanic.

James Acaster

Oh, the bubonic plague, please. Let me be a pauper.

Jessica Knappett

Right at the end.



James Acaster

Yes, I would.

Ed Gamble

Imagine someone who doesn't know what happened on the Titanic gets a time machine. 'I didn't watch to the end of the film but it looked lovely on there, I'm going to go back in time to the Titanic.'

Jessica Knappett

The good bit. I want to go back in time to the Shama Bingley, 1998, because it was my favourite. Food is all nostalgia for me, but on a Friday night, not every Friday night, but, you know, mum, dad, brother, we'd say, 'It's curry night.'

James Acaster

In unison?

Jessica Knappett

That was the happiest-, sorry?

James Acaster

Would it be in unison, or would just one of you say, 'It's curry night?' When you said, 'Me, mum, dad, brother, we'd say it's curry night,' is that all four of you saying it together, at the same time? Or is that mum and dad saying it to you guys?

Ed Gamble

Did you all know instinctively that it was curry night? Did you put your hands in the middle, like Power Rangers?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. Shall we try it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Fuck yes. Imagine if we went back in time now.

James Acaster

Ready? Think about the Shama Bingley.

Ed Gamble

Three, two, one (x2). It's curry night (x3). That felt good.

James Acaster

Yes, feels good.



Jessica Knappett

God, wow.

James Acaster

It's a shame we can't have any curry, now we've said that.

Jessica Knappett

It's just a happy memory.

James Acaster

Older brother, younger brother?

Jessica Knappett

Older.

James Acaster

Older. So, you're the youngest in this scenario, the family going to Shama Bingley?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, just happy memories.

James Acaster

So, you're the Little Tike, you're looking up at everyone else, you're excited that you're in the Shama Bingley.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, wearing my green and purple. Because it was a time when, quite a good couple of years, where I would only wear the colours green and purple.

Ed Gamble

Like Donatello?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. So, that's the imagine.

James Acaster

Also, I guess if we're going to establish that you're Donatello, this is a group of four that are going to the Shama Bingley. We'll have to ask who the rest of your family would be.

Jessica Knappett

I don't know the names.

James Acaster

Well, see Michelangelo is a lie.



Ed Gamble

Okay. Well, we'll talk you through it. Was there anyone in your family who you would consider to be a party dude?

James Acaster

Yes, who's the party dude out of the three? And there's got to be a leader, party dude.

Jessica Knappett

My mum's the party dude.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

So, your mum's Michelangelo.

James Acaster

Your mum's Michelangelo, that's pretty cool.

Jessica Knappett

Maybe a bit more-,

James Acaster

I thought your brother would have that in the bag.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I mean, if your dad's not the leader out of him and your brother, then that's-,

Ed Gamble

But who's the leader though? Because the two left are both leaders, right?

James Acaster

I thought Leonardo was the-, no? Is Raphael?

Ed Gamble

Well, some of these just said Raphael.

James Acaster

Raphael's the leader?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What's Leonardo then, in the dynamic of the turtles?

Ed Gamble

Raphael's cool, but rude.

Jessica Knappett

Cool, but rude. That's my brother.

Ed Gamble

That's your brother. So, your mum?

Jessica Knappett

Actually, is not that cool. It was too much of a compliment.

Ed Gamble

So, your dad's Leonardo?

Jessica Knappett

And then what's the-, my dad's Leonardo, and then who's left?

James Acaster

No, you're Donatello, because you only wore purple and green.

Ed Gamble

You're the nerd who makes all the machines.

Jessica Knappett

What's-, I'm not-, I mean, I know it's the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

But I don't know what the personality of Donatello is.

Ed Gamble

He's the nerd, he makes all the machines, and stuff. He's the brainbox, really.



James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Right, you just said that.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm beginning to think you're not Donatello.

James Acaster

Also, I don't think you're the other three.

Jessica Knappett

I'm okay with that, I think.

James Acaster

You might be, yes, a different character.

Jessica Knappett

Anyway, guys, it's closed down now, and it's moved to another location, and as has the Safeway, and there are no restaurants on top of that shopping centre any more, and I just feel, kind of, sad about it. So, I thought I'd share that.

James Acaster

Did they move together? Is it still on top of the Safeway, but in a different location, the Shama?

Jessica Knappett

No, the whole-, that would be good though, wouldn't it? I don't think there are even any Safeways any more.

James Acaster

It would be fun if they moved to a same location as each other again, but swapped who's on top. So, Shama got to be the main one, and then you've got to go up to the Safeway.

Jessica Knappett

As grotty as it sounds, having to go up basically, sort of, a fire escape onto-,

Ed Gamble

So, you don't go through the Safeway, to get to the restaurant?

Jessica Knappett

No. You park in the Safeway car park, and then you go up these, kind of-, and it was I guess a nineteen fifties shopping centre type feel, and you go up these piss-stain soaked steps, and there'd be broken bottles, and then sometimes there'd be some hooligans on the steps. And you'd get up to the



top, and it's just, like, a flat roof, with a puddle, and then the Shama would appear before you, and it was just such a-, it was paradise, it was a sanctuary. It was honestly heaven to me.

Ed Gamble

The sanctuary from the situation you'd put yourself in. 'Finally, we're away from those horrible steps.'

Jessica Knappett

And the hooligans.

James Acaster

All the piss, and the hooligans.

Ed Gamble

I think that would be it for me. Respect for you and your family, for making it to the restaurant. I think as soon as I was on the steps, I'd be like, 'Fuck, no way I'm going up there.'

Jessica Knappett

Honestly, it was worth it, and also it was one of those really old-school Indian restaurants, with proper décor. The poppadsoms came in, like, a silver tray with a doily. Do you know what-, yes.

James Acaster

I know what a doily is. I'm not sure if I would consider that old-school, Indian restaurant though, but, like, fair enough if it is.

Jessica Knappett

Really? You know, carpeted chairs as well.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, what? I was with you. I was with you all the way through the doily bit. What do you mean, 'Carpeted chairs?'

Jessica Knappett

I mean, I can't really elaborate on that.

James Acaster

I think we think you're saying that they had carpeted the chairs, but that doesn't sound right.

Jessica Knappett

They were upholstered.



Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

Okay. With carpet?

Jessica Knappett

Well, it kind of looked like it, yes. So, that's where I'm having my poppadoms, in the Shama Bingley, and on an upholstered, carpeted chair.

Ed Gamble

Do you want to walk up the steps, do you want that whole experience for the dream meal?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. Actually, I did.

Ed Gamble

I think you've got to, right?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because you want the reveal of the restaurant.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, I do.

James Acaster

And you've said it's curry night with your family and your-

Jessica Knappett

Yes, and then-, no, we're talking about poppadoms, but just because you might like it as a detail. I would go absolutely hyper if I had those-, you know those little sweets? They were like fennel seeds, covered in sugar, like pink sugar. Pink, and white, and yellow.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do know the ones you mean.

Jessica Knappett

E numbers, and I would go mad, and turn into a chicken, and pretend to lay an egg, and stuff. And they knew that I would, like, go crazy if I had them.



Ed Gamble

Would the restaurant staff know as well?

Jessica Knappett

It would happen when I got home, but they would give them to me in a little-, they were in a dish on the counter as you left, and you could just dig in, and they'd be like, 'Jessica, don't have-,'

Ed Gamble

Are we sure they were sweets?

Jessica Knappett

Well, yes, maybe not.

James Acaster

You getting home, pretending to be chicken.

Jessica Knappett

But something happened to me, and I liked it.

James Acaster

You're going around the house, like, 'It's my coronation. I'm the queen. I'm the queen chicken. I'm a queen chicken. Thank you for taking me to the Shama, Daddy.' Your dream starter, Jessica Knappett?

Jessica Knappett

Okay. Can I have an Amuse-bouche?

Ed Gamble

Mais oui. If you know, you know. Huge respect to Jess for that.

James Acaster

Yes, huge respect.

Ed Gamble

She's hacking the menu.

Jessica Knappett

I am hacking a bit, but it's because I need to put crisps on the menu. Look, it's not what it-, it's not how it sounds.

Ed Gamble

Okay, I'm ready now for it to not be how it sounds. Because, do you know how it sounds?

Jessica Knappett

It sounds like crisps.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it sounds like you want crisps on the menu.

Jessica Knappett

I do want crisps on the menu, but it's not going to be just crisps.

Ed Gamble

Okay.

James Acaster

No.

Jessica Knappett

Although, if I go over to someone's house for a drink, and they've put some crisps out, 'Thank you.' I just think, 'Thanks, actually.' It's just lovely, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

It is lovely.

Jessica Knappett

When someone's just made an effort to pop open a bag of crisps, you feel at home, don't you? You think, you know-, someone said to me, 'I'm going to put some snacks out, because it makes it cosy,' and I always remember that, 'Snacks make it cosy.'

Ed Gamble

Who said that?

James Acaster

What genius said that?

Jessica Knappett

Kate.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

Kate said that.

James Acaster

Kate, okay. Well, good old Kate, for realising that.



Jessica Knappett

So, the best starter I ever had, but I don't think it was a starter, it was an Amuse-bouche-, and also that's what's so good about it, it's a surprise. You didn't order it, it came anyway, like Kate's crisps. 'This amuse-bouche is crème fraîche. No, sour cream, with caviar on top.' Yes, and then just crisps around it, and then you just-, they're ready-salted crisps, that I think would be described as, 'Hand-cooked.'

Ed Gamble

This is great. I only had this for the first time recently, and I'm so onboard.

Jessica Knappett

You have had it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I've had it.

Jessica Knappett

Where have you had that?

Ed Gamble

At a wedding, the drinks before the meal started. In that awkward bit of a wedding, where's it, like, two to three hours, where people are just drinking before anyone gets any food.

Jessica Knappett

While the photos are being done.

Ed Gamble

All the photos, and all that bullshit, right? There was sour cream, with the caviar, and Pringles. They were ready-salted Pringles, and sour cream and chive Pringles. Dipping in there, putting a bit of caviar on top. It was mad, but I was into it.

Jessica Knappett

It's so nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And did Kate serve you this? Or am I mixing my stories up now?

Jessica Knappett

No. I got this in a restaurant, disappointing named, The Restaurant, but it's really nice, the food's great. Shame about the name. Anyway, shout out, thank you, best starter ever. Bad name, soz. Anyway, so that's my amuse-bouche, if I may.



James Acaster

Absolutely.

Ed Gamble

You may. That is great amuse-bouche.

Jessica Knappett

My starter, and I've been around the houses with this one, I really have, I've given it some thought. I've gone from scallops, to softshell crab. I was going at one point with a pasta. Because Italians do it right, don't they? They have pasta as a starter.

Ed Gamble

Or a separate course.

Jessica Knappett

Or just a whole separate course.

James Acaster

Which by the way, Jess, some people on the podcast, some guests have hacked the system, like you just did with amuse-bouche, by adding in a pasta course as well.

Jessica Knappett

Well, I'm not going to, because it's going to ruin something else if I do that, but what I have decided is, actually, when all is said and done, the best starters I think-

James Acaster

Do you think that this is like Just a Minute, or something?

Jessica Knappett

I'm just obviously trying to think of an entertaining way to introduce it, but what I've actually done is just slow it down.

James Acaster

No, but you haven't actually at all, because I genuinely am on tenterhooks, and quite excited about what this starter is.

Jessica Knappett

I just think the best starters are from Chinese takeaways. And so what I've gone with, although I don't actually want it from a Chinese takeaway-

James Acaster

What?



Jessica Knappett

I know. It's just that's where I got my inspiration, is sesame prawn toast, so good.

James Acaster

Yes, definitely, but I think that would have been a bigger applause, only some people are like, 'Sorry, not from a Chinese takeaway?'

Ed Gamble

'The best starters are from Chinese takeaways. I want something specifically that,' as far as I'm aware, 'You can pretty much only get from a Chinese takeaway,' but you don't want it from a Chinese takeaway?'

James Acaster

I'm intrigued, Jessica Knappett.

Jessica Knappett

I can't remember where I had it from, but I want it from-, I'm sorry, but I want it from a high-end Chinese restaurant. I want, like, a really, really well-made prawn-, prawn cocktail? No, prawn toast. That is like what you get in a takeaway, but not as greasy.

James Acaster

It's good to have her on.

Jessica Knappett

Is it good to have me on?

Ed Gamble

I know what you mean. I've had, like, posh prawn toast before, and I love takeaway prawn toast. I think it's amazing, and it's always a treat, but sometimes you get it from a nicer place, like a sit-down restaurant, thick prawn, thick prawn.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, exactly, and a bit more, sort of, garlicky, chilli. I think maybe the sesame seeds will be black sesame seeds, not just white sesame, and it just will look nicer. It'll be, kind of, puffed out.

Ed Gamble

A mound of prawn.

Jessica Knappett

Not like-, and I also think this is delicious, but you know sometimes prawn toast can be like fried bread, that you get in Little Chef? No offence to fried bread from Little Chef.

Ed Gamble

You're very worried about offending bread this evening.



Jessica Knappett

Weird, isn't it? But yes, so that's my starter, and the dip is something sweet and spicy, you know, like what it comes with. A sweet chilli sauce, kind of, deal.

Ed Gamble

What I'm really enjoying about this menu so far, Jess, is there's things that are so specific. Poppadoms from a specific restaurant above a Safeway in 1998, and then prawn toast from a nice place, with black sesame seeds, and then dips like what it come with.

James Acaster

Just whatever, whatever dip.

Ed Gamble

Whatever, sweet and spicy, like what it comes with.

Jessica Knappett

I think I've just realised something. I think I might be talking about Thai prawn toast.

James Acaster

Okay.

Jessica Knappett

Am I? Because sweet chilli sauce, that's Thai, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's feels-,

James Acaster

Yes, but it jumps around.

Jessica Knappett

It does get about a bit, doesn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, people-,

Jessica Knappett

I really love Asian flavours, and extreme flavours, and chilli, and salt, and spicy, crunchy, all of that stuff.

Ed Gamble

We're getting less and less specific, every time you say something. We've zoomed out to an entire continent now. Now we're just talking about crunchy.



James Acaster

You're sounding more and more, if I may say, like an MP who's messed up and who's defending themselves.

Jessica Knappett

That was actually an attempt to be more specific, but I won't do that again.

James Acaster

No, it's good. My current favourite prawn toast is a vegan one that I tried. I should be a vegan, we all should, but I'm not. But there's a vegan place called Facing Heaven, it's a very good Chinese restaurant, like, proper can't believe it's vegan, and their prawn toast is really almost gelatinous. The whole thing is just really juicy.

Jessica Knappett

Because it is just, kind of, gooey. I actually tried to make-, I made a prawn toast the other day from-, it was actually a prawn taco, and you get the prawns, and you put them in the blender with, like, spring onions, and chilli, and maybe some lime juice, and you whizz it up, and then you just spread it over the taco. And then you cook it, and then you flip it, and then you flip it back, and you put some sesame seeds on it, and basically that is a delicious prawn toast.

Ed Gamble

That does sound delicious.

James Acaster

Sounds great.

Jessica Knappett

So, more of that to come I suppose.

Ed Gamble

Well, I think we'd all like to see this cooking show happen, Jess. Where you, sort of, finish a recipe and go, 'So, more of that to come I suppose.'

James Acaster

Everyone was sitting there just thinking, 'This sounds delicious, this sounds so tasty. Wow, never thought about that before.' Jess has gone into so much detail, and at the end you went, 'Yes, then you just put it in the bin in the end.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That sounds great, that taco.



Jessica Knappett

Yes. But I'm not going to put that in. I do want it from a restaurant.

Ed Gamble

You want a super-fancy, juicy prawn toast with black sesame seeds and a sweet chilli dip?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. Now.

Ed Gamble

You said, 'Yes,' like I'd just come up with that for you. 'Yes, actually, good idea, Ed, I will have that.'

James Acaster

I used to work in a school as a Classroom Assistant, and-, what?

Jessica Knappett

No, go on.

James Acaster

One Christmas, the kids in the class that I was a Classroom Assistant for wanted to go for a Chinese meal for their Christmas meal, so we took them to a Chinese restaurants, and I ordered the prawn toast. One of the kids was, like, 'Do you like prawn toast, do you?' I went, 'Yes,' and he went, 'Huh.' Then, every time he saw me, he'd just go, 'Prawn toast?' Every time he saw me.

Jessica Knappett

Respect, that's what that was.

James Acaster

Like, 'Prawn toast?' Like it was my name. I loved it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's a good nickname, prawn toast.

James Acaster

Yes. Then, every now and again he'd check with me, he'd go, 'You still like prawn toast?' I'd go, 'Yes,' he'd go, 'Great.' Then later on, he'd go, 'Still like prawn toast?' I'd be, like, 'Yes.' Good kid.

Jessica Knappett

Can I have something just to garnish my prawn toast?

Ed Gamble

Of course you can.



Jessica Knappett

Crispy seaweed.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, not any more, I'm taking it back.

James Acaster

No way.

Ed Gamble

No way.

Jessica Knappett

That's so good, isn't it? Deep-fried crispy seaweed. There's some powder that they put on it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Is it-?

Jessica Knappett

It's fishy.

Ed Gamble

Is it-?

Jessica Knappett

It's not MSG.

Ed Gamble

It's not MSG, I think it's, like-,

Jessica Knappett

I think it's, like, crab-y. It's, like, powdered crab or something.

Ed Gamble

Shrimp-y. Does anyone know what that powder is?

Jessica Knappett

It's not MSG.

James Acaster

The same person who MSG again, they're doubling down on it, they're pretty adamant.



Jessica Knappett

That isn't it.

James Acaster

The first time they said it, it was, like, a friendly, 'MSG.' That time, it was, 'MSG.' They did not like the fact that you are not-,

Jessica Knappett

Have you seen that?

James Acaster

What?

Jessica Knappett

Have you seen that?

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

What happened?

Jessica Knappett

It says it there.

Ed Gamble

I said scallop, powdered dried scallop.

James Acaster

Powdered dried scallop.

Ed Gamble

I said scallop.

James Acaster

Jess, I thought you were referring to the audience member. I thought you were, like-,

Ed Gamble

'Have you seen that?'



James Acaster

I thought you were going to kick off and have a fight, 'You seen that shit?' Because I can't see, there's a light there. I can't see this area. So, when you're, like, 'You fucking see that shit?' I thought the MSG person was looking at you going, 'You're a fucking wanker.'

Jessica Knappett

'Fucking MSG, mate.'

James Acaster

'It's MSG, fuck you.'

Jessica Knappett

Have you seen that? Seen that?

Ed Gamble

Did you fucking see that?

Jessica Knappett

No but if she says MSG one more fucking time.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Your dream main course, Jessica.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'm imagining being an actual waiter and I'm serving you, 'What would you like for main course, madam?' 'Yes.'

Jessica Knappett

Yes. I actually really don't like making decisions in restaurants. I think that what should happen is, you know when you go to a really fancy restaurant and it's a tasting menu and they're, like, 'I'm an amazing chef, so you're going to have this, this, and this, because I'm amazing and that's what I make,?' Right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

It takes all the hell out of it for you because they're just giving you all the things that they're good at.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

I just think other restaurants should do that more. Where there's, like, less choice on the menu and they just go, 'Are you a chef?' 'Yes.' 'Right, cook me something nice.'

Ed Gamble

But it's good that you're checking that they're a chef first.

Jessica Knappett

Maybe there's, like, these two things that I don't like, don't make that, but otherwise just bring me some nice food please.

James Acaster

What are the two things you don't like?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's slightly more demanding the second time around, isn't it?

Jessica Knappett

Like, if I was cooking someone dinner, I wouldn't say, 'Come over to my house, here's 25 things, which one do you want?' Because then we'd spend the entire evening discussing the 25 things, and then they'd decide. No. Because that's a rude thing to do, and I honestly think it's quite rude. Especially when you're confronted with a massive menu. Then the worst thing is when they go, 'It's small places. We recommend two to three.' So, what I've actually taken to doing recently, and I did it this week and my friends know me for this now, I just order everything on the menu.

Ed Gamble

Via the menu.

Jessica Knappett

If it's small plates and they go, 'We recommend you-', okay, well, we'll have everything then.

Ed Gamble

It's a big move.

Jessica Knappett

But you count them and usually it's the right number.

Ed Gamble

Yes, usually.



Jessica Knappett

Sometimes it's a big excessive and the bill's £500.

Ed Gamble

I love that you've chosen to go to this restaurant, you've not done any research into it, they've explained what the concept it, and you've gone, 'Just fucking bring me everything, then.'

Jessica Knappett

I guarantee you, it's better that way because otherwise people go, 'We'll get three tortellini and we'll divide it by six and we'll-, you can have that.' I hate that.

Ed Gamble

This is a specific London thing, but almost every restaurant you go to now they go, 'Have you been to the restaurant before?' You go, 'No.' They go, 'Can we just explain our concept?' I know what the concept is, it's small places, it's two to three per person, you're going to bring them, it's not really going to be enough and it's going to be £500.

Jessica Knappett

That's because you don't order everything one the menu.

James Acaster

The new mayor.

Jessica Knappett

Ordering everything. So, okay, I sound like a bit of a twat now but I do like to do that because it takes the stress out of it. Okay, I do go to the restaurant for the food, but I go for the chats with my mates as well.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

That's more important, really. I mean, it goes without saying that the food is going to be good because it's being made by a chef.

Ed Gamble

For this podcast, it does not go without saying.

James Acaster

No.



Ed Gamble

We do need to say about the food.

Jessica Knappett

Okay. Main course. It's Jude Knappett's pasta bake. Alright, yes, you don't know Jude Knappett.

Ed Gamble

We can have a guess.

James Acaster

I'm assuming-,

Jessica Knappett

That's my mum.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

It is basically a-,

Ed Gamble

Could we refer to her by her proper name please?

Jessica Knappett

Jude.

Ed Gamble

Leonardo.

Jessica Knappett

Leonardo.

Ed Gamble

Actually, she's Michaelangelo, isn't she? Sorry.

Jessica Knappett

She's Michaelangelo.

James Acaster

Yes, she's Michaelangelo, your mum.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. Your mum's Michaelangelo. What is actually is, is, in our house we call it bastard cake.



James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

The reason it's called bastard case is because my sister-in-law is-

Ed Gamble

The swerve from, 'When I go to a restaurant, I just order everything on the menu,' to, 'Well, we call it bastard cake. My dream is bastard cake.'

James Acaster

Definitely I wouldn't have guessed where we were going from the build-up. 'What's your dream main course?' 'Well, here's my problem with main courses, they come over and ask you what you want, there's too much choice, I just like to do the whole menu.' 'What is it?' 'Oh, it's Jude Knappett's bastard cake.' Why is it called bastard cake?

Jessica Knappett

Because my sister-in-law is Australian and we said when she came over, 'We're making pasta bake-', everyone's so clever, you totally made the leap.

James Acaster

I'm going to say this. Surely some people got it first time around, as soon as you said bastard case, I was, like, because it sounds like pasta bake. I am absolutely astounded how many of you, including Ed, just got it.

Ed Gamble

I just thought it was Yorkshire thing. I honestly thought, like, Jess' dad was carrying a cake one day and dropped it and went, 'This bastard cake.'

Jessica Knappett

No, it was a lovely mishearing. Now that is it's new moniker.

Ed Gamble

Bastard cake.

Jessica Knappett

Bastard cake. It is delicious. She makes the bolognaise very slowly, over the course of a day as far as I can tell. Why is a day funny?

James Acaster

I think just because-

Ed Gamble

I think it's, 'As far as I can tell,' that they were laughing.'



James Acaster

'As far as I can tell.' You're trying to figure out how bastard cake is made but Jude Knappett is playing her cards close to the vest.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You can't quite figure out if it's a day or a number of days.

Ed Gamble

You're doing a stakeout on Jude Knappett.

James Acaster

Pun intended.

Ed Gamble

As far as you can tell?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

As far as you can tell.

Jessica Knappett

Well, I don't hang around and watch her, I just eat it at the end when she's made it for me.

James Acaster

There's no way of finding out how long it takes, I guess.

Jessica Knappett

I could ask her. So, it's very garlic-y.

James Acaster

A clue.

Jessica Knappett

Garlic-y, obviously beef-y, there's bacon in the bolognaise.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.



Jessica Knappett

Rosemary, I think, as far as I can tell. It's made with, ideally, quite fat macaroni.

Ed Gamble

Fat macaroni.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Fat bastard cake.

Ed Gamble

Fat bastard, yes.

James Acaster

From Austin Powers?

Jessica Knappett

What is it called? It's not penne but it's the-,

Ed Gamble

Rigatoni? Rigatoni?

Jessica Knappett

Rigatoni, I think. Yes. That's the best version. Then, the best part of it is béchamel sauce on top. Am I describing every pasta bake? Because it feels special to me.

James Acaster

I don't know actually. I've never made one, so I don't know.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like-,

James Acaster

It sounds nice.

Jessica Knappett

It's, sort of, like lasagne.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like a sheet-less lasagne.



Jessica Knappett

Yes, it is.

Ed Gamble

I would say, yes.

Jessica Knappett

I wanted to say without the labour intensity, but it takes a day to make the bolognaise.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

As far as you can tell.

Ed Gamble

As far as you can tell. Yes.

James Acaster

You don't know.

Ed Gamble

When you are going to have the bastard cake, do you and all your family chant bastard cake together?

Jessica Knappett

Yes. Actually, yes.

Ed Gamble

Bastard cake.

Jessica Knappett

Bastard cake, bastard cake. With bastard, obviously, not bastard.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

I said that because you said that.

James Acaster

Yes. He turned you posh.

Jessica Knappett

But the thing about bastard cake is it's always there for us.



Ed Gamble

Don't know why I wasn't expecting you to suddenly look at me then.

Jessica Knappett

Like, if we're all going up to my mum and dad's house there will be a bastard cake on arrival.

James Acaster

On arrival?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, it's there. It's waiting there.

James Acaster

No wonder you don't know how long it takes to make it.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, could be months.

Ed Gamble

Do you ever think about arriving in the morning to try and catch your mum off-guard?

James Acaster

Aha.

Jessica Knappett

Honestly, it will already be there.

Ed Gamble

Wow.

Jessica Knappett

It's massive. So, last year I had a Christmas party and my mum turned up with a bastard cake. We were, like, 'We've actually already got catering in, mum, but thank you very much.' But she was absolutely right, because midnight rolled around and everyone was starving and hammered, and we shoved the bastard cake in, didn't we? Bastard cake was the first thing I had when I brought my baby home from hospital, my husband made me a bastard cake because I'd been bastard diabetic throughout bastard pregnancy.

Ed Gamble

I'm so sorry you had to live with that for nine months.

James Acaster

When you're cured, you'll get a bastard cake.



Jessica Knappett

It is a real bastard, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

It's real bastard, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Did you think it was odd bringing your new child home and celebrating with bastard cake?

Jessica Knappett

No.

Ed Gamble

'A new bastard in the world.' Something out of Game of Thrones.

James Acaster

Your husband made the bastard cake?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, he made it. He got the recipe off my mum. So, I guess we could ask him.

James Acaster

So, your husband made bastard cake, did it taste as good as Jude Knappett's bastard cake?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, it was pretty good. It's pretty up there. He's a good cook. But, yes, we'll always knock together a bastard cake. Actually, if you want to know, we've, sort of, hacked the hell of family cooking. Which is, that we have pretty much the same meal on the same day every week.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I'd say you've created a new hell.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, so tell me honestly if this sounds like hell, and I don't mind if the answer is yes. Macaroni Monday.

Ed Gamble

Okay.



James Acaster

Jess, you just said it like you hate it.

Jessica Knappett

That was actually smug Jess.

James Acaster

Sorry. Is this fat macaroni Monday or just normal macaroni?

Jessica Knappett

No, it's little macaroni.

James Acaster

Mac and cheese?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, mac and cheese.

Ed Gamble

So, macaroni Monday. Are they all going to be alliterative?

Jessica Knappett

We tried.

Ed Gamble

okay.

Jessica Knappett

Taco Tuesday.

James Acaster

Yes, obviously.

Ed Gamble

Love taco Tuesday, that's great.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

What do you think Wednesday is?

James Acaster

Walnut whips?



Jessica Knappett

No.

Ed Gamble

That's what you'd have at your house.

James Acaster

Yes, walnut whip Wednesday. It's alliterative, what can we do?

Ed Gamble

Wensleydale Wednesday?

Jessica Knappett

No.

James Acaster

Almost sounds like-

Jessica Knappett

Does anyone want to have a guess?

Ed Gamble

Wings or Wellington.

James Acaster

Beef Wellington.

Ed Gamble

You can't have a-,

Jessica Knappett

Wings is a great shout.

Ed Gamble

Have you not thought about wings?

Jessica Knappett

No.

Ed Gamble

Someone suggested Wellington.

Jessica Knappett

And someone said Wellington.



Ed Gamble

A Wellington every week would be a real-

Jessica Knappett

That's very labour-intensive, a Wellington.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

A Wellington a week.

Ed Gamble

Wine.

James Acaster

Wine.

Jessica Knappett

Wine. It's actually wedges.

Ed Gamble

Don't know why smug Jess is back.

James Acaster

Smug Jess appears to live in an American bar.

Ed Gamble

It's actually wedges?

James Acaster

Mac and cheese, tacos, and wedges.

Jessica Knappett

Well, I have an American husband.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

So, yes, we do, sort of, live in America really.

James Acaster

Playing pool and stuff. Tequila Thursdays?



Jessica Knappett
Shall I keep going?

James Acaster
Yes.

Ed Gamble
You must keep going.

James Acaster
You must keep going.

Ed Gamble
So, we've got wedge Wednesday. So, you have wedges every Wednesday?

Jessica Knappett
Yes.

James Acaster
Yes.

Jessica Knappett
We basically just have, like, meat and two veg, but meat and veg and wedge.

Ed Gamble
Meat and veg and wedge?

Jessica Knappett
Yes.

Ed Gamble
Wedges don't constitute the whole meal but wedges will make an appearance?

Jessica Knappett
yes, we know that the wedges are going to make an appearance.

James Acaster
Has to be in there because it's Wednesday.

Ed Gamble
Yes.



James Acaster

Even though the main bit of the meal changes every week, it has to be served with wedges because it's Wednesday.

Jessica Knappett

James, you don't understand until you have to cook for, like, people that don't really eat-, a six-year-old and a one-year-old, it's destroyed cooking for me.

James Acaster

Right.

Jessica Knappett

I mean, no offence to them, or bread, but you can't just-, it's so hard to think-, you've been working all day and the hardest part is thinking, 'What shall I make for tea?'

James Acaster

But that's, I guess my point. Would be, maybe make the main bit of the meal the bit that repeats every week and not the side.

Ed Gamble

Because you are-,

Jessica Knappett

Because it won't be alliterative, James.

James Acaster

I know that.

Ed Gamble

Because you are still having to decide what you cook every Wednesday, aren't you?

Jessica Knappett

Yes, when Wednesdays come around, it's not great.

Ed Gamble

Could you bring in wings? Maybe wings and wedges?

Jessica Knappett

We could bring in wings.

Ed Gamble

Wings and wedges every Wednesday.



James Acaster

It's great.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, that's actually a really good idea, thank you.

Ed Gamble

How's the one-year-old going to deal with wings?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

I feel like, in Jess' defence, you really set up up there.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You talked her into wings and then you went, 'Hahah, got you motherfucker, there's a one-year-old in play, you forgot that.'

Ed Gamble

I don't know about one-year-olds but I can't imagine a one-year-old eating a wing.

James Acaster

I can't imagine that. Rotating it.

Jessica Knappett

No, we're going to be peeling the meat off the wing. Actually, she doesn't eat chicken.

Ed Gamble

Tricky. What's Thursday?

James Acaster

Thursday. I'm interested to see if you've gone for a T sound or an F sound now?

Jessica Knappett

F?

James Acaster

Well because Thursday said out loud, said out loud-,



Jessica Knappett

I hate to tell you this-

Ed Gamble

Yes, it doesn't sound like that at all.

James Acaster

Thursday.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you say Thursday wrong.

James Acaster

Thursday.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Thursday. Thursday night.

James Acaster

Thursday.

Jessica Knappett

Thursday.

James Acaster

Okay, a TH noise, then.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

Sorry.

Jessica Knappett

I don't feel like that is being pernickety, that is just-, it just does start with a TH.

James Acaster

Well, technically there's an R at the end of bastard. No, no shit, it's at the end. Well, I can't get you on that, you're saying it right, bastard. He's wrong.



Jessica Knappett

It's thin crust Thursday, okay? It's thin crust Thursday.

James Acaster

Thin crust Thursday.

Ed Gamble

It's thin crust Thursday.

James Acaster

That's great, thin crust Thursday is great.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, James, thin crust Thursday.

James Acaster

Thin crust Thursday. I would say thin crust Thursday.

Ed Gamble

yes, i know you would. So, we're sticking with the bar food, aren't we?

Jessica Knappett

Not on fish Friday.

Ed Gamble

Fish Friday.

James Acaster

Fish.

Ed Gamble

No, that's very traditional. That's great.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, that is traditional.

James Acaster

Is it fish and chips?

Jessica Knappett

Sometimes it will be, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Ever go fish and wedges on Wednesday, and then fish and wedges on Friday?



Jessica Knappett

Well, yes, sometimes that has hit us.

James Acaster

Saturday and Sunday got their dishes by the way?

Jessica Knappett

No, we go loose-goosey, just free it up, just have some fun. Don't plan, see what happens.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Sounds like someone's-

Ed Gamble

Doesn't sound fun to you at all.

James Acaster

Someone's going to Hobby Craft. 'I think you want some felt tips, don't you?' 'No, mother. That's the last thing I want. I think that's what you want.'

Ed Gamble

'We had felt tip Friday yesterday.'

Jessica Knappett

God. What a sad life.

James Acaster

Sellotape Saturday.

Jessica Knappett

I really feel like that was such an embarrassing overshare. But is there anyone in this room who understands what it's like to be a parent having to decide what to cook? Okay, like, three people.

James Acaster

I think more people than that. I think loads of parents do this. It's very common.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, it's ruined it.

James Acaster

We've ruined every meal in your house for the rest of time.



Jessica Knappett

It does for a bit, unless you all cook different thing, that's the problem. Also, we don't have Deliveroo.

Ed Gamble

Hang on. So, you don't have it as in you've banned it, or you don't have it-,

Jessica Knappett

We don't have Deliveroo in our neighbourhood.

Ed Gamble

Oh my God.

James Acaster

Bearing in mind, Jess used to live in LA and thought you couldn't drink the water.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We're going to ask you where you live now and you're going to say, 'Central London.'

Jessica Knappett

I live in Yorkshire, I like in Ilkley.

Ed Gamble

There's no Deliveroo there at all?

Jessica Knappett

No there's a thing called Pronto. There are really good restaurants.

Ed Gamble

I don't know why that's made me laugh.

James Acaster

It's funny because it's a stupid name. Pronto-,

Jessica Knappett

There are genuinely amazing restaurants, even in our little town. There is a really nice Michelin restaurant, there's some really, really good Italian, like, some of the best Italian I've had outside of Italy. I really mean that, it's amazing. But that is, kind of, it. You can't really get anything, so you can't be lazy. I guess that's my pain that I wanted to share. I'm okay, I live with that. I just hope that people see the Jess who once did have Deliveroo, and they don't see the Jess after Deliveroo and make a judgement about her. Because I'm still me.

James Acaster

Your dream side dish, Jess?



Jessica Knappett

Well, we're going back to China. Because shout-out to-

James Acaster

You've seen that film, right? Back to China with and Michael J. Fox?

Jessica Knappett

Back to China. I love Sichuan Chinese food, very specifically. I nearly has that as my main course because I also think that fried chicken might be the best food in the world.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Do you know the chicken that you get on a bed of chillis in the Sichuan restaurants?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Sichuan style?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

And the weird peppercorns, and your mouth goes all numb.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love that.

Jessica Knappett

I love it so much.

Ed Gamble

I got to see James' experience that for the first time.

Jessica Knappett

What your tongue getting anaesthetised?



James Acaster

I didn't know, no one had warned me.

Jessica Knappett

Isn't it weird that it does so numb? It's so good.

James Acaster

No one had said anything. So, I was eating it and thinking, 'Oh no, I'm dying.' Luckily we were with our friend John Robins, it was also the first time for him, but John will just confidently say, 'Guys, I think that maybe all this food is covered in washing-up liquid.' I think was his guess.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

He thought they had, like, washed up and left the washing up liquid on all the cutlery.

Ed Gamble

but in a nice way.

James Acaster

Now, he's, like, 'I think I've just eaten something from the kitchen that we're not supposed to because I can't feel my tongue.' I was, like, 'I'm glad you said that, John, I can't feel it either.' Then obviously just-

Jessica Knappett

You were just lapping this up, just loving it?

Ed Gamble

Loved it, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Not saying anything?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes. Well, we were also with Lloyd Langford, but he is so Welsh he always sounds like his tongue's numb anyway.

James Acaster

Whatever he eats, his tongue is, like, 'What the fuck is going on?'

Jessica Knappett

After you had this experience and you didn't enjoy it the first time-,



James Acaster

I loved it.

Jessica Knappett

Right.

Ed Gamble

Once he realised he wasn't in peril, he loved it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Right.

James Acaster

Once Ed gave me permission, I loved it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Don't start that again. Have you talked about having Sichuan Saturdays?

Jessica Knappett

Where?

James Acaster

I guess your house.

Jessica Knappett

I have tried to make mapo tofu and it was really hard. I just can't quite get it right. We've got Sichuan peppercorns and all the chilli peppers and everything, which we ordered off Sous Chef.

Ed Gamble

What?

Jessica Knappett

If you're familiar with Sous Chef, I love it so much, and the Sous Chef order comes in-, oh my God, also, are you familiar with chilli crunch?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I'm not.



Jessica Knappett

Oh boy.

James Acaster

I'm not.

Jessica Knappett

You're not?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

You've had chilli crunch. Like, the oil with bits of chilli, you spoon it out.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. I think it's sesame seeds and crunchy chillis in oil, maybe a bit of garlic in there-,

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love it.

Jessica Knappett

You just drizzle it on with a spoon. It's not an oil in a bottle, it's an oil in a jar. So, not really an oil.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Well, there's oil in it but there's, like, loads of stuff in there as well. I mean, you can drizzle it on or you can do what I do, which is stand up in the kitchen and eat it like a yoghurt. It's good shit.

James Acaster

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

That's my flavour of choice at the moment. that's going on everything. Anyway, yes, it's green beans. It's green beans. It's Sichuan green beans, which have a, kind of, minced pork on top of them.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Jessica Knappett

They are delicious.



James Acaster

There was a bit of a murmur there.

Ed Gamble

There was a murmur.

James Acaster

For minced pork on the beans.

Jessica Knappett

Are they not? Is that wrong?

Ed Gamble

No, it sounds right.

Jessica Knappett

No, I was right.

Ed Gamble

Mapo tofu is minced pork as well, isn't it?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That's delicious. Then all of those Sichuan chillis as well.

Jessica Knappett

It will, sort of, go with the bastard cake-ish.

James Acaster

It's hard, isn't it, to pair something with a bastard cake?

Ed Gamble

Do you want to call them bitch beans to make them go better?

Jessica Knappett

Sure.

James Acaster

Son of a bitch beans.

Jessica Knappett

You happy with that, prawn toast? Yes?



Ed Gamble

It really works for him.

Jessica Knappett

It really does.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Suits me.

Jessica Knappett

It's gone weird, hasn't it? Hasn't it?

Ed Gamble

No it's because James is really enjoying leaving gaps for you to try and fill, and I can see what he's doing.

Jessica Knappett

Is that what he's doing?

Ed Gamble

He's doing it deliberately but by now he would have asked for dream drink from anyone else, but he's really enjoying leaving the silence to hang in the air just to see what you'll fill it with.

James Acaster

Yes. I feel like I'm interviewing, like, I don't know, either a politician or a celebrity who's on the verge of getting cancelled. If I leave gaps, they will go somewhere crazy, and then I'll have clickbait on my hands. So, I'm, like, thinking if I just leave it at bitch beans, what would Jess say?

Jessica Knappett

Okay.

James Acaster

But you've-

Jessica Knappett

Bitch beans.

James Acaster

You've lumbled me.



Jessica Knappett

Well, now I'm trying to think of a bitch bean related story.

James Acaster

Brilliant.

Ed Gamble

Jess, I'll be the good cop here, you don't need a bitch bean related story. Because do remember bitch beans are something that we've invented just now.

Jessica Knappett

Okay. Are you trying to tell me that I'm enough as I am?

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's what this whole episode has been about.

James Acaster

Your dream drink, Jessica Knappett?

Jessica Knappett

I love so many dream drinks. But that's not the point, is it? It's to choose one.

James Acaster

No, it is the point. It is nice that you have so many dream drinks.

Ed Gamble

If you want to give some honourable mentions, you gave a lot of shout-outs to different breads earlier, feel free to give a shout-out. Because no offence to the other drinks, of course.

James Acaster

Yes, you don't want to offend any of the other drinks, give them some shout-outs.

Jessica Knappett

I never shouted out the bread that I've been making.

Ed Gamble

No.

Jessica Knappett

Is anyone else doing Zoe?

James Acaster

Yes but don't tell the wife.



Ed Gamble

Good stuff. Good stuff. The thing is-, you're a great comedian and everyone is, 'Oh James is so interesting, he does, like, new types of comedy,' but that is what you're good at. Proper comedy.

James Acaster

Old musical stuff.

Ed Gamble

musical stuff. it's just a bit sexist but in a fun way.

James Acaster

yes. well, most sexism is fun.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

No. I'm the one who's clickbait now.

Ed Gamble

Are you talking about the patch in your arm that tells you how your body reacts to different foods, so you can then change your diet based on the spike in the blood sugar levels that you get from certain foods? Tell me Jess, did you miss being diabetic? Because I'm fucking fed up with this Zoe shit, these fake-ass diabetics.

Jessica Knappett

It is stealing the thunder of the diabetics, is it?

Ed Gamble

I'm not suggesting that I have any thunder from being diabetic, but it's quite difficult to maintain a blood sugar level as a diabetic, and I would argue that as a non-diabetic, you don't need a Zoe patch because you have what I like to call, a working fucking pancreas.

James Acaster

I agree with Ed because I'm an ally.

Ed Gamble

Are you doing Zoe?

Jessica Knappett

The thing is, Ed, as someone who had gestational diabetes-,

Ed Gamble

I don't have gestational diabetes.



Jessica Knappett

No.

James Acaster

Is that when it's just in your hands?

Jessica Knappett

That is so nice.

Ed Gamble

That is fucking brilliant. I've got some diabetic gigs I can book you for with that, sort of, stuff, man.

James Acaster

Cool. I've got ten seconds of material.

Ed Gamble

It'd go down a storm. I don't think the catering will be what you're normally excited for. Yes, you have had gestational diabetes.

Jessica Knappett

No, there's no point now, is there? That's as good as it's going to get.

Ed Gamble

But are you doing Zoe?

Jessica Knappett

There's a thing where it's, like, did you get the diabetes because you are a bit more prone to it, and then you're going to get it, or did you get it and it's gone forever? You know, was it the pregnancy that made you a bit diabetic? Were you always-

Ed Gamble

Can you stop gesturing to me when you ask about pregnancy?

James Acaster

Not pregnant.

Ed Gamble

It's just the way I'm say.

Jessica Knappett

Anyway, I was curious, and I did it, and it did say I've got poor blood sugar.

Ed Gamble

Right. Based on what you're eating?



Jessica Knappett

Yes. Despite what I've just described, I don't actually just go to McDonald's all the time, only some of the time. I think I am quite a healthy eater generally. But what I've realised is, you know, there's loads of stuff that I thought was healthy that isn't. I now don't eat it as much because of that. But bread is one of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Bread will spike blood sugar levels.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. So, there's this amazing bread. I cannot believe I'm talking about this, actually.

Ed Gamble

Please.

James Acaster

Especially during the drink course.

Ed Gamble

This is a regressive shout-out, you've gone back now. We've gone back to China and back to bread.

Jessica Knappett

It really has been a revelation, I love it so much.

Ed Gamble

The bread you've made?

Jessica Knappett

The bread, it's made out of seeds and it's only made out-, it's just seeds, Ed and James.

James Acaster

It's nice to be included, I guess.

Jessica Knappett

It's seeds, psyllium husk, chia seeds-

James Acaster

He played Oppenheimer, didn't he?

Ed Gamble

What is it? Is this the spirit of Brucy?

James Acaster

His ashes are down there. If you're wondering what the joke is, Brucy's ashes.



Jessica Knappett

Are they-

Ed Gamble

They're under the stage.

James Acaster

Bruce Forsyth's ashes are under the stage. Did you not know that?

Ed Gamble

Bruce's Forsyth's ashes are under this stage.

Jessica Knappett

What?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That is true. People don't know that. You can Google that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's true.

James Acaster

That is true. Yes, really.

Ed Gamble

You keep on saying really, it is true.

James Acaster

They got put there by request, it's not how he died.

Ed Gamble

He was burned to death below the stage of the London-

James Acaster

Fucking let me out. That didn't happen. Died, was cremated, and he wanted to be under the stage of the Palladium as it meant a lot to him. So, that's why I'm coming up with this.

Ed Gamble

That's why James is on good form.



James Acaster

Absolutely gear right now.

Ed Gamble

So, seeds, psyllium husks?

Jessica Knappett

Anyway, let's just crack on, shall we?

Ed Gamble

Okay.

Jessica Knappett

But it's seeds and psyllium husks, and chia seeds, and tahini, and water. It's delicious. You know, if you can't eat bread-

Ed Gamble

I can.

Jessica Knappett

Because you can inject-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

Bread?

Ed Gamble

Pregnancy makes it more difficult because you've got to keep your blood sugar levels very, very tight and low, right?

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But for me, I can afford now and again to inject for bread and things like that. Because I can't stress this enough, I am not with child.

Jessica Knappett

Right. It's probably a spicy margarita.



James Acaster

Yes, it's got to be.

Ed Gamble

Got to be.

James Acaster

Delicious.

Jessica Knappett

It's a spicy margarita.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert?

Jessica Knappett

James?

Ed Gamble

Oh no.

James Acaster

Wow. Not you, not you, Jess. We did a whole series of a TV show together, what?

Jessica Knappett

No, hear me out, hear me out, hear me out. It's no offence to puddings.

Ed Gamble

No offence to puddings. The ultimate insult. It's no offence to puddings. I think James has taken some offence on their behalf. Jess, I'm absolutely loving this, you crack on. This is my favourite episode of the tour.

Jessica Knappett

Okay it's just that-, hear me out, James.

Ed Gamble

He's gone.

Jessica Knappett

Come back. James, come back. James.

Ed Gamble

He's gone. We've just had a message from Benita saying he's gone.



Ed Gamble

He's behind you, that was good stuff.

Jessica Knappett

James. I feel like he might have gone down to see Brucy.

Ed Gamble

He's rubbing the urn going, 'Tell me it will be alright Brucy.'

Jessica Knappett

If he let me finish. Okay, what I'm going to say about it is, and this is my final word on the matter-,

Ed Gamble

I'm not sure it will be, Jess. Because he will come back on at some point.

Jessica Knappett

Okay. Should I wait? He's not coming back, is he?

Ed Gamble

No. I think I know when he's going to come back in but you're going to have to say the magic words.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, the problem with desserts for me is they are nice but they only have one flavour, the flavour is sweet.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, I-,

Jessica Knappett

They're sugary. Sugary is a great flavour, I'm not saying they're not delicious. I am saying they're delicious because they are delicious-,

Ed Gamble

But it is one flavour.

Jessica Knappett

But sweet is one flavour and they all taste the same.

Ed Gamble

You are right.

Jessica Knappett

Except there is one pudding that is stand-out for me.



James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

You know what I want you to do now, Jess. I thought you were just going to say cheese board.

Jessica Knappett

In my dream restaurant-

James Acaster

I went for a piss.

Ed Gamble

The angriest piss of all time.

Jessica Knappett

In the dream restaurant, the pudding happens before the cheese trolley.

Ed Gamble

How do you feel about that, James?

James Acaster

Okay, yes, fine.

Ed Gamble

But the pudding is happening before, and then Jess is ending on the cheese trolley.

James Acaster

Yes, fine.

Ed Gamble

Is that alright?

James Acaster

Yes. I've gone on record saying that's fine. As long as-

Ed Gamble

No, you've gone on record saying it's fine to have the cheese course and then the pudding, so I wonder what it would be like the other way around for you.

Jessica Knappett

You're not going to have the cheese course and then the pudding.



James Acaster

I have done that. I've done that, yes.

Jessica Knappett

Who's done that?

James Acaster

Loads of people have done that. It's, like, a bridge.

Ed Gamble

The French.

Jessica Knappett

Nobody does that.

Ed Gamble

The French.

Jessica Knappett

Although the Americans have cheese first.

James Acaster

Do they?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Cheese first.

Ed Gamble

Do they really, though?

James Acaster

It's not just one house you went to?

Ed Gamble

And in Norfolk they shove the cheese up their ass?

James Acaster

You have to eat it out of the host's ass.

Ed Gamble

Steve. Out of Steve's greasy ass. He'd told me he washed it, that's why it was so greasy.



James Acaster

I can't wait to see you chat to your in-laws after this.

Ed Gamble

What's this dessert?

Jessica Knappett

So, okay, look, if this dessert isn't on the menu, then I don't order a dessert.

James Acaster

Okay.

Jessica Knappett

And I will order the cheese, James.

James Acaster

But for your dream-,

Jessica Knappett

But it's the dream restaurant, so the dessert is there, it is present, and it's sticky toffee pudding.

Ed Gamble

Fantastic.

James Acaster

Beautiful.

Jessica Knappett

It's served with ice cream, obviously, because hot and cold together is such a great combo.

James Acaster

Can you think of other places in life where hot and cold is a great combo?

Jessica Knappett

Saunas, and then when you get out of the sauna.

James Acaster

Love it. Love it.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, saunas, and then when you get out of the sauna.



Jessica Knappett

You?

James Acaster

Me, can I think of one? I mean, I'm not the one who made this statement, but yes. This is actually quite hard to think of. Maybe a jacuzzi, and when you get out of the jacuzzi.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

So, sticky toffee pudding, definitely that's a crown pleaser, that's a fan favourite. I mean, you can't really go wrong, can you?

Jessica Knappett

I don't think so, no. I'm buying it regularly from-, there's, like, a northern brand-, I think they're trying to claim that they invented it in Lancashire, and there's a town called Carmel-, sorry?

Ed Gamble

Cartmel.

Jessica Knappett

Cartmel.

Ed Gamble

Cartmel.

James Acaster

Cumbria. You know, they're saying Cumbria.

Jessica Knappett

Apologies, apologies, apologies.

Ed Gamble

No offence.

Jessica Knappett

No offence.

James Acaster

No offence to Lancashire for not having it.

Jessica Knappett

No offence to Lancashire, but you didn't invent the sticky toffee pudding, that was Cumbria.



James Acaster

Because that's where Cartmel is.

Ed Gamble

Cartmel-,

Jessica Knappett

That's where Cartmel is?

Ed Gamble

It's in the Lakes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Have you been buying sticky toffee pudding from Cartmel?

Jessica Knappett

No, I've been buying it from the supermarket. It says Cartmel on it.

Ed Gamble

On it, it's Cartmel-,

Jessica Knappett

Yes, and that is a really good one.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

I've been dropping a lot of brands tonight, actually, haven't I? Cartmel, Hobby Craft.

Ed Gamble

McDonald's.

Jessica Knappett

McDonald's.

Ed Gamble

Yes, all the big brands. How often are you having the sticky toffee pudding?

Jessica Knappett

Well-,



Ed Gamble

Sticky toffee pudding Sunday.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. STP. My husband is a feeder, actually, a bit. There'll be a couple in the freezer now, I know there will.

James Acaster

Yes. it sounds like he's some serial killer. There'll be a couple in there. There'll be a couple in the freezer.

Jessica Knappett

A couple of STPs. Yes, they're just ready to go at any one time, really.

Ed Gamble

Delicious.

James Acaster

It's fine now, yes, you've done a dessert. The secret ingredient for tonight that was suggested by the audience was a key lime pie because you said on Taskmaster that you make those.

Jessica Knappett

Good shout.

James Acaster

So, some people might have thought that you would enjoy key lime pie, but you're saying no, only sticky toffee puddings.

Jessica Knappett

I see what you're doing.

James Acaster

What?

Ed Gamble

What?

Jessica Knappett

You're trying to make me say it and then you can boot me off dramatically.

Ed Gamble

No.



James Acaster

I mean, we literally just told you that it was the secret ingredient. I don't see how that's a trick.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, well, I've sussed you out.

Ed Gamble

No, you would have to put it on your menu for it to be-

Jessica Knappett

Right.

James Acaster

You can say it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

Yes.

James Acaster

That's fine.

Jessica Knappett

Yes. I suppose, I mean-

James Acaster

Do you know what, if at this point you do choose it, you have no one to blame but yourself. That is not us tricking you.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Jessica Knappett

It is delicious, but I'm not going to put it on my-, no, I'm not going to be stupid.

Ed Gamble

Sticky toffee pudding.

Jessica Knappett

I'm going to leave at my own will. I want to be set alight, bury me under the stage. It's so poetic. Bury me under the stage at the Palladium. He's not buried here.



Ed Gamble

He's not buried here, no. You don't go down the stairs, and it's the corpse of Bruce Forsyth.

Jessica Knappett

Laying in state.

Ed Gamble

In state, like Stalin.

James Acaster

In that position.

Ed Gamble

That would not be nice to see.

James Acaster

Good stuff.

Jessica Knappett

Okay, then.

James Acaster

You want a cheese board after that?

Ed Gamble

Very rarely does the guest try and end the episode.

James Acaster

Okay, then-,

Ed Gamble

Okay, then.

James Acaster

That's it. Sometimes that happens but we edit it out.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

It's hard to edit it out when it's front of the audience. They all have to just see that sometimes guests turn to us and go, 'Yes, alright. I think you two have done enough now of whatever the fuck this is.' You want the cheese board after?



Jessica Knappett

Trolley.

Ed Gamble

Not happy with the trolley?

James Acaster

It's a lot more cheese, isn't it?

Jessica Knappett

I'm not eating-,

Ed Gamble

You select.

Jessica Knappett

Yes, I'm choosing from the trolley.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What would you choose? What cheese would you choose?

Jessica Knappett

Definitely something blue. Stilton, a Yorkshire blue maybe, there's also going to be something soft, Camembert-y or Brie-y. And something hard, like, a Manchego, a Comté, a Pepperino.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Jessica Knappett

That's what I'd definitely go for. I really like salty blue cheese with sweet biscuits.

James Acaster

Can I read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it? You would like Yorkshire tap water, you would like a stack of spicy popadoms from the Shama Bingley in 1998 with all the dips on an upholstered carpeted chair, you want an amuse bouche of sour-cream with caviar and crisps. Started, you want prawn toast with black sesame seeds from a high-end Chinese restaurant with-, or a Thai restaurant, with a sweet and spicy dip, plus some crispy seaweed. Main course, you want bastard cake, Jude Knappett. Side dish, Sichuan-style green beans with minced pork. Drink, a spicy margarita. Dessert, sticky toffee pudding with ice cream, followed by a cheese trolley. Happy?



Jessica Knappett

So happy.

Ed Gamble

The Off Menu menu of Jessica Knappett.

James Acaster

Jessica Knappett.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much, London Palladium.

James Acaster

Jess Knappett, everybody. Thank you so much for coming.

Ed Gamble

Thank you so much for coming, you've been brilliant.

James Acaster

Safe journey home.

Ed Gamble

Good night. Well, there we are, what a way to kick off a residency at the Palladium, James.

James Acaster

Jess did text me after the show and said her husband has told her that it was only her house where they could drink the water.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so she got that wrong?

James Acaster

She got that wrong.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

James Acaster

She just never knew that when she was living in LA that you could drink the water there.

Ed Gamble

I think if I was under a massive misapprehension or I'd assumed something for ages without asking someone, the place I'd least like to find out is on the stage of the Palladium in front of a sold-out crowd.



James Acaster

A sold-out crowd. Thank you so much, Jess, and, hey we'll be back soon with another bonus episode.

Ed Gamble

Next week from the Palladium-

James Acaster

Palladium.

Ed Gamble

You're really good at that.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm pretty good at it, you have to focus on it. You know, really focus.

Ed Gamble

I might get you to do loads of different words next week.