



# Off Menu – Ep 197 – Jenny Eclair

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu Podcast. Peeling the garlic clove of conversation, putting it in the crusher of good times and frying it in the oil of the internet.

**James Acaster**

And just eating garlic.

**Ed Gamble**

And just eating garlic. Well, that's the start of the recipe isn't it? That's the start of most good recipes.

**James Acaster**

My kind of party. That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster.

**Ed Gamble**

I didn't say it was a party.

**James Acaster**

This is the Off Menu Podcast. We own a dream restaurant. We invite a guest on every single week. We ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order, and this week our guest is Jenny Eclair.

**Ed Gamble**

Jenny Eclair, a brilliant comedian. Are we approaching national treazue?

**James Acaster**

Oh, come on, you know that we're going in there. We're going to the beach. We've got a big shovel and we're digging up some natural treazue.

**Ed Gamble**

We don't even need a metal detector.

**James Acaster**

We don't even need a metal detector because everyone's trying to dig to get this national treazue, one of the best treasures there is.

**Ed Gamble**

One of the best treazures there izue. And just you just try saying that. I absolutely love Jenny Eclair. An amazing comedian and absolutely brilliant on Taskmaster recently.



**James Acaster**

I'm looking forward to-, so, as a recording it's not gone out yet. I think the first episode is tomorrow. Ed, however, has seen the whole series because he does the Taskmaster podcast, so, I always have to stop myself from asking Ed what happens.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. But I don't think it's a massive spoiler to say that Jenny is fantastic on the series.

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, I'm very much looking forward to seeing Jenny Eclair on Taskmaster. A match made in heaven.

**Ed Gamble**

A match made in heaven, and hopefully it's a match made in heaven for Jenny and the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but as always there's a secret ingredient that we deem to be unacceptable and if Jenny says it she will be kicked out of the dream restaurant. And this week the secret ingredient is-

**Ed Gamble**

Eclairs, obviously.

**James Acaster**

Eclair, of course, yes. So, Jenny is going on tour.

**Ed Gamble**

Lazy, we're very lazy boys.

**James Acaster**

Yes, come on. Although, you know, obviously I like eclairs.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't. We've talked about this before with Jay Rayner.

**James Acaster**

So, that's kind of quite good, because you don't like them, so, we are sticking to-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

We are still sticking to the actual, you know-,



**Ed Gamble**

Correct.

**James Acaster**

Thing. Jenny is going on tour.

**Ed Gamble**

Jenny is going on tour. Well, it's an extension, it's a tour extension.

**James Acaster**

So, it was already a smash hit.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, absolutely, but now it's XXL the tour, James.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Sixty Plus. For fucks sake. FF, FS, FFS.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I can't speak today, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

No. National treasure fszue fzseu.

**James Acaster**

So, you've got to go and see Jenny's tour.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely. She also has a brilliant podcast called Older and Wider that she does with the Judith Holder, which you must go and listen to as well, available in all your podcast shops.

**James Acaster**

Make sure you listen to that. Go and see Jenny live. Watch Jenny on Taskmaster if you haven't caught up on the series yet.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Man, so much stuff.



**Ed Gamble**

But first of all, listen to this. This is the Off Menu menu of Jenny Eclair.

**James Acaster**

Jenny Eclair.

**Jenny Eclair**

I've listened to loads of these, you know.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. I don't really listen to other people's podcasts because I get very jealous.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, I never listened to yours until you invited me. That's the rule. I've told Ed this.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Are we recording by the way?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we're in.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

This is it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Here's the gold. Here's all the snidey gossip when I don't think the microphones are on. No, so, I just thought, well, I know this is a very popular one. I've got a 22-year-old lodger at the moment, got my niece living with me, she's at Lamda. What can you do. And, so, she's a big fan and all this sort of thing, and I was going, 'Yes, well-,' And then I got invited on and I thought, 'Right I'd better listen to a few of these.' And it's-, well, it's a very clever conceit.



**Ed Gamble**

That is the first time it's been called a clever conceit.

**James Acaster**

It is.

**Jenny Eclair**

It's a clever conceit, and it is bulletproof it seems.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Apparently so.

**James Acaster**

It is bulletproof.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, let me see if I can ruin it for you.

**James Acaster**

Here we go.

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome, Jenny, to the dream restaurant.

**Jenny Eclair**

I am in-, well, no, this has given me a sleepless night or two. I've got quite worried about it. I'm quite competitive and I just thought, 'Right, what can I think of that nobody else has thought of?' And I really drew a blank. So, it's quite difficult. And the worst thing is you've offered too much choice because-

**Ed Gamble**

We've offered everything.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, okay, fire some questions at me and I'll try and answer them.

**James Acaster**

Welcome Jenny Eclair to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time. We just need to get our bits in whenever we can.

**Jenny Eclair**

Wow. Have you, have you now?



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But thank you very much for inviting me. I have been waiting some time, but I know that I've listened to one with Kathy Burke when you kept banging on about how you'd wanted her for so long and she was your dream-, and I got quite-, I got a bit snitty about it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But she's my dream guest as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we go.

**Jenny Eclair**

If I had a podcast like yours and wanted guests, she would be up there.

**Ed Gamble**

You do have a podcast though don't you?

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, why do you think I mentioned it? I do have a podcast. We do not have guests. We did have guests, but, you know, they just talked over us. You know. Who said it was your turn?

**Ed Gamble**

Imagine that.

**Jenny Eclair**

Imagine that. So, in fact we couldn't pay them and we couldn't-, I mean, I know that I'm not expecting any financial recompense, what-, that word.

**James Acaster**

I believe you are getting paid.

**Jenny Eclair**

What?



**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, we're paying you for this.

**Jenny Eclair**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We make you come into the studio, we'll pay you, of course.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, that's really brilliant. So, no, we couldn't afford guests. So, we decided rather than get people in for no money and then feel slightly resentful throughout the programme, we'd not have guests. And we do it on something called Cleanfeed, so, we don't need to come to a studio, it's all quite-, it's very cheap. But we are going live. I don't know when this will come out, but we've got some lives shows in-, sorry, I'm starting to stutter now because it's making me anxious, in June and July.

**James Acaster**

Because you're thinking about the live shows?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, I dribble and-,

**James Acaster**

You've done so many different lives shows.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You stand up. You've done, like-,

**Ed Gamble**

Grumpy Old Women.

**James Acaster**

Huh?



**Ed Gamble**

Grumpy Old Women.

**James Acaster**

Grumpy Old Women. I nearly said The Vagina Monologues.

**Jenny Eclair**

I did do that, and, oh god, yes, it, sort of-,

**James Acaster**

So, you did do it? There you go, I'm okay.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, it's very dated, that show. It's very very very dated indeed.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Jenny Eclair**

And I think when it first came out it was a, sort of, really quite strong polemic, but I think now it's just as-, anyway, let's not-, it's marvelous. Everything's marvelous and everyone was very talented.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Let's leave it at that.

**Ed Gamble**

Fine.

**James Acaster**

Are you a foody, Jenny?

**Jenny Eclair**

I wish I was for the purposes of this show, and then I'd have some more interesting things to say to you. Do you know what, I'm not really and I'm not really encouraged to be one. I live with a man who's actually, he's 74 and he has the taste buds of an eight-year-old. He genuinely would be happy eating children's party food for the rest of his life. You know, if I said I'm really sorry but from now on it's just cocktail sausages and crisps and maybe some jelly and ice-cream. That wouldn't bother him at all.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow, so, that's his dream meal. If he was on the podcast it would be cocktail sausages, crisps and jelly and ice-cream?





**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. He's very-, often when he goes to restaurants, he's looking at the menu and he can't see any of those things and he's quite disappointed.

**Ed Gamble**

It's rare that you get any of those on a menu.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, I know and that's-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you'd happily do that as well wouldn't you?

**James Acaster**

I think I would-, well, what I'd like is to go to a restaurant and for that to be, like, a literal off menu item. So, I can, 'Err, and some cocktail sausages with cocktail sticks.'

**Jenny Eclair**

Just on the side.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That would be really fun.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Well, you should go out with Geoff then.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Jenny Eclair**

Go to a special dream restaurant of your own. We don't go out to eat very often. I'm very northern. I live in London, I have done for 40 years, but financially I'm northern.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.



**Jenny Eclair**

I find it very easy to close my purse and keep it tightly shut. And I've never been to a restaurant where I've thought, 'Well, that was a good deal. That was good value.'

**James Acaster**

Really?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, never.

**Ed Gamble**

Never?

**Jenny Eclair**

Never, once in my life. Not unless someone else is paying, do you know what I mean. But I always feel slight resentment when the bill comes and you go, 'What the fuck? Genuinely? You think it was worth that?' You know, no, no, I don't actually.

**Ed Gamble**

There must have been a time where it was alright.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, never. Never. Not once in my entire life to be honest. I eat at home mostly.

**Ed Gamble**

So, do you cook a lot?

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh god, no. No, I'm much better than I was. I mean, you've got to remember that when I was, you know, your age and younger even, because you're both, you know, you've been around now.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But when I was in my twenties and thirties, which I presume you're both in now.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, one of those, just.

**Jenny Eclair**

I was out gigging most of the time. So, you know, I was never in to make the family meal. I was in Nuneaton or wherever. I was on a train. So, I do remember and I've said this before on other shows, but



my daughter coming home from-, you know when they get to that age where they go to other people's houses and they start to realise things are different?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And she came home when we was about four and she went, 'Do you know something?' I went, 'No, what?' She said, 'Do you know, and this is true, you can make cakes in your own house.' And I went, 'That's a lie.' I said, 'Not in this house, love, not in this house.' And then I tried-, at the time I didn't have a cooker. Not have a cooker.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh wow.

**Jenny Eclair**

I had a hob and a microwave. So, I got some of those My Little Pony buns. There were little fairy cakes and they were a microwaveable mix and they had, sort of, stickers to put on the top and it was a disaster, absolute disaster. I once tried to make Christmas dinner in a microwave, that didn't work either.

**Ed Gamble**

No way.

**Jenny Eclair**

That's when we decided to get a cooker for Christmas because I had family coming and all that. And you just think, 'Oh god, this is a really expensive Christmas because I'm not only providing the meal, I'm having to buy a fucking cooker on top of it all, you know.' So, that's that, anyway-,

**James Acaster**

When you had that Christmas dinner, did you think, 'Well, it wasn't worth the money.'?

**Jenny Eclair**

I've always said about Christmas dinner if Pot Noodle would do a giant Pot Noodle Christmas dinner flavour, I'd be happy with that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I wouldn't really.

**Ed Gamble**

Would you be happy with everyone else's reaction to that though?



**Jenny Eclair**

That would make me laugh a lot.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, my brother and my sister, yes, a lot. No, I'm not a foodie. I know that Ed you are a foodie. I feel that James is trailing some way behind you in the foodie stakes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I'm like Scrappy Doo sat, to Scooby.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Sometimes he goes mad and I have to put my hand on his forehead and he's just swinging around.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's when he chooses a cheeseboard.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, are you the cheeseboard boy?

**James Acaster**

No, he likes a cheeseboard.

**Jenny Eclair**

You're the cheeseboard-,

**Ed Gamble**

How dare you say that James.

**Jenny Eclair**

You're a pudding boy are you?

**James Acaster**

I'm a pudding boy.

**Jenny Eclair**

You're a pudding boy. Okay. You don't look like a pudding boy.



**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Jenny Eclair**

You don't look particularly cheesy either.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there you go.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

I'll take that as a compliment.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But-, oh, it's not. So, sorry, where were we?

**James Acaster**

I think we were going to talk about your tour. Sixty Plus, FFS, exclamation mark, XXL.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh. Yes. They're trying to, sort of, make me do new material, so, that's where the XXL is coming from.

**James Acaster**

That's them trying to make you do new materials, they add XXL and then that lights a fire under you?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. It's meant to. I wrote a show about being 60. I'm now 63, so, we've got to sort of update it, upgrade it and all that. So, it's got new stuff. I mean, it genuinely has as well, because since I was last on the road my mum's died and I've had a grandson, so, you know, there's some life changing stuff going on.

**Ed Gamble**

There's a lot going on.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I do have some material about being at my mother's deathbed which involves food, about how this ridiculous situation occurred. I don't know whether you've ever done the deathbed vigil?



**James Acaster**

Not yet.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Jenny Eclair**

Right, well, another bit of your podcast would be, what would you eat if you were waiting at someone's deathbed for them to die? What snacks.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It's a good new feature.

**James Acaster**

That's good, because that's a different-, because people are always like, 'What would your last meal be.' But it's a nice spin on that of what would-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What would you eat while you're waiting for someone else to die?

**Ed Gamble**

Deathbed snacks.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

You wouldn't think you'd have much of an appetite would you?

**James Acaster**

No.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, not-, I love my mother so much and my sister and I were there at the deathbed and it was one of those situations when they say, 'Come quickly.' So, you drop everything, you just-, and it's 250 miles and you do-, and I hadn't eaten, because you're not thinking about food.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, of course.

**Jenny Eclair**

You're thinking about getting to your mother's deathbed. So, I'm there and I get there at 2 o'clock, and really they're saying it's last breath time and all this kind of-, 6 o'clock and I'm thinking, 'Oh, I haven't had anything to eat.' And you don't like to mention it do you? You start saying, 'Have you got a banana in your bag?' Then it's 8 o'clock and there's a change of shift and the nurses are popping their heads round going, 'I'm going home for my tea.' And you're thinking, 'Oh, god, I wonder what they're having? I wonder if they're having chicken fajitas? Oh, I could really do with a chicken fajita.' And, you know, your mother-, and all this, and you don't-, the last thing you expect to feel is a bit peckish.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, sure.

**Jenny Eclair**

And that's where-, and it was just after Christmas, it was January and my sister and I, in the end we were resorting to going through my mother's locker and wardrobe to try and find leftover Christmas treats, you know, like, there was a tin of biscuits, nothing in there. Some old Bicos. And you're just, like-, and there was a, sort of, box of-, what are those Turkish-, Turkish Delight.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Fucking can't stand them. And we're licking the residual, sort of, icing sugar, because just to keep the energy up.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And then you're, sort of, you're just thinking, 'Oh, god, what we going to-,' And then it's crept into the next day, you just think, 'Oh god.' And they've locked the kitchen. They've locked the kitchen. They don't trust us.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, they're right not to. You're licking Turkish Delight up there.



**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Just the icing sugar.

**Jenny Eclair**

And anyway and then she died and then suddenly you lose your appetite don't you. So, there we go, that's my-

**James Acaster**

Wow, you really hurried that story along. I thought there was loads more detail to come.

**Jenny Eclair**

Sorry.

**James Acaster**

Very abrupt ending.

**Jenny Eclair**

Anyway, there we go.

**Ed Gamble**

I wouldn't trust myself in that situation. If I was with someone else at a deathbed, if one of you has got a bag of crisps and the other one wants a crisp, are you passing the bag over the person?

**Jenny Eclair**

It's tricky as well, because they say that your sense of hearing is the last thing to go. Do you really want the last thing for your loved one to hear is you crunching through a packet of Monster Munch? You know, it's kind of not the done thing, is it?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Yes, that's not great.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, it's not great.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it doesn't feel good.

**Jenny Eclair**

All she could hear was my stomach rumbling I'm sure, you know, I'm making noises like a washing machine, but there we go.





**James Acaster**

Well, people could go and see the show and also, yes you're doing the podcast tour as well, so, loads of opportunities to see you live.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, it's boring really isn't it? Sometimes do you not get tired of yourself?

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, constantly.

**Jenny Eclair**

Sometimes I look in the mirror and I think, 'Oh, not you again.' You know, it's one of those isn't it.

**James Acaster**

Now, we always start, Jenny, with still or sparkling water?

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, they're both quite dull, but I'll go sparkling. Very clean glass. Good glass. Thin rim. I don't like a thick rimmed glass or mug or anything really. I like a thin rim. Fnarr. And sparkling with ice and lemon. But what I would prefer on the side-, and then I'll have-, I'm always a very thirsty person because I talk a lot, I get quite dry. I'll have some tap water on the side as well because otherwise it will get expensive for you. Mind you, it's a fancy restaurant, do you pay?

**James Acaster**

No, no.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

This will be the first meal you've ever had-,

**Jenny Eclair**

That's value for money.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Where you go, 'This is worth the money.'



**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, god, my northern heart strings have relaxed. And I'd like some ginger beer on the side, a good ginger beer. Ed will know what I'm talking about.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, a good cloudy, like, proper ginger beer.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Old Jamaica, is that-, do you want that stuff?

**Jenny Eclair**

I like that and I like the Fentiman's as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, so, I like ginger beer a lot. Obviously alcohol free. I've not started drinking yet. You'll know when I do. There will be alcohol involved in this meal.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Jenny, I have a question.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Why is it just me who would know about the ginger beer and not James?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Don't trust him. I don't think that he'd have the palette. I'm not sure, I might-, I think I might be underestimating you slightly.

**Ed Gamble**

He knows what he's talking about this guy, honestly.



**James Acaster**

No, no, I like it. I'm happy to lean in to this.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, maybe-, no, I honestly really enjoy your shows. I really-, I just thought, 'Oh, I now know what everyone's raving about.' It's really good and I've heard some really wonderful, lovely people, and what's clever is it's not just about the food, they reveal quite a lot about themselves.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, I'm going to be very buttoned up.

**James Acaster**

Yes? You've already talked about your mother's death.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh god.

**James Acaster**

Remember that. We've already coaxed that out of you.

**Jenny Eclair**

Nowhere else to go really. I'll back track now anyway, there we go.

**James Acaster**

I love the thin rimmed glass, specifying that, because I would agree and I would never think about-, very few people come on here and think about the glass for the water.

**Ed Gamble**

No, almost nobody.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, I'm really fussy about glassware, tableware. And I don't do-, listen I'm going to own up to how I eat at home because, you know, I'm making a nonsense of everything I say. We barely ever eat at the table. We haven't even got trays. There are only two of us mostly, I mean, the lodger eats, but I've got the lodger, the 22-year-old niece Lamda lodger. Lamda lodger we call her. LL, Lamda lodger. She keeps her food separate. She eats a bit earlier than us. We don't eat until 8:30. We eat on our knees and we don't have trays, we have good quality magazines.

**Ed Gamble**

Perfect.



**James Acaster**

What? Pardon me?

**Ed Gamble**

When Jenny said, we eat on our knees, were you imagining them knelt down?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, I'd be fine because I'm a squatter. I'm a natural troglodyte. I'm a floor squatter. But the old man-, is that-, are we not allowed to say troglodyte?

**Ed Gamble**

No, of course you are, but-,

**James Acaster**

No, you are, you are, don't worry. No, you're not getting cancelled.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's just the way that you threw away the phrase natural squatter that made me laugh.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Just as if there's natural squatters and there are people who are unnatural squatters.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, you want to watch my bloke try and squat. He couldn't get back up. You know, he'd have to-,

**Ed Gamble**

I'm the same.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh really?

**Ed Gamble**

Tight hips.



**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, yes, he's very-, and I'm very loose round the hip. So, are you a natural squatter, James?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I do yoga.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, James does yoga.

**James Acaster**

So, I do my squats, but like, a year or two ago, not so much.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, you can flex those thigh muscles. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think I'm going to have to start doing something to do with those.

**James Acaster**

There's hope for you Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, so, when I saw on our knees, I mean the plates are on our knees.

**James Acaster**

Yes, okay, got you, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And we don't have trays.

**James Acaster**

You have a magazine.

**Jenny Eclair**

We have good quality magazines. It might be an Interiors, it might be an Elle Decor.



**Ed Gamble**

A glossy.

**Jenny Eclair**

It will be a glossy and quite thick.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Good quality, yes, and Geoff can't throw a magazine away.

**James Acaster**

Oh, okay.

**Jenny Eclair**

We have hundreds of years of Elle Decor and wallpaper and Interiors, hundreds of years of them.

**Ed Gamble**

And you just eat off them?

**Jenny Eclair**

We eat off them.

**Ed Gamble**

See, in our house, and I thought this might be the case with you as well, but you're probably going to think we're disgusting, we have fancy cushions on the sofa and we have eating cushions.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, that's disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it's just one of the eating cushions will go on the knee, plate on top of the cushion.

**James Acaster**

That's old folks home stuff that.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, it's slovenly. That is really really slovenly, because they must be splattered and they must smell.

**James Acaster**

They stink.



**Ed Gamble**

Well, one side-, so, you only do it on one side.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

And then when you're done that's the side that goes away from prying eyes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Have you heard of the cushion tray?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, it is, James is right, we are entering old people's home territory, but it is a tray, you know, it's a hard tray but it's got a soft bottom.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I love it. I want it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, there is your Christmas and birthday gift rolled into one.

**Ed Gamble**

I think I just want to live in an old people's home to be honest.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, I honestly I can tell you, you don't, because you're quite a foodie and you're going to get mince.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's true.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, you would complain about the food there.

**Ed Gamble**

One of my grandmothers went into an old people's home and that's all she would talk about when you went to visit, how bad the food was. And the tea, they would put stuff in the tea to make it thicker so they don't have to swallow it. That sounds quite good.

**James Acaster**

Oh, you'd like that would you?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

You'd like the thick tea?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, if you're in a rush.

**Jenny Eclair**

Honestly, you wouldn't. And they'd give it you in a beaker as well. Just watch that. Just watch those, sort of, propensities when you-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, okay.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, okay. Slightly fetishy, Ed.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it is actually.

**Ed Gamble**

The cushion tray.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I've love that.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, right, then I think a fan might-, you might get inundated with cushions trays.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you'll be sent some personalised cushion trays, and the fan will do a photo print of their face on the cushion side so that when you eat it their face is on your dick.

**Jenny Eclair**

It's in your lap. It's nuzzling your groin. Their lips are nuzzling your groin.

**James Acaster**

That's what's going to happen. Fans are creeps, man.





**Ed Gamble**

Yes, again, fine.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, there you go.

**James Acaster**

That's what will happen.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The ginger beer-

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, you've got your thin rimmed glass, which I love, and the ginger beer is there on the side. Is that in the can still, or in the Fentiman's bottle, or have you got that in a different-

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't mind drinking from a bottle or a can at all, but I think in this situation we'll glass it up.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

We'll have a similar thin rimmed glass, yes.

**James Acaster**

And you want this topped up throughout the meal, the ginger beer?

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Not just beforehand.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I'd-, you know, this has got to be an endless font.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

And fiery? You want fiery ginger beer.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, but not silly.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And there's a terrible soda poppy one which people keep getting in the Tate Modern and the Tate Britain, and every time I go to the Tate I think, 'Not that fucking awful ginger beer.' And I've had words. I've had words, I have. Said, 'This is not the best, this is not your best ginger beer.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, they've got to start, yes, upping their game at the Tate.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, absolutely.

**James Acaster**

Where do you stand on ginger ale?

**Jenny Eclair**

Confused slightly. It reminds me of my father and, sort of, seventies drinks and Boxing Day drinks parties and possibly alcohol going into it as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

What do you have with ginger ale, is it whisky and ginger ale?

**Ed Gamble**

I think you can have whisky and ginger ale, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, you see, I can't do whisky.



**James Acaster**

Right.

**Jenny Eclair**

I really can't do whisky, you know, whisky and I don't-, you should never give whisky to certain women. Bad tempered women should never drink whisky. I'm prone to shout at buses anyway, but, you know, give me whisky and I'm just there shaking my fist and calling God an arsehole, it's not-,

**James Acaster**

I don't know, that sounds fun.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it sounds like a laugh for a bit.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, it is very short-lived laugh.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

There we go.

**James Acaster**

But I'd rather have-, yes, I think ginger ale I'd rather have booze in than ginger beer. Ginger beer is nice on it's own.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's got its own stuff going on, right.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Jenny Eclair? Poppadoms or bread?

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, okay, right, that was a-,

**James Acaster**

Got her mid sip.

**Ed Gamble**

That was a big one wasn't it?



**Jenny Eclair**

We're in this studio, is it called Plosive?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, you did a very plosive P then and I got some of it in my face.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I'm quite glad I'm wearing glasses. So, poppadoms or bread. I'm going to go-, can I have a Scandi basket rather than, an either or? When I say a Scandi basket-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, please, please.

**Jenny Eclair**

You know if you have breakfast in, like, Norway, Oslo-, I say Norway, well done, you know, Sweden and places like that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I like those, there's like a big round Ryvita.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But they're better than Ryvita, they're a harder crisper, and they're sometimes made on the premises in the good hotels, because they're very good at breakfasts. I'm a big big breakfast fan. So, I do like that Scandi, kind of-, I like a dark bread, I like a pumpernickel, I like that sort of thing, yes.

**James Acaster**

So, are you getting Benito to google what this big Scandi cracker is called?



**Ed Gamble**

It's like a crisp bread, right?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, it is, it's a big crisp bread and they make them in the round, they're like as big as a driving wheel almost.

**James Acaster**

Oh wow.

**Ed Gamble**

You can get them in IKEA.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, you can get them in IKEA along with the lingonberry jam thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I'm a big condiment girl. Big, big on the condiment.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**Jenny Eclair**

Not so much on the condoms.

**James Acaster**

It's either or?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, I'm not eating those.

**James Acaster**

Everybody has got to pick a team.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, and somebody-, I've got the taste of a condom in my mouth and I don't want it, do you know what I mean.

**James Acaster**

But here's the thing, what if you had to smuggle some condiments through customs, how would you do it?



**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, I'd fill them, yes, I'd fill a condom full of lingonberry.

**James Acaster**

Swallow it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes, and then if it burst and you say, 'I'm having a very heavy period.' Even though I'm 63, I've not had periods for twelve years, anyway, you asked for it didn't you boys. There we go.

**James Acaster**

I, kind of, did ask for it, but, like, I don't know if it would burst and then-

**Ed Gamble**

Don't try and take Jenny on at this game.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, don't use me as your condiment mule.

**James Acaster**

I think it's a good excuse.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That works very well.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, you want, like, a basket of mixed Scandinavian breads and crisp breads and crackers and all of that?

**Jenny Eclair**

And crackers, yes, yes, I do, I do.

**Ed Gamble**

Sounds delicious.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I don't eat butter.



**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't know whether you know this about me, because I do bang on about it, but I used to be anorexic. I know, people do look at me now as if to say, 'Oh, I didn't know you could recover that well.' But I was anorexic at-, obviously drama school triggered it because drama school in the-, I went to drama school 1978-1981, at a time when people were still allowed to be vicious to-, you know, I've got the Lamda lodger and it's all-, she's at drama school and, I mean, it's incredible the education she's getting, and a lot of it is about consent and a lot of it is about how to behave towards people and all this kind of thing. And when I went to drama school the teachers were allowed to call you fat girl.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Jenny Eclair**

I mean, all of the women/girls in my year ended up with some kind of psychosis and there were quite a lot of eating disorders around at the time and I really-, I think I struggled until I was about 27. So, it can be-, I mean, it is, it's a bad illness because it's still-, a lot of the mental health illnesses, it's one that still has quite a high death rate and you do have to-, it's a very weird one because it's so obvious how to get out of the box you've locked yourself in. You just eat some food and you just won't give yourself the permission to do that. So, I made my parents and everybody around me very miserable for quite a long time, but, yes, so-, sorry, you've gone very quiet.

**Ed Gamble**

No, just letting you speak Jenny.

**James Acaster**

I was thinking, 'Ahaha, how's this for buttoned up?'

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, yes, I forgot.

**James Acaster**

We got you Eclair, we got you.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I'll start crying quite soon. So, that-,

**James Acaster**

But you were saying you don't eat butter?



**Jenny Eclair**

And that is probably my last leftover thing from anorexia. I used to have lots-, I don't eat chocolate either and I don't eat pastries. I know it's your producer Ben's birthday today and there's something sticky and delicious.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And it's not just me.

**James Acaster**

Love it, love it.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I just-, I wouldn't do that. But I used to not eat pastry as well, but I have a terrible-, I love a pork pie.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I had a 63rd birthday recently and my friend, Judith, that I do Older and Wider podcast with, sent me a 4lb pork pie. It was, like, the size of a very small baby. And this is a true story, right, so, the courier, because it came from Oxfordshire, I wasn't in, so, he was meant to put it in my safe place, right, this pork pie, but for some reason he decided that behind the bins wasn't good enough and what he'd do was throw it over my side garden wall into the back garden. And when I realised that she'd sent me a pork pie, I thought, 'Oh, it's going to be smashed to pieces.' No, this pork pie was so solid, and the crust was so thick, there wasn't a crack in it. It survived the throw.

**Ed Gamble**

It's because they're built for, like, minors to drop down shafts and stuff.

**Jenny Eclair**

This is it, exactly.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I looked at this pork pie when I got it out. It was absolutely perfect. And I thought, I'm so tempted to stand on it to see if it will take my weight.

**Ed Gamble**

But, oh, pork pie, I mean, pork pie, yes, that's just one of the finest things in the world.





**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. It was a good one.

**Ed Gamble**

I do a TV show with the chef Tom Kerridge.

**Jenny Eclair**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

And me and the other judge on that show, Nisha Katona, had a bet with him once about something that was going to happen, sort of, it was like a political bet about when everyone was-, you know, there was a new Prime Minister and all of this and we were, like, 'Who do you think is going to be appointed Prime Minister?' And we had a bet going and the bet was for a pork pie, and Tom lost the bet. And luckily he runs a two Michelin star restaurant called The Hand and Flowers, so, he sent me and Nisha a pork pie each, and this thing was double the size of my head, thicker than a Victoria sponge, it had pork in it, but then also black pudding throughout it as well.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh my god.

**Ed Gamble**

It is, I think, best thing I've ever tasted and I just-, every ten minutes I'd be at the fridge going just a little sliver.

**Jenny Eclair**

Have a little slither.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

How come this is the first I'm hearing about this?

**Ed Gamble**

Is it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I don't hear about this delicious pork pie, best thing you've ever tasted. You know it's getting in that fridge.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**Jenny Eclair**

Did you not bring some in?

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No way.

**Jenny Eclair**

He's a very mean man.

**James Acaster**

He's a very mean man.

**Ed Gamble**

No way.

**Jenny Eclair**

And where are you on the pork pie? I've obviously got where-,

**Ed Gamble**

Pork pie boy.

**James Acaster**

I like pork pies. I would say that, yes, I like-, it has to be a really rich buttery pastry and crust.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

If it's not, then I get all sad about it. I've got over the jelly stuff now. I'm fine about that. When I was a little kid didn't like it, and when it's got a little bit of something extra like some black pudding in there then obviously gourmet, I'm all for it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Guess who's still scraping the jelly off my partner, my 74-year-old partner -

**James Acaster**

Of course he is.

**Ed Gamble**

Geoff.



**Jenny Eclair**

Because he's got the taste buds of a six-year-old.

**Ed Gamble**

He loves jelly and ice-cream though.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, he likes-

**James Acaster**

Yes, put some ice-cream on it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, he'd be alright if it was strawberry jelly inside the pork pie, he'd be really fucking happy.

**Ed Gamble**

You're not having butter. Are you having anything butter adjacent?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, please may I have some Philadelphia low fat cream cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

You may.

**Jenny Eclair**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Absolutely, I love Philly.

**James Acaster**

I love Philly.

**Jenny Eclair**

I like the clean taste of-, I don't like a claggy taste and I find butter too claggy. I mean, obviously I'll eat it in a pork pie pastry.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

But not by itself, no.



**James Acaster**

So, you want this Swedish-,

**Ed Gamble**

Scandi basket.

**James Acaster**

Scandi basket with the cracker bread and some Philadelphia Light?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, thank you.

**James Acaster**

Delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

There we go.

**James Acaster**

Your dream starter?

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay. Oh, quite dull. I'm sorry about this. I've really thought about this and I've thought, 'Well, no, have what you like.' Because quite often I don't have what I like and I call it menu masochism, and I think it's something that women really suffer from much more than men. You know, if I go out with Geoff to eat the-, not that we do because we're too mean, but if we ever did, he would just look at a menu and he would not-, he wouldn't panic about it. He wouldn't get into, 'Oh, god, can you give me another 25 minutes? Thank you very much indeed.' And he would go, 'I'll have the steak, I'll have it medium well done. I'll have chips. And if you put some vegetables on that, it's fine, I'm not fussed. And then I'll have, oh, there's some apple crumble and some-, I'll have that.' You know, no trouble at all.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course, Geoff's having a steak medium well done.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I'm surprised. I was expecting turkey dinosaurs. I was expecting right to the baked beans.

**Jenny Eclair**

If only. If only. I'm there going, 'Well, I've never had curried whelks before, maybe I should try those.' And my daughter has inherited this from me as well and we-, every time we eat out, more or less, this is another reason why I don't eat out, is we choose the wrong thing, we choose the-, some fish we've



never had before that turns out to be the boniest fish in the world, and it's just, it's a misery and you're just, sort of, thinking, 'Oh, god this is just a nightmare.'

**Ed Gamble**

I genuinely do the same thing.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But also I've got, we've talked about it on the podcast before, a terrible habit of choosing what I want as soon as the menu comes, then if someone else I'm with orders the same thing I have to change what I'm having.

**Jenny Eclair**

You can't bear it. Well, what's that all about?

**Ed Gamble**

Because if we're going somewhere I feel like we should have the full breadth of the menu. We should experience as many different things as possible.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, but you're not sharing are you?

**Ed Gamble**

No, but I just feel as a table-

**James Acaster**

He refuses to do that.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I don't refuse to do that. I'll happily share someone else's.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, Richard E Grant is a refusenik on the sharing. He will not share.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I'd like to share a meal with-, he's a nice man.



**Ed Gamble**

Very nice man.

**James Acaster**

Very nice man.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, okay, so-, right, okay, well, you're quite difficult then. Okay, right. What about you, James? You're no trouble.

**James Acaster**

I'm happy with-, yes, I would get whatever, and then I like it when if I'm with someone who's a sharer and we get different things, great we can try and then swap them. But, like, yes, I don't mind getting the same thing as someone else especially if I've never been there before and I really want to try that dish.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But imagine, imagine the scene, Jenny, everyone gets the same dish, then what's the discussion after the meal? You go, 'Oh, we all enjoyed that.' Night's over.

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't really talk about food that much. I mean, I'm greedy as, you know, obviously, but I'm not that-, I don't really-, I haven't got much to-, sorry, anyway, my starter, again I'm going a bit Scandi. I want a fish platter but without any bones. You know, a bone free-, I don't like bones, I don't like them in any circumstances whatsoever. I don't like a bone chicken thigh. If I'm cooking a chicken something or other it's got to be boneless. I'm not having bones.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I get it.

**Jenny Eclair**

And Geoff is very bone phobic because he once missed a ferry when he was five because he got a bone stuck in this throat.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Jenny Eclair**

And it ruined a family holiday and he's never been allowed to forget it, or something. So, he's-,



**Ed Gamble**

Jenny, give me a second with that. You've packed a lot of information to that story there and I've got to imagine it all play out. Geoff is bone phobic because he missed a ferry when he was five because he got a bone stuck in his throat?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Yes. He's bone phobic. And I'm bone phobic as well. We don't like bones, what can I say.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I mean, Geoff prefers food you can mash with a fork and, you know, eat like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure.

**Ed Gamble**

But is he bone phobic because he got the bone stuck in this throat, or, was it specifically because he missed a ferry?

**Jenny Eclair**

It was because he missed a ferry and-,

**James Acaster**

And that ruined his life.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, it made his life difficult for a while because it was a family holiday and it all got a bit-,

**Ed Gamble**

Oh god, so-, and then he's focused on the bone thing?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

Maybe I shouldn't have got the bone stuck in my throat?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, guilt, guilt.



**Ed Gamble**

It's amazing what things-, you know, trigger-, when you're a child, what an impact it can have on your life.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Where was the ferry going to?

**Jenny Eclair**

I've no idea, and was never interested enough to ask. You know when you're, sort of, quite interested, up to a point, and then you go, that's enough detail.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, this fish platter will be-, okay, we'll have some smoked-, we'll have salmon, and I want it seventies style. You know when they used to dress a salmon like a fish?

**Ed Gamble**

Right, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Poached salmon. And I want it with olive eyes and cucumber gills, properly done.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely. Yes

**Jenny Eclair**

You know, pale pink and pretty, I like-, and nice-, I'm quite fussy about china and plates and things. I'd quite like, you know the state banquets, I'd quite like to borrow their-, I'd like to see what they eat off. I couldn't do gold though. I couldn't have metal on a-, you know, a metal plate, that would annoy me. And I can't eat-, you know when sometimes you're eating a boiled egg and someone's given you a silver spoon and it's a bit tarnished, it's the worst taste in the world.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, I think I'm very-, there's some things-, and if cutlery's badly balanced, you know, some people they think they can reinvent cutlery and then it'll, sort of, be weighted in the wrong direction and whatever





you do with it it's on the floor. And you think, 'Oh, for fuck's sake.' You know, it's just a knife and fork. But I want a classic knife and fork. I want it nice.

**James Acaster**

Yes, classic.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I like nice plates.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You know fish knives, the flat ones?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Are they necessary?

**Ed Gamble**

Why are they there?

**Jenny Eclair**

They are there because there was a time in history when people didn't know what to buy each other for wedding presents, and it's as simple as that really. I think it's a fish canteen they were called.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes-,

**Ed Gamble**

But is it to get it off the bone if it's on the bone?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I think it was a bone scraper.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you definitely don't need that for this?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, I don't need that. No, no, no. I prefer to be eating some of this with my fingers. That's another reason why I don't go to restaurants. I, you know, can be a pig. And I'll have smoked salmon as well. I do love chargrilled octopus.



**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, you know, really sticky, really sticky. And I want some lobster in here.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I'll have it out of its shell because otherwise I get in a mess, you know, and it all goes under my fingernails.

**Ed Gamble**

Shell's a bone by a different name.

**Jenny Eclair**

It is. It is.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you're not shell-o-phobic, you're boner phobic. Sorry, bone phobic not boner phobic. You're bone phobic.

**Jenny Eclair**

Bone phobic. I think I might have just since developed shell-o-phobic as well.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm boner phobic because I got one stuck in my throat and missed the train.

**Jenny Eclair**

Is that true? You see I'm very gullible as well.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm just making a dick joke.

**James Acaster**

He just said he got a boner stuck in his throat.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I was just-,

**Jenny Eclair**

Got a boner stuck in your throat?



**Ed Gamble**

I was just making a dick joke.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, he was making a, sort of, dick joke?

**Ed Gamble**

A penis joke.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, now I'm quite deaf as well, so, I didn't really hear. You have to really announce it, your dick jokes properly.

**James Acaster**

He said he was boner phobic.

**Jenny Eclair**

Just shout them in my face. So, I got this boner stuck down my throat because I was gobbling on a boner. That's how you have to do it. And massive prawns, really massive prawns.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, that's right, yes. Yes, is this, yes, the same story, different story?

**Jenny Eclair**

And I want their shells quite loose.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I want a loose shelled prawn.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you don't mind the shell on the prawns?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, because I can slide my fingernails under, but I get to-, what I'll have with the lobster, because I'm going to take my time with this meal. I'm really sorry boys, I could be here some time. I'll have a pad of very good quality water colour paper and I might have a little pan of water colours and then I'd like the lobster shell on another plate and then I make take some time to paint a still life of the lobster shell.



**Ed Gamble**

Oh wow. Now that's definitely a first.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we haven't had someone do a-, we haven't had anyone do water colours before of their meal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, no, that would be-, if I ever get the opportunity to send you a picture of a still life of the lobster, I'll do that for you.

**Ed Gamble**

Please.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

There you go. You can stick it on the wall.

**Ed Gamble**

This is already-, this is quite a soothing meal then, a very relaxed meal. You're taking your time. You're doing a painting.

**Jenny Eclair**

Taking my time. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, nice.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Because I'm not paying for this at the end, I'm really going to enjoy it. And I don't want aioli.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't want that. I want mayonnaise. And I know people say they can make their own mayonnaise and they're all very fussy about it. Yes, yes. I want Hellman's Light. That'll do me.

**James Acaster**

Yes, lovely.



**Ed Gamble**

I mean, it's a classic. A Hellman's is an absolute classic. Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

There we go, okay.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Philadelphia Light, Hellman's Light. There's a theme.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, remember ex-anorexic?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I've got to cling to some of the rules, and I quite like some crudites on the side, just to sort of give myself some textural mix. I like radishes.

**Ed Gamble**

I love a peppery radish.

**Jenny Eclair**

A really, really sharp-

**Ed Gamble**

Cold, crispy, peppery radish.

**Jenny Eclair**

Once went somewhere, and they were offering them as a starter with butter.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Buttered radishes.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, that's your nightmare, of course. It's ruining something you love with something you hate.

**Jenny Eclair**

How to ruin a fucking radish.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Whereabouts was it? They do it at Quo Vadis.

**Jenny Eclair**

That was the place.

**Ed Gamble**

Was it Quo Vadis?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Have you had buttered radishes?

**Ed Gamble**

On Dean Street. I didn't have them. No.

**James Acaster**

Because someone else ordered them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I've not had buttered radishes. I mean, look, I would happily try them, but it didn't excite me when I read it.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, it didn't float your boat, did it? No. No, why would it?

**Ed Gamble**

No. Radishes. What else is on the crudites?

**Jenny Eclair**

I can't remember what else you can get in crudites. I quite like celery, but it's not all that, is it? Cucumber sticks. I'm now eating what my grandson eats, really. Yes, radishes.

**James Acaster**

Carrots?

**Jenny Eclair**

It's a bit dull, isn't it? A carrot? No. Take carrots away.

**James Acaster**

I think radishes are the best one-

**Jenny Eclair**

Radishes are the best and they look good, as well. So if I can't manage the painting of the, what was that thing I said?



**James Acaster**

Lobster shell.

**Jenny Eclair**

That's it. I'll do radishes, because I know I can do them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, great. Do those from memory.

**James Acaster**

Your dream main course.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, what about where I'm eating? You usually ask your guests where.

**James Acaster**

That's true. We sometimes do. Do you have a specific place in mind?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, because that was the thing that was really confusing and foxing me, so I'm really glad you didn't ask.

**Ed Gamble**

But you brought it up, anyway?

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, only because last night, I was awake thinking about this, and the trouble is I find it very difficult if I can't control the environment. So, I'm thinking about an ocean view and then I'm thinking, you've had the seagull traumas from other people, and I was once in Cornwall and that happened. It was a big bap I had with pastrami. It was pastrami and hot mustard and cucumber and that, and it took the whole thing. It took the whole thing. And I genuinely felt like Tippi Hedren in birds and I couldn't believe, and no one else on the beach batted an eyelid. It was like, it was so common to them, and I was hysterical. Absolutely hysterical. I was face down the in sand, screaming and going absolutely mental, and people were just going, 'Yes, yes, it happened to me last week.' Sorry. I couldn't do a Cornish accent, then, but you know what I'm trying to do. And that really, really upset me, really freaked me out.

**Ed Gamble**

The whole bap?

**Jenny Eclair**

The whole bap, yes. Big, big. And I'd quite like to see that pigeon, not pigeon. Seagull again and go, 'Try this pork pie, mate. Try and take that in one go.'



**Ed Gamble**

No chance it's taking the pork pie.

**Jenny Eclair**

No chance. Not with me hanging on to it. Four pound pork pie and thirteen and a half stone clinging to it. 'Try that, mate.'

**James Acaster**

So, you don't want it anywhere in particular.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, then last night I was thinking the Orient Express, but then people would be dressed up. They'd be in fancy dress, and that makes my fists clench.

**Ed Gamble**

Right. Well, you could be on the Orient express just by yourself or whoever you're eating with.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, that'd be good. I don't want anyone else. I love a view, you know? You know like the film? Murder on the Orient Express, and I love a snowy landscape. I love, love, love a snowy landscape. That would do me. That would really do me.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want there to be a murder that you have to solve at the end of the meal?

**Jenny Eclair**

Geof and I love-, I mean, we've gone through all the Agatha Christie's during lockdown when we were anxious, we did them all on audio at night-time, and sometimes woke in the middle of the night, we'd have to say to each other, 'Do you want some more story? We'll have some more story.' But we've gone through all the Agatha Christie's, and there's some dreg Agatha Christie's, and they are so bad. She was still allowed to write when she was losing it, and there's some insane stuff. The lesser known Agatha's, there's a reason why they're lesser known. Absolutely insane.

**James Acaster**

You and Geof listening to them at four in the morning.

**Jenny Eclair**

We try, we try, and then there's a point where we turn to each other and go, 'This one's shit, isn't it?' So yes, I did, and I do like those very cosy restaurants, you know like an Andrew Edmunds? I'm sure you've been, you know, that kind of thing, but then I'm quite wide and I don't like when tables are very close together and you walk to the toilets, and you've got other people's dinners up your backside. And I like my own house to eat at. I do like that, because I like watching telly while I eat.





**Ed Gamble**

So, what about the Orient Express, but you're in a compartment that looks like your own sitting room?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, no, I want it a bit posher than that. I'll have the Orient Express, but no one dressed up in fancy dress, thank you very much.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, fine. Deal.

**James Acaster**

No one else is on it, snowy landscape, and it's going to your house, maybe? Maybe it goes straight to your house.

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't mind. I don't mind having a jaunt, a trip, going on a bit of a holiday, but when I'm eating, the last thing I want to do is have a long way to get home. That's why sometimes, if you're staying in a good, posh hotel, there's nothing better than getting completely stuffed and a bit pissed and knowing that all you need to do is get in a lift to get your room.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's a beautiful feeling.

**Jenny Eclair**

That's a lovely feeling, isn't it? Rather than thinking, 'I've got to get an Uber after this, and I can't move, and I don't know where I am.' You know, it's that sort of thing. So, I like to know how I'm going to get to my own bed, and if I'm on the Orient Express, I've got a-

**Ed Gamble**

Got your cabin.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but it's just you. Geof's not on it.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, Geof's with me.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Jenny Eclair**

Otherwise I'll get frightened.



**James Acaster**

So your dream main course.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay. And I haven't told you this. It's not very interesting, but I have an allergy to tomatoes, which has ruined my life, and I only developed it in my late 40s.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Jenny Eclair**

I know. I know. A lot of people think it's a hormonal thing, it's a sort of perimenopause, kind of, coincidental thing. I don't know. But any red seeded fruit, in fact, they give me mouth ulcers. And they're very small, but they're incredibly painful. It feels like somebody's constantly stapling the inside of your mouth, and isn't good for people like us who talk for a living, because I get them all around the inside my gum lines and things like that. I start talking like that, and everyone thinks I'm pissed anyway, so it doesn't help. So I've had to eradicate all tomatoes out of my diet for, oh, it's years now. It's a long time.

**Ed Gamble**

It's not just raw tomatoes. It's all tomatoes.

**Jenny Eclair**

It's all tomato products.

**Ed Gamble**

Devastating, Jenny.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, it's tomato puree, you know? Because people say, 'Oh, it's just got a tiny bit of tomato puree,' and you go, 'No, you twat, I said I'm allergic to tomatoes.' You know, this is why I've always got a, sort of, microwavable cauliflower cheese on me, because people can't be trusted.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you always got one on you?

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, not now, because I don't need to eat now, but if I'm going out for a meal and I think, 'Oh, I've forgotten to tell them' or something, I've got to have something, an alternative with me, haven't I?

**James Acaster**

You like the old microwavable cauliflower cheese.



**Jenny Eclair**

I love cauliflower cheese. I really, really do. So for this main cause-, course. Sorry. God, it's hard. I'd like to, sort of, magically not have a tomato allergy. Can you do that?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, of course. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely.

**Ed Gamble**

We've got a genie in the house.

**James Acaster**

Done. Gone.

**Jenny Eclair**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

Got rid of it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Thank you very, very much. Okay. So do you know what I've craved for a long, long time and I've not been able to eat? Spaghetti bolognese. And it's dull, and I'm really sorry, and it's not exciting and it's not foodie.

**Ed Gamble**

But it's a classic for a reason, Jenny.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and if you haven't had one in a long-,

**Jenny Eclair**

I haven't had one in so long. And you know, if I was being nice, I'd say, 'I'd like my mum's,' but it wasn't very good. I'd quite like to make my own, or maybe I'd like my own in reserve, because I know that I'd make it with so much love. And if I was allowed to cook with tomatoes, I'd make a meal of it, literally. You know, it'd be a thing of love. Tomato puree in there, tin of tomatoes, might have a bit of tomato ketchup, bang it in. Because I try to make mince based meals. My mother's was a bit watery. She was a bit mean on the tomato puree. It was a bit pale brown sometimes, you know? I don't like garlic anymore, either. I used to.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't like garlic anymore?



**Jenny Eclair**

Don't like it anymore.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it's not an allergy, just suddenly you don't like it.

**Jenny Eclair**

I've got really, really heightened sense of smell, like, stupidly. Like a bloodhound. And that, again, I'm on HRT, because otherwise I'm very, very depressed. Hormone Replacement Therapy, and I will take it until I die, and it gives some people, like me, a heightened sense of smell. A lot of pregnant women get this, it's a hormonal thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Why aren't the police using women on HRT to-

**Jenny Eclair**

Have you not seen us? We're on leads, sniffing along pavements. Yes, sometimes it's great, but sometimes it gets quite offensive, and garlic has suddenly gone into that, 'Oh, no, I can't.'

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Jenny Eclair**

Can't do it. Not heavily garlicked. Garlic bread makes me-, it's butter and garlic. Very bad.

**Ed Gamble**

Nightmare. That's a Jenny Eclair nightmare.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, it totally is. So it'd be very, very light on the garlic, if any at all, and it would be a very bloody heavy red, red, probably a bottle of Chianti in there as well. Very slow cooked, long time, so the mince really breaks up. I make a terrible shepherd's pie now, because I can't use any tomato puree or anything, and it's just dry. Very, very dry. Doesn't matter what you do, it's always a bit dry. People dread it. I go, 'Shepherd's pie tonight,' the lodger goes, 'Oh, I've got something. It's fine.'

**Ed Gamble**

Cauliflower cheese in my bag.

**James Acaster**

I love that she's just called 'The lodger,' even though she's related to you. Absolutely love it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Daisy, Daisy, lodger. Daisy. Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

I do also like that you yourself say the shepherd's pie is awful and very dry, but you still make it regularly. You go 'Shepherd's pie, my terrible shepherd's pie tonight.'

**James Acaster**

'For you guys. I'm going to have a microwavable cauliflower cheese.' This is great.

**Jenny Eclair**

Parmesan, lashings of.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes. You need, yes, lots of that, right at the end.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, and some mayonnaise. Sorry. It's a terrible habit.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on, what?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I have mayonnaise with everything, absolutely everything.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you should have said this at the top of the episode. You have mayonnaise on your spaghetti Bolognese?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, little bit.

**Ed Gamble**

Jenny Éclair.

**Jenny Eclair**

Or a Greek yoghurt. Little blob of Greek yoghurt.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not sure how I feel about that.

**Jenny Eclair**

I'm very sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, look, I respect you too much for it to affect how we carry on the episode, Jenny.



**James Acaster**

I was about to ask you, because Joe Thomas has been on this podcast, chose spaghetti Bolognese, and revealed that his recipe for spaghetti Bolognese involves a lot of cream. He puts cream in it. And I was going to ask you it, because I thought 'Jenny Eclair will tear Joe Thomas a new one,' but then you've said you put yoghurt.

**Jenny Eclair**

I never cook with cream. I don't like cream. I think it's another claggy taste, and, you know, people rave. I think double cream's one of the most disgusting things in the world, and my idea of torture is being held down and a can of squirty cream being pushed into my face. No, no. That's disgusting. So no, Joe's wrong about his spaghetti Bolognese recipe. Just wrong. Mine's better. Some people put chocolate in, as well. I think that's quite a newfangled thing. That's, sort of, post my generation of mince dishes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, a very dark chocolate.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Sore subject.

**Jenny Eclair**

Not a Snicker bar. Why is it a sore subject?

**James Acaster**

It's what sent me out of Pointless. I went on Pointless. I had to name ingredients in pasta dishes and get, you know, a Pointless answer.

**Ed Gamble**

Tom Kerridge again, wasn't it?

**James Acaster**

Tom Kerridge's spaghetti Bolognese. I went for chocolate, because I thought, you know.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, little grated chocolate in there.

**James Acaster**

Wasn't.



**Jenny Eclair**

What was it?

**James Acaster**

That sent me out. I got 100 points on that. Whatever it is.

**Jenny Eclair**

What was it, though?

**James Acaster**

Oh, there was loads of ingredients in all the different pasta dishes, but my partner, Joel Dommett, he'd already got 100 on his one, so I had to get, like, pointless in order for us to go through. So I had to take a big swing. I could have said, you know, 'Mince' or whatever. That would have been a correct answer, but instead, I got an incorrect one, and we crashed out and I looked like an idiot.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well you don't, because it's actually, a lot of people do use it in mince dishes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

So, who's the idiot now?

**James Acaster**

Tom uses it in his chilli con carne.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But not in his Bolognese.

**Jenny Eclair**

Listen, I've humiliated myself on more of those quiz shows than I dare, honestly. I've had some terrible moments.

**Ed Gamble**

We did Pointless together.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, not for long, because I was out first or second round. Oh, God, he was bristling with it. I've never seen anyone so keen. Keen as mustard.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we got knocked out, though.

**Jenny Eclair**

You didn't, did you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, we got knocked out I think maybe one or two rounds after you. But you got knocked out because you were with Sophie Hagen, and the category was Carry On films with only certain letters in them, and Sophie's from Denmark.

**Jenny Eclair**

She'd never seen one.

**Ed Gamble**

Obviously never seen a Carry On film, and she said 'Carry On Full English Breakfast,' which is a great way to go out.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. And I've been on with Linda Robson, we were also knocked out first round then as well, which is great, because I hadn't seen her for a bit and we had time for a quick gossip. Well, two and a half hours. Linda's like the queen of Islington. I've had such fun with her. I mean, she takes her own bottle of tomato ketchup to Wagamama.

**James Acaster**

Your dream side dish.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, well here, I might go a bit Yotam.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

A bit Yotam Ottolenghi, and I saw a side dish on the Insta, you know like they sometimes whack things on that you're not even following, but you go, 'Oh, that looks nice.' And it was a Yotam, and it involved rhubarb and burrata.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.





**Jenny Eclair**

Now, with a pink peppercorn drizzly oil apparently, which I haven't got in my house. So that, and I like rhubarb, and I like it in a savoury. And I was once in Copenhagen, and I had a lamb dish with the rhubarb, and it was one of those instance that could have gone very menu masochism, and actually, was a triumph.

**Ed Gamble**

Great.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That sounds delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you've never had this dish, but you just saw it and you thought, 'Why not throw it in?'

**Jenny Eclair**

No. And it looked so pretty, as well. I do like pink on the plate, and yes, that would be nice.

**Ed Gamble**

He's very good at that. Making dishes look nice and fresh and seasonal and vibrant.

**Jenny Eclair**

And you go to the shop and you think, 'I want everything. I want everything.' And Geof just wants one of those big meringues.

**James Acaster**

What big meringue does Geof want?

**Jenny Eclair**

What?

**James Acaster**

What big meringue does Geof want?

**Jenny Eclair**

He likes a big pink meringue. you know, one of those great big meringues that they have.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes, that's fair enough.



**Ed Gamble**

What I loved about that is it started as, like, a universal observation, where you're like, 'Yes, I love that, and you do this, don't you?' And it ended with, 'And then you go to the shop, and Geof wants a big, pink meringue.'

**James Acaster**

I love that you've chosen a dish that you haven't had, but you want to have. That's very nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And that sounds delicious. Burrata, always a hit.

**Jenny Eclair**

Always. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So good.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, had it when I got married. I got married very, very late, because I don't approve of weddings at all. I hate them, actually, although I like the food. Buffet. It's my favourite meal actually. That would be, if someone said, you know, 'The last meal before you're electrocuted in a chair for doing some terrible crime.'

**James Acaster**

Yes. What crime, quickly?

**Jenny Eclair**

So many. A buffet. A proper, sort of, '70s wedding buffet, which would have lots of cold cuts and salad, but they wouldn't be as good as Ottolenghi's salads. You know, maybe I'd go, sort of, semi '70s buffet slash Ottolenghi.

**James Acaster**

Yes, little fusion.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, a fusion, definitely. Burrata. Yes, when I got married, that was my starter.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Can vegans eat it?



**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Jenny Eclair**

No, there were a few. 'What can I eat?' 'Did you not bring something for yourself?' No, I didn't say that, obviously. I said, 'It's special vegan burrata.'

**James Acaster**

Problem solved. Well, this sounds great. I went to one of the Ottolenghi restaurants recently, and we've had Yotam on our podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, I went there, and there was some people there because they'd heard the podcast episode, which is always nice, but the chefs, because they'd listened to that episode as well, they sent out some extra bits for me. Which is obviously very generous, but it was lunchtime, and I only wanted a small bite. I was like, 'Those motherfuckers. I didn't want all this food.' So I got them back. Revenge. I bought them a round of beers. 'Fuck you, chefs. Do you like that?'

**Ed Gamble**

Well done, man.

**James Acaster**

That taught them. That taught them.

**Jenny Eclair**

They'd have loved that. Wouldn't they?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

That's nice of you. You did a good thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Really good guy.

**James Acaster**

Oh, no.

**Ed Gamble**

They did the same thing to me. They sent me all the-



**James Acaster**

Did you buy them a round of beers?

**Ed Gamble**

No. Hell, no.

**James Acaster**

I love buying a round of beers.

**Ed Gamble**

They sent me all the bread options. As a type one diabetic, that's basically an assassination attempt.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That was that was quite aggressive. At Cricket, they give you the option of buying a round of beers for the chefs. It's on the menu.

**Ed Gamble**

That's nice.

**Jenny Eclair**

What do you mean, 'At Cricket?'

**James Acaster**

A restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

A restaurant called Cricket.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, right. I thought you were at the oval. I thought, 'Sorry, I don't understand this.' Okay. There's a restaurant called Cricket.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Dream drink. Now, you promised there was going to be booze.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, there is booze. Yes. And it's limited booze. This is not on a, sort of, tap like the ginger beer and the fizzy water and the tap water. Also, I'm like a camel. I barely need to go to the lavatory. So don't worry about me, guys. But Chardonnay, and I know, oh, are you wincing, Ed?



**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm not wincing at all.

**Jenny Eclair**

He'll probably get a bit technical here though, won't he?

**James Acaster**

Yes, he will.

**Jenny Eclair**

He'll go, 'Are we talking an oak barrel?' Yes, we are.

**Ed Gamble**

They're oaky. The chardonnays are oaky.

**Jenny Eclair**

We're going really oaky. We're going a dark yellow, like a UTI infection.

**Ed Gamble**

You hear that reputation about chardonnay, ABC, 'Anything but chardonnay.' People are quite sniffy about it, but I've had some lovely chardonnays.

**Jenny Eclair**

Lovely chardonnay. Lovely. I drink it at home a lot. Every night. Every single night, I have a glass of chardonnay, and I put ice in it. Yes, that's what I do, because drink's never cold enough for me.

**James Acaster**

Never?

**Jenny Eclair**

Never cold enough. I was a nightmare as a child. When my mother would try and give me milk and it had to be ice cold. Ice cold milk, and I used to call it ice cold.

**James Acaster**

Where do you stand on, like, slush puppies and stuff?

**Jenny Eclair**

I don't have that sweet tooth. I have knocked that out of me. I just genuinely don't have it. So no, I wouldn't do that.

**Ed Gamble**

What about a chardonnay slush puppy?



**Jenny Eclair**

Now we're talking. If I could have one of those fancy fridges like Mr. Swallow, and it came out-

**James Acaster**

Mr. Swallow?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. When he was on your podcast.

**James Acaster**

Sorry, I thought, fucking hell. I thought you meant to say 'Mr. Frosty,' if that was a thing, but you are talking about Nick. Okay, sorry.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes. Nick. I don't know him. I only know him as Mr. Swallow. He's got one of those posh fridges that the crushed ice comes out of. My dream would be to have a fridge that the crushed ice came out with chardonnay. Oh, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, this is the dream restaurant.

**Jenny Eclair**

Okay, I've got one of them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

On the Orient Express.

**Ed Gamble**

Chardonnay slush puppy.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I'm taking it home.

**Ed Gamble**

The problem with that, though, is that is a tap, essentially. So now, you have constant access to a chardonnay slush puppy.

**Jenny Eclair**

It's got to run out. It's got to be three large glasses, tops.



**Ed Gamble**

That's quite a lot actually, so yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

I'll be unconscious and out of action for two days.

**Ed Gamble**

Would Geof step in?

**Jenny Eclair**

No, Geof is not a drinker.

**Ed Gamble**

But would he step in if you were, like, three glasses in, and you were like, 'Oh, Geof.'

**Jenny Eclair**

'Telling you all the same story, all over again. How dead funny.' Ghastly. No, he's a libertarian, Geof. He doesn't believe in telling people what to do, unfortunately.

**Ed Gamble**

Even when you're, like, trashing the Orient Express.

**James Acaster**

Yes. He's in the corner, covered in meringue dust or whatever. He's gone crazy.

**Ed Gamble**

'No, I will not tell my wife to put on her clothes. I'm a libertarian.'

**Jenny Eclair**

And he'll stick to his one glass of, you know, Merlot or whatever. No, I have learned with, you know, bitter experience to curtail my alcohol.

**James Acaster**

So, we'll just have the three large glasses of chardonnay slush that comes out of the tap, and you can take the fridge home, as well.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, thank you very much, and I'll need some paracetamol for the morning.

**James Acaster**

We'll line that up.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I might need a Gaviscon chaser on this meal, by the way.



**Ed Gamble**

That's fine. Yes, we can do that, for sure. Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Because I'm going to have some port in a bit.

**James Acaster**

Your dream dessert.

**Jenny Eclair**

Don't do dessert. Don't do pudding.

**James Acaster**

Fucking hell. Oh my God.

**Jenny Eclair**

Sorry. I thought that was maybe one of the terrible words. What?

**Ed Gamble**

No. Well, James is a pudding boy.

**James Acaster**

I always dread this situation, because, you know, sometimes I really let rip on guests when they don't choose dessert, but sometimes, there's guests who I don't feel comfortable letting rip.

**Jenny Eclair**

I can take it.

**James Acaster**

Because I'm either scared of them or I respect them too much, and this is a situation of both, and so I'm going to have to just listen to what you have to say and try and contain my anger.

**Jenny Eclair**

Right. Well, I'll try and, sort of, play on your empathetic side, which I do believe exists. And I think it's a bit of the latent anorexia thing. Do you see now, James?

**Ed Gamble**

How do you feel now, James?

**James Acaster**

Well, I'm glad I didn't fully go angry straight out the gate.





**Jenny Eclair**

I think that when I was going through my greedier stages, I did sort of stuff myself with anything. You know, I've always been more savoury than sweet. My mother, we had a walk-in pantry at home, because we lived in the north and people in the north can have these things like garages and pantries, and she was a good, if resentful, cook. And she became more and more resentful about cooking as she got older and things got more and more burnt. But there used to be tins at the back of this pantry that were full of cakes and biscuits. She didn't work, so she, you know, felt she had to do this stuff, and flapjacks and things like that. And I'd be one of those children that would go in and I'd take the lid off every tin, have a bit of everything, you know? I'd go in the pantry with a knife and I'd be hacking away at a fruit loaf and have this and have that, and then she'd make Rumtopf, as well. You know what a Rumtopf is?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, well James, well done.

**Ed Gamble**

Here we go.

**James Acaster**

Well, so I kind of know what one is, but like, there's a proper-,

**Jenny Eclair**

Ceramic?

**James Acaster**

Like a ceramic thing that my parents have that says it on it, and so I would ask about, 'What is this?' But it's like, is it fruit soaked in-,

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, in alcohol, and I always had a taste for alcohol from a very early age. But I remember, and it was fruit and it was booze, and you have to leave it to stew, like, for months so it's ready for Christmas, and I'd even prize the lid off that and I'd put a dirty spoon in it. So eventually, when they did get it out at Christmas, it was just mould. Just thick mould. So, you know, I had a lot of issues with food and guilt and stuff like that from quite an early age, and when I was coming out of anorexia, I found it the easiest thing not to have. I was terrified of getting very fat again, and I was never very fat, but I was, you know, the size I am now but at nineteen, twenty, I didn't want to be that. So, I never found my love for sweet things ever again, and in fact, then I sort of became quite political about chocolate and the way chocolate was forced down women's throats. This, sort of, advertising of chocolate, the sexual thing



and the, 'Oh, you're so sad. You're so lonely. Have a great big slab of chocolate, you useless bitch.' You know? And I couldn't stand it. I can't stand that, sort of, pressure. You know, in WH Smith they used to, you know, 'And would you like a big fucking lump of cheap, shit chocolate to go with that, and you know, go home and eat your cat?' And that's been it for me.

**Ed Gamble**

I would like that.

**Jenny Eclair**

You would like that.

**Ed Gamble**

I would take some cheap chocolate home to eat with my cat.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, well, I don't know, and I think I use it as an excuse, really. I think there's a deep fear as well if I did start, I might never stop. So, you know, I have to have some rules, and I cannot eat lunch until one o'clock. I cannot eat an evening meal until eight or 8.30, unless I'm gigging, in which case I have to. Lots of rules. Lots and lots of rules.

**James Acaster**

So, in that case, is there nothing for this course?

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, no, course. Don't be ridiculous. I'm going cheese.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh, man. I've got to be okay with it. I heard the whole personal story.

**Ed Gamble**

Bad luck, James.

**James Acaster**

Oh, boy.

**Jenny Eclair**

Sorry about that, but I'm going cheese. Yes, I'm going cheese, even though I'm going to be too full. You know, I've just had a side dish of rhubarb and burrata. Do I really need any more cheese?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but if it's there, you can pick at it.



**Jenny Eclair**

I'm picking. Yes. And I have some chutneys, as well. I have a good fig chutney.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, nice. Like a Fortnum's one? That Fortnum's Fig Chutney.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, yes. Do we have the same agent?

**Ed Gamble**

We do. That's why I know about the fig chutney, because it always comes in the Christmas hamper. Any particular cheeses, Jenny?

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, well, I think I would take guidance from a cheesemonger. I don't like a blue cheese. I don't like, you know the veiny cheese? I'm not into that. It's a bit like thin men on the beach with their legs out, you know, the veiny thin men legs. I'm not doing that.

**Ed Gamble**

That's ruining blue cheese for me.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I don't do blue cheese.

**James Acaster**

That's ruining my own legs for me.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, James, I have the skin tones of a jellyfish to be quite honest, you know. And I love a Babybel.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on, you want a Babybel on your cheese board?

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I do.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Turns out that we both feel angry at this point.

**Jenny Eclair**

I just find the peeling of a Babybel one of the most satisfying things that an adult can do.



**Ed Gamble**

I mean, this is a dream restaurant. What if we allowed you that peeling process, but within the wax was a nice cheese.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh God, that would be, like, magnificent, wouldn't it? It would have to be solid enough to peel and be the disk. Like, that perfect disk. That would be amazing. I think that that is something that, actually, you should take on Dragon's Den. A foodie Dragon's Den.

**Ed Gamble**

Peelable nice cheese.

**Jenny Eclair**

Surprise peelable cheese, like a Kinder Egg. Oh, God, that's brilliant. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Good idea, actually.

**Jenny Eclair**

Thank you. Yes, I'll have those. I'll have Babybel surprise cheeses with good cheese inside. Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Perfect, but no blue.

**Jenny Eclair**

No blue.

**Ed Gamble**

But some, like, mature cheddars, maybe?

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh, yes, I'll do that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And do you want some of the crackers from the Scandi basket to come back?

**Jenny Eclair**

I shouldn't really need them, should I? Can I have a Pink Lady apple or two?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Jenny Eclair**

Palate cleanser, yes, that'd be nice.



**Ed Gamble**

The best apples.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we're on a text group with a bunch of other comics, and for a while, quite an aggressive debate broke out over what the best apples were.

**Jenny Eclair**

Well, there's no argument on this one. What were people saying?

**Ed Gamble**

Granny Smith.

**James Acaster**

They were all saying Granny Smith. We were very anti Granny Smith and angry about it.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, sour. Very off and sour. Yes. I want to a crisp Pink Lady. We know where the best ones come from.

**Ed Gamble**

The fridge.

**Jenny Eclair**

There's the fridge or, yes, Marks and Spencers. I mean, you know, there are lots of supermarkets doing Pink Lady, but the Marks and Spencers, if you want good fruit, you've got to go Marks.

**Ed Gamble**

You love Marks. I remember when I supported you on tour, Marks and Spencer's sandwich on your rider.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Before we do wrap up, I'm going to read you your menu back, but do you get sent a lot of eclairs? Because comedians get sent stuff often.

**Jenny Eclair**

Not enough.

**James Acaster**

And, like, you know, fans can sometimes come to shows and send stuff for you backstage. You must have been given eclairs before and been like, 'I don't want these.'



**Jenny Eclair**

The older and wider audience know us better than to do that. They know that we are, excuse me, sorry, Diet Coke. And I don't burp, but I did a tiny one, then. Coleslaw. We are big coleslaw fans. So, the other side dish I was going to suggest was a celeriac remoulade, which is a posh version of coleslaw.

**Ed Gamble**

Posh coleslaw.

**Jenny Eclair**

Excuse me, now I'm burping. Can't fucking stop.

**James Acaster**

I absolutely love it.

**Jenny Eclair**

And I don't burp.

**James Acaster**

No, no, you don't. Just now, a million times on a podcast. Yes, so you love coleslaw. So, is that what your fans bring?

**Jenny Eclair**

They do. They send us more savoury snacks, coleslaw, Werther's Originals, you know classic old lady kind of things. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Delicious. Right, I'll read your menu back to you now. See how you feel about it. You would like sparkling water in a thin rimmed glass with ice and lemon and a tap water and a ginger beer, and that to keep coming throughout the whole meal which is on the Orient Express, of course. Poppadoms or bread. You want Scandi basket with crisp bread and Philadelphia low fat cream cheese. Starter, boneless fish platter. Salmon, '70s style. Char grilled octopus. Lobster, shelled, so that you can then paint the lobster shell watercolour while you're eating this platter. Massive prawns with loose shells and light mayonnaise with radishes and cucumbers, crudites on the side, as well. Main course, you would like to make a spaghetti Bolognese with loads of parmesan, loads of tomato everything in it, really, really red and maybe a blob of mayonnaise on at the end. The side dish, Ottolenghi's rhubarb and burrata with pink peppercorn drizzle. Never had it before, be your first. I'm even willing to chuck in the celeriac-

**Jenny Eclair**

Remoulade.

**James Acaster**

Remoulade, there.



**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, I think so, too.

**James Acaster**

Your drink, you'd like to have a slush puppy machine in your fridge that puts out chardonnay slush. Three large glasses and then it caps off, and it doesn't let you have any more.

**Jenny Eclair**

It's alcoholic sensitive.

**James Acaster**

Yes. It's a very considerate fridge. There's a full cheese board which has surprise Babybels that, when you open them, there's really nice cheese in them with the fig chutney from the Avalon Christmas hamper. Pink Lady apples, and even though you didn't say it just then, I believe you'd like a glass of port with that.

**Jenny Eclair**

Oh God, I want port with that. If I don't finish this meal with gout, I want it all over again.

**Ed Gamble**

Gaviscon chaser, as well.

**Jenny Eclair**

A Gaviscon chaser. Yes. So port, Gaviscon chaser, I'm now replete, and I will stagger to my bed.

**Ed Gamble**

To your cabin.

**Jenny Eclair**

To my cabin. And it will be, by now, it's snowing now like crazy, and it's a dark, dark night. I might hear a bear. No, I won't, because I'm scared of bears.

**James Acaster**

Maybe you put Murder on the Orient Express on.

**Jenny Eclair**

Yes, Geof and I would enjoy that. Yes, we would, that'd be lovely. Oh, I'm having such a great time, I can't tell you. Cosy, cosy, cosy. I've got the top bunk, Geof's in the bottom bunk. 'Night night, Geof.'

**Ed Gamble**

It's bunk beds. You don't get a suite, even in your dream.

**James Acaster**

Bunk beds, Geof's at the bottom, some random guy across the other side of the room.



**Jenny Eclair**

No, no one else is on this train.

**Ed Gamble**

No, that's true actually, you said that.

**Jenny Eclair**

We have choice of bunk beds, and obviously, I've gone to the top.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, of course.

**Jenny Eclair**

Can't think of anything better than being on the top bunk.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I can't at all.

**James Acaster**

Sleeping next to your husband?

**Ed Gamble**

Jenny, thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant.

**Jenny Eclair**

Pleasure.

**James Acaster**

Thank you, Jenny.

**Jenny Eclair**

Absolute pleasure. I've had a lovely time.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are, James. That was a great episode with Jenny.

**James Acaster**

I mean, I think we learned so much about Jenny, about her life, about Geof. Also, really good menu. When I read it back at the end, I was like, 'I didn't really take the time to appreciate how delicious this all sounds.'

**Ed Gamble**

A very good menu that I would argue was absolutely soiled with mayonnaise. Now, mayonnaise with the fish starter, yes, please. Mayonnaise on the Bolognese.





**James Acaster**

We had to let it go.

**Ed Gamble**

We had to let it go, man.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And then adding the celeriac remoulade, so there was mayonnaise on the side, as well. And you know, she didn't mention it, but I know she's dipping that cheese in mayonnaise at the end.

**James Acaster**

One of those Babybels, you probably peel it and it's just mayonnaise.

**Ed Gamble**

Just a big glob of mayonnaise. But look, broadly, a fantastic menu.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and you know, I didn't even get that angry at the lack of dessert.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I'm glad you didn't.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Well, I know that Geof is in the same room, eating his body weight in meringues, so I'm okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Big pink meringues and jelly and ice cream. Yes, I loved that episode. Do go and see Jenny on tour. Sixty FFS XXL.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Sixty Plus FFS XXL.

**Ed Gamble**

That is touring now, that show, and do listen to Jenny's podcasts that she does with Judith Holder, Older and Wider, available wherever you get your podcasts.

**James Acaster**

We've been sent some food. Oh, also, thank you Jenny for not saying eclair.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, thank you, Jenny.



**James Acaster**

We've been sent food, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And we'd like to say thank you for that food, because it's nice of people to send us the food. First of all, actually, thank you to the people at ROVI for sending me that food when I went in. I very much enjoyed it, I was just having a little joke.

**Ed Gamble**

Some lovely things. You know what, I'm going to steal that little trick of buying the chefs a beer.

**James Acaster**

It makes you feel so good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's great.

**James Acaster**

It's real classy.

**Ed Gamble**

Because that's what you have to do in sushi restaurants, you know, in Japan.

**James Acaster**

Is it?

**Ed Gamble**

There's no tipping in Japan, so the traditional thing to do is buy the chef a beer.

**James Acaster**

I love that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I really recommend it to everyone listening. If you like it and if you feel a bit awkward doing compliments to the chefs or whatever, buy a round of beers for the chefs.



**Ed Gamble**

Also, sometimes, you don't really know how they do the tips or where the tips go or anything like that. So, if you say, 'Buy the chefs a beer,' there's a tangible thing that's going to the person that's cooked your food.

**James Acaster**

Definitely, going to them.

**Ed Gamble**

A lovely thing to do.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And obviously, if they don't drink, you can buy them a ginger beer.

**James Acaster**

Yes, buy them a ginger beer. A diet coke. You know, I could keep listing drinks.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. We've been sent some coffee, James, from Round Hill Roastery.

**James Acaster**

I'm wide awake.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, look, it's brilliant the stuff that we get sent, because it gets sent to the studio, to the Plosive studios. I'd say this is the most well stocked podcast studio slash live promotions office in London.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we have a lot to offer our guests when they come here, including the coffee from Round Hill Roastery.

**Ed Gamble**

We also got sent some beers from Rooster Brewery.

**James Acaster**

Cock-a-doodle-doo.

**Ed Gamble**

Which I'm sure will get drunk at some point when we have one of our sexy late night episodes, or more likely, the Plosive Christmas party.



**James Acaster**

Yes, or more likely, after a real tough edit, Benito will drown his sorrows on his own here.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Talking to Toast about us. 'They don't appreciate me, Toast.'

**Ed Gamble**

Also, thanks to the Durslade Farm Shop, James. Sent us a lovely hamper of things. I believe the things I took home were some chocolate covered honeycomb which my wife ate. She enjoyed it. Some lovely granola, which I ate, and also some Negroni, which I'm yet to have, but I'm very excited by.

**James Acaster**

Thank you, Durslade Farm Shop. All is forgiven for locking Harry Potter under the stairs.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much for listening. We'll see you again next week, probably. Bye bye.

**James Acaster**

Goodbye.