



Off Menu – Ep154 – Esther Manito:

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the bulb of humour, removing a clove of good times, peeling that clove, putting it in the garlic crusher of conversation, and then frying all that up, and that's the podcast put in in a recipe like garlic. Hello James.

James Acaster

Just like garlic. Hello Ed. Ed Gamble there, James Acaster, this is the Off Menu podcast. We own a dream restaurant, and we invite a guest in every week to tell us their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order, and this week our guest is Esther Manito.

Ed Gamble

Esther Manito, a wonderful comedian who I've worked with on a number of occasions. She's very, very funny.

James Acaster

Very, very funny, an honour to have her on the pod. She's going to Edinburgh Festival soon.

Ed Gamble

She is, she's doing a show at the Edinburgh Festival, and we're very excited to see that. And we're also very excited to hear her dream menu. James.

James Acaster

Yes, I am excited Ed. But listen, just like with any guest we have on the podcast, if Esther says the secret ingredient, an ingredient unbeknownst to her that we decide is gross, then we will kick her out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We're both mildly distracted there, you might even be able to hear in our voice, because The Great Bonito has his dog here, and Toast was being naughty.

James Acaster

Yes, naughty Toast.

Ed Gamble

So Bonito had to pick up Toast and pop him on his lap.

James Acaster

Toast isn't often allowed in the studio, but he's been picked up now, he's on the lap and he's acting quite calm, actually.

Ed Gamble

Yes, quite a calm, calm little dog. But will he keep acting calm when we mention what the secret ingredient is, because I'm sure it's not for dogs. It's instant coffee.

James Acaster

Instant coffee.

Ed Gamble

Instant coffee. I don't think I'd describe myself as a coffee snob, James, only to the extent that I don't really like instant coffee.



James Acaster

No. I think once you stop drinking instant coffee, going back to it, that's when you realise this is bad stuff.

Ed Gamble

It's bad stuff. In a pinch I'll drink instant coffee if I'm really tired and I need a boost and that's all that's there, I'll double drop an instant coffee, two spoons straight in.

James Acaster

If it's just for, you know, just for the effect, sure, who cares. But if you want to enjoy a mug of coffee, you do not want an instant coffee. Oh, Bonito's the one being naughty now.

Ed Gamble

That wasn't Toast making that noise, that was Bonito.

James Acaster

Dropped his pen, dropped his penito.

Ed Gamble

Bonito dropped his penito, and we'll hear from Esther Manito very shortly, and if she says instant coffee she's out on her rear.

James Acaster

Yes, she will be out on her rear. Oh, it'd be a shame because I'm looking forward to talking to Esther.

Ed Gamble

It will be a shame. And instant coffee was suggested by Luke Fuller on Twitter.

James Acaster

Ah, full of coffee, is he full of coffee?

Ed Gamble

He must be full of coffee, but not instant.

James Acaster

Not instant, but he is-, Luke's full of coffee.

Ed Gamble

He's full of coffee, thank you Luke. Also, before we hear from Esther, I should remind you that I am on tour doing my show Electric from September. I'm doing more tour dates of that, so going all over the place, including Hammersmith Apollo, including Dublin and Belfast as well.

James Acaster

Ah, lovely.

Ed Gamble

So, without further ado, this is the Off Menu menu of Esther Manito. Welcome Esther to the dream restaurant.

Esther Manito

Hello.

Ed Gamble

Hello.



James Acaster

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

Ed Gamble

Oh, surprised me.

James Acaster

First thing's first, may we call you The Great Manito?

Esther Manito

Yes, I like the fact that that sounds like you've discussed that beforehand.

Ed Gamble

Well, as soon as I came in, James went, 'I'm going to call Esther The Great Manito.' He was so excited about it.

James Acaster

Well, we've got The Great Bonito here, so you will be The Great Manito for the podcast.

Ed Gamble

If that's okay with you?

Esther Manito

Right, okay. Yes, alright, The Great Manito.

James Acaster: And sometimes we might slip in to going Manito, or whatever, but that's just because we say Bonito like that, so don't see it as, like-

Ed Gamble

We've not decided we're going to bully you by going, 'Manito.'

Esther Manito

You remember that song, that Justin Bieber song Despacito. So the amount of times I got welcomed on stage with people going Esther Manito.

Ed Gamble

I can't believe we've-, I mean, Bonito looks devastated now, because now he knows for the next two years it's going to be Great Bonito.

James Acaster

The Great Manito, do you like food? Are you a foodie?

Esther Manito

I am. Does anyone say no though, to that? I don't know, just see it as fuel.

Ed Gamble

People often shirk the label of foodie. Like, if we ask them if they're a foodie, they go, 'Well, I like food, but I'm not, like, a foodie,' because I think foodie has connotations of being like a-

Esther Manito

Like you know stuff.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like a food ranker.



Esther Manito

I love the fact that I can only see one of your eyes. It just looks to me like you're wearing an eyepatch.

Ed Gamble

I've got the other one closed.

James Acaster

Ed could pull off an eyepatch, I think.

Esther Manito

He could.

Ed Gamble

Do you think, yes?

James Acaster

Yes, I think you could pull it off.

Ed Gamble

In what sense?

James Acaster

I think it would still look cool. I think people would be like, 'Yes, that's cool.'

Ed Gamble

Ed's got an eyepatch on.

James Acaster

Yes, he's got an eyepatch on, that's cool.

Esther Manito

Do your next show wearing an eyepatch and never reference it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I might do actually.

Esther Manito

Just be like, 'This is me now.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

This is me now, and I'll never tell you what happened.

James Acaster

Do the show and see-

Ed Gamble

I mean, my audience would mention it immediately.

Esther Manito: They'd just chant it, 'Eyepatch, eyepatch, eyepatch.'



Ed Gamble

Straight away, everyone, 'Why are you wearing an eyepatch, mate?' I thought I was going to get away with it.

James Acaster

I've been in Ed's audience, and it's full of contagion, you feel yourself turning into a beast, yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, is it, do you? Is it just filled with animals? I want to know about your audience now.

Ed Gamble

They're actually very lovely.

Esther Manito

They're all from-,

Ed Gamble

James's audience on the other hand are genuine beasts.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, I hate them. But they know it, they know it.

Esther Manito

They love you very much. They're very aggressively loyal to James Acaster.

Ed Gamble

I mean, that's his online audience. His actual live audience, hot morons.

James Acaster

Really my live audience are the people that the online audience are trying to protect me from, yes.

Esther Manito

Just lot's of women just throwing, I don't know, pants on stage. I get loads of women who come and watch my show because I talk about, like, marital life and kids and stuff, but they drag a man with them. So 50% of my audience are men who have been forced against their will, and they're just staring at me. So now I have had to write a whole chunk about that just so they know I'm aware of it, I know you don't want to be here, but you're here now. So alright, let's just crack on son, it'll be alright.

Ed Gamble

I do get that but worse, in that it's not just one man who's been dragged with, it's normally both parents. So two thirds of my audience don't want to be there.

Esther Manito

Yes, yes, I'd take my parents to see you, but I wouldn't take my parents to see me. But I'd take them to see you, or James, but not me.

Ed Gamble

I've got a very upsetting bit in my new show which upsets all the parents and the children.

James Acaster

Ed's very rude.

Esther Manito

Oh, are you? I've never heard you be rude.



James Acaster

All the children forget this when they bring their parents along.

Esther Manito

Oh, okay, violently rude.

Ed Gamble

I get away with it, I just, you know, wink but it's under the eyepatch a lot of the time, so.

Esther Manito

The pirate costume is to try and distract-

Ed Gamble

Yes, exactly.

Esther Manito

You're just going down the Johnny Depp route.

Ed Gamble

Yes, don't listen to me, look at the hook.

Esther Manito

Foodie's quite a modern term, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think so.

Esther Manito

That's what people say now, they're like, 'I'm such a foodie.' It annoys me, actually.

Ed Gamble

Does it?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yet you consider yourself a foodie?

Esther Manito

Did I just say that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, you did-

James Acaster

We've got it on tape, we've got evidence.

Esther Manito

I don't remember a lot of the stuff I've said, so I've annoyed myself that I've said it. No, because, like, you like food, you like cooking, but foodie now has become this snobbery with food like, 'Oh, I understand food a bit more than you.' And that's a load of-



Ed Gamble

I'm that guy, yes, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. But he does understand food more, you see. Because we do this pod together, everyone's always asking me, like, I might get a text from friends, or other comments being like, 'Hey, we're going out tonight, looking for a Mexican place. Where's good to eat?' And I'm just like, 'Ask Ed.'

Ed Gamble

Mexican.

James Acaster

'Here's Ed's phone number, and you should ask Ed because he will know.'

Esther Manito

What do you know?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do actually regularly get texts from people going, 'James said to ask you.'

Esther Manito

Oh, you see, yes, when people talk about restaurants as if you know them, and they're like, 'Oh, I went to so and so,' and I'm like, I don't know what that means, I never go out. Do you go out?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I go out.

Esther Manito

Alright.

Ed Gamble

We haven't got kids.

Esther Manito

Oh, of course, yes.

Ed Gamble

We do what we like.

Esther Manito

Yes, I know. That's like when James earlier was like, 'Do you not really, like, hang out with comics and stuff?' And I'm like, I never go out, never see anyone, literally just in my house.

James Acaster

That's a pre-record, just for the listener. That's the kind of chat we have pre-record.

Ed Gamble

Do you never hang out with comics or anything? Anyway, sit down and-, we like to get in our guests' heads.

Esther Manito

Esther, have you got no friends? No, unless they're comics who are prepare to come into my house, it can't happen.



Ed Gamble

Are there those comics, those comics who will cross the breach?

Esther Manito

There are some of those comics, yes.

James Acaster

Let's list the comedians who've been in your house.

Esther Manito

Do you not want to guess?

James Acaster

Oh, yes. Fatiha El-Ghorri.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Right, great.

Esther Manito

Fatiha comes round, yes. What makes me laugh though is that Fatiha will come round, and my husband still doesn't grasp that she's a practising Muslim, and he'll be like, 'Do you want a beer? Just making a sausage sarnie, do you want one?' And she's like, 'I can't believe I have to have this conversation every time I come round the house.'

Ed Gamble

Out of everyone I know who is Muslim, she is the only person who I think would have a beer just to be contrary.

Esther Manito

Just to be - about it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, the first time he doesn't offer her a beer, she'll get angry at him.

Esther Manito

She'll get angry at him. But, I mean, they've got a weird flirty relationship anyway, I just duck out of it, it's terrifying. Who else has been round my-, Lily Phillips, yes, she's been round my house.

James Acaster

I love it, I'm loving this.

Esther Manito

Rich Wilson, he's been round the house.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes, Rich Wilson.

Esther Manito

Who else? Shappi Khorsandi, yes.

Ed Gamble

She's been on the pod.



Esther Manito

She's been on the pod. I think, are they the only ones that have been round my-, no, Josh Jones.

Ed Gamble

Josh Jones has been around, yes.

Esther Manito

Only the porch though.

James Acaster

Jones not getting invited into the main body of the house.

Ed Gamble

What does he have to do to get over the-,

Esther Manito

No, he did come into the house, it was mainly just waiting for a taxi. I was like, 'You can wait there, Josh Jones.' I love Josh Jones. I think that's it, I think that's it to be honest.

Ed Gamble

Five, that's solid. So it's a pretty exclusive list?

Esther Manito

There must have been others.

James Acaster

What was Rich Wilson doing in there? This is what the listeners want to hear.

Esther Manito

He's been round a few times to take my husband's car.

James Acaster

Oh, interesting.

Ed Gamble

Oh, right.

Esther Manito

Use my husband's car.

Ed Gamble

Oh, use your husband's car rather than take your husband's car. He doesn't come round to steal your husband's car?

Esther Manito

No, he comes round to use the car, and then-,

Ed Gamble

Your husband doesn't look out the window going, 'Fucking Wilson's taken my car again.'

James Acaster

Richard Wilson's doing this again, he's insane in the membrane that guy, that's his pod.



Ed Gamble

Well, we always start with still or sparkling water, The Great Manito.

Esther Manito

Sorry, do you not start with making people list who's been round their house?

Ed Gamble

Oh yes, sorry, we normally do that, yes. Normally it's what comics have been in your house.

James Acaster

Ed and I, we both, you know, moved house just before the pandemic, so we probably haven't got many comedians that have been in our house.

Ed Gamble

No, that's true. I mean, probably not even five, I can't even make it up to five.

James Acaster

No.

Esther Manito

Comedians don't tend to do the, kind of, go round each other's-, once you have children, that's how you socialise. You invite friends round, you get drunk, the kids go off and play.

Ed Gamble

We do a bit of that, but then, I guess, yes, no one could come around for ages. And then I've only got four friends, so it's not going to tip over into five.

Esther Manito

That's a good number to have. That's a really good number to have.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think it's solid, isn't it. Yes, you don't need more than that.

Esther Manito

I'm very suspicious, you know when you, like, go on people's stag or hen parties, and there's 48 people and I'm like, 'This isn't real.'

Ed Gamble

No, I didn't even have one.

Esther Manito

You don't want these people here, no. Hell, hell on earth. Sorry, I-,

James Acaster

Ed, Nish, Joel Dommett, Rose Johnson, Dan Cook, that might be it.

Esther Manito

There you go.

James Acaster

Joel Dommett just the once.

Ed Gamble

No, because we interviewed Lou Sanders in your flat just after you'd moved there, so she was there.



James Acaster

So Lou's been there. Oh, Jess Fostekew came round to record her pod.

Ed Gamble

This is loads, mate.

James Acaster

Master hive of activity, actually.

Esther Manito

I don't think Jess has been round to mine.

Ed Gamble

Not been round to mine. James, Nish, Tom Craine.

James Acaster

Oh yes, Tom Craine's been at mine.

Esther Manito

I just want to make people up now. Michael McIntyre, he came for a sleepover.

James Acaster

Oh, Rich Wilson's been to mine, actually, for his pod.

Esther Manito

God, Rich Wilson's round everyone's.

Ed Gamble

Well, there you go. I think only three have been round to mine.

Esther Manito

Oh, there you go.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but still or sparkling water for The Great Manito?

Esther Manito

Sorry, sparkling.

Ed Gamble

Sparkling, interesting. Because now, here's what I think's going to happen now, is that we'll talk about how sparkling water is sometimes seen as a bit wankerish, and you're going to go, 'Yes, I hate sparkling water,' and then you're going to realise you said it earlier.

Esther Manito

Oh god, is it wankerish? No, I'm a bit of a sparkling water wanker.

Ed Gamble

Are you?

Esther Manito

Like, I won't just buy sparkling water, it's got to be San-, actually I can't even say it.



James Acaster

Don't you dare pretend-

James Acaster

No, no, let her have a try.

Esther Manito

I can't say it. Let me try, I'm not a toddler, James. He's like, 'No, she can sound out the word herself.'

Ed Gamble

James lives for stuff like this, he'll just-

Esther Manito

Pellegrino, Pellegrino.

Ed Gamble

There you go.

James Acaster

I think you knew how to say that all along.

Esther Manito

I feel like there's an extra syllable in there.

Ed Gamble

No, it's Pellegrino.

Esther Manito

Pellegrino.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's exactly right, yes.

Esther Manito

That's how you pronounce it. And waiters just stand there going, 'Say it properly.'

James Acaster

You thought it was Pellengrino at one point.

Esther Manito

Pellengrino, Pellegrino.

James Acaster

Pellegrino.

Esther Manito

Pellegrino, yes.

Ed Gamble

Say it quickly, three times in a row.

Esther Manito

No.



Ed Gamble

Fair. But you buy that for the house -

Esther Manito

Do I have it in the house? I have sparkling water in the house, I don't think it's that though. I do buy it, but I don't think I've got that in the house at the moment. I think I've got some kind of Highland sparkling water.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I know the stuff. Why is it San Pellegrino specifically?

Esther Manito

I just like the taste of it, I don't know why. It goes well when you've got your lemons in it.

Ed Gamble

When you've got your lemons?

James Acaster

Put your lemons in there, in the bottle, or in a jug?

Esther Manito

In a glass, you put your lemons in, because I eat quite a lot of lemon.

Ed Gamble

This is the stuff, this is what we're talking about. How much lemon are you eating?

Esther Manito

I probably eat a lemon a day.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Oh, I've never met anybody who eats a lemon a day.

Ed Gamble

Also saying you eat a lemon a day, I've just got visions of you, like, just popping in a whole slice and chewing it down.

Esther Manito

Yes, I do. I eat it like an orange.

Ed Gamble

Hang on.

James Acaster

I had an image of the whole-, what, what did you say?

Esther Manito

But James keeps looking at me like, 'I don't understand what she is.' What is it?

James Acaster

Yes, correct. You eat just, like, by the slice, so like an orange?



Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Like little segments?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

So you cut the segments off. Do you bite the middle out, basically, or-

Esther Manito

No, I peel it, and then I eat it like an orange.

James Acaster

Hold on, so hold on. Oh, you peel it like an orange and then eat the segments?

Ed Gamble

Hang on, no, but an orange you peel whole, right?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But a lemon doesn't react the same way. You can't peel a lemon the same-

Esther Manito

It pretty much does.

Ed Gamble

Does it?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Does it?

Esther Manito

Yes, you buy them-

Ed Gamble

Can we get a lemon in here? Can we get a lemon in here and see this?

Esther Manito

Yes, I can peel a lemon.



Ed Gamble
Benito?

James Acaster

I would like the listeners to please homework, film yourself peeling a lemon with your hand like you would an orange. So peeling a lemon like an orange, use the hashtag peeling a lemon like an orange, and let's see-

Esther Manito

I don't mind a bit of skin. But also I don't mind a bit of skin. Like, if you get a slice of lemon in your drink in the pub, I would eat the whole thing including the skin.

Ed Gamble

Including the skin?

Esther Manito

Yes, I'd just eat the whole thing. But I wouldn't be able to eat a lemon's worth of skin.

James Acaster

So you wouldn't eat a lemon like an apple?

Esther Manito

No.

James Acaster

But you peel it like an orange?

Ed Gamble

How long have you been eating lemon like this?

Esther Manito

Oh, ever since I was, I don't know.

Ed Gamble

Was it ever since you were in the Navy in the 19th century?

Esther Manito

Yes, it was definitely a preventative method against scurvy. I don't know, just ever since-, as long as I can remember. I did get to a point where-, so now I have to use loads of enamel, like, paste, and I have to have gumshields with enamel in.

James Acaster

Oh, because you-

Ed Gamble

Because you've burnt it all off.

Esther Manito

I've eaten so many. And also because the salads and stuff that I make, I like, really drench it in lemon as well.

Ed Gamble

Do you?



Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you like vinegar as well, you like acidic tastes?

Esther Manito

Yes, but I don't have a sweet tooth. It's, like, very much sour.

Ed Gamble

See, yes, my wife is the same in that she loves lemon. I've never seen her eat lemon like an orange.

Esther Manito

Oh, she will now.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I bet she will.

Esther Manito

Oh, it's a slippery slope, that first one.

Ed Gamble

But loves, like, so much vinegar and stuff. I think I've said it on the pod before, she goes to get chips from the chip shop, and she makes the guy stand there and just squeeze the vinegar in for about an hour and a half.

Esther Manito

Yes, I can get on board with that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

So do you get in the morning and, like, just slice a bit off a lemon and pop it straight in?

Esther Manito

No, so I get up in the morning and I would-, because I go running in the morning, so I put the lemon in my water, and then I go running, and when I come back I'll then down that water so it's quite lemony. And then I make a juice with, like, maybe a couple of lemons, bit of ginger, carrot.

Ed Gamble

Do you take the lemon on the road when you run?

Esther Manito

No.

Ed Gamble

No, you just put the lemon in ready, go out for a run, come back you've got your lemony water?

Esther Manito

Yes, so when you come back it's all lemony, yes.



James Acaster

Do you attach a rod to your back with a lemon dangling over the side of it, so when you're running you're chasing the lemon?

Ed Gamble

Lemon, lemon, lemon, lemon.

James Acaster

Do you do that?

Esther Manito

Yes, no, I do that, yes.

Ed Gamble

So a lemon a day, that's great. So you're getting through seven lemons a week, if my calculations are-

Esther Manito

Oh, I get through a lot of lemons. But if you go, you know, like the Turkish supermarkets and stuff, you get a lot of lemons, about eight for £1.

Ed Gamble

That's alright, isn't it?

James Acaster

That means I'll let you into a little secret. At Sainsbury's you can get lemons as well, so it's not just-

Ed Gamble

Not eight for £1 though.

Esther Manito

Yes, but they're more expensive and they're not as easy to peel. You don't get the-

James Acaster

Ah, cheaper at the Turkish supermarket, this is what we're saying. I thought you were giving us a tip for where you can buy lemons. I thought you were like, 'Hey guys-'

Esther Manito

Yes, you look like a couple of lads who are very vitamin C deficient, so-

James Acaster

You can get them at the Turkish supermarkets.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I don't know if you know where to buy them, but those Turkish guys have got it covered.

Esther Manito

I mean, yes, I'm a bit of a foodie, so if you ever-, text Ed when you want to go for a meal, but text me if you're wondering where to buy a lemon.

James Acaster

A few of my lemons.

Ed Gamble

Poppadoms or bread, poppadoms or bread, The Great Manito? Poppadoms or bread?



Esther Manito

What?

Ed Gamble

Poppadoms or bread.

Esther Manito

Oh, poppadoms. I thought you said problems or bread, I was like, oh.

Ed Gamble

Interpret it however you want.

Esther Manito

I would have poppadoms.

Ed Gamble

Yes, big fan?

Esther Manito

Oh, I love a poppadom, yes.

Ed Gamble

How many poppadoms do you have in a day? Do you put one in some water for when you go for a run?

Esther Manito

No, I don't do that. I don't do that actually, I just eat them with my curries.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Would you ever have a poppadom outside of a curry situation?

Esther Manito

What, just like a snack? No, I don't think I would. Oh, maybe those little, you know, the Sensations, like coriander and lime.

Ed Gamble

We've not talked about those for a while.

Esther Manito

Poppadoms, you get the mango and chutney one.

James Acaster

No, because there was an episode on early on where I was trying to think of them for the whole episode, because I remembered that I dipped something in sour cream and it was quite nice, and I couldn't think of it for most of the episode. It was those Sensations.

Esther Manito

Well, see I like dipping those in yogurt, plain yogurt, and that's my little treat.

James Acaster

Well, we know what your treat is, and it's not that.



Ed Gamble

I'll be honest, you are now painting a picture of quite a weird home eating life.

Esther Manito

So, when I come home from a gig or whatever and I've got, like, a train journey, I get a little pot of yogurt and some of those Thai Sensation crisps, and then poppadom crisps, and then just dip them in the yogurt.

Ed Gamble

Just on the train?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Plain pot of yogurt?

Esther Manito

Plain yogurt and crisps.

Ed Gamble

Poppadom crisps.

Esther Manito

Yes, I love yogurt and crisps.

Ed Gamble

Whole lemon.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Just biting a whole lemon.

Esther Manito

No, I don't eat a whole lemon on a train.

James Acaster

No, might get some funny looks.

Esther Manito

That is too far.

Ed Gamble

You don't want anyone thinking you're weird, just get on with your plain yogurt and poppadom crisps.

Esther Manito

I like to just balance out the alkaline and acidity.

Ed Gamble

Yes, no, I think it's a nice idea. I mean, just plain yogurt is basically a dip anyway, isn't it?



Esther Manito

Yes, exactly.

James Acaster

Yes, it's basically a dip.

Ed Gamble

If you got onto the train with your bag of poppadom crisps and your yogurt, and then-

Esther Manito

I would feel embarrassed eating that in front of people, so I do-

Ed Gamble

You do it under a blanket?

Esther Manito

Yes, I get, like, a huge blanket and just throw it over the seat in front of me, and then just create a little tent and do it in there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, like the French do when they eat that little bird.

James Acaster

Yes, so God can't see their shame, or whatever.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's a French dish, is it ortolan, ortolan I think it is.

James Acaster

Not sure what it's called, I just know it from the scene that's in Succession.

Ed Gamble

And they eat this tiny little, like, songbird thing, and they eat it including the beak and stuff, but traditionally you have to do it under a blanket so God can't see how disgusting you are. Do you do that with the yoghurt?

Esther Manito

Do that with the yoghurt? Yes. That's what I do.

Ed Gamble

If you got onto the train and you realised, because you were in a rush when you got out of your gig and you'd accidentally bought an apricot yoghurt, are you still dipping it?

Esther Manito

Oh, no. No, I don't eat sweet yoghurt.

Ed Gamble

No?

Esther Manito

No. I never eat sweet yoghurt.

Ed Gamble

Wow, that's really-



James Acaster

What's this fucking attitude about sweet stuff?

Ed Gamble

James is worried now, because you clearly have an attitude about sweet things.

Esther Manito

Oh, have you got a real sweet tooth?

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

I haven't, but then, you know, it'd be a boring world, James.

James Acaster

What, if we didn't eat desserts? Yes. Yes, agreed.

Ed Gamble

The red flag for me with the sweet tooth was when Esther said she eats a lemon a day.

James Acaster

Yes, and has no enamel on her teeth, or whatever it was.

Esther Manito

Gums up to her eyeballs.

Ed Gamble

Is the enamel thing, is that directly down to the amount of acidity?

Esther Manito

Yes, I remember when I was, like, a kid, and they said, 'You've got to stop eating so much fruit, like, citrus fruit.'

James Acaster

No kid has ever been told to stop eating fruit. That's mad. That's like you're a spider monkey or something.

Esther Manito

I do eat a lot of fruit, but it was mainly the lemon.

Ed Gamble

Mainly the lemons?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Oh, that's so funny.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

As a kid? Telling your parents, 'Oh please, please.'



Esther Manito

And like that as a teenager.

James Acaster

Esther has to stop it. Her teeth are like pieces of chalk. I love it. I love it. So we're going poppadoms.

Ed Gamble

Do you want a little plain yoghurt on the side?

James Acaster

Yes. We can bring the Sensations with the yoghurt, if you like.

Esther Manito

Yes, okay. Yes, I'll have a bit of lime pickle.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Esther Manito

And a bit of yoghurt, if that's alright.

James Acaster

Yes, of course.

Ed Gamble

Delicious.

Esther Manito

Oh, do you know what some of those restaurants, the Indian restaurants do, is, like, that sweet coconut, sweet, there you go.

James Acaster

Oh, back in business.

Esther Manito

That, like, coconut powdery stuff. Have you ever had that? It's like sweet coconut powder.

Ed Gamble

Just desiccated coconut?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you want a bit of that?

Esther Manito

Yes, I'll have a bit of that as well.

Ed Gamble

I'll tell you what we'll do for you. We'll bring you-



Esther Manito

And some of the onion.

Ed Gamble

Plain yoghurt and lime pickle, but we're going to put it in, like, a crunch corner pot.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

No.

Ed Gamble

No? Okay.

Esther Manito

Then I will throw it on the floor.

James Acaster

Fair enough. But do you want the full poppadoms that you get in an Indian restaurant, or do you want the Sensations poppadoms?

Esther Manito

Full poppadoms that you get in an Indian restaurant.

James Acaster

Okay.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you want a massive pot of yoghurt to dip them in?

Esther Manito

Yes. Just like a barrel.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, barrel of yoghurt.

Esther Manito

I do break up the poppadom to dip it in. I don't just dunk it in like a giant digestive biscuit.

Ed Gamble

Okay, yes but if you've got the mini ones into a pot of yoghurt, I thought that's the sensation you enjoy. So why don't you want a big one, like a Frisbee size, and you can dip that into a big barrel of yoghurt?

Esther Manito

Yes, that's how I behave in restaurants. That's what I do. I haven't been out in so long, I don't know what I'm doing. I'm just, like, shovelling food.

James Acaster

Follow up question.



Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

If you got on a train and you saw someone sitting there and they were dipping Sensations into a pot of yoghurt and they had a lemon next to them, and it was a man, would you leave your husband?

Esther Manito

Yes. Instantly. Instantly, I would know it was true love.

James Acaster

Yes, before you'd even approached them.

Ed Gamble

Call your husband and tell him, 'I'm leaving you.'

Esther Manito

We would have the gummiest snog ever on our wedding day.

Ed Gamble

'I'm leaving you. I've found a yoghurt and lemon man. I'm leaving you,' And your husband, 'No, wait there, I'm coming to find you. Stuck in the car, you motherfucker.'

James Acaster

Let's get into your menu proper. Starter, your dream starter.

Esther Manito

My dream starter is, like, a mezza, or in England, everyone calls it mezze, don't they? But in Lebanon, we call it mezza. So you've got all your dips and your breads, and I would have a selection of dips. I would have baba ganoush, so the aubergine dip, I would have some tabbouleh and I would have some hummus, but with the shawarma meat cut up in it with bread.

Ed Gamble

This is so good. I absolutely love this stuff. The hummus with the, like, the lamb in the middle, oh my God.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes, that's good stuff.

Esther Manito

Call it hummus b'lahmeh, in Arabic, and it's my favourite. It's my absolute favourite. And you have pine nuts.

Ed Gamble

I believe someone has picked this before, and it was Fatiha, picked this as a starter as well. Yes.

James Acaster

Was it? Oh, yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, really? What a - First my husband, now my starters. Okay, alright. Well, that's interesting.

Ed Gamble

Look, you don't need to change it, I think it's a fantastic choice.



Esther Manito

Well, I won't change it.

Ed Gamble

And you've got all the other bits around it, as well.

Esther Manito

Yes. What did she want? Just the hummus?

Ed Gamble

A side dish, sorry. It was her side dish.

Esther Manito

Oh, she wanted that as a side dish. She wanted six slices of Hovis toast.

Ed Gamble

That was her starter, yes, six slices of Hovis toast. Yes.

James Acaster

It's very bread heavy, actually, her entire menu, from what I remember. Yes, she did have this as a side.

Esther Manito

She likes eating tripe, and she was seething that I don't like tripe. And I'll be honest with you, I've never tried it, but it's never appealed.

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

I quite like tripe.

Esther Manito

She was just like, 'You don't like tripe?' Do you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I quite like tripe.

Esther Manito

Is it a very gamey taste?

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's sort of farm yardy, I'd say. But also, I'd say partly I enjoy the taste, and then I'd say 50% of my enjoyment is telling people I eat tripe.

Esther Manito

She loves it.

James Acaster

But I would say that Ed doesn't become incredulous when other people don't like tripe.

Ed Gamble

No, I know why people don't like tripe.



James Acaster

Yes, whereas Fatiha will-,

Esther Manito

Yes, she gets incredulous about most things I do. She's always seething. I'm always being bollocked by her.

Ed Gamble

I just had some lovely tripe tacos, actually.

Esther Manito

No you didn't.

Ed Gamble

I did.

James Acaster

I believe him.

Ed Gamble

I was in San Francisco and I went to a place that does, like, weird cuts of meat, or the less traditional cuts of meat.

Esther Manito

Is tripe, the look of it, is it, kind of like, quite ridgy?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, it's all sorts. I mean, tripe's a big old mix up of the guts and stuff and tubes and all that. But they did it very crispy. So it's super crispy. It didn't really even taste like tripe.

James Acaster

I think that's the only time I've had it, is super crispy, and I couldn't finish it.

Ed Gamble

Right.

Esther Manito

I remember my sister was vegan and we were in Lebanon, and they served Sam's-, Sam's? lambs, not Sam's testicles.

James Acaster

Wow.

Ed Gamble

Poor old Sam.

James Acaster

Which Sam? Before we continue with the story. If there was any Sam in the world who you had to eat their deep fried testicles.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

I don't know any Sams. Sams? Famous Sams?



Ed Gamble

Fireman Sam.

Esther Manito

No, that feels all kind of wrong.

James Acaster

- crispy, from the fire.

Esther Manito

I'm not saying on a podcast that I would eat Fireman Sam's testicles.

Ed Gamble

Medium rare.

Esther Manito

Medium rare. But they served lamb's testicles, and my dad told her that they were a special type of, like, potato. And she eat one, and she kept going, 'Oh, it tastes really eggy. What is it? What is it?'

Ed Gamble

Imagine falling for that.

Esther Manito

She went mental.

Ed Gamble

Really?

Esther Manito

She went absolutely mental. Yes, he was an arse. I love him very much, but he's an arse.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. 'This is a potato. Actually, it's a bollock, ha ha ha.'

Esther Manito

It's because he was seething that she was vegan. He was seething about it.

James Acaster

She was vegan? I missed that part of the story.

Esther Manito

Yes, she was vegan. Yes.

James Acaster

Oh, Jesus.

Esther Manito

She was vegan at the time, yes.

Ed Gamble

How old was she?

James Acaster

This is a bad man.



Esther Manito

She was in her teens and she was going through the whole, you know, 'This is the right thing to do.' And she kept lecturing him about it, and I think it was his way of going-

Ed Gamble

Oh, get one over on her, make her eat a lamb bollock.

Esther Manito

Yes. That'll sort her out.

Ed Gamble

She can't have been a great vegan if she fell for that being a type of potato, though. Did she put it in whole? Did she put it in whole or did she cut into it? Because I'd say, as soon as I've cut into a testicle, I'm not going, 'That's a potato.'

Esther Manito

You'd know. No, do you know what? Like, the way that they were cooked-

Ed Gamble

That's put me off eating a lamb testicle.

Esther Manito

I wouldn't, yes, I mean I'm not up for eating that. Or tripe, I'll be honest with you.

Ed Gamble

What about heart or brain?

Esther Manito

No. The only thing I've ever is, like, liver, and I didn't like that.

Ed Gamble

And that's fairly traditional.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. But like, heart or brain is-

Esther Manito

Have you eaten heart or brain?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, course.

Ed Gamble

I had some recently in a restaurant called Mangal 2 in Dalston, lamb heart pide, and it was just incredible. So good.

Esther Manito

Right.

Ed Gamble

But it's, like, sliced really thinly and cooked really rare, and it's, yes, really nice. No?



Esther Manito

Not selling it to me, I've got to say. I'm not hugely into meat.

Ed Gamble

Right. If you said that at the top, I wouldn't have asked you if you'd eat heart.

James Acaster

All those questions.

Esther Manito

FYI, I'm vegan. No, I do eat meat, but I'm not a massive meat person.

Ed Gamble

Fair enough.

Esther Manito

I like red meat, I like lamb and I like beef, but I'm not into, like, hearts and scrotums.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Yes.

Ed Gamble

I've never had a scrotum. That's the one thing I've never seen on a menu.

James Acaster

You would though. You would.

Ed Gamble

I think if it was on the menu at a place I liked, I'd trust them with it and I'd say, 'Give us a scrotum.'

James Acaster

If Esther's dad tried to trick you and he went, 'That's a potato,' And you ate it and he went, 'That was a bollock,' You'd go, 'I love it.'

Ed Gamble

Thanks. Yes.

Esther Manito

So if you come round, because my dad's there, he can cook really good Lebanese food, and he can cook you a testicle.

Ed Gamble

I'd love that. I'd absolutely love that. But what about a scrotum? Do you reckon he could do a scrotum?

Esther Manito

Hang on. What, hang on.

James Acaster

Someone doesn't know the difference.

Ed Gamble

This is great.



James Acaster

You don't know the difference.

Esther Manito

I've birthed a man and I don't, what's-

James Acaster

Oh, this is great.

Ed Gamble

This couldn't have gone better.

Esther Manito

What is the difference between, no, hang on. Isn't the testicles, oh, is the scrotum the whole thing?

James Acaster

No, no, no, no, no. Again, don't tell her. Let's let you guess it.

Esther Manito

I feel like this is a tad more embarrassing than the Pellegrino.

James Acaster

Yes, I mean, I wouldn't normally ask a guest to do this, but do you want to tell the audience your age, before we play does this person know the difference between a testicle and a scrotum?

Esther Manito

I'm 39, married seventeen years, so the testicles are the tubes?

James Acaster

Oh, yes, the tubes.

Esther Manito

No, that's-, no, the tube is the vas deferens, isn't it? Vas deferens?

Ed Gamble

Well, amazing that you're throwing around phrases like vas deferens.

Esther Manito

Vas deferens is the tube.

Ed Gamble

Is that the tube? I didn't even know that.

Esther Manito

Yes, that the semen travels down.

Ed Gamble

Okay, yes.

Esther Manito

The scrotum, this is really annoying me now.

James Acaster

This is amazing.



Esther Manito

I just want to-, I really want to hit you both because I'm so angry.

Ed Gamble

Where do you want to hit us?

Esther Manito

You're really just looking at me, like, 'Oh, my God,' and I'm-, I don't know.

Ed Gamble

This is brilliant.

Esther Manito

No, because you've got the penis.

James Acaster

So many people are-, yes, we've got the penis.

Ed Gamble

A long one.

James Acaster

Yes, that's a long one you just drew on the table.

Ed Gamble

Holy moly.

Esther Manito

Then you've got the two balls.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

Which are the testicles.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

So, what's the scrotum? What else is there?

James Acaster

So, this is the question, what else is there, indeed?

Ed Gamble

What else is there?

Esther Manito

I don't know.

James Acaster

This is the best moment of the whole podcast we've ever done.



Ed Gamble

The two-, can I give some clues, now?

Esther Manito

Well, do you know what, maybe I'll quiz you on the female anatomy. I won't, because I don't even know about that.

Ed Gamble

The balls-,

Esther Manito

How many holes are there? No, what?

James Acaster

The two balls, how are they there? How do they stay there?

Esther Manito

In the sack?

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

I said that, is that not the scrotum?

James Acaster

That's it, you didn't say it was the sack. You said it's the whole thing.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you said it's the whole thing.

Esther Manito

Yes, that's what I meant, like, the package.

James Acaster

The whole thing is not the scrotum.

Esther Manito

The scrotum is essentially the packaging.

Ed Gamble

The scrotum is the sack.

James Acaster

The sack, yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, but I thought the whole thing, it was, like, a cumulative term.

Ed Gamble

No, no.

James Acaster

No, no, the whole thing isn't, no, no.



Esther Manito

Do you know what, I really don't know much about anatomy, I realise that.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, absolutely.

Ed Gamble

This is when James starts to try and do a quiz, so.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, we might do a quiz.

Esther Manito

No, because you know when your kids get to an age and they're, like, and puberty is not far off and they're asking questions.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

I was, like, 'I don't know.'

Ed Gamble

I suppose that's normal, yes.

Esther Manito

I didn't even know what happens.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but what are we-,

Esther Manito

Like, balls dropping, where are they to begin with?

Ed Gamble

Sure.

Esther Manito

What happens?

James Acaster

I mean, where it's dropping it's, like, it's probably quite, you know, a generous term.

Esther Manito

Does it just go into the sack?

Ed Gamble

Well, no, I mean, they

James Acaster

They're not dropping a great height, at a great distance.

Ed Gamble

No, it's not in a-, as this question was does it just go into the sack, it's not, there's not a big empty sack. That you have, sort of, like a big old man.



Ed Gamble

Until you hit puberty, like a chicken.

James Acaster

A big old man sack.

Ed Gamble

A chicken laying an egg.

Esther Manito

I'm imagining, like, a postal sack down there.

Ed Gamble

Just listen for that sound. Listen for the bloop, it'll go bloop, 'Oh, they've dropped.'

Esther Manito

Yes, I need to read a book.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. It all, yes, it doesn't, they don't plop down into the sack.

Esther Manito

Well, obviously, my parents never had this chat. We just went through it and you weren't allowed to talk about it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

So we just cracked on.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think that's the best way. Call me old fashioned, I think just let them get on with it, right?

Esther Manito

Yes, just crack on.

James Acaster

Yes, for them, you know.

Esther Manito

Everyone was always, like, 'Don't talk about it,' and I'm, oh, well, you know, I don't know.

James Acaster:

You should talk about it with your kids, you don't want them-, you know.

Esther Manito

I might just phone Ed up and put him on loudspeaker and be, like, 'I'll be back in fifteen minutes.'

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

I love I'm still not allowed to come around to your house, even for that. That would make it number six. Number six, Ed Gamble came around to conduct a sex education class. Bit of a left-turn, that one.

Esther Manito

He's turned up with a chalk board.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Me teaching your kids about testicles, your dad looking at it like it's a menu. Very confusing for your poor children.

James Acaster

Grandpa says that's a potato.

Esther Manito

He probably would have done, if we asked.

James Acaster

Oh, you're talking about the whole package, we know about this.

Esther Manito

Well, it is a package, it's all together. I think you two are being fernicky, fernickety, pernickety.

James Acaster:

What? What are we being?

Ed Gamble

San Pellegrino.

James Acaster

Yes, okay. Well, that's all that to say you want some, not mezze but some-,

Esther Manito

Maza.

Ed Gamble

Maza.

James Acaster

Your dream main course?

Esther Manito

My dream main course would be a prawn vindaloo.

James Acaster

Yes, please.

Esther Manito

Some more poppadoms, some pilau rice, and a side of onion raita.

Ed Gamble

Nice.



Esther Manito

I want the vindaloo made with chillies, not chilli powder, that is a pet peeve of mine.

James Acaster

Go on.

Esther Manito

You know when you go to a restaurant and it's just hot, but without the taste of chillies.

James Acaster

Sure.

Esther Manito

You're, like, 'You've just put a load of chilli powder in here.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Very good point.

Esther Manito

I want the chillies, because it's the taste.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I don't think I've ever thought about that before, really.

James Acaster

No, I've never thought of that.

Ed Gamble

That must be the difference between-

Esther Manito

Yes, when you get a curry and it's just, essentially, the sauce has no, like, chopped onions, chopped tomato, it's just quite a pureed sauce, and then loads of chilli powder. You're, like, 'No, I want the chillies, I want to see the chillies, I want the taste of the chillies.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, you want that, sort of, fruity, that fruity-, Esther's really getting into it with that. Yes.

Esther Manito

That's what I want.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I totally agree.

James Acaster

Yes, the flavour's very important with that, and I'm glad you've gone prawn, as well.



Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Like, I think the best curry I've had in the country was in Buxton, in a curry house called, I think it's Palace, something.

Esther Manito

Oh, get down there and get soapy. They'll just be-,

James Acaster

Indian Palace, is what it's called.

Esther Manito

It's called Palace something.

James Acaster

Bloody amazing, and that, like, that's definitely its chillies, not chilli powder.

Esther Manito

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Like, the flavour, that was what was amazing about it. It was so hot but, like, so much flavour, it was great.

Esther Manito

Yes, I love a vindaloo.

Ed Gamble

I don't think I've ever had a vindaloo, you know.

Esther Manito

Oh, I love making curry.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

I do love, I just love a really hot curry and I think the more chilli you eat the more you become used to it, like, now I can put a lot of chillies in my curry and it'll taste spicy.

Ed Gamble

How does that go down with the rest of the house, if you're cooking that at home?

Esther Manito

I have to cook two separate.

Ed Gamble

Right, just your own personal curry, and then a curry for everyone else?

Esther Manito

I cook a curry for me and my husband, and then a curry for everyone else.



Ed Gamble

Oh, right, so he likes it, he likes it super hot as well?

Esther Manito

Well, he says he does, but all the sweating and crying and sobbing in the corner begs to differ, but he refuses to eat from the children's curry.

Ed Gamble

Oh, so it's like a masculinity thing?

Esther Manito

It's a-, yes. He's just there going, 'Well, she's not even going to learn what a scrotum is, I will eat this curry and prove my manhood.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, and he doesn't like to make it just in case he chops the chillies and accidentally touches himself on the testicles.

James Acaster

On the bare testes.

Esther Manito

Which are on his shoulders.

James Acaster

Yes. So, you've got two curries going on, what's the kids curry? Is it just yours but without the chilli?

Esther Manito

Yes, I just make it without.

James Acaster

So, they would get, yes.

Esther Manito

Yes, they just get a curry but without the chillies.

James Acaster

Nice and easy.

Esther Manito

Yes, nice and easy.

James Acaster

They're into that?

Esther Manito

Yes, they do like a curry.

James Acaster

Do they ever go, have they ever asked, because if I was a kid I would be, like, 'Can I try the grown up curry?'

Esther Manito

Oh, would you? No, mine never have.



James Acaster

They're not even curious?

Esther Manito

No, no.

Ed Gamble

Have you thought about, like, micro-dosing them with chilli, so every time you make it, to see if you can bring the heat level up?

Esther Manito

No, I've never thought of that, Ed.

Ed Gamble

You should try and do it.

Esther Manito

Okay. I mean, I'm not going to, but.

James Acaster

This is why you'll be a great dad, man.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You've got to have kids because, like-,

Ed Gamble

Have a bit of fun, do some experiments.

Esther Manito

Yes, the sex ed, the chilli prep.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

It's all there, you're going to be amazing.

James Acaster

It's, like, parenting is wasted on actual parents.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's what I think.

Ed Gamble

They could have fun with it.

Esther Manito

Yes, I'm terrible. I am absolutely terrible.



James Acaster

We would have a laugh.

Esther Manito

I'm absolutely terrible, it's mainly chicken nuggets but, you know, the odd time that I do make a meal.

Ed Gamble

You're a great mum, I heard you talk about it in your stand-up, about what a great mum you are.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Also, you've got a lot of maternal instinct, I've not told James about this but the first time we met, within ten minutes you showed me a photo with you with your pet rabbit and you put a nappy on it.

James Acaster

What?

Esther Manito

I've got a new rabbit and I put her in a nappy as well.

James Acaster

What the-, what is going on?

Esther Manito

No, don't. I forgot I did that.

Ed Gamble

Also, it wasn't shown to me as, like, 'Oh, look at what I did, how ridiculous is this,' it was, 'I just love putting my rabbit in a nappy.'

Esther Manito

No, because he's so cute.

Ed Gamble

Rabbit in a nappy.

James Acaster

Your rappy in a nabbit?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

What are you talking about, Esther? Why have you done that?

Esther Manito

He's so cute, and then I get all, like, broody, because I'm not going to have another child.

James Acaster

What?



Esther Manito

I get so broody I'm, like, 'Look at him, I just want to-', and then I put him in a nappy just for a cute photo, and then I showed Ed and I didn't know Ed was going to throw it back in my face.

James Acaster

Didn't you? Had you shown it to anyone else before, the rabbit in a nappy?

Esther Manito

No, I just showed it to Ed and Sarah Pascoe. I just went-

James Acaster

The worst two people. I'll tell you what, absolutely everyone in the industry knows about that photo, now.

Esther Manito

That's because she was pregnant at the time, and she was, like, 'Oh, my God, I'm so excited to have a baby.' I was, like, 'Look at my baby, I've got one too.'

Ed Gamble

It's an amazing photo as well, because it's not a posed photo. I think your husband took that photo of you.

Esther Manito

No, my kids took it.

Ed Gamble

Your kids took it.

Esther Manito

No, my husband would not have approved of that, yes.

Ed Gamble

You're, literally, it's, like, you're looking down the camera and clearly going, 'Don't fucking take a photo of me.'

Esther Manito

I was, like, 'Oh, my God, this is-', no, I was saying, 'Don't tell dad,' because he'll be-

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Don't tell dad?

Esther Manito

Don't tell dad because he'll say, 'No, that's not alright.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

I'm going, 'Kids, let's put the rabbit in a nappy.' Mummy's going to breastfeed your little brother, now.

James Acaster

You got the kids involved? You got the kids to help you nappy the rabbit?



Esther Manito

Yes, well they were well up for it. Come on, if you were a kid and your mum was, like, 'Let's go and put the rabbit in a nappy.'

Ed Gamble

You know, I've never thought of-

James Acaster

Sure, sure. Yes, yes.

Esther Manito

You'd be, like, 'Yes, I'm well up for that, that sounds really fun.'

James Acaster

Sure, you'd think it was pretty funny until the rabbit started kicking around, 'Should we be doing this, mum?'

Esther Manito

No, we only took the photo. He liked it, actually, he snuggled down in it.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Yes, he was pretty snuggly in the photo.

Esther Manito

Yes, he was pretty snuggly.

James Acaster

Did you make a little hole for his tail to pop out of?

Esther Manito

Well, it naturally came out of the side.

Ed Gamble

What's the rabbit's name?

Esther Manito

I really wish I hadn't shown you that picture. My rabbit is called, one's called Twitcher and the other one's called Lavender.

Ed Gamble

Who was the one I saw in the nappy?

Esther Manito

That was Twitcher.

Ed Gamble

Okay, so-

Esther Manito

I've also put lavender in a-



James Acaster

Yes, Lavender's been put in a nappy.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes, of course.

Esther Manito

Lavender, when I got her she was, like, a tiny bunny, and so we put her in the nappy and she's literally just, like, little eyes and ears, going-

James Acaster

So, sorry, I can't help but notice the use of the term 'we', again. So, like, obviously, kids a second time, yes? Kids involved with Lavender putting the nappy on as well, yes?

Esther Manito

I think the kids had friends around on a play-date, so we all got in on it, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, great, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, those kids, they just told their parents as well, they're never coming over again.

Esther Manito

Can I just say, I'm a really good pet owner.

James Acaster

What did you do today?

Ed Gamble

I went over to my friend's mum's house. Yes, how was that? Yes, we all put a nappy on a rabbit and she was eating a lemon like an apple.

James Acaster

Okay, we're never going there again. We had potatoes for lunch.

Esther Manito

I feel misrepresented.

Ed Gamble

Did Twitcher have the nappy on for long enough to use the nappy?

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

No, it was just for the photo.

Ed Gamble

Right, okay.

James Acaster

Don't say it like that, like that's silly.



Esther Manito

It was just, like, they wouldn't stay in it. It's because they're house rabbits, so they just hop around, so I just picked him up, popped him in the nappy, took a quick pic, off he popped.

Ed Gamble

Off he popped.

James Acaster

Off he popped.

Ed Gamble

I think they should start, you know in nappy adverts when they use the example of pouring the blue stuff on?

Esther Manito

They're so cute.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

They should just put it on a rabbit.

James Acaster

Yes, just put it on a rabbit, see if it works.

Esther Manito

No, do you know what, though? You say, like, the parents, the kids would have gone home and been, like-, and the parents go, 'We're not-', when I got a rabbit, the parents started sending me screen grabs of rabbit costumes that I could buy for the rabbits, so we're all just as weird as each other. We're all very broody and not going to have more kids, so we're all just becoming weird around animals, yes.

Ed Gamble

Dress the rabbit up, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, what were some of the rabbit costumes that you remember?

Esther Manito

So, for Christmas, he may have been in a little hat.

James Acaster

Hold on, so this was followed up?

Esther Manito

No, so, my friend ordered it, and so we had to take a photo of him in it.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Was it a little Christmas hat or an elf hat?



Esther Manito

Then it was, like, yes, it was-, actually what was? It was, like, a straw hat with Christmas tinsel around it.

James Acaster

Wow, my word.

Esther Manito

Then the ears popped through.

Ed Gamble

Then the ears, something for the ears.

James Acaster

The ears popping through.

Esther Manito

Yes, and a little scarf, like a little elf scarf, and that's the only costume, I think.

James Acaster

That's the only costume, is the tinsel hat and the elf scarf?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

Yes, and the nappy.

Ed Gamble

And the nappy.

James Acaster

Oh, and the nappy, which isn't really a costume.

Ed Gamble

The elf nappy.

James Acaster

Can't call that a costume, but yes.

Ed Gamble

I love it.

James Acaster

Hope they're okay, the rabbits.

Ed Gamble

The rabbit chat has just reminded me of something that I ate recently.

Esther Manito

Oh, I can't eat a rabbit.

Ed Gamble

You won't enjoy this for many reasons.



Esther Manito

Unless it's me, like, literally, violently gnawing into my rabbit because it's so cute.

James Acaster

Wow.

Esther Manito

Don't you get like that, though?

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

No, I understand that instinct.

Esther Manito

You know, like, when something's so cute you just want to-,

James Acaster

No.

Esther Manito

I get like that with my children all the time.

Ed Gamble

Not the biting, necessarily, I get the, like, something's so cute that you don't necessarily know how to control it or where to invest it.

Esther Manito

I get like that all the time, I think loads of mums do, like, you have a baby and you're, 'Oh, my God, I just want to smother you in oil and then cook you and eat you. Just rip you limb from limb and just eat you.' The dads are all, like, 'Really?' That stuff's really weird, but I think mums, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's brutal.

James Acaster

It's disturbing, what you just said.

Ed Gamble

Anyway, I had the deep fried rabbit, like it was fried chicken, it was delicious, and then made a blood sausage with the rabbit's blood.

James Acaster

Wow, how are you feeling about that?

Ed Gamble

Not happy with that? Oh, no, the woman who said she wanted to eat her own baby is upset.

Esther Manito

I don't want to actually-,

James Acaster

Sorry, was that over the line? Dream side dish? Are we going for the raita, or is it a different side dish?



Esther Manito

Yes, so I thought my raita would be a side dish.

James Acaster

Okay.

Esther Manito

If I was going to have an extra I would have a saag aloo, I reckon.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

No, a saag bhaji, saag aloo is with potato, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

I'd have saag bhaji.

James Acaster

Or is it? Saag bhaji, did you say?

Esther Manito

Saag bhaji.

James Acaster

Okay.

Esther Manito

So, the spinach. Yes, that's what I'd have as my side.

Ed Gamble

What, is that, like, an onion bhaji, or is it-,

Esther Manito

No, saag bhaji is just, like, the spinach all cooked with onions.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, we can do you that, for your dream side.



Esther Manito

Okay, alright, I'll have that. Yes, I'll have that for my main, if that's alright.

James Acaster

So, we have different people come and do different approaches to the menu in the dream restaurant, some people want the whole meal to go together, some people just want it to be their greatest hits, their favourites. You want a meal that goes together, I'm sensing. Is that you're favourite? Like, if you get a takeaway or go up to a restaurant? World cuisine-wise?

Esther Manito

Yes. I would go for an Indian, yes. Definitely. It's my favourite.

James Acaster

And I guess you wouldn't, you wouldn't necessarily go for, like, Lebanese food? Go out for Lebanese food or have it as a takeaway because you can (moderator is interrupted 43.41).

Esther Manito

Make it at home.

James Acaster

Make it at home?

Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes?

Esther Manito

Don't often go for Lebanese.

James Acaster

Yes. Who's the best at cooking Lebanese food, in your life?

Esther Manito

My dad. He's really good.

James Acaster

Yes?

Esther Manito

He's a really good chef.

James Acaster

What's his specialty?

Esther Manito

Probably kofta, which is, like, cooked, flat meat. And then it's covered with tomatoes and potatoes, and it's like cooked in a lemon-like, garlicky.

James Acaster

Oh, love it.

Esther Manito

Got to have a lemon.



James Acaster

Got to have a lemon in there.

Esther Manito

Well, I think that's why I eat so much lemon, because Lebanese food is so lemony.

James Acaster

Is it? Is there anywhere brilliant, like, restaurant-wise for Lebanese food that you can recommend?

Ed Gamble

That you know of? I love Lebanese food and I'd like to eat more of it.

Esther Manito

Well, when we used to go out for Lebanese food, we always used to go to Maroush, on Edgware Road.

James Acaster

Edgware Road's got loads of Lebanese places, right?

Esther Manito

Yes. Loads of Lebanese places, but Maroush, there was also Beirut Express. I don't know if Beirut Express is still there, but Maroush on Lebanese, on Lebanese Road, on Edgware Road, is very good.

James Acaster

You can call it Lebanese Road.

Esther Manito

Lebanese Road, yes.

James Acaster

You can, we can't.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we can't. I can't walk down there and go, 'Bloody Lebanese Road,' no.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

Well, it's all Lebanese and Syrian restaurants, but I think most of the people there are golfies.

James Acaster

Golfies?

Esther Manito

Like Saudis, Kuwaitis.

James Acaster

Oh, right. I thought you meant, like, people who play golf.

Esther Manito

Yes. A lot of golf players.



James Acaster

Like foodies?

Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

I want to go to Maroush. I've heard it's great. Yes. It's very famous, that restaurant, isn't it?

Esther Manito

Yes. If you really want to go to a really posh, famous one, there's one opposite the Ritz, called Fakhreldin.

James Acaster

I beg your pardon?

Esther Manito

I know.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

If you're opposite the Ritz, and you look up, there's a restaurant at the top, and that's why it's supposed to be the poshest Lebanese.

James Acaster

Because it's at the top?

Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

I don't posh, necessarily.

Esther Manito

It is very good. I've been there a couple of times, but it's quite fun.

Ed Gamble

That's exciting. It is weird, though. Like, when we were talking about rabbit earlier, I thought about the last time I had rabbit, was at the Wolseley? Is that what it's called?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Because I was meeting up with Cindy B.

Esther Manito

What's the Wolseley?

Ed Gamble

It's like, on the side of the Ritz, isn't it?



James Acaster

Yes. It's down. It's a bit further down. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Cindy, she wants to do posh dining every time.

James Acaster

Yes. It's fancy. The Wolseley's fancy.

Ed Gamble

Yes. So, I was meeting up with Cindy when she was like, 'Well, I'll book us a place.' So I was like, 'Where are we going?' And she was like, 'Oh, we're not dining anywhere else, but the Wolseley.' And we went there, and I had a rabbit there.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

Did you? Was it nice?

Ed Gamble

I didn't love it, actually. It was good.

Esther Manito

Is it quite gamey.

Ed Gamble

But it wasn't like, yes. I was like (talking over each other 45.56-46.00).

James Acaster

What's Cindy got with that?

Esther Manito

Manically looking up terms.. Things to ask about food. Is it gamey?

James Acaster

You could have asked us that question during the testicles. The testicles-scrotum debate.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It was nice, but it wasn't like, 'Ah, this is the best.' You know? Whatever. Cindy got the soufflé and I was like, 'I should've gotten that.'

James Acaster

So, that's the move at the Wolseley, I think. There's a good breakfast as well. Yes.

Esther Manito

Look at you two, with your poncy restaurants.

James Acaster

Is it?

Esther Manito

Sorry. Has anyone been to a Toby Carvery?



James Acaster

I don't think I have been to a Toby Carvery, actually.

Ed Gamble

No. I've never been.

Esther Manito

It's very gamey.

Ed Gamble

Your favourite drink? See, now I'm expecting you to do like a Cobra, or a King Fisher, or something like that.

Esther Manito

Oh, no.

Ed Gamble

Now, the blank look on your face makes (moderator is interrupted 46.55).

Esther Manito

Is it like the testicle situation?

Ed Gamble

Yes. You don't know what those are.

Esther Manito

I don't know their beers.

Ed Gamble

Yes. The beers, yes.

Esther Manito

Yes, no. I wouldn't have either of those.

Ed Gamble

Not a beer fan?

Esther Manito

I'll have a bottle of Corona every now and then, but I wouldn't have it during a meal.

James Acaster

Good. Because this you can pick any drink you want. Don't bring Corona into the situation.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Come on. We're trying to take people's mind off the world.

Esther Manito

Oh, I see. Wow. Okay.

Ed Gamble

Also, you only order a Corona because they put a wedge of lime in the top and you just pop it in.

Esther Manito

Exactly. And I do like that.



Ed Gamble

You just bite the top off the bottle. Finished. I'll have another, please.

Esther Manito

Maybe that's why I like it.

Ed Gamble

But it's full. Keep racking them up. Six Coronas, please. Sucking them up. And then the lime just comes out.

Esther Manito

No.

Ed Gamble

No?

Esther Manito

No. I would have a Prosecco. Prosecco.

James Acaster

Nice.

Esther Manito

I know.

James Acaster

No. It's good.

Esther Manito

It's basic, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Oh, come on. No one's judging.

Esther Manito

But that's all I drink, really.

James Acaster

Is it?

Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Any particular type of Prosecco? Do you have a favourite brand of Prosecco or is it just any old Prosecco?

Esther Manito

No. Just any Prosecco. Galons of the stuff. Get it down, yes love.

James Acaster

I've had a really nice Prosecco when it's slightly, like, drier.



Esther Manito

Yes. I'm not a big like Cava fan, but I like Prosecco. Like champagne. Can't afford it, though. So, Cava.

James Acaster

Well, this is your dream meal.

Esther Manito

Oh, alright, then. Oh, yes. Forget that.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

This is how low my self-esteem is. I'm like, 'Oh, yes.'

James Acaster

Even in your dream meal, you're like, 'Can't afford that.'

Esther Manito

Even in my dream, 'Can't afford that.'

James Acaster

Can't afford champagne.

Ed Gamble

Would you have Cava in a carvery?

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, no. I wouldn't.

Ed Gamble

No?

Esther Manito

I wouldn't have.

Ed Gamble

Just to say you'd done it?

Esther Manito

Tick that one off the bucket list. Alright. I'll have champagne, then.

James Acaster

Any particular type of champagne?

Esther Manito

I'll have a glass of Rosé Moët.

James Acaster

Yes, I know. I love a rosé champagne. I'm not sure I know the difference in taste.



Esther Manito

I don't think I know the difference in taste.

James Acaster

It just feels more fun.

Esther Manito

But my husband bought me a bottle when I did Live at the Apollo, and it felt just very special the fact that it was rosé.

James Acaster

Yes, I think so.

Esther Manito

I was like, 'Look at you.'

Ed Gamble

I like the sound of this guy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a nice thing to do.

Esther Manito

Yes. He's a sweetheart. He's an absolute babe.

James Acaster

My wife didn't buy me anything when I was on Live at the Apollo.

Ed Gamble

No? I'm a member. She phoned me to check. She said, 'Should I get him something?' And I said, 'Yes.' And she went, 'What if I can't be bothered?'

Esther Manito

I had Shappi with me backstage, and I said to her, 'Will you come and be with me?' And she was like, 'Do you want your husband with you?' And I was like, 'No, because he'll stress me out.' And then she was like, 'Okay. Fine.' So she came, and she was sat in the green room, and then she was like, 'Shall I go and find Neil? See if he's alright?' And then she went out.

Ed Gamble

Is this the story of how she ended up in your house?

Esther Manito

And then she went and found him. And she comes back about, literally, about 45 minutes later and she was like, 'Esther, he is so nervous out there. Honestly. I've had to go and get him a drink and calm him down.' Like, 'He's absolutely shitting himself.' I'm like, 'Oh, is he? Why is he shitting himself? I'm chill as fuck back here.'

James Acaster

That's sweet, though. When I did Live at the Apollos it was with Gina Yashere.

Esther Manito

Amazing. I love her.



James Acaster

She's so good, and this will make you love her even more. The man who booked Live at the Apollo came over to her and was like, 'Gina, thank you so much. That was absolutely wonderful. You're so, so brilliant.' And she went, 'Yes, whatever mate. I'll see you in two years.' And just walked out.

Ed Gamble

Legend.

James Acaster

Yes, absolute legend. Straight back on the plane to America.

Esther Manito

Was she hosting?

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

I watched yours.

James Acaster

Did you?

Esther Manito

I was in the audience.

James Acaster

Did you?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes -

Esther Manito

But I do remember. That's why, when you said that you've got taught some dirty stuff, obviously because I've seen you Live at the Apollo, and I don't remember you, obviously, doing anything contro.

James Acaster

Well, I did do, but it was cut out. But I did do the bit about pulling one of my wife's hairs out of my anus.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a good bit.

James Acaster

Kept trying to get that on TV. No.

Esther Manito

That's not that bad.



James Acaster

Yes, but it's graphic.

Ed Gamble

- it's a bit graphic.

Esther Manito

It's not as bad as some of the things that people say.

James Acaster

Yes, that's true.

Ed Gamble

Sure.

Esther Manito

You've heard my set.

James Acaster

Yes, that's true. Yes. Disgusting. And you put a rubber in a nappy.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

Oh, my little moochie - I will lose it. You're just going to see me, one day, walking around Edinburgh, just rabbit on each breast just going, 'This is me now. This is me.'

James Acaster

Oh, yes. This podcast will be one of the, you know, the things that we held up.

Esther Manito

In court?

James Acaster

As like, 'This is how she used to be.'

Ed Gamble

So, that sounds nice, but the Rosé Moët.

James Acaster

They're good with a curry, as well. I think, like, sparkling wine is nice with a spicy food.

Esther Manito

Don't you find, though, it's quite hard to drink alcohol when you're drinking food?

James Acaster

Some people have this. I do not have this.

Esther Manito

You know when people are like, 'I've had 15 beers and a curry.' And I'm like, 'How are you doing that?' When I say people, I say of my other half. But like, how are you doing that? I just get all full.

James Acaster

I struggle with beers. Yes. I just get full with beer.



Esther Manito

But when I'm full, I can't drink alcohol. That's why I like day drinking, because you're not full, and you can have a glass, and you feel a little bit lightheaded.

James Acaster

Because if you're eating and drinking at the same time, the booze isn't having the effect that the booze on an empty stomach would.

Esther Manito

You just get gassy.

James Acaster

Yes. Just get a bit gassy and don't get drunk.

Esther Manito

Get very gassy.

Ed Gamble

I like Cobras with my curries.

Esther Manito

Oh, do you?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I feel great. Makes you feel great.

James Acaster

But you like Cobras without a curry.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I do like it without the curry.

Esther Manito

Oh, do you like a cobra?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm a snake charmer.

Esther Manito

Have you been to India?

Ed Gamble

No.

Esther Manito

I used to live there.

James Acaster

Did you?

Esther Manito

Yes.



James Acaster

Well, you're bringing this up very late in the day.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We've had about five Indian courses, and now you bring that up during the rosé chat.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

How long were you in India for?

Esther Manito

Just over a year, I lived there for.

Ed Gamble

Oh.

James Acaster

That's a pretty long time. Why were you living in India?

Esther Manito

For my husband's job. So, I just partied about for a year. Just titted about India.

James Acaster

This pre-kids?

Esther Manito

This was pre-kids. Oh, yes. Pre-kids. Yes. You could do stuff. Yes. It was a lot of fun. I loved it. I love the food, but that's when I realised that I really like North Indian food, but South Indian food is quite sweet. It's not as spicy. A lot of coconut. Whereas the North Indian food is that, kind of, like, thick, more tomatoey, gravy-type curry. And I got really into Indian food. So, I used to go and get my lunch from a place called Punjabi Dhaba? I think. But it was, like, Sikh food. North Indian food.

James Acaster

This is great. This is good stuff.

Ed Gamble

This is good stuff. And was it the prawn vindaloo and stuff you'd get from there, or?

Esther Manito

I'd get prawn curry from there, yes.

Ed Gamble

Prawn curry from there.

Esther Manito

Prawn curry. Well, because a lot of people are vegetarian, so you didn't get a lot of meat. So you had to go to, like, certain restaurants for meat.

James Acaster

The prawns that you would get from there, did they have the shells on, still?

Esther Manito

No.



James Acaster

Because sometimes when you get a posh prawn curry, they're like, they've been chargrilled in the shells, and then put in the curry, and later it was more like -

Esther Manito

No. This wasn't a posh restaurant. This was literally just churning out food, like street food. But when we used to order, we used to order food, fish, from this guy, and he would just turn up and we'd be like, 'Can we have, I don't know, twenty prawns?' And he would just turn up with, like, twenty prawns in a newspaper and just, like, splat down, go, 'There you go.' And you're like, 'Alright. Just leave them there.'

James Acaster

That British paranoia of going, 'Well, it's not come out of a packet, so it's probably going to kill me.'

Esther Manito

I know. He used to call me and my husband, we used to live in an area called Mandarelli, and we were very tall compared to a lot of people, so he used to call us the big, white people of Mandarelli.

James Acaster

Really?

Ed Gamble

Your legend still rings, it rings true.

Esther Manito

I know. Well, we used to ring up and it'd be like, 'Yes. It's the big, white people of Mandarelli.' And I was like, 'I am Mrs big, white person of Mandarelli.'

Ed Gamble

We arrive at your dessert. Now, oh, don't pull that face.

Esther Manito

I feel like everything I do just angers James.

James Acaster

Yes, but this will be the one.

Esther Manito

So, I have made him so cross.

James Acaster

Pick whatever you like, Esther.

Ed Gamble

Well, I don't think it's going to happen.

Esther Manito

It's always slim people that love dessert, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Hey, okay. I'm the slim, white guy of Mandarelli.

Esther Manito

But it's always, it's always people that are, like, slim that have.



James Acaster

I loved Esther looking at me for that, going, 'It's always these slim people who like it, isn't it?'

Esther Manito

No.

Ed Gamble

Hey. You know what I'm on about, chubba. I don't like where this is going.

Esther Manito

I know. I'm not going any further.

Ed Gamble

No. I'm talking about -

Esther Manito

Oh, the dessert?

James Acaster

I do like where this is going.

Ed Gamble

I am scared. I am scared because I don't really know where to direct my anger in this room. I haven't had somebody, I don't think. No. I have had people in this room.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Throw me for.

James Acaster

Yes, you have.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I have.

Esther Manito

So, you get quite angry if someone doesn't have dessert?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

So, if you went out for a meal with somebody and they didn't have dessert, would you just get up and walk out?

Ed Gamble

Well, no. I would shout at them, and threaten to throw them into Trafalgar Square, which is what I did to Ed.

James Acaster

Yes, that's what he's done to me before.



Ed Gamble

When he ordered the cheese and biscuits.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And, yes. So, most people, I don't think there's anyone who, if they ordered cheese and biscuits in a restaurant, I wouldn't get annoyed about it, instead of having dessert. If someone just doesn't have dessert, and that's those pass on it entirely, I'm not delighted, but it's not as bad as, cheese borders the worst.

James Acaster

Really? Surely passing is worse.

Ed Gamble

No. Passing is not as bad. Cheese borders worse because it's real.

Esther Manito

No? Okay. We're going down a spiral.

Ed Gamble

It's real bad. Cheese borders.

James Acaster

But, you get the sweetness from the chutneys.

Ed Gamble

No. You do not. What were you about to say?

Esther Manito

I was going to say cheese borders.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

With some grapes.

James Acaster

Sweeten with a bit of sweetness from the grapes.

Esther Manito

So, grapes.

Ed Gamble

What the fuck?

Esther Manito

Grapes, blue stilton, and some salty crackers.

James Acaster

Lovely.



Esther Manito

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, really good.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

No.

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Hate it.

James Acaster

The thing is, James, you don't understand flavours, because you need the grapes with the sweetness, and then you get the salty stilton. It's lovely.

Ed Gamble

You know that's not true.

James Acaster

You don't understand flavours.

Ed Gamble

Oh, God.

Esther Manito

What would you have, then, after a curry?

Ed Gamble

Oh, a fucking pudding, maybe?

Esther Manito

Like what?

Ed Gamble

Ice-cream, sorbet, cheesecake, fudge cake.

Esther Manito

Oh, God. Fudge cake?

James Acaster

What the fuck is fudge cake?

Ed Gamble

Chocolate fudge cake.

James Acaster

No one says fudge cake. It's always chocolate fudge cake.



Ed Gamble

Well, sorry, I have to specify.

Esther Manito

Yes, but you don't want, after a big meal, you don't want to then have a cake.

James Acaster

I agree. You don't want a pudding after a curry.

Ed Gamble

You do. I'd have loads of custard. I've have a big bowl of custard over a cheese board.

James Acaster

Not after a curry, you wouldn't.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I would.

Esther Manito

Oh, God. I can't stand custard. I can't stand it.

Ed Gamble

What?

Esther Manito

Honest. I can't stand it. I really can't stand it.

James Acaster

Oh, yes?

Esther Manito

Rice pudding, as well.

Ed Gamble

I'm sorry?

Esther Manito

These are things that, like, my husband eat.

Ed Gamble

Is it too hot against your bare naked teeth that don't have enamel on?

James Acaster

I think a cheese board after a curry is a great choice.

Esther Manito

I think it's a great choice.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

It's not a great choice.



James Acaster

You do have, like, the cold grapes that soothes the spice.

Ed Gamble

What are you talking about? The ice-cream would soothe the spice?

James Acaster

No. It's different.

Ed Gamble

Ice-cream's perfect for soothing the spice.

Esther Manito

Alright. Alright, James. Just chill out, yes? Right. Listen. I'll tell you what, I will compromise.

James Acaster

No. See, this is what always happens. He always bullies people into.

Esther Manito

He does.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

He throws a little fit, doesn't he?

James Acaster

Yes. I think you should stick to your guns, Esther. That's all I'm saying.

Esther Manito

Well, I will. But the only compromise I'll have is, you know in the Indian restaurant, for the dessert, and you get the whole lemon with the sorbet in?

James Acaster

Oh, here we go. Of course, yes. To put the sorbet in the bin. There we go. Sorbet in the bin. Eat the lemon. 'Would madam like a spoon?' 'No need.' Yes.

Ed Gamble

No. I'm eating the whole thing.

Esther Manito

I'm not a Packman.

James Acaster

Well, I hate to tell you.

Esther Manito

Just dislocating my jaw.

James Acaster

I hate to tell you, that's exactly how you've characterised yourself throughout this podcast. That you're a lemon packman.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Esther Manito

I said I peel it and I eat the slices. Honestly.

James Acaster

I love a lemon sorbet in a whole lemon. I love that.

Esther Manito

I've come out of this very badly. I'll have a lemon sorbet, yes?

Ed Gamble

Lemon sorbet is delicious.

Esther Manito

Let it be known that I would prefer to have a cheese board, but because of James' tantrum.

Ed Gamble

Listen. I'm not going to make you.

James Acaster

You can have both.

Esther Manito

I'll have both, then.

James Acaster

You can have a cheese board, and then you can have a little lemon sorbet and a whole lemon.

Esther Manito

What about those posh places where you go and you have the little sorbet between courses to cleanse the palette. Do you have that?

Ed Gamble

I've never had that before.

James Acaster

I've never had that.

Ed Gamble

But I've heard it said.

Esther Manito

I've heard a tale.

Ed Gamble

I've heard a tale of the intercourse sorbets. I do genuinely feel calmer now that the lemon sorbet's in play.

Esther Manito

Would you eat, like, an Angel Delight?

Ed Gamble

Yes. I would do it.



Esther Manito

That's made me angry. Now I'm angry.

James Acaster

So, you don't like custard angels, or like, either like, anything sloppy, like that, basically.

Ed Gamble

Why?

Esther Manito

Because it's all just, like, vomit-looking, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

What?

Esther Manito

Like custard, slurping custard.

James Acaster

Yes. See, this is really interesting as well, and I've spoken about this on the podcast.

Esther Manito

Oh, hang on. I'll have a trifle.

Ed Gamble

That's got custard, isn't it? It's literally got custard, cream. It's literally the consistency of everything you've just said, 'Blah,' to.

Esther Manito

No, listen. I've gone back on myself again.

James Acaster

Yes.

Esther Manito

Listen. At Christmas, I'll have a scoop of trifle, because I like the cream. The whipped cream.

James Acaster

You like the whip cream? Well, do you just want a scoop of whip cream?

Esther Manito

No. I'll have my cheese board and then my lemon sorbet.

James Acaster

And a spoonful of trifle.

Esther Manito

So, I've added a course.

James Acaster

And a spoonful of trifle.

Esther Manito

No. I'm not having a spoonful of trifle. I'm just saying to prove a point because he was getting angry.



James Acaster

Right.

Ed Gamble

So, just to let me know that once a year you have a spoonful of trifle. Like that's going to reassure. If anything, that makes me angrier.

James Acaster

Yes. Great. And you don't like the custard?

Ed Gamble

Yes. You've been lying.

Esther Manito

I don't like the custard. No I don't like it. Like, if my husband has, like, apple crumble, and then he has like, swimming in custard.

Ed Gamble

Do you not like apple crumble?

Esther Manito

No. What's the matter with you?

Ed Gamble

He's too good for you. He gets you champagne, and he supports you, and you don't support his dessert choices.

Esther Manito

His dessert choices.

James Acaster

I love you going, 'Custard with apple crumble? What is wrong with you?' While you're stood there holding a rabbit with a nappy on.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Eating a lemon.

Ed Gamble

What the fuck's wrong with you?

Esther Manito

But then, he does the same to me. He's like, 'Can we have, maybe, a salad that isn't just dribbling?' He's like, 'I can't do it, Esther. I can't eat that much lemon. It's killing me.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. But the thing is, he is right. His face is turning inside out of all the lemons you've been feeding him.

Esther Manito

That man has not had a cold in twenty years, and it's down to me.



James Acaster

And he's squinting so much.

Ed Gamble

Fish in a barrel - driving away.

James Acaster

Oh, I love it. Cheese board, excellent.

Ed Gamble

Well, look. I mean, I'll read your menu back to you now. See how you feel about it. Water. You would like sparkling water, San Pellegrino with lemon. Popadoms with bread. Popadoms with lime pickle. Yogurt, onion, sweet-powdered coconut. Starter, a maze?

Esther Manito

Mazer.

Ed Gamble

Mazer. I'm sorry.

James Acaster

Went for both of them, there.

Ed Gamble

I'm so sorry.

Esther Manito

Mazer.

Ed Gamble

Mazer. Starter. Mazer, baba ganoush, tabule, humous, and shormer with bread, yes?

Esther Manito

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Main course, very hot prawn vindaloo with real chillies, poppadums, pilau rice, raita. Side dish, saag bhaji. Drink, Rosé Moët champagne. Dessert? Cheese board, with blue stilton, salt crackers and grapes. And lemon sorbet, in a lemon, which you will eat as well. You will eat the casing.

Esther Manito

I wouldn't eat the casing because it's too cold.

James Acaster

Lemon packman.

Esther Manito

Also, that's like an old lemon, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes. You're favourite.

Esther Manito

Yes, that's my favourite. An old lemon.



Ed Gamble

Yes. That's your dream.

James Acaster

Thank you, Esther. I like that lemon a lot, and then it just goes a bit mad at the end.

Esther Manito

What did Fatiha have as her drink?

Ed Gamble

A Coke Zero.

James Acaster

Oh, yes.

Esther Manito

That messes with my head.

Ed Gamble

Does it?

James Acaster

Go on.

Esther Manito

Yes. People that drink diet drinks, it tastes so, it just tastes horrible. I love a full-fat Coke.

Ed Gamble

I've got a tip you can do.

Esther Manito

Oh, no. Coke Zero tastes like full-fat Coke.

Ed Gamble

If you don't drink full-fat Coke for five years.

James Acaster

Or any Coke.

Ed Gamble

Or any Cokes. Any fizzy drinks.

James Acaster

Let me correct you on this story.

Ed Gamble

Any fizzy drinks for five years, then drink a Diet Coke, it will taste just like full-fat Coke you're used to. And you won't even notice it tastes weird.

Esther Manito

Alright. I'll do that, then. Just crack on with that little project, and I'll be back in five years.

Ed Gamble

Sorry if we can't find time with that project in between fucking napping up rabbits, and swallowing lemons whole.



James Acaster

What James means to say, Esther, is thank you very much for coming on the podcast.

Ed Gamble

Yes, thank you, Esther.

James Acaster

There we are. A revelatory chat with Esther Manito there.

Ed Gamble

Yes, to put it mildly.

James Acaster

Got quite heated in the end, there, James.

Ed Gamble

My adrenaline's still coming down.

James Acaster

Yes, you're pumped, man.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'm pumped.

James Acaster

I can see your veins.

Ed Gamble

I don't know, man. I feel weird. Sometimes it's good. It's a bit of a victory when I get to compromise or bully them into it. But like, still feels bad that cheese board's even there at all. She's part of the cheese board crew now.

James Acaster

Yes. Imagine if we put lemon as a secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

Should have. I wish we had. If I could go back in time, straight out of the water course.

James Acaster

Yes. She didn't say instant coffee, though, which was the actual secret ingredient.

Ed Gamble

Yes. That would have been some bad stuff.

James Acaster

Yes. That would have been some bad stuff. Don't forget to book tickets to see Esther at the Edinburg festival. Her show's called #NotAllMen and she'll be performing it for the Month of August at the Gilded Balloon. Go on to edfringe.com for tickets.

Ed Gamble

Very exciting.



James Acaster

And if you want to come and see me, go to edgamble.co.uk. I'm on tour from September, doing my show Electric, all over the place. And I am doing some at the Edinburg festival, actually, at the Assembly George Square Theatre. I believe it's now called the Gordon Aikman Theatre. I'll be there from the eighth, to the fourteenth, doing shows.

Ed Gamble

Gordon Aikman, hey?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

When you said Aik, I thought it was going to be Acaster. I was getting excited.

James Acaster

It's called the James Acaster Theatre.

Ed Gamble

Yes. They should do that.

James Acaster

In memory of James Acaster never winning the award.

Ed Gamble

They should always like nearly build me.

James Acaster

Yes. Five years in a row.

Ed Gamble

Sorry, we've gone with Aikman this time. Come on.

James Acaster

Thanks very much for listening. We'll see you again some time soon. Bye-bye.

Ed Gamble

Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Bye.