



# Off Menu – Ep161 – Flo & Joan:

## **Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the cherry of conversation, biting in with the teeth of the Internet, removing the pip of bad times, and spitting it into the bin. (Mimics chewing and spitting). Lovely, I love it. Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, everybody, I'm Ed Gamble.

## **James Acaster**

James Acaster here. The Off Menu podcast, Ed is the proprietor, the maître d', I am a genie waiter, and we live in the dream restaurant, and we invite a guest in every week, and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish, and drink, not in that order. And this week our guests-, guests, plural, are Flo and Joan.

## **Ed Gamble**

Flo and Joan, wonderful comedians, musical double act vibes.

## **James Acaster**

A phenomenon.

## **Ed Gamble**

A phenomenon. Every time I gig with Flo and Joan, I hope that I'm going on before them.

## **James Acaster**

Yes, absolutely.

## **Ed Gamble**

Impossible to follow.

## **James Acaster**

Yes, I always hope I go on before everybody, that's why I mainly do gigs on my own.

## **Ed Gamble**

James goes on before everyone, as in, around 2019, that's when you last went on.

## **James Acaster**

Yes.

## **Ed Gamble**

Before everyone else.

## **James Acaster**

Before everyone else.

## **Ed Gamble**

Yes.

## **James Acaster**

Hey, I saw Flo and Joan, we did a TV show together, Question Team, and they did a song all about crisps. So, quite excited to have them on the food podcast, maybe crisps are going to come up? Maybe Rosie Jones will get a run for her money.

## **Ed Gamble**

Yes, well, I can't see anyone giving Rosie Jones a run for her money crisps-wise.



**James Acaster**

Sure. I mean, if that ever does happen then we've got to get whoever does that and Rosie on an episode, head-to-head crisp-off.

**Ed Gamble**

Not to confuse the situation of course, because Flo and Joan aren't actually called Flo and Joan, they're called Nicola and Rosie.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

So, I don't want you to get confused, man.

**James Acaster**

What the hell?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, no, I'm so sorry.

**James Acaster**

My whole world's been turned upside down.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you're going to have to take them to task about this.

**James Acaster**

Man, I cannot believe this. What's your name?

**Ed Gamble**

James.

**James Acaster**

Agh! My name is Bonito!

**Ed Gamble**

So, this is going to be a fun episode, I can't wait. They're on tour at the moment, like we say, doing Sweet Release.

**James Acaster**

Ah, a show called Sweet Release, grab your tickets, go and see Sweet Release. But listen, Ed, I like Flo and Joan, or French and Saunders, or whatever you said their names were.

**Ed Gamble**

Nicola and Rosie.

**James Acaster**

But listen, if they say a secret ingredient, an ingredient that we think is gross, or we just think is objectionable, or we just think is a room splitter, then we do kick them out the dream restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a good format. And today the secret ingredient is-



**James Acaster**

Rocket.

**Ed Gamble**

Rocket. It's rocket, which is big.

**James Acaster**

Look, I have to be honest with myself, and I don't love rocket.

**Ed Gamble**

I go through phases of rocket. Sometimes I want that peppery bite, and sometimes I don't welcome it at all, James.

**James Acaster**

The flavour I don't object to, I think I don't like the actual-, just how it feels in my-, the rocket itself, how it feels in my-, it doesn't feel nice.

**Ed Gamble**

But you know the way things feel in your mouth, that's flavour, right?

**James Acaster**

No, taste, but, like, I don't like the feel of it. Like, if there was no flavour, the feel of the rocket-, I don't like trying to get it on my fork.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't like the shape of it.

**James Acaster**

I don't like the shape of it. You know, it's not like lettuce and stuff like that, you just get it on the fork there, you get a nice bit of lettuce, shove it in the mouth, but rocket is like, 'Ugh, I've got to get a whole-, I've got to stack it up.'

**Ed Gamble**

It's a pain, is it?

**James Acaster**

'Get a whole bunch of it.'

**Ed Gamble**

It's a pain in the-, yes.

**James Acaster**

Get in in my mouth, and it feels like I'm putting stinging nettles in my mouth or something.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, interesting, yes. So, that's why it's the secret ingredient, because you don't like the feel of it in your mouth?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I don't like the feel of it as it passes through my lips into my mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

Open your mouth a bit more when you eat, I think. It shouldn't be passing through your lips, you should not be, sort of, pursed mouth, pushing a load of rocket in through your lips.



**James Acaster**

I can't help it touching my lips because it's all over the place, rocket.

**Ed Gamble**

It is wiggly.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't all point in the same direction, so you, kind of, grab it on the fork, and then it's going all over the place.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we go, rocket's the secret ingredient. If Flo and Joan, either of them-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, if one of them says it, they're out. The other one gets to stay in.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, you know, they're having separate menus here, so if one of them says it, they're out. We won't chuck them both out for one of them saying it.

**Ed Gamble**

No. And also, they're not both going to say it, because if one person says it, the other person's not going to then say 'rocket', are they, when they see what happens?

**James Acaster**

It would be funny if they forgot, and later on they say it.

**Ed Gamble**

But it would be really funny. Say rocket for dessert or something.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm on tour, Ed Gamble - Electric. Go to [edgamble.co.uk](http://edgamble.co.uk) for tickets.

**James Acaster**

Great show by a great guy.

**Ed Gamble**

Bless you.

**James Acaster**

James Acaster's Guide to Quitting Social Media, being the best you you can be and curing yourself of loneliness volume one, is a book that I have written, and it's out now wherever you get your books.

**Ed Gamble**

But without further ado, this is the Off Menu menu of Flo and Joan. Welcome Flo and Joan to the dream restaurant.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Hello.

**James Acaster**

Welcome Flo and Joan to the dream restaurant, we've been expecting you for some time.

**Ed Gamble**

There we are. Now, we should probably get the names out of the way.

**James Acaster**

I really spat then.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you did, didn't you?

**James Acaster**

Don't normally, but that is-, that's quite good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that just shows he's really up for this.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Good, the taste buds are already saluting.

**James Acaster**

Saluting? Saluting the Union Jack.

**Ed Gamble**

Not called Flo and Joan in real life, we should get that out of the way.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**James Acaster**

How does it feel to be liars?

**Nicola Dempsey**

It gives me the most satisfaction in my whole life that people think they know me and I'm like, 'You've got no fucking idea.' I really enjoy it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Do you know what feels like a real invasion of privacy? Is sometimes in shows people will come up to us after and say, 'That was a great show, Nicola and Rosie.'

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, right.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like, 'Fuck you, Janet.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it does feel a little bit-,



**Rosie Dempsey**

It feels like they've, like, really researched you and have found the real core of you, and it's disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

It's not tricky to find that out, but I guess it's-

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's not, it's on page one of Google, but it just feels like they've purposely come to tell you that they know you're a liar.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

The Flo and Joan thing, on stage you don't refer to yourselves as Flo and Joan, do you?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

We did it once, and it took everything in my body to not be sick straight over the piano. I was like, 'I hate that, that's hideous.' And we did it once and were like, 'Never again, we're never doing that again. That's so humiliating.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Because we don't play characters. And Flo and Joan are, like, older names anyway, so we're not playing older women, we're not doing sketch. We don't even call each other Nicola and Rosie on stage, really, do we?

**Nicola Dempsey**

We barely look at each other, it's a lot of effort to acknowledge that there's another person on the stage. So, using a name feels like quite a stretch.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you even worked out which one Flo would be and which one Joan would be?

**Rosie Dempsey**

We know that, yes. We have intel on that because Flo was really tiny and Joan was bigger, and that is us. Nicola's tiny so she's Flo.

**Nicola Dempsey**

On the most reductive version of it, it's one was short and one was tall, so I guess that's who's who if, like, you desperately need an answer. But in reality, it doesn't matter. But people are really like,



'So what are the other-, are you personality-, and you're like, 'It's just she was short, and she's taller, that's literally it,' like, children understand it. It's very strange.

**James Acaster**

So, hold on, where does Flo and Joan come from? Am I missing something?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think so.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's a fair question.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It is.

**James Acaster**

Why is one short, one tall?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Flo is our grandma, and Joan was her sister, so they'd always come and visit us, and our mum would be like, 'Flo and Joan are coming down,' they'd come down on the bus from Liverpool, insult your weight, and then drink gin, and then leave.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Go back at the end of the weekend, tell everyone they got fat. And then they came down once and were like, 'You look different, you look really different,' and they were like, 'She's got fatter.' 'No, it's not that she's got fatter. She's definitely got fatter though.' 'Yes, she has got fatter.' And our mum was like, 'I've got new glasses, maybe?' They were like, 'Oh, maybe it's that.' And our mum was like, 'It's definitely that,' but they were like, 'No, she's definitely-, she's piled it.' And we're like, 'Okay, thanks for coming.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

They were funny though, they were great.

**James Acaster**

They sound a laugh.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, oh, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I love that you're listening to all that happening, and you're like, 'One day, we're going to do a double act, and we're going to name it after them.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, 'Just you wait.'

**Ed Gamble**

Did they like food, Flo and Joan?



**Nicola Dempsey**

I think they did.

**Ed Gamble**

Were they foodies, the original-

**Nicola Dempsey**

Flo ate a lot of yoghurt.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Did she?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think so.

**Rosie Dempsey**

They were, sort of, old-school Liverpool Scousers, so I'm sure there's a lot of hot pots going on, a lot of stews.

**Nicola Dempsey**

A lot of Scouse.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't know if Joan ever cooked for us, but Flo did. I don't know what Flo used to cook, I was probably a bit too young.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yoghurt and pie.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yoghurt and pie? Was she a pie maker?

**Ed Gamble**

That sounds absolutely disgusting.

**Nicola Dempsey**

You don't want a yoghurt pie?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't want a-, I love those two things separately, but I feel like yoghurt pie would-, imagine cutting into a hot-, I'm imagining a hot yoghurt pie, and just, like, breaking that crust and being so excited about what's in the pie, and loads of hot yoghurt spills out of it.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, hot yoghurt's not too far from, like, hot cream, melted ice cream.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but it's got that fermented, sort of like, sour taste to it, so I don't want that.





**Rosie Dempsey**

A Yakult in a bit of pastry.

**Nicola Dempsey**

What about if it was a pie where you cut into it and it was just the yoghurt, but then you got, like, a Crunch Corner, and you could sprinkle the thing on that you wanted?

**Rosie Dempsey**

That would be nice.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Does that make it better?

**Ed Gamble**

I feel like I just don't want it at all.

**Nicola Dempsey**

That's fair.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, adding extra stuff to it at this point, I'm like, 'Well, just get rid of it completely.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, that's fair.

**Rosie Dempsey**

What about a moussey pie? You know, like, a mousse that's close to a yoghurt, like those strawberry ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, no.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Inside of a pie.

**Ed Gamble**

No, because then it'd make a weird sound when you cut into it, it would go, 'Fwoosh.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's the fun bit.

**James Acaster**

I think it's just the thought of pastry with those things, isn't it? It's not a marriage made in heaven.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But you pour cream over the top of a pie. I don't think yoghurt and pie are too far from each other.

**James Acaster**

I think putting yoghurt on a pie, like, a dessert pie, and spooning yoghurt on it as you would cream, I wouldn't object to that.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Cutting open a pie and it's full of yoghurt, I think sounds disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You two are on tour at the moment.

**James Acaster**

The same tour?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Same tour.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, same tour. We should do a half and half, maybe.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, sorry, back to you, I think it's difficult enough to try and get them to see two of us at once.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Or, we'll do the same show, but we'll do our own version of it. So, we do your interpretation in the first half, and my interpretation in the second half.

**Ed Gamble**

Or do all your lines in the first half, and then all your lines in the second half.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, it can be like, you know when you, like, read a book and then one person writes one side, and then when you turn the book over the other way and it's upside down you get to read it and the stories meet in the middle? We could do it like that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

That would be great.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, like, we'd suspend you upside down to do the second half of the show, so it would be like you tip the book up.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Do I need to be hanging like a bat for this?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I think it would be a new string to our bow that people might appreciate.

**Ed Gamble**

For the sake of what other people will actually see when they come to the tour, that's not going to be that, is it? You are doing a show together, it's called Sweet Release.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, correct. Show together, classic stuff. Actually, no, it's all new, it's not classic.



**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

I've seen songs from it, I've seen bits from it at gigs, haven't I?

**Rosie Dempsey**

You've seen some bits.

**Ed Gamble**

It's very, very good.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Thank you, you're very kind.

**Rosie Dempsey**

We're at a very good time, we're in the middle of it. No complaints so far?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Great.

**Rosie Dempsey**

None?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, not one.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Not one, no.

**Ed Gamble**

So, I highly recommend that people go to that tour.

**James Acaster**

Yes, go to the tour ASAP. We always start with still or sparkling water on the podcast. Do you have a preference? And were you doing separate menus now?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was going to say, are we allowed to do separate ones?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I think so.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Okay, good.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I would love to do a separate one.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I don't want-



**Ed Gamble**

Do you have quite different tastes?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I think so, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

We share a lot of stuff, but I don't think our dream menus-, we haven't really discussed it, but I don't think they're going to be similar.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'd be incredibly embarrassed if everything we said was exactly the same, thus fulfilling, I think, most things that people think about us of, like, we're like Bert and Ernie and share a bed and all that kind of stuff.

**Rosie Dempsey**

We should say our things at the same time and see if any of them match.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I don't think they will.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Okay, well, let's do still and sparkling. Three, two, one, sparkling.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Sparkling.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes!

**Nicola Dempsey**

Fuck, okay, this is over.

**Ed Gamble**

What I really like as well is it's so clear that you work together on stage every night, because you so easily slip into the back and forth. That was like that was scripted. That was like, 'Shall we say the same thing?' 'Yes, okay,' 'Three, two, one, sparkling. Whoa!'

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think it's less that the onstage thing is an act, and more that this is how we are in actual life, and we make no effort to perform in any way. Once we're on a stage we're like, 'The songs will do the work,' and when we're talking it's like, 'Oh, you're there. Hello, nice to meet you, let's go with the next one.'

**James Acaster**

'Nice to meet you,' every night?



**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

'Nice to meet you.'

**James Acaster**

Why sparkling? Do you have different reasons?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I think it's delicious, it's refreshing. The thing I like about sparkling is that it feels almost like its own meal because it's got all the bubbles.

**Ed Gamble**

Own meal.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, it feels like it fills, like, a bigger hole in your tummy.

**Ed Gamble**

That sounds like something a model would have said in the '70s.

**Rosie Dempsey**

'Just before I eat my tissue I have a big glass of sparkling water.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

'And five cigarettes.'

**James Acaster**

'It feels like a meal in itself.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, it just offers me more than water. Water feels like a survival method, and sparkling feels like a thriving method.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, okay, yes, that's interesting, it feels like it's got that added luxury, so it's not-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

100%, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You're not being forced to drink it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And who doesn't love a bubble?

**Ed Gamble**

Bubbles are fun.

**James Acaster**

Interesting.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Everything's improved by a bubble.



**James Acaster**

Sure, but-,

**Ed Gamble**

Do you not love a bubble?

**James Acaster**

Everything's improved by a bubble, but-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yoghurt pie, better with bubbles in.

**James Acaster**

I'm going to-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

A bubbly yoghurt pie.

**James Acaster**

Zone in on that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yoghurt pie now with bubbles I think is what we really want.

**James Acaster**

I mean, yoghurt with bubbles in general is going to be bad, right? You don't want bubbly yoghurt.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's a gone off yoghurt, just a fizzy yoghurt.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Ah, I've had one once, had a fizzy yoghurt once, it had gone off. One little spoonful, and I was like, 'Oh, no. I don't like it, I don't like it,' really sad.

**Ed Gamble**

When did you have a fizzy yoghurt?

**James Acaster**

Little kid. It had been left there, I was dead excited about getting the yoghurt, opened it up, there was something not right, but I was really excited about it, so put the spoon in, put it in my mouth, and it was all fizzy.

**Ed Gamble**

Fizzy yoghurt.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Did it affect your body?

**James Acaster**

It made me sad.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Then yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, it did.

**James Acaster**

So, it affected my body like that, but nothing-, you know, I didn't have the shits.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm sad that you said that you were a child, because I was about to contribute my own story, but it happened, like, two weeks ago where I opened a smoothie that had been in my bag for I'd say two or three days, which I thought was fine. And I opened it in the front seat of the car, and Rosie said, 'Has someone opened a packet of ham?' I was like, 'Oh, no.' I drank half of it and then was like, 'We're going to just gently leave this in the-, ' but I did drink half of it.

**Ed Gamble**

You drank half of it?

**James Acaster**

You drank half of the ham drink.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It didn't taste like ham.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, that's fine. It smelt like a packet of ham when you opened it, but down the hatch.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, like, badly stank, like a bad ham packet.

**Nicola Dempsey**

But I was fine.

**Ed Gamble**

But that's pretty brave though, because the smell is the biggest warning with stuff like that. To then be like, 'Well, I can push through the ham smell and get this smoothie down me.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

It didn't smell like ham, it was only the back seat that commented on the ham.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it was so off then that the smell-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Sank to the bottom of the floor.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, like fog.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, like fog, crawled under my seat into the back.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Into my nasal passage.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Crept up your arm and sat in your nostrils.

**Ed Gamble**

You were like, 'Yes, give that a crack, why not?'

**James Acaster**

What I'm most confused about in the story is, so, Rosie, you were in the back seat.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You were in the front of the car, Nicola?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Who else was in this car that you're not both sitting in the front? Because I can't imagine you with other people. It would just be the two of you in the front of the car, wouldn't it?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Our tour manager, Maya, who we refer to as Lurch.

**James Acaster**

Oh, she's having a fun tour.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Do we? I don't think I've ever called her Lurch.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She's our chauffeur. Isn't Lurch the chauffeur?

**Nicola Dempsey**

She's not our chauffeur.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, no, who opens the door?

**Nicola Dempsey**

She runs the whole fucking show, I don't just call her, like, a driver.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was trying to think of-, what's the name of the people who drive the car?

**Ed Gamble**

Chauffeur.

**Nicola Dempsey**

A chauffeur.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.





**Rosie Dempsey**

No, they've got names.

**Ed Gamble**

Individual names?

**Nicola Dempsey**

John?

**Rosie Dempsey**

What's the name?

**Nicola Dempsey**

What are you talking about?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was thinking of-, Lurch opens the door, doesn't he, in Addams Family?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Who drives the hearse?

**Ed Gamble**

I think he does drive as well.

**James Acaster**

He does everything.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, he drives the hearse.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Doesn't he drive a hearse?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's what I was thinking.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's not his main job, he's, sort of, just their butler, isn't he?

**James Acaster**

Like, a butler, he drives the car, he does everything for them.

**Ed Gamble**

He's also, in case you didn't know, for next time you refer to your tour manager as Lurch, he's a huge ugly man with a flat head.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, that checks out.

**Ed Gamble**

A Frankenstein-type thing, an undead kind of character.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, that grunts, doesn't even use words.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, just groans.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, no, that's our tour manager for sure. She's low-skilled and doesn't save our asses every single day.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So, did she smell the ham smoothie?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't know, did she?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Maybe at the point that it happened she was too polite to be like, 'What the fuck have I let myself in for in this fucking stinky clown car?'

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was also napping at the time, like, I was half asleep and woke up because of the ham smell.

**Ed Gamble**

You woke up and the first words out your mouth were, 'Has someone opened a packet of ham?'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Which, with Rosie, you don't know if it's, like, the dream awakening, or she's actually-, like-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

I love ham, so it could, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It feels like it could be something that could have happened in a dream. Like, 'Has someone opened a packet of ham?' And you're like, 'Oh, I was asleep.'

**Ed Gamble**

My tour manager's never had a prawn.

**Nicola Dempsey**

What?

**James Acaster**

Interesting.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No way.

**Ed Gamble**

Can you imagine that?



**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

Never had a prawn in his life. On the last tour I did with him I was like, 'Well, the end of the tour, you have to eat a prawn.' And he was like, 'No, no, no, I couldn't possibly do that. Maybe on the next tour.' And now it's the next tour, so it's a big thing. And I buy, like, the prawn dippers from Marks & Spencer in the services, and even when I don't want them I buy them to be like, 'Is it a prawn today, Paul?' But then the other day while he was driving I held a prawn next to him, and he didn't like that at all, he got really freaked out. And then I finished the prawns, and there's just, like, sometimes a little bit of liquid at the bottom of-, like, prawn water, and I went, 'Paul, there's a liquid here,' and he was like, 'Don't show me that.' And I downed it in front of him, and he went (retching sounds), he started retching when we were on the motorway, and oh, man, it was so funny.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, my god.

**James Acaster**

It does sound disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

It was so funny, he was like (retching sounds).

**Nicola Dempsey**

'Ed didn't make it to his gig this evening because he downed some prawn juice and his tour manager crashed the car.'

**Ed Gamble**

We rolled the car because of retching.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Does he not like fish in general?

**Ed Gamble**

Not really, I don't think, he has very plain tastes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I see. What does he eat from a service station?

**Ed Gamble**

He'll get a sandwich.

**Rosie Dempsey**

What's in the sandwich? Cheese?

**Ed Gamble**

Just a normal sandwich, cheese sandwich.

**James Acaster**

What a boring man. No wonder you're downing prawn juice to keep yourself entertained on the road. You have the boring sandwich man who thinks prawns are scary.

**Ed Gamble**

Little Lurch.



**James Acaster**

Yes, little Lurch. Poppadoms or bread?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, my god.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread, Flo and Joan? Poppadoms or bread?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm a poppadoms person, straight out. Poppadoms firstly because you can pick at them and no-one's judging that you're picking at them, which I think is fine.

**Ed Gamble**

You like to pick.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm a picker.

**Ed Gamble**

You're a picker.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. And so I think if you're thinking at a bit of bread it's a bit disgusting. But a poppadom, you're fine to, like, snap it, and you haven't touched the rest of the thing. And I'm a big crisp fan, so that's fine. And I also have a rule that I won't order anything in a restaurant that I've had to make in Food Tech.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I just won't do it. If you're teaching eleven-year-olds to do it, then I don't think you should order it in a restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, this is great. So, this is a rule. How long have you had this rule for?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Since I did Food Tech.

**Ed Gamble**

Since you did food tech.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Or my first restaurant, I can't remember which one came first.

**James Acaster**

Hold on a sec. Since you were taught Food Tech, or since you taught it?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Since I became a Food Tech teacher at the age of twelve, which makes sense. No, I think we stopped doing Food Tech in, like, year 9. And after that, I think I was just like, 'I'm not eating lasagne, or pasta, or bread, crumble,' just anything that you had to make as a kid. I'm like, 'If you can make twelve-year-olds do it, then I don't want to order it in a restaurant.'



**Ed Gamble**

Do you admit that there might be a way of doing something better than an eleven-year-old does it?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Absolutely not. I think that's surely when your cooking abilities peak. Yes, if I've made it as food-, I just don't want to eat it, I don't respect it.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't respect it?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

So, bread is one of those things. You don't eat bread in a restaurant?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Only in a restaurant. I don't want to, like, pay for it in a professional setting. Obviously, like, I order it from the supermarket and stuff. But, like, I wouldn't order it in a restaurant.

**James Acaster**

You made bread as a kid?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. It wasn't good.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, that was one of, like, the early days things to make. Biscuits, and then bread for me.

**Ed Gamble**

Biscuits.

**Nicola Dempsey**

But it was like, you brought in a bread packet mix, so you just added water. It wasn't-, like, we didn't sit there and raise it all together and that kind of stuff, it was just water in a packet and put it in the oven.

**James Acaster**

So, I'd say your bread rule is a little bit, you know, a bit harsh, a bit strict when it comes to that. Because, like, you didn't make proper bread in Food Tech-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

But you still made it.

**James Acaster**

You made rubbish instant bread.

**Nicola Dempsey**

But how do I know that a restaurant isn't making instant bread?

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're suspicious that they've got a Food Tech class out the back?



**Rosie Dempsey**

They've got Mrs-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think it's child labour and Mrs Eyre, teaching people how to make lasagne as practice.

**Ed Gamble**

We didn't do Food Tech at my school.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Did you not?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Did you not?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, God, you missed out on the lovely smells of the Food Tech room, and all the blunt knives, and the crusty little fingers touching the lasagnes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

The aprons that just got put in a dishwasher, or, like, a washing machine, with no detergent whatsoever, so they just smelt of the crusted-on food of the class before you.

**James Acaster**

Oh, lovely.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Those rooms fucking stank, they stank.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. Our Food Tech lesson was always the last lesson of the day as well, so you literally took it out of the oven and poured it straight into your backpack because there was no time to, like, let it cool or sit.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, God. A lasagne into a little bag.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. I remember sitting on the bus with an apple crumble that had-, no, it was, like, a blackberry crumble, that had entirely sank to the point where it pushed the liquid over the top of the thing. And I got off the bus and looked like I'd bled through my skirt because it had just, like, leaked all over me. And it was, like, a scalding hot glass thing where I was just on the bus like, 'Just get home. Just get home.' And yes, it looked like I had just been, like, stabbed in the belly on the bus. It was awful. So, now I don't really like that kind of stuff.

**James Acaster**

Sure, I mean, that-,

**Ed Gamble**

I think that's fair enough now, now you've explained that.



**James Acaster**

Now you've explained that there's trauma involved I think we can understand it.

**Nicola Dempsey**

But yes, poppadoms, please.

**James Acaster**

So, we've got poppadoms here.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I for one admire the lengths that people can go to with artisanal bread, so I would always take bread at the start, bread and butter. Spoonfuls of butter.

**James Acaster**

Spoonfuls?

**Ed Gamble**

Spoonfuls?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Like, Homer-Simpson-sized bars of butter on top of my lovely artisanal breads. Crusty on the outside, and soft and spongy pillow-like on the inside. I'll have anything in the bread, put whatever you want. I like a sourdough, it's a nice classic, but anything you've got, throw it into the bread and I'll have it.

**James Acaster**

Anything?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Anything.

**Ed Gamble**

Yoghurt?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yoghurt and fizzy pie, I'll have that in my bread, please.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you less of a picker?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'm a huge picker. I'd say I'm more of a picker than you.

**Ed Gamble**

Really? So-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

I will save, like, penny-sized worth of anything just to think, 'The next day I might have this.'

**James Acaster**

Put it in your pocket.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, put a couple of bits of sweetcorn in the pocket. I'll pick anything, anything that I can see, I have to just put it in my mouth. Anything, again, anything, no rules.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never had that. Like, if I have a bit of bread and put a spoonful of butter on, I'm having my spoonful, that's going straight-, I'm not, like, picking it apart, I'm not taking my time. It's-,

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Wham it in.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, I'll do that as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. But you'll save one little tiny bit, put it in your pocket.

**James Acaster**

Not saving anything (talking over each other).

**Rosie Dempsey**

Say if I was at home, I'll always think, 'Oh, I could probably use that little nubbin for something else,' a nubbin of bread.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Like, you could chop it up and make it into a crouton, or you could just wipe it in some butter in the morning if your cereal isn't enough.

**James Acaster**

God.

**Rosie Dempsey**

There's always a use. I live like it's World War I, and I don't know if I'll see a banana ever again, so I savour everything.

**James Acaster**

It's early doors, we haven't even got into your main menu yet, but I'll just confer with Ed, I don't want to go out on a limb here and say this.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

But, like, is Rosie the bleakest guest we've ever had? Probably the bleakest guest we've ever had.

**Ed Gamble**

Potentially. Saving a tiny bit of bread just in case something happens.





**James Acaster**

And wiping up some butter the next morning, that was what was-,

**Ed Gamble**

In case the cereal wasn't enough.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't think I'm on my own.

**Ed Gamble**

And presumably you're saving three bits of cereal for the next day in case the bread isn't enough?

**Nicola Dempsey**

There'll be the fucking dust in the bottom of the packet where you're like, 'Can I throw this away?'  
And she'll be like, 'Oh, but what if I need the dust tomorrow?'

**Rosie Dempsey**

You joke, but famously I have done that.

**James Acaster**

What, you've used it?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Because the dust (talking over each other) with the next bowl.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I just really wasn't joking, that was a fact.

**James Acaster**

I didn't see a hint of joking in Nicola's eyes when she was saying that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

She was describing an exact situation.

**James Acaster**

It was a very specific example.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'd actually say I'm helping the planet by using everything I can, don't throw it away. Until it's got a physical movement to it-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Until it smells like ham.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Until it smells like-, no, I'd probably eat it, I love ham.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, use it, you could (talking over each other).

**James Acaster**

How are you using the cereal dust?



**Rosie Dempsey**

You just add it to the next bowl. So, you get your next fresh box and you just put it on top, because it makes all the milk nice and thick.

**James Acaster**

No, not nice.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, it does.

**James Acaster**

Not nice. Oh, no, it goes like wet sawdust and it's horrible.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No, but you add extra milk so it, sort of, balances it all out, you know?

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not really a cereal boy. I find because I'm type 1 diabetic they can be too sugary sometimes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, yes, that's fair.

**Ed Gamble**

But-, you don't know this about me, I've found a new type of cereal that's for health people.

**James Acaster**

I don't know this.

**Ed Gamble**

Which is, like, a protein cereal, but very low in sugar, and it's called Grandma Crunch.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think that's the bleakest thing I've ever heard.

**James Acaster**

How long have you resisted telling me that because you wanted to save it for the podcast?

**Ed Gamble**

Quite a long time. I've been eating it for a couple of months now, and every time I eat it I think, 'I can't wait to tell James about Grandma Crunch.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

I imagine the front of that box looks like Tony the Tiger, but it's a grandma.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

She's absolutely hench.

**Ed Gamble**

Cartoon grandma.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is there a grandma on there?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, there's a cartoon grandma, yes, Grandma Crunch.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Grandmas are famously hurtling towards death, why would you want to brand your cereal as something like, 'You'll die soon'?

**Ed Gamble**

Grandma Crunch!

**James Acaster**

No grandma wants to hear a crunch.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Maybe that's the tagline, is 'No grandma wants to hear a crunch, except for in her cereal.'

**Ed Gamble**

'The only crunch a grandma needs to hear.'

**James Acaster**

What kind of cereal is Grandma Crunch?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there's a range of flavours, I've only tried the peanut butter brownie one, but, I mean, it tastes of nothing, it doesn't really taste of peanut butter.

**James Acaster**

Or brownies.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and it's, like, 6g of sugar per bowl or something, so you bite in and it's weird. Like, it's quite meaty.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Are they, like, flakes?

**Ed Gamble**

No, they're balls.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh.

**Ed Gamble**

Little balls.



**Nicola Dempsey**

I was not expecting that.

**Ed Gamble**

Were you expecting the flakes?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, because I associate flakes with old people.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

So, like, balls feels-, I think of-,

**Ed Gamble**

Quite a young cereal.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, I think of, like, Golden Nuggets and stuff like that, and not grandma.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, like, Grandma Crunch is a jazzy lady, you know?

**Nicola Dempsey**

She's young at heart.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, exactly.

**James Acaster**

Has she got glasses, grandma crunch? What does she look like?

**Ed Gamble**

From memory, yes, I think she's got glasses. I've not spent a huge amount of time looking at Grandma Crunch.

**James Acaster**

Well, you should have known-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

I also imagine she's got, like, a little pirate hat and a pirate sword, just because there's something about the word 'crunch' that makes me think that they're like, 'Let's just-,'

**Ed Gamble**

Cap'n Crunch.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Cap'n Crunch, there you go, that's why.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe she's Cap'n Crunch's grandma.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Grandma, ooh.



**Ed Gamble**

Could be.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Or Captain Crunch's wife.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. What?

**Rosie Dempsey**

But was, you know, wife when Cap'n Crunch was big, and now she's grandma.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Well, but, I mean, he wouldn't call her Grandma Crunch.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I don't know, I don't know what the guy's into.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She might be branding it herself, he might not be involved.

**James Acaster**

So, her main thing about herself is that she mainly identifies as a grandma.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, at the time though when Cap'n Crunch was big, she would identify as-

**Nicola Dempsey**

Mrs Crunch.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Mrs Crunch.

**James Acaster**

Yes, Mrs Crunch?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Crunch's wife. But now she's in her old age, she's Grandma Crunch.

**James Acaster**

Grandma Crunch now.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And he would be Grandpa Crunch. Cap'n Crunch is Grandpa Crunch.

**Ed Gamble**

If you're a captain though, you never lost that title, right?

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.



**Ed Gamble**

So, I think you'd probably keep that.

**James Acaster**

You'd always keep that, you're always lauding that.

**Ed Gamble**

I think he's more likely to call himself Captain Grandpa.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Captain Grandpa?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I would eat cereal called Captain Grandpa, that would make me feel like I was ready for the day.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What kind of cereal would Captain Grandpa be? Just the dust?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Just-, yes, hopefully, yes, just dust if I had it my way.

**James Acaster**

Let's get into your menus proper now. I don't know who to start with, really. I mean, do we start with the person who hates Food Tech, or the person who's the bleakest human being I've ever met in my life? Let's start with Nicola and see what you would say.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I want, like, a bucket of olives.

**James Acaster**

Is this a surprise to you?

**Rosie Dempsey**

No, you like an olive.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I've heard that about me.

**James Acaster**

A bucket of olives.

**Ed Gamble**

A bucket of olives?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, just so that there's, like, a nice selection. I mean, it can be in a kids' bucket, I just want there to be enough.



**Ed Gamble**

I like that you're spending so much time talking about what sort of bucket it is. We weren't questioning the bucket.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like a seaside bucket. I think you either think of a bucket of, like, those big tin ones that they use in rural productions of Annie, or little seaside buckets. I think a seaside bucket.

**James Acaster**

In the shape of a sandcastle?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I wouldn't request it, but if it came that way I also wouldn't be angry about it, because olives are, kind of like, sea tasty, aren't they? So, like, it wouldn't not make sense.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want a little shovel in it to eat the olives with?

**Nicola Dempsey**

That would be cute.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes? I think we should do that, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I like that, yes.

**James Acaster**

But this is all, like, none of it's been used in a sandy place.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, it's not, like, pre-loved, it would have to be new, I think.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough.

**Ed Gamble**

This is interesting, that you've picked olives as a starter.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because I would say olives are, like, a pre-starter.

**Rosie Dempsey**

They often come with the bread.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

I was thinking you might have hacked poppadoms or bread with his. You could have hacked that course, had the olives, and then had a different starter now. It's too late now.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It is too late, and I'm not smart enough to think that way. I think this is just I get three things.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, but I feel like you can pick at them and not get full.

**Ed Gamble**

Picky stuff again.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Picky stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

It's picking.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And I want them to be the size of-, you know those, like, machines that you put 10p in and it'd give you a little rubber ball or a gobstopper? I want them to be, like, that size, so they're really nice and meaty.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Hold on, do these exist in the real world, or is this your fantasy olives?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Am I allowed fantasy olives?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Cool, then they're my fantasy olives.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Nicola Dempsey**

They're not, like, massive.

**Ed Gamble**

They're slightly bigger than the biggest olive available.





**Nicola Dempsey**

A regular-, yes, exactly.

**Rosie Dempsey**

A golf ball size olive?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, that's too big, don't be ridiculous.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, God, sorry. Forget I ever spoke.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like a 10p piece, maybe.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's a normal olive, lots of olives are that kind of size.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm thinking the olives you get at Nando's, pretty big.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Halkidikis.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Excuse me?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Halikidikis? Is that what they're called?

**Ed Gamble**

And hali-fi-giti to you too.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No, there's definitely an olive called that. Or haklidiki, I don't now, it's up to you.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm on board.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You choose which one.

**Nicola Dempsey**

You said the word 'definitely', and then each time you say another olive I'm like, 'You've got no idea actually, have you?'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, it's all in the same-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, but just, like, really meaty, and some of them are stuffed with stuff, and then you've got little bits of sun-dried tomato and things as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, the Nando's olives are an absolute shoo-in for that, I think.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

With the-,

**James Acaster**

Garlic.

**Ed Gamble**

You get the bits of mushroom and the garlic now and again.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, all of that shit.

**Ed Gamble**

So good.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Little bits of chorizo and things like that.

**Rosie Dempsey**

What's your favourite-,

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, okay, you're adding things as we go, I like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Is it more of a starter now if I'm, like, adding extra bits of stuff to it?

**James Acaster**

Sure. But you might be in danger of adding so much stuff that the olives are just an ingredient in a dish.

**Ed Gamble**

In a bucket of salt.

**James Acaster**

The chorizo, that was the step over to, like-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Okay, I'm going to stop there.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Are you going mainly green olives?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I like a black olive as well. Mostly green, but I'll do a black or, like, the little purple-y ones.

**Ed Gamble**

And pitted?



**Nicola Dempsey**

I would like the stones out.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. They can have had them in at some point, because I think that adds, like, a flavour.

**Ed Gamble**

Why do people bother? Why does anyone sell an un-pitted olive?

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's so undignified.

**Ed Gamble**

Because we know that it's possible now to take the stones out, why are we doing that?

**James Acaster**

It's not like it tastes better.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't taste better with the fucking stone in. And I have it, it's like, 'Oh, great, now I've got to find a space on my saucer,' or whatever, 'To, like, put this stone in a shameful way in front of everyone.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And you have to spit it out. There's nothing more disgusting than sitting in a restaurant and spitting things out of your mouth, that's not a compliment.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not, yes, that's the opposite of what a restaurant should be.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. And it also bothers me when people spit them out and there's, like, still half an olive on it.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like, just, you lose half the olive on the stone.

**James Acaster**

Oh, man.

**Ed Gamble**

We're saying all this-,



**Nicola Dempsey**

But then you've got to sit there and suck the stone dry.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm pretty sure Rosie's starter's going to be a pocketful of olive stones.

**James Acaster**

Yes, those stones, all the bits people didn't eat.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I will take Nicola's packet of spat out stones.

**Ed Gamble**

'I'll make a stock out of them.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

'Call me Captain Stones.'

**James Acaster**

What is your starter?

**Rosie Dempsey**

My starter would be I would like really thinly cut pieces of steak. Like, I used to work in a butcher's shop as a butcher, and-

**Ed Gamble**

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

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's funny that you're immediately like, 'As a butcher-', before you-

**James Acaster**

Who's a butcher?

**Ed Gamble**

Start questioning that I'm a hype man or something, 'I was a butcher.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

When we used to get new steaks into the shop, or, like, a nice steak, or an off-cut, the chefs out the back would always cook it up, and just cook it perfectly because they were all good chefs. And they'd slice it up into-, they were, like, lovely thin slices, and you'd just go into the back and just eat all the different steaks. And it was divine, so I just want a platter of-, I want it to be cooked by them, because it always felt right, all different-, like, give me eight, nine, ten different types of steaks, and just slice them nicely, salt and pepper crusts, maybe a little bit of garlic butter I could dip them in.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Swipe it in.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Swipe it in, yes. Whip it up in. Yes, I'd like that because I don't want to be-, I mean, it would probably be one giant steak worth by the end of it, wouldn't it?



**Ed Gamble**

I love this, this is great.

**James Acaster**

You've cheated, it's good.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But I think I would like that, because they're picky still, salty to get the taste buds saluting. Yes, I'd like full-on big meat for my starter.

**Ed Gamble**

Full-on big meat.

**James Acaster**

Full-on big meat.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you were a butcher in this butcher's shop.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But there were chefs out the back.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, yes, everyone, sort of, crossed over a little bit. There'd be, like, a couple of guys who would make food for the shop, but all the butchers knew how to do a-, if you're a butcher you've got to know how to cook a good steak. So, we'd have, like, hot plates and stuff out the back as well, and barbecue, we had the (talking over each other).

**Ed Gamble**

What was the name of this place?

**Rosie Dempsey**

It was called Bespoke Butchers in Toronto.

**Ed Gamble**

Sounds great.

**James Acaster**

Toronto?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, it was the best. Yes, we lived out there for a few years.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, I became a butcher for a year and a half.



**James Acaster**

That's what you do. When people go travelling, get a job as a butcher.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, you just get stuck-,

**Ed Gamble**

We all go through our butcher phase.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, happens to the best of us. It was the best job ever, it was so good.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I loved it.

**Ed Gamble**

It does sound good.

**James Acaster**

Better than the job you have now?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I do fantasize about it when I'm dying on stage. I always think, 'I'd love to have a little pork chop in my hand now.' When I'm in Peterborough and being told the most interesting thing about the town is the passport office, I'd love to be hacking a little piggy up.

**James Acaster**

Nice.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you say eight or ten different cuts of steak.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, you know, you can go from a rib-eye, lovely.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, take us through them.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You'd have all the biggies. I have tenderloin, it's one of my least favourites, but it would be lovely and stuff. Tenderloin, I have my rib-eye, I'd like a nice sous vide chuck tail, that would be nice. Bit of sirloin, a bit of sirloin tip, bit of hanger steak, bit of the hanger so it would be nice to have a marinade on the hanger steak. How many have I done there? Six. Oh, a bit of tartar-, not tartar, yes, steak tartare, I was thinking of tartar sauce. A bit of tartare, but I think I'd like my tartare as the hanger steak tartare, rather than a tenderloin tartare.

**Ed Gamble**

A bit more bite to it, is that right?



**Rosie Dempsey**

Just more taste. Tenderloin just doesn't really give me a lot at all. That's all I need. If that's six or seven then that's actually I need.

**James Acaster**

You don't want a rump steak well-done?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't really like rump that much. When you know you've got all the other good ones, I don't like it well-done, no.

**James Acaster**

Greg Davies likes that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Greg Davies-

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, does he?

**Ed Gamble**

No, he's filet, he wanted filet.

**James Acaster**

Oh, he wanted a filet steak.

**Ed Gamble**

Well-done filet.

**Rosie Dempsey**

A filet well-done?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

Can you imagine?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Why?

**Rosie Dempsey**

You should just eat your shoe.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's terrible

**James Acaster**

Yes. That was his dream meal.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No. Oh, I used to like him.



**Ed Gamble**

He said it with such glee as well because he knew how much it would annoy us.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's terrible, but if you're going to have anything well-done it should be the tenderloin because it's soft.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but nothing should be well-done.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That is terrible.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, at the start of this meal, this dream meal, are you both looking over at each other's plates and thinking, 'Maybe I'll have a little bit of that'?

**Ed Gamble**

'A little pick of that.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

If it's my dream meal, I don't know if I want to be eating it with you.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, I would say the same. But if we were-, which, we eat a lot together-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, look, this is your dream meal. Who are you eating this dream meal with? I just assumed that you'd be eating this meal together, but we haven't even talked about this. You can eat separately.

**James Acaster**

Listen, it's the dream restaurant, so anything can happen. So, just for this, like, meal, you can just not be able to see each other, or just for the time you're having the meal, the other one, I could make them dead? Alive after the meal again.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Or, you could be eating separately in, like, you know in Love is Blind when they go into the little pods? You could both be eating in separate pods.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, or back to back.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, back to back would be fun. Or, just like you doing me an ASMR of your eating-,





**Nicola Dempsey**

I don't want that.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I just hear it through my earphones of you sucking on an olive.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, absolutely not. Going, 'Mmm, mmm,' I can just hear the rustle of you sprinkling cereal crumbs or whatever the fuck you're eating.

**Ed Gamble**

Can you hear you digging into a bucket of olives.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And squelching as you get down to the bottom.

**Rosie Dempsey**

The good thing is if we did eat together it would be just eat. Like, sometimes when you're eating with friends you don't really take in the whole meal. And we can happily sit and eat and not talk to each other.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I love the idea that we've gone to the dream restaurant, we're sat at a table together in silence, not even looking-, actually, how we are on stage of just not acknowledging that the other person's there at the same table.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, you've got to be sat on a table just looking outwards.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, like we're at our wedding.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'd have a TV playing with something, maybe. I could sit with you talking just a little bit every now and again, 'How was your meal?' 'Yes, nice, how was yours?' 'Yes, nice.'

**Ed Gamble**

So, this is your dream meal, and you're suggesting that you'd be sat together, not really talking, and you'd have a TV over Nicola's shoulder so you could watch that?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. I would be fine, I don't know if I've got the mental capacity to think about alternatives right now, but I would be more than happy for that to be the scenario.

**James Acaster**

Great, all good stuff.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But otherwise you're on your-, I would enjoy being on my own with a TV.



**James Acaster**

That doesn't surprise me.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But then there is that joy of sharing it with-

**James Acaster**

'Here comes bleak-o with some more (talking over each other).'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Are you having this, like, delightful meal on a tray like in Matilda? Just on your own.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No, I would like a normal plate. I like a white plate, I don't like anything too decorative.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Even I didn't realise how depressing you were, actually. Everything you're saying is the kind of stuff that I think I would expect myself to say, and you've, like, outdone me on that kind of stuff. A white plate? Like at a Premier Inn buffet?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Honestly, yes, because then you don't get any clashing in the colours. You know sometimes when you're eating and it will say, like, the name of the restaurant underneath and you'll think, 'Oh, that's a piece of-, oh.' And it's not food, it's just the writing. Or, like, you'll think, 'Oh, that's a piece of salad,' or something.

**James Acaster**

No, I've never gone to eat the writing on a plate.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never been fooled by the writing on a plate.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Or just, you know, you think there's more on the-, I just like plain white, or just something that's flat and normal.

**James Acaster**

So that you don't get tricked by the plate.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I just don't like-, yes.

**James Acaster**

So you don't go and clang your fork into the plate as you try to eat the cartoon of a befeater or whatever is on there.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. But I don't see a huge problem with that, I think that's quite a simple way of living, and it's quite nice.



**James Acaster**

Yes. And also, I don't think your starter's bleak. I think the starter is very nice, it sounds delicious.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I think my starter is (talking over each other).

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's great, I'm really into that starter, yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And cooked by people that I like.

**James Acaster**

Yes, and that's good.

**Rosie Dempsey**

The experience is there, it would remind me of my good days.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, I know you don't like a plate with anything on it, but when you started going through this steak starter, I imagined a big plate with, like, one of those maps of a cow on it, and each bit of the steak is on the body of the cow where it comes from.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't like that, no.

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**Rosie Dempsey**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

For her, too exciting.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Firstly, I'll know where the bit of the cow-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you'll know already.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'll know where it comes from.

**James Acaster**

Yes, okay, so that's no fun for you.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. Secondly, I don't really want to stare in the eye of the animal that I'm eating, I don't need to do that.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you're a butcher, so that's mad.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I literally did stare into the eye of the real human.

**Ed Gamble**

Needed to get over that.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. But, you know, when you're eating you don't need to be reminded of it, do you? I know where it's come from, I know the journey of the cow.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't need the map.

**James Acaster**

And you'd just be constantly trying to-, 'Ah, more beef! Ow, I hurt my hand again! Oh, I'm just going to take this to the dishwasher. Oh, actually, there's still some more on this,' straight in with your face, smash your teeth on the china. 'Oh, I tried to eat the cow again.' For your main course.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Do you want to go first?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'll go first, we can topsy-tailsy as we go. Topsy-tailsy? Is that a phrase?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I hate that you've just said that.

**James Acaster**

That's classic.

**Ed Gamble**

If you need a new double act name at any point, I think-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Topsy-Tailsy.

**Ed Gamble**

Topsy-Tailsy would be great.

**James Acaster**

That's Topsy, this is Tailsy.

**Nicola Dempsey**

People couldn't feel more embarrassed for us if we were called Topsy-Tailsy, I think.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Topsy-Tailsy makes me think that we would be doing an act like-, you know the woodlice in A Bug's Life where they're just flipping each other around on, like, little see-saws and stuff?

**Ed Gamble**

A little circus act, yes.



**Rosie Dempsey**

That could be fun. Anyway, my main course, this is pretty classic but I love a curry, I love a spicy curry so I really thought about this long and hard and, at the end of the day, it's a spicy curry that I really-, that is my dream meal. I would like a selection of spicy curries though, and one non-spicy, like a sweeter curry, like a-,

**Ed Gamble**

Korma or a butter chicken, or-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, no, not a korma. Maybe a butter chicken, or, like, just a tikka masala. Actually, yes, let's go tikka masala, and then, just a selection of 4 or 5, just little bowls of curry. The pashwari naan, the pilau, the poppadoms. Can I have the poppadoms in that bit?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I'll have the poppadoms in that bit.

**James Acaster**

Ha, Nicola's furious.

**Ed Gamble**

Uh-oh.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm going to let it go.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That is part of the-, it's part of the meal, you can't really have a curry with a-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Why would you offer poppadoms and break if you're allowed to order it for your main course anyway?

**James Acaster**

People can hack the menu, we're happy for people to hack it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, then call me a menu hacker.

**James Acaster**

Some people who listen to this podcast think it's very strict, even though we've never been strict with anyone, really. People are like, 'Why do you force people to choose between these things? It's, like, we haven't done that, we haven't forced anyone.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

I love all the chutneys. I like the chutneys that you don't quite know what they are as well, the funny colours. You get a red one every now and again or a yellow. They all taste very similar but we're not quite sure which one. I love the onion salad, I love that, lashings of that.



**James Acaster**

Lashings of onion salad.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I love a lime pickle. Maybe, like a home-made lime pickle or something, not like the jar ones, like a really good one. Yes, a bit of mango chutney. Yes, I love all the dips.

**James Acaster**

You're not even looking at the stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

I love all the dips.

**James Acaster**

Staring up into the corner, what curries have you got?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, this is a thing as well, I don't really-, I eat, like, a lot of all-, I try and have a different curry wherever I go so I just lose track. If I need to make a quick decision, I'll ask for a madras but it's a bit spicy, yes? I like a jalfrezi but I'll always ask for that spicier. I like anything that's got the fresh green chilli in it, and you bite into it and it, like, gets you going for each mouthful. I'd, like, maybe have a bite of the chilli and then a bite of the chicken tikka masala so I can get a bit of spice out the masala, you know? I don't like anything too dry, I like a good sauce. I like it when you get big chunks of pepper in there. Yes, no, I'm really up for trying, sort of, anything, as long as it's spicy though, that's the real big (talking over each other)-,

**Ed Gamble**

I like that you have a system as well, that you have a bit of the spicy one, bit of the less spicy one, then you're back into the-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. Because, often with spice, you lose any, sort of, sugar, and sugar is very nice in a curry, like a real sort of dinger of a bit of sug. So, I will, like, mix that in, especially if it's creamy as well, and you've got a non creamy, like a jalfrezi isn't too creamy, so you can just get the creamy sauce going with the jalfrezi. I do like a mix as well, a big curry soup, yes. And if you've got any recommendations, I'll always take them as well.

**James Acaster**

So, if you're going to a curry house for the first time and you look at the menu-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Are you just going for the one that has the most little chillis by the side of it?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Definitely, yes. Naga, I will be partial to one of those but-, is it Naga? I'm probably saying it wrong, aren't I?

**James Acaster**

I think I say Naga but that's, like, I don't know what I'm on about.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Naga? Naga? I don't know. If I ordered, I would say Naga, I think. It depends, some have, like, a



three chilli and some have a four chilli. Sometimes I won't get the four chilli because it's subjective, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You never know what the chef is thinking that day. So, yes, I often won't risk it on a Naga, just in case.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you've got these little bowls all around you, you know?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

In a demi-clock?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And you're dipping in, you've got everything, but you've got a full thing there?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, a big white plate in the middle that I can just pile it all on to.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, I forgot about the white plate, yes, yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, the naan on the side. I like a naan that's folded as well, when it's folded over so that it gets a little bit wet and moist in it, do you know what I mean?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I know what you mean.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I like that, which-, like steamed.

**Ed Gamble**

Or from the bag, I quite like a naan from the bag.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I love a bag naan.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, a wet naan bag, it's really good.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. And when you open it, you get the lovely smell that comes out as well. Actually, I would like a tiny bit of garlic naan as well, with that. I like-

**Ed Gamble**

Is that-, are you saving that for tomorrow (talking over each other) to wipe up some butter?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, that is to save. (inaudible). I was trying to think, actually, quite logically, of what I would like and, yes, I think a garlic naan would be a bit nicer the next day, for sure, yes. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Well this is, like, that's quite a feast. Are we looking at a feast for your main as well?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Not really. I mean-, well, now I feel the pressure to order a bunch of stuff. But, no, there's a restaurant in-, I forget where it is. It's next to the Mary Poppins Theatre. I don't know where that-,

**James Acaster**

Old Compton Street?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Old Compton Street, yes. Called Wun's Tea Room, and they do this iberico char siu pork with, like, a sugar skin, and it's one of the greatest things I've ever eaten in my life. It's so good. I really like salt and sweet together. So, it's, like, exactly that. It's a little bit caramelised but you've got, like, the really nice porky, meaty, fatty bits, just that with a nice little clay pot of rice and that kind of stuff. The end.

**Ed Gamble**

That's-, I've never been there.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's so amazing. (talking over each other).

**Ed Gamble**

What's it called again?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Wun's Tea Room. WUN.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's really good.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's it's all, you, sort of, go underground and it feels like the 60s or 70s, you sit in little bamboo chairs and all of that kind of stuff.

**James Acaster**

Oh, amazing.

**Nicola Dempsey**

They've got, like, amazing cocktails and-, oh, it's so good.

**James Acaster**

Is that where they're always queuing?





**Rosie Dempsey**

I've never seen a queue out there, you know?

**James Acaster**

There's one place on Old Compton Street, they're always queuing up.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, the place next to Shack Fuyu-,

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's not that place?

**James Acaster**

It's not that one.

**Ed Gamble**

No, no, no.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's literally on the corner.

**James Acaster**

People are always queuing outside that one.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's, yes, literally on the corner. I went with a friend the first time I went, and walked straight past it, even though it's on the corner. That's not an interesting story.

**Ed Gamble**

I like it.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Tell it again. Yes, it's just really-, everything about it, like, there's just loads and loads of stuff you can pick off that menu but those are my favourite. They're just so good. It's just really, like, aromatic and flavourful, and a lot of salt and sweet and-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's a good sharer as well, like, just bringing out an-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Order of everything.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't try and get in on this.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's really good if there's two forks.

**James Acaster**

Yes but you're watching TV or whatever. You're not part of this meal.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes, you've missed it.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And I want the most decorated plate you've ever seen in your life.

**Ed Gamble**

You want the entire plate to have a, sort of, high-res picture of pork on it?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, yes, yes, where it looks like a 3D illusion, like a street artist has painted it on the plate in chalk.

**James Acaster**

So far, if I was going to have a dream meal made out of these, I would have had Rosie's starter but I'd have Nicola's main.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's a meaty meal, so far. You've got a plate of steak and a plate of pork loin.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It sounds delicious though.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it does.

**James Acaster**

Those sound-, they're the things I want to try so far.

**Ed Gamble**

I really want to try that pork.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's legitimately incredible.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's delish.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's so good.

**Ed Gamble**

We've got to go.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We had some good pork the other day.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

At my-, we went out for my birthday to Sabor, Spanish restaurant, and upstairs they do roast suckling pig and you can either get a quarter, or a half, or a whole roast suckling pig, and we got a half a roast suckling pig, and it came and it was amazing.

**Rosie Dempsey**

How big was it?

**Ed Gamble**

Like that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Holy shit.

**Ed Gamble**

It was big, wasn't it?

**James Acaster**

Guess what-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, it was a big suckling, it was a biggy pig?

**Ed Gamble**

It wasn't, like, a biggy pig. It was a-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, it wasn't a hog.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It was a mini pig.

**Ed Gamble**

It wasn't a hog, yes, it was a little pig but it was amazing.

**James Acaster**

Cooked to perfection, guess what they cut it with? Guess what implement they used to cut the suckling pig?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Their own fingers?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Did they use the shaking, like, mini saw?

**Ed Gamble**

No need. It was so tender.

**James Acaster**

Because it's so tender.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Their fingers? (talking over each other).



**James Acaster**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Where they blew on it? They cut it with wind.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's, sort of, dodgy, in pandemic times, it didn't feel great that they were just blowing all over it.

**Nicola Dempsey**

They put a tiny desk fan in front of the pig and let the skin slowly fall off the bones.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want to reveal?

**James Acaster**

A plate.

**Ed Gamble**

A little plate.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh, that's lovely.

**James Acaster**

They got a plate and they just cut it with the plate.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh my God.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's so-, like, just a normal plate?

**James Acaster**

Yes, a normal plate.

**Ed Gamble**

It was incredible.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's amazing.

**James Acaster**

They wanted to show off how-,

**Ed Gamble**

The head is on there, the face is there, which I didn't have a problem with.

**James Acaster**

No, but the really fun thing was, you know, they cut it all up with a plate in chunks and the face was just one chunk on its own, and everything else that they'd cut up was, like, face-sized as well, and they were passing the plate around, the waiter was, and got to my girlfriend and she couldn't quite see over the plate and thought that the face was just the same as everything else. She just thought that was a normal one, and so she just took it so nonchalantly, just got the face and just put it on her plate, really happy, like, 'Thank you very much,' and everyone else, I knew, because I know here,



she didn't mean to do that. But everyone else thought, 'Wow, she's really just gone for that, straight away. She's going to eat the face, I guess. That's her favourite bit,' and I had to be like, 'That's the face.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh, God.

**Ed Gamble**

She looked down, we saw her go, 'Thank you, very much,' put it on her plate, and then look down and go, 'Woah.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, she was so, absolutely, just, like, (inaudible).

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh my God.

**James Acaster**

But you ate the face in the end?

**Ed Gamble**

I ate the face in the end, yes, I had a little bite of the face.

**Rosie Dempsey**

The face is good, pig face is actually great. Have you ever had, I think it's guanciale, which is cured pig cheek. I think it's guanciale, it might be something else but-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I think I have had it, it's like a-, yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's delicious. Pig cheek is, like, just as good as lots of the other-, the pig's the only animal that you can pretty much eat every single part of the pig, even the tail. You can use them in very interesting ways.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never seen snout being used. Do you reckon snout could be used?

**Rosie Dempsey**

No, but I reckon-, I'm sure there's something. There must be-

**Nicola Dempsey**

There'll be, like, meat in there, won't there?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Meat in their snout?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think there'll be a little bit of meat in there, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

A little bit of meat in the snout.

**James Acaster**

Wasn't there something-, that's the way you went, that you recommended to me?



**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm a Celebrity?

**James Acaster**

Manteca, maybe. They did, like, a snout thing?

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think there was snout in there.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I thought you were going to say a snout fest.

**Ed Gamble**

Snout fest? Yes, it's all snout.

**Nicola Dempsey**

How much snout can you eat?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think there was snout in there.

**James Acaster**

I don't know. I don't know, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I reckon, I'm sure you could probably eat a snout, I'm sure. I wouldn't, myself.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Too much?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'd watch someone else do it first and then see.

**James Acaster**

Yes, well you would if someone ate an entire pig and just left the snout. You would be in there, like, 'Don't throw that away.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Yes, leave that, leave that for tomorrow.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Put it in my little jiffy bag.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, grate it onto my cereal.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Put it in a soup.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that, yes, that pork sounds incredible.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Highly recommend.

**James Acaster**

It sounds so good, I'm going to seek that out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Sorry, what did you eat your suckling pig with?

**Ed Gamble**

We got loads of stuff with it, didn't we?

**James Acaster**

We got a bunch of different sides, a bunch of different things. But, you know, because it's a sharer place, so we had some octopus that was like butter, melted in the mouth like butter, delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it was so good. Amazing croquetas, really good. There was some potatoes with it as well.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely everything on the menu was amazing. It was such a good meal.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think octopus is the most disgusting thing in the world. Have you never seen the videos of them? How can you watch a video of that and then think that you can eat it?

**James Acaster**

What do you mean?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I avoid the videos of it because I think they're delicious, genuinely, like, I've never seen My Octopus Teacher thing. I won't watch anything where everyone's like, 'Oh, octopus is as clever as a four-year-old boy,' it's like, 'Well, that's pretty thick.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

That's not impressive.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite thick, if you met a human who had the intelligence of a four-year-old boy, you'd be, like-, unless it was a four-year-old boy, you'd be like, 'I'd eat you.'

**James Acaster**

You would eat them?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Mine's more of, like, I don't really care too much for the octopus. It's the look of them, it's absolutely grotesque. When you see them, like, going through a small hole in a boat, they fit their giant, stupid



fucking head through a tiny hole in the boat and then slither back out or jump into the boat through the tiny hole. No, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

I saw a video of an octopus the other day, like, crawling along a beach, basically, sliding along a beach, and its head was so big it was lolling. It was lolling along.

**James Acaster**

What are you watching that for?

**Ed Gamble**

Someone showed it to me.

**James Acaster**

I thought you said didn't watch any videos of octopuses?

**Ed Gamble**

Charlie showed it to me.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I didn't realise-,

**Ed Gamble**

We were having one of our great dates, Charlie showed me a-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Watching an octopus hump its way along the sand. On one of our days off the other day, we went to a beach somewhere in-, the gig was in Norwich so somewhere around that area, someone was, like, 'There's loads of seals there,' and I thought there was just-, there'd be a smattering of seals. There were fucking hundreds of seals, I've never seen so many. They fucking stank. It was the worst thing I've ever smelt and I've never been so embarrassed for an animal because I'd never realised until that point that they've got no arms and they literally just hump their way around. Like, they just flop around.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But they're gorgeous to look at, they look like giant labrador things.

**Nicola Dempsey**

They do, like, they look really pretty and cute but watching them move, I was like, 'Oh, that's humiliating. That's a real-, I'm really embarrassed-,'

**Rosie Dempsey**

They hump for a little bit and then stop because they get so tired, because they're just giant chunks of fat, and then hump a little bit more. They have to find all their different place on the sand. So, they'll hump a bit and they won't get to the right place that they need. So, they've accidentally, like, touched another seal, and then the other seal will hump itself round, and move the other seal with its humping. We were there for hours just watching it. The whole beach-, if you're ever in Norwich, go and see the seals.

**James Acaster**

It doesn't sound great.

**Nicola Dempsey**

My favourite thing about them is they get tired and then they just lie on their sides with their little fins crossed over their chest like they've died.





**Ed Gamble**

That's sweet.

**Rosie Dempsey**

They are gorgeous to look at, but they fucking stink.

**James Acaster**

I'm really glad to be a human after those chats, actually. It seems like the best one. Dream side dishes?

**Ed Gamble**

You've both done a canny thing and put a lot of the side dishes with the main anyway. So, this is like a little extra bonus side dish.-

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'm not adding these because I particularly, like, love vegetables, but I feel like I need a vegetable.

**Ed Gamble**

Fair.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I don't eat many. So, I know that it's something I need. So, just, like, a lot of greeny-, I like a long-stemmed broccoli with an asparagus. Just that kind of stuff and, like, a nice, kind of, aromaticity, buttery, garlicky, sesame seedy-, I sound like truly the most boring woman in the world but I just want a lot of greeny shit.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it sounds tasty.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think it would be just to, like, offset the sugar and the salt, just something, still salty vegetables, but at least you know it's a vegetable.

**James Acaster**

So, what are we talking exactly? Asparagus, long-stemmed broccoli?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Asparagus, long-stemmed broccoli. You can chuck some spinach in there. some, like, mangetouty, greeny, beany-, I like a crunchy green bean rather than a soft green bean.

**Rosie Dempsey**

What about an edamame?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I didn't ask you. I feel like you're suggesting an edamame because you want to eat some edamame off my dinner.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I love edamame.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I don't like edamame. So, there will be no edamame.



**Ed Gamble**

I don't think you two should have this dinner together.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It would just be me trying to touch her food and getting hit away.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Taking little pieces so that you can take it home in a little bag.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. Just any kind of green veg. Just that.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That's so unlike you. You are not a veg eater at all.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, but-

**James Acaster**

Any kind of green veg. But be specific though.

**Ed Gamble**

I think Nicola has been specific enough. Hot, steamed vegetables.

**Nicola Dempsey**

How much more specific? I can give you the length of the asparagus if you want.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I prefer the thin-

**James Acaster**

I want to know the exact vegetables.

**Ed Gamble**

I think we've heard the exact vegetables.

**James Acaster**

But then added on the end was any green thing. I just want to know.

**Ed Gamble**

But you know the sort of thing. Anything steamed green.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes and I've been more specific than broccoli. I've said long-stemmed broccoli.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I feel like you're trying to push us into saying the wrong thing.



**James Acaster**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You're trying to push us to say the secret ingredient.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh my God. Are we walking near it?

**James Acaster**

I'm not trying to push anything.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Are we?

**James Acaster**

I just want to be specific. I just want to make sure we've been as clear as possible so that we know what we're talking about.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Are you not enjoying this podcast, so you're pushing your secret ingredient on us?

**James Acaster**

No, no. Listen, the way it's working, we've got two guests on today doing separate meals. If one of you picks a secret ingredient-

**Nicola Dempsey**

Are we both out?

**James Acaster**

That one person is out.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Thank God.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Wonderful. That's the only upside to being a double act. That's the only upside.

**Nicola Dempsey**

The other one has to watch from the window outside.

**James Acaster**

And I just want to make sure we're fair.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You're the least subtle person I've ever met in my life.

**James Acaster**

Someone's never said just anything-

**Ed Gamble**

'Maybe keep talking.'



**James Acaster**

Just anything green in there. I was, like, 'Well.'

**Ed Gamble**

'So, name all the green things.'

**James Acaster**

It would be quite funny to chuck someone out when you've backed them into a corner and made them say it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it is really funny. Yes. Entrapment. But what do you want as a side?

**James Acaster**

Yes, what do you want? And you can have anything you want.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Can I remind you that you said all your sides and your main already? So, maybe we just stop there?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't need anything green.

**James Acaster**

Well, forget it then.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'm thinking maybe a little portion of my mum's spaghetti bolognese. I'd like a little bit of that.

**James Acaster**

What the? What?

**Rosie Dempsey**

But not a big one because I don't want to get full up. Just a tiny one. She just cooks them-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

To go with your curry?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is it good, her spaghetti bolognese?

**Rosie Dempsey**

It is lovely, yes.

**James Acaster**

No, I'm not asking you.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Sorry.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think it's good, but, again, yes, it's fine. I mean, it is good-,



**Rosie Dempsey**

It's brilliant.

**Nicola Dempsey**

but I don't like it enough to order it in a restaurant, with all due respect to our mum.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I've been eating spaghettis in a restaurant, and if I get that in a restaurant-

**Nicola Dempsey**

I haven't because you make it in food tech.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you say, 'I've eaten spaghettis in a restaurant?'

**James Acaster**

Yes. Spaghetti bolognese, that's rule number one.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I've had more than one spaghetti. I've had plural spaghetti in a restaurant and I would be over the moon if it was mum's. She really simmers it for ages.

**James Acaster**

Over the moon.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She puts extra tomato in it. She'll do chopped tomatoes and passata. So, it really, like, just creates this lovely soupy.

**James Acaster**

It sounds disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

You like sloppy food, don't you?

**James Acaster**

Soupy bolognese.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I like thicky-,

**Ed Gamble**

You like sloppy old food.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

A big sloppy baby.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I really do. You can guffaw all you want, but I do.



**Ed Gamble**

I love the idea as well, you created a situation there where you say, 'If I ordered a spaghetti bolognese in a restaurant, I'd be over the moon if it was mum's.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Just like mamma used to make.

**Ed Gamble**

In a restaurant, you eat a whole bowl of spaghetti bolognese, and, then, just at the last second, your mum just pops her head out of the kitchen just, like, 'It was mine.'

**James Acaster**

'Woohoo. I'm over the moon.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

And you, like, float into the air and just spin around in euphoria.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She goes, 'Gotcha.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Mum.'

**James Acaster**

Your mum would say 'Gotcha. I made the meal.' 'What mum?'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Our mum doesn't look too far from the mum on the Dolmio sauce.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes?

**Ed Gamble**

The puppet?

**Rosie Dempsey**

She's got dark hair.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Except that she's not Italian. She's from Portsmouth.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She has got dark hair though and it looks like a mum.

**Ed Gamble**

Who's the mum on the sauce? Because, genuinely, all I can think of is the puppet.

**James Acaster**

All I can think of is Grandma Crunch.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, in the advert, I just assume that there is.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's still a puppet. It's just the puppet mum.



**Rosie Dempsey**

Puppet mum, but it's only the dark hair, really.

**James Acaster**

Your mum looks like a puppet, is the only thing. That's what I'm gathering from you.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I could have said she looks like Swedish chef. I think Dolmio mum is better.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I think you're going to google what that puppet looks like when we get out of this room and realise that you are quite spectacularly wrong.

**James Acaster**

Have you got a photo of your mum on you?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Let's get a look. We'll judge if this looks like a puppet.

**Ed Gamble**

I'll get a picture of the Dolmio puppet up.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Someone google Grandma Crunch.

**Ed Gamble**

The Dolmio puppet mum doesn't have dark hair.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Does she not?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh my gosh. She's got grey hair.

**Ed Gamble**

She's got grey hair.

**James Acaster**

Grey hair.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Our mum maybe looks a bit more like-

**Nicola Dempsey**

Dad?

**Rosie Dempsey**

The guy, then because he's got dark hair.



**James Acaster**

Okay, great. Why's it taking you so long to find a photo of your mum?

**Nicola Dempsey**

She doesn't look like that.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Your mum looks like a very normal person. Absolutely looks nothing like any of the Dolmio family.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's the dark hair and the smile, I think.

**James Acaster**

What are you talking about? That's a normal smile, normal haircut, glasses.

**Nicola Dempsey**

That's also not a good photo of her. She looks haunted.

**James Acaster**

This is her on her graduation day. We're not even get into why all the photos that Rosie is showing us of their mum has a mortarboard on. Every single photo.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I hadn't even thought. Every single photo, she's graduated from something.

**James Acaster**

She's graduated from somewhere else.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Cookery school.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I don't have another one. It's either that or when she's really young.

**Ed Gamble**

With graduating from university when she got her BA.

**James Acaster**

That's what I'm imagining. She's coming out the kitchen now. When you're in the restaurant, you've eaten your spaghetti bolognese, and then the kitchen doors burst open and she's there in her full mortarboard and gown. 'Gotcha.'

**Ed Gamble**

Holding a scroll. 'Gotcha.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Covered in tomato sauce or a little white chef chat, but on top of a mortarboard.

**James Acaster**

(inaudible).

**Ed Gamble**

So, you've got a little bolognese?





**James Acaster**

Just a little taster, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Like a ramakin of bolognese.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Just to remind me of the woman who shoved me out.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Did she say, 'Gotcha?' Did she pop out and say, 'Gotcha?'

**James Acaster**

Yes. 'Gotcha.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Gotcha. A little bit. Gotcha a little bit.'

**James Acaster**

Dream drink?

**Nicola Dempsey**

So, I struggled with this in general. Can I get, like, a pallet cleanser between everything? Because it wouldn't be part of my dream meal necessarily, but it is my dream drink. Is that okay?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I want the first cup of tea you make when you've been away for a long time. I like my tea in a specific way, and I really miss not being able to drink it when I'm away, and I want it at, like, that temperature where it's hot, but it doesn't burn your mouth. So, you can, like, drink it and it, kind of, buzzes all the inside of your mouth, but it doesn't take the skin off your tongue.

**James Acaster**

And I'm not trying to trap you again, but are there any specifics about this tea?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Asparagus in it.

**James Acaster**

Because you're saying it has to be how you like it. So, like, what are you doing? How much milk is in it? How long are you leaving the teabag in for? What colour is it?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I use a PG Tips teabag. Keep it simple.



**Rosie Dempsey**

There's no other teabag that's worth consuming, I would say.

**Nicola Dempsey**

This isn't about you.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Sorry. Can I?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Please.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But, hey, we can all completely understand why you had to get that thought out of your head because, 'There's no other teabag worth consuming, I would say,' that had to be on record.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I open my shirt and it's tattooed on my chest.

**Ed Gamble**

I've got to say as well, we made a joke right at the top of the podcast about Brexit tastebuds. I think the first cup of tea you have when you've been away is the most Brexit thing I've ever heard in my life.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I know and I really hate it. I really hate it.

**Ed Gamble**

When you've got to sit there and drink all that foreign muck, and then finally get home to good old Blighty and have a proper cup of tea. That's the taste I want.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I meant more, like, Travelodge teabags where it's like a little dirty cup and a UHT milk, where it just doesn't taste ideal.

**James Acaster**

Would you even bother with that?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes because I drink tea and water and that's about it.

**James Acaster**

Really?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I, like, drink booze, but-

**Rosie Dempsey**

And ham smoothie.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Ham smoothy, tea. I drink an obscene amount of tea.

**James Acaster**

Wow.



**Ed Gamble**

How many cups a day?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I can do eight to ten and I drink, like, big double mugs.

**James Acaster**

Wow. You like tea.

**Ed Gamble**

That's what I'm getting from that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. I sound completely normal.

**James Acaster**

I haven't had a cup of tea in years.

**Ed Gamble**

No. I don't drink tea at all.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I fucking love it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Do you drink coffee? Do you drink hot drinks?

**Ed Gamble**

I drink coffee all day, yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Do you?

**James Acaster**

I very rarely drink coffee.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, you're not a hot drink man?

**Ed Gamble**

Hot chocolate.

**James Acaster**

I love hot chocolate. I'll have a herbal tea, but I don't think I've had a cup of tea since 2013.

**Ed Gamble**

What happened in 2013?

**James Acaster**

I had my wisdom teeth out, in bed feeling sorry for myself, and, I mean, I didn't get to go to the shops for ages. I ran out of normal tea, started just moving onto the herbals, noticed that, actually, I was quite enjoying myself, never went back.



**Ed Gamble**

Whenever there's a story like this, which is just, like, a weird part of James' life, I always just look at Benito for the whole thing because he loves nothing more than a story like that from James. 'Had my wisdom teeth out.'

**James Acaster**

He really laughs at anything that's, like-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Are you laid up for that long when you're wisdom teeth are out that you-, how long could you not leave the house for to, like, get more tea?

**James Acaster**

Well, I got unlucky. What happened was-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh, no.

**James Acaster**

I got a thing called dry socket where they take out your wisdom teeth-,

**Ed Gamble**

How did I not know this?

**James Acaster**

And, instead of everything just, like, you know, healing back up and cool, there was a hole that went from, I guess, just the outside world, down my gums, and straight to the bone. So, then, air was getting in through my mouth and touching the bone that was down below, and it really, really hurt.

**Ed Gamble**

The hole wasn't from the outside world, James.

**James Acaster**

Well, that's where all holes start.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but it wasn't out of your face. There wasn't a hole in your face.

**James Acaster**

There's a second hole, which is my mouth, and that leads to the outside world. So, the air would go-

**Ed Gamble**

Through the mouth.

**James Acaster**

Outside world, into my mouth, down the hole in my gums, straight to the bone, and it really hurt. So, I was laid up in bed, and I kept trying to get emergency dentist appointments and couldn't, and, obviously, I was just on liquids only. So, went through the teabags pretty fast, and then it was onto the herbal tea.

**Ed Gamble**

Wasn't the tea going-,



**Rosie Dempsey**

Filling the hole?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it was horrible.

**Ed Gamble**

The tea's part of the outside world as well, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it was horrible, but it was either that or, you know, not have anything.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, you didn't even eat? You didn't consume-,

**James Acaster**

I had soup.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh my gosh.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that's getting in from the outside world.

**James Acaster**

Yoghurt. Not a yoghurt pie, but I'd, kind of, mainly go over to one side of the mouth. You know, try and get it away from the dry socket.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, loll the head over?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

God. That actually sounds terrible.

**James Acaster**

It wasn't nice and I had loads of glove oil that to numb it up so it didn't hurt as much. I was in a tiny little bedroom at that point. You could touch all the walls while laying in bed and the whole thing stank of cloves by the end. It just stank of cloves.

**Ed Gamble**

Imagine this guy calling you bleak. This guy who was in a bed where he could touch all walls with his feet and arms and stank of clove oil.

**James Acaster**

And had dry socket.

**Ed Gamble**

It's like something from the dark ages.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but that who I was, not who I am.



**Nicola Dempsey**

Was there straw all over your floor and a donkey next door? That's what it sounds like.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And a piss pot.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I once made a soup and it was the worst soup I'd ever made in my life. It had loads and loads of, like, herbs and stuff in it, and spices, and I spent ages making it, and when I ate it, it tasted like porridge, and it was fucking filth. And I was really angry because I'd spent the whole day making it, and Rosie came home from work and was, like, 'I can fix this,' and put in a handful of cloves.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I reckon there was over nineteen cloves in there.

**Ed Gamble**

'I can fix this.'

**James Acaster**

'I can fix this. Here's the worst ingredient ever.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

When you use a clove, you use, like, one or two maybe, and she literally put in a fistful of cloves. And, so, not only did it taste like-, it was grey, it looked like gruel. It was supposed to be Indian wedding soup. It was a bad wedding. It looked like porridge, it was grey, and then every mouthful you took, you got, like, eight cloves.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It, like, coat, literally coat your mouth, you'd feel like a sheen on your whole mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

Was that the name of the recipe, Indian wedding soup?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It wasn't a soup that you were making to take to an Indian wedding?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I would have been the most least welcome guest.

**Rosie Dempsey**

We shoved it down the toilet.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And shove is the right word. Just punching it down like Play-Doh. It was absolutely awful.

**Ed Gamble**

Why did you shove it down the toilet?

**Rosie Dempsey**

It was inedible.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, no. I understand you wanted to get rid of it. That bit I understood, you wanted to get rid of it. Why the toilet?

**James Acaster**

Why not the bin?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Because you can't put it down the sink because it will just clog up the sink.

**James Acaster**

Oh, no. That wasn't what we thought was the first option. We were thinking the bin was the first option, not the sink.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Because, then, you've just got a bag of wet in the bin and if that bag breaks-

**James Acaster**

Why not straight to the outside bin? I'd go straight to the-

**Rosie Dempsey**

Imagine if that bag broke and the Indian wedding soup went all over the bin and the floor. We would be cursed for never getting married ever again.

**James Acaster**

I would, personally, put it in a bin bag-

**Ed Gamble**

Then take the bin bag straight out.

**James Acaster**

Then take the bin bag straight out.

**Nicola Dempsey**

But what if it bursts in your-

**Rosie Dempsey**

The toilet is so much better than that. You don't waste a bin bag. The toilet is there.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And it's used to getting just-

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's used to getting anything down it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It's used to getting an Indian wedding soup down it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It should be happy to get an Indian wedding soup.

**James Acaster**

A wedding soup with extra cloves.



**Ed Gamble**

'Are you feeling alright today?' 'No. Honestly, I've just done an Indian wedding soup with extra cloves.'

**James Acaster**

'Were you at a wedding?' 'No, no. I made it with my sister.'

**Ed Gamble**

That sounds like, me and my friend, Alex Rosedale, once tried to make-

**James Acaster**

Rosedale.

**Ed Gamble**

George's Marvelous Medicine out of his mum's medicine cabinet.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

We just poured all these, like, pills in and stuff. Oh, God. His mum found us doing it and went absolutely apeshit. She was, like, 'Have you drunk any of this? Make yourselves sick. Make yourselves sick.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Had you actually drunk it?

**Ed Gamble**

No. No, no, no. We literally just poured everything we could find and there was, like, pills bobbling around in the top and stuff.

**Rosie Dempsey**

That is so funny and, like, so high stakes. So high stakes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And also so, I think, our age of the 90s of, like, Roald Dahl just causing absolute havoc for all children everywhere. We used to think one of our teachers was a witch when we were, like, eight-years-old and we just called her a witch all the time, which I think is very funny and we enjoyed it as children, but, I imagine, as a teacher when you've got enough stuff going on, you're just, 'Fuck off. Just fuck off.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. 'Stop calling me a witch.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. This is embarrassing for you.

**Ed Gamble**

We had a teacher who genuinely, I think, was a witch.

**James Acaster**

Interesting.





**Nicola Dempsey**

Was her wig always slipping back?

**Ed Gamble**

It was genuinely like she-, like, a high bun. Definitely no toes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. Purple eyes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, for sure.

**Nicola Dempsey**

She did this when you walked past.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Nicola Dempsey**

She didn't like the smell of children.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**James Acaster**

We've only got one dream drink so far.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, yes. Mine is, I think in Toronto, there's a beer company called Steam Whistle. It's a Pilsner and I just remember drinking it and thinking, 'This is perfection. This is great.' When it's cold, I love the bottle that it comes in. It was hard because if it's my dream restaurant, I absolutely love champagne. I don't know anything about it, but when someone gives you a glass of champagne, it's lux. Lux? It's luxurious.

**Ed Gamble**

This is so luxurious.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I love my champagne.

**Ed Gamble**

Champagne is so luxurious.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So bubbly.

**James Acaster**

You're spoiling me.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, madame. You're spoiling me with this luxurious champagne.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Just one bubble after another.



**James Acaster**

Ambassador.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, do you want the beer or do you want the luxurious champagne?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Can I have both, do you think? Might I have a double? Maybe beer to start with my curry. Actually, no. Maybe a glass of champagne at the beginning like I'm at my own wedding.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'll bring the soup.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And then beer through the curry, the Steam Whistle, and then just probably champagne for the end. I'll just chop and change. One in each hand.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that's allowed.

**James Acaster**

So, a champagne and a pilsner.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's very different, isn't it? Very different dream drinks here. Like, at this point, if you had to, you know, have to have something off of each other's menus, what do you think is the worst thing you could be given from the other person's menu?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I could eat all of yours, but probably a sand bucket full of olives would be lowest down.

**Nicola Dempsey**

There wasn't sand in the bucket.

**Ed Gamble**

There's probably a bit of sand left over from the last time it was used.

**Rosie Dempsey**

A little bit, and there are stones in there as well.

**Nicola Dempsey**

No, I requested a clean bucket, I think. I'm a clean bucket woman.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Probably olives because, you know, you can just get them from a shop at any point.

**Nicola Dempsey**

And I don't think I'd need your bread.

**Rosie Dempsey**

No. You like a bit of bread.



**Nicola Dempsey**

I didn't say I didn't like it. I said I didn't need it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I've seen your eyes light up when you get a good sandwich.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Again, I didn't say I didn't like bread. I said I didn't need your bread.

**James Acaster**

We're learning why you don't talk to each other on stage. So, we arrive at your dream dessert then. We haven't even had you, like, try and predict each other's at any point.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes. This would be a good time to predict.

**James Acaster**

Do you think you might know what the other person's going to choose as a dream dessert?

**Rosie Dempsey**

I could guess at yours. Shall I?

**James Acaster**

Go on.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Shall I, boys and girls?

**Ed Gamble**

Topsy and tails here are probably (talking over each other).

**Nicola Dempsey**

Boing.

**Rosie Dempsey**

My guess would be a baked Alaska.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Wrong.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh, okay.

**James Acaster**

See, the delight in your eyes when you said wrong there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, 'Wrong. Wrong.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

'Stupid.'



**James Acaster**

'Wrong. Fuck you.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

To be fair, even if it was right, I would now do an absolute 180. I'm thinking of all the desserts now.

**James Acaster**

Why did you think baked Alaska?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I do like baked Alaska.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. Well, for that reason.

**Ed Gamble**

Quite straightforward.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Mum makes a cracking one.

**Ed Gamble**

'Gotcha.'

**James Acaster**

'Gotcha. That's my baked Alaska.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

The fucking Dolmio woman.

**James Acaster**

Throws her mortarboard in the air.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, freeze-frame.

**Nicola Dempsey**

That is the baked Alaska. And she just stays there forever. She just freezes in the air and we never see her again. Yes. I do like a baked Alaska. I don't really like desserts. So, that's, like, one I'd choose if I had to have a dessert, but I don't really like them.

**James Acaster**

So, what's about to happen now?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I want a bowl of stale Wotsits, please.

**James Acaster**

Go fuck yourself forever. What? Are you joking?

**Nicola Dempsey**

No.



**Ed Gamble**

It might be the worst one we've ever had.

**James Acaster**

It's the worst one we've ever had. What the living fuck.

**Ed Gamble**

It's the worst one we've ever had.

**James Acaster**

How the fuck?

**Ed Gamble**

Not even I can get on board with that.

**James Acaster**

What? Even somebody who likes Wotsits can't get on board with that. A bowl of stale Wotsits for dessert.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I'll be doing my own solo show from now on.

**James Acaster**

We were talking about baked Alaskas a minute ago. A bowl of stale Wotsits. How is that a pudding?

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's not, but I don't like puddings, really.

**James Acaster**

Why don't you put the baked Alaska, which you admitted you liked a minute ago and put the stale Wotsits somewhere else in the meal?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Because I don't want a dessert. Like, I never order a dessert when I go to a restaurant. I never, ever, ever want it.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I can vouch for that. She doesn't.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

Why?

**Ed Gamble**

Can we talk about why stale Wotsits?

**James Acaster**

I don't want to talk about this.

**Nicola Dempsey**

You know when you go to a party in 1997 and it's, like, a kid's birthday party, and everyone's picked at loads of stuff, and there's bowls of stuff, the Wotsits go stale and they taste so lovely and chewy.



**James Acaster**

No.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I fucking love them and, again, I like picking. So, I want to eat and really enjoy my main meal, so I don't want to be, like, holding myself back for a dessert, but I can just pick at a Wotsit and I can just pick at them until they're done.

**James Acaster**

It's the worst dish anyone's ever chosen on the podcast ever. Not just dessert, any course ever. A bowl of stale Wotsits. What the fuck?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's alongside Daisy May Cooper's Pizza Hut salad for dessert.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

For dessert?

**James Acaster**

Pizza Hut buffet salad for dessert with, like, croutons, and bacon, and stuff in it. That was bad and made me angry. This is way worse. This is not even a good version of the thing you've chosen. So, you haven't even said a bowl of Wotsits. You said a bowl of stale Wotsits, which I've had a stale Wotsit and it's disgusting.

**Ed Gamble**

They're not nice.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I fucking love them.

**James Acaster**

It's why they're not sold that way.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I buy Wotsits and I will open the bag, go away on tour for a week, and then eat them when I come home.

**James Acaster**

And have it with your tea that you've been missing.

**Ed Gamble**

Stale Wotsits is English wedding soup.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, it is.

**James Acaster**

What the-,



**Rosie Dempsey**

As mad as I think this is, there is actually quite a nice, like, joy in eating something that's puffy, but is slightly cracky. It cracks in your mouth.

**Nicola Dempsey**

It's chewy.

**James Acaster**

Right. Well done for making her case even worse.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes, don't need your help here.

**James Acaster**

You've made a bad thing sound even worse. 'There's a joy in eating something that's puffy, but cracky.' What? What?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Well, you get the, sort of, soft crunch and then it goes into pah.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Pah.

**James Acaster**

That's horrible.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Pah.

**Ed Gamble**

Right. Well, I might be coming round to the Wotsits.

**James Acaster**

No, you're not. There's no way you're coming round to it. You're saying you're coming round to it to try and wind me up.

**Ed Gamble**

And it's working, is it?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Would you feel the same feeling with, like, Chipsticks or anything else that's, sort of, maizey?

**Nicola Dempsey**

I like a stale Chipstick.

**James Acaster**

Stale again.

**Ed Gamble**

Skips?



**Nicola Dempsey**

No.

**James Acaster**

What the hell is the matter with you?

**Ed Gamble**

Stale skips?

**Nicola Dempsey**

They taste like communion bread, you know, like church bread, skips. A bit like fishy church bread. I don't want that, but yes. It's only, like, Chipsticks and Wotsits. If I stopped using the word stale and said infused with more air, would that make you feel better?

**James Acaster**

No, it wouldn't make me feel better.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Okay. Well, it was worth a try.

**James Acaster**

Well, maybe it would make me feel slightly better.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Oh. So, now you are coming round to it.

**James Acaster**

No, I'm not coming round to anything. If you had said for your dessert you want a bowl of Wotsits, I'd still go through the roof, but the fact that you went stale Wotsits, I'm going up into space. Absolutely horrendous.

**Ed Gamble**

See Rosie, she's over the moon at the moment.

**James Acaster**

Horrendous. Oh, man.

**Ed Gamble**

Gotcha.

**James Acaster**

And do you know what? I absolutely don't regret trying to push you to say the secret ingredient earlier. I wish you had said it. I wish you'd said it. It was rocket, by the way, and I wish you'd said, and you would have been out of the restaurant, and you never would have said stale Wotsits.

**Nicola Dempsey**

I would have stood outside eating my little stale bag of Wotsits, watching the rest of you enjoy a nice evening with our Dolmio mum.

**James Acaster**

You won't be outside eating your stale bag of Wotsits because we'd have chucked you out and you wouldn't have got anything that you planned on having in here ever again.





**Ed Gamble**

I suppose it's like a cheeseboard really. It's a similar sort of-, something salty and cheesy at the end of the meal.

**James Acaster**

Right. So, it makes it even worse. Congratulations. Yes. Even worse. The worst cheeseboard ever. Stale Wotsits. Oh my good God. What the fuck.

**Ed Gamble**

Rosie. No pressure.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Stale Chipsticks.

**Rosie Dempsey**

After seeing your reaction, I'm slightly nervous about this, but it is sugary.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Sugary.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Sugary. It is sugary.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it luxurious?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Champagne and sugar. I would love a really big bag of pick-n-mix.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

There we are.

**Rosie Dempsey**

But here's the caveat, and this is why I'm slightly scared to say it. I really love pick-n-mix that, you know the old, like in Wilco's, you get the Candy King, or like an old sweet shop?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like Woolworths?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, Woolworths. I like them to feel a bit old.

**James Acaster**

Great. Great.

**Ed Gamble**

Stale?



**James Acaster**

No problem. Stale sweets, cool.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I wouldn't say stale because I don't think sweets can go stale, but-,

**Nicola Dempsey**

What's your problem with stale Wotsits but not with stale sweets?

**James Acaster**

Oh, I don't know. Let me look at what course we're on. Fucking dessert. So, that would be why. That would be why. If you'd picked stale Wotsits earlier in the meal, I'd have let it go, we would have had a bit of a laugh about it. This is a crime.

**Nicola Dempsey**

If I'd have said, a few years ago, they made ice cream flavour Monster Munch, would you accept that?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I'd be more open to that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Well, that's not my choice. I was just checking the facts.

**James Acaster**

I know it's not your choice. If you said ice cream flavour Monster Munch, I'd be, like, 'Oh. That's definitely a dessert. It's a dessert flavour. I'd like to hear about this.' I'd ask questions about it, I'd be very intrigued, I'd maybe even want to try some ice cream flavour Monster Munch. I have no interest in ever eating a bowl of stale Wotsits, especially not for dessert. If I had a meal and the end dessert someone bought out stale Wotsits, it would be the worst meal I'd ever had. It certainly wouldn't be my dream meal.

**Nicola Dempsey**

So, what's in your pick-n-mix?

**Ed Gamble**

Fried eggs?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Fried eggs, definitely. I love anything, sort of, strawberryish. I love laces, I love the big snakes. Snakes.

**Ed Gamble**

The luxurious snakes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

A snake and a champagne.

**James Acaster**

Why does that make me laugh every time?

**Ed Gamble**

It is really funny.



**Rosie Dempsey**

I love the pink bottles that have the white foamy on the bottom.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, I'm not-

**Rosie Dempsey**

No?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. We're getting into territory I don't enjoy now. If you say white chocolate mice, I think we've pretty much parted company.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I would prefer a white chocolate snazzle. Is that what they're called?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Razzle?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Razzle.

**James Acaster**

I know what you mean. The little discs that have the hundred and thousands on them.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes. If I was going into chocolate territory, I would rather have the Razzles. Snazzles. What are they called? Razzles. Snazzles. I'd like a fresh bag of Snazzles.

**Ed Gamble**

It's basically Liza Minnelli now at an Odeon pick-n-mix. 'I need a Snazzle.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

Or what else do I like?

**James Acaster**

I still fear the chocolate ones in pick-n-mix.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'll only take a few. Just every now and again, you just need a slight different change of pace. So, a little white chocolate thing would come in. I do like a pink chocolate piggy sometimes.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never seen the pink chocolate piggies.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You never?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

You haven't been to the right pick-n-mix.



**Ed Gamble**

No, probably not.

**Rosie Dempsey**

They're pretty common now.

**Nicola Dempsey**

They're like little pig heads.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Pink pig heads.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I love a pig head. We've established that.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Your girlfriend would have one. Your girlfriend's just in the Woolworths pick-n-mix fondling them out on a plate.

**Ed Gamble**

Opens the bag. 'Oh God.'

**Rosie Dempsey**

With a little plate just getting them out.

**James Acaster**

Your mum pops out the pick-n-mix. 'Gotcha.'

**Ed Gamble**

Always in the mortarboard.

**James Acaster**

Always in the mortarboard. Just pops out, literally, pops her head out of the pile. 'Gotcha.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Mum.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like the Beadle's About of, like, cookery. Graduation and cookery.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I also had this other thought because I was thinking dream restaurant. I was trying to think of, like, perfect meal, but also dream restaurant, is do you remember in Willy Wonka when he eats the teacup?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was wondering, like, if I could get hold of that just to know what that taste was like.



**Nicola Dempsey**

'If I could get hold of it.'

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Rosie Dempsey**

So, if maybe if that was aside my pick-n-mix because pick-n-mix would be ideal, like, my death row kind of thing, but if it's dream, like something I can't get hold of, it would be Willy Wonka's little teacup.

**Ed Gamble**

He drinks from the chocolate river, and then?

**Rosie Dempsey**

He drinks and then he bites off the side, and I always just was so interested if was it possible-,

**Ed Gamble**

Do you hear that?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Grumbly.

**James Acaster**

Ed's tummy really wanting that chocolate river teacup.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I'm just thinking about the chocolate river teacup. That's amazing, isn't it?

**Rosie Dempsey**

You burst into Willy Wonka with a little cane and walk out the room, do a cartwheel.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Do a cartwheel over the table.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you. I just needed you to say my name. Do you want chocolate river in the cup or just the cup?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I'll have a bit of chocolate river because that's the whole experience really, isn't it? Yes, a bit of chocolate river.

**James Acaster**

Pre-Gloop falling in?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Pre-Gloop. I'd have a bit of Gloop in there, actually.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Fair enough.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, why not. Let me taste the boy.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough. Waste not, want not.

**Ed Gamble**

This new character you've established during the course of this podcast. 'Give me a glass of champagne and let me taste the boy.'

**Nicola Dempsey**

'Bring on the Gloop.'

**James Acaster**

Is there, like, foam bananas? Foam prawns? Give that to your tour manager.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I'd have a few, but I'm not huge on the prawns. They sometimes give me a bit of a headache, the shrimpy things. I would prefer more jelly-ish. I love it when you get, like, a wine gum, but they're the old ones that would say the actual thing, or they say Burgundy on them or port, and if you, sort of, bend them, then you can see the top crack. Do you know what I mean? Like, when they're old and nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Cracky and puffy.

**Nicola Dempsey**

A crack and a puff.

**James Acaster**

Cracky and puffy.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Cracky and puffy. I'll take that. Oh, I love the bobbly red and black disk thingy. You know, the little-, what are they called?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Like the berries?

**Rosie Dempsey**

The red and black bobbly things. The berries? Yes, the berries. Berries. I love-, only a few of them have them. Woolworths used to have them, but I haven't seen them since is the flat smiley faces. You get in green, orange, yellow.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Pretty much that. I love the spider-, sometimes they're octopuses or a spider and the bum will be jelly inside of it. Do you know what I mean?



**Ed Gamble**

You're making them up now. You're just making them up.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It's true.

**Ed Gamble**

We're not stopping you and you're going, 'I need to come up with some more. The spider and the bum is jelly.'

**James Acaster**

The bum is jelly.

**Rosie Dempsey**

It is jelly. There will be people who'll know what I mean. The bum will be, like, slightly raised or the octopus will be slightly raised and it will have more goopy stuff in it. I like that.

**James Acaster**

Cola bottles?

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, I will have one for the sake of it being a classic, but I'm not a huge fan on them but I'll have them.

**Ed Gamble**

They're my favourite.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Are they?

**Ed Gamble**

The sour cola bottles I love.

**Rosie Dempsey**

The pink and blue?

**Nicola Dempsey**

Did you like the pink and blue ones?

**Ed Gamble**

Not really.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Oh my gosh.

**Ed Gamble**

I really like the traditional cola bottles and, hey, does anyone else do this? I bite the lid, like the top off and pretend to drink the cola.

**Rosie Dempsey**

I was with you until the drinking thing.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes. I always do that. Every time I have one, bite the top off and go, 'Glug, glug, glug, glug, glug.' No?



**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

You guys are missing out on a load of fun.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Do you like the cherry cola bottles?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I like them. Yes. Yes.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Yes, they're good.

**James Acaster**

Yes, they were the best. At Paul's corner shop, around the corner from where I grew up in Kettering, that would be my go-to. The giant cherry cola bottles. I was very excited about those and they never counted the sweets in it. So, let's just say I did alright.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Is the business still going?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it is, and every time I go back to Kettering, if I ever go in that shop, it does feel weird. It feels like I'm a little kid again. And I went in there to buy-, yes, me and my friends, we were going to my mate's house, we went in there to get some beer beforehand, and it felt very weird, buying alcohol at Paul's corner shop. I felt like I was going to get ID'd. I was, like, 'Here we go.'

**Ed Gamble**

Is it still Paul who works there?

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, I don't know. I think maybe it's his family still, but, like, it still pretty much looks the same.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Yes. Did you get, like, those 20p ice poles and stuff in there as well or those weird little plastic tubes that were just filled with blue?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. I'd get those on the way back from school.

**Rosie Dempsey**

And Solero Shots?

**James Acaster**

Yes, Solero Shots.

**Ed Gamble**

Solero Shots are really good.

**James Acaster**

We've never spoke about them on the pod and they were fucking great.





**Rosie Dempsey**

They are so, so good and, like, genuinely quench your thirst. Genuinely. And the Spider-man ice lollies, do you remember them? The pink ones? Remember them?

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Rosie Dempsey**

One step too far there.

**Ed Gamble**

You've made something up with spiders again.

**Nicola Dempsey**

He's got jelly in the ass.

**Ed Gamble**

You guys must have seen it. The spiders with the jelly in the ass.

**Rosie Dempsey**

The spiders were there, and the octopuses were there, and the candyman was there.

**James Acaster**

I hate to keep on bringing your mum up, but it does feel like you're going to get us so we believe one of these, and then your mum bursts in, says her catchphrase, and leaves.

**Rosie Dempsey**

She's come all the way up to London.

**Ed Gamble**

'Gotcha. There's no spider with a jelly in his ass.'

**James Acaster**

'Bye girls. I'm very proud of you.' I'm going to read your menus back to you now, see how you feel about them. Water course, you both said sparkling water. Poppadoms or bread, we've got poppadoms and bread. Nicola's got poppadoms, Rosie's got the bread and spoonfuls of butter. Starter. Nicola, bucket of fantasy olives and sun-dried tomatoes with chorizo. Rosie, six to seven types of thinly cut steak with garlic butter from-,

**Rosie Dempsey**

Bespoke Bitches.

**James Acaster**

In Toronto. Main course. Iberico char sui pork and rice. Rosie, selection of spicey curries, tikka masala, Peshwari and garlic naan, pilau rice, poppadoms, how did we ever let her get away with this, with all the dips and lashes of onion salad. Side dish. Nicola, green veg with butter and garlic. Rosie, mum's spag bol.

**Ed Gamble**

'Gotcha.'



**James Acaster**

'Gotcha.' Drink. Nicola, first cup of tea that you have when you come back from being away. Rosie, champagne and Steam Whistle pilsner. Dessert, slightly old pick-n-mix with Willy Wonka teacup, and that's it. The end of the episode.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe the end of the podcast.

**James Acaster**

Maybe the end of the podcast.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Certainly the end of our career, I think.

**James Acaster**

Yes, well, listen. We're not going to be working together again.

**Nicola Dempsey**

That was a risk I was willing to take.

**James Acaster**

You've crossed the line. I can't believe it.

**Ed Gamble**

I loved it. Thank you for crossing the line.

**Nicola Dempsey**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

I appreciate it.

**James Acaster**

I can't believe it.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want to say goodbye, James?

**James Acaster**

Forever?

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Rosie Dempsey**

Thank you for having us. It was a pleasure. It was a pleasure.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, thank you so much.

**Rosie Dempsey**

See you later.



**Ed Gamble**

I've had the night of my life.

**Rosie Dempsey**

More bubbles next time.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are. A lovely episode with Flo and Joan.

**James Acaster**

Yumma yumma. They got through it all without saying rocket as well, which I'm, kind of, annoyed about. I thought we've got two people, definitely one of them's going to say the secret ingredient, but neither of them did. We didn't get to chuck one out and have the other one in. That would have been so funny. I think we've got to book more people in pairs now so that that will happen one day.

**Ed Gamble**

And give increasingly broad secret ingredients. Like rocket, pretty broad. I think it's going to have to be dinner.

**James Acaster**

Pretty broad. Yes, we thought we were going to get them. I say we get on Jade Adams and her friend Babs together, and we make the secret ingredient hundreds and thousands again, and we chuck Jade out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes because no way that Jade will be able to resist immediately saying hundred and thousands.

**James Acaster**

She'll definitely have it as a starter and we will get rid of her.

**Ed Gamble**

As a starter, yes. 'Bowl of hundred and thousands.' 'Get out Jade. It's just Babs now.'

**James Acaster**

'It's just Babs.'

**Ed Gamble**

I'm on tour, [edgamble.co.uk](http://edgamble.co.uk) for tickets. The show's called Electric. I'm enjoying doing it, but, also, Flo and Joan are on tour. The wonderful Flo and Joan, who you just heard there. The show's called Sweet Release. Go and check it out, [floandjoan.com](http://floandjoan.com) for tickets to that.

**James Acaster**

Very exciting stuff. What more is there to say, Ed?

**Ed Gamble**

I'd like to thank Willy's Pies.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Willy's Pies for sending us some pies, some amazing pies.



**James Acaster**

Really good pies. Did you get the Bakewell as well?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Very, very nice.

**James Acaster**

That was great.

**Ed Gamble**

They sent us a curried mutton, they sent us a chicken and tarragon, and they sent us some Bakewell, and boy oh boy, especially that curried mutton. I think they change their flavours every week, go and have a look. I think they deliver nationwide, but thank you very much for those. Absolutely delicious.

**James Acaster**

Really nice and, you know, I mean, I know it sounds obvious, but the pastry is delicious, and that's what makes a pie, man. The filling, sure, it's important and they nail the fillings, but it's the pastry I fall in love with, Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and boy oh boy, am I in love with that pastry. I'm also under this jumper wearing a Willy's Pies t-shirt that they sent me.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

It says pie and mash on it.

**James Acaster**

Also, Ed, I'd like to say a big thank you to Hotel Chocolat for giving me my chocolate day.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, James had his chocolate day on my birthday.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I went there and they taught me how to make hot chocolate from my Velvetiser and I also did some savoury cooking with chocolate. I did some white chocolate mash and we did some, like, braised beef with this dark chocolate sauce, and people can do this themselves as well.

**Ed Gamble**

They can go for a day out.

**James Acaster**

They can contact Hotel Chocolat, you can go on the website, and you can book yourself a day in the kitchens there and learn how to make some chocolate, maybe even try some new flavours that haven't gone on the market yet. Who knows?

**Ed Gamble**

I was very worried because we were going out for a meal that night for my birthday, weren't we?

**James Acaster**

Yes, you were worried.



**Ed Gamble**

And I was worried because you were eating all your chocolate and texting me going, 'Oh God, I'm really full.'

**James Acaster**

Yes. At eleven o'clock in the morning I went for my chocolate day, and I got out at one, and I'd eaten a lot of chocolate, and I was very worried about it, and I knew I had Ed's birthday meal in the evening. So, I walked home for three hours in order to walk it off, did some exercise when I got home, and then went to Ed's meal, and I was ready to go.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you were, you were. Good boy. Thank you very much for listening. We will see you again next week, probably. Bye-bye.

**James Acaster**

Goodbye.