



Off Menu – Ep187 – Lily Allen

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, opening the dry-roasted peanuts of conversation, digging in the fingers of humour, popping them in the mouth of the Internet and licking off the dust of podcasts-

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble. My name is James Acaster. We are own the dream restaurant-,

Ed Gamble

Off your fingers-, because you get dust on your fingers and you lick it off.

James Acaster

- a guest in every single week, and we ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is Lily Allen.

Ed Gamble

Lilly Allen. Brilliant musician, actor, all sorts, multi-hyphenate. She's done it all.

James Acaster

And we're very excited to have her on the podcast, especially excited because she's got a TV series out now. A comedy?

Ed Gamble

A Sky original comedy no less. Dreamland, also starring Freema Agyeman, fantastic cast, and I think Kiell Smith-Bynoe is in it as well.

James Acaster

You're very good at promoting stuff like that. You saw that I was flagging there.

Ed Gamble

Floundering as per.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

But here I am.

James Acaster

Yes.



Ed Gamble

The hero of the piece.

James Acaster

Doing a professional job.

Ed Gamble

Gabby Best is in it as well, also wrote on it, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, Gabby Best is our hero.

Ed Gamble

Gabby Best is our hero. The best, Gabby. Very excited to speak to Lily about this show. She's also got a play coming up soon.

James Acaster

No big deal.

Ed Gamble

The Pillowman. You know, she's busy, what can I say, but she's carved out some time to come and speak to us about her dream meal, James.

James Acaster

Yes, which we appreciate very much. However, even though we appreciate it, if Lily says a secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick Lily out of the dream restaurant.

Ed Gamble

We're booting her back into the streets of LDN.

James Acaster

And this week the secret ingredient is-

Ed Gamble

Apples.

James Acaster

Apples. Now, there's a Lily Allen song called Apples.

Ed Gamble

And every time someone comes in who's had a music career we always praise the Gods when they have a song that is simply called a foodstuff.



James Acaster

Yes, and then we can do that.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So, what I'm going to say, rather than apples as an ingredient we'll go for just apples and apple.

Ed Gamble

Yes, if it's a course.

James Acaster

Yes. If Lily wants an apple as a starter, dessert, side dish, whatever.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I mean, quite frankly, even if that wasn't the secret ingredient, if someone said apple they're getting kicked out.

James Acaster

Yes. But no, they would deserve that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, for sure. But I hope she doesn't say it because I'm very much looking forward to meeting her and chatting with her, James.

James Acaster

Yes, as am I.

Ed Gamble

This is the Off Menu menu of Lily Allen. Welcome Lily to the dream restaurant.

Lily Allen

Hello.

James Acaster

Welcome Lily Allen to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time. Hello Lily.

Lily Allen

Hello.

James Acaster

Very excited to have this conversation with you, but also do you want us to flag up to the listeners that you've just eaten a lovely pastry and that your stomach might be rumbling?



Lily Allen

Yes. I have digestive issues and I just really ate a delicious sort of Danish?

James Acaster

I don't know. What would you call it Lily? So, it was for your birthday.

Ed Gamble

General Scandi.

Lily Allen

General Scandi pastry. I have had those things before. They're quite delicious, and whenever I see one of those things I always get stuck in. And I went and ate it quite quickly, no plate, just with my hands.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's the only way to do it.

Lily Allen

And I got in here and sort of forgot that I was going to be recorded, and that my stomach does tend to make some noises. So, prepare yourselves.

Ed Gamble

See, I'm a stomach noise guy as well, but it tends to be if I haven't eaten so that'll be the approach to me eating something and then that's settle the noises. But this is just your stomach working through what's happened to it.

Lily Allen

Yes. I'm actually really bad at-, I don't really get hungry. It's when I see food I'm, like, 'Oh yeah, I should eat.' But yes, I think that basically my stomach goes quite long, like, distances without eating, and then it has a little bit and it goes, 'Yes.'

Ed Gamble

So, the noises are the stomach celebrating essentially? Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes. I love food. I love eating, but I'm just not very good at remembering to do things. And I get up in the morning and I'm, you know, looking after kids and doings all the- yes, and I just forget.

Ed Gamble

I'm waking up and all I'm thinking about is food.

Lily Allen

Really?



Ed Gamble

I forget to do other things because I'm too busy thinking about food or eating.

James Acaster

Sometimes Ed doesn't come to this podcast because he's eating at home. Have these stomach rumbles ever happened while recording a song in the studio? While on set filming something?

Lily Allen

No, not. But I do make a habit of-, if I've got a gig I will eat lunch and then I won't eat anything until after I've performed because of that. And also just being on stage I feel, like, quite heavy when I've eaten. I think I'm probably, like, intolerant to all the food that I-,

Ed Gamble

All the food.

Lily Allen

- really like eating, you know what I mean? Like, I remember I used to drink oat lattes all the time and then I stopped for some reason. Oh, because I stopped smoking cigarettes, and I usually have a coffee with a cigarette. So, when I stopped smoking cigarettes I stopped drinking coffee, and then I started drinking coffee again and the first oat latte I had my stomach just went completely mental.

Ed Gamble

Oh, wow.

Lily Allen

I was, like, 'Oh, think I'm probably not-,'

Ed Gamble

Well, there's something not right here.

Lily Allen

Yes, I don't think oat milk agrees with me, but I've been drinking it for years. Anyway, that's interesting.

Ed Gamble

What else do you think you're intolerant to?

James Acaster

Oh, you wait till you hear the stories I've got, mate.

Lily Allen

But yes, and then when I'm on stage, you know, because now I'm a theatre actress, I definitely don't eat before I go on stage either. But that's more of a ritualistic thing, because I kind of like to go on stage and then people come backstage afterwards and we go out for dinner so that becomes like a sort of ritual.



Ed Gamble

If the character called for a stomach rumble, would you eat before you went on stage?

Lily Allen

No, because I think I would like to have fun with trying to make that happen on its own.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, you'd hope that someone on production is in charge of that sound effect, but then maybe, you know, a really dedicated actor who has to immerse himself in the role is, like-,

Lily Allen

Method.

James Acaster

'No, this is my stomach or nothing.'

Ed Gamble

I just think you can't make that with a sound effect, like, coming out the speakers. You need it to be localised to the actor's stomach right, so you need to mike that up and go for it.

James Acaster

Or maybe put a little speaker in the jumper, in the top, so the rumble comes from the tummy.

Lily Allen

You're in the wrong job.

James Acaster

Yes, I should be in sound design for plays.

Ed Gamble

I've often said you're the sort of guy who works backstage at a theatre.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, many people have said that about me. Many reviews. 'This guy should be backstage.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. Won't look you in the eye and he wears his keys on his belt.

James Acaster

You're doing a play soon.



Lily Allen

I am.

James Acaster

Of course, in June you've got a play coming out.

Lily Allen

I'm doing a play called The Pillowman at the Duke of York's theatre in London's West End. Very excited but very nervous.

James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

It's a very amazing play, and whenever I say to people I'm doing this play, The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh, people often say, 'That is my favourite play,' and I'm quite scared as a result of that.

Ed Gamble

You're feeling the pressure?

Lily Allen

Yes, but also there are so many lines. And I did a play a couple of years ago and I had quite a lot of lines, I was the lead, but it wasn't nearly as, like, meaty as this play. And I kind of struggled with that many lines, and this is, like, probably ten times the amount?

Ed Gamble

Wow.

James Acaster

Yes, he loves his dialogue.

Lily Allen

There are, like, seven monologues that are, like, five pages long.

James Acaster

Ah. Fuck off. Come on Martin, that's unreasonable.

Lily Allen

But yes, I'm really nervous about it. But, you know, it'll either be good or I'll be shit.

Ed Gamble

It'll be good, I can feel it.



James Acaster

I feel like it's going to be good. Saw him at a wedding buffet once, that guy.

Lily Allen

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes. Only turned up to the evening do or they didn't invite him for the whole day. But old Martin McDonagh sweeps in for the wedding buffet in the evening. I didn't say a lot but I looked at him, and he looked at me and-

Lily Allen

He only eats fish. He doesn't eat meat, so he would have been eating fish at that buffet.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, well everyone was saying it. Everyone was going, 'Who's the guy who swooped in late and then got all the fish?'

Ed Gamble

McDonagh, sweeping in and grabbing all the fish.

James Acaster

Like a hawk. Just coming in, grabbing all the fish. Wasn't talking, ironic, because I mean how many lines he gives everyone else. That's what I thought.

Ed Gamble

That's the first time I've heard this anecdote, James.

James Acaster

Well, it's barely an anecdote, I saw a man.

Ed Gamble

For you it is. But you're not just a theatre actor of course because you're in this new show Dreamland, a Sky original.

Lily Allen

Yes. It is a comedy drama, dark comedy, about a dysfunctional family of mainly women, actually all women. I don't think there are any men in the family at all. Oh, there's a husband but not any blood relatives.

Ed Gamble

So difficult for men to get parts these days.



Lily Allen

Yes, it's really tough out there.

James Acaster

Fight the good fight, fellas.

Lily Allen

It's very chaotic. It's about the sort of dysfunctional relationships within this family and, you know, all the sort of stuff that comes with that, and one sister played by Freema Agyeman who is pregnant with her husband's baby. And then I don't actually live in Margate, which is where it's all set by the way. Am I doing well at explaining this so far?

Ed Gamble

You're doing great.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

My character has been living in Paris and then comes to Margate. She's not very happy about it. She doesn't really like Margate that much. She also finds out that she's pregnant, but there is a twist.

Ed Gamble

A twist.

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You've got to watch to see what the twist is.

James Acaster

You can't say the twist.

Ed Gamble

You can't share the twist.

Lily Allen

Chaos ensues, yes.

James Acaster



I'm very excited about it. There are a lot of writers on this who I'm a big fan of, and I'm very excited to see Gabby Best, Sarah Kendall.

Lily Allen

Oh, you should be excited about Gabby. Sarah's terrible. No-

James Acaster

Yes. Actually no, it's high time someone said that. All people need to do is listen to Sarah Kendall's episode of this podcast to know how terrible she is.

Ed Gamble

It's the most disgusting episode we've done in this podcast.

James Acaster

Yes, she's revolting, and she said that when she writes her armpits just literally piss sweat all over the floor, so that was what she was doing when writing this.

Lily Allen

I tried to- and you can't tell. No, it was great fun. I really, really enjoyed it, and I've never done anything like this before. It's my sort of foray into, you know, the dramatic side of television. Obviously I've done other things with yours truly.

James Acaster

Yes, sure.

Ed Gamble

Would I Lie To You.

James Acaster

Would I Lie To You. And Lily lied and I remembered it as a truth forever. I guess that's how good an actor you've got to be, right?

Lily Allen

Yes, right?

James Acaster

If you can set the proper lie on Would I Lie To You, you think you can act with the best of them. You can do a five-page monologue.

Ed Gamble

Or you can tell McDonagh that you did do it when you didn't.

Lily Allen

Exactly.



James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Smart.

Ed Gamble

That's the way to use your powers.

James Acaster

Are you worried that some people are going come away from the play and think everything you said was true because you're such a good liar? And believe that's your life?

Lily Allen

Well, again there is a logical answer that would disprove that but I can't tell you it because it would give away the twist.

James Acaster

Aha.

Ed Gamble

But also, do bear in mind Lily I know that was a terrible question from the host so don't you worry about that.

James Acaster

Just wondered if you were worried about it.

Lily Allen

I'm not worried about it.

James Acaster

Okay, but let me make you a promise. By the end of this episode you will have spilt the twist.

Lily Allen

Okay.

James Acaster

That is going to happen. I'm going to get it out of Lily, the twist.

James Acaster

We always start with still or sparkling water, so tell us what is the twist?

Ed Gamble

Okay, that wasn't as subtle as you'd hoped it would be, James.



James Acaster

Still or sparkling water then?

Lily Allen

Who wants the twist? I would 100% say always still because of the digestive issues.

Ed Gamble

Yes, of course.

Lily Allen

And the bubbles would play havoc with my gut.

James Acaster

Yes, anti-bubbles?

Lily Allen

Very anti-bubbles, although sometimes I might have a cheeky Coca Cola. But it will always repeat on me in some way.

Ed Gamble

So, is that if you know you're not going to be in a situation where a loud stomach would be an issue?

Lily Allen

Yes, just friends and family.

Ed Gamble

I thought you were going with if you were going to be, like, alone or-

Lily Allen

No.

Ed Gamble

But it's fine, friends and family can come over. Stomach parping away.

Lily Allen

Get the Coca Cola out.

James Acaster

What have you got, ice in this water? Lemon, lime? Mint, cucumber?

Lily Allen

Probably just straight, you know.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I respect that.

Lily Allen

Don't love ice.

James Acaster

Room temp?

Lily Allen

Yes, room temp.

Ed Gamble

You a chugger or a sipper?

Lily Allen

Sipper.

Ed Gamble

Okay. I'm a chugger.

Lily Allen

I'm definitely not a chugger.

James Acaster

Big sips.

Ed Gamble

Big sips they call me.

James Acaster

You've never seen anything like it.

Lily Allen

Oh actually, only drink water in restaurants by the way. I'm terrible at drinking water. I'm not a very well-hydrated person at all.

James Acaster

Because you forget, just like with the food?

Lily Allen

Yes, there's that.



James Acaster

Yes, you were going to say that?

Lily Allen

Also, it's just boring.

Ed Gamble

But surely it's exciting to feel like you're hydrating yourself?

Lily Allen

No.

Ed Gamble

I feel that. If I down a pint of water I think, 'Oh great, I'm really doing something good for myself here.'

James Acaster

Wow.

Lily Allen

Yes, well that is not really something that features in my life very often. I never really do anything to make myself feel good. Literally only the opposite.

James Acaster

I mean, I'm jealous.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

If you feel like that. Like, it's like when other people go, like-, you know when people are properly, like, addicted to something, it could be anything, you know, desserts-,

Ed Gamble

Just anything plucked out of the air.

James Acaster

- cigarettes, whatever. And then they're, like, 'We're just gonna replace it with something else,' and they, like, replace it with exercise. And I'm, like, 'How have you replaced it with that?' That's not as nice or as fun, but I'm really jealous when they are able to do that. And they're just, like, 'Yeah, I just run all the time now, and I do this.' Whenever I go for, like, a run I just think, 'Oh, I absolutely hate this, and I wish I was eating a chocolate bar.'

Lily Allen

Yes, I agree with you.



James Acaster

So, if Ed's able to down a pint of water and go, 'I feel so good. I'm doing something so good for myself,' like an Enid Blyton character.

Ed Gamble

First thing I do every day, down a pint of water. You've immediately done something good for yourself.

Lily Allen

Well done. Well done you.

Ed Gamble

And then the rest of the day's downhill you understand.

Lily Allen

Right, okay.

Ed Gamble

But as long as I start on the water then I still feel good about myself.

Lily Allen

No, see I like coffee, tea. Herbal teas when it's, like, I shouldn't be caffeinating anymore. And a cheeky coca cola, and I really like- I live in America really so I can't really get this, but I do get it shipped over sometimes, and then if friends come and visit me from London I ask them to bring it. It's that Robinson's Barley Water squash with the peach flavouring in.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Lily Allen

So good. That's the only thing that I'll drink to hydrate myself really.

James Acaster

So, I mean we've let before on the pod, for the water course, do a little cheat and have a squash, because it's essentially water that you're just adding something to.

Lily Allen

Okay. Yes, I will.

James Acaster

Would you rather have that?

Lily Allen

Yes I will, or at any I'll rather have that, yes.



Ed Gamble

How strong are you making it?

Lily Allen

Not very. It only needs a touch.

James Acaster

A little touch.

Lily Allen

They don't really have squash in America. Because I've put that stuff in my fridge and one of our-, Also, no need to keep it in the fridge but for some reason I like having it in the fridge.

James Acaster

Yes, it's important.

Lily Allen

But I have a nanny, and she had only just started working for us and she-,

James Acaster

You're a bit old for a nanny, aren't you?

Lily Allen

I have two children who are nine and ten and I have a nanny. They're actually not too old for a nanny. I think I can do with one. Anyway, she made this for one of my daughters but didn't put any water in it, and when I told her, you know, 'You have to add water,' she looked at me like I was completely insane. She'd never heard of it before.

Ed Gamble

A whole glass of the concentrate?

Lily Allen

Yes. I was, like, 'You can't give that to my child. That's too much.' And she didn't understand the concept of diluting squash. It's not something that they have.

James Acaster

That's so dangerous. Absolutely go to the moon drinking one of them.

Ed Gamble

I told you. I said on this podcast before I did that at a roller-skating disco. Downed a whole pint of it.

Lily Allen

Squash?



Ed Gamble

Squash.

Lily Allen

Oh my good.

Ed Gamble

Because I thought it was pre-diluted because it was a kid's birthday party, I was also a kid. And I filled up a pint of it and necked it because I'm a glugger, straight down. It was only halfway down I realised-

Lily Allen

Oh, grim.

Ed Gamble

'This is a nightmare.'

James Acaster

50 million laps of the roller rink.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

My tummy would be doing somersaults.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, I mean, it would have been the end. It would have been the end of the whole party I'd imagine if you had it.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread. Poppadoms or bread, Lily Allen? Poppadoms or bread?

Lily Allen

That's a toughie isn't it? That's why you've asked it presumably.

James Acaster

The tough questions.

Lily Allen

To try and get some sort of conversation out of it.

Ed Gamble

Ah, you're wise to our techniques.



Lily Allen

I get it now. I mean, are there accoutrements that come with the poppadoms? Like, is it butter or, you know-,

James Acaster

It's whatever you want.

Lily Allen

Your mint sauce or the mango chutney.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

This is your dream restaurant.

James Acaster

People have even, you know, had bread with other little things, charcuterie or whatever.

Lily Allen

Oh, she's going.

Ed Gamble

She's off.

Lily Allen

Well, shall we give my stomach its own name so that we can-,

James Acaster

Sure.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I feel like we should, yes.

Lily Allen

- so that we can talk to her as a separate person if she starts making noises.

James Acaster

What would you like to call her?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I feel like it's your decision.



James Acaster

Yes, I think it's weird if we call-,

Lily Allen

What, have I got to name it?

James Acaster

Yes. If we do it's weird.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's weird.

Lily Allen

Well, okay. Nadia.

Ed Gamble

Nadia, perfect.

James Acaster

Yes, yes yes.

Ed Gamble

Perfect. Nadia the noisy stomach.

Lily Allen

Okay, Nadia's alright. She's just chilling. Poppadoms or bread. I think-, oh God, I mean we're talking just in terms of this course? It's not, like, for the rest of my life I can only have poppadoms or only have bread.

Ed Gamble

No, no don't worry.

James Acaster

No, no don't worry. It's just before the meal what d'you want bringing out? I promise for the rest of your life you'll have free choice.

Lily Allen

Okay.

James Acaster

You can have both.

Ed Gamble

That's such a funny thing to worry about though.



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I mean, 'What contracts am I signing here?'

James Acaster

Yes. It's a tough decision. It's like you know the twist in your play-, what is it again? Remind me what it is?

Ed Gamble

You'd be such a bad detective.

Lily Allen

Yes, you're terrible at this game.

James Acaster

I'm going to get you. I'm going to get you, I promise.

Lily Allen

I will have poppadoms and mango chutney.

James Acaster

Lovely.

Ed Gamble

Just the chutney?

Lily Allen

Nadia, relax. Just the mere mention of mango chutney.

James Acaster

Should I say as well? I like the raw onion. 'We'll have pickle please for Nadia.'

Ed Gamble

I love that Nadia likes different things to you.

James Acaster

Yes. 'What? We hate mango chutney. Why are you lying to them?'

Lily Allen

Oh dear.



James Acaster

Just mango chutney? You don't like the rest of them?

Lily Allen

I do like the rest of them, yes.

James Acaster

But you just want the mango chutney.

Lily Allen

No, I will have the mango chutney, and I'll have the little chopped onions. What else is in it? Coriander? Parsley or something?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Yes, that's all in there.

Lily Allen

And then lime pickle right?

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes, I'll have all of that. Sometimes the lime pickle's not very nice. Sometimes it's okay. I can take it or leave that, to be honest.

James Acaster

Really?

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

I used to never go near it.

Lily Allen

Mint sauce. Sometimes you have the little green mint sauce don't you with it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I love that.

Lily Allen

Yes, I like that.



James Acaster

Sometimes a really red hot one.

Lily Allen

Yes, I'll take it.

James Acaster

Really?

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you want it on the sort of presentational spinny wheel they bring?

Lily Allen

Like a sort of little mini lazy Susan?

Ed Gamble

Yes, a mini lazy Susan.

Lily Allen

Yes, I will have the mini lazy Susan. Yes please.

Ed Gamble

Love those things.

James Acaster

Yes. A bit more food should be in those.

Ed Gamble

Yes, all food.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Agreed. Nadia?

Ed Gamble

And Nadia.

Lily Allen

She's in agreement.



James Acaster

Lazy Nadia.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Or not lazy actually, very active.

Lily Allen

She's very active.

James Acaster

Yes. Is there a place you've had the best poppadom? If I was, like, going to get you the best poppadoms you've ever had, is there somewhere, a local curry house when you were growing up or something?

Ed Gamble

Not now in America, surely.

Lily Allen

I have to say I'm not really that keen on, like, posh poppadoms. And, you know, at this stage of my life I tend to find myself in curry houses that aren't posh. And I'm quite disappointed in a posh poppadom. I'd prefer just like, you know, those ones that just disintegrate in your hand.

Ed Gamble

Yes, when they're getting them out of like a hot drawer because they've just been done ages ago.

Lily Allen

Yes. I'm a little bit of a-, I don't know if I should reveal this about myself.

James Acaster

Is it the twist?

Lily Allen

It's not the twist. I have a bit of a weird stipulation when it comes to fast food. Basically, I can't really eat food if it hasn't been ordered for and made for me.

Ed Gamble

Hang on, in what sense?



Lily Allen

Well, like I can't go to McDonald's. I won't eat fast food like McDonald's or Burger King, and it's not because I don't like the taste of it. I do, but I can't really deal with the idea that you order something and it's just been taken from a pile of food that has already been made.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Okay.

Lily Allen

There has to be some kind of intention behind it for me. So, I can't eat plain food because it has also just come from a warehouse. Can veer away from this if it's, like, in a vacuum, like I can eat a packet of crisps.

James Acaster

A banana?

Lily Allen

I can eat a banana yes, because God made that for me.

Ed Gamble

Thank you God. He's a wonderful chef.

Lily Allen

He is.

Ed Gamble

Do you think God's making individual bananas for the people who will eventually eat them?

Lily Allen

Yes. Of course, yes.

James Acaster

God knows who's going to eat each banana, yes.

Lily Allen

But I just can't eat food that has not- I need to say, 'I would like that,' then someone make it. Then I'll eat it.

Ed Gamble

Right, so it wouldn't work, say, if a McDonald's employee went and got the burger and went, 'This one's for Lily?' That wouldn't help?



Lily Allen

I mean, if I said, 'Can you make it from scratch in front of me,' and he went to the freezer and got out the patty, and put it on the grill, then I could eat it. Because I can eat In-N-Out burgers in America because you can see it.

Ed Gamble

And they do the fries.

Lily Allen

And they do the fries live. Live. Live fries.

James Acaster

Live fries, yes.

Lily Allen

So yes. This doesn't make me sound like a very good person does it.

James Acaster

I don't think it makes you sound like any particular type of person.

Lily Allen

I mean, I suppose actually it's a sort of, like, anti-capitalist way of thinking of eating. Yes, I'm not really up for food mass-consumption and production of food.

James Acaster

Absolutely fair enough.

Ed Gamble

Also, fresh is best right?

Lily Allen

Also, it just plays havoc with Nadia. She hates it.

Ed Gamble

Nadia needs fresh.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, is it made specifically for you or is it made specifically for Nadia? That's the question.

Lily Allen

I mean, I think it's got to suit both our needs, you know? It's got to tick both our boxes to go in this box.



James Acaster

Dream starter.

Lily Allen

Does it have to be a traditional starter or could it just be a main course that I'm going to have for a starter?

James Acaster

Well-,

Ed Gamble

I'm so on board with this.

James Acaster

Let's hear it.

Ed Gamble

Straight away, straight away.

Lily Allen

Also, I'm a bit confused because there's this restaurant that I go to quite a lot. I say quite a lot, it's only recently opened, about six months ago, but I've been there since it's opened, whenever I'm in London. And it's called Dorian, and they have these delicious chicken liver parfait, which I think they must, like, squidge on through a sort of cake-, you know, like icing.

Ed Gamble

Like an icing bag, yes.

Lily Allen

It looks a bit like an icing bag, yes. They put it onto a soldier. It's like, you know, when you had egg and soldiers when you were a kid? It's like that. It's a sort of piece of toast and it comes along. It's not really a starter, it's almost like a pre-starter, but post bread. So, can I have that extra course?

Ed Gamble

Throw in a little canapé course.

James Acaster

Oh, is this a pre-starter?

Ed Gamble

This is a pre-starter. Because it sounds little right, and it's more of just like a little taste.



Lily Allen

It's very little. It's so rich as well. Like, you couldn't have more than one but it definitely wouldn't fill you up.

James Acaster

Like an amuse-bouche?

Lily Allen

Yes, okay. So, we've got that.

Ed Gamble

Yes, we got that.

James Acaster

So, that's in the bag. Amuse bouche, you got that.

Ed Gamble

I love this. Absolutely running rings round us already.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

I met up with two friends recently from America, and as soon as I sat down with them.

Ed Gamble

Here he is.

James Acaster

Oh, la-de-da. As soon as I sat down the first thing they said to me they went, 'Right, what would you say a row of soldiers is,' because they had clearly been having a debate with each other about Brits and what we say about that. And obviously as soon as I said it the lady of the couple, it's a straight couple-, the lady of the couple went, 'Yeah, I told you I was right,' and she was right. But then they told me the context that they'd had this discussion about was actually they'd watched a Bake Off episode, and Mary Berry had said that she wanted all the crimping on the pastry to be like a row of soldiers. And I think Mary Berry would have been thinking about actual soldiers of war.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Okay, right. What was the word?



Ed Gamble

It's another classic James Acaster story.

Lily Allen

What was the word?

James Acaster

Huh?

Lily Allen

What was the word for a row of soldiers.

James Acaster

Oh, I said it would be when you have some toast and you chop it into long thin bits.

Lily Allen

Oh, okay. Okay, I thought you were talking about, like, a collective noun, like sort of argument of witches. Like, what would you call a row of soldiers.

Ed Gamble

What would you call a load of soldiers?

James Acaster

Platoon.

Ed Gamble

A platoon of soldiers.

Lily Allen

A platoon.

James Acaster

Yes. I once fantasised about having a-

Lily Allen

Careful.

Ed Gamble

Okay James, you've told me about this before. This is a podcast man. You can't bring guests in here and start telling them about your fantasies. This Charlotte Church all over again.

Lily Allen

Oh no.



James Acaster

Oh man, Charlotte Church really ruined my life.

Lily Allen

We love Charlotte Church.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, she was a fantastic guest, and then James said, 'D'you wanna be in a waterfall?'

James Acaster

Never live this down.

Ed Gamble

Charlotte called James a pervert immediately. It was fantastic.

Lily Allen

What did you mean?

James Acaster

She wanted to have her water course from a waterfall, and she said, 'I want to hold the cup under the waterfall and have it-', I said, 'Are you gonna hold the cup under there or d'you wanna be under the waterfall?' And I was not thinking, like, dirty, pervy, wet T-shirt stuff.

Lily Allen

At all?

James Acaster

But Charlotte Church, man. She-,

Lily Allen

Went there.

James Acaster

She went there, she threw me in amongst it all, and everyone was, like, 'That guy's a grubby little pervert.' It's all people shout at me now in the street.'

Ed Gamble

Okay, so what are you fantasising about this week, James?

James Acaster

A toaster that has slots for soldiers.



Lily Allen

That is genius.

Ed Gamble

That is a great idea.

James Acaster

You can put a whole platoon in there at once.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

That is so clever. My daughter Marnie, who's my youngest daughter, she likes to have two dipped eggs for breakfast before she goes to school so I'm constantly making soldiers. That is my morning routine.

Ed Gamble

How many soldiers for two dipped eggs?

Lily Allen

I do, like, two quite big slices of sourdough, and then chop them that way and then in half, and so there's quite a big mound of soldiers.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Lily Allen

She doesn't really eat the eggs, she just eats the soldiers, with lots of butter.

James Acaster

And do you?

Lily Allen

Yes, actually you know what I do. I drop them off and I come back and I'll have the egg, but I've recently realised that my cat likes the egg, and I've walked in on the cat in on the egg. So, I've obviously come in before and eaten this egg, and my cat's been in there so I'm just-

James Acaster

You've eaten cat egg?

Lily Allen

Yes, I've been eating cat egg.



James Acaster

And just to be clear, because you weren't, like, as detailed, it's like eating the egg?

Lily Allen

My cat stands on the table and will lick the inside of the egg which I've left there, you know, to go and do the school run. I've come back, not realised the cat has been in my egg, and I've then eaten the rest of the egg. And it's disgusting.

Ed Gamble

I understood that story.

Lily Allen

Okay.

Ed Gamble

Absolutely perfectly the first time.

Lily Allen

Okay, good.

Ed Gamble

James, what did you think was happening?

James Acaster

Fucking the egg.

Ed Gamble

You thought the cat was fucking the egg?

Lily Allen

Okay, you are a perv. Okay, now they're going to be shouting at you on the street again.

James Acaster

You guys just sent me down that grubby road, and then I was, like, 'Oh, now the cat's there, on top of the egg.'

Lily Allen

Fucking it.

Ed Gamble

That's a great idea though, the toaster.

James Acaster

Cat fucking egg?



Ed Gamble

No, the-

James Acaster

That's not a great idea. I'm ashamed of myself. Don't encourage it.

Lily Allen

Oh dear.

Ed Gamble

The toaster with the soldiers.

James Acaster

Yes. So, we aren't actually on your starter yet, because we've got this amuse bouche which sounds delicious, but the starter-, is this when you're going to get a main course and change it into a starter?

Lily Allen

Yes, because this is the sort of thing that when I'm in London I go to the-, I've chosen things from English places because no-one's going to know what I'm on-, well, presumably people listen to you in America as well, right?

Ed Gamble

They do. Just a bit Lily.

James Acaster

Howdy y'all for listening, by the way.

Lily Allen

Maybe I should think about the American listeners, but I'm not going to.

Ed Gamble

You don't have to.

Lily Allen

Okay, I go to the gym in Knightsbridge, a very fancy gym, and I really work up an appetite in the gym as you do, as you go running. No, you go running?

James Acaster

No, I do go to the gym though.

Ed Gamble

He does, he goes to the gym.



Lily Allen

Yes, well you know what it's like. You work out.

Ed Gamble

You were on the exercise bike last night.

James Acaster

I was on the exercise bike last night. Texted him on the exercise bike. We text each other.

Lily Allen

Okay.

James Acaster

Ed was at home watching us on TV.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

That's Ed's evening.

Lily Allen

Nice. I am going to the gym, and after I've worked up an appetite in the gym I come out and what is in front of me? Harrods. So, I go into Harrods, to the food hall, and there's this little counter where they do chicken tikka wraps, and I'm going to have one of those because they're absolutely delicious and they feel very naughty. Mainly because there's nowhere to eat it, so you have to come out and then, like, find a place on the steps outside Harrods. And I'm in my gym gear, like, putting all the calories back on that I've just lost, and more.

Ed Gamble

But that's the joy of it, right?

Lily Allen

And, oh gosh it's so yummy. So, they make it in front of you obviously, so then I wouldn't be able to eat it, and yes I'll have the chicken tikka and then they have like a little pot of pomegranate seeds and a pile of coriander, fresh onions, fresh chillies. And you choose all the bits that you want and then they chuck it in, and they wrap it up. I think they bung it in the microwave maybe.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

Lily Allen

And then, yes, that's one of my favourite things to eat.



Ed Gamble

How spicy are you going on it? How many chillies?

Lily Allen

Pretty spicy.

Ed Gamble

Yes?

Lily Allen

Yes. Like, it's green chillies so they usually pick up a few and sprinkle them, and I go, 'No, more please.'

Ed Gamble

So, they're always having to go back with your order.

Lily Allen

Yes, double dip. Double dip on the chillies for sure.

Ed Gamble

Double dip.

Lily Allen

Sorry Nadia.

James Acaster

It sounds like, that's a starter.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I think, that doesn't feel like, it certainly feel like a main course.

Lily Allen

It's not meal. No.

Ed Gamble

So, I feel like starter is where it belongs.

Lily Allen

Also, I go to the gym in the morning, so it's a mid-morning snack.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Which I think could be palmed off as a starter.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

It's a pre-cursor to lunch, so, yes. Why not?

James Acaster

I know what you mean about the whole, like, going to the gym and then just putting everything back in again.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

I had a facial the other day and then got hammered afterwards.

Lily Allen

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes. First time I've ever had a facial.

Lily Allen

Really?

James Acaster

Had a facial and then got absolutely shitfaced.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so, just ruined your skin completely.

James Acaster

Yes. Just put loads of beer in my, I mean, my head.

Lily Allen

Yes. In your face.

James Acaster

In my face and my head.

Ed Gamble

It's the weird thing about James. When he drinks beer, it just stays in his head. Doesn't even go.



James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes?

James Acaster

Just like a lava lamp.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

What kind of facial did you have?

James Acaster

Hydro-facial.

Lily Allen

Those are fancy facials.

James Acaster

I loved it.

Lily Allen

Yes, because it, kind of, makes that noise. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Sucking my face. And then I just went to sleep at one point.

Lily Allen

Yes, that happens.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

It happens to me quite a lot.

James Acaster

Just dozed off for a bit and then I woke up and then she told me off for everything wrong I've been doing with my skin and then I went home.



Lily Allen

Nice.

James Acaster

Went to my friend's 40th birthday party, got hammered and now I look like this.

Ed Gamble

You look gorgeous, mate.

Lily Allen

Maybe you should go back and have another facial.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, she told me I had to go back, but I was like, 'I'm not falling for that trick. But you keep getting me here all the time. Forget it.' Do you know what I mean? I'm not stupid.

Ed Gamble

I love those food halls.

Lily Allen

They're so good.

Ed Gamble

I'll regularly just go and walk round one and not buy anything. That and Fortnum's and all of that. Just have a little stroll round, have a look at everything.

Lily Allen

100% with you there.

Ed Gamble

Go home again, back on the tube.

James Acaster

Selfridge's have got one.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That's a good one too.



James Acaster

Yes, that's a good one. I've done some Christmas shopping there before.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

In Selfridge's?

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Okay.

James Acaster

And then.

Lily Allen

All food?

James Acaster

I've been there to get wine for people before.

Lily Allen

Right.

James Acaster

And bits of food. I like doing little food hampers at Christmas.

Lily Allen

That's nice.

James Acaster

Putting them together myself.

Lily Allen

My goodness. I've got a little story about that. Because I just moved to New York, because my husband is from New York and we live there. And we moved into a new house. We've been doing it up for two years and we have these neighbours next door, which we thought, 'They're going to hate us, because we've been making all this noise for two years.' Anyway, they came over just before Christmas with a huge hamper. It's a very old Italian neighbourhood, our neighbourhood. And we had, like, all green and red and white, like, sort of, streamers and stuff on it and the cellophane on the outside. And we're like, 'That's very nice.' They came in and I said, 'Come in, we'll have a cup of tea,' and they came in and had



a cup of tea. What they'd done was they'd gone around to all of the local little places, food places, in the neighbourhood, and got us, like, the place, the biscuits from the place that does the good biscuits, and the mozzarella from the place that does the good mozzarella. All of the nice little Italian delicacies from around the neighbourhood and they'd put business cards of each of the businesses and, on the back, the good thing that those places do.

Ed Gamble

That is so nice.

Lily Allen

It was the nicest thing that anyone could do. I felt so bad for having made so much noise and then they're like, 'Thank you. Thank you for moving here.'

Ed Gamble

'Thank you for the noise.'

Lily Allen

Yes. So sweet.

James Acaster

That is great.

Lily Allen

What a great present.

Ed Gamble

That is lovely.

James Acaster

That is fantastic.

Lily Allen

So that's exactly what you want when you move somewhere you don't really know the neighbourhood. That's like, 'Now I know exactly where to go to get all the good stuff.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'Trial these, see if you like them. Here are the best things.' I wish that that happened wherever you move to.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

There's a real sense of community in New York, I must say.



James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

People really do take care of each other. As is evidenced by that act of kindness.

James Acaster

Just like in Kettering.

Lily Allen

Sorry, what?

James Acaster

That's like in Kettering, where I'm from.

Lily Allen

Right, Kettering, yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Don't live there anymore though, do you?

James Acaster

No. Everyone's horrible. Had to get out.

Lily Allen

Didn't Lindsay Lohan have something to say about Kettering once?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, she did.

Lily Allen

I seem to remember that.

James Acaster

Yes, she had a big problem.

Ed Gamble

She slagged off Kettering, didn't she?



Lily Allen

Was that to do with Brexit?

James Acaster

Yes. It was the night of the Referendum results and, as they were coming in, Lohan was London.

Lily Allen

Right, okay.

James Acaster

Watching the results roll in on TV. When it was announced that Kettering had voted to leave, she was live tweeting it all, and she was, like, 'I'm sorry, Kettering, but I've never even heard of you.' Really slammed them. And then the Kettering MP Philip Hollobone, who's a Conservative MP and had a campaign for Brexit in Kettering and had worn a Union Jack suit in order to do that campaign, and then in Parliament after it had been confirmed we were leaving, instead of going in and having a chat in the House of Commons, or House of Lords, wherever it was, about what we should do next and moves next, he stood up and said, 'I think Lindsay Lohan should apologise to Kettering.' So, that was that, representing us.

Lily Allen

Serious guy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

He gets up, he does a bunch of jokes about Kettering being the most average town in the UK, so just does it down even more. And then he said she should apologise by turning on the Christmas lights.

Lily Allen

Did she?

Ed Gamble

Said she would, didn't she?

James Acaster

She said she would. She tweeted and said, 'I will do it.' She said, 'Contact me.' This is the genius move. She said, 'DM me, Kettering Borough Council, and we'll sort it out.' And then Kettering Borough Council went to DM her and they had to do a, like, public tweet and say, 'Lindsay, I'm afraid we can't DM you, because we follow you but you don't follow us back.' And it was like, that's a move, from like, yes.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'So fucking remember who you're talking to. I'm Lindsay Lohan, you're Kettering Borough Council. Don't ever call me out ever again.'

Lily Allen

Exactly.

James Acaster

So, she didn't do it, and instead they got-

Ed Gamble

Hugh Dennis.

James Acaster

Heather from EastEnders.

Ed Gamble

Oh, I thought it was Hugh Dennis that year.

James Acaster

No, it was Heather from EastEnders did it and she, you know, she went and really got the crowd going, but then they played a video. Lindsay Lohan did a video saying, 'Hey everyone from Kettering. Sorry that I can't be there.' She'd, like, put a funny filter on her face which had flowers in her hair, so she wasn't taking it seriously. She filmed it in portrait as well. That's a real, proper, you don't give a shit, because it doesn't even fill the whole screen. And Heather said that everyone in Kettering was feeling really down about it after they got that video, then she had to turn the lights.

Lily Allen

Yes, I mean, you would.

Ed Gamble

Just calling her 'Heather' now.

James Acaster

Yes, Heather from EastEnders. And she said that, in her head, when she pressed the button for the lights, it was going to be like 'Thunderbirds are go.' I remember her saying that to me when I tried to make a documentary about this.

Lily Allen

About the whole? About Lindsay Lohan?



James Acaster

About Lindsay Lohan. Yes.

Lily Allen

Wow, I can't believe I've actually brought this, you're like an expert on the whole thing.

James Acaster

Yes. I know a lot about it.

Ed Gamble

Amazing that he didn't immediately respond with, 'I tried to make a documentary about this.'

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

And decided to tell the whole story and wait for this.

James Acaster

Well, I thought I should explain why I know how Heather was feeling.

Ed Gamble

So, you've interviewed Heather?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

What's her real name?

James Acaster

Yes. Cheryl. And she said that she was going to say, like, 'Thunderbirds are go,' and press the. She kept saying, 'Thunderbirds are go,' quite a lot in the chat.

Lily Allen

Yes, because that's really stuck with you.

James Acaster

She kept on saying it a lot. Cheryl Ferguson.

Lily Allen

You liked that bit, didn't you?



James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Liked that bit. We love that bit.

James Acaster

Yes, I liked it when she said. She said, 'Thunderbirds are go,' so many times and I really, I logged it in my head. But said she felt quite dejected about it. But then the following year, I turned on the lights, you see? So it was like I was trying to-

Lily Allen

How did that go down?

James Acaster

It went down quite well, although I wasn't told I'd be doing it with some members of the panto, so that felt a bit, you know?

Lily Allen

That's annoying.

James Acaster

Not as cool. And the mayor.

Lily Allen

One day, you'll get to do it all on your own.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

You'll headline that event.

James Acaster

Can't wait for that day. That'll be really cool. Maybe me and Lohan, I wouldn't mind sharing the stage with Lohan if Lohan wants to come and do it. Although, I don't think she should apologise.

Lily Allen

I actually, we follow each other on social media. I could ask her, if you want?

James Acaster

Ask her what?



Lily Allen

Say, 'Look. About that Kettering promise.'

James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

'Do you think you could follow through for once?'

James Acaster

Yes. 'Go and do it.'

Ed Gamble

'Would you be willing to turn on the Christmas lights if you were co-headlining with James Acaster?'

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Do you know, me and Lindsay Lohan got friendship tattoos together?

Ed Gamble

Did you?

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

That tattoo on your fingers?

Lily Allen

Yes. When we were very very inebriated, I'll say. Must be more than ten years ago now. She broke me out of the Chateau Marmont Hotel at about three o'clock in the morning, and I had promo to do the next day, so they had security out the front of my hotel room, because I was very badly behaved in those days.

James Acaster

Yes. Very cool.

Lily Allen

But she knew how to get out the back way, so she came to my room and we jumped over the fence out the back of the hotel and then ran down Sunset Boulevard to Shamrock Tattoo Parlor. And we both got this tattoo, which now says 1985, but that night it said, 'Shh.' I'm pointing at my finger, my index finger.



Ed Gamble

Right, so it's just, like.

Lily Allen

So, it's like, you know that thing that you do when you say, 'Shush,' and put your finger over your mouth?

Ed Gamble

Yes?

James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

So, I'm quite pleased with that. Me and Lindsay Lohan had matching tattoos.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's wicked.

Lily Allen

Then woke up the next day and the headlines were, 'Lindsay and Lily copy Rihanna.'

James Acaster

Oh dear.

Lily Allen

And I was very angry with Lindsay Lohan, because she had sold it to me as an original idea. She did not tell me that it was already existing on one of the coolest, you know, pop stars in the whole world.

James Acaster

Did she also claim that she was in the original Parent Trap?

Lily Allen

No, but, you know, I went up for that role.

Ed Gamble

Did you?

Lily Allen

That has been, like, a bone of contention between us. Yes. So, I would always, like, be drunk and like, 'I could have been you. I was going to do the Parent Trap.' And she'd be like, 'Okay, whatever. Let's go and get a friendship tattoo, I'm going to make you look like a proper idiot. Rihanna's already got it.'



Ed Gamble

We should get a friendship tattoo.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Here's a good idea. You could get one on your finger.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

For when you turn on the Christmas lights and it says, 'Thunderbirds are go.'

James Acaster

That would be cool.

Lily Allen

That would be good.

James Acaster

But you would have to get the same one.

Ed Gamble

Yes, fine. I like Thunderbirds.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Why don't you get, 'One, two, three,' or, 'Three, two, one,' even?

James Acaster

Yes, 'Three, two, one.'

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's good.

James Acaster

Then I can shout, 'Thunderbirds are go.'

Lily Allen

I'm, sort of, seeing the font, because it used to come up on the screen, 'Three, two.'



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes, I think that would look quite cool.

Ed Gamble

I mean, I'll get anything these days.

James Acaster

Yes. Ed's tattoos are insane.

Ed Gamble

I don't care. Yes.

James Acaster

I've tattooed him.

Lily Allen

Really?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

I've tattooed him. Yes. I've given him a tattoo.

Ed Gamble

We went on the run for Celebrity Hunted and went to stay at my friend's tattoo studio, and James tattooed me.

Lily Allen

That's nice. I don't know what Celebrity Hunted is.

James Acaster

It's, kind of, like, what you and Lohan did.

Lily Allen

Okay.



Ed Gamble

But they film it.

James Acaster

But they film it.

Ed Gamble

For Stand up to cancer

James Acaster

Sneaking out, running away.

Lily Allen

Okay.

James Acaster

Why does it say 1985 now when it said, 'Shush'?

Lily Allen

Because that's the year that I was born.

James Acaster

But how did it change? You changed it?

Lily Allen

Because I went over it. There were only a few different options that I could do, because it had to be four characters. Obviously, because it was S-H-H-H.

James Acaster

You can do that now?

Lily Allen

And I went over it. Well, look, it hasn't done very well, it just looks like a blob on my finger with some dots after it.

James Acaster

I could tell it was 19-

Ed Gamble

Does Lohan know that you've changed it?

James Acaster

Does Lohan's still say, 'Shh'?



Lily Allen

We haven't really spoken about it. But she has made contact recently with me.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

She wants to be friends again. I'm quite up for it.

James Acaster

Dream main course?

Lily Allen

'Dream' main course?

James Acaster

Otherwise this is going to-, We're getting on too well, is what's happening.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Oh dear. Does that happen often?

James Acaster

No. I've never liked a guest until now. It's the first time.

Ed Gamble

Normally the episodes are 35 minutes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

And that is too long, between you and me.

Lily Allen

My main course is going to be from a restaurant, probably my favourite restaurant in London. It's called the Afghan Kitchen. And it is on Islington Green. It is delicious, that restaurant. And my favourite thing, answer me this. You obviously, it's, kind of, like a curry in the sense that you have rice, sort of, like, a chicken dish and then some vegetable dishes. Am I allowed the vegetables to go with this?



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

If it all comes together in the restaurant.

Lily Allen

It's all one course. Okay, yes. So, I'm having chicken and yoghurt from the Afghan Kitchen, with rice. Moong dal, which is lentils but looks a bit like mashed potatoes but red. So delicious.

James Acaster

Great.

Lily Allen

And pumpkin and yoghurt. It's, like, stewed pumpkin, but they're, like, big chunks and they hold their shape with this, sort of, I don't know, sweet yummy sauce all over it and then it comes with some yoghurt, which you dribble over the top. I cannot tell you how delicious this food is.

Ed Gamble

I mean, it sounds absolutely amazing.

Lily Allen

You really need to go there.

James Acaster

Yes. I've ever even heard of it, I don't think.

Ed Gamble

I've nearly been there so many times, because I've been past it a lot near Angel.

Lily Allen

When you go there and you have it, they also do this bread with pickles, but we've already done bread, so obviously we can't really go into that, also very delicious. But you'll go there and you'll eat and it will be one of your favourite places you've ever been and you'll think, 'Why the hell didn't I do this ten years ago?'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Because it's sad, you've done yourself a disservice, really, from not having gone there already.



Ed Gamble

Yes. I'm pretty bummed out about it, to be honest.

James Acaster

Well, you should be.

Lily Allen

The guy there that owns it and still does all the cooking is this guy called Habib. So, on Islington Green, I don't know if the bus stop is still there, but right outside the restaurant is the bus stop, and when I was a kid I used to get that bus or go stand at that bus stop to get the bus to school. Quite often, I'd forgotten my travel card, and Habib would always be there opening up in the morning and he'd give me money for the bus.

Ed Gamble

That's nice.

Lily Allen

Yes. He's lovely.

James Acaster

That's a good deed.

Lily Allen

He's really one of the sweetest, most kind-hearted people I've ever met. And that was, like, 30 years ago. He's still there, making the same five dishes every day, twice a day. That's why it's so delicious.

Ed Gamble

We've got to go there.

Lily Allen

You've got to go there.

James Acaster

And, afterwards, we don't even have to sort out transport home.

Ed Gamble

No. Habib will sort us out.

Lily Allen

Just tell him I sent you.

James Acaster

Yes. 'Come on, Habib. We know that you do this for people.'



Ed Gamble

I'm not sure that he does it for everyone, you know?

Lily Allen

No.

Ed Gamble

We can't go in there and ask for a free meal and say, 'I've forgotten my travel card.' Doesn't even make sense.

James Acaster

I like that. We can try. But if you don't ask, you don't get.

Lily Allen

You could say, 'Lily told us that when she forgot her travel card, you would give her some money for the bus.'

James Acaster

Yes. So.

Lily Allen

And he'll go, 'Yes, but that was 30 years ago when a travel card cost £1.80.'

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

'Now they're £7.90.'

James Acaster

'The little girl couldn't get the bus to school.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. And also, you can tap it on your debit card now.

Lily Allen

'Also, she was really sweet.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. 'Also, she was a child and not two grown men who've clearly decided they're going to do this before they arrived.'



Lily Allen

No, but do say I sent you and he'll be very happy.

Ed Gamble

Chicken and yoghurt.

Lily Allen

Chicken and yoghurt's my favourite thing. They also do lamb and potatoes, but I like the chicken and yoghurt with the moong dal. There's a dish called Sarah's, as well, which is, like, kidney beans and chickpeas and potatoes, but I'm not going to put that on there, because I think I'm being a big greedy, and I have had a chicken tikka wrap already. So.

James Acaster

Sure. You've teed it up with that.

Lily Allen

Actually, I've also had chicken liver. I've gone very chicken heavy.

Ed Gamble

Very chicken heavy.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

I've gone chicken for every course so far.

Ed Gamble

But you're eating most, you're eating beak to tail here.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

You're having the full chicken.

Lily Allen

The full experience.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Do you want it all to be from the same chicken?



Lily Allen

Interesting.

Ed Gamble

Or does that make it weird?

Lily Allen

No, I don't think it makes it weird. I think it's weird that we would, like, that's all something I find strange is when people order, like, a bucket of wings, and you think, like, 'Not one of those wings has come from the same chicken.' Not one.

James Acaster

How do you know?

Lily Allen

Well, just probability. It's like, there's just, if we're talking about from KFC, the likelihood of the same chicken's two wings? Yes. They've got two wings.

James Acaster

Yes. Wow.

Lily Allen

This is like 'Would I Lie to You?' I thought that there were four wings. Until today, I thought that chickens had four wings. True or false?

Ed Gamble

It is two wings.

Lily Allen

It is two wings.

Ed Gamble

As far as I'm aware. Yes.

Lily Allen

I don't fucking know how many wings a chicken's got.

James Acaster

I think everything-,

Lily Allen

Could have a little secret wing under his big wings. You know? I don't know.



Ed Gamble

It could have secret wings, for God's sake, James.

Lily Allen

I've not studied chicken anatomy.

James Acaster

Yes. I think, outside of a dragonfly, pretty much everything has wings as two. Right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

I don't know. You're asking the wrong person.

James Acaster

Sure. I've gone bold there, but I'm pretty sure dragonflies have four. Right?

Ed Gamble

Right.

James Acaster

Nothing has one, because they're just flying in circles. So, I think everything else has two. In your dream meal, you have it all from the same chicken, maybe. Get its liver pre-meal.

Lily Allen

Actually, it's going to need to be-, How many breasts does a chicken have? No, joking.

James Acaster

Charlotte Church asked me that.

Lily Allen

I do prefer breast meat to dark meat, and I'm hoping that my chicken tikka wrap is going to be breast meat and that the chicken in yoghurt from the Afghan Kitchen is also breast heavy.

Ed Gamble

This is the dream, you know? You'll get exactly what you want.

Lily Allen

So, I'm hoping, maybe, spread over one-and-a-half chickens, maybe two.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Nice.



James Acaster

Okay. Fair enough.

Lily Allen

Don't know if I could eat four whole chicken breasts in one meal though.

James Acaster

You don't think so?

Ed Gamble

That's like bodybuilder stuff.

Lily Allen

Nadia would go mental.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Nadia would not be having that. She'd be kicking off.

James Acaster

Dream side dish then?

Lily Allen

Does it have to go with?

James Acaster

Not if you don't want it to.

Ed Gamble

If you're fine with things not going together, then you just eat what you like and it doesn't matter if they go together or not. That's fine. Whatever you want. Your dream side dish.

Lily Allen

I mean, I'm sitting in a restaurant and this is all happening on the same day in the same meal.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

So, I don't want something that's really going to clash with this, because.



Ed Gamble

Sure. Some people do, some people don't mind that.

James Acaster

Some people just go, they just want their favourite of everything and they don't care if it goes together. Other people want the whole meal to go together.

Lily Allen

Cauliflower cheese.

Ed Gamble

Now, I'm interested. Was that decision based on it clashing or going together?

Lily Allen

Absolutely doesn't go together.

Ed Gamble

No.

Lily Allen

It's just the, yes.

James Acaster

I don't know.

Ed Gamble

It's delicious though.

James Acaster

I quite like cauliflower cheese.

Ed Gamble

I think cauliflower cheese goes with most stuff.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

I make a roast dinner every week, and the one thing that tends to rotate weekly, usually it's chicken, but sometimes we'll have beef, but apart, sorry, Nadia just needs a little massage.

James Acaster

Yes. Lily's massaging her stomach.



Lily Allen

That's 'Nadia' to you.

James Acaster

Sorry. Just sounds weird.

Lily Allen

One week we'll have cauliflower cheese and the next week we'll have cheesy leeks.

Ed Gamble

Great.

Lily Allen

There always has to be a cheese component, is what I'm saying.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Need that creamy cheese sauce with the roast.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

I like cheese-

Ed Gamble

But cauliflower cheese is your favourite?

Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Do you dread cheesy leek day?

Lily Allen

From a restaurant, I really like, there's, I sound like such a twat. I sometimes go to The Ivy, because I'm, you know, when I'm in the theatre land. They have cauliflower gratin, which is cauliflower cheese, basically. But, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Breadcrumbs on it and stuff.

Lily Allen

Yes. I like that, a lot. And it's a side dish there.



James Acaster

That's an instant up-scale, getting the bread crumbs on it. I love cheesy leeks though. You've made me think about how much I love cheesy leeks. Now I want cheesy leeks with bread crumbs and stuff.

Lily Allen

Well, if you're ever in New York.

James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

You may come to my house on a Sunday, I shall make you cheesy leeks.

James Acaster

Great.

Ed Gamble

Just the cheesy leeks?

Lily Allen

No, you can have the rest of the roast, too.

Ed Gamble

You'll be like, 'You can't have any of the rest of the roast.'

Lily Allen

But I'll give you more cheesy leeks than everyone else.

James Acaster

Yes, thank you.

Ed Gamble

We'll bring a hamper with all the best produce from Kettering.

Lily Allen

Yes. That would be lovely.

James Acaster

Yes. Weetabix. End of list.

Ed Gamble

I love a cauliflower cheese when you get the spoon and then you lift it up and there's a stretch. There's clear cheese in there.



Lily Allen

Yes.

Ed Gamble

None of this, some people don't put enough cheese in it, it's called 'cauliflower cheese'.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Well, that's more of a thing of the cheese on the top though, right?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Because the cheese in the sauce shouldn't really stretch.

Ed Gamble

It could, though.

Lily Allen

It could, but it's how much someone has sprinkled the cheese on the top level, will determine the stretch.

Ed Gamble

And how much cheese do you sprinkle on the top for your cauliflower cheese?

Lily Allen

I'd say probably, like, quarter of a-

Ed Gamble

Block.

Lily Allen

A block, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Alright. I would have thought you would have gone half block. So, you have, like, double layer, so that the cat can get the first layer and then you've got your one underneath. You know?



Lily Allen

No.

James Acaster

Because that cat can't be trusted.

Ed Gamble

My cat hates human food.

James Acaster

Ed's cat is very fussy.

Lily Allen

What kind of cat is it?

Ed Gamble

Siberian. He's beautiful.

James Acaster

He is beautiful.

Ed Gamble

He's my baby.

Lily Allen

My cat is beautiful. It's a he, but she's called Priscilla.

Ed Gamble

Right?

Lily Allen

But we bought her thinking she was a girl and, well, was sold her as a girl, because I went to the cat breeder and I as like, 'I want a girl cat,' and they said, 'Yes, here, we've got a girl.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

So, took her home.

James Acaster

Oldest trick in the book.



Lily Allen

Six weeks later, she had a gammy eye, I took her to the vet and the vet said, 'This cat is male.'

Ed Gamble

Oh my God.

James Acaster

What's her vibe?

Lily Allen

She's amazing.

James Acaster

Yes?

Lily Allen

We love Priscilla. She's honestly, like, I didn't think I was a cat person, really. Always had dogs. And then in the new house, we've realised we had rodents. Big rodent problem in New York. I went on all the blogs and everything, and said, 'What am I going to do about these rodents?' Because I had the exterminators come round, they put the traps out, blah blah blah, they came round a month later, still had the droppings everywhere, and I was honestly beside myself. I thought, 'I've got my dream house. I'm not sharing it with rodents.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

All the blogs said, 'Only thing you can do. Cat.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

I still was, like, sticking with the exterminator thing, and then one of my kids called me and said, 'We've just seen something the size of an avocado scurrying to the double doors with a big long tail,' and I was like, 'That doesn't even sound like a mouse, that sounds like a rat.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Then, the next day, I was-



James Acaster

I'm sorry, that really says a lot about their upbringing.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

'It's the size of an avocado.'

Ed Gamble

'Mum, it's the size of a chicken tikka wrap from Harrods.'

Lily Allen

Anyway.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

I found myself in an Uber, going to the Bronx, to get a cat.

Ed Gamble

Straight away?

Lily Allen

Straight away. I was like, 'This is not happening.'

James Acaster

Rat catcher. And Priscilla catches the rats? Done the job?

Lily Allen

Never, we've not heard anything from rats or mice since.

James Acaster

That's it.

Ed Gamble

Amazing.

Lily Allen

Gone. Completely gone.

James Acaster

So, they just go. So, they don't even have to catch them.



Lily Allen

No. And everyone's like, 'She doesn't look like she'd do anything,' it's like, the rats and the mice don't care, they just smell her.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

They're like, 'No, I'm not coming in there.'

James Acaster

Are you worried now though, that the rats won't be able to cook you nice food, like in Ratatouille? Since we're talking about food.

Lily Allen

That has kept me up, actually.

James Acaster

Your dream drink.

Lily Allen

Did you wash your hands?

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

We are in a restaurant.

James Acaster

I did wash my hands.

Lily Allen

Staff must wash their hands.

James Acaster

And dried them.

Ed Gamble

A very clean boy, aren't you, James?

James Acaster

I'm very clean. For the listener, I went for a wee.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

That's why I was asking if he washed his hands.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Not for the listener. That's not an extra feature, you can get James to have a wee.

James Acaster

I do it for the listener. If they pay enough, I'll go for a wee. Dream drink Lily? Your dream drink?

Lily Allen

My dream drink. Well, I am a recovering alcoholic, so I'm going to say an alcoholic drink.

Ed Gamble

Yes. There are two ways that was going to go.

James Acaster

Not for the first time on this podcast this has happened.

Lily Allen

I'm going to say Hendricks gin.

James Acaster

Oh my.

Ed Gamble

Oh no.

James Acaster

Lily just closed her eyes, her mouth just dropped open.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Hendricks gin and tonic with a bit of, like, a swirly bit of cucumber.



Ed Gamble

Nadia's crying right now.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Nadia loved the gin.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

It was all her fault, actually.

Ed Gamble

Nadia just goes, 'Thunderbirds are go.'

James Acaster

Yes. 'Thunderbirds are go.'

Lily Allen

Yes, so, I'm going to say alcohol drink, because that is my, yes, I don't really drink. But sometimes, it's actually less the alcohol part of it, it's the taste. Like, I miss that particular drink a lot. It's quite thirst-quenching.

Ed Gamble

Do you just ever have, like, just a normal, a tonic water with the twist?

Lily Allen

No. Tonic water doesn't do it. Sometimes, there's this stuff called Seedlip, which is, like, fake gin. That does the trick sometimes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

That is the thing. Like, alcohol drinks are delicious.

Lily Allen

Some of them, yes.



James Acaster

Some of them.

Lily Allen

Some of them are disgusting.

James Acaster

Yes, some of them are disgusting. But, man, I just, I mean, this is another boring thing.

Ed Gamble

Here we go.

James Acaster

But I just want to drink them and not get drunk.

Ed Gamble

You won't find a lot of interviews you say, 'Here comes the boring thing.'

Lily Allen

'Here comes the boring thing. Here comes another boring snippet.'

James Acaster

I'm so boring.

Ed Gamble

You say you wish you could drink them and not get drunk?

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

That would be, you know whenever anyone goes, 'What would your superpower be?' Never get drunk.

Ed Gamble

Tipsy though?

James Acaster

Yes. I like being tipsy.

Lily Allen

Yes, we all like being tipsy.



James Acaster

That's the sweet spot. Why Hendrick's gin? Why is that the best gin?

Lily Allen

That's a great question. I think it goes well with the cucumber. It's quite classic thing.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

My ex-husband introduced me to it.

Ed Gamble

It's often, like, the nicest one you could get in the pub, right?

Lily Allen

Fucking idiot. Sorry, what?

James Acaster

Yes. I saw that. As you said, 'My ex-husband,' there was this glimmer in your eye, you suddenly, like, started twitching. I could tell you were about to be like, 'May he burn in hell,' or whatever. Like, something was going to happen.

Lily Allen

No, he's fine, bless him. I just, yes.

Ed Gamble

Also, there'd be a lovely edit option there where you don't mention your ex-husband, and I say, 'It's often the poshest one you can get in a pub,' and you just go, 'Fucking idiot.'

James Acaster

We arrive at your dream dessert, Lily Allen. Very excited to hear.

Lily Allen

Yes. Having said that I don't like fast food, that is sort of related to savoury. When it comes to sweets, and I guess, this, I'm going to say, is my dessert choice, because it is delicious. I do get it from McDonald's or my husband goes to McDonald's. But it's not the same, I don't think, because it comes out of the machine.

James Acaster

Okay?

Ed Gamble

Okay?



Lily Allen

Soft-serve ice cream with the chocolate sauce.

Ed Gamble

So, I thought we were going down to McFlurry town.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

No. Just soft-serve with the chocolate sauce.

James Acaster

You're not a fan of the McFlurry? No one's ever chosen McFlurry.

Ed Gamble

No.

Lily Allen

Yes, I mean, I do like a McFlurry, but I don't, yes, it's just the classic is where I'm at. Especially after quite, I've had quite a heavy meal.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

I don't think I really want to over-complicate it. I was going to say banoffee pie, but I think it's just a little bit heavy and there are too many components. Nadia's not happy about that choice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

She likes the soft-serve.

Ed Gamble

The simple, classic, soft-serve with, what sort of chocolate sauce? Is it, like, a proper chocolate sauce, or?

Lily Allen

Like, chocolate sundae sauce, it's just, like, hot chocolate sauce and it's, yes.

Ed Gamble

Okay, nice, yes. Not the syrup stuff.



Lily Allen

No.

Ed Gamble

Proper chocolate sauce.

Lily Allen

Yes, no, it's got to be.

Ed Gamble

Like, chocolate, fudgey sauce.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

From McDonald's.

Lily Allen

From McDonald's.

Ed Gamble

How are you feeling about that, James? You're our resident dessert buff.

James Acaster

Well, obviously, I love it. I mean, you know? I think McDonald's got a few shout outs on the podcast before.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But never for dessert, I don't think. People like the apple pie. Are you an apple pie fan?

Lily Allen

Yes, I do like the apple pie. But do they even do that anymore?

James Acaster

Do they not do it?

Ed Gamble

I think so.



James Acaster

Has it gone?

Ed Gamble

They surely wouldn't get rid of that. But they wouldn't do them specifically for you, fresh, would they?

Lily Allen

No.

Ed Gamble

They're coming out of the-,

Lily Allen

That's something from my youth, when I was not so fussy.

Ed Gamble

The hottest thing in the world.

Lily Allen

Yes. Gosh. When those, yes, a really hot one of those would take your mouth off. Like, your tongue was, yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Excruciating. That's why I, sort of, feel like it might be, not adhere to, like, health and safety sense. Is that why we Brexited? Was to get rid of the?

James Acaster

Lohan would say a thing or two about that.

Lily Allen

Get rid of the crispy apple pie red tape.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Finally, we can make it 1000 degrees and stop all the bureaucrats reducing the temperature of it.

James Acaster

Are you saying your husband gets you this from McDonald's?



Lily Allen

Yes, well, it tends to be when we do, like, road trips and they get drive through, and it's the only thing that I can eat. But I will enjoy it.

James Acaster

Yes. But everything else you're like, cant trust it.

Lily Allen

But everyone else will eat, you know, food, and I'll eat that. Well, me and Nadia eat that.

James Acaster

Yes. You have your cup of ice cream.

Lily Allen

Yes.

James Acaster

And that's your favourite soft-serve. So, if you went to anywhere, like, is there nowhere else that competes? Like, a Mr Whippy, is it not as good?

Lily Allen

I think it's just that, because it's McDonald's, there's, like, a consistency to it. Not consistency like this, but, like, as in it is consistent.

Ed Gamble

It's same everywhere. Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes. You just know what you're getting. I don't know, I mean, I suppose, 99 flake is just not the same, doesn't feel like it's the same sort of soft-serve.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

It's a different texture, maybe?

Ed Gamble

Did it feel different in America, maybe?

Lily Allen

Maybe.



Ed Gamble

Sometimes these things feel different in America, rather than in a cold British -park.

James Acaster

I think the ingredients are different, as well. I think there's more of, like.

Ed Gamble

I forgot to finish the sentence.

James Acaster

Sorry?

Ed Gamble

I forgot to finish the sentence and then I just said, 'Park,' too late, so sorry about that.

James Acaster

Park?

Ed Gamble

Yes. 'Cold British park,' is what I went for.

James Acaster

Yes. That's nice.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Before I read your menu back to you, favourite McDonald's character?

Lily Allen

Favourite McDonald's character?

James Acaster

Yes. You know the character?

Lily Allen

Or McDonagh character?

James Acaster

You know the characters?

Lily Allen

It's me! That was your way of getting the twist, wasn't it?



Ed Gamble

Did you know the Hamburglar was in The Pillowman?

James Acaster

That is the twist. The hamburger did it at the end.

Lily Allen

Doh. Shit.

James Acaster

Sweet dreams. Hamburglar's there.

Lily Allen

Favourite character of McDonald's?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Lily Allen

Isn't there just Ronald?

Ed Gamble

No. The Hamburglar.

James Acaster

Hamburglar. Grimace.

Ed Gamble

Grimace. The big purple guy.

Lily Allen

I honestly don't know what you're talking about.

James Acaster

What?

Lily Allen

No. I did not engage with this particular part of culture as a child.

James Acaster

What if Martin McDonagh did have a chain restaurant called McDonagh's and it was, like, all of his.



Ed Gamble

All of his characters.

James Acaster

What do you think it would be like?

Lily Allen

I'm going to pitch it to him.

James Acaster

What kind of food do you think it would serve? Fish, obviously.

Lily Allen

Yes, lots of fish. Lots of blood and gore everywhere.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Be pretty gruesome, wouldn't it?

James Acaster

Yes. Dead donkey.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Finger.

James Acaster

Yes. Dead cat in one of his plays.

Ed Gamble

Can't believe you brought up a donkey.

James Acaster

Sorry everyone. Rest in peace to that donkey.

Ed Gamble

R.I.P Jenny.

James Acaster

R.I.P Jenny.

Lily Allen

Poor Jenny.

Ed Gamble

What a way to end this episode.



Lily Allen
McDonagh's.

James Acaster

This episode is dedicated to the memory of Jenny the Donkey. Water. You want Robinson's Barley Water, peach flavour, quite weak. Poppadoms or bread. Poppadoms with all the dips. Then you want an amuse-bouche, chicken liver parfait, with soldiers from Dorian. Starter, Harrods's chicken tikka wrap. Main course, chicken in yoghurt, rice, moong dal, pumpkin in yoghurt, from Afghan Kitchen. Side dish, cauliflower gratin from The Ivy. Drink, Hendrick's gin and tonic with cucumber. Dessert, soft-serve ice cream with chocolate sauce from McDonald's.

Ed Gamble

Got to be pretty happy with that.

Lily Allen
Classic.

Ed Gamble

That's it.

James Acaster

Feel good about that?

Lily Allen

Three chicken courses and a McDonald's ice cream. Why not?

Ed Gamble

I think it's the first time we've had, within the space of one menu, Harrods and McDonald's.

James Acaster

Yes.

Lily Allen

Yes. There you go.

Ed Gamble

So, that's pretty good. You're running the full gamut there. I love it.

Lily Allen

It's very me.

James Acaster

Yes, right? Yes, I think people could look at that, not know it's you and go, 'I think that's Lily Allen's menu.'



Lily Allen

Yes. Bit of HiLo. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much to you and Nadia for coming to the Dream Restaurant.

Lily Allen

We'd say it's a pleasure, but we'd be lying. This is just work for us.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Not enough of our guests are honest about that.

James Acaster

Just work. Not for us.

Ed Gamble

No. Not work at all.

James Acaster

No. Don't get paid, we never have.

Ed Gamble

There we are, James. The Off Menu menu of Lily Allen.

James Acaster

What fun.

Ed Gamble

What fun. What a fun ep?

James Acaster

We just had a laugh, man.

Ed Gamble

We just had a laugh.

James Acaster

I mean, that will get edited down quite severely, I think, because we were chatting for a while.



Ed Gamble

I mean, I don't know if this will be edited out, but there was a moment where you went, 'We're just all getting on so well.'

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Which puts a lot of pressure on the guest, I think. If anyone said to me, 'Hey, we're getting on really well,' I'd then probably over-think it and not get on with them.

James Acaster

Well, this explains a lot in my life. I say this to a lot of people, this kind of thing. I just think they'd like to hear it.

Ed Gamble

James is still learning social skills and social cues and things like that, but.

James Acaster

One day at a time.

Ed Gamble

One day at a time. You're doing very well, mate.

James Acaster

Thank you.

Ed Gamble

That was a lovely chat. I thought you did very well.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

Lily was wonderful.

James Acaster

Yes. Lily didn't say apples.

Ed Gamble

Lily didn't say apples.

James Acaster

So, we didn't have to kick her out.



Ed Gamble

Thank the lord. You should go watch Lily's new show, 'Dreamland'. It is a Sky original comedy, it's on Sky Atlantic or on the streaming service Now, co-starring Freema Agyeman, Gabby Best, Kiell Smith-Bynoe. An amazing cast of people. Go and watch it. It's all set in Margate, as Lily said. She's also doing a play that starts in June in the West End of London, 'The Pillowman', written by Martin McDonagh.

James Acaster

Duke of York Theatre.

Ed Gamble

Duke of York Theatre. Very excited to see that as well.

James Acaster

Let me know the twist.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I was hoping she was going to pick a Martini, James, and then I was going to say, 'With a twist?'

James Acaster

Brilliant.

Ed Gamble

But she's a recovering alcohol. So she picked gin instead.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

We've been sent some things, James. We like to do a little shout-out if people have sent us nice stuff.

James Acaster

Kitty's Kits, for example.

Ed Gamble

Kitty's Kits. This is wonderful, isn't it?

James Acaster

This is great. Kitty is a very inspiring figure.

Ed Gamble

Yes.



James Acaster

Her and her father started up this company where 100% of the profit from each of their, these are baking kits that they can send out so you can learn to bake at home, and there are little books that they've made that talk you through how to make, you know, there's a dough loaf, focaccia, pizza, flatbread, all sorts of things.

Ed Gamble

And it seems to be pitched at, sort of, all ages, really, James.

James Acaster

Pitched at all ages.

Ed Gamble

Which is what I need when it comes to baking.

James Acaster

Yes. I need someone to speak to me like I'm five.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

So that I can actually make it proper. And 100% of the profit from the kit goes towards their Breaducation project, where they give free kits and bread classes to different communities, from schools to prisons to foodbanks, because we all need good bread.

Ed Gamble

We do all need good bread. So, that's so lovely to send us some.

James Acaster

Really love they've sent us some. And, Kitty, you know, congrats. You've achieved more with your life than we have, and you're a lot younger than us.

Ed Gamble

Yes, a lot younger. Do go check out Kitty's Kits if you're more interested in finding things out about that.

James Acaster

Kittys.kits on Instagram, kittyskits.co.uk.

Ed Gamble

Lovely. Bonjour, we also got sent some macarons, James.

James Acaster

Merci.



Ed Gamble

Merci to Mademoiselle Macaron, that's not part of my joke about speaking French, she's called Mademoiselle Macaron.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ed Gamble

And they have all pictures of us on it and stuff.

James Acaster

Our faces on the macaron, which, I don't know yet who's going to eat which face.

Ed Gamble

We've been sent some wine, James. Some canned wine from the canned wine co.

James Acaster

Very interesting.

Ed Gamble

You know, canned wine's getting better and better, man.

James Acaster

It is indeed. I mean, we had some at the Plosive Christmas party. It was very nice.

Ed Gamble

I don't think I did.

James Acaster

This is two years ago.

Ed Gamble

Right. Also, some other wine we've been sent from Famille Perrin, James. Rhone Valley, southern Rhone Valley. I love a Rhone.

James Acaster

Do you? I didn't know you loved a Rhone.

Ed Gamble

I do love a Rhone. So, I'm excited to try some of the Famille Perrin wine.

James Acaster

Thank you for the wine.



Ed Gamble

Thank you for the wine, merci. Also, to complement the wine, we've been sent some beer.

James Acaster

Tartarus beer.

Ed Gamble

Tartarus beer. Some lovely craft beers from Yorkshire, courtesy of the Tartarus people.

James Acaster

Thank you very much, Tartarus. And sorry for Ed's comments about your puddings.

Ed Gamble

What?

James Acaster

Yorkshire puddings, you didn't like.

Ed Gamble

I see, Yorkshire puddings, sorry. 'Tartarus? What sort of pudding is a tartarus?'

James Acaster

Tartarus pudding. An apple tart-arus.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much for listening, we will see you again next week. Bye.

James Acaster

Bye.

Ed Gamble

Crunch crunch.