



# Off Menu – Ep 266 – Ella Purnell

## **Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the Mars ice cream of conversation and eating that, oh I love one of them. And then having another one of humour because I can't have one in a row, James. I need two in a row.

## **James Acaster**

That's Ed Gamble.

## **Ed Gamble**

You must like a Mars ice cream.

## **James Acaster**

Yes, it's just, you know, I think everyone always-, it's always a bit disappointing when you just choose something that's just one thing and you eat it.

## **Ed Gamble**

Yes.

## **James Acaster**

For the beginning, you know, I mean, it's good that you added another Mars ice cream I guess, but, you know.

## **Ed Gamble**

I thought you were going to say it's disappointing when you want a Mars ice cream and all they have in the shop is a Snickers ice cream, which is still nice but it's not as good as a Mars ice cream. The nuts get in the way of the caramel and I like nuts. Of humour.

## **James Acaster**

That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster and together we own a dream restaurant. Every single week we invite a guest and ask them their favourite ever starter, main course and side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week our guest is Ella Purnell.

## **Ed Gamble**

Ella Purnell is a wonderful actor, James. She's in Fallout which is one of my favourite TV shows of the last year I'd say. It's absolutely incredible. She's in Yellowjackets which I also love and she's in a brand new show called Sweetpea.

## **James Acaster**

Yes it's out tomorrow as of when this is coming out.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes it's out on October 10th.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it will be out probably if you're listening to this on the day that it comes out, it's out tomorrow, but most of you will probably hear this after so it is out now-,

**James Acaster**

Is out now.

**Ed Gamble**

On Sky and Now.

**James Acaster**

Ella plays a serial killer. So, exciting.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes it looks really cool, I'm very excited to see Sweetpea.

**James Acaster**

We'll have a little chat about that and, look, you know, here's the crazy thing, Yellowjackets, I thought Ella was American.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, this always blows your mind, doesn't it, acting?

**James Acaster**

It's amazing the accents she does in that. Proper just thought that's an American person.

**Ed Gamble**

Could you not ask her about doing accents because I feel like you ask every actor who does accents about accents and then what they do is they say, 'Can you do accents?' And then you go, 'No,' and you get really shy and then I have to say, 'Yes he can do Shrek,' and then you have to do Shrek.

**James Acaster**

Okay, well, I won't ask about accents because I don't want to do Shrek.

**Ed Gamble**

Will you do Shrek quickly now?



**James Acaster**

Donkey, I will never do Shrek for you.

**Ed Gamble**

Good. That's out the way. But if Ella says a secret ingredient on which we have pre agreed she will be kicked out of the dream restaurant and the secret ingredient this week is Nuka Cola.

**James Acaster**

Nuka Cola.

**Ed Gamble**

That's from Fallout.

**James Acaster**

That's from Fallout-,

**Ed Gamble**

That's a brand of soft drink-,

**James Acaster**

Ed loves it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You would drink Nuka Cola wouldn't you?

**Ed Gamble**

I'd drink Nuka Cola in a heartbeat.

**James Acaster**

What do you think it tastes like?

**Ed Gamble**

Like just normal cola.

**James Acaster**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.



**James Acaster**

I think it's got some spicy, like, radiation in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think they'd want the spicy radiation though because they all live in underground communities to keep away from the radiation.

**James Acaster**

Yes but then you want a little bit of it just to keep life exciting-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

And your cola.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Drinking my cola, wearing my pip, boy.

**James Acaster**

So, yes we will kick Ella out-,

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes but-, well the listener I can't see but Ed's just-,

**Ed Gamble**

I'm proud of myself.



**James Acaster**

Got the dopiest smile on his face, he's really smiling, eyes half opened, just looking around.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm sleepy as well, it's really early in the morning-

**James Acaster**

Yes he's quite sleepy-,

**Ed Gamble**

Just to let everyone know.

**James Acaster**

But yes, if Ella says Nuka Cola we'll have to kick her out the dream restaurant, hopefully she won't and we'll get to hear her full menu.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. This is the Off Menu menu of Ella Purnell. Welcome, Ella to the dream restaurant.

**Ella Purnell**

Hello.

**James Acaster**

Welcome, Ella Purnell to the dream restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm so excited to be here.

**James Acaster**

Surprised? Do you feel surprised by that?

**Ella Purnell**

I feel surprised. Thank you so much.

**Ed Gamble**

For the listener, Ella said that she'd not heard the podcast before because you wanted to be surprised.

**Ella Purnell**

I wanted to be surprised, I want to be surprised.

**Ed Gamble**

And are you surprised right up top by that huge introduction?



**Ella Purnell**

I'm appalled actually. I'm shocked and appalled.

**James Acaster**

There's a fine line between surprised and appalled and I've crossed over into-,

**Ella Purnell**

Already and we're, what, eight seconds in?

**James Acaster**

I do that for everyone just so you know, it wasn't just because you said, 'I want to be surprised,' I was like, 'I'll give you surprise,' and then I did that stupid thing.

**Ella Purnell**

Why did you tell me that? Now I don't feel special-,

**James Acaster**

Sorry mate-,

**Ella Purnell**

Any more.

**Ed Gamble**

It was louder than normal.

**James Acaster**

It was louder than normal-,

**Ella Purnell**

Was it? Oh good.

**James Acaster**

Yes because I was trying to surprise you because I knew that was what you wanted.

**Ella Purnell**

Good.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, so I really brought it. But that's because I'm a genie.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes he's a genie.



**Ella Purnell**

You're a genie.

**Ed Gamble**

He's a genie in this.

**James Acaster**

I'm a genie in this.

**Ella Purnell**

In this-, you're a genie in this?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. I'm a genie in this.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Because I can get you food from anywhere for your dream meal-,

**Ella Purnell**

Of course, right.

**James Acaster**

Because, you know, otherwise the whole podcast would fall apart.

**Ella Purnell**

Right. Of course, that makes sense.

**Ed Gamble**

So, is that a surprise, that he's a genie?

**James Acaster**

In this.

**Ella Purnell**

Well, I saw the lamp when I walked in here, so I've assumed there'd be some sort of genie involved in the menu?

**Ed Gamble**

And I'm just realising now the lamp does ruin the surprise beneath us, so we shouldn't really have the lamp in here.



**James Acaster**

How am I mean to appear?

**Ella Purnell**

Unless I rub the magic lamp three times, come on guys.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Come on. These are basic genie rules.

**James Acaster**

We never actually have anyone rub the lamp, so for some reason I'm just always just-, whenever I like, just popping out the lamp.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh, okay.

**James Acaster**

So, we've, kind of, changed-, but then when we did the live shows we had a giant lamp on stage and the guests did have to rub the lamp before.

**Ella Purnell**

Right.

**James Acaster**

But that's because everyone could see us.

**Ella Purnell**

Right, it, kind of, does ruin the (talking over each other 05.20), yes you should have had one of those floors, you pop out the floor.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes we should do, that would be good.

**Ella Purnell**

I can't really-, there's probably a technical name for those.

**Ed Gamble**

No I think that it's called the floors where you pop out the floor.





**Ella Purnell**

I think so too.

**James Acaster**

Would you, if someone offered you a play, and was, like, 'Ella, we need you in this play but you've got to pop out the floor,' would you do it but how many times would they have to say you're going to pop out the floor during the play for you to say no?

**Ella Purnell**

That's a really good question.

**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Ella Purnell**

What a very oddly specific-,

**Ed Gamble**

And weirdly phrased.

**Ella Purnell**

I don't know, I've never done it so I don't know how much I'd like it. I think I'd quite like to-, it's, like, I love roller-coasters, I'm thinking of it like a roller-coaster. It's, kind of, like the opposite of the drop, it's the lift. Well, I guess you do have to go up to come down, don't you? Oh that's very deep.

**Ed Gamble**

So, deep.

**James Acaster**

What the hell?

**Ella Purnell**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

It's 10 past 9:00 in the morning.

**Ella Purnell**

That was so profound.

**James Acaster**

People listening to this want to know, 09:10 and Ella dropped that one.



**Ella Purnell**

Gosh I surprised myself with that. I'd like to do it quite a few times, I'd actually say I won't do the play unless I can do it at least ten times.

**Ed Gamble**

Or every entrance of your character needs to be from the floor.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes please. That would be, kind of, amazing.

**James Acaster**

Would you want them spread out though because what if they were like-,

**Ella Purnell**

Oh yes definitely spread out, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, not ten in ten minutes.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh god no.

**James Acaster**

You just start popping out the floor.

**Ed Gamble**

How do you feel about dropping through the floor though?

**Ella Purnell**

Another good question. Is that safe?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes it will be safe.

**Ella Purnell**

Is it, like, the floor just disappears and I just fall through it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, like, it's a trap door, you just go.

**James Acaster**

Trap door?



**Ella Purnell**

I think I'd like that less because I'm quite accident prone. So, the odds of me hurting myself, if I'm doing it ten times, I'd say, like, 50%, so quite high. If I'm doing it two times it's still 50% but it's, like, less injuries. You know what I mean?

**Ed Gamble**

And it's every night, it's a play, so.

**Ella Purnell**

It's every night, that's a lot of injuries in a run.

**Ed Gamble**

It's twice on a Saturday, yes, yes, yes-,

**Ella Purnell**

How long's the run, you know?

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, months I think.

**James Acaster**

Oh it's really successful, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Months?

**Ed Gamble**

Months yes.

**James Acaster**

Months long

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

People love it.

**Ed Gamble**

It does really well.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm out, you've lost me.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, okay, well that's a shame.

**James Acaster**

I think about that bit from The Prestige where he removes-, because he drops through the floor as part of his act, one of the magicians does-,

**Ella Purnell**

Oh that's right.

**James Acaster**

The other magician sabotages him by removing the crash pad so he goes-, I would just think that, if you know it, I'd go, 'What if another magician is sabotaging me,' do you know what I mean?

**Ella Purnell**

But you're-, you know, you're a genie, you can, kind of-,

**James Acaster**

Genies and magicians, that's rough rivalry, that's worse than-,

**Ella Purnell**

Oh it's a rivalry? Genies and magicians?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh I didn't realise.

**Ed Gamble**

Surely genies win every time.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, but-,

**Ella Purnell**

Genie trumps magician?

**Ed Gamble**

Genie trumps magician.

**James Acaster**

You would think so, right?



**Ella Purnell**

Genie trumps magician, that makes sense, that feels right.

**James Acaster**

Yes but then magicians, like, we're their biggest threat because, like, we can take all their business because we can do any magic trick.

**Ella Purnell**

I mean, they're, kind of, imposters actually in your industry.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes they are. They're fake genies.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

They are fake genies and that's what we call them and I thank both of you for recognising that. We're talking about you acting in plays but, come on, Sweetpeas's coming out. Tomorrow?

**Ella Purnell**

Tomorrow.

**James Acaster**

Just looking at Benito there because he-, he was very confusing wasn't he before we started recording this.

**Ella Purnell**

I think you're doing great, Benito.

**James Acaster**

Yes. But he was confusing before we started recording.

**Ella Purnell**

A wee it. But as we know, today is the 9th October and tomorrow the show-,

**Ed Gamble**

The show comes out. Sweetpea, the show.

**James Acaster**

It's always the quiet ones.



**Ella Purnell**

It is.

**James Acaster**

That's the tag line. What can you tell people about Sweetpea?

**Ella Purnell**

What can I tell people-, right, okay. So, Sweetpea, it's a show about a quiet, young woman. Well, she's got a lot to say, it's just no one's listening. People-,

**James Acaster**

Played by anyone we know?

**Ella Purnell**

You may have heard of her. Her name's Ella, she's great-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Fantastic.

**Ed Gamble**

She comes out through the floor a lot. Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Quite clumsy, a bit accident prone. It's funny because every time she just appears in the scene, we don't know where she comes from, she just pops up through the floor. No, Rhiannon is very quiet, she's, sort of, overlooked, very invisible and then she discovers this intoxicatingly addictive taste for murder. Can you tell I've been doing loads of press and this is my, like, stock, mechanical prep?

**James Acaster**

Make us feel special.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm sorry, I don't know.

**James Acaster**

Remember what I did earlier?

**Ed Gamble**

Surprise us, Ella.



**Ella Purnell**

She kills people and it feels-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, sorry.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry, she kills people and it's-, she likes it. That sounded not great.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that's selling the show to me. She kills people and she likes it.

**James Acaster**

She kills people and she likes it. That's a good tag line as well. It's always the quiet ones but it could have just been 'she kills people and she likes it' and I would watch that.

**Ella Purnell**

You know, we were going between the two and it was a toss up, it was very close. We ended up with it's always quiet ones, it rolls off the tongue quicker I think, easier.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Also, how do you play someone who-, just because, like, in some things at the start, someone already is a serial killer, but how do you play someone who discovers they like it and make that believable?

**Ella Purnell**

That's actually a good question because I found that quite difficult but it ended up being really necessary I think because we're trying to do female Dexter, right? We're trying to get the audience to feel conflicted. You know, the whole first episode is about you relating to this character. People don't see her, she has to, kind of, smile through all of these, like, really shitty things that happen to her and it's relatable I hope and people should be able to relate to her emotions but not necessarily her actions-

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Don't kill people, that's the message I would like to spread. It's, sort of-, it's a disclaimer, I've got to get it in every interview, don't kill people. So, it is, kind of, necessary I think for you to see-, follow her journey



and in the end you're slightly rooting for her. You want her to stand up for herself. Maybe not that way, maybe other ways, but-,

**James Acaster**

It's fun, isn't it? Because I, you know, with someone like that, with Dexter, you know, you're like, 'Well, obviously I don't think he should be murdering people-,'

**Ella Purnell**

Obviously.

**James Acaster**

But a lot of-, you know, it's a TV show. It represents other things-,

**Ed Gamble**

And he's murdering bad guys.

**Ella Purnell**

Exactly. Exactly. Well, that-, it's interesting you, kind of-, because she, kind of, comes out with this moral code throughout the show where she's like, 'Right, I've killed someone, I need to justify this,' so she decides, 'Well, okay, good people deserve to live and bad people deserve to die.' She's, kind of, playing God in this way and then that's the progression of the series, is that moral code, sort of, blows up in her face.

**Ed Gamble**

I tell you my issue with Dexter briefly while we're on it.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I never liked that guy,

**Ella Purnell**

Interesting. I think you're really in the minority there.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't like him. And not just because of the murders. Before the show even starts, the opening credits, he eats his breakfast really weirdly.

**James Acaster**

And flosses weird.





**Ed Gamble**

Do you remember the opening credits?

**Ella Purnell**

I do, I do.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, well, how's about this for the opening credits, he cooks some bacon, eats it, then cooks an egg and eats it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

He doesn't have them together.

**James Acaster**

Who the f-,

**Ella Purnell**

I'd just put that down to, like, fancy editing. But you're right, it's the order that he does things. But what if he thought, 'Oh I'll have a light breakfast,' and then he realised, 'I'm still hungry,' and he gets up and cooks the rest of it?

**Ed Gamble**

He does it with juice as well though. He doesn't eat it all on the same plate at the same time.

**Ella Purnell**

God, you're so right.

**Ed Gamble**

He makes the juice, makes the coffee. So, that-, immediately I'm going, 'There's something up with this guy.'

**James Acaster**

And they chose that as the opening credits, it's not just a-, they're choosing that to show who this guy is. It's not just a one off, he thought, 'Oh actually I want more than that.'

**Ella Purnell**

What does that say about someone?

**James Acaster**

It says that, do you know what, he's a psychopath.



**Ella Purnell**

This guy probably kills people.

**James Acaster**

He probably kills people.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

To be fair, if I was hanging out with someone and they sat down, they ate their bacon, got back up, cooked an egg, sat down, I'd be like, 'This person kills people.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I've got to go home.

**James Acaster**

Something's going on here.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Are you much of a foodie?

**Ella Purnell**

Do you kill people? Am I much of a murderer?

**James Acaster**

Imagine if this was just a sting for the FBI. We've got you.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry but I've actually forgotten your original question because I was thinking so much about what you did today.

**Ed Gamble**

Killing people.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Do you like food like Dexter likes food?



**Ella Purnell**

Yes but I do cook it mostly all in one go. I do love food, I'm a big foodie.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I love food. That's why I'm so excited about this podcast. But I thought I'd actually get food.

**James Acaster**

Oh no way.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh no. A lot of people make that mistake.

**James Acaster**

In your dreams.

**Ella Purnell**

Right, okay

**Ed Gamble**

No, no, no. We don't give anyone food. What we do is we make people talk about food until they're really really hungry. So, you'll be, like, shaking by the end.

**Ella Purnell**

And do you always do it, like, first thing in the morning before anyone's had any breakfast as well?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

So, we're all psychopaths here?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

But you'll enjoy the meal that you have after this way more than you would have if you were eating on a podcast.



**Ella Purnell**

That's actually true.

**James Acaster**

We have made your meal for the day better-,

**Ella Purnell**

You have.

**James Acaster**

By talking about food first and then you go and do that.

**Ella Purnell**

You're a glass half full, kind of, guy. I see you, I see why, I see what you did there.

**James Acaster**

When I'm getting paid.

**Ed Gamble**

The rest of the time God no, you couldn't be more wrong on that.

**James Acaster**

You won't want to talk to me outside of this. I would try and, like, to put a positive spin on-,

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

This podcast but I'm honest.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, yes, yes. I appreciate that, thank you.

**James Acaster**

When that light's red I'm a very happy guy.

First of all we always start with still or sparkling water.

**Ella Purnell**

Still. I have a theory. So, sparkling water, we need to call it something else because it's-, it doesn't taste anything like water. Sparking water should taste like-, it should taste neutral, just fizzy. And sparkling water doesn't taste neutral, it tastes bitter and sour and like something else. It's like a unflavoured soda. I know I've just described sparkling water. Let me start again. It's sour, I hate it, I really don't like it. And



it really bothers me that it's called sparkling water, it should be called something else, it should have its own name.

**Ed Gamble**

I think that we should come up with a name now.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Oh wow, okay. Yes, yes. Okay, so, for the listener it's now 09:19.

**Ed Gamble**

Why you doing time checks like we're on live radio?

**James Acaster**

We've got to come up with a name for sparkling water, I want people to know what pressure we're under. Ella was, like, spouting philosophy earlier so I think you're-,

**Ella Purnell**

No, I really was, I came in so hot-,

**James Acaster**

I think you're going to be okay-,

**Ella Purnell**

One of my best ideas-,

**James Acaster**

But Ed and I aren't firing on all cylinders. We've got to come up with a new name for sparkling water at 09:19 in the morning.

**Ella Purnell**

It should sound how it feels.

**Ed Gamble**

So, sour is a word you've used a few times.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes it's bitter, it's-,

**Ed Gamble**

Bitter sour bubbles.



**Ella Purnell**

People can't see me but I just made a (mouth noises) face.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I mean, that would be-, I don't know if I could pronounce that.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes how do you spell that, sorry?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes. Every time, 'Do you want still or (mouth noises),'

**James Acaster**

Less people would be asking for that-,

**Ella Purnell**

It's slightly off-putting. If the waiter offered me that, I'd look at him and say, 'No thank you,' yes.

**James Acaster**

It would remind you of, like, 'Oh that's how it's going to feel actually so I'd rather just have the still water.'

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And still or tap? If you go into places-,

**Ella Purnell**

Oh a tap.

**James Acaster**

Are you a tap person?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I don't really care about the difference.

**Ed Gamble**

It feels like they're trying to rip you off as well.

**Ella Purnell**

It does. They are.



**Ed Gamble**

When they say, 'Still or sparkling water,' you know there's a third option-,

**Ella Purnell**

You know.

**Ed Gamble**

But no one's saying it.

**Ella Purnell**

Why don't they ever tell you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they should say, 'Still, sparkling or tap.'

**Ella Purnell**

They shouldn't assume that you know that they have a tap.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

They may not have a tap.

**James Acaster**

That's true.

**Ed Gamble**

I wouldn't go to a restaurant that didn't have a tap. That would be a real suspicious thing for me.

**Ella Purnell**

But you wouldn't know. You wouldn't know.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, well, I'd go in and go, 'First of all, do you have a tap and then I'll eat your food if you've got a tap.'

**Ella Purnell**

Hi can I see a menu and also do you have a tap?

**Ed Gamble**

Can I see a menu and your tap, take me back there and show me you've got a tap otherwise it's weird.

**James Acaster**

I would like to see the tap. I think if you are ordering tap water, it would be good to see the tap.



**Ed Gamble**

That's good yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Are you going to judge the restaurant on the cleanliness of their tap?

**James Acaster**

What if the taps rank and-,

**Ella Purnell**

No, you're right, what if there's a massive limescale build up on that tap?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh God, I wouldn't want to eat there. I wouldn't want the tap water, that's for sure. No then I'd get still. Maybe that's the standard we need to be setting.

**James Acaster**

We need to see where this tap is.

**Ed Gamble**

Take me back there to see the tap.

**Ella Purnell**

This so enlightening.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Can you think of, like-, so if you are having tap water and this is your dream meal, is there a tap that you've seen in your life that you'd like, 'That's the tap I would like it to come from.'

**Ed Gamble**

It's honestly the first time we've ever asked this.

**Ella Purnell**

Is it? I was going to say is this usually what happens? That was a great question. I haven't seen that many cool taps in my life to be honest.





**James Acaster**

Come on, come off of it.

**Ella Purnell**

What, have you seen a lot of cool taps?

**James Acaster**

Ella, you're a big star.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I am a big star.

**James Acaster**

And you're telling me they don't have good taps-,

**Ella Purnell**

Guys, all taps, kind of, look the same.

**James Acaster**

Are you joking?

**Ella Purnell**

Come on.

**James Acaster**

Are you high as a kite?

**Ella Purnell**

Come on.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want a separate hot and cold tap or a mix of tap?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh no I hate when they do it separately because then when I'm trying to wash my face in warm water. It's hot, cold, hot, cold, I can't-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.



**Ella Purnell**

It's too stressful. And then burn my face and then it's too cold and then you end up just doing cold and then you're cold and it's-, it's a very stressful experience. I don't want to have to hold my hands separately and then mix them together. Trying to mix hot and cold water in a bowl hand is really-,

**Ed Gamble**

A bowl hand?

**Ella Purnell**

Uncomfortable. I can see I clearly have a lot of, I didn't realise I had such strong feelings about taps.

**James Acaster**

Yes, see?

**Ella Purnell**

But no, that really does bother me actually.

**James Acaster**

You are being surprised on this podcast but by your own opinions.

**Ella Purnell**

I didn't know I had so many. Wow, thank you so much.

**James Acaster**

So, you like a mixer of tap.

**Ella Purnell**

I like a mix of tap.

**Ed Gamble**

But for a drink surely you don't want a mixer of tap.

**Ella Purnell**

No-,

**James Acaster**

Right, do you know what, Ed? I'm going to say that was unfair of you. Because you led Ella down this path of choosing the mix of tap and now you've gone, 'Fucking got you.'

**Ella Purnell**

You have tricked me.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes. It's a gotcha interview.



**James Acaster**

Sorry, Ella, you've been gotcha'd.

**Ella Purnell**

When it's one tap you just turn the cold bit on. I wouldn't turn the hot and the cold if I was drinking-, no one wants to drink warm water. Does anybody want to drink warm water?

**James Acaster**

I bet there are people.

**Ed Gamble**

Some people will have a mug of warm water in the morning with, like, a slice of lemon in it.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Ella Purnell? Poppadoms or bread?

**Ella Purnell**

Bread please. Can I get specific?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

With butter? Am I allowed butter?

**James Acaster**

Of course.



**Ella Purnell**

Okay, marmite butter?

**James Acaster**

Oh yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes you are, you definitely are.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh fantastic, I love this restaurant. It's great, yes. I love marmite and I love butter and I like them together, mix them together.

**James Acaster**

Have you had marmite butter anywhere before?

**Ella Purnell**

I have. There's a place in Wales called, I'm going to say Heaneys or Heeleys? Heaneys, definitely an N, Heaneys, and they do marmite butter with sourdough and it's unbelievable.

**James Acaster**

Great.

**Ella Purnell**

I actually once asked them for three extra bits of marmite butter and I put them in a to-go box and they-, I don't know why they looked at me like that was unusual because I feel like a lot of people must do that. They're not for their marmite butter and he looked at me like I'd offended his ancestors or like I'd done something deeply deeply wrong.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe they're used to people enjoying the marmite butter but they're not used to people being, like, package them up like they were doing shopping.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, fair. Fair but also not fair because if you're going to be known for it, you should really be known for it.

**James Acaster**

It's not like you can get it anywhere else. It's not like you're, like, 'Oh, that was great. I'll get some marmite butter on the way home.'

**Ella Purnell**

It's not like I can just go home and make it myself and mix a bit of marmite and butter together. That would be ridiculous. I could never do that.



**James Acaster**

You wouldn't get the ratios right.

**Ella Purnell**

They wouldn't be right. It wouldn't be right.

**James Acaster**

And is it sourdough you're having?

**Ed Gamble**

I think you could do it.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I think so.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

I think you could give that a go.

**James Acaster**

No, you couldn't.

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**Ella Purnell**

I'm sensing some tension here guys. Are we alright?

**James Acaster**

I've had enough of him. It's been so many episodes of this.

**Ella Purnell**

How many episodes have you done?

**Ed Gamble**

How many Benito?

**James Acaster**

Too many.

**Ed Gamble**

He doesn't know. James doesn't know. He's got no idea.



**James Acaster**

Over 200.

**Ed Gamble**

Over 200.

**James Acaster**

This contrarian bastard.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm just saying I think he could mix marmite and butter together.

**Ella Purnell**

I think he could.

**Ed Gamble**

It wouldn't be the same experience, sure, but maybe they put something extra in there.

**Ella Purnell**

What if it is? What if it is?

**Ed Gamble**

That's the end of their business I guess.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry. I really do like them. I'm so so sorry. Just dragged them through the mud.

**James Acaster**

Shouldn't have looked at you like that. That's what they get. Warm sourdough?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

With the marmite butter from Heaneys.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. You don't spread it with a knife. You take the bread and you use the bread as an edible spoon and you just dip it and also you get in there fast before anyone else can have any. I've got three younger brothers so I learnt to eat very quickly, and a lot, so it's embarrassing when I go out for dinner with people because they don't get to eat because I've eaten it all for them.



**Ed Gamble**

Because you're just always aware that someone else could have it first.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I've got elbows up, ready to throw hands.

**Ed Gamble**

It's like your brothers are there all the time.

**Ella Purnell**

They are. They're all the time. All the time. It's really hard.

**Ed Gamble**

People having dinner with you going, 'Ella, there's three boys standing behind you.'

**James Acaster**

For the listener, there are three boys in the studio now. It's 9:26 AM and Ella's got three boys standing behind her.

Your dream starter.

**Ella Purnell**

My dream starter. I'm going to go for soup dumplings because I love them but specifically from a place in New York called Joe's Shanghai and there's a very specific way you have to eat them as instructed by me and I get to watch you eat them. We're eating together. I'm not eating alone. It's just part of the soup dumpling experience, it's the eating of the soup dumplings.

**Ed Gamble**

I would say that goes for all food. Imagine over 200 episodes of this.

**Ella Purnell**

That may actually be accurate. Yes, yes, yes. Now who's being profound.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, now I'm aware.

**James Acaster**

His fucking attitude.

**Ella Purnell**

Now who's self aware. Look at us all just slowly achieving enlightenment. Look at that?

**James Acaster**

What an attitude?



**Ella Purnell**

Gorgeous.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry.

**Ella Purnell**

No, don't be sorry. You're right.

**Ed Gamble**

It's true. Part of the experience of the food is eating the food.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I suppose so.

**James Acaster**

Ella, just fucking destroy him.

**Ella Purnell**

No, but specifically with this it's an interactive experience. Do you know what I mean?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I do know what you mean. I was being being facetious.

**Ella Purnell**

I do agree with you. I care a lot about a mouth feel of a food. It can't be too squishy or too crunchy. It has to be the perfect mouth feel, but this is not so much about-, I'd actually say the mouth feel of a soup dumpling is quite bad but the experience of watching someone eat it and the sound effects, it's just very good. It's all very good.

**Ed Gamble**

Take us through the technique. How would you want people to eat it?

**Ella Purnell**

You have to bite the tip off and then drink the soup out the dumpling and the spoon and then-,

**James Acaster**

Oh, I did not expect this.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. No, no, this isn't dumplings in soup. This is soup in dumplings.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I know it's soup in dumplings but I thought-, so here's me with a soup dumpling. Just pop it in.





**Ella Purnell**

No.

**James Acaster**

Pop it in the hole.

**Ella Purnell**

Wrong.

**James Acaster**

Let it pop. Let the soup flow over my tongue.

**Ed Gamble**

Burn your mouth.

**Ella Purnell**

That's the thing. You burn your mouth.

**James Acaster**

I don't burn my mouth.

**Ella Purnell**

You don't have feeling in your mouth then. Do you have feelings in your mouth?

**Ed Gamble**

It's not the first time he's been accused of this. 'You don't have feeling in your mouth.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Every time. Kiss my girlfriend, she says that to me. 'You have no feeling in your mouth. Get out of my sight.' I have feeling in my mouth. Although once Ed and I went for a meal and everything was like Sichuan pepper stuff so it numbed up your tongue and then we had soup dumplings and it goes over the tongue. So, I guess on that occasion I didn't have feeling in my mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

You didn't have feeling in your mouth.

**James Acaster**

But it was pretty great.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm going to try that. That's really inspired me.



**Ed Gamble**

I do completely agree with you. That's how I eat soup dumplings. Bite a little bit off so there's a hole so some steam can come out so it cools down and then you drink some of the soup. You get a taste of the soup and then the dumpling. It's like a two-course meal.

**Ella Purnell**

Do you bite the top or the side?

**Ed Gamble**

I think I bite the top.

**Ella Purnell**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

Because I don't want it spilling out the side.

**Ella Purnell**

The nipple.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, the nipple.

**Ella Purnell**

The nipple of the dumpling.

**Ed Gamble**

I bite the nipple but if you put it on the soup-,

**James Acaster**

It's 9:30 in the morning.

**Ed Gamble**

You put it on the spoon.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And then bite the nipple.

**Ella Purnell**

And then you bite the nipple and then you drink the soup.



**Ed Gamble**

And then you drink the soup and then you eat the-,

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. It's good. It's good.

**Ed Gamble**

I guess if we're extending analogy.

**Ella Purnell**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No, okay.

**Ella Purnell**

No, we found the line.

**Ed Gamble**

I checked with James and no.

**James Acaster**

Or made eye contact with me. That was enough. I don't like that. Calling HR after this.

**Ella Purnell**

Do you have an HR department?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Called to Benito.

**Ella Purnell**

Is it just Ben? Is it Benito? Are you HR? Yes.

**James Acaster**

He's called Benito and he does not listen.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, you look sad about that. You seem busy.

**James Acaster**

He don't give a shit. He don't care. We'll go and slag each other to him and he just ignores us both.

**Ella Purnell**

Therapist as well then. Therapist, HR.



**Ed Gamble**

But bad at all of it.

**James Acaster**

Bad at all of it. The worst in the biz. I can't imagine what you're talking about with this soup dumpling. I can't imagine how you're making it work because to me it's so wobbly that you couldn't tip it and have a drink out of it because it would just always splat all over you and spill out.

**Ella Purnell**

And that's part of the experience. It's that. If you bite the nipple and not the side, chances are you're going to spill it because you've got to tip your head back so far because of gravity.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're biting the side. You're biting the side.

**Ella Purnell**

Well, it depends on how it's made because I had one quite recently. By recently I mean yesterday. No, no. What day is it? Two days ago and I bit the top and it was too much-, what is it? Dough. Bread. What's it made of?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, dough I guess.

**Ella Purnell**

I forgot how to speak. I said, 'What dis made of?' It's like I've never spoken English before. 'What is made of?'

**Ed Gamble**

'What is dumpling?'

**Ella Purnell**

What is dumpling?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I know because that's where they pinch at the top when they make it so there's a bit more dough.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, so sometimes it's too thick so it depends on the dumpling but if you do that and you tilt it back it does spill down and that's the soup dumpling experience.

**Ed Gamble**

But if it's on the spoon you're catching some of the soup in the spoon anyway aren't you so-,



**Ella Purnell**

It depends how big the spoon is.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And how big the dumpling is.

**Ella Purnell**

And how big the dumpling is.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you seen the ones that are massive that come with the straw stuck in them?

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ella Purnell**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't know where they do them but I've seen them. It's a bit Instagram-y but they do, like, huge ones. Stick a straw in it and then you drink the soup out of the straw.

**Ella Purnell**

That's a game changer.

**James Acaster**

Is it?

**Ella Purnell**

My mind is blown.

**James Acaster**

I think that's disgusting. I don't think that would taste as nice as these little ones.

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**James Acaster**

No. Because then you're basically just having a bowl of soup and then at the end you get, like, a bunch of pasta or whatever.

**Ed Gamble**

Pasta?



**Ella Purnell**

I do see, kind of, what you mean actually.

**James Acaster**

On its own. Like whatever the dumpling is. But it's not actually eating a soup dumpling is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Pasta?

**James Acaster**

What's the dumpling?

**Ed Gamble**

It's dumpling.

**James Acaster**

I said bread earlier. You left that alone.

**Ella Purnell**

I see-, and then we're back to the Dexter thing because with the regular soup dumpling experience, you're doing soup dumpling, soup dumpling, soup. With this one it's soup, soup, soup, soup, soup, big dumpling, and it's not quite the same. But I mean, how big is the dumpling?

**Ed Gamble**

Like big.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh, that's hefty. Right okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, like big.

**Ella Purnell**

It's like when you see the, like, clam chowder in a bread bowl, you know? It's not for me.

**Ed Gamble**

Because then with the clam chowder you're just left with so much bread afterwards.

**Ella Purnell**

Wet bread.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, wet bread.



**James Acaster**

Yes, no one wants that.

**Ella Purnell**

No, I like my bread dry.

**James Acaster**

With marmite butter on it.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, buttery. Yes. Does it count as wet or is that oily?

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's not wet.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm glad we cleared that one up.

**James Acaster**

What kind of soup is in the soup dumpling?

**Ella Purnell**

Chicken, pork. I don't eat fish so I never really go for like the shrimp prawn ones. Not for me.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It's normally pork, right?

**Ella Purnell**

Pork.

**Ed Gamble**

Pork, yes. Like a pork broth.

**James Acaster**

Pork broth, soup dumplings is what you would like.

**Ella Purnell**

Pork broth, soup dumplings.

**James Acaster**

And you would like to watch us eat them as well.



**Ella Purnell**

Mostly, yes. It is part of the experience. I don't eat them on my own very often. I really just like introducing people to the experience. It's really fun. I love a game. I love an interactive food experience. I love watching people spill on themselves. I think it's hilarious.

**James Acaster**

Interesting.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you dipping the dumplings in everything? Like the vinegar soy mix with chilli oil or anything?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I won't really dip it but I will-, because you know when they get stuck together, the soup dumplings and then they rip and then the soup falls out and then you've just got a dumpling and the soup parts gone. So, I have it to take the vinegar, smush it around, break the dumplings up so that it's all mixed up.

**Ed Gamble**

But when you break the dumplings up you're being very careful to not rip them?

**Ella Purnell**

Very very delicate.

**Ed Gamble**

It's like surgery.

**Ella Purnell**

It's like Operation. Like that game.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's another game.

**Ella Purnell**

I love a game.

**Ed Gamble**

And you love a game.

**Ella Purnell**

I do love a game.

**Ed Gamble**

Famously.





**Ella Purnell**

Famously, as of right now, I love a game.

**Ed Gamble**

What's your favourite game?

**Ella Purnell**

Ooh, very good question. Very good. Top three, Twister. I really do love a game. Guess Who but you have to ask character traits. You can't, you know, ask them what they look like. It's got to be like, 'Is your character having a bad summer?' It's got to be like that. Number three. Oh, it's a tough one. There's one called Watch your Mouth and you put this bit of plastic in your mouth and it holds your mouth like this and then you have to say things. Sorry, I'm just realising you can't see me. I am being-

**James Acaster**

Yes, we can see you.

**Ella Purnell**

I am indeed real and alive. And you have to say things to be able to guess what you're saying and those are my top three.

**James Acaster**

And obviously those first two, Twister and Guess Who, they're classics. How did you discover Watch your Mouth?

**Ella Purnell**

People buy me games as gifts quite often. I get quite a lot of gifts. I don't mean to brag and I got given and then we played it after having a couple of drinks. It was really good.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you ever combined watch your mouth with Guess Who?

**Ella Purnell**

Or Twister.

**Ed Gamble**

Or Twister at the same time?

**Ella Purnell**

Wait. No, but that's-, how have I not thought of this? This is so smart. It could be really good with Twister, right, because you're saying 'left hand on green' but you're actually saying 'left hand on green.' And you don't know what they've said so you've got to guess. Brilliant.

**Ed Gamble**

'Who's having a bad summer?'



**Ella Purnell**

Exactly. No one ever wins on Guess Who because it's too hard but it's really funny. So, again, it's about the experience.

**James Acaster**

The way that you play it, no one ever wins.

**Ella Purnell**

When I play it, I never win is what I mean.

**James Acaster**

Okay. So, we play a quick game of Guess Who now with the just-, I'm just thinking of one of these two.

**Ella Purnell**

I feel-,

**James Acaster**

You've got to play, like, your rules. You've got to ask me.

**Ella Purnell**

I really don't want to.

**James Acaster**

Go on.

**Ella Purnell**

I can't.

**Ed Gamble**

Just go for it.

**Ella Purnell**

Because my questions are always really mean and I just can't do that to Ben.

**Ed Gamble**

So, it's Ben. So, we're going for Ben are we.

**James Acaster**

Well, you can't just ask me is it Ben or is it Ed.

**Ed Gamble**

Hang on. Why can't you do that to Ben but you don't mind doing it to me?



**James Acaster**

Well, you've already been-,

**Ed Gamble**

Is it because you can think of mean things for Ben but not for me or is it because you absolutely don't mind tearing me apart?

**Ella Purnell**

Can it be both? They don't seem mutually exclusive.

**James Acaster**

Yes, they're not mutually exclusive.

**Ella Purnell**

Right.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you've been sitting there being like, 'Do you want a mixer tap. But if you have that you're a fucking idiot.' So, you just have everything you get.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's fair. Would you eat the soup dumpling with the Watch your Mouth thing in? How would you manage that?

**Ella Purnell**

How are you coming up with these? How are you doing it?

**James Acaster**

This is why I can't do the podcast. He's the best in the biz.

**Ella Purnell**

Truly. You're blowing my mind. No, you could physically not I think. I don't think you could swallow. Can you swallow with your mouth open? God, that was-,

**James Acaster**

I think you-, some people can. I saw it on Taskmaster.

**Ed Gamble**

I just did it.

**Ella Purnell**

Is that what you were doing when you took your sip (talking over each other 30.39)



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Benito looks disgusted. On Taskmaster, Benito, there is a task on series because she's the one who can do it.

**Ella Purnell**

That's insane. You did it again.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I did it again. I just wanted to check it wasn't luck.

**James Acaster**

For the listener, Ed is sat on his chair drinking water like a swan.

**Ella Purnell**

He looks like a turtle that can't get back in its shell but is really trying.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. That's good. That's a good clue for me on Guess Who.

**Ella Purnell**

Does your character look like a turtle?

**Ed Gamble**

Looks like a turtle that's trying to get back into his shell?

**James Acaster**

It's Ed Gamble.

**Ella Purnell**

Very good. Do you get that a lot?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm so sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

That's alright. It's a good vibe.



**James Acaster**

Just so you know, we're going to carry on with the menu but the game of Guess Who is still open. I am thinking of one of these two and if at any point you want to ask me a question about it, you can.

Dream main course. We've already got the soup dumplings for the starter.

**Ed Gamble**

A great starter by the way.

**Ella Purnell**

Ah, thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Really good.

**Ella Purnell**

Thank you. I really appreciate that. Okay, I've got a good one. Have you ever seen Spy Kids?

**Ed Gamble**

That's the first time anyone's gone into-

**James Acaster**

'Okay, I've got a good one. Have you ever seen Spy Kids?' I haven't. I know Spy Kids film.

**Ed Gamble**

I think I probably have seen Spy Kids but I don't remember any of the food in Spy Kids.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay, well there's not much. Actually, that's not true because apparently, I found this out recently. The entire film I think is sponsored by McDonald's. Don't know how that happened. Great collab. Anyway, there's a scene where they're at the safehouse.

**Ed Gamble**

How many times have you seen Spy Kids?

**Ella Purnell**

So, many times.

**James Acaster**

You're a big Spy Kids fan. So, you and your three brothers watched it a lot growing up.

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.



**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I watched it a lot on my own. I spent a lot of time alone as a child as you can probably tell and I watched a lot of Spy Kids. I really loved spies. Sort of a very weird obsession with spies.

**James Acaster**

Spies are cool.

**Ed Gamble**

Spies are cool.

**Ella Purnell**

Spies are objectively cool. No one's like that spy's a nerd because even being a nerd spy is still cool.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you can't trust that they're a nerd either because there's probably a spy thing.

**Ella Purnell**

Exactly. Anyway, I'm quite obsessed with like-, you know when you see in old movies when they do gadgets and they've got phones or make believe like, things that they've just invented for the film and they're always like really naff, but, kind of, amazing and you really want one. So, they've got like this, sort of, microwave. It's called a rehydrating machine and the female spy. The female child spy. Carmen is her name, I just remembered that. She pulls out a little packet. She's like, 'Look, we're going to rehydrate this.' Can you tell I'm an actress? That was an incredible re-enactment.

**James Acaster**

You just got the part in Spy Kids 2.

**Ella Purnell**

That was amazing. So, much feeling went into that.

**Ed Gamble**

There's already a Spy Kids 2.

**James Acaster**

Oh, apologies.

**Ella Purnell**

She's like, 'Look, we found this packet. We're going rehydrate it.' And she puts it in the microwave. No, sorry, rehydrating machine, and it's the most gorgeous looking burger you've ever seen in your life. It's like a burger on steroids. It's massive first of all. It must be a fake burger. It must be made of marzipan or something. It can't be a real burger. There's no way.

**James Acaster**

A marzipan burger?



**Ella Purnell**

It's gorgeous. I need to find a picture of this. It just looks incredible and I'm not a burger person.

**James Acaster**

Benito, Google Spy Kids burger.

**Ella Purnell**

Please. And make sure you put rehydration-,

**James Acaster**

Spy Kids burger rehydrating Carmen.

**Ella Purnell**

Thank you. Rehydrating machine.

**James Acaster**

Rehydrating machine.

**Ella Purnell**

Rehydrating Microwave..

**James Acaster**

And if you can't find an image of it. Go on videos. Surely someone's clipped it up.

**Ed Gamble**

Download Spy Kids.

**Ella Purnell**

It's so good and I'm sure it tastes fucking amazing. I think about it a lot.

**Ed Gamble**

Is that added technology element-,

**Ella Purnell**

It's for technology.

**Ed Gamble**

That's, kind of, cool as well because you're like, 'Imagine if that thing existed.'

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Then you could just have that burger.



**Ella Purnell**

You know what I'm talking about don't you? When they come out with, like, all these gadgets and they're just so silly and they would never work in real life but you're like, 'Imagine if it did.' It's so cool.

**Ed Gamble**

I think maybe in Red Dwarf there's a machine where they just put in whatever they want and it makes it straight away. That's the dream.

**Ella Purnell**

In Spy Kids, he's got a pair of glasses.

**James Acaster**

Fucking hell.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry to get your Spy Kids.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely obsessed.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry. But that's Spy Kids. He's got a pair of glasses and it comes out with like all of these different lenses and he's got like twelve lenses that comes out of his one monocle. And on a nine-year-old boy it's hilarious and brilliant and I just think-,

**James Acaster**

You want that as well.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. I would like the glasses as well.

**James Acaster**

You want the monocle with multiple lenses.

**Ella Purnell**

Multi monocle.

**James Acaster**

And you want the rehydrating burger.

**Ella Purnell**

Or just the rehydrating machine. I also think later in the film.





**James Acaster**

Benito has found it apparently.

**Ella Purnell**

Have you? There's a video of it isn't it? No, hang on a minute. Hang on a minute.

**James Acaster**

Ella, full disclosure. That looks like a normal burger.

**Ella Purnell**

No, no. Play the video.

**James Acaster**

I'm just going to-,

**Ella Purnell**

Ben, you're doing me dirty here. Come on. Help me out. Wait, wait. See. That's the rehydrating thing. Look how cool this tech is.

**James Acaster**

The screens gone over. That's pretty cool.

**Ella Purnell**

Only two buttons.

**Ed Gamble**

It looked a tumble drier.

**Ella Purnell**

Look. Oh, it doesn't look that good actually.

**James Acaster**

A normal sized burger has just come out and a very normal looking.

**Ella Purnell**

Wait, it does look so normal.

**Ed Gamble**

Ella, I'm going to say it. It's a Big Mac.

**James Acaster**

That's a Big Mac. I mean, you told us it was sponsored by McDonalds. That is just quite a nice looking Big Mac.



**Ella Purnell**

You know what guys. You are right. I'm quite disappointed. It looked so much-,

**Ed Gamble**

But in your memory it's amazing.

**Ella Purnell**

In my memory, it was like-, I would, like, rewind it and rewind and rewind it and say, 'Mum, please can I have a burger? Please, please, please.' It was amazing and now I've-, you've, kind of, ruined my childhood.

**James Acaster**

Well, we didn't know that that was going to happen, just then. We thought your description of it sounded so good.

**Ella Purnell**

That was such a let down. I really thought you guys were going to be like, 'Wow, the burger.' It is a Big Mac.

**Ed Gamble**

But the concept of the machine is amazing.

**Ella Purnell**

I don't want a Big Mac.

**Ed Gamble**

No, but you can have the burger from your memory.

**Ella Purnell**

Right. Yes. Okay, can I have the burger that only I can remember. Just close your eyes and imagine. You're like, 'Do I trust you?' And imagine the best burger you could ever possibly imagine. That's what it was in my head.

**James Acaster**

Well, going to the Red Lion when I was a kid in Welham. You know that?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I go there all the time.

**James Acaster**

And having the burgers there, my memory of them is that they were. As big as my head. And they were amazing and, like, everything was like-, the cheese was really thick and I had the one that had a fried egg on it as well. Didn't eat it separately like Dexter, had it on the burger and, like, I had to eat it with a



knife and fork. Like a big pie, it was so big. I'm sure that if I went back in time and saw it, it would just be a normal burger.

**Ella Purnell**

Well, it's all relative because you were smaller weren't you? So, you probably did need a knife and fork. Your hands weren't big enough.

**Ed Gamble**

Your heads bigger now.

**James Acaster**

My heads grown.

**Ella Purnell**

I didn't want to say it but-,

**James Acaster**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

It would be scary if hadn't.

**Ella Purnell**

It would be really scary.

**James Acaster**

If I had this head as a kid?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that would have been scary, but I didn't.

**Ella Purnell**

Also, I feel like food just never ended when you were a child. You know when your mum's like 'You've got to finish your plate.' It just keeps going. It never ends.

**Ed Gamble**

That never happened to me.

**Ella Purnell**

Really?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I was a big fat kid. I used to finish everything. Seconds all the way.

**Ella Purnell**

Seconds.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes. Seconds, thirds.

**Ella Purnell**

Everything? No food you didn't like.

**Ed Gamble**

No, not really. I tried to tell everyone I didn't like tomatoes once because I felt like I shouldn't like something. I felt weird that all my friends all had things they hated so I was like-,

**Ella Purnell**

Were you, like, secretly eating them in your bedroom? You just really missed them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I loved them. Absolutely loved them. Had huge bowls of tomatoes. But no, I love tomatoes but I was like, 'I don't like tomatoes guys. I'm cool too.'

**Ella Purnell**

Right, right, right, right. No ketchup though? That's tough.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Tomatoes? You've gone for one that's kind of like, I mean, no bolognese, no tomato pasta.

**Ed Gamble**

I think raw tomatoes, I was saying that I didn't like.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh okay, fine, fine, fine.

**Ed Gamble**

I did, I did like them.

**Ella Purnell**

You did like them?



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

You did like them. Well, you've just been outed, you've outed yourself.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Oh no, I'm out and about now.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh you're out and about?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Still eating tomatoes.

**James Acaster**

Everyone that you went to school with doesn't know that you were lying at the time, so if they listen to this, they'll be like, 'I can't believe Gamble was lying about-,'

**Ed Gamble**

What a fraud.

**James Acaster**

We all believed that he didn't like tomatoes, we thought he was interesting.

**Ella Purnell**

Changing lot of lives right now, this is a big moment.

**Ed Gamble**

Huge, this is a podcast exclusive.

**James Acaster**

You would like the burger, from your memory, from Spy Kids?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I guess so, I'm a bit disappointed with my option now, with my choice.

**James Acaster**

So, from your falsely remembered version of Spy Kids, is the burger that you would like for your dream main course?



**Ed Gamble**

Spy Kids memory burger?

**James Acaster**

Spy Kids memory, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, fine. I'm committing, I'm locked it. Yes. I'm going to stand by it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm owning it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Even though it was a bit disappointing.

**Ed Gamble**

Are there chips in your memory as well?

**James Acaster**

They are eating the chips in that, but in your memory-

**Ella Purnell**

They are in there, but in my memory no. It was just a plate with a massive burger. It's so disappointing guys, my heart hurts.

**James Acaster**

I do encourage everyone listening to this to watch the video, it's very funny when you see how normal the burger is.

**Ed Gamble**

What, and how much it's clearly a Big Mac and fries?

**Ella Purnell**

But I wonder how many people can relate to what I'm saying? Because I think a lot of people think that burger was amazing? Spy Kids was huge.

**Ed Gamble**

We're not doubting that Spy Kids was huge. We've never once disputed that Spy Kids was huge.



**James Acaster**

Listen. They got what, like two sequels? It was huge. It was a hit.

**Ella Purnell**

No, no, I'm just feeling a bit embarrassed.

**James Acaster**

But like, even the Spy Kids kids in that clip, don't seem fussed about that burger.

**Ella Purnell**

No, you're right, you're so right.

**James Acaster**

They get it, and then they're doing something else while eating it. They're not even like-,

**Ella Purnell**

They're arguably disappointed, actually.

**Ed Gamble**

They don't care.

**James Acaster**

They're like, 'This is a normal burger, we know it's just normal.'

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, fine, you're right.

**James Acaster**

But that's nice that in your head it's great, and that's what you're getting for your meal.

**Ella Purnell**

And that's what I'm getting, because it is Off Menu isn't it? I get to choose whatever I want. That's the rules of the game.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you can choose whatever you like. Such as your memory of the Spy Kids burger.

**Ed Gamble**

I love that it's a game now. Everything's a game.

**Ella Purnell**

Everything's a game if you're competitive enough.



**James Acaster**

Your dream side dish.

**Ella Purnell**

Side is hard, because I'm not really much-, I really like the concept of a salad. But I never like the actual salad. And especially when you're a bit full and you've had something quite hot and heavy, and then you feel a bit weighed down, and you think a salad is going to undo that damage. Because it's cold, and refreshing, and green, it's like a bright colour. It never does that. It's always disappointing. So, not a salad. But I wanted you to know that I went there.

**Ed Gamble**

That you liked the idea of a salad.

**Ella Purnell**

I would like to eat the concept of a salad, but not the actual salad.

**Ed Gamble**

Hey, well look, your main is Spy Kids memory burger.

**James Acaster**

Spy Kids memory burger.

**Ed Gamble**

The concept of a salad would be an appropriate side.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it would absolutely suit it. But I'm happy to whittle this down one dish at a time until we get to your side.

**Ella Purnell**

No we don't have to do that. Let's just go through all the food groups.

**James Acaster**

So, salads are out.

**Ella Purnell**

No, I would like it to be really cheap prawn crackers. Like, the ones from-, I want them to be 60p, out of a packet from Tesco or Lidl. And they're greasy. That's what, it's good, it's nice. When I get crisp from the shop, I'll always look for the prawn crackers first. Which is funny, because I don't eat fish. Prawn crackers, I don't think have any traces of actual prawn in them.

**James Acaster**

No.





**Ed Gamble**

I think they-,

**Ella Purnell**

Do you think they do?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I don't think they do. I'm pretty sure they're probably vegan or something.

**Ed Gamble**

They don't taste fishy though.

**Ella Purnell**

No they don't.

**Ed Gamble**

They're crispy, they're greasy.

**Ella Purnell**

Prawn cocktail, prawn cocktail crisps have no-?

**James Acaster**

They're mainly just tomato ketchup flavour.

**Ed Gamble**

Surely, yes, I don't think they have any actual prawn in them. But prawn crackers I think are made of prawns.

**Ella Purnell**

Do you think so?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Benito's has raised his eyebrows and nodded his head while looking at his screen.

**Ella Purnell**

They're vegan aren't they?



**James Acaster**

Yes, prawn crackers contain prawns. That's what AI Overview has said.

**Ella Purnell**

What does AI know? What does the internet know? Well, maybe I do like fish then, but just in cheap prawn cracker flavour.

**Ed Gamble**

From the supermarket? You want supermarket prawn crackers rather than-,

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I just want really shit ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I don't like them when they're fancy and come from a nice restaurant. It's not the same. I want them to be really greasy, I want them to make my fingers feel bad after I've eaten them.

**James Acaster**

Yes, your fingers have to feel bad.

**Ella Purnell**

You know? Yes, like you've got to wash your hands after. Which I suppose you should probably always do, but I don't do it very often.

**James Acaster**

Mixer tap? Washing your hands under the mixer tap?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, hot cold hot cold, like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes, you like to do it like that?

**Ella Purnell**

I've got, maybe, sound effects too, when I do it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, you've got to say hot cold, hot cold. So, these are like the white prawn crackers, not the Thai prawn crackers when they're a bit brown.



**Ella Purnell**

No, it's too nice. No.

**Ed Gamble**

You want the bog standard prawn crackers.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, yes. That are a bit like polystyrene, you know?

**Ed Gamble**

Yeah, I know.

**Ella Purnell**

But less squeaky than I imagine a bit of polystyrene would be. I've never done it.

**James Acaster**

Neither have I, but do you know what? Fuck that.

**Ella Purnell**

Imagine I got here and I was like, 'My perfect side dish would be polystyrene'.

**James Acaster**

I don't care who I offend.

**Ed Gamble**

I hate polystyrene.

**Ella Purnell**

Do you?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I hate it.

**Ella Purnell**

Why?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't see the point.

**James Acaster**

What? What do you mean you don't see the point?

**Ella Purnell**

What do you-,



**Ed Gamble**

We can surely come up with something better by now that's not squeaky and makes me feel weird when I touch it.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh, it makes you feel weird when you touch it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and my worst thing is imagining someone sawing through some polystyrene.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh that is bad.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's bad isn't it?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh no, I don't like that.

**James Acaster**

I've done it before.

**Ed Gamble**

What?

**James Acaster**

I've sawed through a massive block of polystyrene with a saw.

**Ed Gamble**

Why?

**James Acaster**

I had to get a giant polystyrene W into a car boot and I couldn't, so I had to saw it into V.

**Ed Gamble**

So, what are you talking about?

**Ella Purnell**

I've got questions.

**James Acaster**

I was collecting giant yellow polystyrene W's at the time, I was going through a phase.



**Ed Gamble**

Come on, come on.

**Ella Purnell**

How many did you have?

**James Acaster**

I think we got five or six in the end, I can't remember exactly how many. But yes, we got a fair few.

**Ella Purnell**

So, when you sawed it, did you stick it back together again at the other side?

**James Acaster**

We actually didn't end up sticking it back together again, it knocked around in my friend's sister's garage for a few years. I don't know if it's even there still.

**Ella Purnell**

I bet they were thrilled, that friend.

**James Acaster**

She ended up with the one that was in half, and another one, that sister. So, she had those.

**Ella Purnell**

You need to find someone that collects polystyrene Vs.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

And donate.

**James Acaster**

Yes, then they would be delighted.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. God, that would be the greatest collab of all time.

**James Acaster**

Make that person's day.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, Ben seems like he has more questions.



**James Acaster**

Well, he can't ask, he can't talk.

**Ed Gamble**

Ella said she had questions, and then didn't ask any of the questions that I thought you were going to ask.

**Ella Purnell**

I asked loads of questions, just because they weren't the ones that you wanted. Those are your questions. I've asked my questions, thank you very much. What are your questions?

**Ed Gamble**

Why, why did you do this?

**Ella Purnell**

Why, why is my main question.

**James Acaster**

Why?

**Ed Gamble**

Why were you collecting polystyrene W's?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh right, that is the obvious question, yes, of course.

**James Acaster**

I was in a band, called the Wow Scenario.

**Ed Gamble**

The Wow Scenario.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh right, oh it does make sense.

**James Acaster**

Someone told us, 'Hey, I know someone who's got a giant polystyrene W, you can have it stage when you do your gigs.' So, we went to pick it up, and then we went to get it and it was huge, and we had to try and put it on the roof of the car. But it was going to fly off and it was very precarious. And I brought it home-,

**Ella Purnell**

Polystyrene is quite light, it would just float in the air.



**James Acaster**

That's what we were worried about on the dual carriageway. If it flies off the roof and then takes someone out.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, you'd really ruin someone's day if that happened.

**James Acaster**

But we got it home, and my dad was like, 'That is not coming in the house.' I was like, 'You've got no say in this old man, we're having to do this.' And then we were talking to a guy, a local photographer, and we're like, 'Here's an idea for our photo-shoot we're going to do with you. We've got this giant yellow W, we're going to bring it along to your studio.' And he went, 'I've already got one, I don't need it.' And we're like, 'What are you talking about, you've already got one?' And he showed us a picture, we're like, 'That's identical to our one.' And he was like, 'Yes, well connections have got them in their windows. They've got this whole thing for people leaving school, about what next. It's this whole campaign they're doing. They've all been given these giant yellow W's, they all hate them. They don't want them in their shops, they're taking up too much room. So, they just gave me one for free. They all just want rid of them.' So, then, at the time, me and my friend were like, 'Let's get loads and fill the whole stage with them.'

**Ella Purnell**

I'm fascinated by you as a person.

**Ed Gamble**

How many did you need though, because you were called the Wow Scenario?

**Ella Purnell**

How many did you have? It's unbelievable that you've managed to acquire five of these.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we got quite a few of them. And then we kind of ran out of steam and just forgot about it.

**Ed Gamble**

And the band broke up.

**James Acaster**

The band broke up. And then my friend Ben, who kept at least one of them for us in his garage, moved house and forgot about it. So, the people who came in after him would have opened that garage door and been like, 'What the hell. Who's this guy?'

**Ella Purnell**

I mean look, there's worse letters to collect, isn't there? I feel like W, out of all the letters, is probably the most versatile.



**James Acaster**

Well, you know what I'm going to ask. What is the worst letter that you collect?

**Ella Purnell**

Well, an S can only be two Cs. A W can be an I, and N, a Z, or two Vs. An R is pretty shit. An R could be an I, it could be two eyes, or an L I suppose.

**Ed Gamble**

And a little C.

**Ella Purnell**

And W could be an L as well. An I, an I is probably-, well no, there's got to be others. Come on. B, what can B be, two Cs I suppose? A?

**Ed Gamble**

I don't know.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry. This is my podcast now.

**James Acaster**

We're going to clip this up. This is the rantings of a madman. I've never had a guest do such an interrupted monologue that sounds so insane. Go through all the letters and what they could be if you chopped them up.

**Ed Gamble**

And not in order.

**James Acaster**

Not in order, just all over the place. And just for the listener, we haven't sped it up. That is the speed that Ella was talking at.

**Ed Gamble**

That is the speed, yes. That was amazing.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm so so sorry. I got kind of excited.

**Ed Gamble**

But it's interesting, all the letters could be chopped up to be other letters.

**James Acaster**

Yes.





**Ella Purnell**

It is interesting, that's why I got so excited. Because I've never thought of it before.

**Ed Gamble**

I think C is the worst.

**Ella Purnell**

C is the worst, that's very smart. C is good.

**Ed Gamble**

C can't be anything else, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

C is terrible, no, C can't be anything.

**James Acaster**

C is the worst one.

**Ella Purnell**

C's useless. Sorry.

**James Acaster**

And that would be the worst one, if I was taking that on top of the car. If that blows away, it would boomerang back to you. You're in big trouble.

**Ella Purnell**

This is my favourite conversation I've ever had. I'm going to be thinking about this for such a long time.

**James Acaster**

Most guests come on here and say that.

**Ella Purnell**

Do they?

**James Acaster**

They say, this is the best conversation I've ever had.

**Ella Purnell**

Do they? But do they talk about chopping up letters?

**Ed Gamble**

No they don't.



**James Acaster**

Oh, listen, you're the best guest.

**Ella Purnell**

No they don't. Thank you so much.

**James Acaster**

There's no question.

**Ella Purnell**

It's hot, really really warm-,

**James Acaster**

Did we get your dream side? Hold on. Do we know what your dream side was?

**Ella Purnell**

My dream side?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, prawn crackers.

**James Acaster**

It was prawn crackers, of course it was.

**Ed Gamble**

That's how we got to it, polystyrene-,

**Ella Purnell**

Or the concept of salad, but not the actual.

**Ed Gamble**

We can give you both?

**Ella Purnell**

Am I allowed two?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

This is the weirdest meal.



**Ed Gamble**

If one of them is a concept, you're allowed two.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay fine. What if one of them's a memory? I'm going to be very hungry, I'm just eating memories and concepts.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm not sure you've actually had any food yet.

**Ella Purnell**

I've had water.

**James Acaster**

You're not doing much to dispel the stereotype of actresses. Most of its imaginary, I just like the concept of salad, burger that I remember.

**Ed Gamble**

The starter I just want to watch other people eat.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, that is the most Hollywood shit I've ever heard. I like the concept of food.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

Your dream drink?

**Ella Purnell**

Diet Coke.

**James Acaster**

I almost don't want to ask any questions, it's just a very funny deliver. Diet Coke, so why is that your favourite drink?

**Ella Purnell**

That's just a boring one, how many people come on here and Diet Coke? But it's true.

**Ed Gamble**

Look, Diet Coke's great. That's the thing.

**Ella Purnell**

It is, it's the cure for all ailments.



**Ed Gamble**

It's really good.

**James Acaster**

Oh that's good.

**Ella Purnell**

I can't even say it. But it is the cure for a hangover, and nausea.

**James Acaster**

When have you been the most nauseous, what has made you the most nauseous?

**Ella Purnell**

That's a weird question isn't it? That's a very weird question, what's made you the most nauseous?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it is a weird question. It is pretty weird.

**Ella Purnell**

I like it. What has made me the most nauseous? Food poisoning. Oh I've got a great story, I won't tell it.

**James Acaster**

Go on.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you've got to now.

**James Acaster**

You can't do that. You can't go on a podcast, 'Oh I've got a great story, I won't tell you.'

**Ella Purnell**

It's a really good one. It is kind of food related, but it's kind of gross.

**James Acaster**

We've had a lot of gross stories on this.

**Ella Purnell**

And it involves me outing a chain, which, I don't know how you feel about that. I don't know if you could be sponsored by them, I don't know.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough. No, we're not sponsored by nothing.



**Ed Gamble**

Go for it.

**Ella Purnell**

By nothing?

**Ed Gamble**

We are James, we record loads of adverts all the time.

**James Acaster**

I thought that was just me and you having a chat.

**Ed Gamble**

If it's one of our sponsors, we'll bleep it.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, bleep the whole story. Okay, so I went on a date once. Oh this is really bad, I can't believe I'm telling this story. I went on a date once with this really fit guy, he was a model, gorgeous.

**James Acaster**

Shout out to that guy.

**Ella Purnell**

So, hot. Unbelievable.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want to shout him out?

**Ella Purnell**

No thank you. He's going to listen to this and he's going to be thrilled. Maybe he won't.

**James Acaster**

Buddy, if you're listening, we hope you're having a good day.

**Ed Gamble**

No fit guys listen to this.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's a point.



**Ella Purnell**

He's Australian. I've got to get to the end of this story, I'm so embarrassed.

**James Acaster**

No, no, keep describing this guy.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay, he's Australian, he doesn't know London very well. He comes to London and we're meeting up. And I just can't believe my luck, and so I take him to-,

**James Acaster**

I've never heard anyone so excited about a date.

**Ed Gamble**

Actually, especially not a woman. It's rare you hear a woman say that.

**James Acaster**

'I can't believe it.'

**Ed Gamble**

He's so fit, I can't believe my luck. This guys so fit.

**Ella Purnell**

I was excited about the concept of a date, okay. Guys, I'm cool. I'm playing it cool. I'm playing it cool. In hindsight, did not play it cool. Took him to a Mexican chain restaurant that I love. That back in the day, this was a while ago, this was about ten years ago, was quite cool and quite trendy. Don't know if it is any more. But it was back then. Took him there, had a great time. Had a little snog at the end. Ate loads of food, good chat, I was thinking-,

**Ed Gamble**

Did you snog him and then say I can't believe my luck?

**Ella Purnell**

I did, as I was snogging him, I was like, 'I can't believe-.' I was also hyperventilating and crying all the time.

**Ed Gamble**

Breaking away going, 'My luck!'

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, but like that, really high pitched.

**James Acaster**

When you snogged, did you have the stuff in your mouth from that game you played.



**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I was doing it with What's Your Mouth.

**James Acaster**

What's Your Mouth, you put that it.

**Ella Purnell**

So, I was like, aha. Like that. It was like that, it was fantastic. God I sound so cool in this story.

**James Acaster**

It's cool story, and we know that it's leading up to your shitting yourself.

**Ella Purnell**

You just ruined the punchline. Do you like doing that? Do you like taking other people's joy away? Do you like doing that?

**James Acaster**

Well, everyone knows that's where it's heading. That's what's fun about it.

**Ella Purnell**

Make you feel big and clever? Unbelievable. Long story short is, the next day was Halloween, I invited him to a party.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, I don't know what that's made me laugh so much. Long story short, it was Halloween.

**James Acaster**

The next day was Halloween.

**Ella Purnell**

The next day-,

**James Acaster**

You invited him a party, so this was like two days in a row you're seeing this guy?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh yes, he was only in town for a short amount of time. So, we go to the party, I was very halloween-y, very hot. I looked very hot. I'm going to say it guys, I really dressed up.

**Ed Gamble**

So, he can't believe his luck?

**Ella Purnell**

He's saying, 'I can't believe my luck.'



**James Acaster**

What was the hunk dressed as for Halloween?

**Ella Purnell**

Batman or something, I can't remember.

**James Acaster**

Come on, it was the hunk, you can remember?

**Ella Purnell**

It's safe to say, we never spoke again after Halloween. So, yes, we went to this Halloween party, and we walked in. I looked incredibly fit, and I shit my pants in the middle of this Halloween party. And right after I'd shit my pants, I turned to him to say I've shit my pants, but I projectile vomit all down Batman. And then he turns to me, and he also projectile vomits. We have to leave the party, right. That's the first thing that's-

**Ed Gamble**

I'd say the party is over for most people.

**James Acaster**

Everyone's going home.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Everyone's going home, happy Halloween.

**Ella Purnell**

God, this is such a horrible story but it's also so fucking funny. Anyway so, we never spoke again. And turns out this restaurant had this crazy outbreak of Norovirus. I was so unwell for about a week. It was so embarrassing. It's the worst, it keeps me up at night. But also, because of the three brothers, I tell it all the time. I tell this story all the time at dinner parties. And it's hilarious.

**James Acaster**

It's great. Great story.

**Ella Purnell**

But it's also just, after that, I couldn't believe my luck. I'm sorry I had to say it, I had to do it. I'm so sorry, I had to end like that.

**Ed Gamble**

Was fit Batman projectile vomiting because you projectile vomited? Or did he also have Norovirus?





**Ella Purnell**

He had Norovirus from the restaurant. Yes. My publicist is in there, wanting to fall into a hole into the ground. I'm going to get fired from my publicists.

**James Acaster**

No, your publicist knows what does the rounds on social media. This is absolutely the best thing that could have happened. Sweetpea is going to be watched by everyone.

**Ella Purnell**

I've ruined my life, I've ruined it. Yes, no. He also had Norovirus.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that must have made you feel a bit better about it?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh it did. I mean look, we're all human aren't we? No body is strong enough to withstand the amount of tacos that I ate, full of Norovirus. I'd eaten straight Norovirus. I mean look, it's going to happen. It's fine. Really, it's a good story. It could have been an amazing, and that's how I met your mother moment. It's just, neither of us were strong enough.

**Ed Gamble**

Also it's good for Halloween. Projectile vomit is good for Halloween isn't it?

**Ella Purnell**

So, on brand.

**Ed Gamble**

If you'd been dressed as the girl from the exorcist, it would have been perfect.

**James Acaster**

Oh yes.

**Ella Purnell**

That would have been so good. Also, why didn't we pretend that was part of the Halloween party decoration? It's a hard sell.

**James Acaster**

It's hard to do that I guess, when you stink of sick and shit.

**Ed Gamble**

Also you made a big thing of, I look fit, I look so fit. Difficult to-,



**Ella Purnell**

I did. What a waste of an outfit. I had to burn it. That would be crazy, I didn't burn it. My mum had to come pick me up though. It was so embarrassing. 'Mum can you pick me up I've shat myself at a party?'.

**James Acaster**

'I shat myself, and as I turned to tell my date I'd shat myself I puked all over him.'

**Ed Gamble**

And then he puked.

**James Acaster**

'And then he puked. Can you come and pick me up please?'

**Ella Purnell**

Please pick me up. So, anyway.

**James Acaster**

Diet Coke.

**Ella Purnell**

How did we get onto that? Diet Coke, right?

**Ed Gamble**

So, you had Diet Coke the next day and it cured your ailments?

**Ella Purnell**

Oh, and it cured me-, that is how. Why did I tell that story? We can bleep that whole thing right?

**James Acaster**

Nope.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's going to be one long bleep.

**Ella Purnell**

Nope.

**James Acaster**

We can.

**Ella Purnell**

We can. We wont.



**James Acaster**

We can, we know what our listeners like.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

There's been many stories told on this podcast.

**Ella Purnell**

People shitting themselves.

**James Acaster**

People shitting themselves.

**Ella Purnell**

That's good, that make me feel better.

**James Acaster**

That's one of the more dramatic ones.

**Ella Purnell**

Was it? I like a good dramatic reading.

**James Acaster**

Yes. It was a good one. Do you want me to tell my shit myself story?

**Ella Purnell**

Thank you Ben.

**James Acaster**

I mean, I hate to have to say this, but which one. I mean, loads of times.

**Ella Purnell**

How many times?

**Ed Gamble**

As an adult?

**James Acaster**

As adult?

**Ed Gamble**

We can't go right back to when you were a baby.



**James Acaster**

Oh as an adult.

**Ella Purnell**

No, right. It's got to be eighteen onwards.

**James Acaster**

As an adult twice I think. And I think I've told both of them on the podcast. One was when I think I had a quesadilla from a-

**Ed Gamble**

From a truck.

**James Acaster**

Mexican food truck, then did a TV show the next day. I was in LA, did a stand up set, and then the stand-up set didn't go well. And my agent at the time wanted to go to a steakhouse. Then I went to the steakhouse, shit my pants.

**Ed Gamble**

While you were at a urinal.

**James Acaster**

While I was at a urinal.

**Ella Purnell**

Oh you were in a bathroom? Doesn't count.

**James Acaster**

What are you talking about? It was still into my boxers?

**Ella Purnell**

It doesn't count if you were in a bathroom. Next.

**James Acaster**

I wasn't sitting on the toilet.

**Ed Gamble**

His story is not, I was sat on the toilet and I shit myself.

**James Acaster**

Oh I shit myself all the time. Shat myself this morning. I was sitting on the toilet, thank god. So, once again, the old toilet caught it, but-,



**Ella Purnell**

I guess you-,

**James Acaster**

I repeatedly shit myself every day into a toilet.

**Ed Gamble**

'Oh no, I did it again! Oh, phew.'

**James Acaster**

I don't want to tell people this.

**Ella Purnell**

It's fine. At least you're in private, I suppose.

**James Acaster**

I was having a-, I was urinating, standing up with my trousers and pants on-,

**Ella Purnell**

No. Really?

**James Acaster**

Then shat into-, yes, because I thought-,

**Ella Purnell**

What did you think?

**James Acaster**

'This is a fart.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

One of those, eh?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

He's one of the men who stand at urinals and fart while they're pissing.

**James Acaster**

The whole bathroom was empty, and no-one was in there, so I was like-,



**Ella Purnell**

I've never pissed standing up, so I wouldn't know how easy or not easy or what-, I don't know the connotations, I don't know what that means.

**James Acaster**

You are missing out. It's the best feeling in the world.

**Ed Gamble**

There are men who stand-,

**Ella Purnell**

That's the best feeling in the world? Cool.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Farting while-,

**Ed Gamble**

There are men who will proudly fart while they're stood up at a urinal.

**James Acaster**

Yes, they're bad men.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It's normally, I find-,

**Ella Purnell**

Most people fart when they're standing, don't they?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but not while at the urinal, stood next to other members of the public.

**James Acaster**

Yes, but not while they're urinating.

**Ella Purnell**

Not whilst they're-, do you pause the pee to fart, or do you-,

**James Acaster**

They don't. These guys are like-,

**Ella Purnell**

These guys can-,



**James Acaster**

Who knows how they do it. You know you see a beatboxer and they can do, like, the bass line and the drums at the same time?

**Ed Gamble**

The vocals. Yes.

**James Acaster**

You're like, 'How the fuck is this guy-,' that's what these guys, these men are like.

**Ella Purnell**

The bassline and the drums at the same time is so good.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That's what they're doing.

**Ella Purnell**

That's going to live in my head rent-free. That's amazing.

**Ed Gamble**

It is impressive.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's what happened. Benito is demanding that you say more about Diet Coke, but, like, I don't know if you want-, you don't have to.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm trying to get a Diet Coke sponsorship. I don't know about you guys, I'm out here trying to get free Diet Coke for life. Sort of like, do you remember the Nando's Black Cards? I don't know if they were actually real or not.

**James Acaster**

Yes. They were real. We know people who had them.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Alright. Weird flex.



**James Acaster**

I've seen them.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm trying to get a Diet Coke Black Card, that's all I want.

**Ed Gamble**

That's why you told the puking story?

**Ella Purnell**

Because I think that's going to really help their brand. Really help their image, that it cures all ailments. That's the focus. It can cure norovirus.

**Ed Gamble**

It can cure norovirus?

**Ella Purnell**

I've said it, now. Am I going to double down? Yes, I am.

**James Acaster**

Yes. It cured you.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. It can cure-

**Ed Gamble**

This has gone very Joe Rogan, this podcast.

**James Acaster**

It was bound to happen eventually. We'd eventually get straight into those waters.

**Ed Gamble**

'Pull that up, Benito!'

**James Acaster**

Your dream dessert.

**Ella Purnell**

The doughnuts from Adventure Island on Southend-on-Sea. Have you ever been there, Adventure Island, Southend-on-Sea?

**James Acaster**

No.





**Ella Purnell**

It's so good.

**Ed Gamble**

Ben is calmly nodding, because, of course, he's been.

**Ella Purnell**

You've had the doughnuts, I assume? Everyone's had the doughnuts. No, you haven't?

**James Acaster**

He likes theme parks and stuff. He's definitely been to the-, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

You like a theme park? I love a theme park. I love a roller-coaster. It's my favourite-, well, second favourite after games. Third after Diet Coke.

**Ed Gamble**

I love that your thought process there was like, 'Oh no, I've just betrayed games by saying I love roller-coasters, they're my favourite.'

**Ella Purnell**

I'm nothing if not loyal. Very loyal, and I love a list, so it's important to me to know what my favourite things are in order.

**Ed Gamble**

Interestingly, lists are not at the top of the list?

**Ella Purnell**

Shit, you keep doing this! You keep, sort of, confusing me, and you've given me a lot to think about.

**James Acaster**

We've got you. We've got you.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm going to go home and I'm going to just lie in the dark looking up at the ceiling thinking about where lists rank on my list of favourite things.

**James Acaster**

Do you love lists more than games and roller-coasters?

**Ella Purnell**

I use them more than I use games, and I definitely visit a list more than I visit a roller-coaster. roller-coasters, you can't do too much, it loses-, sorry, I came in really strong with that opinion. I do feel quite strongly about it. You can't do roller-coasters too much, it loses the impact.



**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ella Purnell**

Once you know where the drop is, it's less fun. You've got to forget, or close your eyes. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

With a list, it's fun every time, right?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. Yes, it is.

**Ed Gamble**

You can't close your eyes with a list.

**Ella Purnell**

I quite like re-prioritising a list. I do it, like, multiple times a day. 'That doesn't deserve number two, that should be, really, like, number ten.' Yes, a big list person. I keep lists of everything. Didn't, weirdly, make a list for this.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's interesting.

**Ella Purnell**

Sort of, the only thing I should maybe have made a list for, but I wanted to be surprised.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and we've been surprised by some of your choices.

**Ella Purnell**

I wanted to surprise you! Did I succeed? Are you surprised?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Very surprised, constantly.

**Ella Purnell**

Good.

**James Acaster**

Been so many surprises. I didn't expect you to puke after shitting yourself.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. You thought you knew the ending of that story, didn't you?



**James Acaster**

Yes. No, I didn't know.

**Ella Purnell**

The surprise-ee becomes the surprise-r.

**James Acaster**

Yes, exactly.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I spend a lot of time in Southend-on-Sea. My nan lives there, and I spent a lot of time there when I was a child. Arguably too much time. Had my birthday party there when I was nine.

**James Acaster**

That's nice.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. It was really nice. Really, really nice. It was a really, really good time.

**Ed Gamble**

Why are you so aggressively telling us it was nice?

**Ella Purnell**

Because it wasn't very nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**Ella Purnell**

It was fine. It was just, it was a birthday party, and I didn't have a ton of friends, so I invited nine people and then my mum made me invite everyone in the class, which, was just automatically just very embarrassing, because you've got to get on a train. By the time you've got there, you've spent two hours on a train with 23 people that don't like you very much, and then you get to Southend-on-Sea and it's raining, and no-one's been to Essex before. You know?

**Ed Gamble**

So, you've got to introduce all these kids to Essex.

**Ella Purnell**

So, then you go, 'Welcome to Essex!' I'm now picturing myself like a sort of a nine-year-old Essex tour guide. Then, you say, 'Try these doughnuts,' but the doughnuts were a hit. Maybe that's why I want the doughnuts, because it was a happy memory.



**James Acaster**

Because all of the kids thought you were cool.

**Ella Purnell**

Because all the kids were like, 'Yes, she's really cool.'

**James Acaster**

Do they have anything on them, these doughnuts? What are we talking?

**Ella Purnell**

Sugary. Sugary doughnuts.

**Ed Gamble**

Hot? Are they fresh?

**Ella Purnell**

Hot, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That's key.

**Ella Purnell**

You get twelve little ones in a bag. They're just, like, it's nostalgic, and I guess the sugar high combined with the roller-coasters, it's just like, it's a good time, it's a good day, and then you eat as many as you can and you feel really sick. Again, that's part of the Southend-on-Sea experience, is feeling sick on the roller-coaster. They're hot. I said that already. Sugary. Did I say that?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Lots of sugar.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

We know that they're sugary doughnuts.

**Ed Gamble**

Do they come with, like, a sauce or anything, or are they just plain? They're little, hot-,



**Ella Purnell**

I can't remember, actually. I don't think so. I'm not really much of a sauce girl. I don't really-, I never like the sauce. I like my crumble plain. I don't like, really, ice cream or custard or anything on the crumble. Is that a red flag? You're looking at me like that's a red flag.

**James Acaster**

No! No, it's fine.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think it's a red flag. I think it's interesting, but, you know.

**Ella Purnell**

Both of your voices went very high when you said that. You're betraying yourselves.

**Ed Gamble**

'No, it's fine. It's alright.'

**Ella Purnell**

'It's fine.' I really tried to get high there, it didn't come out.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that was-,

**Ella Purnell**

Quite disappointing.

**James Acaster**

Well, look. I was more like, 'Why have we jumped to crumble straight away?'

**Ella Purnell**

Right. Just talking about sauce.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it was to illustrate that you're not a sauce girl.

**Ella Purnell**

To illustrate that I'm not a sauce girl. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Fair enough.

**Ella Purnell**

That's a good analogy.



**James Acaster**

Do you want to have a guess of who I'm thinking of? Otherwise, the listeners are going to be like, 'Why did that game of Guess Who just never-,'?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, let's do it.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, do you want to ask me one of your famous questions?

**Ella Purnell**

I think you should ask me.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

Got you. She's got you.

**James Acaster**

So, you're thinking about one of these two.

**Ed Gamble**

Never try and game the gamer.

**James Acaster**

Okay. So, you're thinking of one of these two.

**Ella Purnell**

The game-ee has become-. Yes, I'm thinking of one of the people in this room, but it could also be you.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ella Purnell**

One of the three people, not including me.

**Ed Gamble**

Ask the question.

**James Acaster**

Huh?



**Ed Gamble**

Ask a question.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I will.

**Ella Purnell**

Ask a question!

**James Acaster**

When they were a little boy, did they frequently eat a dish called the Picker's Basket?

**Ella Purnell**

None of you have got very-, no, maybe you've all got very good poker faces. Is it Ben? Are you Ben?

**James Acaster**

Hold on.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm going purely on-,

**James Acaster**

What is this game?

**Ella Purnell**

I'm going purely off the both of us. What do you mean, 'What is this game?' You're playing Guess Who.

**James Acaster**

I thought you're thinking of one of them, but you're-,

**Ella Purnell**

No, you're thinking of someone. No, I'm thinking of someone!

**James Acaster**

You're thinking of someone, and I'm asking you, based on your rules.

**Ella Purnell**

Wait, no, no, no-,

**Ed Gamble**

Also, Ella doesn't know our backgrounds enough to know-,

**Ella Purnell**

We've got the game wrong.



**James Acaster**

Ella flipped it, didn't she? I know more about you guys.

**Ella Purnell**

I've got to think of someone, but then-, hang on a minute. Why have you asked me a question?

**Ed Gamble**

Because that's how Guess Who works.

**James Acaster**

You told me to.

**Ella Purnell**

No, but then-, so true. Also, this is a very hard game because I don't know you guys, we've just met. I don't know anything about you.

**James Acaster**

Okay, okay. I'll do one that's more-,

**Ed Gamble**

Do you know anything about the people on Guess Who?

**Ella Purnell**

I guess not. I guess not.

**Ed Gamble**

It can't be a background question, it has to be a vibe question.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Do they look like-,

**Ed Gamble**

Here we go.

**James Acaster**

If they picked up-,

**Ella Purnell**

I say 'yes' or 'no', that's how the game works.

**James Acaster**

A bowl full of cereal, their little wrists would snap?





**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is it Ben?

**Ella Purnell**

No.

**James Acaster**

Is it me?

**Ella Purnell**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I never knew that my wrists-

**Ella Purnell**

I can't believe you just asked me a question and then I guessed the person. I've so grossly misunderstood the concept of Guess Who. I quite like it. I quite like this game. It's good. It's good in person. It's a good in person game. You don't need the board, actually.

**James Acaster**

This is good. Yes, I found out something about myself, as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Delighted to be last on the list of people whose wrists would snap if they picked up a bowl of cereal.

**Ella Purnell**

I mean-,

**Ed Gamble**

Ben, James, me.

**Ella Purnell**

Your wrists don't look like they would snap.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, if I picked up a bowl of cereal.

**Ella Purnell**

If you picked up a bowl of cereal. That's how it goes. Also, what's quite hard is, you have to not look at the person to check their wrists. I didn't walk in here and immediately look at everyone's wrists, so I had



to-, so, I actually only picked you because you were the only person whose wrists I could see in my peripheral vision.

**James Acaster**

So, you couldn't see Ben's?

**Ella Purnell**

Well, I didn't want to go like that, because you were looking at me, and you would have seen me go like that, moving my eyes.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you would have made a wrist list.

**Ella Purnell**

A wrist list?

**Ed Gamble**

Knowing how much you like lists.

**Ella Purnell**

What, I've walked in here and gone on my phone and gone, 'Best wrists, from one to three.'

**Ed Gamble**

Thinnest wrists.

**James Acaster**

Also, weren't you already meant to be thinking of someone? So, you should have already been thinking of me.

**Ella Purnell**

No, I know.

**James Acaster**

So, then, when I asked you that question-,

**Ella Purnell**

Look, usually I've got a board in front of me, I've never done it like this, and it sort of-, I had to do a little bit of mental gymnastics to get there, and now I understand the concept of the game, and now I'd like to play again.

**James Acaster**

Okay. Well, now I'm thinking of someone.



**Ella Purnell**

I've got to ask a question?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

This is mean!

**James Acaster**

No, it's not mean.

**Ella Purnell**

Because I don't know you!

**James Acaster**

You can't hurt their feelings, these guys. Or mine. I'm thinking of one of you three.

**Ella Purnell**

So, wait. Now, hang on, I've got to do the mental gymnastics again. You're thinking of someone?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

See, now you're getting annoyed, but you were the one who tried to start-, do the game again.

**Ella Purnell**

No, I know, but this is the problem with gaming. I am very competitive, and I am annoyed at myself because I haven't immediately grasped the rules of the game that I came up with. Do you see what I mean?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I see what you mean, yes.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm getting very annoyed, so now-,

**James Acaster**

I'm thinking of someone in this room. I'm thinking of someone in this room, and you have to ask me a question-,

**Ella Purnell**

I have to guess who you're thinking of?



**James Acaster**

Yes, and it has to apply to their vibe. Or your imagined history of them.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, true. Does your person look like they could be, like, are they like a live-action animated-, do they look like they're an animated cartoon character? Do they look like they have the face of a cartoon?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Sorry, I'm just having a look.

**Ed Gamble**

Just looked straight at me, by the way. For the listeners.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm allowed to move my-, move my eye-, move my mind-, move my eyes, now.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Ella's allowed to look at everyone to try and figure out-,

**Ella Purnell**

I'm allowed to look at everyone, so I'm really taking advantage of that moment. It's funny, because actually, now, everyone looks a bit animated.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Do you look like you could be like a Scottish White Walker, from Game of Thrones?

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

I have not seen Game of Thrones, but I'm going to say yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Are you Ben?

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ella Purnell**

You don't look like a White Walker, by the way. It's just because you've got blue eyes. It was the only thing I could think of.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you could be an extra.

**Ella Purnell**

It's literally just the blue eyes. Also, I don't know where Scottish came from. I think it's because you've got a bit of stubble, and in my head, that's like, stubble equals Scottish. I don't know why. That's a weird connotation.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's weird. So, you're learning about yourself in this game, as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes, good game.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, unfortunately. I'm not learning good things about myself.

**Ed Gamble**

This is how we like to come towards the end of the podcast, is-,

**Ella Purnell**

I feel like we've been talking for 100 years.

**Ed Gamble**

That's what we like. We like people to feel like it's been 100 years, and for them to sigh.

**Ella Purnell**

At the end of it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Ella Purnell**

No, I've had a great chat. This has been really fun. It's been really fun.

**James Acaster**

Do you want to play another round before I read you your menu?



**Ella Purnell**

Yes, go on, but should we let someone else have a go?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Ed, think of someone.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Do you want to ask Ed?

**Ella Purnell**

I feel like all of us should ask questions. Are you not allowed to speak?

**James Acaster**

Ben's not allowed to speak. Me and you can take turns asking Ed a question, if you want to go first.

**Ella Purnell**

Should I go first?

**Ed Gamble**

There we go, there's the sound again.

**Ella Purnell**

That's my thinking sound. Do you look like you were bullied as a child?

**James Acaster**

I mean-,

**Ella Purnell**

See what I mean? All of my questions are really mean, and I can't-,

**James Acaster**

No, it's fine, but bearing in mind that what you're trying to narrow this down is between the three of us. You are not narrowing it down very-, I mean-,

**Ella Purnell**

Can I get rid of that question?

**Ed Gamble**

We already know you had to force people to come to your birthday in Southend.

**Ella Purnell**

I know. It's literally no wonder I had no friends. I was actually just a bully. I was a bully.

**James Acaster**

Yes? You were the bully?

**Ella Purnell**

I wasn't bullied, I was the bully. No-one wanted to hang out with me, I was so mean.

**Ed Gamble**

You can throw that question down and start again if you-,

**Ella Purnell**

I'm going to throw that question out. Can you go? I'm panicking a bit.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Did the person you're thinking of once shit themselves and then puke all over their date?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Is it Ella?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I will read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it.

**Ella Purnell**

You wrote that down? The whole time?

**James Acaster**

You would like tap water. Poppadoms or bread, you want warm sourdough with Marmite butter from Heaneys in Cardiff. Starter, you would like pork soup dumplings from Joe's Shanghai in New York?

**Ella Purnell**

Joe Shanghai.

**James Acaster**

Main course, you want the Spy Kids burger, but, like, from how you remember it. Side dish, you want a concept of salad and cheap supermarket prawn crackers. Drink, Diet Coke, and dessert, doughnuts from Adventure Island in Southend-on-Sea.



**Ella Purnell**

Yes. That sounds like a lovely menu.

**James Acaster**

Yes? You're happy with that?

**Ed Gamble**

Perfect.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes, I am really happy with that.

**James Acaster**

We haven't even talked about you and all your mates eating each other on the island. This is a food podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

It wasn't an island.

**Ella Purnell**

I think, seeing as we just talked about a bunch of schoolkids going to Adventure Island, we might need to just clarify-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, clarify-,

**Ella Purnell**

That that's not what you're referring to, question mark?

**James Acaster**

No, I'm not referring to that. I'm referring to you and your friends. With the plane crash.

**Ella Purnell**

Yellowjackets?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. The TV show. I'd say, lead with 'Yellowjackets, TV show'. 'Acting', probably say it's acting.

**James Acaster**

You're burying the headline, there. They all ate each other!

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Not, 'You and all your friends ate each other on an island.'





**James Acaster**

We've never had-,

**Ella Purnell**

'Adventure Island, when you took all your friends to Adventure Island, you gave them the doughnuts and then you ate them all. You ate them all. Only one child returned back to London that day, and happy birthday me.' Yes. Yellowjackets.

**James Acaster**

That's messed up.

**Ella Purnell**

That is really messed up.

**James Acaster**

We've never had anyone on the podcast before who's been that heavily involved in cannibalism, and this is a food podcast.

**Ella Purnell**

I know. It's a bit of a thing, I'm going to get a reputation, because it's happened in two shows I've done. That one and Fallout. Yes, people are starting to talk. It's not good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but it's always in a situation where it gets a bit desperate, right?

**Ella Purnell**

I'd hope so.

**Ed Gamble**

It's never like, you've never been in a show where you're like, 'I'm hungry, I'll just eat a human.'

**Ella Purnell**

No. Well, in Fallout, I don't eat anyone, but the Ghoul does eat other ghouls, sometimes humans, I think. Actually, I don't think he does eat humans. He makes arse jerky out of another ghoul's bum, obviously. Wouldn't make it out of his elbow, would he? Silly.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, if you don't know your arse from your elbow.

**James Acaster**

Wow. Best in the biz. He's the best in the biz. Quick question before we go, then.

**Ella Purnell**

Okay.



**James Acaster**

You've got to eat another actor who you've worked with in the past. Just, who's it going to be? It has to be someone you've worked with.

**Ella Purnell**

That's a really good question. Are you going to go for-, what's the context, what are the circumstances?

**James Acaster**

You've just got to eat them.

**Ella Purnell**

I've got to eat them because I'm desperate, because I'm very, very hungry, or you've got a gun to my head and you're like, 'You've got to eat them now,' but I'm not that hungry. How hungry am I?

**James Acaster**

You're very, very hungry.

**Ella Purnell**

I'm very, very hungry. Am I starving? Am I on, like, is it a Yellowjackets situation?

**James Acaster**

You're starving, it's a Yellowjackets situation.

**Ed Gamble**

You need to eat soon.

**Ella Purnell**

So, I want someone with big muscles, right? Because then that's, like, more protein, probably? Who's the most muscular actor I've worked with? The guy that I threw up on was pretty muscly. He's not an actor that I've worked with, but he is someone-,

**James Acaster**

I mean, you're adding insult to injury, there.

**Ella Purnell**

He is someone that I know that's got muscles. I'd probably eat him. Or Aaron, Aaron from Fallout. He's been working out a bit lately. Yes. I'll eat him.

**James Acaster**

Eat him. What's his surname?

**Ella Purnell**

Moten. Aaron Moten.



**James Acaster**

Aaron Moten. You're getting eaten.

**Ella Purnell**

Yes. Sorry, Aaron. He's a lovely guy.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a compliment. You just said he's muscly.

**Ella Purnell**

I did, actually.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, working out-,

**Ella Purnell**

I forget that that's a compliment.

**James Acaster**

Much to his detriment, because now he's getting eaten.

**Ed Gamble**

The more you work out, the more likely you are to be eaten.

**James Acaster**

That's the moral of the podcast.

**Ella Purnell**

Wow.

**Ed Gamble**

Didn't expect it to end like that, but thank you so much for coming to the Dream Restaurant, Ella.

**Ella Purnell**

Thank you guys so much for having me. So, nice to meet you.

**James Acaster**

Thank you, Ella.

**Ed Gamble**

There we are. What an ep. What an ep, what a chat.



**James Acaster**

Twists and turns.

**Ed Gamble**

She's so much fun. I loved that.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I mean, it's nice to have the memory of a food on the menu, especially when-, but, it was sad to show her that it wasn't what she remembered it.

**Ed Gamble**

That's memory for you.

**James Acaster**

It was sad, though. I had to put someone through that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Hopefully she can forget about that and go back to her original memory, which was like-,

**James Acaster**

I hope so.

**Ed Gamble**

The platonic ideal of a burger, from Spy Kids.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Hopefully, because that is her dream meal. Didn't say Nuka-Cola, though, so that's good.

**Ed Gamble**

Said Diet Coke, went with the traditional Diet Coke rather than Nuka-Cola.

**James Acaster**

We could have pushed it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Some of the listeners might have a go at us for that. We got side-tracked with the vomit story, and that, and Benito did say to us, 'Maybe talk more about Diet Coke,' and maybe that's where he was heading. He wanted us to-,

**Ed Gamble**

That's unfair, I think, to push people into the secret ingredient, I think is unfair.



**James Acaster**

I think it's unfair, but maybe people were like, 'Well, you didn't get a brand. What if she meant Diet Nuka-Cola?'

**Ed Gamble**

She said Diet Coke, which is the brand, yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I think we've got to accept that. Also, then, we wouldn't have heard about the doughnuts.

**James Acaster**

Exactly. We wouldn't have heard about those lovely doughnuts, and we wouldn't be able to say, watch Sweetpea, everyone! It's on Sky.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Watch Sweetpea, it's on Sky and Now. It comes out on October 10th, that is tomorrow if you're listening to this on the day that it's released, but otherwise, it is out now on Now, and Sky. I'm going to watch it, I'm excited.

**James Acaster**

I'm going to watch it, I'm excited.

**Ed Gamble**

I am currently on tour, doing my show Hot Diggity Dog until the end of November. Come along. Going to loads of different places. If you live in London I'm doing the London Palladium on November 23rd. I'm also in Manchester, well, Salford next year, January 19th and 20th, at the Salford Lowry, filming some shows.

**James Acaster**

That's exciting, filming the shows.

**Ed Gamble**

So, come along.

**James Acaster**

Not much news over here. I guess I'm going to go home and try and bowl of cereal just to prove some people wrong, but that's about it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Thank you for listening to the Off Menu podcast. Goodbye.



**James Acaster**  
Goodbye.