



# Off Menu – Ep 269 – Robert Popper

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the minced beef of conversation, putting it in the bowl of the internet, and eating it like a huge bowl of meat cereal.

**James Acaster**

Well, that's it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, simple.

**James Acaster**

Eating minced beef out of a bowl?

**Ed Gamble**

Carnivore diet.

**James Acaster**

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster, together we own a dream restaurant, and every single week we invite a guest and ask them their favourite ever, starter, main course, desert, side dish and drink, not in that order. And this week are guest is Robert Popper.

**Ed Gamble**

Robert Popper, one of the UK's finest comedy minds, James.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I'd say. I first became a fan of Roberts when I watched, 'Look Around You.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, what a show.

**James Acaster**

As a scamp, and then got into, 'The Timewaster Letters.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Those brilliant books. And of course, a lot of people know, 'Friday Night Dinner.' And will be huge fans of, 'Friday Night,' it ran for a very long time. Rare in this biz.

**Ed Gamble**



Very rare, but Robert is, well, I'm going to say it, national treas in terms of the stuff he's produced James.

**James Acaster**

Yes. He is absolutely, national treas. Treas, 'Treas,' I said. 'National treas,' that's like, 'Tres Leches.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Maybe?

**Ed Gamble**

Puddings aren't far from the brain are they, with you?

**James Acaster**

Always in there. Also, Robert's got a new book now.

**Ed Gamble**

'The Elsie Drake Letters (aged 104).'

**James Acaster**

That's in brackets, 'Aged 104'. Elsie Drake is aged 104, Elsie Drake is an alter ego of Robert's who's written loads of real letters to real people.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And absolutely wasted their time in a hilarious way. Some of these, is absolutely mad, what he's had people do, and what people have been patient enough to converse with Elsie Drake about. It's so funny, if you've not read, 'The Timewaster Letters,' as well, you should absolutely read these. This I think is just taking it to the ultimate, it's so good. You will laugh throughout, and also, I really hope Robert talks to us about some of the stories behind these letters, because I had a brief chat with him about what it was like writing these, and he got himself in quite the pickle on more than one occasion.

**Ed Gamble**

Fantastic. Well, hopefully he'll tell us about all the pickles, and maybe he'll pick pickles.

**James Acaster**

Maybe.

**Ed Gamble**

You've not given him a quote for the book James, you do seem to like it.



**James Acaster**

He didn't ask me for a quote. I'm quite gutted to see that Greg Davies, Aisling Bea, Daisy May Cooper, Matt Lucas, Simon Pegg, Katy Wix, Richard Ayoade, all of those people were asked for quotes, and they've all been on, 'Off Menu,' apart from Simon Pegg.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, god, this is a good podcast isn't it?

**James Acaster**

What a good podcast. But I wasn't asked.

**Ed Gamble**

Unfortunately, if Robert Popper picks-,

**James Acaster**

What? What has happened to you? What has happened to your voice, and your-,

**Ed Gamble**

Well, Benito knows what I wanted to do.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Well, you could do that after, yes, definitely you should do that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

If Robert Popper picks a pot of pickled peppers.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That should be the secret ingredient.



**James Acaster**

Yes. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, that should be it. We were going to say, 'Jalapeno Poppers,' because of his surname.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But actually, we should say, 'If Robert Popper, picks a pot of pickled peppers,' then he fails, he's out of the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Oh no, it's the best one we've ever done.

**Ed Gamble**

It's the best one we've ever done. But hopefully, Robert Popper will not pick a pot of-,

**James Acaster**

Hopefully, Robert Popper will not pick a pot of pickled peppers, or, he's out of the dream restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, let's find out if Robert Popper will pick a pot of pickled peppers.

**James Acaster**

He might do it.

**Ed Gamble**

He might do it.

**James Acaster**

He's got a funny sense of humour.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

He might be on his way here thinking, 'That will be funny.'

**Ed Gamble**

Well, let's find out, this is the Off Menu, Menu of Robert Popper. Welcome, Robert, to the dream restaurant.



**Robert Popper**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

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

**Robert Popper**

Could you do that a bit louder please?

**James Acaster**

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

**Robert Popper**

Thank you so much.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you want it louder just to get the full experience? Did you feel, like, you didn't get the full dreamy experience?

**Robert Popper**

I just wasn't, I didn't quite get the shock I have normally when I listen to it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Because it just comes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But I can see you doing it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I didn't get that shock. But I, kind of, got a residual shock the second time.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think so, that's the loudest I've ever done it, like, in person.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, definitely.

**Robert Popper**

Well, that's a first.

**James Acaster**

That's a first, yes.

**Robert Popper**

As this is the last episode ever of the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

It's going to be an episode full of firsts, I think.

**Ed Gamble**

We were planning to announce that, Robert, but you did it there.

**Robert Popper**

Sorry, sorry.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I mean do you want to explain to the listeners why it's the last ever, since you broke the story?

**Robert Popper**

Well, they know what you guys said. You know, we all know what you said.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Whether you agree or not, that's a different thing, I don't want to get involved in that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But, you know, some of the things you've said, particularly recently-,



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Meant that this has been, you know.

**Ed Gamble**

We just think all viewpoints should be aired, regardless of whether we stand behind them or not.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, that's one of your attitudes. Have you seen, 'Douglas Is Cancelled?'

**Ed Gamble**

No, still not seen it.

**Robert Popper**

Well, there we there, you know.

**James Acaster**

I haven't, I said, 'Yes,' but I thought-I thought we were still making stuff up.

**Robert Popper**

I haven't seen it either, I'm just going meta now, straight in.

**James Acaster**

I thought it was something you'd made up and never heard of it before. So, I thought, 'Oh, he's making stuff up.'

**Ed Gamble**

You thought you'd go with it?

**James Acaster**

Yes. I thought we're still making-,

**Robert Popper**

No, no, no, no, it's actually, it's a iTV show about a man being, and I haven't seen it either.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Karen Gillan's in it.



**James Acaster**

Shout out to Karen Gillan.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Big shout.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, big shout, do you want to shout out any other celebs before we crack on?

**Robert Popper**

No, no, no, I'm ready now.

**Ed Gamble**

You sure?

**Robert Popper**

I'm ready now.

**Ed Gamble**

You can shout out a celeb if you want.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, what celeb should we do?

**Ed Gamble**

Just say, 'Shout out,' and then the first celeb that comes into your mind.

**Robert Popper**

First celeb, Nigel Farage.

**Ed Gamble**

Shout out, can't even bring myself to say it.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, that's linked to what you said recently, so.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, to be fair. We were talking about the controversial comments that we'd made.

**Robert Popper**

Exactly.





**Ed Gamble**

And apart from this episode of course, we will be releasing our Christmas special with Nigel.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, it's going to be roast beef isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

For every single course, yes, including drinks.

**Robert Popper**

Roast beef juice for the drink.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, absolutely.

**Robert Popper**

We'll have it all mashed up in a bucket or something, you know.

**James Acaster**

Yes, horrible.

**Ed Gamble**

A big old trough. Yes. In a little horsebag just balancing it on his nose.

**Robert Popper**

Totally.

**Ed Gamble**

You're just guzzling it.

**Robert Popper**

When he sleeps.

**James Acaster**

Are you a foodie, Robert?

**Robert Popper**

I am not a foodie. I mean, obviously, here we go, everyone says, 'I like food.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

'I eat food. I exist.'



**James Acaster**

No one has ever said that before.

**Robert Popper**

My problem is, most food in the world, I don't like.

**Ed Gamble**

Most food?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. And I've done a list, and I'm not going to read the list because-, I mean, you can have the list at the end because I know one of those foods, because there's so many, will be the food that gets me evicted.

**Ed Gamble**

Right, okay. But you would be allowed to mention it, it's just as long as it's not on your menu.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, okay. Okay. Well, I'll dig it out later, maybe. Yes. Yes, okay. Okay. There is a list.

**James Acaster**

You made a list of food that you don't like?

**Robert Popper**

Well, I've always wanted to do this list because my wife said, 'It's ridiculous. There's nothing you like.' And I go, 'I know, there's nothing I like,' because when I go to a restaurant, I see people going, 'Oh, I could have that.' And I'm like, 'Right, well, I can't have that. I can't have that. What can I have? Oh, can I have that? Oh, it's got that in it. Oh, I can't have that. Oh, I'll have that, then and that then.' So, it's 40% pleasure but 60% stress.

**Ed Gamble**

But the list of things you don't like, they're fairly common things that crop up in a lot of dishes?

**Robert Popper**

Oh, yes. Yes.

**James Acaster**

But when you say, 'Can't have that,' is it because you're allergic?

**Robert Popper**

No, I could eat anything. I mean, I'll eat wood. I can't eat glass. But, you know, fish. Anything fish, anything in the sea. I can't do that one.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't like it.



**Robert Popper**

So, that's quite a plain, ordinary thing not to like. Isn't it, or not?

**Ed Gamble**

I think a lot of people don't like fish. Yes, I think, that's fair.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I've met people who don't like fish before, or people who don't like fish if it's too fishy.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, anything. People go to you, 'What about smoked salmon?' I go, 'Well, that's fish.' And they go, 'Well, what about prawns?' No.

**Ed Gamble**

Fully blanket, no fish?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, nothing in the sea, for taste and weirdness reasons.

**Ed Gamble**

What's weird?

**Robert Popper**

They're just weird, aren't they, fish?

**Ed Gamble**

Things in the sea.

**Robert Popper**

Sea, yes. I remember the first time I went snorkeling. I mean, I had a snorkel on. I was in Antigua. And, when I went under, I saw thousands of fish and it was like, 'Fucking hell, this is going on. All this shit is going on while we're up here.' It's a got a whole different universe. It's an outrage, basically, and that was one of the extra things that I can't and they're too weird. It's just like their alien. They're alien and weird.

**Ed Gamble**

See, that's interesting that your reacting to realising there's a whole other universe going on down there wasn't, 'Wow, that's amazing.'

**Robert Popper**

It was amazing but no one told me this much was going on everywhere, fish everywhere, like jellyfish. I don't know, there might be a shark here. There was just so much going on. Meanwhile, we're just out of the water, we're living and they've got their stuff there, like properly intense living and yes, that, kind of, blew my mind.



**Ed Gamble**

But then that led on to you-,

**Robert Popper**

And it only angered me a little bit. It was a bit of an outrage.

**Ed Gamble**

It got you a bit angry?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it was a bit of an outrage.

**Ed Gamble**

And that meant you didn't want to eat them?

**Robert Popper**

It definitely cemented my, 'I can't eat these guys.'

**James Acaster**

Because of how much is going on down there?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

And if you're snorkelling, that's just there, right there.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, right there. That's what I mean, they're right there.

**Ed Gamble**

But what do you think about there's bits of the ocean that humans have never even explored and no one really knows what's going on down there?

**Robert Popper**

Well, you mean the ones where David Attenborough pretends to be in the thing going to the bottom of the-

**Ed Gamble**

But like deep, deep sea.

**Robert Popper**

I'd eat them. I'd eat them, those alien fish.



**Ed Gamble**

The ones with the lights on their head?

**Robert Popper**

The ones with the lights on their head, yes. What do I think of that? Well, that's an outrage as well. It's all an outrage. The ocean, it's just an outrage, isn't it, really? I think we'd all agree with that.

**James Acaster**

Well, I mean, I don't know. I think if fish found out what we were up too up on dry land, they would be more outraged than us when we find out what they're up too.

**Robert Popper**

I think they wouldn't get much time to process it because as soon as they're on dry land, that's it, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Maybe that's why. Maybe they could breathe but they're just so shocked, they immediately die.

**Robert Popper**

Maybe, yes. We'll never know.

**James Acaster**

And they just die of shock a lot of the time. They're just gasping.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, maybe it's that and maybe it's shock.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it probably is, actually.

**Ed Gamble**

But they can't believe all the stuff we're doing.

**Robert Popper**

And they saw a podcast. That would be just too much.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, also, it sounds a bit like a fishing thing, doesn't it?

**Robert Popper**

A cod cast. What about that? That's a good one.



**James Acaster**

A cod cast.

**Robert Popper**

That's a good one, aye. A cod cast. Have you ever thought about doing one about them like a spin-off about that?

**Ed Gamble**

The cod cast podcast.

**Robert Popper**

That's not bad. Yes. Think about it.

**James Acaster**

Just talk about fish every time.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And what's going on down there.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. And the meals you could make.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You wouldn't be a guest on that one because you famously don't like fish.

**Robert Popper**

I'd be a bad guest.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Also, before we get into your proper menu and talk about food, we must talk about 'The Elsie Drake Letters' because this is very exciting. For those who don't know, you've been writing books for quite a while. I'd say, every comedian in my generation has read and loved your 'Timewaster Letters'.

**Robert Popper**

Thank you.

**James Acaster**

And they're a big part of the comedy furniture.



## **Robert Popper**

Furniture?

## **Ed Gamble**

Furniture?

## **James Acaster**

Furniture. (talking over each other 11.11) for comedians of our age. Do you want to let the listeners know what 'The Elsie Drake Letters' is? What the idea is behind them?

## **Robert Popper**

Thank you, James. Yes, well, I did these stupid books, 'The Timewaster Letters' years ago, pretending to be a man called Robin Cooper, and I wrote to stupid British hobby groups. I don't know, the National Table Tennis Association or whatever, and when I finished doing them, I loved it so much, I wanted to do more. And I thought of a different character years ago and I started piddling around with her for a bit. Her name is Elsie Drake, she's 104 and the 6th oldest woman in Britain and she's just been given a computer, so it's, sort of, chaos. She doesn't really know how to use it. And I started doing them for fun. I wrote to Tony Blair. I got it signed, 'To Elsie, wishing you better.' I think she broke her ankle or something. Then I put it away and I kept doing it for a bit over the years. And then last year, I suddenly thought, 'You know what? I'm going to finish this book.' So, I wrote hundreds of letters. I always put a £5 note in all the letters, cost me a fortune, so they write back out of guilt. And I wrote to lots and lots of different people. I did quite a lot of food-based things so she'd write to Gregg's, she, me, and making pies, so I did a pie which was, I think, I can't remember what it was, but, I think, it had tuna, suet. Tuna, I had to handle tuna. Suet, and I think, it has kidney and a piece of banana in it and I made these pies. They're called priest's fingers. Said that was my great grandma who used to make them.

My wife would come in and go, 'What is that smell?' 'Oh, I'm making these pies.' 'Okay.' And then, I'd package them up. I'd write to Gregg's saying, 'Would you stock these? They are delicious.' And I'd go to the Post Office. They always say, 'And what's in the envelope?' And I just have to say, 'Socks,' or something like that, for a cousin but they don't know there's like a disgusting stinking pie. And they'd write back, 'We don't want that.' And then I'd do another pie. And then for Wimpy, I made burgers. So, she loves Wimpy burgers so much that we had a Wimpy party to raise money for Wimpy. And so, my wife didn't know. She came home to find-, what I'd done was I'd put a little table in the garden and adorn it with Union Jack flags with signs saying, 'Wimpy burgers, £1 each.' And I made Wimpy burgers out of this old mince we had in the fridge. So, used that. I bulked it out with spaghetti, carrots, big pieces of carrots, cooked that in the oven and then with two pieces of white bread, buttered on top and I laid them out on dishes. And she said, 'You know the neighbours can see this?'. So, it was a lot of meat and food. Yes, and it's all about her life and she lives with this mad woman called Mrs Hale, who they clearly hate each other, there's a lot of tit for tat. There's a lot of like when she wasn't looking, I poured ink on her bed and stuff like this. But people write back, probably, a bit through guilt but yes, and that's the book.

## **Ed Gamble**

Do you find it easier to get responses when you're a 104 year old woman?



### Robert Popper

I found it really hard, because people just don't write letters. So, I wrote 644 letters for the book.

### James Acaster

Wow.

### Robert Popper

I was like, 'That's mad.' My exercise was walking to the postbox with 20 letters and dropping them and £5. Sometimes, though, just occasionally, I put £35 in. I'll say, 'I'm enclosing £35, is that enough?' Please don't send us any more money. Okay. The maddest one was I wrote to Theresa May when she was Prime Minister in 2018 when I did a big block of these and I said I want to be your maid in waiting. Whatever that is, you know, I'll do maid stuff, but I'm your maid in waiting and talks about her and her friend, Bessie Bates, who's 99, and used to clear up this old house and it was full of rats and maggots. It's foul. And she gets abscesses and things like that. Anyway, and I send money, and they write back, 'Thank you very much. We don't need a maid in waiting for Theresa May and please, don't send any money.' And I write again. I think I write three times. Anyway, I was out at a meeting and my wife phoned, 'Sorry to interrupt you. Can I talk to you for a second? I've just had a knock at the door, I opened the door and there was two police officers.' 'Hi, we've been sent by 10 Downing Street, Theresa May's office.' 'Yes?' 'So, is there a lady called Mrs Elsie Drake.' This is the first of quite a lot of visits by the way. And she said, 'Sort of, why?' 'They're concerned there's a very old, maybe confused, lady who's been sending money wanting to be her maid in keeping.' And my wife had to say, 'Oh, that's my husband. He's a comedy writer.' They went, 'Oh, okay. Okay, then. So, he's a comedy writer? Okay.' And then, they left. And then, we had another visit from the police after I wrote to-, I can't remember where it was, it was somewhere like Blenheim Palace. Saying, 'I'm 104 and I'm planning a very big party to celebrate my 110th birthday in six years time.' 110. And we had the police round for that. No, in fact, that wasn't the police. This is the worst one. That was social services.

### James Acaster

Oh, no.

### Robert Popper

Social services turn up at our house and they say, 'Hello, I'm here from Social Services Assessment Team.' I go, 'Why?' 'We have reason to believe there's a 104 year old woman in this house and we need to check for her safety.' And I had to go, 'I'm a comedy write. My name is Robert Popper.' She said, 'Can I see your I.D?' I got ID'd in my own house. And my wife, 'Do you want to come in?' She goes, 'Yes, because I need to check every single room and cupboard in the house for this old lady.' 'Okay.' So, I let her round the whole house and I opened every cupboard. Then she said, at the end, 'You've proved to me that you do not have a lady called Elsie Drake who is living in your house.' And I said, 'Do you want a copy of the book?' And she said, 'No, thank you.' There was just loads of visits.

### James Acaster

Yes.





**Ed Gamble**

It's reassuring that they are doing their jobs.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, that's what I mean. People were very kind. That's what I'm saying. They were. They were kind. I got a lot of gifts which I gave to charity.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

You know, flowers. Lots of flowers. It all leads up to a wedding. She meets a man called Mr Ralph Groberts who's 100, a younger man. And people get invited to get her wedding and I got flowers. Penny Mordant sent loads of food. The head of Land Rover wanted to pay for all the transport to the wedding and I got flowers from him. It's insane.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, god.

**Robert Popper**

It was insane.

**Ed Gamble**

You'd be an amazing fraudster if you ever wanted to stop doing books.

**Robert Popper**

Maybe I shall be.

**James Acaster**

Could be as ludicrous as you like and people believe it.

**Robert Popper**

Exactly. Maybe I should do it for bad rather than almost good.

**James Acaster**

We always start with still or sparkling water.

**Robert Popper**

Oh really? I don't know. I haven't heard this. How does it work? Well, I'm not the first to say sparkling is awful.

**James Acaster**

Sure.



**Robert Popper**

I mean, it's just ridiculous. That's not a drink, is it, really?

**James Acaster**

I think it is a drink.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, it's a drink. What I meant is, it is a drink.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But it shouldn't be served as a drink because, to me, first of all, it tastes like-, if you've left a 2p in the water for a few days and the bubbles are just oxidising, like, the metal oxidising and, this is science now, oxidising bubble, that's what it tastes like. So, when you drink it, it almost hurts your mouth.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I'm going to say. It's just-, you know that sort of-,

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's painful for you.

**Robert Popper**

It's like an elastic band hitting the roof of your mouth. Have you ever had that?

**James Acaster**

Like a band hitting the roof of my mouth? Never before.

**Robert Popper**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

No, I don't think I have.

**Robert Popper**

No, I haven't but I imagine, it's just nasty.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm wondering if at school, you know, when people fire rubber bands around the classroom, whether I ever opened my mouth and one went in there.



**Robert Popper**

Oh, that would be proper bingo, that would be.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

That would be perfect.

**Ed Gamble**

That would be proper bingo.

**Robert Popper**

A proper bullseye even. Do they say bingo now in darts?

**Ed Gamble**

No, it would be proper bingo, mate.

**Robert Popper**

I think it is bingo now, definitely.

**Ed Gamble**

In darts?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. They changed it.

**James Acaster**

They say proper bingo.

**Robert Popper**

They changed it. They modernised the game.

**Ed Gamble**

They read out numbers, don't they? And all the darts players have a card and if they hit all of their numbers, then it's proper bingo.

**Robert Popper**

108. One, eight, zero. Whatever that is.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**Robert Popper**

Can't even do it.

**James Acaster**

Whatever that is.

**Robert Popper**

Whatever that is.

**Ed Gamble**

It seems like you don't like things where there's too much going on under the surface?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, the ocean, sparkling water.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Well, I suddenly remember, talking about sparkling water, when I was about 12, and when I said this sentence out to my wife, I realised there's something weird in it, but our neighbours lent us a soda stream. That's weird, isn't it? And it was in our lounge on the cabinet, like pride of place, and my mum said, 'Don't touch that. That's Roy and Anne's.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

She passed her driving test on her 13th time and crashed into our wall. And so, 'You're not to play with that.' Obviously, I played with that. The Coca-Cola syrup is foul, but my dad used it to make fizzy water when they had guests round because it was, well it's suburban, isn't it? That's what they did. It was cheaper. And I don't know what they traded it in for or what the agreement was. 'You can have it for a month.' Or, 'We have to come round and use it,' but I wanted to know what fizzy milk tastes like.

**Ed Gamble**

Of course.

**Robert Popper**

Is that a thing? Have you done that?



**James Acaster**

It's what everyone wants to know.

**Ed Gamble**

I think when I was a kid, you think about that, right? What would fizzy milk taste like?

**Robert Popper**

And do you remember?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I don't think I ever did it.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, well, I did it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, and it's bad. It's bad and it bubbles up quite thick.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And my mum found me and I got in a lot of trouble for that because it clogged it up. And she said, 'Roy and Anne are going to be livid.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, Roy and Anne are going to be-

**Robert Popper**

Yes, he did have a temper, though.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Because one of my parents' friends commented on his wife's driving once.

**Ed Gamble**

That's when you know it's bad.



**James Acaster**

Because she was bad at driving.

**Robert Popper**

She was really bad.

**James Acaster**

Yes, passed on her 13th time and crashed into your wall.

**Robert Popper**

13th time. He said something to her like, probably, 'Learn to drive.' So, this is my parent's friend who was coming round and then we got a knock on the door, and it was Roy, and he clearly had some anger issue and he went fucking mad. There wasn't a fight but there was almost a fight. Yes, he had a temper.

**James Acaster**

Again, something bubbling beneath the surface.

**Robert Popper**

Exactly. Yes. It's just like the ocean and almost sparkling water.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Roy's the ocean.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're having still water.

**Robert Popper**

I'm having still water, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Anything in it?

**James Acaster**

Salt, maybe, Robert?

**Robert Popper**

Rocking that programme? I'm going to have tap water.

**James Acaster**

Seriously, though, you did that as a kid?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**



You and your brother?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, we did. Yes, we did, yes. Yes. Water was used a lot. You can ruin a meal easily. Just a glass of water on the plate. That's gone. It's dead. That's what, my brother Johnny, he used to do.

**Ed Gamble**

Just pour your water on your meal?

**Robert Popper**

We also did a weird thing. When I had a bit more hair, we used to pull bits of our hair out and we would put them in my dad's glass of water sometimes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

For when we had a Friday night dinner. It was just our weird horrible joke and we never told him what we were doing, and you would see him like halfway through the meal just going, like picking his tongue and like, 'What? What is in my water?' And that was our private joke for a long time.

**James Acaster**

Yes. That's disgusting.

**Robert Popper**

It's bad, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

That's a good trick, is what I thought.

**Robert Popper**

It is a good trick.

**James Acaster**

You like that?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

You should try it.

**Ed Gamble**



I will try that.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, do that. You could do it on James.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

You wouldn't like that.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Robert Popper? Poppadoms or bread?

**Robert Popper**

Okay. Poppadoms for Italian. Bread for curry. I will have bread. Actually, I want a specific type of bread.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes?

**Robert Popper**

I'm going to take a step back. Right, because I don't like much food. Mast food, I said. Because I don't like mast food. It's really hard to choose your dream, dream meal. So, I think, the feel of my meal should feel more like a meal I'd enjoy if I was in a dream. I think it's a bit like that.

**James Acaster**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

If you were in dream?

**Robert Popper**

Because you see people, they go, 'I had the most beautiful-', my brother, 'the most amazing meal. Oh it was amazing.' Shows me pictures of his food. I'm like, 'Yes, it was nice.' But I can't even remember what the best meal I ever had is. So, I'm just going to go on I would enjoy that and I'd probably enjoy the weirdness of the meal, as well. So, that's going to my dream restaurant.

**Ed Gamble**

Is this less of a dream meal and more of a meal dream?

**Robert Popper**





It's both. It's like a meal I could have in a dream and go, 'I had the best dream ever and the meal was amazing. Listen to what I had and where it was.' And then, the person I'm turning to, because dreams aren't interesting, will go, 'Oh, wow. Amazing.' But I would feel like that was the best meal I ever had.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Okay.

**Robert Popper**

Because you couldn't go into a restaurant and have the setting and these choices.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, first of all I'm going to have a toaster. I want a toaster on my table. That's called a table, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Table.

**Ed Gamble**

It's your dream.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Call it what you like.

**Robert Popper**

Because they have them in dreams as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It could be a table. It could be whatever.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, you've dreamt about a table. We all dream about tables in dreams.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, in a dream a table would never stay a table I don't think.

**Robert Popper**



You're right.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you look down and then it's something completely different.

**Robert Popper**

You're right. That's the thing about dreams, isn't it? Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. They're not consistent.

**Robert Popper**

They change.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

They do.

**Ed Gamble**

They do all the time.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. What are we on? We're on bread, aren't we?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Okay. There's a Jewish bread called challah. I don't know if you've ever had it. Plaited bread.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

That's my favourite bread. It's beautiful.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**



Toasted. Best thing in the world. So, I want my own toaster. I'll tell you why. Because people don't know how to toast it because it's got sugar in it and it burns.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Robert Popper**

Right. And I know how to do it. Low setting. I want my own toaster. I want the loaf and I'll cut it and I'll eat half the loaf. Toasted. Butter. Beautiful.

**James Acaster**

What's the secret to toasting it?

**Robert Popper**

Just cut the bread, put it in the toaster, turn the toaster low and it's done.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you good at it to the extent that you can just put it on the low setting and one and done or are you checking?

**Robert Popper**

No. I will do lots and lots of checking.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And also turning it off at the mains, putting spoons in and pulling them out when it's all fucked up.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Of course.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you for being safe and turning it off at the mains.

**Robert Popper**

Do you do that as well? Do you do that thing with the spoons and you just think, 'It is off, isn't it? The toaster?'

**Ed Gamble**



Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

If I want to check the toast, I'll probably just hit the cancel button.

**Robert Popper**

But, I mean, if it gets stuck in the toaster.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I don't normally just put it on and then turn it off and stick the spoons in. Like, I know the lever works. But if it gets stuck in, like bent, because it's quite a floppy bread.

**Ed Gamble**

I'll just tip the toaster upside down and just bash it on the side.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Nice. Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, what's the dream aspect of this one, then?

**Robert Popper**

Dream aspect probably hasn't started yet.

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Robert Popper**

No. Because this is just the pre-meal bit, isn't it? Just a bit of toast, just a bit of a bread, toast. I mean, I'm allowed toast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I'm allowed.

**Ed Gamble**



It's bread. You are allowed, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. It's just easing me into the meal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Because, you know, you get the roll. They bring round the rolls and things.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And they have seeds on. I don't want those. They have nuts in. I don't eat nuts. Although, I'll say this is a tomato bread. That's not a food, is it?

**James Acaster**

What tomato bread?

**Robert Popper**

Tomato bread? That's just words, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Tomato bread.

**James Acaster**

You don't like seeds on the bread?

**Robert Popper**

Not really, no. No.

**James Acaster**

And nuts?

**Robert Popper**

No, I don't like nuts, any nuts. Coconuts, that's not a nut. Or is it a nut?

**Ed Gamble**



I don't think it is. You wouldn't get a bag of coconuts, would you?

**Robert Popper**

A sack of coconuts from Tesco.

**Ed Gamble**

Put them on on of those things behind the bar in the pub, clipped up.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I'll have one of them. '£1.99, sir.'

**Ed Gamble**

'Dry roasted coconuts, please?'

**James Acaster**

But you like coconut?

**Robert Popper**

Oh, I like coconut, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

But you don't like nuts?

**Robert Popper**

No, I don't like nuts. I ask if it has nuts in and they always say, 'Are you allergic?' Every time. I say, 'No, I just don't like nuts.'

**Ed Gamble**

Do you ever attitude back?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. 'Oh, you don't like nuts? Why don't you like nuts?' 'I don't like the taste.'

**Ed Gamble**

I really like your list of things you don't like. It's whole categories, as well, so you're not specific about-, it's like fish, nuts, they're just all gone.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, they're gone. It's sad because I could be enjoying life more.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think so. We'll get into your menu proper now, then. So, now we're entering the dream.

**Ed Gamble**



I'd say the toaster on the table has a-

**Robert Popper**

It has a Dali-esque quality to it, one would say.

**Ed Gamble**

Slightly off beat, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes. I mean, we could have it that's it not even plugged in at the mains.

**Robert Popper**

But it still works.

**James Acaster**

It still works.

**Robert Popper**

I like that.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you can put whatever you like in there.

**Robert Popper**

I love that.

**Ed Gamble**

And you'll be fine.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. No mains. Just dream power.

**Ed Gamble**

It gallops along the table like a little horse.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, lovely.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. We'll do that.

**James Acaster**



Great. It's a horse toaster. What's your dream starter?

**Robert Popper**

You won't be surprised. I don't want a starter, okay. I'm going to have a starter, but I don't like starters.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't have to have one.

**Robert Popper**

There's no need. I will eat food. There is going to be a meal in this episode.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But I don't like starters. I don't see the point. I think a meal is, you have your main, you get that done, and then you get your reward which is dessert.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Correct.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. You do not need a starter. You don't have a starter at home when you sit down and have a starter. I have a starter and then I'll have a main. I just don't.

**Ed Gamble**

If I have a takeaway, I have a starter.

**Robert Popper**

What starters do you have?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it depends what takeaway I get.

**Robert Popper**

Would you have it if you have a curry? Do you have a starter with your curry?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Onion bhaji.

**Robert Popper**

Oh yes?

**Ed Gamble**





Yes, I get an onion bhaji or prawn puri and this does annoy my wife because she puts everything all on the same plate.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, I like that. That's good.

**Ed Gamble**

We'll put it all out in the kitchen. Say, we're having a curry and I've got onion bhajis, maybe a prawn puri, I'll put that on a plate, go through to the other room, eat it. Then be like, 'Oh, I've had my starter now,' then I go back to the kitchen and serve myself my curry.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, okay. No, that is pretty good. That's pretty good. Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, I do have a starter at home, yes.

**James Acaster**

You seem to find every bit of that amusing, Robert. While you were listening to that, you were really-

**Robert Popper**

It was an amazing story. Can you tell me that again?

**Ed Gamble**

I'm just painting a picture of my home life. So, if I get Turkish food, I'll get halloumi.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, I like halloumi.

**Ed Gamble**

I'll put that on the plate, I'll go through to the other room, I'll eat the halloumi and then I'll go back and I'll have the kebab. Yes, like I'm in a restaurant.

**Robert Popper**

You separate the things.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

You actually move location.

**Ed Gamble**



Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Right. So, you won't bring the main in with-, what rooms are going from to?

**Ed Gamble**

Kitchen.

**Robert Popper**

So, your food is in the bathroom.

**Ed Gamble**

Food is in the kitchen.

**Robert Popper**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

And then I'll go through to the sitting room.

**James Acaster**

Really?

**Ed Gamble**

And I'll eat the food there.

**James Acaster**

But you've got a dining table in your kitchen, though?

**Robert Popper**

Is this where you watch in front of the TV?

**Ed Gamble**

TV.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, okay. TV.

**James Acaster**

He loves the TV.

**Robert Popper**

You like the TV?

**Ed Gamble**



I'm not going to just sit in the kitchen in silence.

**Robert Popper**

So, you come in and watch your soaps that you love? You love soaps.

**Ed Gamble**

Two Corries on a Wednesday.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Back to back.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And I'll eat my starter.

**Robert Popper**

And then you'll walk in. That's madness, actually. That is mad.

**Ed Gamble**

And then I'll go to the kitchen and I'll get myself the rest of it.

**Robert Popper**

Would you do that, James?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

You would do that?

**James Acaster**

Yes, my kitchen, you can't sit and eat anything anyway. It's a small kitchen.

**Robert Popper**

But why don't you take it all in into the TV room and then just dish it out?

**James Acaster**

Yes, I just take it all into the TV room.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Because we've got a little table in there, so I just put it all on there.

**Ed Gamble**



I don't want to dish out in the same place that I eat.

**Robert Popper**

I know what you mean, as well. It's a hard one. So, just don't have a starter. Because you don't need a starter.

**James Acaster**

Problem solved.

**Robert Popper**

Okay, if I had a starter-,

**Ed Gamble**

You don't have to have one.

**Robert Popper**

No. I've been thinking it through. I would have soup. I like soup. I like chicken soup. I like vegetable soup. But it's weird. I can't really have soup in a restaurant. It makes you look quite vulnerable. It ages you 30 years, first of all, just a hot soup and everyone's looking at you with your soup. So, that's more like something you would have at home with your partner and it's cold and you'd have a nice soup and it was lovely soup.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, just let your guard down.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, you'll just talk about the soup. 'It's lovely soup. It's lovely.' I love that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But in a restaurant, I don't want to have soup.

**Ed Gamble**

What about it makes you feel vulnerable, do you think? And why do you think everyone's looking at you while you have your soup?

**Robert Popper**

I just always feel when I have a soup in a restaurant that I just look older. What am I now? 26. I just feel like it just makes you look like an old person having soup in a restaurant. It's not a good look. I think people pity the soup drinker, that's what I think. That's what I'd say. I think it's pity. But I could choose it if no one's there, then, couldn't I?

**Ed Gamble**



You could, yes.

**Robert Popper**

I could have no one there.

**Ed Gamble**

Or you could eat, you know, like the L'Ortolan thing, that French dish where they eat it under a blanket because they're so ashamed by how disgusting it looks?

**Robert Popper**

What is it?

**Ed Gamble**

There's this tiny little bird. Yes, they don't want God to see them eating this tiny little bird.

**Robert Popper**

A bird?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

What's wrong with a bird? Is it alive?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's just so small and beautiful that it's considered a shameful thing to eat because it's delicious but it's a whole little bird.

**James Acaster**

I think they're eating it whole.

**Ed Gamble**

They're eating it whole. So, they put a blanket over their head so God can't see them eat it.

**Robert Popper**

And it's cooked? It's a cooked bird?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I think. Well, I've never seen it.

**Robert Popper**

And they eat it whole?

**Ed Gamble**



I think the beak and everything, yes.

**Robert Popper**

And this is a thing now? This happens now?

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's more of a thing in the past.

**Robert Popper**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

But it was on Succession, right, as well?

**James Acaster**

Yes, they did it on the Succession. This episode of Succession where Tom Wambsgans does it.

**Ed Gamble**

But you could do that with soup.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, no, I think people would be even more-, I know they would be looking at me.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Do you tuck the napkin into your collar?

**Robert Popper**

I can't do that. Yes. Do you put a napkin? It's demeaning.

**Ed Gamble**

It is demeaning, but I do do it.

**Robert Popper**

But I know what I'd have.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**Robert Popper**

Before dinner at home, around 18:00, I always get a bit peckish, hungry, you know, that word, and I will have a bowl of cereal. This my dream. This is what I want, okay?

**James Acaster**



Yes, it's your dream.

**Robert Popper**

I'm allowed it, okay. I'm going to have it. I'm going to have a bowl of cereal. I'm going to have a bowl, right, with 50% Cornflakes, they go in first, 50% Rice Krispies. I know it's fucking mad but I'm going to have this.

**Ed Gamble**

This is what you do.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Honey. Yes? I don't want it served with the thing, the wooden thing with the thing that looks like, you know, bees on the end and it drips everywhere. Squeezy honey on it, cold oat milk.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And I want that.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, in terms of soup ages-,

**Robert Popper**

I would really enjoy that.

**Ed Gamble**

Soup ages you 30 years.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Does cereal have the opposite effect?

**Robert Popper**

That's a good point.

**James Acaster**

Yes, forever young.

**Robert Popper**

It would knock a month off.

**James Acaster**



Yes. At least.

**Robert Popper**

But no one's going to be looking.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

But I could choose who's there. Could I have a button? Like, you know, you see sometimes it says, 'Call for champagne.' Can I have a button and it changes the people?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Sure. So, who do you want watching?

**Robert Popper**

Well, I know who I want. Yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Because I saw these people in a restaurant when I had meal about five years ago with Tom Rosenthal and Simon Bird from Friday Night Dinner. We had a disgusting meal somewhere. All the food was awful. It was brilliant, and sitting at a table about four away from us was Alastair Campbell, you know, the Labour-, with Mick Hucknall.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

They were together?

**Robert Popper**

They were together having dinner.

**Ed Gamble**

That's mad.

**James Acaster**





Wow.

**Robert Popper**

So, I'd want them but every table has them, like 20 tables all there eating, having different conversations. I can't quite hear them. I don't know if they're talking about politics or music, and it's quite annoying, but interesting, and I'll have them there and they can watch me eat.

**Ed Gamble**

So, 20 tables of Mick Hucknall and Alastair Campbell?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Replicas. Replicas.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I want that while I'm having my cereal just so I can tell people afterwards. 'I had the freakiest meal.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

'I had cereal and 20 replica Mick Hucknalls and Alastair Campbells were watching me eat.'

**James Acaster**

Are they moving in sync?

**Robert Popper**

No, they're not moving in sync.

**James Acaster**

So, they're all having their own?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, they don't even know. They don't see themselves and go, 'That's me.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

They're just in their own little void.

**James Acaster**



Having different conversations.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I can never quite hear them.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I wonder what they were doing together.

**Robert Popper**

I don't know.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe Mick Hucknall was the original. He was supposed to do the rest as politics instead of Rory Stewart and that was the original meeting. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Could have been.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Could have been that, couldn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Could have been that, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Would it be more successful or less successful?

**Ed Gamble**

I feel like it's the opposing Labour Conservative that makes that show work and you can't have both of them being Simply Red.

**Robert Popper**

Oh.

**James Acaster**

Oh. Beautiful. Beautiful.

**Robert Popper**



I mean, that was-, come on. If this was live, that would be it, wouldn't it?

**James Acaster**

That's an applause break.

**Robert Popper**

That would go mad and then someone would heckle something about fifteen seconds later that's not quite as funny.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Explaining it. Trying to do it again.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. That's not a Simply Red song that doesn't quite work, the name.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I can't think of what that is.

**Ed Gamble**

Fairground.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. That definitely doesn't work. 'Fairground.'

**Ed Gamble**

People are like, 'That joke was fairground.'

**James Acaster**

The bowl of cereal, you say 50 50, because it's a dream, we can make anything happen. Do you want the divide to happen horizontally or vertically?

**Robert Popper**

No, I'm going to go horizontal.

**James Acaster**

Really?

**Robert Popper**



Yes.

**James Acaster**

I would want a vertical.

**Robert Popper**

But how do you do that?

**James Acaster**

Well, it's a dream.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, you may as well just have two bowls.

**James Acaster**

We can make this happen for you. That you've got half and half from the top.

**Robert Popper**

Well, saying that, when me and Peter Serafinowicz, who used to write Look Around You, our treat at the end of the day was we'd buy a Mars Bar, right? And we'd cut it in half vertically and call it a Vars. And that was our treat. So, maybe, in honour of that I should do this, you know, have it vertical.

**Ed Gamble**

I love the insanity that people go through when they're writing stuff.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, come on, you know what it's like.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, it was our Vars bar. And we'd have it one a day. He did a thing which was something like, 'All the fun of a Mars in a mist.' It was like a Mars spray that you spray into your mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

If a Mars a day helps you work, rest and play, right?

**Robert Popper**

Work, rest and pray.

**Ed Gamble**

I was wondering what a Vars did.

**James Acaster**



Yes, what does a Vars do?

**Robert Popper**

Oh, God.

**James Acaster**

Vork, vest and vay?

**Robert Popper**

I don't know what it is. I could work out what it rhymes with. You've got to leave this in. I mean, this is no way coming out. You've got to leave this.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I just don't know, James.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Robert Popper**

I don't know the answer. I don't have a funny answer to that.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, okay, do you know what, I think it takes a grown-up to admit that, it's very mature of you to-

**Robert Popper**

Thank you very much.

**Ed Gamble**

I wish more comedy writerers, yes, but you've admitted.

**Robert Popper**

Failure.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm stumped.

**James Acaster**



So, your dream main course.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, my dream main course, so my dream main course is, it's, like, something I like and this is normal.

**Ed Gamble**

Good to hear that up top, yes.

**Robert Popper**

You know, so normal, it's normal food.

**James Acaster**

So, again, we're still not really in this dream that you're talking about, it's mainly applying to the guests at the minute, the crazy guests.

**Robert Popper**

Well, now, the restaurant is the setting of my grandma's old tiny flat.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**Robert Popper**

Okay?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So, you press the button.

**Robert Popper**

I press the button.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Mick Hucknall is there, like, and they're, like, eviscerated, they vanish. I don't know if they're eviscerated but they're gone.

**James Acaster**

Maybe they're eviscerated.

**Robert Popper**

Maybe they are but we don't know, but they're gone and now, it's my grandma who I loved, she was great. And in her tiny flat, I'm in her tiny flat now and my grandma was, like, insane and I can do her voice. I mean, I could phone my mum up and she would have long chats with me, and it's perfect. I



would even phone my grandma sometimes and talk back to her in her voice, and her brain would go, 'What?' So, she escaped from the Nazi's basically and came over here, and she spoke like this, it's wonderful to be here. Wonderful, this isn't strange that I'm talking like this now. So, that's my grandma. So, I'm going to be in her flat and she's going to serve me my favourite comfort meal when I went there. It was either meatballs which are on the list, don't like them, that was bad because they were big.

**James Acaster**

I don't like them.

**Robert Popper**

No, do you like meatballs?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I do but-,

**Robert Popper**

Okay, meatballs.

**Ed Gamble**

Because they were big, is that why?

**Robert Popper**

They were big, so there's more of them so there's meatballs or you get the good one, which was so she had this tiny, tiny little kitchen, tiny. And if you took one step in there, she would, 'No, go away, go away, leave me. Go inside.' So, she didn't want you in the kitchen, it was tiny. 'No, it's not nice, go and sit down, go. Go.'

**James Acaster**

It's not nice, yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, you sit down and then, she'd wheel the trolley through, there'd be a trolley and she used to make, she had this, like, cast iron saucepan and she'd make these square steaks. And she cooked them in, I don't know, it must be an East European, like, loads of paprika and flour. There'd be, like, a crust. Oh, it was so good and she'd make these little potatoes, she'd boil them and then, she'd cook them in with the steak. And I'd have them, and green beans, that was my meal.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And while I'd eat them, she'd say to me, 'Why are you not eating the meat?' And I'd say, 'Well, I'm saving it to the end.' 'No, you should eat the good thing first, what if a bomb or if you have to escape?'



Well, okay, hopefully there won't be a bomb I have to escape. So, it was, kind of, a third generation holocaust trauma meal dream, that's what it is at the moment, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that you would like.

**Robert Popper**

But that's what I want.

**James Acaster**

Okay, so first of all, that's a very nice memory.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, but also, she would sometimes and she did this regularly to me and my brother, Johnny, she'd be in the kitchen, she'd come out and she'd have an onion in her hand, peeled. 'Do you like an onion?' I'd go, 'Sorry?' 'Would you like an onion?' 'What, to eat, raw?' 'Yes.' 'No, thank you. Why?' 'You don't like them, to me, it is like a juicy apple.' And then, she would eat the onion in front of us and me and my brother would be watching this very elderly, short, quite tan lady with dyed blonde hair eat an onion from beginning to end in front of us.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a power move is what that is.

**Robert Popper**

I'm telling you, it's a power move.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's intimidating. Would she maintain eye contact as well for the whole thing?

**Robert Popper**

It was full eye contact while the horse racing was playing on the TV behind.

**James Acaster**

Miriam Margolyes does that.

**Robert Popper**

What's that?

**James Acaster**

Eats a full onion.

**Robert Popper**

Does she really?





**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. She mentioned it on this podcast and every time she's been interviewed since, they've made her do it.

**Robert Popper**

Wow, maybe she's my grandmother.

**Ed Gamble**

That would be a real twist.

**Robert Popper**

That would be a twist, wouldn't it?

**James Acaster**

Maybe Margolyes could be your grandmother.

**Robert Popper**

Even though my grandmas not alive.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. And you know what your grandma looked like and stuff.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, so it's definitely not her, is it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, and sounded like, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Would you watch, so you must have her-,

**James Acaster**

We can ask her.

**Robert Popper**

You've got her contact details, haven't you, Ben? Yes, we'll ask.

**James Acaster**

We can ask her.

**Robert Popper**

Do you want to ask her now, you could do it, you went on your phone before. You could do it.



**James Acaster**

Yes, I could just text Margolyes, are you Robert Popper's grandmother?

**Robert Popper**

Who's Robert Popper?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, she'd probably answer.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it just a cut of steak, is it, like, a square cut of steak?

**James Acaster**

It was square, I don't know what meat, I mean, I know what meat it was, it was beef.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it wasn't horse and it was just a square, juicy piece of meat with loads of paprika, it's quite, sort of, spicy-ish. It had this crust on it, oh, it was delicious.

**James Acaster**

You really love the crust, both times you've mentioned the crust.

**Robert Popper**

It was nice.

**Ed Gamble**

The crust, I mean, your eyes light up.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, I can cook a nice steak and it doesn't have a crust on it but this was the only I'd had that, have you ever had a steak that has a crust on it, like, with flour?

**Ed Gamble**

No

**Robert Popper**

It's nice.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I think I can get that.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, nice, it was really nice.

**James Acaster**

I've never had it but, like, I've never even heard of it before. But both times you've mentioned the crust and you've been, like, oh. Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, because I hadn't thought about it, I was thinking, 'Well, what food? I eat so much chicken, I can't do chicken. Oh, this, yes, I'll have this, yes, with her watching me eat, telling me to hurry up before the bomb.'

**Ed Gamble**

That's a real generational way of thinking about the order you should eat your food.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, have you heard that one before?

**Ed Gamble**

No.

**Robert Popper**

Have the good stuff first, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Because I was told, save the best stuff till last.

**Robert Popper**

That's what I was told.

**Ed Gamble**

But my mum always used to do that she said when she was kid, save the good stuff till last but then, there were, like, loads of other kids at the table so they'd just lean over and nick it when she was saving it. That doesn't feel fair, does it?

**Robert Popper**

It's not fair, it's a cruel world. It is a cruel world.

**Ed Gamble**

But I still did it, I've still stuck to it.



**Robert Popper**

Now, my grandma was, like, obsessed with when I was little, three, because I didn't eat anything, like today, so she would try to make me eat. And she used to give me, I remember this, I haven't had it since, oh, it's foul, ready? Ribena and milk.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh.

**Robert Popper**

That is what I'd be given and she would try and make me drink that because she thought, it's got sugar in and milk, and it's good for you. And if I was really unlucky, she'd mix an egg in it so it would be Ribena, milk, and an egg. That's what I got.

**Ed Gamble**

You've had more weird milk experiments than most people I've met.

**Robert Popper**

You're right, you're right, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You've had milk every which way.

**Robert Popper**

I have. Ribena and milk. Also, it curdles.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, oh my god.

**Robert Popper**

It is foul.

**Ed Gamble**

It's interesting that it curdles but you don't want to then drink it, no.

**Robert Popper**

No, you don't want to then drink it. Like, I imagine the egg binds it some way.

**James Acaster**

But it tastes even worse.

**Robert Popper**

So, yes, it was, sort of, brownish purple drink which is never a good colour really.



**James Acaster**

Oh, my gosh. Do you like milk these days?

**Robert Popper**

No. No, that's on the list.

**James Acaster**

I mean, that's why you've got the oat milk and cereal.

**Robert Popper**

Oat milk, it's oat milk. I'm an oat milkman.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I'm a media milk man, you know, it's a media drink, isn't it? Oat milk.

**Ed Gamble**

Oat milk, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Earl Grey with oat milk, that's what I have. That's not good, is it, that's my tea of choice.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's good.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, it's good but it's-,

**James Acaster**

That's a good day, for someone who's very picky about food, Earl Grey is quite surprising.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite jazzy.

**Robert Popper**

I think I've gone off normal tea now. It's not on the list.

**Ed Gamble**

We used to do a shot when we were teenagers which curdled, you'd do a shot of Bailey's into your mouth, hold it in your mouth, then a quarter shot of lime juice in there and then, shake your head around. And it curdles in your mouth, it's called a cement mixer.



**Robert Popper**

How would you see it, you'd feel the bits, it curdled in your-, oh, that's foul.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Did it when he was a teenager. The cement mixer.

**Robert Popper**

Well, me and my friends, we invented a drink that I think is worse, it's called a tominto and it's tomato juice and crème de menthe. And that curdles, and that is foul, and we were writing something years ago and we came up with that's the drink of their choice. And then, when we went after about five years later, we met up. We've never had one and we went to a pub in Soho, the John Snow. Normal pub, we went in there. 'Hey, come on, you say it, you say it.' 'Hello, a pint of lager, please, and a tominto.' The guy was just-, the landlord was just chatting to people. 'Sorry, what was that? Tominto, what's that?' 'Tomato juice and crème de menthe.' He goes, 'Oh, okay.' And he just poured the tomato juice and lent over, did the shot of crème de menthe, went, '1.60, please.' It was years ago. And it was this brownish red curdled drink and it's, like, a tomato mint alcoholic taste and it's foul.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's not good.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, you've got to try it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

It's worth it, it's got to be-,

**James Acaster**

And you can get them at the John Snow?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, the John Snow. I think it's still 1.60.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that does the best one you've ever had, right?



**Robert Popper**

Tominto, yes.

**James Acaster**

I asked Bill Nighy for directions to the John Snow.

**Robert Popper**

Did you?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

While he was in here?

**James Acaster**

No, no, no.

**Robert Popper**

Can you direct me from here?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And what did he say?

**James Acaster**

He didn't know where it was.

**Robert Popper**

Oh. It's quite a specific thing to ask. And how did he say it, you know, do your Bill Nighy?

**James Acaster**

I'm afraid I don't.

**Robert Popper**

That's not bad.

**James Acaster**

I'm afraid I-,

**Ed Gamble**

It's a bit Ronnie Corbett.



**James Acaster**

I think he actually said, 'I can't say that I do.'

**Robert Popper**

Yes, that's good, that's good.

**Ed Gamble**

It got better, didn't it?

**Robert Popper**

That would be the line they'd give him, he'd probably to save to, like, if the line said, 'I'm afraid I don't.' He would say, I'd prefer to say it like that, you know, very good.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I believe you now.

**James Acaster**

So, you have to press a button now and your grandmother's going to disappear, how do you feel about that?

**Robert Popper**

That's fine, she's had her use, you know, she can be eviscerated.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I forgot they get eviscerated.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, no, we weren't sure, we weren't sure, were we?

**Robert Popper**

We don't know, we don't know. I mean, there's, like, a, you know, 10% chance that they are but I'll take that risk. So, I press the button and she's gone.

**Ed Gamble**

And where are you now, have a look around because it's side dish time.

**Robert Popper**

I'm back in the restaurant, I don't know where I am now but I'm in some restaurant. Yes, maybe a French restaurant, yes, in France.





**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You like France?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I like France.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, how often do you go to France?

**Robert Popper**

Once a year, same place, three years running. Maybe this will be the last time we go there, it's probably going, you know what, we've been here enough now. But it's south of France.

**Ed Gamble**

Lovely.

**Robert Popper**

Very nice, do you like France, lads?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

This could be used in the travel one you do as well, travel pod.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Off Road.

**Robert Popper**

Off Road, very good, very good. There's some idea here, isn't there.

**James Acaster**

Off the beaten path.



**Robert Popper**

For Plosive, the company. It's not what you think, Ben, it's good, isn't it. Off Road, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Off Road, yes, I like it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, it's good.

**Robert Popper**

You and Bill Nighy walking the streets of Soho.

**James Acaster**

Me seeing if he can find-

**Robert Popper**

Yes, he doesn't know anyway, he hasn't heard of it anyway. Doesn't know where anywhere is.

**James Acaster**

Can't say that he does.

**Robert Popper**

Can't say that I do.

**Ed Gamble**

That's a good format, isn't it, taking Bill Nighy to places that he's never been before and asking him if he knows his way around.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, yes, he has to find it, there's no GPS. Well, you've got to find it, Bill.

**Ed Gamble**

That's good.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, that is good. I mean, it genuinely probably is quite good as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, it is quite good. Yes, Bill would actually guess.

**Robert Popper**

You're in Taiwan.



**James Acaster**

I mean, it'd get green light for sure.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I don't think it'd feel like he does have a smartphone anyway.

**Robert Popper**

No, I don't think he does.

**Ed Gamble**

Because he just walks around singing all day, have you read about that?

**Robert Popper**

No, I didn't know that.

**Ed Gamble**

He loves learning a new song every day and he just walks around singing it out-loud.

**Robert Popper**

In the street singing?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Wow. Was he singing with you?

**James Acaster**

No, not at all.

**Ed Gamble**

Unless he was learning a song called, I don't think that I do or something.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Or perhaps he was practicing Silent Night. Do you get it, because it was silent, yes, yes, yes. This is gold, isn't it.

**James Acaster**

Silent Nighy?



**Robert Popper**

Silent Nighy. I said Silent Night to you, you win. Very good.

**James Acaster**

Dream side dish, Robert.

**Robert Popper**

Bowl of carrots, raw carrots.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, my favourite thing.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. In a bowl.

**James Acaster**

It's your favourite thing?

**Robert Popper**

I think it's, like, the tastiest food in the world, raw carrot.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you said ball of carrots initially.

**Robert Popper**

Not ball of carrots, no. A ball of carrots wouldn't be the tastiest, that would be impossible, isn't it? A ball of carrots.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a dream restaurant.

**Robert Popper**

It's possible then. But I want a bowl of carrots, raw carrots.

**Ed Gamble**

And nothing, no dip with them?



**Robert Popper**

No, just raw carrots, I eat them all the time, don't peel them, wash them, cut the ends off. Give the bits to my dog and eat the carrots, they're beautiful. Crunchy, sweet if you get a good one, they're delicious.

**James Acaster**

Ed's really finding it funny that you give the bits to your dog.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, he loves carrots.

**Ed Gamble**

Does he?

**Robert Popper**

She, yes. Lolly, that's her name. Labrador. All it wants is food, follows me around and wants food. Sort of, loves me. It's more, like, the animal that lives in the house really, that's our dog. You've got a dog, haven't you?

**Ed Gamble**

I've got a cat.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, nice.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Love cats.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, he's very precious about what he eats.

**Robert Popper**

What's your cat called?

**Ed Gamble**

Pig.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, great name.



**James Acaster**

It's a good name, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Do you know about James's cats?

**Robert Popper**

How many cats you got?

**James Acaster**

Four.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want to guess?

**Robert Popper**

Four?

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

Sorry.

**Ed Gamble**

Four cats?

**James Acaster**

Sorry, Ed, I just gave it away.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, I'm allergic to cats and I like cats, I would have 40 cats.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I love them. Four cats, what's that like? Brilliant.

**James Acaster**

Brilliant, love it, love it.



**Robert Popper**

We had this decorator in recently and he was very nice, he wouldn't stop talking. Bit like me. And he said, 'Yes, you've got a dog?' Yes, he's like, 'Yes, I've got cats.' I said, 'Oh, how many cats have you got?' 'Twenty.'

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**James Acaster**

Wow.

**Robert Popper**

'Or 21, I bought a white cat yesterday, I've always wanted a white cat.' 21 cats.

**Ed Gamble**

Imagine having twenty cats and you've not got a white one yet.

**Robert Popper**

I know, it's like he's collecting, 'I wanted a white one.'

**James Acaster**

That is a load more, surely.

**Robert Popper**

21 cats. So, does your house smell of cats?

**James Acaster**

Yes, it will do.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it does.

**James Acaster**

Mine doesn't, but, like-,

**Robert Popper**

But I don't know, not yours.

**James Acaster**

21 cats, there's no way it won't.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, 21 cats.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, because it's not your house any more, is it, really?

**Robert Popper**

It's the cat house.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's the cat house.

**James Acaster**

I've got four cats and I have to, you know, be mindful each day to not let things slip into-,

**Robert Popper**

That's quite hard work though, isn't it, to look after four cats?

**James Acaster**

Luckily they're pretty chill, all four of them.

**Robert Popper**

They all get on?

**James Acaster**

They all get on, their little gang.

**Robert Popper**

Names?

**James Acaster**

Terry.

**Robert Popper**

Terry, good.

**James Acaster**

Alex.

**Robert Popper**

Also good.

**James Acaster**

Rue.

**Robert Popper**

Rue.





**James Acaster**

And Spider-Man.

**Robert Popper**

Spider, I mean, they're four classic names that go together.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Alex also goes by Cheeseburger Jones, it depends, you know, on the vibe.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I mean, Alex is often called that on here so yes, pet names.

**Ed Gamble**

Alex is short for Cheeseburger Jones.

**Robert Popper**

Cheeseburger Jones, yes, yes. After Alex Jones, the conspiracy guy, yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. Exactly.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, yes. I know you like him, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, well, that's why this is the last episode.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, you're just walking around the house quite often just nibbling on a carrot?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I love carrots, yes. If I'm writing, I'll sometimes have a little bowl of carrots, you know, to nibble on. I can't have nuts, can I, I don't like nuts.

**Ed Gamble**

No?

**James Acaster**

But, well, you can have-, you use the word can't quite liberally.



**Robert Popper**

Yes, I could, I could.

**James Acaster**

You don't want to.

**Robert Popper**

I don't want them.

**James Acaster**

Yes yes. Hate them, you hate nuts.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

So, you have to have-,

**Robert Popper**

I have to, I must have carrots.

**James Acaster**

And these are full sized carrots, when you say bowl of carrots?

**Robert Popper**

No, well, I think I'll cut them in. I do a vertical carrot.

**James Acaster**

A varrot.

**Robert Popper**

A varrot, I'll have a varrot, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I'll varrot them. Yes, I'll varrot them.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you just varroting because often when you get-,

**Robert Popper**

I might do other varrot, I mean, it depends on the things I might do two more, yes.



**Ed Gamble**

You might do another, yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, you know, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I, kind of, you know what. When you said a bowl of carrots, I was, like, 'Oh, man, that's bad.'

**Robert Popper**

A bowl though, isn't it, it's better than a plate.

**Ed Gamble**

But whenever I have carrots, like carrot batons or something like that, I do think, carrots are good.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, but if you buy them in packs, that's odd though. Some of those are quite watery and nasty, they can turn.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, my favourite thing to buy from Marks and Spencer's service stations is the carrot batons with a hummus dip.

**Robert Popper**

Humus is on my list I'm afraid.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, no.

**James Acaster**

He doesn't like it, he doesn't like it.

**Robert Popper**

I throw that away, that goes away and I'll have the batons. You know when you're driving, you have them on your lap.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And then, the carrots fall over, you know, on your feet and all the pedals, have you had that one? While you're driving the motorway, I have, that was bad. And quite moist, I had a bag of carrots and they just all, they're, like, all over the pedals slippery.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, are you then bending down to try and get some carrot?

**Robert Popper**

I am a bit trying to move them out the way.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but while driving safely.

**Robert Popper**

You know, while driving safely.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Doesn't happen a lot but that has happened.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Do you abide by the five-second rule? Would you pick up a carrot from the-,

**Robert Popper**

The five-second carrot rule?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, the five-second carrot rule.

**James Acaster**

From the footwell?

**Ed Gamble**

From the footwell, yes.

**Robert Popper**

I might not from the footwell. But if it's in my house which is spotless, if it's in my house, I would but not from the footwell of my, you know, the manky footwell in my car. Definitely not. Although, I might.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, because if no one's watching.

**Robert Popper**

No one's watching.



**Ed Gamble**

It's not, like, and then you look in the rear-view mirror and Mick Hucknell sat in the back.

**James Acaster**

Oh.

**Robert Popper**

But I can't quite hear so it doesn't matter what you said.

**James Acaster**

When you said, bowl of carrots, I too imagined the batons and thought, 'Ugh, come on.' but then, when you said the full ones, it did make me go, 'Oh, that is nicer.' And I hadn't thought about that before.

**Robert Popper**

They're quite refreshing, you know, if they've been in the fridge, refreshing.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, nature's lolly pop.

**Robert Popper**

Nature's lolly, like the stick but a tasty lolly pop stick.

**James Acaster**

Do you ever bite into one and say, 'What's up, Doc?'

**Robert Popper**

I haven't actually but I will. I will from now on, yes.

**James Acaster**

I mean, you do a good impression of your grandmother. Did you ever do a good impression of Bug's Bunny?

**Robert Popper**

No, I can't do Bug, can you do Bug's Bunny? I could do my grandma saying it. 'What's up, Doc?'

**James Acaster**

That's good.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

How do you feel about cooked carrots?



**Robert Popper**

Yes, they're not bad, yes. They're fine, you know, if they're not too soft.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, people can overdo them.

**Robert Popper**

They can, can't they, and the punishments aren't severe enough are they really for that these days. Who knows with this new government, of course, but yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, of course. Fingers crossed.

**Robert Popper**

I mean, I think it's in their manifesto, I haven't seen it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

They're always so long, aren't they?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

And involved.

**Ed Gamble**

It's quite deep in the carrot stuff.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it's not near the top really.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

You know.

**James Acaster**

Your dream drink, Robert?



**Robert Popper**

You'll like this one, you'll like it. I'm going to have two drinks, I'm allowed two drinks, yes?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I reckon so.

**Robert Popper**

I'm going to have, because it will just make me laugh.

**Ed Gamble**

Who's in the restaurant when you're having the carrots by the way?

**Robert Popper**

No one's in the restaurant. No one's in that.

**Ed Gamble**

No one's in the restaurant for the carrots, okay.

**Robert Popper**

That's with my grandma.

**Ed Gamble**

No, the carrots.

**Robert Popper**

That's side dish, side dish.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but I thought you'd pressed the button?

**James Acaster**

Yes, you'd pressed the button, she'd gone away.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, it's just a white bear. It's going to be a bear restaurant.

**James Acaster**

I'm surprised you aren't in your kitchen with the dog.



**Robert Popper**

Just no, yes, it'll be in my, yes, that's what it's going to be, with the dog. And I can chuck the bits and that's what this-, now I'm back in a restaurant, I'm going to be in a white bear restaurant now for no reason. And I'm going to have, what was the question?

**James Acaster**

Drink.

**Robert Popper**

Drink, oh, yes, yes, yes, right. Well, no, this is throughout the meal, isn't it? So, I can have these anyway. Well, I want to be served, you know, by waiters obviously and I'm going to start with a Seamower and then, I'm going to finish with a Laross.

**James Acaster**

Are those wines?

**Robert Popper**

No, I'll tell you what these are, so this is another one from my youth. When me and my brother, Johnny, were younger and we used to get invited to parents', like, someone was getting married in the family or a bar mitzvah and I was eleven and he was eight. We've invented this game which we do to this day, which is the best game, and I think maybe my brother's there for this bit. Like, just for when I drink it, he appears and then, he's eviscerated but comes back.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, what we would do, we were quite, you know, we're twelve, we didn't know anyone of them and it's boring. And we didn't want to talk to girls, it's embarrassing, this is a family so we would just go and sit by the bar, and just drink Coca-Cola. And this is our plan, so we would-,

**Ed Gamble**

Whilst sitting by the bar.

**Robert Popper**

That's what we would do, just by the bar, or near the bar.

**Ed Gamble**

Is that a thing kids do normally, sitting up at the bar?

**Robert Popper**

Not at the bar, like, it wouldn't be at the bar, we'd be on a chair.





**Ed Gamble**

I can just imagine you sat having a Coca-Cola, like, 'God, this is a long night.'

**Robert Popper**

Cigar.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

We'd hang around.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't talk to the chicks.

**Robert Popper**

We'd hang around the bar hiding, basically, have a Coke and then, it would be right, it's time, it's time. So, they go, 'Oh, two more cokes, please. One Coke and one Seamower.' 'There you go. Seamower?' 'Yes, it's one Coke, one Seamower.' 'What's Seamower?' 'Coca-Cola and lemonade.' 'What? Mixed together? That's a Seamower?' 'Yes.' 'Oh, okay.' So, this is pre-internet so you couldn't check.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, okay. And then, you see him wander off, pouring out another bottle, tender would see him mixing lemonade and cokes, 'It's Seamower.' 'What's Seamower?' Oh, it could be a drink. So, we'd have a Coke and a Seamower and then, it would be later on we'd have two Seamower's, please. And once they got used to that, the bit when they go, 'Two Seamower's?' We'd go, 'One Seamower, one Laross.'

**James Acaster**

So, you'd have to wait for them to?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. 'What's a Laross?' 'Ginger ale and a lemonade.' 'I've never heard of that before.' Maybe one Seamower and that would be our thing. So, a Seamower and we did that our whole life, and if we ever go out, it will be like, 'What do you want?' One Seamower please. So, that I would want to be drinking them, they taste nice as well.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Robert Popper**

And my brother can be there and we can do that, and there's no internet reception so they can't check, they're not allowed phones.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, I mean, I don't know if they would even check now, would they?

**Robert Popper**

They wouldn't check now, no.

**James Acaster**

Surely, they'd be, like, whatever. If they want to call them that.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, two Seamowers.

**James Acaster**

If they want to call it a Seamower.

**Robert Popper**

It's just when they come over when they would say, 'Two Seamowers?' Always two Seamowers. 'No, no, one Seamower, one Laross.'

**James Acaster**

That's the high point of it.

**Robert Popper**

Then, you end on two Larosses and that's every time.

**Ed Gamble**

It's just when they think they've got the hang of it, right?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

When they think they're on stable ground.

**Robert Popper**

And then, my dad would come, 'Are you ordering your stupid drinks?' 'Shh, don't say anything.' That would be our game so I like those drinks.



**Ed Gamble**

I mean, they're good drinks as well, there's nothing more exciting as a kid than realising you can mix different soft drinks.

**Robert Popper**

Mixing drinks, yes. Have you ever mixed drinks, nice mixing drinks?

**Ed Gamble**

The freestyle machine.

**James Acaster**

Oh, the freestyle machine and the soda fountain at, you know, whatever.

**Ed Gamble**

Some fast food places now in London have a freestyle machine.

**Robert Popper**

Excellent.

**Ed Gamble**

Where you can just pick loads of other stuff.

**Robert Popper**

And what works?

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, there's stuff that you don't even know, you can't buy commercially by itself. Like, peach Lilt and stuff like that.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I made that one up but.

**James Acaster**

Every flavour of Fanta you could imagine, every sort of different fruit.

**Ed Gamble**

Raspberry Fanta, all that sort of stuff.

**James Acaster**

Grape.



**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Mix some of those together. Although, I don't want to mix them if I've not had it, like, I just want to try Raspberry Fanta.

**Robert Popper**

That sounds good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I mean, when you're a kid, you mix all of it.

**Robert Popper**

That's called a Lombard. You know, you want a Lombard. A Lombard. A Raspberry Fanta, a Raspberry Fanta would be a Lombard.

**James Acaster**

Would your brother sign off on this?

**Robert Popper**

Oh, yes, yes, yes. We do this all the time.

**James Acaster**

Still do it now?

**Robert Popper**

Oh, yes. Yes, yes. We haven't done it for a while but we're going to do it again soon, we talked about it recently, I was just telling him, 'We've got to do this again.' He said, 'Yes, yes, we've got to do that.'

**James Acaster**

We've got to do that.

**Robert Popper**

Two Seamowers and one Laross. I mean, we always talk about it in a restaurant, what do you want to drink? He goes, 'Two Seamowers.' He always does that to me. Like, yes. I mean, we should start this as a thing, people ordering Seamowers and Larosses.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it almost certainly will happen now.



**Robert Popper**

And see if people, please go out there and try it. You've got to start, you don't go straight in, 'Two Seamowers.' You've got to lull them in. You know, have a little chat.

**Ed Gamble**

A Coke and a Seamower first and then, yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Have the Coca-Colas.

**Robert Popper**

Coca-Colas, yes, Coca-Cola as opposed to Cokes. Two Coca-Colas, please, yes. That's what we did.

**James Acaster**

And then, eventually, chuck a Seamower in there.

**Robert Popper**

That's my drink.

**James Acaster**

And then, the high point is when they say, 'Two Seamowers?'

**Robert Popper**

Two Seamowers.

**James Acaster**

Yes, no. One Seamower.

**Robert Popper**

And then, it ends on two Larosses, please. A good night.

**James Acaster**

We arrive at your dream desert, now I'm excited about this because you said that the whole meal really is just so you can get the reward which is the pudding, which is great. Great to hear.

**Robert Popper**

It is, yes. I'm going to have a trolley of puddings.

**James Acaster**

Great.



**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Here we go.

**Ed Gamble**

Do the mains come on a trolley as well, isn't it?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, my grandma's not going to be pushed, we don't know if she's been eviscerated.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, she's no longer here.

**Robert Popper**

She's somewhere else.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**Robert Popper**

So, this is just I'm back in a restaurant and I can choose who I want, yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

I've thought about this, this will be freaky, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Full of people, yes, you haven't met yet but you are going to get to know in the future.

**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Robert Popper**

That would be weird, wouldn't it?

**James Acaster**

That's good.



**Robert Popper**

That's good, isn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

And Stormzy's there as well. Like, 'Oh, my god, we get friends with Stormzy, that's good.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, so you know that at some point you're going to get to know them properly?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it would just be people, like, 'How I would know her?'

**James Acaster**

I mean, I think that's a good idea for a TV show, Robert, you're not worried that you're just-, this is your bread and butter here, writing. Are you not worried you're just giving away quite a good idea for a TV show?

**Robert Popper**

Which is man eating quite horrible food in a restaurant where there's people he doesn't know yet?

**James Acaster**

I'm not, well-,

**Robert Popper**

I mean, it does sound like a Netflix idea, doesn't it?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it's, sort of, sci-fi.

**Robert Popper**

And he's got to find out how he knows the people, that's actually quite good. That's mine, I'm copywriting it now.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. That's how copyright works.

**James Acaster**

You've got to get to know all these people.



**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

If we can get Stormzy on board I think it's going to be a really good show.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, we'd do a co-pro with his company, he must have a TV company.

**James Acaster**

It'd be good if there was, like, well, maybe it's a film or something but if it starts with main character wakes up in a strange room, and there are other people sat around. No one's talking to each other. And then, learns that these are people that he's going to meet in his life.

**Robert Popper**

It's not a bad idea actually, is it?

**James Acaster**

And then, the rest of the story is meeting those people. So, he, kind of, wakes up as if from a dream and then, encounters all of those people.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, keep going, I want to write this down.

**Ed Gamble**

I think we've got the beginning nailed.

**Robert Popper**

We've got the beginning, we've got the idea.

**Ed Gamble**

But it's the rest of it, isn't it?

**Robert Popper**

It's the rest of it, isn't it?

**James Acaster**

But he has to have learned details about-

**Robert Popper**

Or he gets eviscerated.

**James Acaster**

I mean, this is-, you're a bit obsessed with people getting eviscerated.





**Robert Popper**

Well, I'm just trying to tie it into-, it's an ending.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe he, sort of, weirdly makes friends with them in the room and then, he goes back to his life but they don't remember when he meets them again.

**Robert Popper**

But then, the type that you don't want are, like, floppy-haired, late middle-aged men in bow ties that are probably surgeons that might end up operating on you when you're very old.

**James Acaster**

Or it's someone he might murder or something.

**Robert Popper**

You know, like, people that might be all of them, that's the medical stuff.

**James Acaster**

Yes, because it's not all people you're going to meet and be friends with. It could be something, like, that's the person who's going to take your liver out.

**Robert Popper**

I'm the one that gave you the heart transplant that didn't go right. Oh, okay.

**Ed Gamble**

And it's in a world where no one can lie.

**Robert Popper**

Even, I mean, we've got to pitch this, guys. Yes, so that's what I want in the background and I want a trolley, and I want a pyramid of profiteroles.

**James Acaster**

Right, yes. (TC 01:00:00)

**Ed Gamble**

As soon as you said pyramid, I knew what was coming. Nothing else comes in a pyramid.

**Robert Popper**

Profiteroles, my favourite dessert.

**James Acaster**

Ferrero Rocher.



**Robert Popper**

Made by my mum with hot chocolate sauce, but I want cream in them, not ice cream. Not nice with ice cream, it's not proper. It's too cold with the hot chocolate.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, ice cream's not on the list though.

**Robert Popper**

I love ice cream, no, that is top of nice, like, list. So, I want profiteroles, loads of them.

**James Acaster**

Nice list.

**Robert Popper**

Nice list. So, I want them, then I want, there's a French restaurant we go to, like France, every couple of months, me and my wife as a treat. I know how to treat a lady. They have this dessert, it's the nicest dessert I've ever had in a restaurant. It is warm blueberry tart, here's the genius, lavender ice cream.

**James Acaster**

Wow (x2).

**Robert Popper**

That's adventurous for me, wasn't it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, that is very adventurous for you.

**Robert Popper**

It's amazing and they nearly always have it, and basically, I go for that, really. I get the main done, I get that, and occasionally they don't have it, it's off the menu and I literally want to, you know, destroy the whole restaurant. So angry, I just moan to my wife, 'They don't have the lavender.' 'Alright, they've got other things.' 'I know but I wanted that.'

**James Acaster**

Yes. It is heartbreaking, you've been looking forward to it all day, all week maybe.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, oh, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Is the dessert menu attached to the main menu so you know as soon as you go in?

**Robert Popper**

No.



**Ed Gamble**

Or does it come separately at the end?

**Robert Popper**

It's a work of art, their dessert menu, it's all amazing. It's got tarte tatin, you've got home-made ice creams, my wife often has chocolate and raspberry together. When we were kids, there used to be this ice lolly called Dracula, that was chocolate and raspberry so when she has it, I go, 'Dracula.' And she quite likes that joke but also, finds it quite annoying because I do it quite a lot. She's having a Dracula.

**Ed Gamble**

Is it a joke?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, and I'm having Dracula. Are you having Dracula? Yes. Like, the lolly? Yes. So, she'll have that and I'll have the lavender thing, and I'll have the tarte tatin if they don't have that. And it's just got beautiful, you know, desserts.

**James Acaster**

What's it called, this place?

**Robert Popper**

It's called Bistro Aix and it's in Crouch End. And it is nice. It is, but it's quite romantic. Also, the people in it are generally quite old, but it doesn't matter, the food's so nice, and I'll have that. Then, I'll also have meringues which I can make really good meringues.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What kind of meringues?

**Robert Popper**

I've got some here, I'm going to give them you them in a minute.

**James Acaster**

Have you actually?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes, yes, of course.



**Ed Gamble**

Oh my goodness.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, my meringues. So, yes, do you want a meringue?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

This is Robert Popper's getting up to get his meringues out of his bag.

**Robert Popper**

I made meringues.

**James Acaster**

Now, bearing in mind, we've heard what Elsie Drake makes and what food you've been making through that, is this going to be.

**Robert Popper**

No, no, no, these are, well, they've all crumbled, of course.

**Ed Gamble**

These look absolutely legit.

**Robert Popper**

They are good.

**James Acaster**

It's got your brother's hair in it.

**Robert Popper**

It's got my grandma's hair in it.

**James Acaster**

Wow, I'm going to obviously try one of these chocolatey-looking ones, it's got, like, chocolate dusted on the top.

**Robert Popper**

It'll make you really, like, dry-mouthed and it'll be awful for the-, what do you reckon?



**James Acaster**

Delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, fuck.

**Robert Popper**

What do you reckon?

**James Acaster**

I think that's delicious.

**Ed Gamble**

That's exactly what I was hoping.

**Robert Popper**

Today, I thought-, I made a note, make meringues and then, this morning I thought, 'Fucking hell, I've got to make meringues for them.' And then, I left it to the last minute.

**Ed Gamble**

You didn't have to.

**Robert Popper**

Oh, I did.

**James Acaster**

We wouldn't have known.

**Robert Popper**

What do you reckon, lads?

**Ed Gamble**

Really delicious and exactly what you want from a meringue, it's, like, not hard all the way through, it's soft.

**Robert Popper**

Chewy as well a bit.

**Ed Gamble**

A bit chewy, a bit soft in the middle. They've got the shell on the outside.

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Go on, lads.



**Ed Gamble**

That's legit, mate.

**Robert Popper**

So, I want the meringues with a lot of cream and, you know, I'm done. I mean, that is a good meal, it's a strange meal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but you've definitely saved yourself with the dessert I think.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, you having a bowl of carrots as a side, that's, like, almost cleansing the palate ready for the dessert trolley, isn't it?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I've been a good little boy so you get your big reward at the end.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Exactly. Do you want to hear the list then?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, let's hear the list.

**James Acaster**

Oh, it's a proper list.

**Robert Popper**

Here we go.

**James Acaster**

And it's written down on paper.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, over the last days, in different pen.



**Ed Gamble**

It's a big list, just to let you know.

**Robert Popper**

Here we go, fish. All seafood. Olives. Nuts. Mayonnaise. Mustard. Asparagus. Cabbage. Apricots. Liver. Lychees. Pesto. Coffee. Blue cheese. Truffles. Truffle oil. Pickles. White chocolate. Raisins. They're fine, if they break away from a cake, I won't eat the ones that are on their own because they've got cake on them, and that's annoying. Don't know why. Lentils. Chickpeas. Marzipan. Beetroot. Garlic bread. Raw onions. Venison. Who has venison, it's a weird thing to say. Artichoke. Grapefruit. Brussels sprouts. Rhubarb. Meatballs. Red wine. Nearly done. Milk. Red peppers. Sweetcorn but I like corn on the cob, and not on it's own. Liquorice. Goats cheese. Marmalade. Feta cheese. Quiche. Falafel. Dates. Prunes. Hummus. Parsnips. Cheesecake. Doughnuts. Baked beans and peas.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow. I mean, some absolute rogue things in there.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Garlic bread and doughnuts.

**Robert Popper**

Doughnuts are horrible.

**Ed Gamble**

Really?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. And I love sweet things. Greasy.

**James Acaster**

Greasy?

**Robert Popper**

Yes. Doughnuts taste greasy and the traditional ones with the sugar and the jam in, the sugar's annoying, sort of, grates your lips. And just raw jam.

**James Acaster**

Raw jam?

**Robert Popper**

Just jam in a doughnut. It's just, like, you don't get jam, put your spoon in and just-,



**Ed Gamble**

Raw jam and the sugar grates your lips.

**James Acaster**

You don't get jam, put your spoon and just spoon jam into your mouth?

**Ed Gamble**

You put jam on stuff though, don't you?

**Robert Popper**

You do, that's true actually. Normally, you do put down, I have jam on toast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I'm the one with the problem.

**James Acaster**

A jam sandwich.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, a jam sandwich is really nice so I'm the one with the problem.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes and a bit milk, obviously, well, I know why you don't like milk. You had fizzy milk and milk with Ribena, it's obviously left a real impression on you.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, traumatic memories.

**Robert Popper**

I think I was probably traumatised.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, I understand that, that's fair enough.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, that's one understandable, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it, Robert.





**Robert Popper**

Exciting.

**James Acaster**

You want tap water. You would like challah bread toasted by yourself with a toaster on the table. Starter, you want 50/50 cereal, cornflakes and Rice Krispies with honey, not with one of those twizzly things. And cold oat milk. Your main course, you want a square steak made by your grandmother with paprika, potatoes, and green beans. All made in, like, a metal.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't forget the flour crust.

**Robert Popper**

The crust.

**James Acaster**

And the flour crust.

**Ed Gamble**

Delicious.

**James Acaster**

Side dish, bowl of raw carrots. Drink, Seamower and a Laross. Dessert, a pyramid of profiteroles with cream not ice cream. Warm blueberry tart with lavender from Bistro Aix.

**Robert Popper**

Lavender ice cream.

**James Acaster**

Yes, lavender ice cream and meringues made by yourself. Which we don't discuss if they were in a pyramid or not. We didn't discuss that.

**Robert Popper**

No, I think they would just be on a-

**James Acaster**

Dotted around the room.

**Robert Popper**

Dotted around the room, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Around the room?



**James Acaster**

Yes. How do you feel about that?

**Robert Popper**

I think that sounds good, yes, I like that.

**James Acaster**

You think it sounds good?

**Robert Popper**

Yes, I mean, it also sounds terrible but it also sounds good.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I think that's the thing.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it should all sound good to you.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, it sounds good to me.

**Ed Gamble**

Because if you said that sounds disgusting, then I don't know or you've done it all wrong.

**Robert Popper**

No, it doesn't sound disgusting, it sounds good.

**James Acaster**

I actually just think the bowl of carrots is the only thing that throws it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Robert Popper**

Why?

**James Acaster**

It's just really out of nowhere, like, I can't see a place for it in a meal. I understand that you have it as a snack around the house, that makes sense to me but at any point during a meal, that would confuse me.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a palate cleanser, I don't mind it.



**Robert Popper**

But I mean, you can have cooked carrots though, sort of, crunchy. So, it's just one step away from that, they're still crunchy and that goes with your meal.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I mean, I guess.

**Robert Popper**

Does it win the greatest meal anyone has ever-

**James Acaster**

It's under consideration.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes, yes, but it's not.

**Ed Gamble**

Definitely.

**Robert Popper**

It's just the carrots that might-,

**James Acaster**

We're not ruling it out.

**Robert Popper**

Right, right, right.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you for submitting it.

**Robert Popper**

Right, and your welcome.

**James Acaster**

And we got to eat the meringues so, like, we've eaten the meringues and they were really nice. Benito hasn't had a meringue.

**Robert Popper**

He's not allowed one.



**James Acaster**

He says he's busy, eat a meringue now, Benito.

**Ed Gamble**

Just have one now, before the-

**Robert Popper**

He hates meringue.

**James Acaster**

You can edit yourself eating it out but you can keep in Robert's reaction to you eating it. I think the listener would like to know how Robert feels about you eating a meringue.

**Robert Popper**

No, I don't want him to have one, you're not allowed one, there we are. He doesn't like meringues and that's fair enough.

**James Acaster**

He likes meringues, he's going to love it.

**Robert Popper**

He's going to have on the tube on the way back, just open a big box of meringues, that would be strange.

**Ed Gamble**

I've never seen anyone eat a meringue on the tube.

**Robert Popper**

No, that would be good. I once saw on the tube a boy, must have been about nine, who was dressed, like, do you ever remember Viz, Spoilt Bastard, little boy. Dressed like a spoilt kid and his mum sat opposite him, it's a busy train, and I saw this and this boy just looked in, like, trouble. And spoilt boy, and the mum looked exhausted and he had a massive bag of cherries which is quite a spoilt thing for a child to have. Like, holding it there on his lap and he was biting into the cherries and he chewed through it, and he spat the cherry stone across at his mum, and it would like, go, on her face or on her top. She had a summer dress on and she was really embarrassed, everyone was looking. And he was laughing, roaring, and he's stuffing another cheery in. And he kept spitting them at his mum and it hit her on the face, and the hair, and her dress. And that was, you know, five minutes of my drive and then, I got off and it was just carrying on.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow, I love that kid.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

Cherries are such a spoilt kid thing.

**Robert Popper**

Isn't it, cherries?

**Ed Gamble**

Mother, I can't get on the train without my cherries.

**Robert Popper**

Cherries. It's my bag, like, my bag of cherries for the tube journey. The tube cherries.

**James Acaster**

When you see kids like that, it's mind blowing, isn't it?

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Get away with that stuff.

**Robert Popper**

Kids these days, aye?

**James Acaster**

If I spat a cherry stone at either of my parents.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Game over.

**Robert Popper**

Yes, oh my god.

**Ed Gamble**

Game over.

**Robert Popper**

It is true.

**James Acaster**

Game over, forget it. Like, I'm never having a cherry again as long as I live.



**Robert Popper**

Because you might do that if you're around your parents.

**James Acaster**

Yes, they'd be, like, we're not giving you any of them but also, we're going to tell you off so bad that you don't even want to eat cherries as an adult because you're just going to think, 'I'm a bad boy. I'm a bad boy.'

**Robert Popper**

Kids, don't eat cherries basically, that's one thing you can take away from this.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a lovely way to end the podcast I think.

**Robert Popper**

It is.

**Ed Gamble**

Kids, please don't eat cherries.

**Robert Popper**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you very much for coming to the dream restaurant, Robert.

**James Acaster**

Cherry Popper daddy.

**Robert Popper**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, there we are, James.

**James Acaster**

What a wild ride.

**Ed Gamble**

What a fun chat with Robert Popper.

**James Acaster**

Lovely chat with Robert Popper, we learnt so much about him.



**Ed Gamble**

We did.

**James Acaster**

The wacky world of Robert Popper.

**Ed Gamble**

The wacky world of Robert Popper.

**James Acaster**

And the wacky world of Elsie Drake, of course.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not the name of the book.

**James Acaster**

Huh?

**Ed Gamble**

That's not the name of the book. Just in case you go searching for that, (TC 01:10:00) it's not called the wacky world of Elsie Drake.

**James Acaster**

Don't look for that. The Elsie Drake Letters, brackets aged 104, is what the book is called. It's out now.

**Ed Gamble**

So, go and buy that from wherever you buy your books.

**James Acaster**

Absolutely, and Robert didn't pick a pot of pickled peppers.

**Ed Gamble**

Robert Popper did not pick a pot of-, ugh.

**James Acaster**

Robert Popper did not pick a pot of pickled peppers.

**Ed Gamble**

No. That's true. You're good at that, man.

**James Acaster**

Oh, I don't know, I felt, like, I was missing out a few vowels there.



**Ed Gamble**

No, no, you did it but when you do it, it always feels like you're on the edge, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You always feel like you're riding a wave of words.

**James Acaster**

I feel like my eyes go into the top of my head and my eyelids start fluttering.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they did.

**James Acaster**

Yes, like, I was going through a trance.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, yes, yes.

**James Acaster**

I don't really know what's going on.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, it was scary, don't do that again, really scary.

**James Acaster**

Okay, I know it was scary.

**Ed Gamble**

But he did not do that. Thank you so much to Robert Popper for coming on, we will see you next week.

**James Acaster**

We will see you next week.

**Ed Gamble**

We've got to Popper offer.

**James Acaster**

We've got to Popper offer.