

Speed Eater
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EXT. SPEED EATING EVENT - DAY

It's a sunny day. JAMES sits on a bench behind a long table with a huge amount of beefburgers on it. There is a COMPETITOR on both his sides. An MC, 60 wearing smart clothes, a top hat and a fancy watch stands in front of the three. All are on a slightly elevated stage. In front of the stage is a large AUDIENCE going wild.

MC

Helloooo audience and welcome to the best damn speed eating event in the world! Sorry for being late, but you know James, he stole my car keys!

The AUDIENCE woos.

MC

On the left here, we have Vinnie, on the right is Liam, and of course in the middle we have James! Let's hear it for Vinnie!

The AUDIENCE chants 'Vinnie!' repeatedly.

MC

Let's hear it for Liam!

The AUDIENCE chants 'Liam'. The MC presses a button on his watch.

MC

I've just started the timer, now let's get eating... Go!

The three COMPETITIVE EATERS stuff their faces. But JAMES is soon seen to be far behind.

MC

Come on James, you can do better than that. Imagine that eating faster powns Dan.

JAMES eats faster, but it's still not enough.

MC

Vinnie and Liam powning James, there.
..

JAMES is clearly annoyed. He speeds up the eating again, but he chokes.

MC

A beef burger powning James, there...

VINNIE and LIAM continue eating.

MC
Vinnie and Liam being very
professional by ignoring James and
keeping eating...

JAMES falls backwards off the bench.

MC
... and he's down!

INT. JAMES'S GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JAMES sits by a circular table. He faces his GIRLFRIEND,
JANINE. On his left is his GF'S MOTHER. An empty chair is on
his right.

MOTHER
Hello, James, nice to finally meet
you. What is it that you do?

JAMES
When I'm not in an insane asylum, I
host a podcast...

MOTHER
Yes, I know about that, do you do
anything else?

JAMES
I work on evil schemes. How to get
back at my good friend, Dan,
basically.

MOTHER
That's different. Have you ever got
back at him?

JAMES
No, he won't go down...

MOTHER
I see. Is the podcast successful?

JAMES
It is, but there's a lot of hate. I
hate to be rude, but I'm really
hungry...

MOTHER
Because you're a food-obsessed speed
eater, right?

JAMES

Exactly.

MOTHER

I saw you on the news, you know? You nearly died...

JAMES

No, I don't think so. Just a hazard of the profession. Happens to everyone.

The FATHER is heard from outside the room.

FATHER

Ok, James! Dinner is ready! Sorry about the lack of chit-chatting beforehand, but I've heard your podcast and I don't think I want to speak to you...

JAMES

Great!

The FATHER enters the room carrying two plates. He places them on the table and leaves.

FATHER

Just getting the other two plates, now!

Soon enough, the FATHER is back with the rest of the food. He sits on JAMES'S right. JAMES immediately stuffs his face as quickly as possible.

FATHER

Hungry, eh?...

JAMES

Mmmm...

JAMES keeps eating.

FATHER

(annoyed)

Wow. You must love my food...

JANINE

James isn't being rude, he's a speed eater, that's all...

FATHER

A speed eater, eh?

JAMES

I can't lose again, I'm sorry.

JAMES only eats faster.

MOTHER

He lives in an insane asylum, you know?

FATHER

Oh, that's different.

MOTHER

Yes, on the whole, a very different person.

JANINE

He has an unusual amount of personality disorders...

MOTHER

Oh, wow...

JAMES chokes.

JANINE

Oh not this again...

MOTHER

Get the vacuum cleaner!

JANINE

Can you really suck out food that way?

JAMES falls backwards off his seat.

FATHER

I'll stamp on his stomach!

The FATHER does so, and the food flies out of JAMES'S mouth.

FATHER

There we go.

JAMES

Thanks for that.

JAMES shovels food into his mouth again.

JANINE

He may be a bit weird, but on the plus side, nice food...