



# The Garrett Addiction

article: Lynette A. Griffin  
photos: Sarah Bonk

Popcorn never looked so good!



It's been approximately 246 days since I've had a kernel. That is, from Garrett Popcorn Shops. I don't know why. I didn't mean to cut myself off. It just sort of happened. I looked up one day and realized I hadn't been there in nearly a year. Whatever the case, this self-imposed regulation is over. Garrett and I will get cozy with each other again before this issue goes to print.

One of the amazing things about Garrett Popcorn Shops is the insanely awesome aroma that literally draws victim after victim into the mouth-watering establishment. I've actually witnessed people downtown – unknowing tourists no doubt – try to follow the smell that cries down the street from the actual shop. When their noses finally catch up to it they walk in proudly with an “I-can't-wait-to-taste-this” look, completely unaware of their new lifelong addiction.

I've even seen Chicagoans try hard to ignore the aroma they've become accustomed to by walking past the popcorn shop without looking at it, hoping they can slip by without going in. How sad. Just go in already, I always think. They usually turn around defeated, and succumb to their addiction. This is when the dependence is at its worse; and if you work downtown, forget about it.

A friend of mine who is originally from Chicago but now lives in Atlanta (yeah, I'm sorry too) had a panic attack about a year ago when we went to a Garrett location that ran out of popcorn. I truly thought I was going to have to take her to the emergency room. I remained calm because I remembered the other locations and clearly all of them couldn't have been out of popcorn. That wasn't even an option. Otherwise, all three of us – including my 7-year-old godson – quite possibly could have ended up in jail. Anyway, we eventually drove to another store, got our fix, and my friend was beyond relieved.

After that situation I came to realize, around the holidays this is a very likely, but unfortunate occurrence. The culprit? Tourists. I noticed they were becoming a problem at one of my favorite snack joints last winter when I stood in line for nearly two hours (with you know who) so I could get popcorn for musician Will Downing whom I was interviewing later that day. Once he professed his love for it, I knew I had to bring him some. (Come on, you don't really think I stood in line all that time just for him do you?)

Now, I don't mind tourists enjoying our beautiful city, but when popcorn starts disappearing, I got a problem. I will fight them and I happen to know a few people who will join me in the battle. We absolutely cannot have tourists eating up all the Garrett popcorn supply. Shouldn't there be some sort of limitation on how much they can buy if they're even allowed to have any at all?

Yeah, I'm serious. After all, do we really want a lot of popcorn-heads wandering aimlessly around downtown Chicago trying to get a fix of what's rightfully theirs? Not a good look my friends.

For help with your Garrett addiction please don't call me. In fact, no one can help you. My advice? Give in. And being the enabler that I am, you can feed your addiction this holiday season at the following locations: 670 N. Michigan Ave., 26 W. Randolph, 2 W. Jackson, 500 W. Madison, 4 E. Madison, or visit [www.garrettpopcorn.com](http://www.garrettpopcorn.com).

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## Testimonials:

Licking your fingers is required when eating Garrett Popcorn. No way around it. I told my son and step-daughter that it's the only time they are allowed to lick and suck their fingers. If anyone uses a napkin, it's safe to say they're not from Chicago and have not been properly introduced to the etiquette of enjoying Garrett Popcorn. – **Kai Evans**

When I eat Garrett popcorn I feel like I can eat the entire bag of the Chicago Mix. – **Sherell Slaise**

I'll occasionally order for others, but truth be told, it is always for me. I will wait in line no matter the number of people or the weather! I got it so bad for this popcorn. It can be addictive. – **Keisha L. Mamon**

I love Garrett popcorn because it is so sweet and tastes so good! Whenever I go there it reminds me of my granddad and ma-ma. When I eat their popcorn it makes me feel happy. – **Jacob Zaire Robinson**

If you have a Garrett testimonial please send to: [lag@grandoverview.com](mailto:lag@grandoverview.com).