Creamy Dijon Pasta with Broccoli

Ingredients

- 12 oz pasta (penne, rotini, or shells)
- 1 small head of broccoli, cut into bite-size chunks
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp salt, plus more to taste
- ½ tsp black pepper
- Optional: pinch of red pepper flakes

Method

- 1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta according to package directions.
- 2. During the last **3 minutes** of pasta cooking, add broccoli to the pot. Drain together and set aside.
- 3. In a large skillet over medium heat, warm olive oil and butter.
- 4. Add garlic and cook **30 seconds** until fragrant.
- 5. Whisk in Dijon mustard, then pour in heavy cream. Simmer gently 3-4 minutes until slightly thickened.
- 6. Stir in Parmesan, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes if using.
- 7. Add pasta and broccoli to the skillet. Toss until fully coated and creamy.
- 8. Taste and adjust seasoning. Serve hot.

Notes

- Sauce should cling, not pool loosen with a splash of pasta water if needed.
- Broccoli stays chunky on purpose for texture and balance.
- Comfort food, not restaurant food creamy, cozy, dependable.