

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cast:

Cathy Mason

Rachel Mason

David Baddiel

Ivor Baddiel

[I Wish I Was An Only Child Theme Song]

Cathy: So this morning I went in, she's a very socially anxious dog so I went in to take Buzz to school, tied her up at the gate, she went fucking mental. There was quite a lot of people coming in and it was just mortifying so I took Buzz into the school and I said 'Don't look back, just keep walking' and then I get to his classroom, drop him off, turn back and the whole school is screaming and shouting. And she was so traumatised she'd broken free of the lead, shot into the school, there was like hundreds of people trying to catch this bloody traumatised dog and she was soaking wet because it was pissing with rain and she headed towards the main road. So all these kids and suddenly one of the kids managed to grab hold of her. It was horrific. And the thing is I'm so fucking angry with her now, I don't even feel sorry for her, I'm just angry with her because she's so socially anxious. She's called a Clingapoo.

Rachel: Yeah that's true.

Cathy: She's so obsessed with me it's depressing. Like really properly obsessed just everywhere I go she's there. I go to the toilet, she's looking at me. Yeah everywhere. She sits on the floor in the toilet and just looks at me and it's gross.

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: But yeah so that's the dog. Was there any other dog? Well she follows you a bit.

Rachel: If you weren't there yeah might do.

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- Cathy: If I wasn't there she would yeah. I'm still struggling, I love her but I'm still struggling with having a dog because...
- Rachel: I'm glad I haven't got a sense of smell because I can't actually tell if she smells.
- Cathy: She doesn't smell actually, no. I wash her, I'm obsessive about washing her.
- Rachel: Welcome to I Wish I Was An Only Child with me, Rachel Mason.
- Cathy: And me, Cathy Mason.
- Rachel: Where we speak to other siblings about the dynamic of their relationship to see where we're going wrong.
- Cathy: Today our guests are comedian David Baddiel and his brother Ivor who's a writer.
- Rachel: This podcast might sound a little different.
- Cathy: So David and Ivor came over to my house and sat in the kitchen and we had to leave the door open because of Covid, so you can hear lots of ambulances and lots of parrots.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- Cathy: There's hundreds of parrots on the heath, green parrots. I know, somebody let them loose years and years ago and they've taken over the heath and they're fuckin' loud.
- [I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]
- Rachel: Just older younger.
- David: Oh come on! Come on!
- Ivor: Look at us it's obvious isn't it?
- David: Yeah. I mean it's very flattering.
- Cathy: Well I know.

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David: Ivor is the older one, he's 18 months older.

Ivor: He's the one you need to flatter.

Rachel: OK, OK.

Ivor: It's actually 16 months, it's 16 months.

David: Is it?

Ivor: Yeah because it's May, I'm January the 31st.

David: I always say 18 months, don't change that now, that's my whole life changed.

Cathy: Well I've always read it's 18 months.

Ivor: Well the fact it's February, March, April, May is four months.

David: Yeah but a year and a half people say 18 months don't they?

Rachel: Yeah same as us, we're 18 months.

Cathy: We're 18 months.

Rachel: Yeah.

David: Oh really?

Rachel: Yeah.

Ivor: Who's older?

Cathy: Old time.

David: [Laughs]

Ivor: Is there another one of you?

Rachel: No.

Cathy: Mentally, yes Dan.

Rachel: And Dan is?

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David: Dan Baddiel?

Rachel: Yeah.

David: He's in Brooklyn.

Rachel: Oh no so in terms of.

Ivor: He's the youngest.

David: He genuinely is in Brooklyn.

Ivor: I'm in Crouch End, he's in Hampstead and Dan's in Brooklyn.

David: Yeah but we're all here.

Rachel: So he is the youngest.

Ivor: 55, 57...

Rachel: You didn't have to say that.

David: Yeah no need.

Ivor: Well that's how old I am, that's a fact.

Rachel: It's just good to get the 18 months.

David: I'm going to say something about this podcast which is that this is the first one apparently that you've done face-to-face with two other siblings.

Cathy: We're absolutely shitting ourselves.

David: Because you normally do it on Zoom.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: Perhaps you should explain why. Which is that I live, is that OK?

Cathy: Of course.

David: I live ten houses up the road from you and I'm going to explain why that is. Because I'm David Baddiel and I used

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to live with Frank Skinner. I used to live in a flat with Frank Skinner.

Cathy: Yes.

David: A long time ago. And when I moved out and lived on my own, he bought a house two doors down from me.

Cathy: [Laughs]

David: So then I moved to another house on a different street and he bought a house ten doors down from me. It's basically a very expensive form of stalking that's Frank's always done.

Cathy: What do you think of that? I always wondered.

David: It's a bit weird.

Cathy: It's really weird. Do you feel a bit pissed off about it?

Rachel: I'd never thought about that.

David: No not at all. I think it's so sweet.

Cathy: Because we don't see you that much.

David: Well that's probably best given that if I did actually just exceed to this like I'm going to move to a house really close to you.

Cathy: But why does he do that?

David: Well I think he?

Cathy: He loves you.

David: He loves me, I love him.

Cathy: He does, he does.

David: But I also think that he's got a sort of 19th century village mentality and he wants to impose that on London.

Cathy: He does not [laughs].

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- David: By saying we could just pop in at any point to David's house.
- Cathy: But he never would.
- Rachel: But he doesn't.
- David: He does occasionally, he did quite recently. The other day he popped round.
- Cathy: Did he?
- David: Yeah. Yeah he popped round, I can't remember what it was about now.
- Cathy: I was going to say why.
- David: Why did he pop round?
- Rachel: So you definitely don't live together.
- Ivor: Can I just ask though?
- Cathy: Yeah.
- Ivor: Do listeners of this podcast know your relationship to Frank?
- Cathy: Yes.
- Ivor: Because otherwise it would be a bit odd.
- Cathy: Jack and Frank have interviewed. So Rachel's husband Jack who's a writer and Frank have interviewed me and Rach.
- Rachel: We did like a Christmas.
- Cathy: A special.
- David: What do you describe it as? Your relationship with Frank?
- Cathy: My relationship to Frank?
- David: Yeah what would you describe it as? Because I've married recently.

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Cathy: Fiery.

David: [Laughs]

Cathy: Angry.

David: Of course I know all that. But no, one reason that I got married recently I think was apart from all the very romantic...

Cathy: Financial stuff.

David: ...inheritance tax reasons, is that I got to an age where I couldn't call Morwenna my girlfriend anymore...

Cathy: That's what he says.

David: ...because it just felt weird.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: And partner has always felt a bit odd as well.

Cathy: Why?

David: To be perfectly honest, and me and Frank used to do this. When me and Frank used to live together and we were being dropped off at our house which was not far from here, we sometimes talked about our partners right, and we could then tell that the taxi driver was thinking, oh do they mean each other?

Cathy: Oh.

David: And then we would add what we call a heterosexual caveat.

Cathy: [Laughs]

David: Now I know this is homophobic of us and insecure of us, I'm absolutely upfront with that.

Cathy: Fair enough.

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David: But it was like if we're going to talk about partners we're going to have to very quickly say 'she' because of that you know concern.

Cathy: Oh I see.

David: Just because we want to be clear and true about who we are.

Cathy: Yes.

David: Not because we're insecure about our sexuality.

Cathy: Exactly.

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: I call him my partner.

David: Yeah you call him your partner?

Cathy: I fully call him my partner yes.

David: OK.

Rachel: And you won't get married?

Cathy: No. He's asked me a few times and I won't.

David: Yeah.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

Cathy: Who's the funniest?

Ivor: Sorry you can't ask that, he's professionally more funny obviously. But I'm socially more funny. He's going to dispute that.

David: No it would be silly of me to dispute it.

Ivor: Oh.

David: But let me tell you a short story that involves something Ivor just told me. And it involves him being funny but something else as well.

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Ivor: Yeah.

David: So Ivor Tweeted yesterday, perhaps you'd just like to say the Tweet.

Ivor: Well I can't remember off the top of my head.

David: Oh that's really rude that bit.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Ivor: Well it's not what I do professionally, I can't learn lines.

David: I can do it I think.

Ivor: OK well I can get it up.

David: Can you?

Ivor: It will take a moment, I have one of these handheld.

Cathy: Can we do a phone in on this?

Ivor: Oh I've turned it off shit.

David: He's turned the phone off. It's something like this. It's something like 'Serving suggestions'.

Ivor: No, no, no, I can't hear you say that. It says 'How annoying is it when you buy some soup and it says serves 2'.

David: Soup?! It doesn't say soup.

Ivor: Well it was soup [laughs] It actually was soup.

Cathy: [Laughs]

David: Soup ruins it.

Ivor: I know.

David: Completely fucks it.

Ivor: I know but it actually was soup that I saw it on and then I thought of the gag. Come on. Right hang on, one

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moment, bear with. You can just play some music over this. It says 'Annoying how when a product says serves 2 [laughs] Annoying how when a product says serves 2, it doesn't take into account that one of us might be a greedy bastard who is quite overweight'.

David: Right so the point is, you know why saying soup slightly ruins that.

Rachel: Yeah.

Ivor: I know but.

David: You sort of imagine it's a cake or something.

Ivor: Yeah, yeah.

David: Anyway the point is that I saw that yesterday and Ivor tweets quite a lot. And every so often, I do have more followers on Twitter than he does, I think I'll retweet something that Ivor said because this is funny.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: I probably don't tweet about eight or nine things and then I think, oh that's funny. And Ivor said to me on the way here, he said to me 'Oh that tweet that you retweeted it's got like 4000 to 5000 likes now' and he was sort of saying 'Why that one?' And I wanted to say 'Well I retweeted it on because I knew it was a proper funny one' Right I knew that and that is why I'm a professional funny person.

Ivor: Yeah.

David: And you are, well you're a professional funny person.

Ivor: I am a professional one. But I just said to him on the way here that every so often, I won't mention the name but I had a script read with somebody yesterday and she hadn't read the script before and it was great because she was reading through it and really laughing at some of

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the gags which pleased me because I thought they were very funny. But every so often I do something or say something which I think it's not that funny but it surprises me how funny other people find it, how good it is.

Rachel: Are you also surprised that he didn't retweet the other eight?

David: [Laughs]

Ivor: No, no because a lot of what I tweet is shit.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: I mean because...

David: I mean really. Rate My Pun, Ivor does this thing call Rate My Pun.

Ivor: Not anymore, I've stopped it.

David: OK good.

Rachel: OK.

Cathy: What did you say?

David: Rate My Pun. What did you think I said?

Cathy: I'm not saying.

David: You thought it had rape in it?

Cathy: Yeah.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: Can I just say? Seeing as we're sitting here, this is a little thing about David is occasionally you get things slightly wrong.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Ivor: It's called The Lunch Pun.

David: No you say '#ratemypun' on all of them.

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- Ivor: Oh shit all right. But that's secondary because it's actually a lunch pun competition.
- David: Lunch pun? Right, I don't think I've seen lunch pun. I've seen '#ratemyapun' [laughs].
- Rachel: So what we're concluding is that is why you're professionally a comedian.
- David: Yeah.
- Rachel: And what you're saying is your brother isn't.
- David: I have a tuning fork inside me for what is and isn't funny which I think is very accurate.
- Ivor: Yeah.
- David: Ivor is funny but he doesn't have the tuning fork I would say.
- Rachel: Right.
- Ivor: I think that's true. I come up with a lot of shit [laughs].
- David: Yeah that's basically what I'm saying, I was trying to be nice about it but it's good that you're self aware.
- Cathy: Isn't that what your dad Colin was like, wasn't he just funny but didn't have the tuning fork?
- David: Well? [Laughs ] I don't think he was bothered with the tuning fork really.
- Ivor: Yeah, yeah, sure.
- Cathy: Oh fair enough, OK.
- David: Yeah he was funny and shouty and angry, yeah but he was definitely funny.
- Cathy: Right.
- David: And still is funny in his own way.

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Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: But he made the same jokes over and over.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: Well he still does. For 60 years?

David: Yeah.

Cathy: How do you cope with that because Frank does that with me.

David: Yeah, Frank...

Cathy: And it makes me very insane.

Ivor: It's interesting, well now it's very important to us because...

Cathy: Of course yeah.

Ivor: ...you might have talked about this. So there's a particular joke that when we leave him, when we've been to visit him and say 'Colin we're off' in fact you tweeted about this recently.

David: Yes.

Ivor: We were trying to get it on film. His joke is 'You've been off for years'. Right that's his joke, he has been saying that joke for all our lives it seems. And a marker of a tiny little bit of him still being in there is him saying that.

Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: And he didn't say it a long, long time and I personally, and I think you're the same, thought this is the last message of him he's going.

Rachel: Yeah.

Ivor: But then he has been saying it.

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David: No he said it recently and you got it on film and there's a long bit of footage of you shouting at the carer 'Did you fucking get it?'

Cathy: Nooo [laughs].

Ivor: Yeah [laughs].

David: We did a documentary about him, well about his disease.

Cathy: Because he has Pick's disease.

David: Pick's disease yeah which is a disease whereby the joke I did about it in my show, My Family Not The Sitcom, was that when the neurologist went through the symptoms that Pick's disease are supposed to have which include irritability, attempted obscenity, apathy, disinhibition. I said 'Does he have a disease or have you just met him?' Because he was always entirely like that all the time.

Cathy: [Laughs] Totally yeah.

Ivor: Mm-hmm.

David: And so it was hard to tell and he just got more and more aggressive and whatever. But then gradually he's become more withdrawn and less like that. And actually in that documentary there's a really genuinely moving moment, sort of similar to what I just said at the end of it where we're sitting in a pub and we are trying to make him say the jokes he always said.

Cathy: Aww.

David: And then there's a bit right at the end where I say 'Have you got a match?' And he says 'Yes your face and my ass'. And we are so overjoyed.

Cathy: [Laughs] That's quite funny though.

David: No it's really funny.

Ivor: Yeah.

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David: But also it's a very important thing about probably the way we were brought up. Which is my dad showed affection through abuse, through comic abuse.

Cathy: Right, right.

David: Through insult. It's a thing a lot of men do. I mean we still probably do it. There was a period where we would phone each other up and just basically call the other cunt.

Cathy: Really?!

David: Yeah and uh...

Cathy: See Ivor doesn't look as happy with that.

David: Well?

Ivor: Oh no it's true.

David: Yeah.

Cathy: OK.

David: We did grow up in an atmosphere I think whereby that's the way that you showed love and affection is essentially making fun of someone else normally in quite an obscene and aggressive way.

Ivor: Yeah there's also a bit in the documentary that's fantastic where we're sat there talking to our dad and then, I can't remember exactly...

David: I know. So there's a bit where the documentary guy he's called Charlie.

Ivor: The director.

David: The director.

Ivor: He's a director [laughs].

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- David: The director says 'Has your dad ever said I love you to either of you?' and we both go 'No definitely not'.
- Ivor: No.
- David: And the director says to me 'Well why not?' and I say 'I think he probably didn't' and that's a joke. It's a joke but nonetheless he turns the camera on Colin who's there but obviously not entirely with it. He turns the camera on our dad and says 'Your son is saying that you never loved him'. And he says 'That's complete bollocks'. And that is the nearest we will ever get to him saying I love you.
- Cathy: Oh wow.
- Ivor: You say that in the film don't you?
- David: Yeah.
- Ivor: That's the nearest we'll ever get.
- David: That's the nearest we'll ever get. Because he'll never say I love you. But it is so Colin Baddiel to say I love you by saying the idea that he hasn't said that is complete bollocks.
- Ivor: Yeah.
- Cathy: But did you feel loved? Or did you not feel loved?
- Ivor: There's a question.
- Cathy: As kids did you feel?
- David: I think you feel slightly differently about this than I do.
- Ivor: Yeah I do, yeah.
- David: No I think he was affectionate. I think he was in a very, very restrictive 1950s male Welsh hard bloke because that's who our dad is...
- Cathy: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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David: ...way. But I think he genuinely was affectionate.

Ivor: Yeah.

David: He never said, I love you, he would never do anything soft. But he definitely liked in a small way being with us, not all the time not in the way that we're parents or whatever but like I mean it's so cliché but through football.

Cathy: No, no, yeah, yeah.

David: We used to play football and he used to do these joshing jokes and fights and all that kind of stuff.

Ivor: Smashes, he used to call them smashes.

David: Yeah smashes.

Ivor: Wrestling matches.

David: That was how we had physical affection with him was through these things called smashes when we would basically fight.

Ivor: But we were very little.

Rachel: So what about your mum?

David: Yeah.

Rachel: Was she affectionate?

Ivor: Well? I'll tell you my take on it.

Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: So I think, for me I think I experienced an awful lot of love, whether it was real or not I don't know. But that's the way I experienced it, up until age of about 11. And then as David talked about, for a long time, something happened right and they stopped parenting us. And also I think, I mentioned this to David recently, that most people, a marker of this I think is most children go

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through calling their parents mummy and daddy, and then it becomes mum and dad. They've never been mum and dad. Right so we went from mummy and daddy to basically calling them their first names or the mother, the father.

David: So ironically.

Ivor: Yeah ironically.

Cathy: Oh it was ironically? They didn't ask you?

David: My son just calls me David, my son says David ironically and has done since he was about 12.

Cathy: Right OK.

David: Yeah we sort of didn't call them mum and dad ever.

Ivor: Yeah but I don't quite know why or what?

Rachel: Jack has that with his parents. Because they said it's important that we are people. You know? We're not just mum and dad.

David: But those are proper people.

Ivor: That's a conscious decision.

David: Those are people who have thought carefully about parenting, that's not our parents.

Rachel: Right, right.

David: Like absolutely parenting was not a word in their vocabulary.

Cathy: But did they suddenly back off?

David: No I don't think so. So to come to the sense of this podcast, I Wish I Was An Only Child.

Cathy: Yeah.

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- David: I don't, and I've often said this, Ivor I unconditionally love and that's because I think Ivor parented me.
- Cathy: Right.
- David: I don't remember when they were caring parents, that might be just a feat of memory but I have no memory of them being, like my dad as I said was basically quite absent but when he was there probably nice enough but often very angry as well so kind of frightened of him.
- Cathy: Yeah.
- David: And as I've said publically before, the main thing about my mum apart from being just generally a complete mentaller, is that she was very obsessive and then she had an affair with a golf and memorabilia salesman and then turned our lives over to golf and then everything in our house was about golf and to some extent about him.
- Cathy: Yeah.
- David: And that was entirely where her emotionally energy was. A little bit to our younger brother who I think is her favourite. But certainly not on being a parent.
- Ivor: No.
- Cathy: So you didn't have...
- David: The person to feel that vacuum was definitely Ivor.
- Cathy: Right.
- Ivor: I used to make him breakfast, get him up for school.
- David: Yeah.
- Ivor: See also the other aspect of that was we went to North West London Jewish Day School, it was a local very nice primary. I mean there's all sorts of fucked up stuff with that because it was a religious school, we went to school and it's very religious but our parents would often give us

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bacon for breakfast which is quite sweet of them. But that aside that was all very nice and warm and close and then suddenly for me, I don't know if it was similar for David but going from that really warm and close and safe environment in the space of one summer, six weeks, I then went to the City of London School, thrown into the London underground, like this fucking rush hour chaos. With no help from them. Our kids I think the first day of secondary school or whatever it's quite a big deal but I think it was just, right off you go. And like fucking hell and somebody throwing you into this mad and crazy world.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

Ivor: David is much more confident than I am. Much more confident about things about his work, about a lot of things.

David: About everything.

Ivor: About everything, he's much more confident and I sort of slightly envy that certainty that he has. Because I'm much more neurotic about things.

David: Which has now found its way into your health thing hasn't it?

Ivor: Oh let's not go into that.

Cathy: Let's go into that.

Ivor: Later, let's go later.

David: We do need to go into that.

Ivor: That's for later surely, we've got another four hours of this shit haven't we?

Rachel: We have, we have.

David: Don't say that Ivor.

Ivor: I'm joking.

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- Cathy: So why are you more neurotic? Was it because you were carrying everything?
- David: I think that might be why yeah.
- Ivor: I think so. I think eldest child, there is an eldest child thing as well.
- Cathy: Yeah I'm the most neurotic. I'm fully neurotic.
- Rachel: Well yeah she can't relate to that because I am the oldest, mentally I'm older.
- Cathy: But I got counselling.
- David: And she's the parent?
- Rachel: Yes.
- David: Cath is the parent?
- Rachel: No, no.
- David: Well hang on, you said mentally you're older?
- Rachel: No mentally I am.
- Cathy: Mentally she's older.
- David: OK that makes much more sense OK sorry that was just me not understanding the maths.
- Rachel: Cath is physically so much older but yeah.
- Ivor: But I think psychologically the eldest child is the only one when there are other kids who has parents for a short while all to themselves.
- Cathy: Yes.
- Ivor: Feels all the love in a not too damaged parental set-up.
- Cathy: Yeah.
- Ivor: And then that's completely blown by hang on I've got to share it with one other kid, now another kid. So I'm the

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only one that had a year and a half, 16 months on my own.

David: But surely you wanted that to be shared.

Cathy: Yes.

David: Because of our parents.

Rachel: But that's what I mean because that's what interesting because they didn't seem to really parent you.

Ivor: No but when you're one and a half you don't know. There's loads of pictures, in fact dad has sent over loads. I look like a really happy little baby.

David: You look like Oliver Hardy. You were really fat.

Ivor: [Laughs] Chubby.

Cathy: Aww.

David: Really, I mean, like.

Ivor: And this is why, I'm not aware, I spent years in therapy literally trying to uncover something from my early, early life that would explain everything. Oh that's it, they did this, they did that. There's nothing. All I can pin my terrible neurosis and everything on is something that loss of love or perceived loss of love anyway. You know it may not actually have been that, I might have just.

David: I don't know.

Ivor: But I do remember those early years at North West Jewish School being pretty idyllic.

David: I don't remember it being idyllic.

Cathy: Why do you not remember it being idyllic?

David: Because it was like Cricklewood in 1974 and it was just grim and mundane and quite often I was frightened of being beaten up on the street because there was lots of...

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Ivor: What at seven or eight?

David: Yeah I was! I was. I remember always being frightened of sort of the possibility of hard blokes. I mean maybe not seven or eight.

Ivor: That's what I mean.

David: But I was also frightened because about three times I came out of North West and the mother just wasn't there and I would just wander off and get lost.

Cathy: She just wouldn't turn up?

David: No she did but she'd turn up at the wrong time or whatever.

Cathy: Right.

David: And they would really shout at me for getting lost when it wasn't my fault.

Ivor: [Laughs]

Cathy: And where was Ivor then?

David: He wasn't looking after me in that sense at school.

Ivor: It must have been a time because I was off at secondary school so there was a year or so when.

David: Ivor's parenting of me which I possibly talk up [laughs] but anyway, Ivor's parenting of me probably was more about when we were in secondary school because we both went to secondary schools quite a long way away from where we were living and so I'd get up at like 6.30 to get to Elstree from Dollis Hill, these are all London places, if anybody is listening to this it's not in London but it was like an hour and 20 minutes to get to school. So they didn't get up because I had to get up at 6.30 so they didn't get up.

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- Ivor: They might have to have sex, it's possible they got up to have sex.
- Cathy: You heard them having sex?
- David: Yeah I talk about this a lot.
- Cathy: Yeah I've heard about you, yeah.
- David: So my dad particularly, they used to have a lot of sex and I had the bedroom next to them. I mean you know this story but I'll tell it.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- Cathy: Yeah I do, yeah, yeah.
- David: But I'll tell it anyway because it might help to understand what life was like in the house. So they used to have sex every night as far as I could make out, which is quite extraordinary because they had quite a bad relationship but yet they were having sex a lot. Or in my mind they were anyway. And he used to make, I never heard anyone make sex noises like that. For years I thought there was a wounded walrus in my parents' bedroom, it was just unbelievable noises. And this is a true story, true story.
- Ivor: No hang on one sec.
- David: Let me tell the true story.
- Ivor: But what he says is true. I didn't know what that noise was for a long time.
- Cathy: Really?!
- David: I'm going to do a quick impression of it now. OK quick impression right.
- Cathy: I can't look at you David.
- David: Well it's not really exactly a sexual one.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Ivor: [Laughs]

Cathy: Sorry I can't look.

David: It's more like an animal in terrible pain.

Ivor: I might have some sort of.

David: [Wounded animal walrus sound] Sort of like that.

Ivor: It's triggered me. It's triggered me.

Cathy: [Laughs] The dog, look.

David: The dog is quite interested in me now, I have to say. It's actually thought it was a mating call.

Cathy: Oh my God. How long did it go on for?

Ivor: I didn't know what it was.

Rachel: And did you ever discuss it?

David: Quite a long time. Well I mean you'd hear it sporadically.

Cathy: Oh!

Rachel: But I'm saying did they...

David: Let me tell you a story to try to explain what it sounded like.

Ivor: This is a great story, this is fantastic.

David: So this has only happened when I was like 15 or 16. So a very close friend of both of ours called Dave, also called Dave, probably our oldest friend. We used to stay at people's houses and they used to stay at ours, just mates of ours and he came and stayed at our house once. And for reasons I can't remember, I think it might have been because I was sleeping with Janine already and Dan had a bigger bed but Dan wasn't there. Anyway this is all slightly niche. I basically didn't sleep in my room which was next to my parents' bedroom, I think I went off to

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

sleep in a bigger bed, my younger brother's bed because I was already sleeping with my girlfriend at that point. And I said to Dave 'You sleep in my room. My parents might have sex at night, they do quite a lot and they make really weird noises, don't be worried about that'. And he got a little bit like, I'm 15/16 or whatever I know what sex sounds like.

Cathy: Oh no [laughs].

David: I was like 'I'm not sure'. He was like 'No I'll be all right' and I was like OK fine. He goes to sleep and then four o'clock in the morning I'm in this other room, a little bit further away from my parents' room. There's a knock on the door, he comes in, he's white as a fucking sheet.

Cathy: [Laughs]

David: And literally he says 'Dave, I think your mum's died' [laughs] right? And he's really serious.

Ivor: [Laughs]

David: And I say 'What?' and he says 'Honestly, I think your mum has died'.

Cathy: Oh my God.

David: And I said 'Why do you think that?' And he said 'Because your dad is making noises like I've only ever heard, I heard noises like that at my aunt's funeral. My uncle was making noises like that by the grave at my aunt's funeral'. And I just went 'They're having sex' and he went 'No, no, no, no, no, this is a completely different sort of noise'. So literally I get up, I put my fucking boxer shorts on. We go into my own home child's bedroom where I've been for years with Dave and we're standing there and I wait and then I heard [Animal noise] I said 'They're having sex, let's go back to bed'.

Ivor: [Laughs] I love that story.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cathy: Oh my God! That's amazing.

David: Yeah. All completely true.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

Ivor: One of the greatest moments of probably both of our lives is discovering our father's hardcore porn collection.

Rachel: Right.

Ivor: I discovered it at about the age of 11.

David: Greatest [laughs] I think it's been deeply damaging for both of us but.

Ivor: Yeah but at the time it was fantastic.

David: At the time it was certainly a plus.

Ivor: He had it in a drawer next to his bed.

David: Yeah and we're talking about sort of hardcore Danish/Swedish sort of pornography.

Ivor: Oh yeah.

David: Not the sort of stuff you'd just be able to get in a newsagent.

Cathy: So there was effort gone into getting it.

Ivor: Oh yeah, yeah. You couldn't get erections and things like this, this was proper sex. You could only get Playboy and shit like that.

David: Yeah it had spunk in it and things like that.

Cathy: Oh my God.

Ivor: Yeah he had about five or six magazines in his bedside drawer and I discovered it.

David: When we were very young.

Rachel: You discovered it first?

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Ivor: No this is the point of the story.

David: But I was about eight or nine I think when I first saw it.

Ivor: Hang on this is the point of the story. So whenever I discovered it, it was a fantastic moment. So for years I was so scared of my dad in particular finding out that I found out about these magazines so if I took one, let's be honest to do what you do with that sort of thing.

Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: I would see if it was the fourth one down in the pile with a little bit you know turned over of the page or whatever and I would go and do what I wanted to do and put it back in exactly the same position so that there was no way as far as I was concerned that he'd know that I'd got it because I was so embarrassed at the thought of it. I thought this is naughty to go into his private drawer. Anyway, age of about 15, come home from school one day, and I'm sure you remember this.

David: Yeah I know what you're going to say.

Ivor: I thought no one was in, so I thought hello I'll go get one of the magazines out. So I tiptoe into the bedroom, my parent's bedroom and I can picture it quite clearly, I went over, his drawer was over on the other side so I went over, thankfully I hadn't started doing anything, I was just sitting there sort of flicking through the magazine. He walks in.

Cathy: [Laughs] To get one?

Ivor: Well I don't know why, he must have heard me come in. And I thought oh fuck hello what. And anyway then we realised that we'd both known about this stack of magazines for fucking years. So he didn't give a shit. He just took the magazine and said 'Oh yeah I just take one and leave it under my bed'.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: And one time I forgot. It's kind of weird to forget this but I did definitely forget. Or it might have been that I just couldn't get it back, maybe I can't remember. I'd gone for a wank in the bathroom right. And basically we used to have, do you remember? A kind of flowery laundry basket, a sort of round flowery laundry basket.

Ivor: Yeah, wanked into that.

David: I didn't wank into it no.

Ivor: Thank God.

David: No but I did have the magazine and I either forgot or couldn't get it back into the bedroom.

Ivor: I thought you had it under your bed?

David: No it was under the laundry basket. And I remember being in my bedroom and hearing Colin go 'What the fuck? What is this? Who the fuck who put this there?'

Cathy: [Laughs]

Ivor: I didn't know that.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: That's brilliant.

Cathy: But do you think he knew? Would he care that you?

David: No I don't think he'd really care. I don't think he'd really care about that.

Ivor: No but that's, see.

David: My mother also had pornography by the way.

Ivor: Yeah.

David: She had like Playgirl and stuff like that. I mean it was so 70s, do you remember that sort of "sex" and "porn". Because one thing you need to know as well, because

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

you missed the first half of My Family Not The Sitcom didn't you?

Cathy: I did. I can't remember why.

David: Because you got the time wrong.

Cathy: We got the time wrong.

David: So you missed all the really complicated details that are in that show.

Cathy: I know I did.

David: About...

Cathy: Terrible.

David: ...David White the golf and memorabilia salesman.

Cathy: Yes, yes, I know about David.

David: But that also involved this sort of highly sexualised atmosphere in our house like my mum would tell us, well she'd tell everyone but she'd tell us very detailed stuff about the affair with David White because she thought it was glamorous, she was very excited about it. Dan said that she would actually come out on the landing when he was at home in stockings and suspenders.

Cathy: Oh my God!

David: And sort of say to Dan 'Do you think I look OK? He's coming round'.

Cathy: Yeah that's terrible! That's bleak.

Rachel: I love it.

Ivor: Can I just say, the reason I found out, I'd worked that my dad might have pornography, was that in my mother's bedside drawer, our mother's bedside drawer, she used to keep the card game ironically Happy Families.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: [Laughs]

Ivor: Do you remember that?

David: Yeah.

Ivor: It was very old Happy Families, even then it must have been from the '50s.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: So occasionally we would play Happy Families not that I remember sitting around playing it, but we must have done. And she'd say 'Go and get the cards' and I was quite young and eventually I thought, what else is in here?

David: Is this the Polaroids?

Ivor: Oh no! Don't mention them!

Cathy: Oh no!

Ivor: For fuck sake no, I've never seen them.

David: OK.

Cathy: You've seen them?

David: I've seen the Polaroids.

Ivor: Hang on a minute. But in that drawer when I was very young I just took them and didn't think. And then I thought, what else is in here? And I went oh Playgirl, as David said there was two or three Playgirls and whatever and eventually, it probably took me longer than you but I thought, hang on a minute, if my mum's got Playgirl in her...

David: You found the Playgirl first?

Ivor: Yeah.

David: Oh no I'm sure I knew about the...

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

- Ivor: Oh no well I found the Playgirl and made that connection, if my mum's got that.
- David: Hang on you went via the naked men...
- Cathy: [Laughs]
- David: ...to the spunk.
- Ivor: Well I went via Happy Families.
- David: [Laughs]
- Ivor: Rather than the naked men.
- David: I'm going to have to explain the Polaroids.
- Ivor: Oh no you can't mention them.
- David: Why? It doesn't matter.
- Cathy: Yeah if they're what I think they are.
- David: It doesn't matter, I tell Richard everything on My Family Not The Sitcom, worse than this.
- Ivor: I'm going to vomit.
- Cathy: So you are embarrassed, because that's one of the questions I was going to ask.
- David: You see I have no embarrassment or shame about any of this.
- Cathy: But you do.
- Ivor: Yeah.
- David: Yeah Ivor does, because Ivor's the parent.
- Rachel: Which is the same with us.
- Cathy: Same as us.
- Rachel: Yeah.

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David: Yeah, no I have no shame at all.

Rachel: Cath has no filter.

David: And as far as I'm concerned it's all material anyway.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: Which that might be a complicated thing, there might be a splinter...

Cathy: Yeah that might be...

David: ...in my heart about that.

Cathy: Yeah the Polaroids.

David: Yeah the Polaroids were in a little blue book of photographs, of actual you know proper photographs not like we have now just on a computer, proper photographs, were sort these pictures of my mother taken I think by my dad.

Ivor: Well we don't know.

David: Yeah well that's a thing [laughs] this is bleak now sorry.

Cathy: Were there golf balls in the pictures?

Ivor: [Laughs]

David: After she died. No! After she died I was looking through her stuff.

Ivor: Yeah that's really bad.

David: That's where I found, which you did see the erotic poetry that my mother wrote.

Cathy: Yeah sure.

David: And my mother wrote a lot of erotic poetry about her and David White. But what I didn't include in that show, I was thinking about it but then it would involve actually showing a sexy picture of my mum which I didn't want to

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

do. A picture of her in stockings and suspenders holding a golf club [laughs].

Cathy: Ohhhh nooo!

Ivor: Was that one of the Polaroids?

David: No that's later, that's after she died.

Cathy: Oh that's the worst.

David: I mean the golf club is quite a phallic thing.

Rachel: Yeah.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

David: It's interesting the release of dementia or indeed death because it does allow you to talk about them in ways, or certainly if you're like me, I wouldn't have done that show when my mum was still alive even though I deeply, deeply believe that in her heart she would have loved that show.

Ivor: She would have loved it, yeah.

Cathy: Why did you not then? Because she would have loved that.

Ivor: Well because to some extent the show's whole force is to do with her being dead. Because the show was inspired by being at her funeral and all these people coming up and saying 'Oh your mum's a wonderful, wonderful woman. She was such a wonderful woman'. And thinking, you didn't know her did you? At all.

Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: Because she kind of was but not in the way you mean. She was like really mad and mental and did these really strange and flawed things. And there is a wonder to that but it's kind of comic wonder and that's what gave that show its force. But one thing I want to mention is...

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Ivor: Sorry can we just bring it back to.

David: The porn?

Ivor: No the Polaroids.

David: Oh the Polaroids, worse.

Ivor: Can I just ask either of you, if you found those sort of Polaroids of your mother, right.

Cathy: Oh that's the worst thing! I can't even think about that.

David: Can I just say I know their mother so I'm struggling with that.

Cathy: She's never had sex.

Ivor: Fine.

David: [Laughs]

Cathy: I'd have to be sectioned, I'd just be sectioned and that would be it.

David: We were very young [laughs].

Ivor: 15, 15/16!

David: Well yeah.

Rachel: Yeah but you're so different.

Ivor: I can't bring myself, I don't want to see them, the thought of it makes me sick.

David: As I say, when I was putting the show together, I did have pictures of my mum and I think they were funny because she's holding a golf club. But I'm not actually going to show pictures of her half naked.

Rachel: Ivor you have still not seen those Polaroids?

Ivor: No. I don't know what, you haven't got them have you?

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

- David: No [laughs]. Although I may have the ones with the golf club because...
- Rachel: You can keep them, I think that's what he's saying.
- Ivor: That's fine I don't want to see them.
- David: Yeah I think it's hilarious that she's holding a golf club.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- David: And actually the show about my mum still occasionally, like The Times did a thing about it the other day where I talked about how you weren't sure about me putting it on and my other brother wasn't but they were convinced when they saw it. And that was just in The Times because people are still slightly fascinated by the idea that I did a West End show about my mum's sex life.
- Cathy: Of course.
- Rachel: Yeah, yeah.
- David: I think that when they are dead or not able to communicate anymore, people will still say to you 'This is unfair on your parents, you're making this story'. But at the end of the day it makes no difference to them. It makes no difference to a dead person.
- Cathy: I totally agree, I totally agree.
- David: And I'm very, very interested in the truth and I'm deeply, deeply invested in the idea that you should always tell the truth and not idealise things.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- David: And family is always broken and messy. And I think with that show that it's unbelievably specific right? No one else has had a mum who had an affair with a golf and memorabilia salesman and blah-blah-blah, people came up to me all the time and said 'This really reminds me of

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

my family'. Because everyone's family is full of breakages and damage and stuff they don't generally reveal.

Cathy: No.

David: But then when it is revealed it chimes with people.

Rachel: Yeah of course.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

David: Why was Dan the mother's favourite? He's the youngest, he's probably the least threatening at some level. He's also the least like Colin. Me and Ivor are a bit like Colin. At least we look like Colin.

Cathy: You have no temper.

David: No we don't have any temper at all. We have no anger and no rage and that is to do with being frightened of Colin.

Cathy: Right.

David: That is because we grew up frightened of Colin and our reaction to that was the opposite of perpetuating the cycle of whatever.

Cathy: So neither of you are shouty?

David: I'm incredibly unshouty.

Ivor: I can be at times. I think I've really, really struggled with anger over the years. I mean it is there but Colin could just get angry like that. I find it very hard to connect with my anger but I do.

David: I think his anger is funny. At the time it was terrifying.

Cathy: That's horrible.

David: Yeah but at the time because when we say he was angry, what we mean is the phone would ring when we were at dinner and he'd go 'Oh for fuck sake!' right.

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Cathy: That's horrible.

David: Oh it was absolutely horrible but it makes me laugh now. Because I think there's something very '70s about it. Like my dad was always like everything is aggravation. Anything that impinged on his consciousness that apart from what he wanted which was, he was a very clever man my dad you know, a scientist and blah-blah-blah.

Cathy: So he couldn't be bothered with all the stuff that was going on.

David: Yeah everything that got in the way of whatever he wanted to do, which was normally just eat, sleep have sex, watch telly, blah-blah-blah, complain about work. He was angry about, aggravation.

Cathy: So did you feel like an irritation to him?

David: Yeah a lot of the time.

Ivor: Oh absolutely.

David: Totally a lot of the time yeah.

Ivor: Absolutely.

David: An irritation is probably correct.

Ivor: Aggravation was his word.

David: Yeah after Sunday lunch, he used to say this say this thing, Ivor will know what I'm saying, where we would be replete, he'd eaten, probably had sex in the morning and he would say 'Right I'm feeling almost human now' right. And then he would say, another thing my dad always said, he would say 'I don't feel completely human. Why don't I feel completely human? Because you buggers will be asking us for money' right, that's what he would say [laughs].

Cathy: Really?!

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: Yeah.

Ivor: Yeah. But also actually Sundays is an interesting one.

David: Because Sunday was also where we would go and play football.

Ivor: Sunday we'd watch the big match which was the ITV match of the day, and then we'd go into the park and that's some of my fondest memories. I'm going to bring this up [laughs].

David: Oh no.

Ivor: Because we got beaten up the first time, entirely my fault, I hold my hands up, I apologise. First time we moved there I was about seven or eight. Me and David in the park on our own.

David: I think we were a bit older than that weren't we?

Ivor: Maybe a little bit older, not much.

David: It's quite a rough part, I mean we lived in quite a rough part of London.

Cathy: Yeah.

Ivor: You got shot as well.

Cathy: You got shot?

David: With an air rifle yeah [laughs] Yeah.

Rachel: So go on, so?

Ivor: So we were in the park on our own, quite young, I can picture it. We went over the other side of the park which was sort of on the top of a little bank, and these two other boys come up to us, not much older but a little bit older than us.

David: Harder than us.

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Ivor: Harder, yeah definitely harder which wasn't difficult. And I don't know we started talking to them and then the older of the two boys said to me 'Can I throw him into this holly bush?' And there was a holly bush there. And I promise you I didn't think he was going to do it. So I just said 'Yeah of course he's only my brother'. So he takes him and throws him into this holly bush.

Cathy: Oh no.

David: Yeah so this idea that Ivor parented me, it had its gaps.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Ivor: We were younger then. Yeah I was trying to make up for it the rest of my life.

David: Maybe it was a good thing. So in Jews Don't Count this book I've written specifically about the way antisemitism is kind of the forgotten racism by woke people, I use a number of examples. What seems to sort of resonate with most people, me and Ivor did a campaign called The Y Word which was to try and get people to stop chanting the word at 'Yid' and 'Yiddo' at football and that came from years and years and years of going to Chelsea who we support and hearing that word being chanted at Spurs fans and anything to do with Spurs or whatever. But there was one specific moment where we were at a game and Spurs weren't even playing, sorry for people who don't know, Spurs are called the Yids, they call themselves the Yids, it's a very complicated thing that perhaps we shouldn't get into now. But in terms of my relationship with Ivor the word was being chanted Yiddo, Yiddo, it's really horrible if you're Jewish to hear it over and again to be chanted with menace by people with associated antisemitic abuse or whatever. Anyway, a bloke behind us about ten seats behind us, and we go there every Saturday or Sunday, so we didn't know who this bloke was. But anyway he started just going 'Fuck the Yids! Fuck the Yids! Fuck the fucking Yids!' and then 'Fuck

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the Jews, fuck the Jews!' over and over again. My point in Jews Don't Count is that no stewards, this is only 2008, already charged with stamping out racism in a football ground does nothing, does nothing, no steward does anything. In fact no one does anything apart from Ivor who stood up and told the bloke, I remember him saying it 'Just fucking shut up'. And the bloke went 'You shut up' and he went 'No you shut up mate'. And it was sort of really like being back in Gladstone Park and then Ivor sat down and said 'I think I'm going to cry'. And it was so incredibly moving, I still find it incredibly moving.

Cathy: Aww.

Ivor: It is quite moving yeah.

David: And that is Ivor sort of parenting me because I didn't do that. I was just really upset and kind of frightened.

Rachel: Yeah.

Ivor: But I don't crack very often but I did crack when this bloke was shouting it, I cracked. And I'm going to put myself off a little bit, I have no idea if he was big?

David: No, no it was brave of you.

Ivor: I just confronted him. And he did shut up, I think he was pissed or whatever. He did sit down and shut up.

David: And no one did anything, that's the thing.

Ivor: No one did a thing. And that's when I said to David 'Look this is ridiculous, football's come a long way, they're trying to fight racism against black players. But this has been going on for years, let's try and do something about it'. And that's kind of how it started.

Cathy: But what happened when he was in the holly bush?

Ivor: Oh no I want to finish that story.

David: What did happen? I can't remember. I've blanked that.

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Cathy: Do you remember going in the holly bush?

David: No I remember definitely being picked up by these, and I seem to remember I only had shorts on and possibly even no top in my mind, although that might be just making it more nightmare-ish. But I remember the exact bit of it, and these slightly older boys saying 'Can we throw your brother into the holly bushes?'

Cathy: Oh.

David: And Ivor saying 'Yes' and as I say big redemption at least at Stamford Bridge.

Ivor: What happened was he did get chucked in the holly bush and then me and the bloke had a fight.

David: Did you?

Ivor: Yeah we had a fight and we were on top and we rolled.

David: Oh you rolled down, yeah.

Ivor: We rolled down this bank and at the bottom of the bank he was on top of me sort of pummelling me.

Cathy: Oh God.

Ivor: And I kind of just remember ah looking out and just seeing him running away.

David: Ta-dah.

[Laughter]

Ivor: It was fine to run away and not help me [laughs]. And then the kids mum came along and just said 'Stop messing about come on' and he went. And that was it and I was left lying there thinking, fuck what happened there?

David: Why is this podcast called I Wish I Was An Only Child? Because actually I spent quite a lot of time saying lots of

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

shit but one of my little bug bears is siblings as a thing, there's not enough of that in our culture.

Cathy: There isn't.

David: Particularly in terms of the making of the self because we still under kind of the post-Freudian idea that the self is totally created by the parents in relation to your mother and blah-blah-blah and I always think you know what I think I'm more created by Ivor than I am by my parents.

Cathy: That's exactly why we're doing it.

Rachel: That's why.

David: I think there's a particular thing.

Ivor: Don't know.

David: No I tell you. I think I see it elsewhere. So I've worked with Erran Baron Cohen and I knew Sacha before I knew Erran, but Erran is the older one. And as soon as I met Erran I thought, oh he's like Ivor to Sacha because he's a sort of version.

Ivor: I've created a monster.

David: He's a sort of early draft of Sacha.

Cathy: Totally, totally.

David: And I feel Ivor is just sort of an early draft of me.

Ivor: What about now?

Cathy: Do you though?

David: Yeah I mean when I see myself on telly I sometimes think my manner is much more like Ivor's than I realise.

Ivor: Well we are very similar.

Cathy: Because I've maybe only met you once before, I know David.

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- Ivor: We haven't actually you met me over Zoom.
- Cathy: No apart from that, an actual meeting. But I expected you to be very similar and I don't think you are.
- David: No we're not that similar emotionally but I really think, I mean we look alike, we sound alike.
- Cathy: Yeah ish.
- David: And I do have a lot of mannerisms, where else could they have come from?
- Cathy: No absolutely.
- Rachel: I totally agree. I mean we're unusual because you are not like the normal older sibling. But yeah, nobody talks about the sibling relationship in that way. We've spoken to so many different setups and how it works. But it's key isn't it?
- David: It's very key when your parents are like our parents.
- Rachel: Yes.
- Cathy: Totally.
- David: Sort of absent in one way or another.
- Ivor: I presumed that the title of this was because of Peter Cook's I Wish I Was An Only Twin.
- Cathy: No. It's because we fought and we still fight hugely and I think we always wanted to not have a sibling. I think we're fine now.
- Rachel: We disagree, no, no, no.
- Cathy: That's what I thought it was.
- Ivor: I feel very sorry for people who are only children. In fact both our parents...
- Rachel: We've both got only children.

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- Cathy: And our parents were only children. And we worry about them.
- Rachel: Our parents were only children, so are yours?
- David: Our parents were only children.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- David: Yeah and I know you've got an only child but it feels to me like well with them they're very particular things to do with their upbringings. But their madness is in partly to do with they're only children or something. My mum was also a holocaust survivor.
- Cathy: Yeah.
- David: My dad came from a very poor background and he had a brother who died actually when he was very young.
- Cathy: Oh really?
- Ivor: Two.
- David: Was it two? Yeah. Just because of poverty, just because of living in the 30s in Swansea. But I do think that the way that they looked at the world totally through their own lenses and didn't really have that much empathy with anyone else.
- Rachel: So you needed each other and Dan and did you talk about everything a lot or not? Because as kids.
- David: As kids no.
- Ivor: No not as kids.
- Rachel: But as teenagers or?
- Cathy: Isn't that a boys thing?
- David: I don't know we just didn't.
- Rachel: You just get on with it.

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David: Yeah I mean when I talk about him parenting me, I do think, I mean I definitely looked up to him and also other things as well. Ivor has mentioned already Peter Cook but Ivor introduced me to Derek and Clive, this bootleg that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore did which was unbelievably formative for me in terms of comedy. And generally either way that Ivor was funny.

Ivor: And Chelsea.

David: And Chelsea yeah, I support Chelsea because I remember Ivor getting excited about Chelsea winning the 1978 FA CUP final. So I took huge leads from Ivor but this is football and comedy and you know mannerisms and whatever. I can't remember ever sitting down and having an emotional conversation no.

Ivor: Not when we were younger.

David: Not when we were young no.

Ivor: Blokes don't do that.

David: Not only do blokes not do it, I just don't think we had the awareness or all the language then to talk about like you know we have this very weird relationship with our parents.

Ivor: But our social life is very enmeshed together.

Cathy: I was going to ask that yeah.

Ivor: We had pretty much the same friends. Through this Jewish Youth group. So we'd talk a lot about so and so has got off with so and so, and who I fancy and that type of thing.

David: Yeah there was a bit of rivalry there I think because basically I muscled in on Ivor's friends. Ivor had a bit of a social life because of this thing and I didn't really. I had some friends at school but I didn't sort of have a panoply

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

of friends or whatever. And then I ended up just basically muscling my way in.

Ivor: Which did eventually annoy me.

David: No you were pissed off about that. In fact I wore your bomber jacket once, do you remember that terrible bomber jacket you had?

Ivor: Yeah I do remember it yeah.

David: He had this incredibly fleecy bomber jacket, I wish I could have it. And I remember turning up at Dave's house, because Dave this bloke was Ivor's friend first.

Cathy: Oh really?

David: And I remember turning up at Dave's house in the bomber jacket and he basically said 'First Ivor's friends and now his jacket'.

Ivor: That's so funny. But also this is indicative of our father. There was another friend called Richard. So we were both in this organisation from the age of about eight or nine but these two guys Dave and Richard joined a bit later, at 13 or whatever and immediately became friends. And the very first time they came round to our house, so never met our father before, he opened the door and went 'Who are these two fucking wankers?'

David: Yeah.

Ivor: And you know friends of ours were just blown away what your father swears in front of you know.

David: But the other story that perhaps helps you to understand the mother's side of things which is the story that Ivor told me, much later on, when Ivor had a girlfriend, Tracey Blessoff I believe.

Ivor: You tell this in the show.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

- David: Yeah I do tell this in the show. Tracey Blessoff who was Ivor's girlfriend for not very long or whatever.
- Ivor: Six months or whatever.
- David: But the first time she ever met my mother, which I think was at Great Antique Market at her Golfiana, golfiana by the way the same name as the business that David White had, she just nicked the name of it.
- Cathy: Oh God.
- David: Basically she was talking about what she does and blah-blah-blah and then David White's name came up and she turns to Tracey and says 'I've been his mistress for 20 years'. And then just carries on talking.
- Cathy: No!
- David: Which by the way isn't really true. I mean she did have a long-term affair with him but mistress is really glamorising it [laughs].
- Cathy: Oh my God.
- David: And she wasn't his mistress.
- Ivor: No but she didn't say mistress, she said...
- David: You told me she said mistress.
- Ivor: No I don't think so. Can I just?
- David: Please you definitely said when you told me the story.
- Ivor: My mother's talking to me. I remember differently, it's very similar. My mother was talking to me ten to the dozen, she just used to talk, talk, talk, talk, talk. Tracey is sitting thinking what the fuck is this. Blah-blah-blah-blah 'David White my lover of 15 years' blah-blah-blah-blah-blah. Literally it. That's the only thing she said to her.
- David: OK so mistress/lover is still talking it up.

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Rachel: Yeah.

Ivor: But that's the only thing she said to her.

David: It implies a kind of French you know glamour, every Sunday I go to his apartment in the 7th arrondissement, it's really not that. It's like possibly one fuck in five years and then he turns up again at some golfing club in Kenilworth you know that's what it's actually like.

Ivor: I even some doubt as to whether they had a proper relationship.

David: No they did that, they definitely fucked.

Ivor: Do you think?

David: I do not think, I know. I've seen the letters. Because I've been through all the material.

Cathy: But the letters could...

David: No, no the letters, no, no definitely.

Rachel: Remember when you found the letter that you thought, mum?

David: No definitely, definitely, definitely, in the late '70s it was a proper thing plus you won't remember but the erotic poetry is very specific.

Rachel: Yeah.

David: It is very specific.

Cathy: OK.

Rachel: Remember when you found a letter from mum? She found it and she went 'Oh my God' and you know mum Sandy.

David: Yeah.

Rachel: She's single but she's been seeing someone.

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Cathy: A married man.

Rachel: I don't understand.

David: What recently?

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: Very recently.

Rachel: And Cath's telling me about it and I'm like 'What?' And she like 'Do I confront her? What do I do?'

David: Hang on, why were you reading a letter?

Cathy: I found a letter just in a pile, we were clearing the house, she's a hoarder, we were trying to clear the house and there was this letter from a married man saying 'I'm desperately in love with you'.

David: Wow.

Cathy: And I phoned Frank, I was like oh my God.

Rachel: Phoning me, and I'm like but she's...

Cathy: You know mum is not a woman who is going to have an affair.

David: Hang on when was this?

Cathy: This was about two years ago.

David: Wow. Are you allowed to say this?

Rachel: Yeah well.

Cathy: Of course because I eventually confronted her and she'd photocopied an art instillation.

David: And she'd written it herself? Oh right [laughs].

Rachel: [Laughs]

Cathy: She photographed an art instillation that she thought was fascinating.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: So it wasn't a letter?

Cathy: No it was a piece of art.

David: It was a piece of art.

Ivor: Oh I see, oh I've got it yeah.

Cathy: So an artist had written this letter, I don't even know what the story was.

David: The artist had created a scenario.

Cathy: Yes and then mum was so bloody annoying about it. Sorry.

David: Hang on, you reacted quite sharply in that case because did the letter say 'Dear Sandy, I'm in love with you, I'm a married man'. Because that would be a strange coincidence [laughs].

Ivor: Yeah.

Cathy: [Laughs] Yeah exactly. I am Malcolm, Malcolm. But there was blank at the top and I thought she might have tippexed it out.

David: Right oh. I feel like it was your fear overcoming the evidence. How hilarious. Did Sandy think it was funny that you thought she was having an affair?

Cathy: She thought it was funny.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

Cathy: Were you embarrassed by David?

Ivor: When?

David: In general.

Cathy: When you were growing up younger, you know.

Ivor: No, no not at all embarrassed but just in that older brother way. So eventually.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cathy: Get out of my way, yeah.

Ivor: Just stop following me around all of the time type of thing.

David: I think it was a very sort of insightful thing that Ivor did, or at least insightful about our relationship is before I did *My Family Not The Sitcom*, which was very revelatory about both of them, about my dad's dementia and about my mum's sex life. And it was quite soon after my mum had died, Ivor came around to see me and basically we were going to talk about it, we were going to talk about the show. I hadn't written it then but I had said 'I'm going to do a show about the golf and everything' right. And he was like 'Oh God blah-blah-blah we should talk about it'. And then when he came around I remember very clearly he sat down, this is not very long ago and said 'We could talk about this for ages but basically you're going to do this aren't you?' And I just said 'Yes, it's sort of in me and I need to do it' and whatever. I just said 'You'll have to trust me that it comes from a place of love'. And he did accept that really but I also thought that just us saying that was a good thing to do, because it showed a knowledge of me that we could have spent two hours sort of talking about is this the right thing to talk about or not? But I was always going to do it.

Cathy: Right, right.

Rachel: And you knew that?

Ivor: Yeah but also a very sweet moment, I think it was press night, the first press night of the first ever performance of it I think.

David: Yeah first proper night.

Ivor: First proper one. And I'd come along and I could tell that he was really nervous. I just sort of thought, it's press night, of course he's going to be nervous. But after the

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

show, this is making me a bit emotional. He said 'The reason I was so nervous tonight'.

David: Sorry can I tell me my version of it? You can tell your version which might be different but let me tell how I saw it from the stage because there's something you missed out which is that I used to do Q&A at the end of that show and that press night which was at the (Chocolate Factory?) there were loads and loads of very important critics in the audience and I could see them with their hands up, oh there's Michael Billington for the Guardian or whatever. And I remember saying 'Actually sorry, I know you've all got questions but first of all I need to find out what my brother thought' Because I knew that Ivor was in the audience.

Cathy: Aww.

David: And I said 'What did you think?' and Ivor said 'I loved it' and then he said 'I loved it because it felt like she was in the room'.

Cathy: Aww.

David: And I thought that's brilliant because that is entirely what the show is about.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: It's about recreating someone who is gone in all their flaws and craziness or whatever.

Ivor: I'm sure you also said the reason you were maybe particularly nervous was because I was because I was there.

David: I don't remember that [laughs].

Ivor: That's my memory of it [laughs].

Cathy: How did you feel before? Were you shitting yourself?

Ivor: No, no, I wasn't shitting myself.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cathy: Or you just trusted him?

Ivor: What I remember, yeah I don't actually remember that. I remember David taking me and Dan out for a coffee.

David: Do you not remember coming round?

Ivor: Well vaguely yes.

David: No I don't remember.

Ivor: We definitely went, me, you and Dan.

David: Really?

Ivor: Yeah, yeah we went for a coffee I think in Belsize Park.

David: I don't remember that.

Ivor: Yeah it was a place in Belsize Park and you told us about the show. We both gave it our blessing. But then I remember reading.

David: That's not how I remember it at all.

Ivor: [Laughs]

David: Because I remember, no I can show you the fucking email.

Ivor: I think we did both.

David: I can show you the email, we might have later on but definitely you came around on your own and then Dan found out about it later, I'd sort of like put off telling Dan and he found out about it later and he just said 'This isn't happening' he sent me an email, very Dan in his email 'This isn't happening' yeah.

Ivor: That is very Dan.

David: And I just said 'Dan, wait and see the show'.

Ivor: That is very Dan.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: Yeah.

Cathy: Really?

David: Yeah.

Cathy: OK.

Ivor: But we did definitely go out.

David: Dan is very dramatic.

Cathy: Right.

Ivor: I forgot my point now.

David: Maybe we did, I can't remember.

Ivor: Oh no but I do remember reading something about it. I don't think it had happened yet. Anyway the first time I read it in the newspaper David Baddiel, it was about something else but he's also doing this show blah-blah-blah about his mother's affair. And that churned me up, as soon as I read that it churned it me up, I thought oh fuck.

David: Yeah something's wrong with me there because I don't have that memory.

Ivor: But what he said is right, she would have absolutely loved it, it's a brilliant, brilliant show.

Cathy: She definitely would. I mean I only briefly knew her but she...

David: I know she would have loved it.

Cathy: Yeah.

David: There's one or two bits where I think she probably would have said, 'Did you have to include that bit David and that bit David?'

Ivor: I don't think she would have even said that.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: No maybe not. I mean she's so much the star.

Ivor: She would have basked in the limelight.

David: Yeah she loved it. And also she really, really wanted that affair to be thought of as an amazing glamorous thing which in the end it sort of was.

Ivor: But the complicated thing I think is our father. If he hadn't had dementia.

David: You yeah he wouldn't have liked it.

Ivor: Would you have done it?

David: No I don't think so.

[Sound of water]

Cathy: That's David weeing.

David: I don't think I would have done it, he would have been upset by it. And in a weird way, because it's like what is he upset about exactly? So he's upset I guess about being a cuckold. And again that sort of never really struck me because I don't even think about shit like that. I just don't have that as a thing.

Cathy: Exactly that's the same as me and Rachel has it in spades.

David: So you do have it don't you?

Cathy: I'm like you, no. Mm? No.

David: You have jealousy. You have said things to me where I think you have a certain sort of completely normal actually, for you [laughs] a sort of like anxiety about women buzzing around Frank.

Cathy: Not anymore.

Rachel: Maybe in the past.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

- Cathy: I did at the beginning because I was insecure because he was famous.
- David: OK yeah.
- Ivor: But also it has no bearing on your mental...
- David: But anyway all I'm saying is that I don't particularly feel jealousy as an emotion at all.
- Cathy: At all?!
- David: Sexual jealousy is not something I feel, I don't have it.
- Cathy: Really? Oh no I...
- David: There's many things I don't have. I don't really have shame. I don't really have sexual jealousy. Slightly on the spectrum of all of these things. I don't have inhibition or whatever. And so it probably wouldn't have occurred to me and that is an issue. Well it would have occurred to me if he was alive, if he didn't have dementia, that was a weird Freudian slip. Because he would have been angry and whatever but I myself would find it quite hard to imagine being really hurt by a show like that because I just wouldn't think of it in those terms.
- Ivor: No but he would.
- David: Yeah he would have done, yeah he would.
- Ivor: You're talking about his wife's infidelity in a very open way.
- David: Yes that's interesting because very few people even said that. What people talking about, which is interesting where the shame is, was the dementia. People talked about, oh he's talking very openly about his dad's dementia and actually most people still think that show was about my dad's dementia, that's totally the subplot, the main plot is my mum's sex life.
- Rachel: Yeah that's interesting. So you two are really close?

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David: Yeah we are. We are.

Rachel: Don't you feel you sort of need, being in that mad world I think about our world and it was not as mad but has its moments. And I feel like we have a weird relationship but we sort of need each other to understand. I feel like we've come to terms with a lot of what happened in our childhood, maybe more than our parents have. Why am I doing that? Why am I pointing upwards? I don't know.

David: As if they're dead but they're not.

Rachel: They're not.

Ivor: They're upstairs.

Cathy: Oh no.

Rachel: But if Ivor wasn't around.

Ivor: Oh don't say that.

Rachel: Do you know what I mean? You need.

David: We haven't mentioned his hypochondria. Which is slightly new, well it's not completely new but it's certainly gone through the roof in the last five years, Ivor's hypochondria.

Rachel: Right.

David: Ivor has had more mental health issues than I have, not that I haven't had any at all, I was very depressed about 10 or 11 years ago. But in general I would say Ivor has had quite a lot of mental health problems.

Rachel: And are you quite open about that?

Ivor: Not really.

Cathy: [Laughs] But David is very open about it.

Ivor: No, no, I mean to be fair he's asked me if he could talk about it a couple of times before.

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Cathy: Yeah fair enough.

Ivor: And I said no.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: It's an odd one. One of the things I've been thinking of doing, so I've been asked to do jury service, two or three years ago. And on the form, you fill in the form and it says 'Have you ever suffered from any mental health problems?' I thought fuck it I'm not going to lie so I said 'Yes I had some mental issues in my 20s.' And then a week later they said 'Thanks we won't be needing you'. And it really annoyed me.

Cathy: That is an outrage.

Ivor: It's an outrage.

David: I'm not sure they can do that can they? Is that jury service?

Cathy: It's an outrage.

Ivor: Jury service. So my big point is, if you're going to call something an illness, it's an illness. People have a condition that generally doesn't go away an episode is an illness you know if you have a period of flu, Covid whatever, most people get over it. You know I haven't, apart from the healthy anxiety more recently but generally I haven't really had any mental health problems since then. I was depressed for a long time before it and whatever.

David: And after it.

Ivor: And after it for a while.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: And I still haven't got over it. But that really annoyed me.

Cathy: It's fucking outrageous.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Ivor: It is outrageous yeah.

Cathy: Because then people won't talk about it.

David: Yeah that but that's mad.

Cathy: Yeah totally.

Rachel: I want to go back into the hypochondria.

Cathy: Yes OK, well I'm a hypochondriac so.

Rachel: Yeah. So you're far more neurotic than David?

Ivor: Yeah.

Rachel: No idea why?

Ivor: Well the eldest child thing.

Cathy: He was carrying more, he was carrying more.

Rachel: OK but how...

David: Also I think it's a body thing. I think Ivor's anxiety, because when I was depressed in my sort of late 20s and early 30s, I had an anxiety disorder I think, I noticed it manifested incredibly physically. So I actually thought, well I didn't think here's the thing. I had an incredible tightness on my throat.

Rachel: Yeah I have that.

David: For a long time, sort of for a couple of years. Now Ivor under the same circumstances will think that he has a tumour in his throat.

Ivor: Yeah I would go and see someone.

David: But I knew, I knew absolutely this is a psychological thing because I've got anxiety and it went away when the anxiety sort of went away. But I never at any point thought it was an actual physical problem but you would.

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Ivor: That's exactly the difference because it's this seesaw. So I've got IBS at the moment, it's much better now but I was having an attack about six weeks ago, it was really painful, I don't know if you get IBS but really painful. And just in my mind I was seesawing terribly which is partly, this is the neurosis thinking I'm trying to get that calm, don't worry it's just IBS. No it could be bowel cancer. No it's IBS. No it's bowel cancer. And that seesawing drives me fucking mental. So eventually I went to see the doctor, ended up taking two samples of shit into the GP's on Monday, still awaiting the results.

David: (unclear 59:54)

[Laughter]

Ivor: But since seeing the doctor I feel much better in terms of this. And I think what it is, is a pattern of sort of working myself up and then needing that reassurance from someone in authority. Or getting a couple of tests.

David: I've never met Ivor's GP but I have a sense of him as a very, very patient person.

Ivor: It's a new one.

Rachel: Because the old one won't see you anymore?

David: [Laughs] Yeah, yeah.

Cathy: So you just catastrophize?

Ivor: Yeah it's got better. A couple of years ago it got really bad and I had really bad anxiety and I ended up taking Citalopram.

Cathy: Yes.

David: Yeah it's an antidepressant.

Ivor: Yeah but actually I hated it, it made me feel awful so I went off it for a little bit. But it's got a lot better and it's incredible to say this but it's much, much better than it

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

was two years ago. But I think it's partly tied in with, it's to do with ageing and getting to a certain age.

Cathy: Totally.

Ivor: Now, I woke up the other morning with a little bruise here, fucking sent a picture to the doctor freaking out.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Ivor: In the night the cat had been pawing me, so it was just a little bruise from the cat.

Cathy: Nooo.

Ivor: The doctor said 'Yeah it might be a trauma' he said, by which he meant a bruise.

David: What, you knew the cat had been pawing you?

Ivor: Yeah.

David: Then why did you phone the doctor?!

Ivor: Because I don't know. Because it had come up in the night.

David: No but you knew it was a cat!

Ivor: I didn't know, that's what I mean about the seesawing.

David: Ohhh.

Ivor: It might have been the cat but it might have been suddenly if you bruise something.

David: Anyway come on. I'll turn this down a bit, this bit. But anyway, here's a short thing with the hypochondria is Ivor recently, he's not wearing it now but all the pictures I've seen of him, pictures on holiday and pictures that you sent me from Chelsea, he's wearing this hat.

Ivor: Oh yeah.

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David: And it's a little bit of a sort of characterful hat, the sort of thing that Frank describes as this style cap, colourful characters. And I thought, why is Ivor wearing a sort of character hat? And he was wearing it I noticed in the sea when he went to Crete recently.

Ivor: Yeah.

David: And I thought of course he'll be worried about skin cancer on his bald head.

Ivor: Exactly.

David: Of course

Ivor: Yeah.

David: But why am I thinking that he's doing it for fashion reasons?

Cathy: I thought you were going to say that he was walking around with a drip.

David: [Laughs] No that's too extreme.

Ivor: It wasn't just a hat, I was wearing a t-shirt as well.

David: Yes I know. Art told me, he won't go in the sea without a hat and a t-shirt at which point I think, don't go in the fucking sea because you're not enjoying it.

Ivor: It was so hot.

Cathy: But I'm the same, factor 50, covered in the stuff.

Rachel: I bought you for your birthday, it's from Australia (unclear 01:02:09) it's a proper, it looks bizarre because you're always white.

Cathy: I know.

Rachel: You've always got so much suntan lotion you look ridiculous.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cathy: Yeah I don't want it.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child- Interim Music]

Cathy: I don't know how we know this, maybe it's from Frank I don't know, but that you're the ideas person, you always used to come up with inventions and stuff. So is that what you do, come up with inventions and then lose interest and move on?

Ivor: Well here's an interesting thing, in terms of my writing my confidence goes up and down. But I now I have good ideas. Not inventions, well actually no I did co-invent a thing called a sat-nag.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: Which was a little misogynist.

David: Yeah it was a bit.

Ivor: But it was a spoof sat-nav where the woman sort of says 'In five minutes I'm going to ask you to pull over because I've left my handbag at home'.

David: Yeah.

Cathy: [Laughs] You can't do that.

Ivor: It sold really well.

David: Yeah and you made more money out of it.

Rachel: It sold really well?

Cathy: It did sell?

David: It's like a novelty thing.

Rachel: Yeah, no I know but even that.

Ivor: I made £30,000 on that.

Cathy: Nooo!

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David: Yeah. He also came up with something which wasn't quite as good called Wise Crack which was an app of an ass that told jokes.

Rachel: OK.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: Yeah.

Cathy: I'm still laughing at typhoon sorry.

David: Rate My Pun.

Ivor: Well everything about Rate My Pun...

Cathy: I can't hear that.

David: [Laughs]

Ivor: It's a competition. I like it because it's a competition. So basically every lunchtime between twelve and one, and I've stopped doing it now, but between twelve and one, it used to be get your pun in and whoever gets the most likes gets...

David: I forget how much you talk. OK let's just have the questions.

Rachel: Working together, how is it working together?

David: All right actually.

Ivor: It's good.

David: It's all right, yeah it's been good. We haven't actually done it very much.

Ivor: I think, can I just say?

David: All right.

Ivor: I think our relationship, it was always pretty good and I think it's got better in the last two or three years actually.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: Yeah maybe.

Cathy: Covid.

David: [Laughs] Possibly.

Rachel: [Laughs] I think we can end there can't we?

Cathy: No, no. Buzz also wanted to know...

David: One more Buzz question.

Cathy: ...who goes to the toilet the most?

David: Oh Ivor.

Cathy: Oh yes.

Rachel: Yeah of course yeah.

Ivor: Well?

David: Actually you know what? It depends entirely on like the time of day and how much coffee I've had. Because sometimes I get up in the morning and I have two coffees and a cup of tea and it seems like I just have to live in the toilet at that point for about two hours. But then I'm fine.

Ivor: Usually you always go to the toilet after a meal. Always and I'm slightly worried that you've got bulimia or something.

David: That's a shit I'm doing.

Cathy: You don't do that.

David: Because one of the things about me, I think of all the things that we've said that demonstrate that I have no shame right, that I will have a shit in someone else's house.

Cathy: Oh that's the worst.

David: Like wherever I am if I need a shit I will have a shit.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Cathy: In a toilet.

David: She would rather basically get an obstruction and die of hyperglycaemia or whatever you die of when that happens than do [laughs]

Ivor: (inaudible 01:04:42)

David: Not that.

Cathy: We know what that is.

David: Yeah, than have a shit in someone else's house right. But I always, if I need to have a shit in someone's house that's what I'm doing after I've eaten because I have a very fast metabolism.

Cathy: Right OK.

Ivor: That's incredible. Also by the way something else you should know about me which possibly impinged on my life. When I was six, I went to hospital for four weeks with constipation.

David: Yeah.

Ivor: I don't really know what...

David: An anal fissure wasn't it?

Ivor: Well apparently it was an anal fissure. And this is why...

David: I don't know if you know Anal Fissure? He's a lovely bloke.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Rachel: OK should we do the last question?

Cathy: Can I just ask...

David: One other thing, which is also, he does sort of wonder why he's a hypochondriac, I would say the main reason he's a hypochondriac is you couldn't not go to school in

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

our house if you didn't have a temperature, that was it, right.

Cathy: Ohhhh!

David: Basically your leg could be falling off but no temperature you've got to go to school. So he said, I can remember this very clearly him saying 'I don't feel well, I don't want to go to school' he didn't have a temperature, he had appendicitis.

Ivor: Yeah I was sent to school with appendicitis.

David: Yeah and that was horrible.

Cathy: Shit.

David: I remember that being really horrible and really frightening.

Cathy: That's horrible.

Ivor: Yeah and I remember saying and mum, I don't remember where dad was but going 'Oh just go to the toilet'. So I sat on the toilet, I don't know if I did anything. Managed to get to school and I can remember being at school and the row of desks and saying to the teacher 'Ow' or something, and the teacher says 'Just go to the toilet' and I went to the toilet, walked back to my desk and threw up everywhere and collapsed.

David: You don't want to hear that do you?

Cathy: No I'm throw up phobic.

Ivor: Oh sorry.

Cathy: It's absolutely fine, it's absolutely fine.

Rachel: But that kind of explains the hypochondria.

David: It does a bit.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

- Ivor: I had the operation that night. My mum sent me to school with appendicitis.
- Cathy: That's terrible. OK go on.
- Rachel: Is there anything that you want to say to each other that you've never said before? I'm guessing that wouldn't work, that question for you?
- David: Well I can't think.
- Rachel: Because yeah, it's all been said.
- Ivor: Did we say we love each other?
- David: We haven't said that. I say it to him more than he says it to me.
- Cathy: Do you hug each other?
- David: Yeah, yeah, I really like Ivor.
- Cathy: Oh OK.
- David: No I really like him.
- Cathy: No hug, hug. Did you say like, no.
- David: That question, do I like Ivor? I thought that was what you said, oh sorry.
- Cathy: [Laughs] Do you hug Ivor.
- Rachel: [Laughs] When you went, yeah, yeah I really...
- David: No we don't hug very much.
- Cathy: OK you don't hug.
- David: In fact he used to go on about we didn't hug and kiss and you used to go on at me in a slightly annoying way.
- Ivor: Yeah.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: About, we should kiss and we should be more tactile with each other. He's got a fucking big hairy face. I don't like kissing it.

Ivor: So have you.

David: Yes! But I'm not asking you to kiss me.

Ivor: I'm going to tell you a thing here. Oh fuck.

David: We've got to go, we've got to go to Stamford Bridge.

Ivor: So we recently did Relative Values in The Times. So we did also 22 years ago and we fell out a little bit about it.

David: Yeah. Because you highlighted a gig that went bad for me.

Ivor: That's not why we fell out, that's not why we fell out.

David: No that's why I was pissed off.

Ivor: It isn't. Right, I'll tell you why we fell out, because you, I remember it very clearly, you didn't think I said I loved you enough in it.

David: I'm sure that isn't why. I've got a very clear remembering that you decided to talk about a gig, one of the very few gigs that you were at that had gone badly.

Ivor: Yeah the reason I would have talked about that is to show your resilience right?

David: Yeah I know that was why but I still was pissed off.

Ivor: Oh well that's tough shit.

David: Yeah that's a comedians thing.

Ivor: But you said to me, I can't find the article from 22 years ago but I think it starts with me saying how brilliant you are and how clever you are.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

David: No that's not my memory. Mainly you just saying 'You died really badly but that shows the resilience of him that he carried on'.

Cathy: Oh my God [laughs].

Ivor: There was more to it than that. But yeah I do show my love to him, I think you maybe want too much.

David: I'm too needy. I'm clearly too needy. What I am in need of is going because I'm now worried about getting to Chelsea on time. We haven't talked about that, one other thing, I know we talked about the antisemitism but Chelsea have been a massive deal for us as brothers like a lot of our emotional life has been spent at Stamford Bridge have terrible times and then amazing times and whatever. But we have to go and watch them now so we have to leave that.

Cathy: Is there anything you want to say to David quickly before? No? That you've never said before.

Ivor: You're a cunt.

David: I knew he was going to say, you're a cunt. I knew he was going to say that.

Ivor: But you knew [laughs]

David: [Laughs]

Cathy: I don't understand a word you say. I've misheard so many things you've said.

David: [Laughs] Yeah but Ivor said what I said, are we both deaf?

Rachel: Thank you.

David: I think it's all right. Thank you so much it was great.

Rachel: It was great to meet.

Ivor: Sorry, we talked a lot.

## I Wish I Was An Only Child- David and Ivor Baddiel

Rachel: Are you going to argue all the way to Stamford Bridge?

David: No, no, we're not, we're not.

[I Wish I Was An Only Child Theme Song]

Melanie: This has been a Little Wander production. Local artwork from Cathy Mason. Voice from Melanie Walters. Music from Rhodri Viney. With special thanks to Beth Forrest, Steve Pickup, Sam Roberts, Henry Widdicombe, and Jo Williams. Other podcasts from Little Wander include: Here to Judge and Welcome to Spooktown. Subscribe now on iTunes, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Birds singing]

Rachel: Oh good some nice parrot sounds.

Cathy: Where's the dog?

[Promotion for Here to Judge]

[End of Podcast]